

# AMERICAN LUTHERAN NEWS

**MAY 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](http://www.alc-rantoul.org)

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Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Last month I talked about the core values of the NALC. They are Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, Congregational focused. This month's article will focus on being mission driven, how the NALC differs from the ELCA, and what the NALC does for our local congregation.

The ELCA's 2009 General Assembly is notorious for being the meeting where they voted to ordain homosexual ministers. Most people don't remember that there were other groundbreaking decisions made at that meeting. One such decision was the stop of all Pioneer Missions (meaning missions to countries, tribes, and civilizations outside of the United States). Their argument was that Mission work of this kind is a form of cultural appropriation and was therefore ethical. This is in violation of Jesus's command to "go forth into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:16-22)."

We are called to proclaim the Gospel to all people both near and far. To that end the NALC has several programs to assist with both. The broadest of these programs is the Global Workers Network. Global Workers are Missionaries who work around the world. They have been vetted by and are supported through the NALC. By doing this the NALC prevents scams and misappropriation of funds by those pretending to be missionaries. They also insure that missionaries are cared for and receive much needed support.

On a smaller scale, the NALC supports national missions like Disaster Response. The NALC supports warehouses in key locations which keep supplies for disasters. This one is personal for us at ALC because we house a Disaster Response warehouse here. These are just a couple examples of the larger mission programs the NALC supports.

In addition, we have mission districts. As you may know, rather than having local synods as the ELCA did, we have mission districts. Unlike a synod which exists independently of a mission district with an appointed bishop, the collection of congregations in a particular area constitute the mission district and elect a dean from among their clergy. There are 25 congregations that make up our district, the Great Rivers Mission District (GRMD). The first responsibility of the mission districts is the care and preservation of the individual congregations. The Dean acts as an

extension of the Bishop's office to assist in the placement, care, and discipline of pastors. He presides over the Mission District Executive committee and assists to organize events for the district. The district itself supports statewide missions. The GRMD offers scholarships for seminarians, retreats for pastors and lay people, and supports our local Disaster Response warehouse. In addition, we are currently working on a weekend youth retreat which I myself have had a hand in.

Finally, for the local congregation, the NALC provides resources and networking for our own events. Hypothetically, if we decided we wanted to start a soup kitchen (or any other mission project) here at American, the NALC would offer resources for legal protection, structuring events, devotional, and more. They would help connect us to other congregations who have done similar missions successfully. If needed, they may even be able to offer a grant to help financially.

At every possible level, the NALC proves to be driven by missions. While many of them are social service, they remain Christ Centered as I explained last month. The reason for all our missions is to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are very blessed to be a part of a congregation that is so devoted to going out and doing. If you have questions about any of these missions, or are interested in how to become involved, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

In Christ,  
Pastor Aaron

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## **ASCENSION DAY**



Every week when we worship together and declare our faith in the Triune God, we acknowledge the ascension of Jesus, the Son, into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. Jesus performed many miracles and wonder in His time on earth. None are mentioned in the three creeds (Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian) to which we adhere and through which we affirm our faith to others, but the ascension is included in each creed. It is an important day on which we acknowledge Jesus is who He said He is.

Ascension Day falls on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. We will join together at 7:00 p.m. for worship. Watch the bulletin for more information about this service.

Please plan to attend this celebration reminding us that Jesus does live, in His human but resurrected body. He has gone to prepare a place for us to join Him. He lives! He lives! Hallelujah! He lives!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**VBS VOLUNTEERS** Thank you to everyone who was able to help organize VBS for this year! We still need several volunteers to help be group leaders, and to help with supervision during the week. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Email or text/call Heather Lehmann with any questions. She can be reached at mhlehmann87@gmail.com or 574-286-3506. The next meeting will be Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, for anyone volunteering for VBS.

**VBS DONATIONS NEEDED** There are notecards in the foyer labeled with supplies needed for this year's VBS! Please take what you are willing and able to donate. There will be a box in the narthex to put the supplies. Please have them here by Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. We appreciate any help you are able to provide.

**BRUNCH POTLUCK CELEBRATION** in honor of Paul Wolters' retirement from ALC will be held on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service.



**GREAT RIVERS MISSION DISTRICT RETREAT** will be held on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Sacré Coeur Retreat Center in Magnolia, IL. This retreat is for all GRMD congregants and pastors. Please plan to arrive Thursday after lunch. Departure will be after lunch on Friday. The cost to attend is \$189 per person which covers your room and three meals. Please contact Nikki in the church office if you are interested in attending or would like more information. Registration is due by Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

**WORSHIP WORKSHOP** will be held on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. in the main Sanctuary. This will be an informational meeting with Pastor Aaron for Worship Stewards, Ushers and Altar Guild members. Please mark your calendars and try to attend if you are able.

**GRADUATES** We will be celebrating our 2025 graduates in the June Newsletter. If you will be graduating this year from 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, High School or College, please provide the church office with your name, the school you will be graduating from, and any degree you will be receiving (if college) by Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!



**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY** will be celebrated on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Please come and celebrate our seven confirmands: Aubrie Albers, Kyndall Cox, Jack Flesner, Liam Kaiser, Carson McClain, Connor Suits & Logan Suits.

**EDEN PARK MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE** will be held immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**COLLEGE AGE/YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY** We will be starting a new Bible Study this summer for our College Age/Young Adults starting on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the Eden Park Memorial Day Observance. This is for graduating seniors and up and will be led by Pastor Aaron.

**Memorial DAY OFFICE CLOSED** The church office will be closed on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Memorial Day.

**SHEETS NEEDED** The Quilting group is still 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.

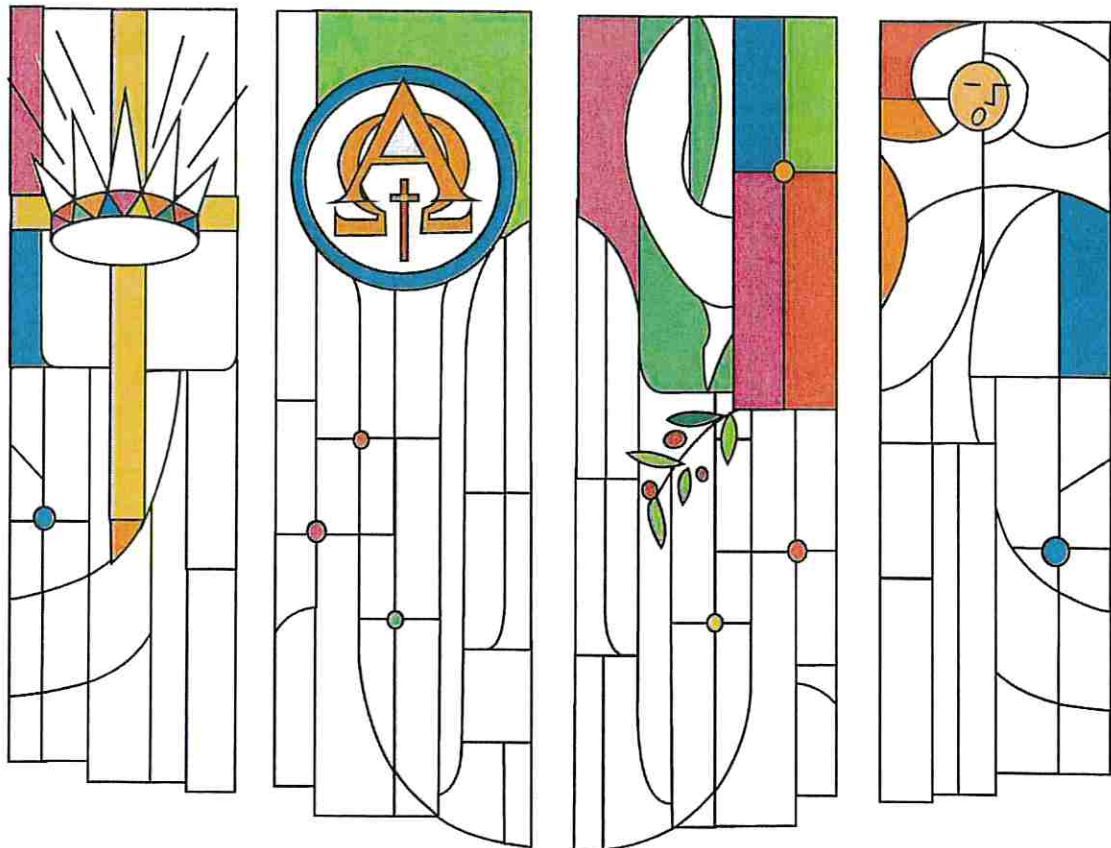
## WHITE PARAMENTS

PANEL 1 - Jesus the Christ, Faithful & True, is King of kings and Lord of lords *each and every day*. He was with God in the beginning. He is, He was, and He is to come again. Hallelujah!

PANEL 2 - Jesus the Christ is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End *each and every day*.

PANEL 3 - Jesus the Christ, One with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. "When all the people were baptized, Jesus also was baptized. As He was praying, heaven opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in physical appearance like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: You are My Beloved Son. I take delight in You!" (Luke 3:21-22, HCSB)

PANEL 4 - Jesus the Christ was announced to Mary by the angel Gabriel. Jesus the Christ was served by angels in the wilderness. Jesus the Christ is going to come with His angels in the glory of His Father, and then He will reward each according to what he has done. (Matt. 16:27). Jesus the Christ said, "See that you don't look down on one of these little ones, because I tell you that in heaven their angels continually view the face of My Father in heaven." (Matt. 18:10, HCSB)





# CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

MARCH 18, 2025



### **2025 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.

Call to order on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:07 p.m. by J.R. Sipes, opening prayer by Pastor Aaron.

Guests present: Neal White & Jack Spitz who presented information concerning a new sound and projection system for the Sanctuary. Between two companies contacted, they recommended Picture Perfect from the Champaign area. Discussion was held about an LED Audio and Video Wall System with funds already available in the budget. A motion to present to the congregation to pursue the system with said company was made and passed.

Treasurer's Report: 13.2% has been used so far from the budget, largely due to repairs needed for the Geothermal system. Otherwise, we are in good shape.

Pastoral Acts: Funeral for Joyce Higgins on 2/24/25.

Ministry, Benevolence & Foundation Reports: All included.

Disaster Response: A work session was scheduled for Thursday 3/20 at 10:15 a.m. to assemble 50 Health Kits and 50 Kitchen Kits. New online training opportunity for

NALC Spiritual Care Volunteers. Those individuals would accompany mission teams assigned to provide clean-up/rebuilding efforts.

### **Old Business:**

- a. Stage removal is in progress. When done, the painters will come back to paint.
- b. The painting of the Youth Hall has had many positive comments.
- c. A 3<sup>rd</sup> party flooring inspector came to assess the problems with the new flooring in the north end. Comments from him seem to concur there were issues, but no response had been received yet from Flooring Surfaces.

### **New Business:**

- a. A motion was made and passed to accept the recommendation from Worship and Music Committee that Kristin Dawson be recognized as a music accompanist on staff payroll. The Committee also recommended she be recognized as the Vocal & Handbell Coordinator to be paid a rate TBD which was tabled until more details are available.
- b. There are a couple classrooms in the north end that have an excessive amount of unwanted items that need to be disposed of soon.
- c. The ALC custodian is moving out of state and her last day is March 21<sup>st</sup>. No replacement had been determined yet.

Pastor's Report: Included

Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for April 15, 2025.

## **BAPTISM**

April 20, 2025 - Tate Michael Dean Carver  
Son of Brayden Carver & Autumn Salyer

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### **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).

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### **SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:**

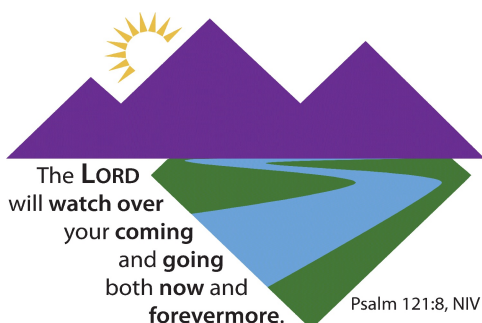
...the family of Gil Garside who passed away on April 20<sup>th</sup>.



### **STUDENT CLOTHING DONATIONS**

We will continue 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 until Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Donations can be placed in the tub located in the Narthex.

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## **PRAYER** *list...*

Brian Dietz; Susan Millsap; Chloe Messoré (granddaughter/Jack & Brenda Spitz); Karen Flessner; 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.



Bev Frazier	5/3	Sam Holland	5/18
Susan Millsap	5/3	Alec Hilligoss	5/21
Asher Dawson	5/5	Karen Vaughn	5/23
Gary Hein	5/5	Jim Cheek	5/24
RaeAnne Lindsay	5/5	Lois Madden	5/26
Trent Wolken	5/8	Debbie Sleigh	5/26
Pr. Jim Lehmann	5/9	Jerry Stalter	5/26
Terry Miller	5/10	Jameson Ehler	5/27
Brad Albers	5/11	Nikky Flesner	5/28
Emily Holland	5/14	Hannah Benton	5/29
Janet Johnson	5/15	Peyton Cox	5/30
Sondra Sipes	5/15	Ruth Lutz	5/30
John Johnson, Jr.	5/16	Kellie Schluter	5/30



Mitch & Laura Suits	5/3
Kevin & DaNora Kaiser	5/31

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
500 Church Drive  
Rantoul, IL 61866

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

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**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/Miri Grose**  
Preschool Directors - (217) 893-8773  
[preschoolatalc@gmail.com](mailto: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.**



## MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

Worship Stewards	Offering Communion	Table Guild	Greeters	Bulletin Greeters	Lectors	Prayers	Acolytes
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<b>5/4/25</b>	Terry Doyle	Sam & Joyce Holland Emily Holland	Sondra Sipes Sally Bauer	Jim & Pam Cheek	Anita Pilarski Shirley Friemel	Dennis Albers	Joyce Holland	Liam Kaiser Carson McClain
<b>5/11/25</b>	Deanne Rosenbeck	Rod & Sandy Heiser Shirley Friemel		Joshua James Lloyd Schluter	Chrissie & Liam Hall	Jim Cheek	Shirley Friemel	Kyndall Cox Aubrie Albers
<b>5/18/25</b>	Ron Howe	Marvin Ideus Sue Coffin Lloyd Schluter		Lois Madden Karen Derges	Karen Flessner Wendy Watkins	Chrissie Hall	Deanne Rosenbeck	Daphnie Albers Owen Schluter
<b>5/25/25</b>	Lloyd Schluter	Jim & Pam Cheek Olivia Graves		Chrissie & Liam Hall	Ella Schluter Kyndall Cox	Sean O'Donnell	Sheila Sherman	Ivie Albers Kali Schluter