

AMERICAN LUTHERAN NEWS

MARCH 2024

American Lutheran Church, 500 Church Drive, Rantoul, IL 61866

Church Phone: (217) 893-4550 www.alc-rantoul.org

“Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly. I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave, so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”

1 Corinthians 9:24-27



How easy it is to admire discipline in athletes, but how hard it is to practice it ourselves.

Lent is traditionally the time when we commemorate our Lord’s 40 days in the desert as He began His earthly ministry. Throughout the ages, Christians have used this time for self-denial to train their bodies and spirits in godliness. Here are a few suggestions on how we might do that.

We can give up our time. We can give up our free time and spend more time with Jesus, in His word, or serving others. We can spend additional time in prayer for others.

We can give up control of our words. This is hard when we love to give our opinion and advice. For Lent we can discipline ourselves to listen carefully, to ask questions before we speak.

We can give up feelings of resentment. It may be true that no one appreciates us in the way they should, but no matter how difficult our day, our burdens are nothing compared to what Jesus bore for us.

We can give up a habit. Sometimes anger, bad attitudes, gossip or a judgmental spirit keep us from being as effective as we could be in ministry.

For Lent, ask the Lord to be your personal trainer, to show you what is keeping you from being the spiritual athlete he wants you to be. Age, abilities, don’t matter—obedience does. Listen to his voice; practice the spiritual training habits in the Bible, and use Lent as a time to become more effective in serving Jesus.

Yvon Prehn, freelance writer for Compassion International, YoungLife, etc. and primary content creator of the training site for church communicators at www.effectivechurch.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS on Sunday, March 10th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 9th.

EASTER LILIES If you would like to order an Easter Lily, please call the church office or fill out the form in the bulletin by Sunday, March 24th. Cost is \$15. The lilies will be displayed in the front of the Sanctuary on Easter morning. They can be taken home after the 9:00 a.m. Easter Service.



MIDWEEK LENTEN MEAL & STUDY Our midweek Lenten meal and study continues each Wednesday evening through March 20th. A light meal followed by our Bible Study, "Why Did Jesus Have to Die", is being held entirely in the Youth Hall. The light meal/fellowship time begins at 5:30 p.m. with the Bible Study following at 6:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex to help provide soup, sandwiches and desserts for these meals. The entire evening of fellowship and study lasts approximately 1-1/2 hours. If you have questions, please contact Sally Bauer at 217-778-5232.



WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER is held in the chapel at 6:30 a.m. each weekday morning during Lent. 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. Please try to attend at least one of these meaningful services!

30 PIECES OF SILVER During Lent, we would encourage you to give 30 Pieces of Silver...30 dimes, quarters, dollars or a check as an extra gift of love for the cause of Christ. Please be sure to mark the outside of the envelope "30 Pieces of Silver".



CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Friday, March 15th, and Friday, March 22nd.

PORTALS OF PRAYER for the 2nd Quarter (April-June) will be available to pick-up in the Narthex and in the entryway outside of the church office on Friday, March 15th.

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, March 20th, from 12:00- 4:00 p.m. in the Youth Hall.

EDEN PARK CEMETERY This is a reminder to all lot owners - spring clean-up will start on March 15th. Any decorations that you want to save must be removed by March 14th. You are welcome to place flowers back at the grave sites after March 22nd.

MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES & PULPIT SUPPLY

MARCH 3, MARCH 10, & MARCH 17

9:00 a.m. Worship Service
Neal White to lead service.



MARCH 24, 2024 - PALM SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
Neal White to lead service.
Pastor Lehmann to serve communion.

MARCH 28, 2024 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
Pastor Lehmann to lead service.

MARCH 29, 2024 - GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 p.m. Worship Service
Neal White to lead service.



MARCH 30, 2024 EASTER VIGIL SERVICE

First Lutheran Church in Paxton will be hosting the area-wide
Easter Vigil Service. The service begins at 7:15 p.m.



MARCH 31, 2024 - EASTER SUNDAY

NO Sunrise Service will be held.
9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
Pastor Lehmann to lead service.

LENTEN PARAMENT STORY



Panel One: Our Lutheran heritage has us begin the Lenten season with the Scripture in Luke chapter 4 (see lexicon). The scene begins with Jesus being led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days. Jesus was hungry at the end of the forty days. Satan tested Jesus by making “if You are the Son of God...” - first, the devil told Jesus to turn the stone into bread. Satan also led him up a mountain to show Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and asked Jesus to worship him in return for the worldly domain. So the mountain, while not formed identically like the actual mountains in Israel, is something Americans readily recognize as a mountain, and it represents this temptation reported in Scripture. Satan also led Jesus to Jerusalem and took Him to the top of the Temple. There upon that pinnacle, he dared Jesus to jump and to rely on the angels to rescue Him. We, too, face temptations and need to stand strong in Jesus just as He stood fast in the Father’s love.

Panel Two: We all must choose which path we will follow. This is a daily decision. There are rocks along the path because life can be difficult. Will we choose the path that leads to peace? Our Lord and Savior promises in the Gospel according to John, chapter 16 verse 33: “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

Panel Three: Jesus is kneeling in the garden, praying, as He often did. Jesus’ head is portrayed using the Nimbus and further identified with the Alpha and Omega. Droplets of tears are falling as Jesus is deeply grieved and He asks the Father to let this cup pass from Him, if it is the Father’s will.



Panel Four: The slanted cross signifies Jesus carrying the cross. The crown of thorns is trailing over the cross with red droplets of blood falling to the ground. This represents Christ’s shedding of His blood for our salvation. Jesus came so that all those in the world might be saved. Therefore, the half globe behind the cross represents the world. The rock-laden ground has a single mustard seed plant growing up through the barren ground. In Matthew 13: 31-32 Jesus refers to the kingdom of God being like a mustard seed, stating how the mustard seed is smaller than all other seeds; but when it grows, it becomes the largest plant in the garden and provides shelter and a place of refuge for birds. In Matthew 17:20 Jesus also states the possibilities of God’s work in our life if we just “have faith the size of a mustard seed”.

Scapular Stoles: We continue with these themes in the stoles. The person shown praying in the wilderness is not Jesus, but each one of us. Jesus, as represented by the Nimbus, does watch over our every step on the path we choose to follow. The way of Jesus will lead us to the cross, but it also brings us to sharing in communion with Him where we partake of His blood and His body.

Pulpit/Lectern Antependium: The cross leads to newness of life, joy in the Lord, and peace beyond our own understanding. Will the path we choose lead us to walk with the Lord?

These banners are for the season of Lent, therefore many purple colors have been used. Browns, tans, and grays are also intentionally used to represent barrenness, somberness of the season, and a period of reflection and contemplation. The Nimbus is a commonly used emblem in works of art. It signifies a shining light and implies that great dignity belongs to the person.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS



2024 Council

President...*John Lux*
Vice President...*J.R. Sipes*
Secretary...*Mitch Suits*

Devin Cox-Building;
Marleen Peavler-Preschool;
Deanne Rosenbeck-
Chairman/Outreach;
Shirley Friemel-Ushers/Worship
Stewards; *Linda Kirk*-HR;
Ann Price-Sunday School;
Joyce Holland-Youth/Confirmation;
Ron Howe-Worship/Music;
Lois Sjoken-Grounds.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

JANUARY 16, 2024

Call to order with opening prayer by Neal White. Guest Requests/Public Comments – none. Additional agenda items and approval of agenda - Motion to approve agenda by Neal White, second by Brad Albers. Motion carried. Approval of past meeting minutes - Motion to accept as amended by Neal White, second by Ron Howe. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report/Financial Committee

Final budget report for 2023 given by DeAnn McMorris. Motion to accept final budget report by Brad Albers, second by Devin Cox, Motion carried. 2024 Proposed budget presented by DeAnn McMorris. Motion to accept proposed 2024 budget by Neal White, second by Shirley Friemel. Motion carried.

Ministry Team Reports

Reports available upon request.

Elder's Report/ALC Foundation Report

Trent Wolken is the new farmer for the land. Funds will be disbursed: \$10,000 for Ben Black, \$10,000 for Aaron Dawson, \$5,000 for Society for Holy Trinity and \$5,000 for Trinity School of Ministry.

Old Business

- a. Status of Restroom refresh near Narthex – Waiting on proposals.
- b. Head Trustee appointment – Deanne Rosenbeck has agreed to accept the position. Will start February 20.
- c. Status of Supply/Interim Pastor – No one available.
- d. Youth Event – Waiting on registrations.

New Business

- a. Annual Meeting – February 11.
- b. Annual Reports due to office by Friday, January 19.
- c. Transitional Meeting on February 20.

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.



PRAYER UPDATES

In an attempt to keep our prayer list current, we are asking that an update be given to the church office by Monday, March 18th, for anyone that you have placed on the prayer list. After this date, the prayer list will be consolidated to include only the names of those that we have received updates on. Please understand that we are in no way trying to have you remove your name or a loved one's name from the prayer list. We want to keep all names on the prayer list that are still in need of prayer. We are just trying to make sure that our list remains current. Thank you for your understanding of this matter.



PRAYER CONCERNS



Shorty Baugher; Rena Shebesta (great-granddaughter/Geri Remmers); Loretta Overholt; Jennifer Birkey (friend/Terri Kirby); Joan Mathis; Robert Flessner; Sondra Sipes; Earl Smith; Cindy Williams (sister/Scott James); Rosemary Bennett (friend/Ben & Allison Moser); Gabbi Reynolds (friend/Tome's); Ben Moser; Denny Doyle; Beth Tally (aunt/Allison Moser); Mary Jean (friend/Allison Moser); 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 Rucker (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; Courtney Schoolcraft (niece/Paul & Linda Keith); Bob & Sue Selby (sister & brother-in-law/Mary Stocks); Merrill Wattjes; Fred Sommer (step-dad/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.



March

BIRTHDAYS

Emily Deal	3/2	Jaron Hodson	3/7	Anita Valentine	3/21
Harold Frazier	3/2	Debora Loveless	3/8	Mary Beth Wolters	3/22
Jack Spitz	3/2	Pam Ideus	3/9	Rob Wyre	3/22
Rose Benton	3/3	Heather Lehmann	3/11	Paul Wolters	3/25
Patricia Jones	3/3	Velma Huls	3/12	Allie Loschen	3/27
Madi Briggs	3/4	Marleen Peavler	3/12	Evan Cheek	3/28
Vernon Franzen	3/4	Debbi Dietz	3/14	Vernetta Schluter	3/28
Sheree Bussard	3/5	Shelly Dunn	3/15	Sue Behnke	3/29
Matthew Lehmann	3/5	Pat Raver	3/17	Joyce Keith	3/30
Cheryl Peterson	3/6	Joan Shurbet	3/17	Wendy Watkins	3/30
Norman Hethke	3/7	Addisyn Hilligoss	3/21	Neal White	3/30



March

ANNIVERSARIES

Matthew & Sheila Albers	3/2	Gary & Deanne Rosenbeck	3/23
Neal & Sheila Williams	3/7	Gil & Terri Garside	3/24
Kevin & Juri Rasor	3/9	Dennis & Teresa Albers	3/27
Len & Kathy Hadler	3/11	Shorty & LouAnn Baugher	3/29
Jim & Jamie Hamby	3/15	John & Sheila Sherman	3/30
Cory & Stacy Acton	3/16	Leonard & Mary Stocks	3/31
Rich & Shirley Friemel	3/23		

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500 Church Drive
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TO:



Youtube Channel: Rantoul, IL - American
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Nikki Foss

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

Logan Bushman

Preschool Director - (217) 893-8773
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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.**

MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

	Worship Stewards	Offering Communion	Table Guild	Greeters	Bulletin Greeters	Lectors	Prayers	Acolytes
3/3/24	Richard Peavler	Tom & Mary Edwards John Lux	Sue Coffin DeAnn McMorris	Andrew Benton Mary Peters	Jack & Brenda Spitz	Chrissie Hall	Justin Kaiser	Katie Holland Aubrie Albers
3/10/24	DeAnn McMorris	Sam & Joyce Holland Rob Wyre		Jackie Roelfs Marcie Rodgers	Richard & Marleen Peavler	Leah Graves	Joyce Holland	Kyndall Cox Jack Flesner
3/17/24	Shirley Friemel	Devin & Kyndall Cox Logan Suits		Lloyd Schluter Katie Holland	June Willms Lindalou Hauersperger	Stephen Feig	Deanne Rosenbeck	Ella Schluter Carson McClain
3/24/24 Palm Sunday	Ron Howe	Stan Wolken Linda Kirk Shirley Friemel		Jack & Brenda Spitz	Tina & Joshua James	Dennis Albers	Monica Carico	Andrew Benton Connor Suits
3/28/24 Maundy Thursday	Sheila Sherman	Richard & Shirley Friemel Wendy Watkins		DeAnn McMorris Sheila Sherman	---	DeAnn McMorris	Pam Cheek	Logan Suits Joshua James
3/29/24 G. Friday	Lloyd Schluter	DeAnn McMorris Shirley Friemel		Linda Kirk Sue Coffin	---	Lorraine McElwain	---	Jack Flesner Carson McClain
3/31/24 Easter	Lloyd Schluter	Patsy Franzen Shirley Barnes Richard Friemel		Shirley Friemel Lois Madden	DeAnn McMorris Justin Kaiser	Terry Doyle	Sally Bauer	Liam Kaiser Joshua James