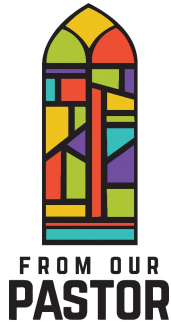


AMERICAN LUTHERAN NEWS

MAY 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



On Sunday, May 3rd, Daphnie Albers and Owen Schluter will undergo the rite of Confirmation. As such, I thought it would be worth reviewing what Confirmation is. As I often tell parents before we start classes, confirmation is not graduation from church. Many times students complete their confirmation studies and are not seen again for many years. Rather, this should be the beginning of an individual's life as a fully developed Christian. This is the point from which individuals can act as an individual doing life together with the rest of their faith community.

The practices of confirmation dates back to the first century Church. However, if you were to look in our hymnal, you would find no service called confirmation. The service is referred to as Affirmation of Baptism. The terms affirmation and confirmation go hand in hand. An individual who is baptized as an infant undergoes instruction in the basics of the faith. Here at ALC we teach our confirmation students Holy Scripture, The Small Catechism, and the practices of the congregation (liturgical tradition, governance structure, etc.). After demonstrating that they have learned the material to the satisfaction of the pastor and congregation, they are asked to write a Statement of Faith. At their Confirmation service the confirmand affirms the faith in which they have been trained. They read their faith statement and the congregation then confirms that they recognize this individual as a member of the community of faith.

Consider any training you may have. Whether it's professional, academic, or practical, after you complete your training you are considered a practitioner of that skill, but you don't stop learning. Either through experience or continuing education, you learn more and grow in that skill. In the same way, when you complete confirmation, you should be equipped to continue growing in faith. Everyone can always learn more about anything and faith is no different.

We are told that God reveals himself to us in His Word (John 1, Hebrews 1). In Confirmation we develop children into adult Christians. They affirm the faith that the Holy Spirit began to work in their baptism and communicate their desire to enjoy life together with other Christians.

If you have any other questions, Please reach out to me.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron M. Dawson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPEN HOUSE The congregation is cordially invited to an Open House for Genet Dixon in honor of her 100th birthday. The celebration will be held in the Four Seasons Room at the Villas of Holly Brook in Rantoul on Saturday, May 2nd, from 2:45-4:15 PM. We request no gifts, just the pleasure of your company. If you are unable to attend and would like to send a card, Genet's address is 722 Stone Bridge Dr., Apt. 45, Rantoul, IL 61866.



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY will be celebrated on Sunday, May 3rd. Please come and celebrate with our two confirmands: Daphnie Albers and Owen Schluter.

PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER The ALC Preschool and Daycare, a ministry of the Church, is offering a few opportunities for you to help support the activities of the school. First, the Del's Popcorn Fundraiser runs through Sunday, May 3rd. Second, Monical's Pizza will be sharing profits on your purchase made on Wednesday, May 6th. A flyer is located on the back side of the Worship Assistants page.

GRADUATES We will be celebrating our 2026 graduates in the June Newsletter. If you will be graduating this year from 8th 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 Monday, May 18th. Thanks!



COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE The Rantoul Community Blood Drive will be held at American Lutheran Church on Wednesday, May 20th, from 11:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. in the Youth Hall.

OFFICE CLOSED The church office will be closed on Monday, May 25th, in observance of Memorial Day.



THANK YOU!

TO:

...Everyone that brought food for the Lenten suppers.

FROM:

...Dave & Peggy Schmidt for all of the thoughts and prayers following the passing of my brother, Eugene Schmidt. They were greatly appreciated!

...Pastor Aaron and Kristin Dawson - Thank you to the Women of the NALC for hosting the baby shower for us and Baby Islay on April 25th.

We were blown away by the love and generosity shown to us by the congregation. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to everyone who attended, for all the gifts, and for the prayers and encouragement. Thank you for your continued prayers as we prepare for Baby Islay's arrival; We can't wait for everyone to meet her!

Welcome, **New Members**

Please welcome Mara, Scotty, and 16 month old Edward Krone to our church family. Mara is a research scientist at U of I and Scotty is an agronomist for GDM seeds. They run a small homestead north of Rantoul and enjoy renovating their old farmhouse. Scotty enjoys beekeeping, leather work and gardening. Mara enjoys knitting, embroidery, canning, hiking and camping. Little Edward loves tractors and his dog, Lola. They both grew up connected to Lutheran traditions, but Scotty mostly grew up in a Baptist church. Tanna Suits invited them to visit our congregation. They came to our Trunk'r Treat in October where they had a nice conversation with Pastor Aaron and felt very welcome by the congregation. After visiting for several months they decided to join in our fellowship. Welcome! We look forward in growing in faith together!

Please welcome Alexis "Lexi" Gray to our family of faith. Lexi is engaged to be married to Harm Roelfs. She is an Occupational Therapy Assistant and director of Rehabilitation at EmpowerME wellness at Piatt County Nursing Home. Her previous church experience has been in the United Methodist Church. She and Harm have decided that ALC is the congregation where they want to be more involved. She enjoys gardening, painting, baking and cooking. Welcome Lexi, we look forward to growing together in faith!

DISASTER RESPONSE WAREHOUSE REPORT



Because of the scope and outreach impact that the Disaster Response Team coordinates, the NALC has decided to transition the Disaster Response entity into becoming an LLC. An eight-member Board was assigned by the Bishop's office to oversee and advise the reorganization.

The NALC Disaster Team was recently informed by the NALC Executive Secretary that the NALC's attorney advised our churches to no longer accept gift cards as donations for direct distribution to disaster victims. According to the IRS regulations, it is the same as giving cash, and when we give funds to a family, they are legally obligated to report that on their taxes. Otherwise, we could jeopardize our 501(c)(3) status. Going forward, it was advised to use gift cards to only purchase supplies and/or food and only accept financial donations in the form of checks or Vanco.

On March 10th, a tornado struck the community of Aroma Park, IL, in Kankakee County causing severe damage. The NALC Disaster Response sent supplies from both the Indiana and Illinois District Warehouses. A big challenge was lack of phone service and being unable to communicate and coordinate with agencies in the impacted areas, a common problem in disaster impacted areas.

On March 14th, contact was made with Redeeming Life Ministries Church, a supply collection center, just outside of Aroma Park where our District Warehouse delivered the following:

29 Assorted scoop shovels, garden rakes, flat shovels, brooms, mops	
1 case heavy duty garbage bags	3 large storage totes w/lids
135 Health Kits	43 Kitchen Kits
20 Tarps	560 N95 Masks
1976 Baby Diapers	88 Adult Diapers
40 School Kits	70 Quilts/blankets
47 Bibles	100 cleaning bucket kits
2 cases Feminine Hygiene products	

In April, our Warehouse was requested to go to Kansas City, MO, for tornado and flooding relief, particularly those effected in the Belton, MO, area. On 4/22/26, our volunteers loaded a 20' box truck with the following supplies:

Cleaning bucket kits: 177	Health Kits: 219	Kitchen Kits: 75	Bibles: 42
Quilts/Blankets: 243	N95 Masks: 150	Tools/Mops/Brooms: 53	

Two members from St. John Lutheran Church, Flanagan, graciously volunteered to drive the truck the next day, delivered to a receiving area and returned on Friday 4/24/26.

Since these distributions, our inventory is almost entirely depleted, with all categories of supplies needed for replenishment. Completed kits are encouraged, bulk supplies and financial donations are welcomed. Disaster Response also qualifies for Thrivent Dollars for those that are members.

God's blessings to all who help in so many ways to continue this Mission and please keep all those impacted in your prayers.

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

MARCH 17, 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm with opening prayer.

Treasurer's Report

Included. Copies of the outgoing checks will be shared to show our expenses. Plan to do a 6-month temple talk to give the congregation an update on finances. Offerings trending down. Would like to see a 1% increase to help with expenses.

Ministry Team Reports

- a. Worship & Music – Included.
- b. Ushers & Stewards – Included.
- c. Sunday School – Included.
- d. Youth – Included.
- e. Pre-School – Included. There are kids on the waiting list for the summer program.
- f. Human Resources – A faith-based employee self-review form was passed out as an example to consider.
- g. Groundskeeping – Included. Discussed possible waiver needed for helpers but our insurance covers this.

- h. Building – Nothing to report.
- i. Benevolence/Outreach – Included.

Disaster Relief Committee Report

Included. Because of IRS regulations, the NALC has adopted a policy that it will no longer solicit donations of gift cards to distribute to disaster victims.

Elder's Report/ALC Foundation Report

Nothing to report. Next scheduled meeting is April 12.

Old Business

- a. Sanctuary Pews/Rehab – On going. Interior design contacts sent to elders to review.
- b. 100 Year Anniversary – On going. Fund raising ideas will be explored. Possible committee being formed for the event. Still 4 years away.
- c. Elevator – Mitch will be contacting appropriate people to determine why the elevator cannot be used.

New Business

- a. Youth Gathering Contract – A copy of the contract was provided to council.
- b. Upstairs Piano – Needs repaired. It will be evaluated for the cost of the repair. If it is too high, we would like to look at getting an electronic keyboard instead.
- c. Cleaning of kitchen floor – It appears not all users of the kitchen knew of the policy to clean the floor after each use. Communication will be made to inform all the groups who use the kitchen of the policy.
- d. Council Retreat Review – Discussed adopting the council code of conduct. Discussed adding Bible study session prior to council meetings. Planning to do council training annually. Job descriptions are still being worked on.

Pastor's Report/Pastoral Acts – Included.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

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 & Peggy Schmidt for the loss of Dave's brother, Eugene Schmidt, on April 10th.



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

A graphic with a light blue background that looks like a piece of torn paper. It has a dark, textured border at the top and bottom. The text "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." is written in a black, cursive font. At the bottom right, in a small, black, sans-serif font, it says "1 Peter 5:7".

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7



Susan Millsap; Mary Kempfer (niece/Terry Doyle); Ron Minch; Betty Ann Holsinger (sister/Janie Howe); 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; Paul Albers (brother/Judy Quinlan); Kim Wyre; Annette Carlson; Wilma Suits (sister/Sue Coffin); Brian Dietz; Roberta Arthur; Steve Schluter; 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.



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	Kellie Schluter	5/30
John Johnson, Jr.	5/16		



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

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

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.**



REGISTRATION FORM

(ONE PER CHILD)

Online Registration is strongly encouraged. You can do this by going to www.vbspro.events/p/journey2026 or scanning the QR code



Child's name: _____ Child's gender: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ School grade entering: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home phone: (____) _____ Parent/caregiver's phone: (____) _____

Home email address: _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____



In case of emergency, contact: _____

Phone: _____ Relationship to child: _____

Crew number or name (for church use only): _____



Journey

THE ADVENTURES OF PAUL

Join Us!
FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 8-12
8:30 - 11 a.m.

OPEN TO KIDS ENTERING PRE-K (3 YO) - 6TH GRADE

We would love to have your help at this year's Vacation Bible School! If you feel called to help, please sign up online (www.vbspro.events/p/journey2026), return the bottom portion of this sheet in the offering plate, or contact Joyce Holland (rrjah@aol.com). Please understand that you may end up in a different position depending upon availability and where we feel you might best be served.

TWO WAYS TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD (OR AS A VOLUNTEER):

- 1** Sign up online at *or* **2** Scan the QR code
www.vbspro.events/p/journey2026



-
- ☐ Group Leader (Need 16) ☐ Recreation Leaders (Need 4)
☐ Snack Helpers (Need 4) ☐ Sound Board for opening, closing
and music station
☐ Craft Helpers (Need 4)

Name _____

Email or Phone # _____

MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

	Worship Stewards	Ushers**	Table Guild	Greeters	Lectors	Prayers	Acolytes
5/3/26	Sue Coffin	Devin Cox Kyndall Cox Marleen Peavler	Emily Deal Sally Bauer	Linda Kirk Lois Madden	Dennis Albers	Sally Bauer	Ivie Albers Kali Schluter
5/10/26	Terry Doyle	Katie Holland Sam & Joyce Holland		Jack & Brenda Spitz	Aubrie Albers	Jim Cheek	Jack Flesner Eli Schluter
5/17/26	Deanne Rosenbeck	David Keith Sue Coffin Judy Peck		Jeannette Arbuckle Andrew Peck	Monica Carico	Sean O'Donnell	Daphnie Albers Owen Schluter
5/24/26	Midge Seim	Bill Schlueter Marvin Ideus Mitch Suits		Justin Kaiser DeAnn McMorris	Chrissie Hall	Sheila Sherman	Logan Suits Carson McClain
5/31/26	Sheila Sherman	Emily Holland Jim & Pam Cheek		Tom & Mary Edwards	Justin Kaiser	Andrew Peck	Aubrie Albers Liam Hall

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