

AMERICAN LUTHERAN NEWS

FEBRUARY 2024

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

LENT - SPRING CLEANING FOR THE SOUL



As we anticipate a time of reflection during the Lenten season, we prepare our hearts for time of reflection, repentance and a so-called "spring cleaning for the soul". We will enjoy Fat Tuesday together as a way of indulgence and reminder of the many blessings we enjoy in abundance, and then we will move into Ash Wednesday. And on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, hundreds of millions of Christians receive ashes on their foreheads in churches all over the world.

Why ashes? Since Old Testament times, ashes have been used as a symbol of mortality. When ashes are placed on our foreheads we hear the words: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." It's a reminder that the world, that often seems so important to us at this moment, is passing and we need to give more thought to what comes at the end of our earthly life, which is eternal life.

Ashes are also a sign of our need for repentance and a heartfelt acknowledgment that we are sinners and fall short of the glory of God. To many in the modern world, the very concept of sin seems old-fashioned. Yet, sin is part of our human nature, brokenness is our human condition, and we NEED Jesus. We need to repent and trust the Triune God will show up for us again and again.

If you intentionally hurt a good friend, whether you are religious or not, something deep inside of you tells you that you need to say you're sorry. What's more, whether you say it out loud to your friend, or just think it to yourself, you'll resolve not to hurt them again. But chances are good that someday you will. And that is similar to the all-too-human cycle of sin and sorry and sinning again.

As the Church points out, we are all sinners and we all need repentance. We all need to confess our sin and sinfulness and ask for God's forgiveness. And as people of the resurrection, we trust and lean into God's gift of abundant grace. Lent gives us an intentional time of the year to do just that.

The word "lent" comes from an old English word for springtime. Think of it as a form of spring cleaning for the soul. In the early years of the Church, Lent was confined to a few days before Easter. But by the fourth century, it was extended to forty days before Easter, a period associated with the forty days and nights that Jesus spent

in the desert, tempted in the wilderness, just after his baptism (Matthew 4:1-11). "Forty days before Easter" may be somewhat misleading. The Church doesn't count Sundays among the forty days, so the period of Lent, lasting from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, actually covers 46 days. Whether 40 days or 46 days, in the great scope of things, Lent is a momentary pause to rethink the fundamental purpose of our lives. But it can also be the occasion of a momentous transformation, a first step on the path, at the crossroads, of becoming the people God has called us to be.

Lord Jesus,
You are my righteousness,
I am your sin.

You took on you what was mine;
yet set on me what was yours.

You became what you were not,
that I might become what I was not.

Amen

Lent prayer ~ Martin Luther

Pastor Greer Cherney, Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Warren, MI.

FEBRUARY PULPIT SCHEDULE (Subject to change):

2/4 - Rev. Ben Black (Communion will be served.)

2/11 - Neal White

2/18 - Neal White

2/25 - Rev. Teresa Peters, NALC Director of Youth and Family Ministries
(Communion will be served.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, February 11th, immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service. Please plan to attend. The Nominating Committee will present the following nominees for office on the Church Council: Elder: Mitch Suits. Trustees: Joyce Holland, Ron Howe, & Lois Sjoken.

GRMD YOUTH GREATER CALLING RETREAT As of the printing of this newsletter, it is still being determined if there is enough interest to continue having this retreat here at ALC on February 23rd-25th. More information will be posted in our weekly bulletins once a final decision has been made.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER SERVICE for the call of a pastor will be held in the Chapel at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7th. A time of fellowship with a light meal is served in the Youth Hall at 5:45 p.m. prior to the service. All are invited and welcome to attend! Please note, there will NOT be a fellowship meal and prayer service on Ash Wednesday, February 14th.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE with the imposition of ashes and communion will be held on Wednesday, February 14th, at 7:00 p.m. in the main Sanctuary. Pastor Lehmann will be presiding over the service.

WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER There will be a weekday morning prayer service in the chapel at 6:30 a.m. during Lent beginning on Thursday, February 15th. The service is based on the LBW Morning Prayer, runs about a half hour, and allows for those employed or with other obligations to arrive at their destinations in a timely manner. If desired again this year, coffee will be offered for those who can stay for fellowship.

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Monday, February 19th, in observance of President's Day.



MIDWEEK LENT SERVICES will look different this year. We are offering a light meal followed by a Bible Study, "Why Did Jesus Have to Die", to be held entirely in the Youth Hall. The first evening will be Wednesday, February 21st. The light meal/fellowship time will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the Bible Study following at 6:00 p.m. (The Wednesday evening prayers will be incorporated into this gathering.) The entire evening of fellowship and study will be approximately 1-1/2 hours. If you have questions or are interested in attending, please contact Sally Bauer at 217-778-5232 by phone or text, or contact the church office by Wednesday, February 14th, so that books can be ordered, and meal planning can be done.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES The remainder of the 2024 offering envelopes are available to pick-up in the church office. If you would like envelopes and none were provided, please contact Judy Peck in 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.

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESCHOOL



Hello, my name is Logan Bushman. I have recently accepted the position of the director at the preschool. I have been studying early childhood education at Parkland and have now graduated with my associates degree. I am a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Flatville. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family as well as my pets. I have a puppy, Georgia, and two cats, Max and Cedar. I have enjoyed working with children throughout my life and I am beyond excited that I have been given this opportunity. I look forward to seeing many of you around and I hope my talents and abilities enhance the lives of the children and the preschool.

CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

This breakfast will be provided and served by the youth of our church.
A freewill offering will be taken and designated for VBS 2024.
Please plan to attend and support our youth!

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

DECEMBER 19, 2023

Called to order with opening prayer by Neal White. Members absent: Devin Cox and Linda Kirk. Guest Requests/Public Comments – None. Additional agenda items and approval of agenda. Approval of past meeting minutes approved as amended. Motion to accept by Neal White, second by Ron Howe.

Treasurer's Report/Financial Committee

2024 proposed budget by DeAnn McMorris. Motion to accept proposed budget by Neal White, second by Shirley Friemel. Motion carried.

Pastoral Acts

Transfer Out – Katie & Sloan Hanks to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Flatville.

Ministry Team Reports

Reports available upon request.

Building Team

Repairs to the geothermal unit are finally completed. Starting to get information for potentially replacing geothermal units one at a time because of frequent repairs.

Old Business

- a. Status of Supply/Interim Pastors – None available at the present time.
- b. Status of Janitor – Carmelitha is back to work and very much appreciated.
- c. Audit Committee Report – Motion made to accept report by Neal White, second by Brad Albers.
- d. Youth Event – February 23-25, 2024 (date correction) will be sponsored by ALC. Cost will be \$60 per person. One half (\$30) will be covered for each youth. All (\$60) for 1-2 adults.

New Business

- a. 2024 Nominations for Church Council: Elder - Mitch Suits; Trustees: Grounds – Lois Sjoken; Music and Worship - Ron Howe; Youth/Confirmation - Joyce Holland. Motion to accept nominations by Ron Howe, second by Brad Albers. Motion carried.
- b. Approve 2024 Proposed Budget for Annual Meeting – Proposed budget for 2024 was presented by DeAnn McMorris previously in para 5 and accepted.
- c. Studying refreshing original restrooms (off Narthex) - men's and women's as needed.
- d. Benevolence Appointment – Need to appoint a member to serve one year in a presently vacant position.
- e. Discussion on where to spend \$185 of Thanksgiving money. Motion by Brad Albers to donate it to the Canteen Run, second by Neal White. Motion carried.

Adjournment and Closing – Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:30 pm.

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:

...Paul Wolters and family for the loss of his wife, Marianna, on January 5th.

PLEASE CONTACT PRAYER CONCERNS CHURCH OFFICE



Sometimes names get put on the prayer list and then get forgotten about when the prayers have been answered. That is totally understandable but it seems that our prayer list just gets longer and longer and sometimes names listed get overlooked. So in an attempt to keep our prayer chain current, we are asking that an update be given to the church office by the end of February for anyone that you have placed on the prayer list. Then in March, the prayer list will be consolidated to include only the names of those that we have received updates on. We are in no way trying to have you remove your name or a loved ones name that still needs prayer. We are just trying to make sure that our list remains accurate of those in need of prayer. Thank you for your understanding of this matter.

PRAYER CONCERNS



Loretta Overholt; Jennifer Birkey (friend/Terri Kirby); Joan Mathis; Willie Carico; Robert Flessner; Sondra Sipes; Earl Smith; Cindy Williams (sister/Scott James); Rena Shebesta (great-granddaughter/Geri Remmers); Rosemary Bennett (friend/Ben & Allison Moser); Ron Minch; Gabbi Reynolds (friend/Tome's); Ben Moser; Denny Doyle; Beth Tally (aunt/Allison Moser); Mary Jean (friend/Allison Moser); Shorty & LouAnn Baugher; Rich Friemel; Lynn Moser & Roy Huff (In-laws/Allison Moser); Joane Wilson (sister/Robert Flessner); William & Ruth Benton (parents/Phillip Benton); Kim Wyre; Steve Ritchie (friend/J.R. & Sondra Sipes); Ella Osterbur (aunt/Earl Smith); Leon Rocker (cousin/Earl Smith); 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.

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.



February

BIRTHDAYS

Renee Sahy	2/1	Daphnie Albers	2/8	Marcia Busboom	2/17
Mason Loschen	2/3	Joyce Holland	2/8	Madonna Bartell	2/19
Jay Schroeder	2/3	Mindy Howe	2/8	Laura Suits	2/19
Steen Bjerre	2/4	Teresa Albers	2/10	John Ehler	2/20
Rod Heiser	2/4	Dorothy Bunten	2/10	Sean O'Donnell	2/21
Ella Schluter	2/4	Jeff Palmer	2/10	Aubrie Albers	2/25
LouAnn Baugher	2/5	Janet Jeffers	2/12	Connie Loschen	2/25
Geri Remmers	2/5	Rachel Dunn	2/13	DaVeda Reitz	2/25
J.R. Sipes	2/5	Lawrence Roessler	2/14	Joan Percival	2/26
Charles Roelfs	2/6	Robert Pilarski	2/15	Marless Swan	2/26
Michelle White	2/6	Gil Garside	2/16	Mark Galindo	2/28
Juanita Bradley	2/7	Rob Higgins	2/16	Tina James	2/28
Marcy Todd	2/7			Stan Wolken	2/29



February

ANNIVERSARIES

Ken & Ronnie Kocher	2/4
Dale & Cathy Albers	2/10
Ron & June Luna	2/14

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
500 Church Drive
Rantoul, IL 61866

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Rantoul, IL 61866

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TO:

 **FEBRUARY**



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.**

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

	Worship Stewards	Offering Communion	Table Guild	Greeters	Bulletin Greeters	Lectors	Prayers	Acolytes
2/4/24	Steen Bjerre	Judy Peck Rod & Sandy Heiser	Sally Bauer Sondra Sipes	Mary Peters Katie Holland	Shirley Friemel Anita Pilarski	Dennis Albers	Monica Carico	Logan Suits Jack Flesner
2/11/24	Ron Howe	Wendy Watkins Tom & Mary Edwards		Char Sons Shirley Barnes	Jackie Roelfs Linda Kirk	Sean O'Donnell	Shirley Friemel	Ivie Albers Owen Schluter
2/14/24 Ash Wednesday	Lloyd Schluter	Sheila Sherman Jack & Brenda Spitz				Midge Seim	Sheila Sherman	
2/18/24	Terry Doyle	Olivia Graves Jim & Pam Cheek		Sue Coffin DeAnn McMorris	Donna Hustedt David Hulse	DeAnn McMorris	Jim Cheek	Carson McClain Connor Suits
2/25/24	Midge Seim	Sue Coffin Emily Holland John Lux		Rich & Shirley Friemel	Marcie & Pierce Rodgers	Aubrie Albers	Pam Cheek	Joshua James Andrew Benton