

# AMERICAN LUTHERAN NEWS

**MARCH 2025**

American Lutheran Church, 500 Church Drive, Rantoul, IL 61866  
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Grace and peace to you all. As we approach the season of Lent, I thought it may be nice to explain what Lent is.

There are many misconceptions about this season. Some suggest that Lent is a season to give something up for God. They would suggest that we should make a sacrifice for God's sake. McDonald's makes millions every year by running specials on their Filet-o-fish for those who give up red meat on Fridays during Lent. I knew someone once who gave up brownies during Lent. My question is why? What benefit is there in such sacrifice? Why does God want you to give up meat or brownies? When the Israelites forgot the reason for their sacrifices and feasts, God said, "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies." (Amos 5:12).

It's not the sacrifice itself that is important. It's the reason the sacrifice is made. Lent is a time for repentance and self-observation. It's a time to reset and review your life. It's a time to ask what sin persists in your life and to repent for it. Therefore, during Lent, I invite you all to consider what God may be calling you to repent of. And if something does persist, that is what you sacrifice. We pray that the Holy Spirit continues to work to repent us of our sins. To make us into the image of Christ. For the next 40 days, we will spend time with Christ leading up to the crucifixion that ultimately is salvation for you and for me.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Aaron Dawson

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE** will be held next Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Sanctuary. Holy Communion will be served, and ashes will be imposed.



**WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER SERVICE** A morning prayer service will be offered Monday through Friday during Lent. This will be held in the Chapel at 6:30 a.m. beginning Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. We will follow the Morning Prayer liturgy on pages 131-137 (ending with the Benediction) in the LBW. This is a service which lasts about 30 minutes.



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS** on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.



**MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES & SOUP SUPPERS** Beginning on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, Lenten Services will be held at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday evening through April 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be a light meal of soup and sandwiches prior to the midweek Lenten Service. The meal will be served from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Youth Hall. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Narthex if you can help with providing for a meal.

**INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION** will be offered in Pastor's office during the Lenten season on Wednesday evenings before the Lenten meal from 5:00-5:30 p.m. and between the meal and service from 6:30-7:00 p.m. Dates offered will be March 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, & 26<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>.



**COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE** The Rantoul Community Blood Drive will be held at American Lutheran Church on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the Youth Hall.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (April-June) will be available to pick-up in the Narthex and in the entryway outside of the church office on Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

**ANNUAL REPORTS** There are still annual reports available to pick-up on the bookcase in the Narthex if you have not received one.



**2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES** The remainder of the 2025 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.

## CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST



**SUNDAY, MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
**ALC YOUTH HALL**

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE**  
**9:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

This breakfast will be provided and served by the youth of our church.

A freewill offering will be taken.

Please plan to attend and support our youth!

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The Worship & Music Committee is exploring the revival of some type of musical group (singing and/or bell choir) to periodically offer anthems or other selected special music during worship services beginning as early as Holy Week. Musical offerings may be weekly at times, but more likely monthly, quarterly, and for festival days.

Kristin Dawson would coordinate the group. Practices will depend on when the special music will be offered and the type of music.

If you are interested in participating as a singer, accompanist, and/or in bell choir, please contact the church office by Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## 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 21, 2025**

Call to order at 6:58 p.m. with opening prayer by Pastor Aaron Dawson. Guest speakers – None. Approval of Agenda – Motion by Ron Howe to approve agenda, second by Devin Cox. Motion carried. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve by Shirley Friemel, second by Marleen Peavler. Motion carried.

#### **Treasurer's Report/Financial Committee Report**

DeAnn McMorris reported using 76% of money from last year's budget. Some outstanding bills will be paid in 2025. Next year's budget will increase by 7.08%.

#### **Pastoral Acts**

Thank you to all who helped unload three truck loads for Pastor Aaron's move in.

#### **Ministry Team Report**

Reports available upon request.

#### **Old Business**

- a. Sound System Update – Synergy has made three visits. Zeroing in on problems. Also getting a proposal for a projector.
- b. New council selection – Voting on February 9<sup>th</sup>, installation on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **New Business**

- a. Paul's retirement – Potluck. Tentative April or May.
- b. Pastor's Aaron's Installation
- c. Church Audit
- d. Transitional Council Meeting will be held on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Pastor's Report**

Report submitted. Also needs goals and recommendations from council.

Motion at 8:17 p.m. to adjourn by Ron Howe, second by Devin Cox, motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**PRAYERS TO THOSE  
SERVING IN THE MILITARY**

**PRAY FOR OUR  
MILITARY**

Jon Stiebner (son/Synda Miller); Alex Short; Brandon Elrod (grandson/Elfrieda West); Kasey Fenimore (nephew/Bill & Jody Schlueter); Brian Griswold (son/Phillip Griswold); Levi Loschen (grandson/Luella Loschen); Ryan Falletti; Riley Falletti; Eli Baker (grandson/Gary & Lois Sjoken).

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**SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:**

...the family & friends of Joyce Higgins who passed away on February 18<sup>th</sup>.



**STUDENT CLOTHING  
DONATIONS**

We are continuing to collect gently used clothing, new socks, underwear and shoes for children ages Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade (size 5T to Men's & Women's size small) for Northview Grade School. Please place any donations in the tub located in the Narthex.

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**PRAYER  
list**

Kim Wyre; Tracie Sisneros (sister/Sean O'Donnell); Glenn Behnke; John Keith; Dave Amborn (brother-in-law/Karen Flessner); Pen Pendleton; Denny Doyle; Pastor Barb Busboom; Rodney Larkin (husband/Kaylee (Sleigh) Larkin); Rich Friemel; Geraldine Gorecki (sister/Joyce Williamson); Lee Briggs (friend/Reggie & Mary Peters); Carla Adkins (friend/Joyce Williamson); Jessica Hawn (daughter/Rob & Kim Wyre); Earl Smith; Gabbi Reynolds (friend/Tome's); Ben Moser; William Benton (father/Phillip Benton); Steve Ritchie (friend/J.R. & Sondra Sipes); Sharon Loeh (friend/Paul & Linda Keith); Mary Mallicoat (mother-in-law/Earl Smith); Nick Shepherd (brother/Rhonda Keith); Joyce Keith; Bob & Jenny Hobby (cousins/Keith Family); Merrill Wattjes; Michael Markarian (brother/Joyce Williamson); Joan Percival; Joyce Williamson.

**NURSING HOMES/ASSISTED LIVING:**

Bridle Brook: Keith Dohleman. Gilman Heritage Health: Dave & Loretta Overholt. Goldwater Care (Gibson City): Ruth Lutz. Holly Brook (Rantoul): Genet Dixon; Luella Loschen; Joan Mathis. Piatt Co. Nursing Home (Monticello): Rita Buenting.





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



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

**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)

**Pastor Aaron Dawson**  
Senior Pastor  
[rev.daws25@gmail.com](mailto:rev.daws25@gmail.com)

**Nikki Foss**  
Office Manager  
[amluthoffice@gmail.com](mailto: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

	<b>Worship Stewards</b>	<b>Offering Communion</b>	<b>Table Guild</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Bulletin Greeters</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Prayers</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>
<b>3/2/25</b>	Sheila Sherman	Donna Hustedt David Hulse Wendy Watkins	Sheila Sherman Emily Deal	Jackie Roelfs Marcie Rodger	Jack & Brenda Spitz	Chrissie Hall	Terry Doyle	Carson McClain Liam Hall
<b>3/5/25 Ash Wednesday</b>	Sheila Sherman	Donna Hustedt David Hulse Wendy Watkins				Dennis Albers	Pam Cheek	
<b>3/9/25</b>	Ron Howe	Jack & Brenda Spitz Shirley Friemel		Justin Kaiser DeAnn McMorris	Tom & Mary Edwards	Lorraine McElwain	Shirley Friemel	Connor Suits Jack Flesner
<b>3/16/25</b>	Deanne Rosenbeck	Justin Kaiser Stan Wolken Bill Schlueter		Jeannette Arbuckle Connie Early	Connie Early Mary Peters	Sean O'Donnell	Jim Cheek	Ivie Albers Logan Suits
<b>3/23/25</b>	Lloyd Schluter	Devin & Kyndall Cox Olivia Graves		Leah Graves Emily Holland	Richard & Marleen Peavler	Midge Seim	Joyce Holland	Aubrie Albers Peyton Cox
<b>3/30/25</b>	DeAnn McMorris	Tom & Mary Edwards Shirley Friemel		Char Sons June Luna	Aubrie Albers DeAnn McMorris	Sheila Sherman	DeAnn McMorris	Daphnie Albers Liam Kaiser