

AMERICAN LUTHERAN NEWS

APRIL 2025

American Lutheran Church, 500 Church Drive, Rantoul, IL 61866
Church Phone: (217) 893-4550 Pastor Aaron's Phone: (618) 200-0352
Website: www.alc-rantoul.org



Grace and peace,

As you all know, we are part of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). The NALC has four core values to which we also ascribe. They are a sort of way of saying, "this is who we are and what we are about." Our core values are: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Congregationally Focused, and Traditionally Grounded.

Christ Centeredness is rightly the first of these. Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ is our purpose. Jesus said, "when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself," (John12:23). This means that through the proclamation of God's word, He will work to bring others to faith. This also means that our main purpose is not social service and civic virtue. However fun an event may be, and however old the traditions may be, if they are not for the sake of the Gospel, they are secondary. In our modern world, issues like social justice, civil welfare and political advocacy have become mistaken for the main task of the church. If that is the case, then the church is redundant. The Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, and the Rotary Club fulfill those purposes and do a much better job than the church ever has. That's not to say that we are not supposed to care for our neighbor or do good works. St. James' epistle tells us that true religion is caring for the widows and orphans. However, the first and greater command is to love God. We must remember that we are God's people and Christ's church. Any attempt to be anything else means we cease to be the church. The NALC is devoted to encouraging and helping our congregations to remain Christ centered. They create doctrinal statements for issues such as abortion, marriage, the proper use of baptism and more. They provide free teaching resources such as the Online Confirmation class that our own confirmands will benefit from. They oversee the ordination and placement of pastors to ensure that our pastors are devoted to Word and Sacrament ministry and are properly educated in the faith. For more information, I encourage you to go to thenalc.org.

May God bless you all,
Ever your servant in Christ,
Pastor Aaron

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, April 6th, immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service to vote on a proposal for a new video system and sound system equipment upgrade. All eligible voting members should have received a letter in the mail regarding this meeting.



WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER SERVICES continue to be held Monday through Friday through Good Friday. This service starts at 6:30 a.m. in the Chapel and lasts about 30 minutes. Please plan to attend this service during the Lenten season.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES continue to be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel each Wednesday evening through April 9th. There is a light meal of soup and sandwiches prior to the midweek Lenten Service served from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Youth Hall. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex if you can help with providing for the meal.

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION is being 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. on April 2nd & 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, April 13th. 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.



OFFICE CLOSED The church office will be closed on Monday, April 21st.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025 is the week of June 9th - 13th from 8:30-11:30 a.m. If you are interested in helping out, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. The next meeting for anyone interested in helping will be held on Sunday, April 27th, after the Sunday School hour. Please see Heather Lehmann with any questions.

SHEETS NEEDED The Quilting group is in need of flat cotton sheets. These are used for liners in the quilts. Donations may be brought to the church office. Thank you in advance for any donation.

PORTALS OF PRAYER for the 2nd Quarter (April-June) are available to pick-up in the Narthex and in the entryway outside of the church office.

CHRIST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL DRIVE-THRU PORK CHOP DINNER will be held on Sunday, April 13th, from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the High School located at 201 W. Lincoln St. in Buckley. Free-will donations will be appreciated.

COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER SPRING FLING FUNDRAISER will be held on Thursday, April 24th, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 1001 N. Ohio, Rantoul. A fun-filled evening with wine, food, a 50/50 raffle, dessert auction & live music featuring the wonderful sounds of Porch Camp. This event will raise money for their food pantries and other program services. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at CSC or at the door.



APRIL 13, 2025 - PALM SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025 – FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025

Morning Prayer Service held at 6:30 a.m. each day in Chapel.

APRIL 17, 2025 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. Worship Service in Sanctuary

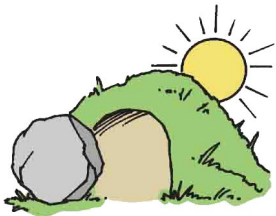
APRIL 18, 2025 - GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 p.m. Worship Service in Sanctuary



APRIL 19, 2025 - EASTER VIGIL SERVICE

Prince of Peace in St. Joseph will be hosting the area-wide Easter Vigil Service. The service time is yet to be determined.



APRIL 20, 2025 - EASTER SUNDAY

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship Service
(Location is yet to be determined.)

9:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service

DISTRICT DISASTER RESPONSE REPORT



A work session was scheduled for Thursday, March 20th, after the morning Bible Study when members assembled 50 Health Kits and 50 Kitchen Kits. We also received 30 Kitchen Kits assembled by the Youth group from First Lutheran in Paxton. There have been numerous disasters recently nationwide so supplies at ALC may be summoned to assist re-stocking efforts at other NALC Disaster Warehouses who have depleted their inventory.

Our current inventory is as follows:

Health Kits: 372 School Kits: 477 Bibles: 593 Blankets: 372 Tools: 90
Kitchen Kits: 137 Cleaning Buckets: 327 Diapers: 15 cases

The NALC National Disaster Response has set a goal to provide training so that people may be approved to become Endorsed Disaster Response Volunteers, Prayer Ministers, or Spiritual Care Providers, in a NALC Disaster Response setting. Such trained people will be enabled to offer a spiritual presence and atmosphere, the ministry of prayer, and/or the ministry of spiritual care, to disaster victims and disaster response volunteers. Anyone wanting more information on this opportunity can contact Terry Doyle.

FOUNDATION REPORT

(From October 13, 2024 Meeting)

Financial report approved. Regarding 2025 support, since seminarian Ben Black confirmed he no longer needed additional funds to complete seminary, other options will be considered to determine where support money can be distributed. One suggestion made was Ryan Sage from Immanuel, Flatville. The North American Lutheran Seminary is an option as well. The Foundation has been attempting to be considered a tax-exempt entity and waiting on the status of its application. Also checking into the necessity for an umbrella insurance policy. Next meeting is scheduled for March 2nd, 2025.



The Family of Joyce Higgins would like to thank everyone for all of the cards, prayers and love expressed to them following the death of their mother, Joyce. They are extremely grateful for everything this congregation has done.

Glenn & Sue Behnke would like to thank the congregation for all of their thoughts, prayers, and food that they've received over the last several months. They are so appreciative of everyone's thoughtfulness.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

FEBRUARY 18, 2025



2024 Council

President...*J.R. Sipes*
Vice President...*Mitch Suits*
Secretary...*Terry Doyle*

Shirley Friemel-
Ushers/Worship Stewards;
Linda Kirk-HR;
Ann Price-Sunday School;
Joyce Holland-
Youth/Confirmation;
Ron Howe-Worship/Music;
Lois Sjoken-Grounds;
Justin Kaiser-Building;
Midge Seim-Preschool;
Deanne Rosenbeck-
Chairman/Outreach.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by J.R. Sipes, with opening prayer by Pastor Aaron.

The agenda and previous meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report given by DeAnn McMorris stated finances are in good shape. Waiting to pay the balance in full for the Youth Hall flooring project after the flooring company completes rectifying some problem areas.

No Pastoral Acts or Ministry Teams reports submitted.

ALC Foundation reported \$10,000 was sent to Cairo Studies to aid Seminary student Ryan Sage.

Ministry teams were discussed and assigned. The Outreach Trustee, replacing the Trustee Chairman position, serves as liaison for Disaster Response and Visiting Committees and is Chairperson for Benevolence Committee.

Old Business

- a. The sound system needs are still being evaluated and a committee is being formed to research options.
- b. Paul's retirement dinner is being planned tentatively for the first week of May.

New Business

- a. The church Audit Committee will consist of Midge Seim, Connor Schmidt & Rod Heiser.
- b. Church Personnel Holiday Plan: Approved pay for holidays and 3 personal days for part-time personnel.
- c. New LED lights for the Youth Hall and painting the ceiling and walls was approved.

Pastor's Report

Scheduling communion visits to those homebound and in facilities, setting personal goals, developing opportunities with parents and their kids, Sunday School and post-confirmation kids, and the possibility of a Mutual Ministry Committee. Tentatively will designate Fridays and Saturdays as his official days off.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for March 18, 2025.

**PRAYERS TO THOSE
SERVING IN THE MILITARY**



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

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

...the family of Scott Busboom (son of the late Wayne & Patty Busboom) who passed away on February 26th.



**STUDENT CLOTHING
DONATIONS**

We are continuing to collect gently used clothing, new socks, underwear and shoes for children ages Kindergarten through 5th 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.



PRAYER
list

Roberta Arthur; Robert Hayn (nephew/Karen Flessner); Steve Schluter; Eugene Schmidt (brother/Dave & Peggy Schmidt); Maverick LeBouef (great-grandson/Rich & Shirley Friemel); Kim Wyre; Tracie Sisneros (sister/Sean O'Donnell); Glenn Behnke; John Keith; 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.
Goldwater Care (Gibson City): Ruth Lutz.
Holly Brook (Rantoul): Genet Dixon; Luella Loschen; Joan Mathis.
Piatt Co. Nursing Home (Monticello): Rita Buenting.
Prairieview Lutheran Home (Danforth): Dave & Loretta Overholt.



Kyle Cheek	4/3	Scott Rodgers	4/11	Terri Kirby	4/20
Pam Cheek	4/3	Luella Loschen	4/13	Andrew Schluter	4/20
Chase Schroeder	4/4	Dee Ehler	4/14	Pr. Aaron Dawson	4/23
Keith Dohleman	4/5	Pat Krickovich	4/14	Jason Madden	4/24
Joyce Williamson	4/6	Mark Hanson	4/15	Judy Quinlan	4/24
Rhonda Keith	4/7	Rachel Palmer	4/15	Christie Holland	4/25
Johanna Riley	4/8	LaVerne Shaffer	4/16	Mary Jayne Zonfrilli	4/26
Carson McClain	4/9	Sheila Albers	4/17	Genet Dixon	4/28
Neal Williams	4/9	Hayley Kerns	4/17	Landon Loschen	4/28
Vivian Albers	4/11	Karen Flessner	4/20	Lucas Loschen	4/28



John & Mary Jayne Zonfrilli	4/7
Bob & Sandy Lindsay	4/13
Norman & Teresa Hethke	4/17
Ed & Lois Hesterberg	4/22
Gary & Lois Sjoken	4/23

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

Nikki Foss
Office Manager
amluthoffice@gmail.com

Logan Bushman/Miri Grose
Preschool Directors - (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.**

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

	Worship Stewards	Offering Communion	Table Guild	Greeters	Bulletin Greeters	Lectors	Prayers	Acolytes
4/6/25	Midge Seim	Travis, Nikky, & Jack Flesner	Lloyd Schluter Emily Deal	Emily Deal John Lux	Ann Price Connor Schmidt	Deanne Rosenbeck	Aubrie Albers	Connor Suits Owen Schluter
4/13/25 Palm Sunday	Ron Howe	Judy Peck Emily Deal John Lux		Ron Minch Annie Minch	Justin & Liam Kaiser	Lorraine McElwain	Justin Kaiser	Ivie Albers Liam Hall
4/17/25 Maundy Thursday	Deanne Rosenbeck	Lloyd Schluter Marvin Ideus Shirley Friemel				Terry Doyle	DeAnn McMorris	
4/18/25 Good Friday	Sheila Sherman							
4/20/25 Easter Sunday	Lloyd Schluter	Jim & Pam Cheek Sue Coffin		Tom & Mary Edwards	Ron & Janie Howe	Pam Cheek	Monica Carico	Peyton Cox Kali Schluter
	6:30 a.m. Worship Steward - DeAnn McMorris							
4/27/25	Richard Peavler	Marleen Peavler Jack & Brenda Spitz		DeAnn McMorris Lindalou Hauersperger	Rod & Sandy Heiser	Kyndall Cox	Sally Bauer	Jack Flesner Logan Suits