

AMERICAN LUTHERAN NEWS

MARCH 2026

American Lutheran Church, 500 Church Drive, Rantoul, IL 61866
Church Phone: (217) 893-4550 Pastor Aaron's Phone: (618) 200-0352
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FROM THE



PASTOR

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

One of the pastoral tasks I have always enjoyed is teaching. Specifically, my joy is in teaching people to see how God moves in His Word. This is such a passion of mine that I have often considered post graduate work that would focus on curriculum writing for Bible studies. Imagine my joy when I was asked to teach the Thursday morning Bible Study after arriving here. I put a lot of pride in my preparation and teaching for this class and have enjoyed my time teaching it.

The first study I led was in the book of Exodus. We did a line for line survey which focused on the nature of the covenant God made with his people Israel. Second, I utilized a curriculum written by my favorite Biblical Theology Professor to teach Revelation. The goal of this study was to reveal the Gospel hidden in all the fear and dread recorded in Revelation. After that, I was asked to teach a refresher on the Small Catechism. This hallmark of Lutheran Theology serves as basic instruction on what Christians believe.

On March 4th, we will start a Study on the Book of Acts. This study will focus on the Apostles and their lives. We will look at the stories behind the writers of the New Testament. Our Thursday morning study has become a great part of our community of faith. I invite all who are interested to join us at any point. You are welcome, even if you can only come some of the time.

In addition, I plan to offer the course on the Catechism again in the evenings. This course is beneficial whether you were raised Lutheran and want a refresher or you joined our congregation as a transplant from another church. The evening class is designed to accommodate the working population of our congregation. Dates and times will be announced soon. If you are interested, please contact me.

One of my ordination vows as a pastor is to teach the people of God and lead them in His Word. I take this responsibility very seriously and enjoy every opportunity to fulfill it. If you have a question or area of interest you would like to study, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron M. Dawson

ANNOUNCEMENTS



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS on Sunday, March 8th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 7th.

OFFICE HOURS CHANGE For the time being, the church office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you need any assistance outside of these hours, please leave a message on the answering machine and someone will return your call.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP The HS Youth Group is meeting every Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m. in the upper Youth Room. Snacks are provided.



WEEKDAY MORNING MATINS SERVICE is being held at 6:30 a.m. in the Chapel each weekday morning only, Monday through Friday, ending on Good Friday, April 3rd. The service itself is about 30 minutes. Refreshments and fellowship follow for those able to stay a little while. Please try to attend at least one of these services during the Lenten season.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES & SOUP SUPPERS The mid-week Lenten Services are being held at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday evening through March 25th in the Chapel. There is a light meal served prior to the service at 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Hall. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex to help provide for the meals.

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 13th.



BLOOD DRIVE The Rantoul Community Blood Drive will be held at American Lutheran Church on Wednesday, March 18th, from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 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.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES Maundy Thursday Service will be held on April 2nd, at 7:00 p.m.; Good Friday Service will be held on April 3rd, at 7:00 p.m.; Easter Sunrise Service will be held on April 5th, at 6:30 a.m. (Will be held outside weather permitting, otherwise held in the Chapel); and Easter Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.

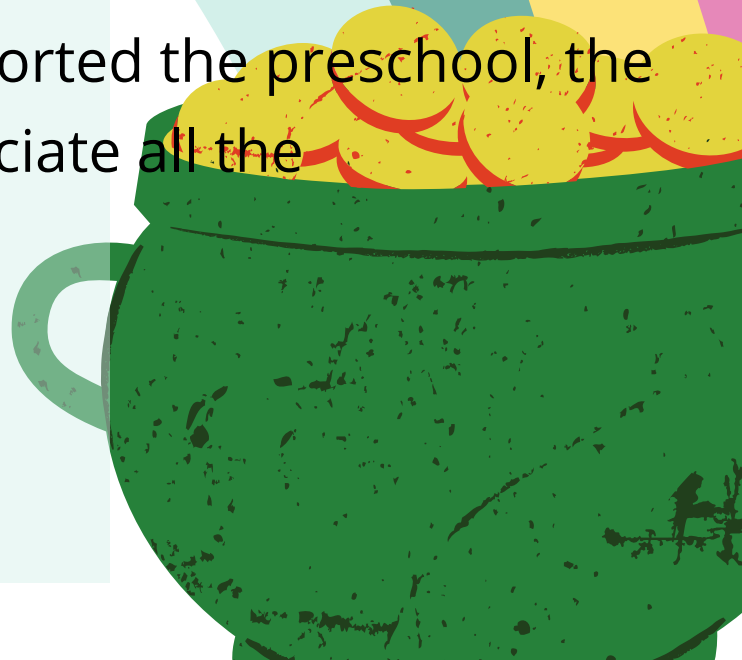


A huge thank you goes out to Jeremy Motley for designing and hanging the updated outside board signs. They look amazing!!! Thank you so much!



MARCH PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Welcome to March! This month students will start off with a DR. SEUSS week with different theme days. This month we will have a pizza party, Library Day and a Nature Center Day. We have an Amazon Gift Registry for supplies for anyone who would like to help out. Check out the Preschool Lutheran Facebook page for access to the link and to keep up to date on everything going on at the preschool. School-age summer camp is right around the corner for anyone interested in signing up for preschool or school-age give us a call at 1-217-893-8773. Thank you to all who have supported the preschool, the teachers and myself. We appreciate all the prayers and support!





EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 5TH

If you would like to order an Easter Lily, please sign your name below and place it in the offering plate or return to the church office by Palm Sunday, March 29th. The lilies will be displayed in the front of the Sanctuary on Easter morning.

The cost for each lily is \$16.00. You may place the money in an envelope and mark the outside of the envelope "LILY" (be sure your name is on it) and place it in the offering plate by Easter Sunday.

**(Please write your name below as you would like
it to appear in the bulletin.)**

NAME: _____

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

JANUARY 20, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm with opening prayer by Pastor Aaron.

Treasurer's Report

Included. The 2025 budget was discussed. Even though we did not exceed the amount budgeted, the 2025 contributions did not cover the expenses. We did not overspend but some operating costs were higher than anticipated. Caution was expressed for spending in 2026.

Ministry Reports

- a. Worship & Music – Included. A meal for Lent services planned for 6pm; Matins services planned at 6:30am; a burning of the mortgage during service February 15th with potluck to follow.
- b. Ushers & Worship Stewards - Included
- c. Sunday School - Nothing to report
- d. Youth - Included
- e. Pre-School - Included. Clarified usage of the bulletin board by the Youth Hall entrance and bathroom cleaning

responsibilities.

- f. Human Resources - Nothing to report
- g. Groundskeeping – Included. Request for the tree removal proposal/bid by Johnson's Tree Service was made and approved.
- h. Building - Included
- i. Outreach/Benevolence - Included

Old Business

- a. The Constitution Amendment regarding the Audit process - To be presented at the ALC Annual Meeting on February 8th.
- b. Sanctuary Pews condition/repairs - Pastor and Elders met with a local architect onsite to discuss preliminary options of rehabbing the Sanctuary to include pew replacements and flooring within the existing space. It will involve a major planning and fund-raising campaign and hopefully come to fruition by the ALC's 100th Anniversary.
- c. Updated Job Description forms for Council members had been received.

New Business

- a. Efforts are being made to reactivate the elevator on the north end and contacting the appropriate authorities to certify it.
- b. The change of the wine used for Communion has drawn some negative feedback so other options are being considered.
- c. An updated copy of Wedding Guidelines was distributed by Pastor for review and feedback.
- d. The fiancée of Harm Roelfs, Alexis Gray, has requested membership with ALC and Council voted for approval.

Pastor's Report - Included.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.

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 Marlys Morris who passed away on February 9th.

...the family of Dolores Ehler who passed away on February 20th.



THE WORKS OF HIS HANDS



----- ARE -----
**FAITHFUL
and JUST.**
P S A L M 1 1 1 : 7

PRAYER *list...*

Maverick LeBoeuf (great-grandson/Rich & Shirley Friemel); Mary Kempfer (niece/Terry Doyle); Ron Minch; Betty Ann Holsinger (sister/Janie Howe); Joyce Keith; Chrissie Hall; Kim Ross (daughter/Char Sons); Kay Thomas (sister/Emily Deal); Samuel Day (son/Kayla Pilarski & Anthony Day); Angie Trenberth; Sondra Sipes; Rich Friemel; Barb Corbly; Ethan Kempfer (great-nephew/Terry Doyle); Marty Mirocha (friend/J.R. & Sondra Sipes); Melvina Heap; Breen Sipes (daughter-in-law/J.R. & Sondra Sipes); Paul Albers (brother/Judy Quinlan); Kim Wyre; Annette Carlson; Wilma Suits (sister/Sue Coffin); Brian Dietz; Roberta Arthur; Steve Schluter; Eugene Schmidt (brother/Dave & Peggy Schmidt); Tracie Sisneros (sister/Sean O'Donnell); Glenn Behnke; John Keith; Pen Pendleton; Denny Doyle; Rodney Larkin (husband/Kaylee (Sleigh) Larkin); 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); 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; Michael Markarian (brother/Joyce Williamson); Joan Percival; Joyce Williamson.

NURSING HOMES/ASSISTED LIVING: Accolade (Paxton-Fulton St.): Janet Johnson. Bridle Brook: 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 & Loretta Overholt.



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



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		

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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)

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Nikki Foss
Office Manager
amluthoffice@gmail.com

Jessica Bensyl - Preschool Director
(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.**

MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

	Worship Stewards	Ushers**	Table Guild	Greeters	Lectors	Prayers	Acolytes
3/1/26	Midge Seim	Sam & Joyce Holland Emily Holland	Sally Bauer Sheila Sherman	Justin & Liam Kaiser	Dennis Albers	Justin Kaiser	Logan Suits Carson McClain
3/8/26	Lloyd Schluter	David Hulse Donna Hustedt Wendy Watkins		Tom & Mary Edwards	Aubrie Albers	Jim Cheek	Connor Suits Eli Schluter
3/15/26	Ron Howe	Stan Wolken Logan Suits Connor Suits		Stephen Feig Lindalou Hauersperger	Monica Carico	Sean O'Donnell	Daphnie Albers Owen Schluter
3/22/26	DeAnn McMorris	John & Rhonda Keith Kyndall Cox		Jack & Brenda Spitz	Andrew Peck	Sally Bauer	Ivie Albers Kali Schluter
3/29/26 Palm Sunday	Sheila Sherman	Tom Edwards Rod & Sandy Heiser		David Hulse Donna Hustedt	Chrissie Hall	Sheila Sherman	Jack Flesner Liam Kaiser

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