

AMERICAN LUTHERAN NEWS

JANUARY 2024

American Lutheran Church, 500 Church Drive, Rantoul, IL 61866
Church Phone: (217) 893-4550 www.alc-rantoul.org

HOPE IN THE NEW YEAR

(written by Pastor Matthew Baye, Hope Lutheran Church, DePere, WI)

By the time you read this, it is possible that your homes are beginning to look a lot LESS like Christmas. The trees and decorations begin to come down, the supply of cookies may or may not still be abundant, the gifts begin to be used, returned if the wrong size or a duplicate, or in some tragic circumstances, broken already. In many ways, it can feel as if life is returning to normal. And in the case of January, cold is normal.

But in the Church, we are called to remember that the time we mark is anything but normal. At Christmas, we remember and celebrate the gift of God's Son born into the world. And over the next handful of months, we continue to rehearse the story of how God came to save the world—the story of Jesus. We have the opportunity to watch Jesus grow, be baptized in the Jordan River, and embark upon His extraordinary earthly ministry of teaching, healing, driving out demons, confronting the religious leaders, and even raising the dead—all of which will find its climax in the death and resurrection of the Savior for the salvation of the world.

And this story includes you! As surely as the good news has traveled through time and space to make it to your years, you can know that God has written you into His glorious plan. As surely as you've been washed and adopted in the water of baptism, you can know that God has a role for you to play in His story. So, make this a year to grow into that role, that calling. As we continue our journey in the Bible to learn about Jesus, discover anew the hope that is yours in Him—living as a new creation right now, and anticipating the day when death will be undone completely, and we will live in joy with our God forever.

May God bless you and your family in this new year!



JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

Worship Stewards	Offering Communion	Table Guild	Greeters	Bulletin Greeters	Lectors	Prayers	Acolytes
1/7/24	Midge Seim	Stan Wolken Wendy Watkins Bill Schlueter	Midge Seim Lloyd Schluter	Shirley Barnes Joshua James	Janie Howe Chrissie Hall	Leah Graves	Joyce Holland Carson McClain Logan Suits
1/14/24	Sheila Sherman	Pam Cheek Rich & Shirley Friemel		Emily Deal John Lux	Christie & Emily Holland	Chrissie Hall Justin Kaiser	Andrew Benton Connor Suits
1/21/24	DeAnn McMorris	John Keith Katie Holland Marvin Ideus		Lois Madden Phyllis Hafermann	Patsy Franzen Shirley Barnes	Lorraine McElwain Deanne Rosenbeck	Joshua James Ella Schluter
1/28/24	Lloyd Schluter	Dave Hulse Donna Hustedt Patsy Franzen		June Luna Lindalou Hauersperger	Emily Deal Phyllis Hafermann	Sofia Roelfs Joan Mathis	Kyndall Cox Liam Kaiser

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER SERVICE for the call of a pastor continues to be held in the Chapel at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday evening. This time of prayer is devoted to all aspects related to the call of a pastor - praying for our call committee, congregation, Mission District Dean, the pastor (& family) to be called, and any other related needs as the call process continues. A time of fellowship with a light meal begins at 5:45 p.m. prior to the prayer service. All are invited and welcome to attend!

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available to pick-up in the Narthex until Sunday, January 14th. After this date, they will be available to pick-up in the church office. If you would like envelopes and none have been provided, please contact Judy Peck in the church office.



CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Monday, January 1st, 2024, for New Year's Day. The church office will also be closed on Monday, January 15th, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

NO REMNANT OR 50+ POTLUCK Due to recent low attendance, both The Remnant and 50+ Potluck will not meet in the winter months. They will both try to restart sometime in the spring.



QUILTERS will resume meeting on Monday, January 8th, at 12:30 p.m. in the Sewing Room. Please join them if you are able.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2023 are due to the church office by Friday, January 19th.

CANTEEN RUN Sign-up sheets to help make sandwiches, provide donations or go on the Canteen Run are located on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



BLOOD DRIVE The Rantoul Community Blood Drive will be held at American Lutheran Church on Wednesday, January 17th, from noon until 4:00 p.m. in the Youth Hall.

PORTALS OF PRAYER The first quarter Portals of Prayer (January-March) are available to pick up in the Narthex and outside of the church office.

STUDENT CLOTHING DONATIONS We are continuing to partner with Northview Grade School collecting gently used clothing, and new socks, underwear and shoes for children ages Kindergarten through 5th Grade (size 5T to Men's & Women's size small). A tub is located in the Narthex for donations.



FROM:

Mary Keith-Stocks... Thank you for the prayers and cards while being laid up with blood clots. Hope you have a Happy New Year.

YOUTH GREATER CALLING RETREAT GREAT RIVERS MISSION DISTRICT



American Lutheran Church will be hosting the Youth Greater Calling Retreat on February 23rd - 25th. This event is open to all students in the Great Rivers Mission District that are in Confirmation to High School. The Rev. Teresa Peters, the NALC director of Youth and Family Ministries, will be the guest speaker. She will be speaking on the “Greater Calling” of Christians. The goal is to get youth to recognize that they are called by God. Like all Christians, they are called to be disciples of Jesus—not because of anything they have done but because of what Christ did for them personally. There will also be an opportunity to participate in a mission project with NALC Disaster Response. Students will help prepare disaster and hygiene kits for emergency situations. These kits help thousands of individuals who suffer natural disasters every year. In addition to lessons and mission, there will be games, food, music, and fellowship with other youth.

The registration cost for the event is \$60 per person. This includes meals and accommodations. American Lutheran Church will provide separate sleeping spaces for boys and girls. Please have students and volunteers bring their own toiletries, a bedroll and pillow, and a bath towel. Meals include a snack on Friday, breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday, and breakfast Sunday. The church will host a potluck after worship on Sunday for those who wish to eat before departure.



We are invited to a retirement open house for Pastor Mark & Nancy Luepke on Sunday, January 21st, at Zion Lutheran Church, 439 3rd Ave. S, Clinton, IA 52732 from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. There will be a short program held at 12:30 p.m. Pastor Luepke served our congregation from 1983-1987.

A memory album is being created. To contribute, please share photos, special notations, memories, etc. by January 10th, to Diane Dinning, 411 4th Ave. S, Clinton, IA 52732 or email: ddinning@mediacombb.net.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS



2023 Council

President...*Terri Kirby*
Vice President...*John Lux*
Secretary...*J.R. Sipes*

*Brad Albers-Mowing/
Snow Removal;*
Ron Howe-Worship/Music;
Neal White-Chairman & Youth;
*Devin Cox-Building; Marleen
Peavler-Preschool; Shirley
Friemel-Ushers/Worship
Stewards; Linda Kirk-HR;*
Ann Price-Sunday School.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

NOVEMBER 21, 2023

Call to Order with Opening Prayer at 7:32 pm by Neal White. Absent: John Lux, Devin Cox, Shirley Friemel. Guest Requests/Public Comments. There were none. Additional Agenda Items and Approval of Agenda. Approved no additions. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes. Motion by Ron Howe, second by Neal White. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report/Financial Committee

Motion to accept by Ron Howe, second Neal White. Motion carried.

Pastoral Acts

Funerals – 10/28/23 – Mary Stiger (Pr. Jeannette Throp); 11/4/23 – Barbara Schade (Pr. Donna Smith); Transfer In – Pr. James & Beverly Lehmann; Benjamin & Briana Lehmann; and Matthew, Heather & Annabelle Lehmann from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Flatville; Transfer Out – Jennifer McKaufsky

to Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, Terre Haute, IN & Chris Briggs to Joy Lutheran Church, Rockwall, TX.

Ministry Team Reports

Reports available upon request.

Building Team

Going to survey the parsonage for items that need updated or repaired. Geo- thermal being worked; S&K working roof leak.

Benevolence Committee Report

Up to \$2500 will be donated to the Carter Foundation Motion by Neal White, second by Linda Kirk. Motion carried.

Old Business

- a. Nominating committee approval – Nominating committee: Brad Albers, Neal White, Ron Howe, Terri Kirby, Ron Stonestreet and Teresa Albers. Motion to approve committee by Marleen Peavler, second by Linda Kirk, motion carried.
- b. Status of organ repair – Organ is repaired.
- c. Emergency Response Plan – Postponed - John Lux absent.
- d. Supply/interim Pastor update – Options discussed.
- e. Pre-school searching for new director.
- f. Human Resources – Working to find a temporary janitor to cover while Carmelitha is off work.
- g. Grounds Committee - Casey Roseman will do final yard work.

New Business

- a. Status of Church Janitor - Janitor is unable to work at the present time. Several individuals have been doing cleaning until our present janitor can return to work or a new janitor can be hired if the present janitor cannot return to work.
- b. The office had received a request to use the churches WIFI service. The Council voted to deny the request for security reasons.
- c. Audit Committee approval – Committee members: Rod Heiser, Brenda Spitz, Debbie Keith. Brad Albers made the motion to approve the committee, second by Marleen Peavler, motion carried.
- d. ALC will host GRMD Youth Event. Need to use the church for sleeping February 23-25, 2024. Group will be working on disaster relief project and learning where they can further assist in disaster relief. Brad Albers made the motion to allow the group to sleep at the church, second by Marleen Peavler, motion carried.

Adjournment and Closing Motion by Neal White, second by Brad Albers. Adjourned 8:25 pm with Lord's Prayer.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 11th, immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service. The Nominating Committee will present the following nominees for office on the Church Council:

Elder: Mitch Suits
Trustees: Joyce Holland (Youth/Confirmation)
Ron Howe (Worship & Music)
Lois Sjoken (Grounds)

Our Constitution allows for additional members to be nominated if submitted by a "Voting Member" of the congregation. Request is to be received by the Pastor ten days prior to the date of the election (February 1st). All such requests to be in writing and signed by three members. Members so nominated will be included on the ballot along with those nominated by the Nominating Committee.

MILITARY & PRAYERS

SERVING IN THE MILITARY



Kelly Williamson (daughter/Joyce Williamson); Jon Stiebner (son/Synda Miller); Alex Short; Brandon Elrod (grandson/Elfrieda West); Kasey Fenimore (nephew/Schlueter's); Justice Long; Brian Griswold (son/Phillip Griswold); Levi Loschen (grandson/Luella Loschen); Ryan Falletti; Riley Falletti.

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

...Scott & Tina James and family for the loss of Scott's brother-in-law, Ray Williams, on December 2nd.

...the family & friends of Phyllis Wright who passed away on December 24th.

NURSING HOMES/ASSISTED LIVING:

Bridle Brook: Keith Dohleman. **Country Health:** Mildred Flessner. **Goldwater Care (Gibson City):** Ruth Lutz. **Holly Brook (Rantoul):** Genet Dixon; Janet Withers. **Piatt Co. Nursing Home (Monticello):** Rita Buenting. **Prairie Winds of Urbana:** Ilene Ackerman.



Please call the church office with updates on those currently listed in our prayer concerns.

PRAYER CONCERNS



Jennifer Birkey (friend/Terri Kirby); Joan Mathis; Willie Carico; Robert Flessner; Sondra Sipes; Shirley Friemel; Earl Smith; Cindy Williams (sister/Scott James); Rena Shebesta (great-granddaughter/Geri Remmers); Rosemary Bennett (friend/Ben & Allison Moser); Wayne Martin (cousin/Shirley Friemel); Ron Minch; Gabbi Reynolds (friend/Tome's); Ben Moser; Denny Doyle; Beth Tally (aunt/Allison Moser); Mary Jean (friend/Allison Moser); Shorty Baugher; Rich Friemel; LouAnn Baugher; Lynn Moser & Roy Huff (In-laws/Allison Moser); Joane Wilson (sister/Robert Flessner); William & Ruth Benton (parents/Phillip Benton); Kim Wyre; Marianna Wolters; Steve Ritchie (friend/J.R. & Sondra Sipes); Ella Osterbur (aunt/Earl Smith); Leon Rocker (cousin/Earl Smith); Paige Willard (friend/Nick Hanson); Paul Wolters; Kyrsten Valentine (daughter/Ted & Anita Valentine); Martha Stanfill; Sharon Loeh (friend/Paul & Linda Keith); Marla Osterbur (friend/Sue Coffin); Mary Mallicoat (mother-in-law/Earl Smith); Nick Shepherd (brother/Rhonda Keith); Joyce Keith; Bob & Jenny Hobby (cousins/Keith Family); Karen Derges; Debbie & Gordon Peterson (daughter & son-in-law/Irene Galindo); Gus Robertson (father/Pamela Bross); Kathy Anderson; Mary Ann Heiser (mother/Rod Heiser); Courtney Schoolcraft (niece/Paul & Linda Keith); Bob & Sue Selby (sister & brother-in-law/Mary Stocks); Merrill Wattjes; Fred Sommer (stepdad/Jennifer Smith); Sandra Ackerman; Bonnie Henderson; Velma Armstrong; Jessica Hawn (daughter/Rob & Kim Wyre); Kathleen Cooper (grandmother/Jennifer Smith & Brenna Schluter); Michael Markarian (brother/Joyce Williamson); Pat Gallahue; Joan Percival; Joyce Williamson; Irene Galindo.



January

BIRTHDAYS

Travis Dunn	1/1	Devin Cox	1/18
Travis Flesner	1/5	Justin Kaiser	1/21
Evynn Hodson	1/5	Connor Suits	1/21
Braxton Holland	1/5	Logan Suits	1/21
Tom Edwards	1/7	Bonnie Henderson	1/23
Jeremy Motley	1/10	Jared Motley	1/23
Emily Cheek	1/12	Matt McClain	1/26
Betty Fillinger	1/12	Gene Elliott	1/27
Anne Long	1/12	Leslie Lux	1/27
Deanne Rosenbeck	1/12	Roger Mathews	1/28
John Zonfrilli	1/15	DaNora Kaiser	1/29
Jeannette Arbuckle	1/18	Linda Keith	1/31



AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
500 Church Drive
Rantoul, IL 61866

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Rantoul, IL 61866

Return Service Requested

Permit No. 17

TO:



Youtube Channel: Rantoul, IL - American
Lutheran Church (ALC)

Nikki Foss

Office Manager - (217) 893-4550
amluthoffice@gmail.com

Logan Bushman

Preschool Director - (217) 893-8773
preschoolatalc@gmail.com

Worship Service -
Sunday Mornings at 9:00 a.m.
followed by Sunday School
and Women's Bible Study.

**ALC is Christ-centered by emphasizing teaching, worship and prayer
as we strive toward spiritual growth.**