

AMERICAN LUTHERAN NEWS

AUGUST 2026

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



Dear Friends in Christ,

If you ever go to Chick-fil-a, you will find that the servers are trained to respond to "thanks," with, "My pleasure." It's a way of letting their customers know that they are there to help. When you go somewhere for food you probably expect the servers to help you with any of your needs from something as large as making your order to something as small as asking for a sauce packet. When a person's job is to provide a specific service, it's normally not considered a waste of time to ask them to perform that service. Yet, in my role as pastor, people constantly tell me, "I didn't want to bother you with my problem, Pastor," or "It wasn't important enough to tell you about."

There is a piece of paper in my office that says, "Ordained to the Holy Office of Word and Sacrament Ministry." While my primary function is to preach, teach, and administer the sacraments, that's not all I'm here for. The duties listed on my Ordination Certificate and Letter of call also include counseling, listening, and praying. Scripture tells us to pray for one another for healing (James 5:16), bear each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2), and do so at all times (Ephesians 6:18). As Pastor, I'm the person whom anyone can ask for prayer and do so with as much anonymity and confidentiality as needed. It is "my pleasure," so to speak. This isn't just a matter of responsibility. I love my calling as a pastor and find fulfillment in caring for the saints. If you have a need, no matter how big or small, I encourage you to call me for prayer and conversation.

There are many who also say, "You have a new baby and are under enough stress. You don't need mine too," or "You're a father and a husband. You're too busy." While I appreciate the consideration, and I firmly believe that my vocations as father and husband must come before any other including pastor, that doesn't make me any less your pastor. I am responsible for my own schedule, my own availability, and my own boundaries. To put it plainly, I'm a big boy. I need you to trust me to tell you if I am unavailable and hold my boundaries. I may not always be able to drop what I'm doing and be at your side, but I will always pray for you.

Finally, I encourage you to pray with one another. We are brothers and sisters in Christ and are called to live together in hope. They say misery loves company. While we shouldn't seek to tear each other down, we should seek to lift one another up in Christ. Don't ever feel like you should do life alone. Instead seek the comfort God has given us in one another.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron M. Dawson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW SUNDAY DOOR LOCKING PROCEDURE Beginning on Sunday, August 9th, the following doors will be left unlocked after the church service begins: both sanctuary doors on the east and west and the sanctuary door on the south. All other doors will be locked shortly after the church service begins and unlocked right before the church service ends. This is being initiated to help insure the safety of our parishioners. Thank you.



WOMEN OF THE WNALC All women of the church are invited to go to the Beef House Dinner Theatre in Covington, IN, on Saturday, September 19th, for a Matinee show. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Please make your reservation by Friday, August 14th, by calling Pam Cheek at 217-714-1353. The cost is \$72.

If we have 20+ reservations, the cost is \$62. Money is due Monday, August 31st, by cash or check made payable to ALC. Please call Pam to reserve your spot! We hope to fill the church bus and more!

OFFICE CLOSED The church office will be closed on Monday, August 3rd, and Tuesday, August 4th, in the afternoon.



ON VACATION Nikki will be on vacation the week of August 10th-14th. During this time, Judy Peck will be in the office from 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. each day except Wednesday, August 12th, when the office will be closed all day. Please call the church office if a need arises or stop by during these times.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS Rally Sunday will be held on September 13th. Please watch upcoming bulletins and the September newsletter for more details.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY will be studying the Psalms starting in October. We will be ordering workbooks for this study, so if you would like to attend, please let Pastor or the church office know.

PORTALS OF PRAYER for the 3rd Quarter (July-September) are still available to pick-up in the Narthex and in the entryway outside of the church office.

DISCOVER THE GOD WHO CHERISHES YOU



In the 7-session study on Hosea, Jennifer Rothschild unpacks the story of an unlikely couple, an unusual courtship, and an illicit affair. But the marriage didn't end; instead, a love story began. It's Hosea and Gomer's love story and it is your love story. You'll understand

that when you're looking for identity, God calls you His own. When you feel enslaved, God frees you. When you wander away, God brings you home. No matter where you are, God sees who you are and loves you faithfully. His unfailing love changes everything. We will start this study on Wednesday, September 16th, at 1:00 p.m. in the Women's Bible Study room. If you are interested, please contact Deanne Rosenbeck by Tuesday, September 1st, so that our workbooks can be ordered. The cost of the workbook will be \$22. Please text/call or email Deanne at 217-621-8816 or dwattjes@hotmail.com. See you "Gomer" girls in September.

ALC PRESCHOOL & DAYCARE



The Summer Camp enrollment has held steady with 25-35 children in attendance most days. They have enjoyed an abundance of outside play, indoor free play and games when weather required it, and a variety of field trips. The prekindergarten children had multiple trips to the Splash Pad, a trip to the movies with concession goodies, and water days in the wading pools on site. The school age group added a trip to WCIA, the Staerkel Planetarium, bowling, and multiple trips to the Hap Water Park/Rantoul Pool. Both groups were treated to a Make Your Own Pizza at Monical's.

As most know, the Church Council has approved a recommendation from the Preschool Board to close the Preschool for the 2026-2027 school year due to repetitive staffing problems that compromise compliance with the Department of Children and Family Services standards. The congregational information meeting was well attended, and all members had an opportunity to ask their questions. The Preschool Board would like to thank Pastor Dawson for his prayers and spiritual counsel as the Board made the decision based on staffing deficiencies and related compliance to close the Preschool at this time. This has been a difficult decision for all affected. The Preschool Board will continue to maintain records and financial obligations for as long as needed. The Church Council will review the status of the Preschool in June 2027. No equipment or supplies will be sold or otherwise dispersed, at this time.

A celebration for the Preschool and end of Summer Camp will be held in the Youth Hall on Thursday, August 13th, from 3:30 pm-6:00 pm. All are invited and encouraged to attend. Pizza, chips, lemonade and water will be provided. Donations of desserts will be gladly accepted for this event. There will be games, movies, a bounce house, and time for conversation and sharing your favorite stories of the Preschool. If you would like to donate or have questions, please call Midge at 217-493-0787.

The Preschool Board would like to thank all who have supported the Preschool over the years. We have appreciated your support of the many fundraisers, cash contributions, donations of time to read a story, play a game, or do a craft project, and all of the many prayers for the children, teachers, and Board. Thank you and may God continue to help this congregation prayerfully discern what the future will bring.

Midge Seim

The following is a thank-you from Daphnie Albers about her experience attending the Continental Youth Gathering in Roanoke, VA, July 7th-10th.



I would first like to take a moment to thank the congregation for supporting me on this trip. Your support helped me to be able to help serve the Roanoke community. I was able to help clean and reorganize a community shelter, help clean the host church's property, and we also got to help clean the inside of a neighboring church and get it ready for Sunday worship. We had a chance to explore Roanoke during the Roaming Roanoke day where we went to an ice cream shop, the transportation museum, a forest preserve, and a trampoline park. At all of these places we had a series of tasks to complete before we could continue to the next place. We answered Bible trivia questions, took pictures with a number of things, ate ice cream, had a dodge ball game versus the YALLs, and much more. During CYG we also did a ton of worshipping. We had two church services every day, and two different pastors preached at each one. Every service we had a different pastor preaching, so we were able to learn from a variety of styles. We also had sessions where either Pastor Bert or Pastor Tonya would give temple talks about how God is always there for us and he's always working in your life even if it feels like your life is about to fall apart. God is always working in ways you didn't know or expect. After the sessions we would break out into groups with kids from all different churches to do a bible study about what we were just taught in the session. This was a great way to connect with other kids and a great way to grow together. We also had the best time worshipping God, singing the best songs, and having fun with it. Overall CYG was a great program that I learned a lot from. I grew in my faith in many ways that I might not even know them all yet. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to be able to go to CYG to learn more about God and grow in my faith.

Daphnie Albers



- Thank you to everyone who helped make our VBS this year a success. Whether you volunteered to help, donated kitchen items or donated to the Eagles Nest...we thank you from the bottom of our hearts! We averaged 85 kids each day and were able to send 3 big boxes of food and a monetary donation of \$170.00 to the Eagles Nest and they were so appreciative. Again, thank you!

Joyce Holland

- A big thank you to all who helped make my 70th birthday extra special. Love you all. God has truly blessed me.

Sue Coffin

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS



2026 Council

President...*Mitch Suits*;

Vice President...

Terry Doyle;

Secretary...*Scott James*

Joyce Holland-

Youth/Confirmation;

Ron Howe-Worship/Music;

Lois Sjoken-Grounds;

Neal Bauer-Building;

Deanne Rosenbeck-

Benevolence/Outreach;

Midge Seim-Preschool;

Sue Coffin-Ushers/

Worship Stewards;

Ann Price-Sunday School;

Connor Schmidt-HR.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

JUNE 16, 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:06pm with opening prayer. Pastor led Bible study as we went through chapters 3 & 4 of Romans.

Treasurer's Report/Financial Committee: Included. It was mentioned that we are over \$24,000 behind last year's contributions.

Ministry Team Reports

a. Worship & Music—Nothing to add.

b. Ushers & Stewards—Included. Looking at updating the roles of ushers and stewards during services. Including having an action plan in the event of an emergency.

c. Sunday School—Nothing to add.

d. Youth—Included.

e. Pre-School—Included. Some concerning developments recently. Taking steps to address these with more information to come.

f. Human Resources—Connor & Pastor will have more discussion on employee policy amendments/additions and if it affects our church constitution. Will have an update at next council meeting.

g. Groundskeeping—Included. Mitch will plan to have conversations with the neighbors around the playground in an attempt to stop the

yard waste from being put on our grass.

h. Building – It was reported the security lights in the main sanctuary did not come on during VBS power outage. This will be checked. There were some leaking windows in the pre-school area. Caulking seemed to help. There was an attempt to repair the façade above the youth hall door. More resources will be needed to fix this.

i. Benevolence/Outreach – Included.

Disaster Relief Committee Report – Included. We received some additional supplies on Tuesday 6/16 from the Ohio warehouse. However, some boxes were poorly packed and damaged which require repackaging and inventorying. Terry contacted a Lutheran Church in Streator, Illinois, after the recent storms to see if they needed any supplies.

Elder's Report/ALC Foundation Report – ALC Foundation to meet July 19.

Old Business

a. Sanctuary Pews/Sanctuary Rehab – The design contractor will be sending us a proposal in July.

b. Elevator – Using the elevator will add an additional insurance cost to the church of \$400-\$600. Mitch will be getting an estimate to see how much it will cost to get it back in service.

c. Delegates for Online National Convention – Convention is August 7th.

d. Great Rivers Mission District Convocation – Convocation is October 24th.

e. The old piano was removed from the chapel.

New Business

a. Employee Handbook – Connor and Pastor are working on updates.

b. Wedding Policy – Pastor is looking to update our policy to address expenses, clean up etc. Terry agreed to work with Pastor on the revisions.

c. Renew Program – The focus of this program is what the church is doing well, not doing well, and what ministries need bolstered. We will start with having the council go through the program first and then roll out to other areas.

Pastor's Report/Pastoral Acts – Included. Pastor said we will go back to in-person confirmation this fall. He will be including things he is reading/studying in his reports going forward.

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:

...Dave Overholt & family for the loss of his wife, Loretta, on June 29th.

...the family & friends of Rodney Larkin who passed away on July 25th.



PRAYER
CONCERNS

Please continue to call the church office with updates on those currently listed in our prayer concerns.



PRAYER *list*

Rich Friemel; Angie Trenberth; Susan Millsap; Tracie Sisneros (sister/Sean O'Donnell); Jim Perry (cousin/Keith Family); Mary Kempfer (niece/Terry Doyle); Ron Minch; Chrissie Hall; Kim Ross (daughter/Char Sons); Kay Thomas (sister/Emlly Deal); Sondra Sipes; Barb Corbly; Marty Mirocha (friend/J.R. & Sondra Sipes); Melvina Heap; Paul Albers (brother/Judy Quinlan); Kim Wyre; Annette Carlson; Wilma Suits (sister/Sue Coffin); Brian Dietz; Roberta Arthur; Steve Schluter; Glenn Behnke; John Keith; Pen Pendleton; Denny Doyle; Lee Briggs (friend/Reggie & Mary Peters); Carla Adkins (friend/Joyce Williamson); Jessica Hawn (daughter/Rob & Kim Wyre); Gabbi Reynolds (friend/Tome's); William Benton (father/Phillip Benton); Steve Ritchie (friend/J.R. & Sondra Sipes); Sharon Lohen (friend/Paul & Linda Keith); Mary Mallicoat (mother-in-law/Earl Smith); Bob & Jenny Hobby (cousins/Keith Family); Merrill Wattjes; Joan Percival; Joyce Williamson.

NURSING HOMES/ASSISTED LIVING:

Accolade on Pells (Paxton): Earl Smith. Country Health & Rehab (Gifford): Keith Dohleman. Holly Brook (Rantoul): LouAnn Baugher; Pastor Barb Busboom; Genet Dixon; Luella Loschen; Joan Mathis; Martha Stanfill; Paul Wolters. Prairieview Lutheran Home (Danforth): Dave Overholt.



Debbie Tyler	8/2	Janine Fruhling-Petersak	8/26
Ed Bartell	8/3		8/13
Paul Keith	8/5	Neal Bauer	8/14
Pam Mathews	8/5	Mary Peters	8/14
Pr. Barb Busboom	8/6	Jessica Cox	8/15
Olivia Graves	8/6	Patti Motley	8/15
Bev Ehmen	8/8	Brianne Nierenhausen	8/15
Scotty Krone	8/8	Duane Smith	8/15
Steve Jeffers	8/9	Kevin Kaiser	8/17
Dale Sleigh	8/11	Dave Overholt	8/21
Stacy Tome	8/11	Mike Little	8/23
Ivie Albers	8/12	Donna Hustedt	8/24
		Marilyn Worra	8/25
		Mike Tome	8/26
		Emily White	8/26
		Andy Holland	8/27
		Connor Schmidt	8/27
		Martha Stanfill	8/27
		Tate Carver	8/28
		Phyllis Hafermann	8/28
		Leonard Stocks	8/29
		Debby Wilcoxon	8/29
		Alex Brooks	8/30
		Katherine Bartell	8/31
		June Luna	8/31



Sam & Joyce Holland	8/3	Duane & Jennifer Smith	8/22
Paul & Linda Keith	8/12	Phillip & Rose Benton	8/23
Dennis & Libby Buhr	8/13	Ron & Annie Minch	8/24
Gene & Lisa Heap	8/15	Rob & Kim Wyre	8/25
Roger & Pam Mathews	8/18	Brian & Brianne Nierenhausen	8/28
Reggie & Mary Peters	8/18	Pr. Aaron & Kristin Dawson	8/29
Brad & Stacey Albers	8/22	John & Joyce Borchers	8/30

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500 Church Drive
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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

ALC Preschool
(217) 893-8773
preschoolatalc@gmail.com

Worship Service -
Sunday Mornings at 9:00 a.m.
followed by Adult Sunday School
and Women's Bible Study.

**ALC is Christ-centered by emphasizing teaching, worship and prayer
as we strive toward spiritual growth.**

AUGUST WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

	Worship Stewards	Ushers**	Table Guild	Greeters	Lectors	Prayers	Acolytes
8/2/26	Sue Coffin	Lloyd Schluter Mike Tome Aubrie Albers	DeAnn McMorris Sue Coffin	Tom & Mary Edwards	Lorraine McElwain	Pam Cheek	Jack Flesner Carson McClain
8/9/26	Midge Seim	Jim & Pam Cheek Marleen Peavler		Wendy Watkins Jeannette Arbuckle	Sean O'Donnell	Terry Doyle	Ivie Albers Kali Schluter
8/16/26	Terry Doyle	David Hulse Donna Hustedt Wendy Watkins		Jim & Pam Cheek	Aubrie Albers	Shirley Friemel	Daphnie Albers Owen Schluter
8/23/26	DeAnn McMorris	Justin Kaiser Jack & Brenda Spitz		Jack Flesner Carson McClain	Midge Seim	Joyce Holland	Jake Holland Liam Hall
8/30/26	Ron Howe	Emily Deal John Lux Stan Wolken		June Luna Lloyd Schluter	Deanne Rosenbeck	Andrew Peck	Aubrie Albers Eli Schluter

**Please be at the church by 8:30 a.m. The ushers will be handing out bulletins.