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Church Council

For The Record

Carolyn Schnei-

der newsletter

February 2025

906 Prospect Avenue PO Box 188 Windom, MN 56101 Phone: 507-831-1794 Fax: 507-831-1795





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Jake Voth, Custodian

Email: winalc@windomnet.com * Website: www.alcofwindom.com

Our Vision:

People experiencing a life-giving relationship with God.

Mission:

Living God's grace, we cultivate community to love and serve.

Values:

Relationships

God. Each other. Creation. Belonging

Affirmed. Included. Valued.

Faith

Active. Inquiring. Hopeful.

Join us for Worship in Church, on Facebook, on our Website, via our YouTube Channel, on KDOM Radio 103.1 FM, or Local Cable Channel 22!

Worship Schedule

Saturday, February 1st

5:30 PM Worship w/Healing Prayers following worship

Sunday, February 2nd 4th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 AM Worship w/Holy Communion & Healing Prayers & Installation of Board Members

Wednesday, February 5th

6:30 PM Worship w/ Holy Communion, Healing Prayers, & Noisy Offering

Saturday, February 8th

5:30 PM Chapel Service w/ Holy Communion & Noisy Offering

Sunday, February 9th 5th Sunday after Epiphany Second Sunday Noisy Offering 9:00 AM Worship w/Noisy Offering

Wednesday, February 12th

Saturday, February 15th

5:30 PM Chapel Service w/Holy Communion

Sunday, February 16th 6th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 AM Worship

Wednesday, February 19th

6:30 PM Worship w/Holy Communion

Saturday, February 22nd

5:30 PM Chapel Service

Sunday, February 23rd

7th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 AM Worship w/Holy Communion

Wednesday February 26th

6:30 PM Worship





Pastor's Message

Before reading this I'm going to need you to read Second Samuel chapter eleven. You can google it on your phone if you don't have a Bible nearby. It's a short, action-packed reading about adultery and murder.

One of the things I try and teach in confirmation is that doing things God's way will give you a better life. Last year while I was teaching this story I was pointing to how good of a person Uriah was. How he could not be corrupted. How he cared more for others and their hardships than himself, which is seen in this reading.

While fighting King David's battles David calls him home hoping that Uriah will spend the night with his wife because she's pregnant after David had an affair with her. No matter what David tries, Uriah will not go because he feels it's not fair to the people in the army who are out dying and sleeping on the hard ground, so he too sleeps on hard ground outside of his home instead of spending time with his wife in their comfortable house.

During class last year I'm interrupted with this question: If Uriah was so good and followed God's ways and yet had his wife cheat on him and was murdered by the guy who took his wife, why should we follow God's ways when such awful things happen to good people.

As I said in a sermon recently, I had no good answer to her question other than, "That is one of the greatest questions I have ever been asked and I don't know. Give me a week."

One of the reasons I tell my kids that following God's ways is so beneficial is because it makes you a person of integrity, a person who does right and good even when there's no one looking and even when it costs us. Living a life with integrity means that a person will have fewer regrets and less guilt and shame.

Uriah could easily justify spending the night with his wife in their comfortable home while his army mates slept outdoors because the king told him to do it, but there'd always be at least a little guilt that he had it easier and was pampered while others had to suffer.

Being sinful causes us to justify the wrongs that we do. I have had people justify that they steal from Walmart because Walmart's owners are so rich that it doesn't even affect them. Either way, at the end of the day, you *are* stealing and it's not right period. You may not feel heavy guilt, but it's there, especially when it's something you're ashamed to tell everyone.

Doing things God's way will be harder and with higher upfront costs. But while giving in to doing things selfishly is easy and cheaper upfront, it's something where the interest keeps compounding over time in small (and sometimes large) amounts and costs us way more in the long run.

So yes, it is true Uriah was killed and had his wife stolen when he could have taken the easy way out by staying home with her. But when Uriah died I have to assume he was a happy man. He knew he was doing right, he loved his wife and king and country and worked hard to make the world around him better so that, when he died, he died for the things he loved with few regrets. He lived a good life that he could be proud of and died not knowing all the shady stuff in the background.

Conversely, if he would have given in, I'm willing to bet his wife's adultery would have come out at some point and we all know how those situations turn out: everyone loses.

Life is hard, especially when we are filled with sin that causes us to be selfish. Sin is always cheaper upfront but the interest adds up over time causing guilt, shame, and regret to cloud the joys in life. Whereas living a life in service to God, by serving others with integrity at the cost of ourselves, leads to more joy and self-esteem. That doesn't mean we won't suffer or die younger, but when we do, we go knowing we fought the good fight, kept the faith, and finished the race well, and that is something no amount of money can buy.

Pastor Adam

Worship and Music

Worship and Music Notes February, 2025 Jane Cartwright, Coordinator

Wednesday-Sunday Scriptures

Jan.29-Feb.2

Malachi 3:1-4 Heb. 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40

Feb.5-9

Isaiah 6:1-13 1 Cor.15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11

Feb. 12-16

Jer. 17:5-10 1 Cor. 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26

Feb.19-23

Genesis 45:3-11,15 1 Cor. 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38

Healing Prayers:

Whatever you are experiencing or in need of prayers, a pastor will be available during services Feb. 1, 2, & 5. Please refer to the worship bulletin for more information.

Jan. 29 and Feb. 2

Installation of **all** boards and ALC council members. Select which service is best for your schedule.

All Boards Relaunch

All boards will gather on Feb. 11th in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Check out the Worship Bulletin board!

Scripture readers Holy Communion Assistants Sign up sheet is available.



VALENTINE'S DAY! FRIDAY, FEB. 14

Love God and Your Neighbor

Love God with your heart and your neighbor as yourself;

love God with your mind (soul) and your neighbor as yourself;

love God with your strength (mind) and your neighbor as yourself.

Text: From the Gospels Public Domain

Worship Notes:

Ushers: Bryan Carlson, Darin Motz, Keith Pohlman, Braxton Pohlman, Noel Tade, Dean Willaby

Holy Communion:

Wednesday, Feb. 5 and Feb.26, 6:30pm Saturday, Feb 8 and Feb.15, 5:30pm Sunday, Feb. 2 and Feb. 23 9:00am

Noisy Offering:

Helping Hands. These funds support individuals / families who find themselves in need. Thank you for your support.

Shetek Lutheran Ministries - Camp Days!

Shetek staff will be sharing camp information with those at Wed. / Sunday School the week of Feb.26

- March 4. They will also be with
- us during worship.
- ALC is a long time
- supporter of
- Shetek's camping
- _ ministry.



Christian Ed/Youth & Family

From Tera Elness, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries (822-3377)



END OF SCHOOL YEAR YOUTHWORKS MISSION TRIP!

trip is for students currently in grades 9-12

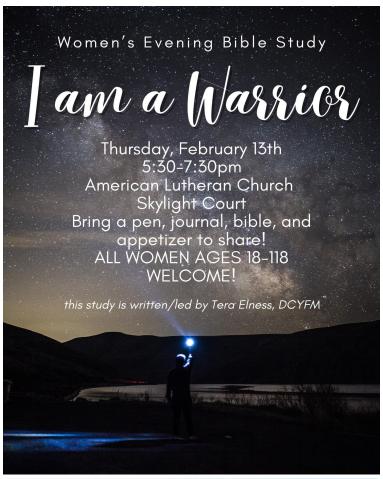
DULUTH

MAY 28-31, 2025

*estimated cost \$300 -includes lodging, food, transporation, fun!

SIGN UP WITH TERA NO LATER THAN MARCH 15TH!





9th - 11th graders only!



GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

Tuesday, March 11th
we will leave ALC at 7:15am
and return home approximately 4:30pm.
\$40 fee will be covered for students wanting
to attend thanks to generous donations
made to our Youth Fund.

MUST SIGN UP WITH TERA BY MARCH 5TH

Christian Ed/Youth & Family

From Tera Elness, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries (822-3377)







OVERNIGHT TRIP!

FEBRUARY 8TH-9TH, 2025

LEAVE SAT@8AM, RETURN SUN@5PM

COST IS \$75

-INCLUDES THE EVENT, THREE MEALS, HOTEL, & TRANSPORTATION-ACCOUNT MONEY MAY BE USED!

STUDENTS MUST BE SIGNED UP WITH TERA
NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22ND.





Good to Know

Tune in to ALC's Worship Broadcasts:

Sundays at 10:30 AM on KDOM 103.1 FM Thursdays at 10:00 AM & 6:30 PM on Windom Cable TV, Channel 22

Altar Guild will be meeting on Tuesday, February 11th at 2pm.

Quilting for Graduating Seniors-If you would still like to join in making quilts, please do! As a reminder, you do not have to have quilting experience. There are people willing to teach you OR if you would just like to help and not learn how to sew and quilt, there is cutting and ironing and many other things that you can help with! Please don't be shy to join! It will be a great time of community and fellowship! We will be meeting on Sunday, February 9th from 1pm-3pm. Also on Tuesday, February 18th we will be meeting from 6pm-8pm just to tie the quilts! Come when you can, stay as long as you would like!

THE SHETEK CONFERENCE (a smaller section of our synod) needs people in leadership roles. They specifically need a conference chairperson and a LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization) advisor. Most of these positions meet just a handful of times a year. If you would like to help our synod out in one of these roles, or have questions, please ask one of your pastors.

The Shetek Conference Assembly will be held on Sunday, February 16th at 2pm at First Lutheran in Worthington

Wednesday Night Suppers

FEBRUARY 5TH - Spaghetti hotdish, breadstick, green beans

February 12th—Scalloped potatoes w/ham, corn, bread

February 19th—Sloppy jo, baked beans, chips

February 26th - Tatortot hotdish, corn, bread



Let's Learn Together!

Adult Learning

MAKE A STATEMENT!

Join your pastors and others from your congregation to study and discuss the ELCA Social Statements one by one!

UPCOMING DATES AND TOPICS

2/16/25- Criminal Justice

If you like you may read the statement ahead of time at:

https://www.elca.org/Faith/ Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements



<u>Dates:</u> 2/16/25 <u>Time</u>: 10:15am <u>Place</u>: Meeting Room

Eagle Achievement Project

Marissa Newman & Makenzie Hetterich are working together to keep plastic out of the landfills for their Eagle Achievement Project. Their goal is to collect 1,000lbs of plastic (like plastic bags) and in turn they will earn a composite bench from NexTrex for Windom Area Schools. There is a box located in the hallway by the office to put your plastic in. Listed on the box is what type of plastic is accepted! Who doesn't want to get rid of their plastic bags! Help them achieve their goal!

BITS AND PIECES

<u>PRAYER SHAWLS:</u> If you know of someone in our church family who could use a Prayer Shawl, call the church office.

KEEP SAVING those empty printer ink cartridges. They are turned in for cash for our Education Department. The container is located in the hallway by the offices.

KEEP SAVING your canceled stamps. Correctly cut stamps by leaving 1/4" to 1/3" border around the stamp. You can turn your stamps in at the church office.

CONTINUE to remember the Windom Area Sharing Center in the coming months. Monetary gifts may be sent to 1156 4th Ave, Windom. Contributions may be left here at the church or at the Center on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 1 pm. Call 822-7210,

PRAYER CHAIN: To activate ALC's Prayer Chain, please call the church office at 831-1794 or an email may be sent to winalc@windomnet.com. **WANT TO RECEIVE THE MESSENGER ELECTRONICALLY?** Save the church paper, ink and postage! Contact the church office to share your email address.

Did you know that you can see services on the **ALC WEBSITE**? Don't miss out. Go to http://www.alcofwindom.com/ and click on the Media tab to watch a service that you might have missed.

GLOW and More!



Tuesdays, February 4 & 18 9:00 am - 2-ish

Thread a needle, tie a knot, pack a Baby Kit.
All for Lutheran World Relief.
Plus coffee, laughter, & Fellowship!
Meet in the Fellowship Hall between 9 & 2. Come for an hour or bring a sack lunch and stay for the day.
Questions?

CAll Jackie Turner: 822-1633

A women's Ministry of American Lutheran Church 2025

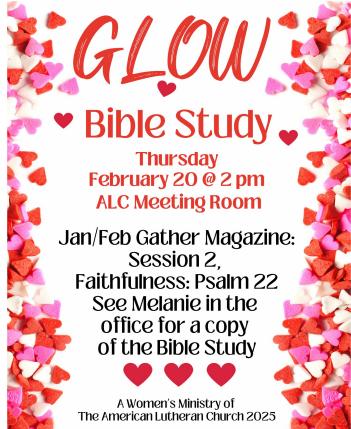


Please join us in welcoming **David** and **Faye Bruns** to our church family! David and Faye became members on January 25th. They come to us from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Rushmore.



February Acolyte Schedule

Sunday, February 2th—Graham Miller, Kieran Anderson
Wednesday, February 5th—Wyatt Soderholm, Mason Chester
Sunday, February 9th Morgan Roskamp, Ruby Baloun
Wednesday, February 12th—Brynley Spielman, Jonah Lohse
Sunday, February 16th—Macie Carlson, Mason Chester
Wednesday, February 19th - Cameron Grant, Wyatt Knutson
Sunday, February 23rd—Morgan Roskamp, Jonah Lohse
Wednesday, February 26th —Tristan Ralston, Corbin Anderson



ALL BOARDS AND COUNCIL

RELAUNCH

What? Kick off and sharing of important information for our ministry together for 2025.



Be who you are! Matt.5:13-14

Who? Anyone who will serve on a

Board or the Council at ALC this year, returning or newly elected.

When and Where? 02/11/2025 at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall at ALC. Board meetings to follow at 7:00 PM.

Why? Because together, we are the Body of Christ here in this place and there is so much we can do together!

Thank you for serving!

Reminder: Installation of Officers and Board Members for 2025 will be on Wed. 01/29 at 6:30 PM or on Sun. 02/02 at 9:00 AM

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FROM January 2025 MEETING

The January 14, 2025, ALC of Windom Church Council meeting was called to order by President John Shamp at 8:00 PM.

In attendance: Pastor Sarah, Pastor Adam, John Shamp, Sheryl Hanefeld, Wendy Ahnupkana, Kevin Heggeseth, Nick Trotter, Miranda Shunk, Brandon Roskamp, Keith Pohlman, Nick Trotter, Gayle Derickson, Cory Pohlman

Devotions and opening prayer were provided by Pastor Adam.

Five correspondence notes were shared.

The secretary's report for December was approved with a change of adding the date for the special online meeting regarding the custodial hiring. MM/S/C (Cory/Keith)

"A special online meeting was held on January 2, 2025, by the ALC Church Council to discuss the Mutual Ministry Committee recommending the hire of Jake Voth for the part-time custodial position at ALC. A motion was made and accepted to proceed with the hiring of Jake Voth. MM/S/C (Wendy/Karen)"

The treasurer's report for December was reviewed and approved. MM/S/C (Nick/Cory)

The Pastors' reports were reviewed.

Old Business

- 1. Living Nativity Feedback lots of positivity even with the cold temperatures
- 2. Custodial Update Jake Voth was hired
- 3. Backpack Program still in process

New Business

- 1. Approval of new members, David and Faye Bruns A motion was made to approve the new members and welcome them possibly on January 25, 2025. MM/S/C (Kevin/Cory)
- 2. Nominating Committee A motion was made to approve the 2025 Ballot with the following changes: add John Shamp and Cory Pohlman to the Nominating Committee, removing Dustin Thom from the Properties Board, adding Braxton Pohlman to the Properties Board. MM/S/C (Kevin/Cory)
- 3. Approval of Final Proposed 2025 Budget A motion was made and approved to accept the 2025 Proposed Annual Budget presented. MM/S/C (Brandon/Kevin)
- 4. Annual Meeting agenda
- 5. Providing a snack/coffee for meeting who leads and what to serve Nick will make the coffee. John will pick up the donuts and juice.
- 6. Designate Tellers for Annual Meeting
- 7. Thank you to Sheryl Hanefeld for serving as Vice President! Thank you to Melissa Dardis for serving as Chair on the Christian Ed Board! Thank you to Kay Evers for serving as Co-Chair of Spiritual Life & Fellowship! Others that have served their terms on other boards and are now done include Beth Scrivens-DMS, Rhonda Haglund-DMS, Daron Freisen-Properties, Melanie Shamp-Youth & Family, and Harriet Lohse-Youth & Family.

ALC FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of January 21, 2025:

Income: \$55,216

Expense: \$39,404

Carryover 2024: \$17,920



These figures do not include January end-of-month commitments and benevolences.

CHURCH RECORDS:

Deaths: No deaths this month.

Baptisms: No baptisms this month.

MEMORIALS:

Radio Fund - In memory of LaVonne & Wilfred Metz.

Shetek Campership Fund – In memory of Cheryl Brugman.

Bell Choir - In memory of Paul Thomas Anderson, father of Jackie Turner.

OFFERING OPTIONS:

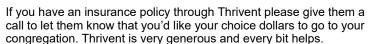
The ministry of our congregation continues in many ways! The options remain open for ways of contributing your offering. You may use on-line giving on our website <u>alcofwindom.com</u>, mail in your offering to PO Box 188, Windom, drop it off at the church or simply place it in the offering plate. If you have any questions regarding these options, please contact Wendy Pigman in the church office.



Board Reports:

- 1. Worship & Music no meeting was held tonight, looking ahead to Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Easter
- 2. Spiritual Life & Fellowship no meeting was held tonight after a successful Lutefisk Supper on Saturday
- 3. <u>Discipleship/Marketing & Stewardship</u> reviewed the intent card drive, discussed marketing opportunities for 2025, Carlyn Schnieder fundraising goals were met
- 4. <u>Properties</u> Higley is currently searching for a 12 or 15 passenger van, floors in the summer, parsonage landline is no longer in use
- 5. **Budget & Finance -** reviewed the December budget, paid bills on hold, 2025 budget presentation
- 6. Christian Education started spring curriculum, reviewed the successful December activities, thanked Melissa Dardiss for her years of serving
- 7. Youth & Family bake sale success, winter fun day coming up, Faith Fest at Augustana in February, the BWCA trip is progressing with fundraising, and many other upcoming events, plus thanked Melanie Shamp and Harriet Lohse for their service
- 8. Church in Society no board member present
- 9. **GLOW** no board member present

DO YOU HAVE A THRIVENT POLICY?





February 2025



14 Keeley Island Drive Slayton, MN 56172 507-763-3567 camp@shetek.org www.shetek.org

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



Please apply to join our fun staff this summer.
https://shetek.org/work-at-shetek/

Shetek TAP1947 HETER MARKET STREET JOHN DE STREET HETER MARKET STREET STREET HETER MARKET STREET STREET HETER MARKET STREET STREET JOHN DE STREET J

Please join us for our upcoming events

Wish List

- Volunteers
- New Vacuums
- Keurig
- Spark Bibles
- Board Games
- Office Supplies Staplers, dry erase markers, paper

Mark your Calendar

February 8 Family Winter Fun Day February 10 Hiking Club March 10 Hiking Club March 14-15 Confirmation Retreat March 29 Sugarbush Saturday 9am-1pm

We met our Phase 1
goal! \$1,627,000 in
gifts and pledges!
Our challenge goal is
\$2,000,000 and with
increased costs, our
budget has changed
for our different
phases. More info on
our website.
https://shetek.org/slm
-master-plan/

Help send kids to Camp...Become a
Pelican Club or Timber Society member
today. Pelican Club members support
the ministry with a gift of \$100 - \$499 a
year and Timber Society members give
\$500 or more a year. Thanks for your
support!



Dear friends and partners in ministry,

December 2024

May the glow of Jesus' birth keep your heart warm throughout these twelve days of Christmas!

Some of you have asked me what the Christmas season is like in Guyana. In many ways, it is very similar to the Christmas season in the U.S. There are lots of lights and decorations in the shops and streets as well as in the churches, lots of gift-giving, lots of family gatherings, lots of Christmas carols, and lots of special worship services. But when I look more closely, I can see at least one unique feature of a Guyanese Christmas.

Guyanese culture embraces festivity, and since it is always warm here, those festivities happen outside on the streets. During the Advent season leading up to Christmas in the little town of New Amsterdam, where I live, three free public concerts were held. These involved closing off the main street,



and setting up a canopy and hundreds of folding chairs for the audience, mostly children. One concert was sponsored by a bank, one by a network of Pentecostal churches, and one by the ruling political party. There were loud MCs, singers, people reciting poetry, children's dance troupes, steel bands, drum corps, and, yes, even some preaching. My favorite act was these two girls dancing jubilantly to "Joy to the World".

The very public nature of these events seems to me to go hand-in-hand with the fact that a beloved

Christmas carol here is "Go, Tell it on the Mountain." The refrain is, "Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born."

The last verse of the song, however, points to a reality of Christmas that is often hidden by all the public festivity, not only in Guyana, but elsewhere, too: "Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn." Tucked away off the main street, on the



edge of town across from the tax office, as if Joseph had come to be registered, I found this rustic nativity scene, one of only two public nativity scenes that I have seen here. It probably reflects better than all the festivities the reality of the situation when Jesus was born.

On Christmas day, I worshiped and preached at St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church in the small town of Fyrish. Like all the Lutheran churches here, it is built to let in lots of fresh air, and since the

windows have no screens or glass, small birds fly in and out. One feathered couple was attracted by all the extra greenery in the church, and they built their nest in one of the Christmas wreaths. For me, it is a hopeful little nativity scene, too, in its own way. It reminds me of my favorite psalm, Psalm 84, especially verses 3-4, "Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise." Earth receives her king, and heaven and nature sing indeed.



Carolyn

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Schneider

Lutheran Identity Professor and Pastoral Ministry Advisor

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in partnership with

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

Email: Carolyn.schneider@elca.org

- P.S. In addition to prayer, here are ways to support me financially.
- To become a covenant congregation, download the form at ELCA.org/covenantform or call 800-638-3522, ext. 2820.
- Make an individual gift by check payable to "ELCA Missionaries" with "Carolyn Schneider (GCS2016)" in the memo line and mail your check to:

ELCA Gift Processing Center P.O. Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

3. Make an individual gift by credit or debit card by visiting ELCA.org/MissionaryGiving or calling 800-638-3522.