



American Lutheran Church

The Voice

November 2025

“A Month of Thanksgiving”

As the leaves fall and the air cools, November invites us to pause and reflect upon all of the blessings from God in our lives. As I said in a recent sermon, a life that is restored and transformed by God is a life of gratitude to God! For followers of Jesus, Thanksgiving is not just a holiday, it's a way of life (Colossians 2:15b). Where do you see God restoring and transforming? What are you thankful for? Here are just a few of the things I give thanks and praise to God for!

Thankful for God's Saving Grace

At the heart of all our gratitude is the saving grace of God found in Jesus Christ. Without Jesus' sacrifice for us, we were lost—separated from God, weighed down by sin, and without hope. But God, who is rich in mercy and love, sent His Son to save us from our sins and redeem us from the grave. As Ephesians 2:8-9 declares, *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...”* The saving grace of God not only secures our eternity, but sustains us each and every day. No matter what our circumstances may look like in this life, we can cling to the unchanging truth that we are forgiven, loved, and made new in Jesus Christ.

November 2025

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Thankful for Church Family and Friends

We give thanks to God for the incredible gift of church community. We are made to relate (Genesis 2:18). God places us in the body of Christ—our church family—so that we can encourage, support, serve and grow alongside one another. Whether it's sharing a meal, praying together, worshiping together, serving in ministry, or simply being present in one another's lives, our friendships in Christ are a reflection of His love and compassion.

1 Corinthians 12:26-28 says, *"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."*

Thankful for the Opportunity to Live Out Our Faith

We thank God for the daily opportunity of living out our faith. Because of the sacrifice of so many brave men and woman, we live in a country where we can freely share God's truth and love with our words and actions. Every day is an opportunity to reflect God's light to a world that desperately needs hope. Whether at work, at home, in school, on the sidewalk, or at the grocery store, God can utilize our words and actions to build His kingdom. As Colossians 3:17 reminds us, *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."*

I encourage you this month to make a "Gratitude Journal". You get to make the guidelines for how you create this journal and what you do with it, but I encourage you every day for the month of November to write down at least 1 thing that you want to thank God for and why.

In this season, may we experience and live-out the joy and gratitude that overflows from our living faith in God! Happy November. We are thankful.

In Christ, Pr. Nate

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday's

Lew Page—2
Rhonda Siver—2
Becky Geyer—3
Diane Neu - 5
Jennifer Albrecht—6
Tory Holland—6
Chelsea Hildebrandt-6
Aria Gruenhagen—7
Kyle Lee—10
Caleb Nolte - 10
Cheryl Noem—11
Linda Geyer - 11
Olivia Roth—12
Josiah Roth—12
Sam Geyer—13
Nadine TeBeest—13
Ainslee Schaefer - 14
Jaden Hojer—15
Mesa Nolte - 15
Jenifer Davis - 17
Addie Weerts - 17

Glen Davis—18
Skye Thomsen - 18
Alexis Coon-20
Gemma Luethmers - 20
Sophia Gigov - 21
Terry Holland - 22
Tammy Albrecht—24
Tyler Anderson—25
Michael Warner - 25
Lincoln Albrecht - 26
Matthew Hojer—26
Trevin Holland—26
Vaughn Siver—26
Evelyn Twite—26
Joyce Jansen—27
Chris Holmlund - 27
Diane Mann—27
Marian (Diddy) Mundhenke—29
Ben Widman - 29
Bette Poppen—29
Sullivyn Siver - 29
Jessica McCune—30

Happy Anniversary

Wedding Anniversaries

Steve & Teresa Palmlund—8
Andy & Betty Vincent—11
Loryn & Brenda Gehm—17
Dan & Linda Bettin - 24
Tad & Janet Flood—26

Baptismal Anniversaries

Delta Siver	11/5
Callan Alderman	11/6
Riley Feltman	11/16
Ainslee Schaefer	11/18
Jacob Davis	11/21
Neva Clubb	11/24
Wrenly Moroz	11/26
Adam Dylla	11/27

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School Students are off to a fantastic year! Here are some highlights:

Learning Matthew 5:16

Students are memorizing our theme verse "Let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven". Starting Sunday October 19 students who memorize this verse and can recite it to the Superintendents win a prize! Getting into God's word by reading and memorizing scripture is one way our students are building their relationship with Jesus!

Serving others

Sunday October 12 our Sunday School students traveled across the street to The Village to share in ministry with the residents who live there. They recited Matthew 5:16, sang songs and shared in craft fellowship time. Partnering with our neighbors our students learn wisdom and can witness lifelong faith in action! They are also learning to serve and care for their neighbors.



Looking ahead

It won't be long before we begin practicing for our Christmas program. Cheryl Palmlund will be leading our students and we are excited for her willingness to share her gifts and talents encouraging our kids as they learn more about the Christmas story.

More Service Days are coming for our students. We truly want them to learn to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Our next Service Day will be November 2nd and will coincide with Harvest Festival. Come to church, serve others, enjoy a soup lunch!

Blessings,
Sarah Bendorf and Randi Albrecht
Sunday School Superintendents

Sunday School is at 10:30am Sunday Mornings.
Pre-K thru 6th Grade.

GROWING IN FAITH

God Has Great Plans for You !

*We Welcome
Calder Wayne Heidebrink
to our family through
Holy Baptism*

BAPTISM: OCTOBER 19, 2025

PARENTS:

ERIC & CYLIE HEIDEBRINK

SPONSORS: AMANDA GEHM,

TAYLOR JOHNSON,

TRACY JOHNSON



*You are a Child of God,
You are wonderfully made,
Dearly Loved & Precious
in his sight.*

Blessing of the QUILTS

THANK YOU SO MUCH QUILTERS FOR
YOUR TREMENDOUS LABOR OF LOVE.

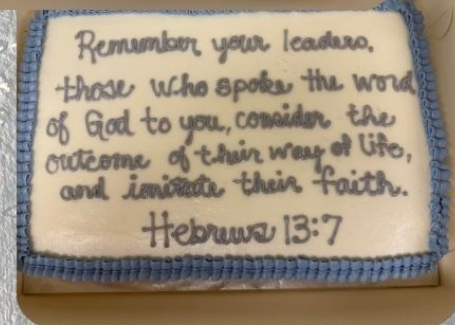
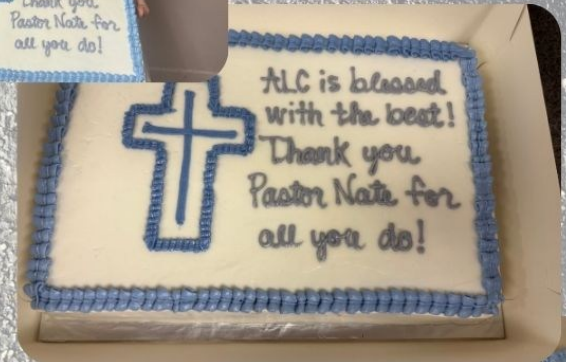
THE SANCTUARY WAS BEAUTIFULLY
ADORNED LAST WEEK WITH OVER 145
HAND-MADE QUILTS FROM MEMBERS
OF OUR CONGREGATION!! THAT IS
TRULY AMAZING. IT IS SUCH A JOY
THAT WE GET TO BLESS AND SEND
OUT THE BEAUTIFUL QUILTS THAT YOU
HAVE CREATED IN THE NAME AND
LOVE OF JESUS! TO GOD BE THE
GLORY!



PASTOR *Appreciation*



THANK YOU
PASTOR NATE
& SARAH
FOR EVERYTHING
YOU DO FOR ALC!



THE CONGREGATION HAD A FEW SURPRISES UP OUR SLEEVES! THE COUNCIL PRESENTED PASTOR WITH A GIFT AS WELL AS CARDS SIGNED BY THE CONGREGATION. THERE WERE ALSO PHOTO TRIBUTES THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE (SOME OF PASTORS HUMOROUS SIDE).
THANK YOU TO JENN ALBRECHT FOR MAKING THE DELICIOUS CAKES FOR FELLOWSHIP.

SUNDAY SCHOOL *Ministry*



SUNDAY OCTOBER 12 OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS TRAVELED ACROSS THE STREET TO THE VILLAGE TO SHARE IN MINISTRY WITH THE RESIDENTS WHO LIVE THERE. THEY RECITED MATTHEW 5:16, SANG SONGS AND SHARED IN CRAFT FELLOWSHIP. PARTNERING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS OUR STUDENTS LEARN WISDOM AND CAN WITNESS LIFELONG FAITH IN ACTION! THEY ARE ALSO LEARNING TO SERVE AND CARE FOR THEIR NEIGHBORS.

A huge 'SHOUT OUT' to the ALC high school youth that are raising money for their mission trip to Jamaica next year.

We had a landscaping project needing to be done this fall, that involved moving rock and re-doing about 50 ft beside our home. It was a huge project for Larry and myself.

And to our rescue, came these young people, 14 of them, along with Pastor Nate, and they are like a machine! Every one of them working together! Our project was done in less than an hour!

Church family, if any of you are looking for help with a home project, inside or out, give them a call, through Pastor Nate or Janet. We have a great group of young people worshipping with us! They are ready and willing to work to earn money for their trip.

Call them! Tell your friends and neighbors. They saved us days of hard work and it was completed exactly as we wanted.

Thank you, Kids!

Larry & Joyce Jansen



Jake Anderson

SPOTLIGHT

My name is Jake Anderson. I grew up in De Smet and have been a member of American Lutheran Church pretty much my entire life. My wife, Jennifer, and I both graduated from De Smet High School in 2000 and both went on to South Dakota State University. We were married here at American Lutheran in 2004 by Pastor Randy Keller. We are so happy to live in De Smet and are extremely lucky to have had the opportunity to raise our three children, Tucker, Harper, and Owen, in this wonderful community that we have always called home. For fun we enjoy taking family road trips, enjoying the outdoors, and raising goats and chickens on our little farm we call Thirsty Acres.

Like many, my faith journey started at a very young age, when I was forced to go to church by my parents. I remember sitting in the pews with snacks and coloring books just trying not to make too much noise. Little did I know that God's plan was already set in motion for me at that time, and as I colored away in that pew, the lord was building a foundation in my faith. As I got older, I came to appreciate my time in church more and more, and now it is so rewarding to see my children become active in the church as well.

I choose to continue to grow my faith at American Lutheran because of the people in our church. Our congregation is so amazing and resilient that you can truly feel all of us doing the lord's work. I am currently on the board of deacons and deaconesses. It is very rewarding to represent the congregation when you are a member of the church council, and I really encourage everyone to step up to the calling if you are ever asked.

I am very excited about where American Lutheran is currently at. We have seen a lot of growth in our congregation the last couple years and it is great to see more and more new families coming to church. Also, I love to see the excitement and engagement from our youth as they build their own faith foundations. We have a lot of great things happening, and I encourage everyone to invite someone new to church to experience the excitement along with the word of the lord!

Jake Anderson



November Worship Services Volunteers

Date	Projection	Sound System	Lectors	Communion	Acolytes	Music	Fellowship
November 2	Britney Coleman	Janet Brag	Adelynn Gross	Dan Bettin	Alaina Albrecht	Lindsay Nolte	ALCW
				Kay Koehlmoos	Ty Wilkinson	Harvest Festival	
				Gordy Skyberg			
November 9	Bonita Albrecht	Bonita Albrecht	Lindy Holland	No Communion	Garret Smith	Lindsay Nolte	Cheryl Noem
							Kathy Whitaker
November 16	Amy Hoefert	Wade Hoefert	Audi Currier	Janet Davis	Oliver Steffensen	Lindsay Nolte	Sharry Knock
				Jake Anderson	Hunter Wipf	Pam Hojer	
				Justin Smith			
November 23	Sharry knock	Janet Brag	Brian Bindert	No Communion	Adilynne Schaefer	Lindsay Nolte	
					Cam Gross		
November 30	Cheryl Palmlund	Janet Brag	Harper Anderson	Devon Clubb	Ivy Albrecht	Beth VanderWal	Deacons &
				Gordy Skyberg	Emmet Zell	Deaconesses	
				Janet Davis			
Ushers:	Glen & Janet Davis, Randy & Lindy Holland						
Altar Guild:	Janet Davis						

Harvest Festival:

November 2, 2025 is our annual Harvest Festival and Bazaar. If you have any items for the silent auction or bake sale, please contact Kathy Heller. All funds raised from the Harvest Festival goes to support church, youth, and ALCW projects.

COMMUNION:

Everyone is welcome to join at the Lord's Table for Communion, on the first and third Sunday's. We have gluten free bread and grape juice available.



2025

October '25						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

December '25						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30am Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 7pm Worship 7:30 FCA/Youth Group	27 Women's Bible Study 5pm	28	29 3:35 Confirmation	30	31	1
2 All Saints Days 9:30am Worship/Comm 10:30 Harvest Festival 10:30 Sunday School NO Evening Worship NO FCA/Youth Group	3	4	5 3:35 Confirmation	6	7	8
9 9:30am Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 7pm Worship NO FCA/Youth Group	10	11 Veterans Day ALC Closed 6:30pm DCW @ALC	12 NO Confirmation 7:30 Boards Meet 8pm ALC Council	13	14	15
16 9:30am Worship/Comm 10:30 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 7pm Worship/Comm 7:30 FCA/Youth Group	17	18 Meals on Wheels	19 2pm Gather Bible Study at White Willow Apts 3:35 Confirmation Meals on Wheels	20 11am Good Sam Service Meals on Wheels	21 Meals on Wheels	22
23 9:30am Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 7pm Worship 7:30 FCA/Youth Group	24 Women's Bible Study 5pm	25	26 NO Confirmation	27 Thanksgiving ALC Closed	28 Wedding Rehearsal at ALC	29 Tanley/Goebel Wedding
30 1st Advent 9:30am Worship/Comm 10:30 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 7pm Worship/Comm 7:30 FCA/Youth Group	1	American Lutheran Church PO Box 31 - 411 4th St SW, De Smet SD 57231 Church Phone - (605) 854-3684 Parsonage (605) 854-3745 Church Email - office@americanlutherandesmet.org or pastor@americanlutherandesmet.org				



DE SMET SOUTH DAKOTA

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH'S

VETERANS

2025
VOICE

November
Special Edition

"The reward of one duty
is the power to fulfill another.
No man is free who is not master
of himself. Honor to the soldier and sailor
everywhere, who bravely bears his
country's cause. Better than honor and
glory, and history's iron pen, was the
thought of duty done and the
love of his fellow-men."
Author Unknown





SrA. Daniel Henry Albrecht

Senior Airman SD National Guard

114th Fighter Wing/AMXS

F-16 Crew Chief

June 28, 2022 - Present



Corporal Henry (Hank) Theodore Albrecht

Corporal E4 - US Army

Dec 7, 1954 - Dec 7, 1956

Basic at Fort List TX

2nd E Fort Hood TX



1st Lieutenant Rev Gary Anderson

US Army - 1967 - 1969

Active Duty during Vietnam



SP-3 George W Davis

Senior Airman SD National Guard

US Army

1955 - 1958

16 months in Korea.

55th Ordnance Company Supply Clerk



Sgt Alexander Gigov

US Army National Guard



MM2 Mark Hinkley
US Navy - Machinist Mate 2
Early 1970's



Sgt E5 Derek Hoefert
SD Army National Guard in 2015 at was sent to Fort Sill, OK for his Basic Training and he is still currently serving. He has achieved the rank of SGT. Air Assault school at Fort Benning, GA. Derek is currently with the B-Battery 1-147th FA out of Sioux Falls and his job is MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System) Gunner.



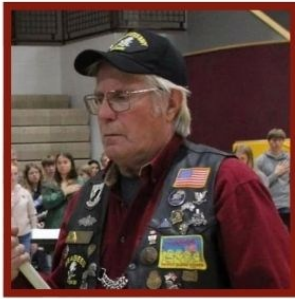
Specialist E4 Wade Hoefert
SD Army National Guard in the summer of 1989 and attended Basic Training at Fort Leonardwood in MO. He served six years with the 665th HEM (Heavy Equipment Maintenance) Unit out of Mitchell, SD. During his time he was sent to Panama, Germany, Alabama for training.



Staff Sgt Randy Holland
SD National Guard
1979 - 1999



Specialist E4 Terry Holland
SD National Guard
1989 - 1997
Served in Panama



Petty Officer 3rd Class CM3 Dennis Holmlund
US Navy Seabees - Mechanic, 1967 - 1970
Homebase was Davisville Rhode Island
Puerto Rico 13 Months, Detachment in Miaguana to
rebuild the airstrip, 3 weeks in Cuba. Had orders in hand
to go to Vietnam when Pres. Nixon cancelled my order.



Larry Jansen
Army National Guard
1963-1969



Specialist Richard Jannsen
Specialist E4 SD Army National Guard
1981 - 1987



Sgt 1st Class Charles "Chuck" Johnson
US Army
Army National Guard
Served 22 Years
Combat Medic with 1 tour in Afghanistan



Jerald Keller
US Army - Served 3 years
16 months in Korea



Specialist Katelyn Larson

SD National Guard

Specialist E4

2015 - 2021



Lieutenant Commander Kyle Lee

US Navy 1983 - 2009

Operated & Repaired Submarines

**Stationed in Japan 4 ½ years, Pearl Harbor 1 ½ Years,
& several locations along the Gulf Coast.**



Jason Palmlund

US Air National Guard

2002 - 2024



Steven Palmlund

US Air Force

1971 - 2022



Airman Clifford Poppen

US Air force

November 1957 - May 1962

at Whiteman Air Force in Missouri



Sgt Tim Poppen

SD National Guard February 1986

Served in the Pentagon in 1998

Completed service 2015

7 years National Guard - 10 years Active Duty

13 Years Reserves.

***Served in the Pentagon during the 9-11 attacks.**



Specialist Lyle Richards

Enlisted summer of 1979 SD Army National Guard. Served with

742 Transportation Company-DeSmet. Basic Training &

Advanced Training at Fort Leonardwood MO. 1742

Transportation Company-Brookings. Then 153rd Engineer Bn

Detachment 1-DeSmet, Construction & Medical Group.

Detachment 1 as a medic during the Rapid City Flood. Served a

total of 14 years and ended at a rank of E6 Specialist.



Lt Colonel Monte Richards

US Army National Guard

- began in his Junior year of high school.

ROTC - exited as an JAG Officer

Army Reserves

Completed 35 ½ years.



Specialist Joshua Roth

31 Echo - 235th MP CO (Military Police Company)



Specialist E4 Earl Rusche

Fall 1961 - 1963, served 2 years, US Army 7th Artillery

A-Battery, 1st Howitzer Battalion 1st Division based out of

Fort Riley, Kansas. Served 6 months in Germany, 3 months

in Berlin (Check Point Charlie) in the Berlin Wall during a

tour of East Berlin. Received Medal of Occupation for

having served in Berlin. Among several other medals.



Herb Rusche

US Army

Security/Intelligence Department

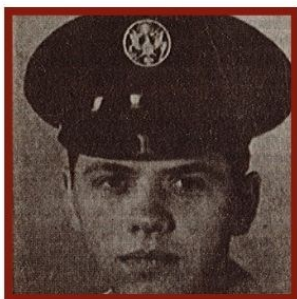
1962 - 1965

Served in Turkey and Germany



Keith Schaefer

US Army



Sgt Gregory Skyberg

US Air Force

Active Duty in the Philippines, Korea and Vietnam



Ronald Skyberg

SD National Guard

1965 - 1971

**6 Months Basic Training in Fort Bliss Texas
Guard Camp in Rapid City SD.**



Master Sergeant E-8 Jay Slater

SD Army National Guard



PO 2nd Class E5 Dale Thomsen
US Navy - PO 2nd Class-E5
Aviation Structural & Hydraulic Mechanic
Quality Control Inspector



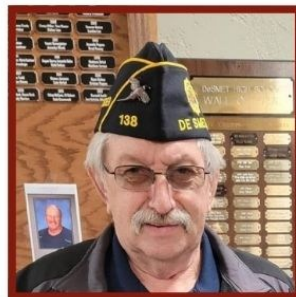
PV2 Tanner Tolzin
US Army National Guard
Basic Training 2025



Master Sgt Norman Whitaker
US Air Force, Active 1971-1975
SD Air Guard 1978-1997, left as Rank of Master Sargent.



Sgt Ben Widman
SD National Guard
1965 - 1971



Sgt E5 Gary Wolkow
US Army - 1969 - 1971
Active Duty in Vietnam 1970 - 1971
Awarded the Bronze Star, among other medals.
State Commander for the SD American Legion



Join us on November 9, 2025. During the 9:30am worship service for a special recognition to the Veterans.

** Veterans-If you would like to wear any part of your uniform to the November 9th service, we would be honored!

Thank You

To all who helped collect photos and service information on our Veterans. Especially the spouses! It was a lot of research finding all the details and is it greatly appreciated.

Veterans Day

On Veterans Day we honor all,
Who answered to a service call,
Soldiers young, and soldiers old,
Fought for freedom, brave and bold,
Some have lived, while others died,
And all of them deserve our pride,
We're proud of all the soldiers who,
Kept thinking of red, white and blue,
They fought for us and all our rights,
They fought through many days and nights,
And though we may not know each name,
We thank ALL veterans just the same.

By Cheryl Dyson

Dale Thomsen

SPOTLIGHT



The first time you came to ALC, what brought you here?

I was baptized and confirmed in Trinity Lutheran Church in Yankton SD. I fell into a slump of not attending church for a few years and felt the “Need and Want” of attending again. ALC was recommended by other members of the church.

What continues to bring you here each week?

I believe the Pastor makes the church thrive. I really like how Pastor Nate delivers the message of the bible “Right from the Heart”. Not just reading out of the bible. His connection with the youth is outstanding. He is a great role model for our youth and that is why we have such a great participation from our youth. OH!! And also all the goodies we have at fellowship. Kudo’s to all the volunteers every Sunday. I have had the privilege of meeting some of the nicest people of our community at church and fellowship.

Outside of ALC, tell us a little about yourself (job, interests, hobbies, etc)

I have been married to my wife (Skye) for 42 years. We have two sons, Heath and Zach. Both are proficient in their professional lives. Heath and wife (Heidi) have given us three wonderful grandchildren. Our other son, Zach will be getting married next summer to Joelle, another great addition to our family. We are blessed to have such a great family bond.

Before retiring, I was in the building products industry for 30 years.
The last 18 years as a lumber broker.

I like to ride my motorcycle, fish, and hunt. Although not to much hunting anymore.

I had the privilege of serving our country in the US Navy for 6 years. Working on aircraft as a quality control inspector on aircraft. As November 11th approaches (Veteran’s Day), I would like to say Thank You to ALL our Military Veterans for their service to our great country and a big prayer for those that gave the ultimate sacrifice of life, and also their families.

What I learned from the military was—
Respect, Adaptation, Attention to Detail and “Get-It-Done” Attitude.

What do you like to see for the future of ALC?

Would like to see continued growth in the congregation and the continuation of our youth involvement.
“Pass the Word—ALC is the greatest”!

In closing, I would like to thank all the committees of the church for all the hours they put in to keep the gears going.

US Navy, PO 2nd Class-E5—Dale Thomsen



**American Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Notes
October 2025
Wednesday, October 8, 2025**

Time started: 7:56pm

Officers of the Congregation: President **Todd Wilkinson**, Vice-President **Stuart Twite**, Treasurer **Amy Hoefert**, Secretary **Janet Brag**. Board of Trustees: Norm Koehlmoos, **Glen Davis**, **Rustin Albrecht**, **Wade Hoefert**, Gale Anderson Board of Parish Education: Tammy Albrecht, **Jackie Griffith**, **Traci Smith**, **Bonita Albrecht**, Amy Zell Board of Deacons and Deaconesses: **Devon Clubb**, **Janet Davis**, **Jake Anderson**, **Justin Smith**, **Kay Koehlmoos**, **Beth Abrahamson**, Rhona Albrecht, Sam Gigov, **Daniel Bettin**, **Gordie Skyberg**, **Pastor Nathan Bandorf** Visitors – None, Zoom- None

- I. Devotion-** Pastor Nate spoke on the Philippians 2, how God is working in us and putting others before ourselves.
- II. Approval of Agenda**
 - a. Add to Other, Microphones. Educ-Helping Kids round First. **Glen D made the motion to approve the agenda with the additions, seconded by Beth A. Motion passed.**
- III. Secretary's Report-**
 - a. Any changes or corrections? None
 - b. Approval of last month's minutes. Glen D **made a motion to approve the September Minutes. Wade H seconded. Motion passed.**
- IV. Treasurer's Report**
 - a. Treasurer's report-Amy H explained the total income and expenses for Sept.
 - b. Approval of treasurer's reports. **Janet D made a motion to approve Sept Report, Gordie S seconded. Motion passed.**
- V. Pastor's Report**
 1. It is so exciting to see and hear all the ways God is moving among our congregation and community! People are experiencing God in profound ways and there is a deep hunger and thirst to know and follow God...may we be humble, obedient and faithful in discerning God's call and following God's lead. (Philippians 2:1-18 (one mind & purpose)
 2. Recent Happenings: The High School mission trip is about ½ full already. We will be going to Jamaica with 'Praying Pelican Missions' on June 13-19, 2026. The missionaries have done a wonderful job with serving and fundraising already, with many more projects upcoming. In Jamaica, we will be packaging and delivering care kits, running a VBS in the mornings, doing some construction projects midday, and visiting some children and elderly facilities in the afternoons.
 3. We have had a youth led worship service, a youth bible study, and a youth focused worship service this last month.
 4. Sunday school is starting off very strong! The superintendents and teachers are putting a lot of planning, energy and time into really making a huge impact in our children's lives. Check out the education wing hallway!
 5. Our "Missions Team" has been doing some great brainstorming and research into how best ALC can make mission an intentional and heartfelt response to the love and grace of God! There is a paradigm shift in our thinking, understanding that all things are God's and we are called to steward God's resources to impact His kingdom!
 6. Confirmation class is up to 25 students now!
 7. We will be having a special Sunday liturgy recognizing the ministry of St. John's (Bancroft) and welcoming them as new members of ALC. We are looking at Sunday, Dec.7th

8. Recent Activities: Youth Led worship – 9/11, 3rd Grade Bibles - 9/14, Council ‘Mission Team’ meeting – 9/17, Good Sam Worship – 9/18, JA Mission Trip served fellowship 9/21, 9/28, Confo Class 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, FCA 9/14, 9/28, Area youth-focused worship experience – 10/5, Family-friendly school event – 10/6
9. Upcoming Activities: JA Missionary project – 10/11, Council ‘Mission Team’ meeting – 10/15, Good Sam Worship – 10/16, Blessing of the Quilts – 10/19, JA MT Meeting – 10/22, Synod Training event – 10/23, Confo Class 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, FCA 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, All Saint’s & Harvest Festival 11/2, Vacation 11/9-11/13 (Stuart to cover 11/9 worship), Zell/Booth graveside @ Bancroft - 11/15.

VI. Trustees Report

- a. Parsonage
 1. Front steps- Rod P is still working on a solution to repair.
- b. Church
 1. Landscaping-Janet B updated, she spoke with Gale, the rocks have been replaced. Waiting on 3 large rocks.
 2. Church emergency plan- everyone was sent a rough draft. Update and get ready for next meeting
 3. Snow removal- options to have volunteers or to hire. Post in the bulletin & newsletter
 4. Mission trip fund-they are going to create a separate account, to separate it from the church account.

VII. Deacon and Deaconess Report

- a. Communion planned for 11/2, 11/16 and 11/30.
- b. Fellowship- on Nov 30.
- c. Lectors-working on readers
- d. Thrivent-Beth A updated the action teams project and you can do several action team projects for one person. **Beth A move to donate thrivent funds of \$500 Wade H seconded. discussion. Passed.**

VIII. Board of Education

- a. Sunday school offering - trying to give the kids a purpose behind the offering, going to go 3 different missions, Papua New Guinea, Connect with a child (orphanage) and Jamaica HS MT.
- b. Christmas program-Cheryl P is putting together the program and working on the music.
- c. Confirmation stoles- looking for someone to make the stoles. Will post in Bulletin & Newsletter.

IX. Other Business Items

- a. Spotlight-November person is Jake A
- b. Mission Committee (2 open Seats) Discussion about what the committee was organized to do. Gordie S & Dan B are interested.
- c. Microphones. - phantom mic, hopefully we can get another one. to add to instrumentals. Do we need another handheld? Bonita to check into it.
- d. Helping Kids round First- Nicaragua and Cameroon and now helping refugees in Chad. Getting supplies to kids, Craig Severson leads the program.

IX. President- a. St. John’s Lutheran-Bancroft - 9 families plan on joining ALC.

Adjournment-Todd W adjourned the meeting at 8:51pm. Next meeting will be November 12, 2025 at 8pm.

X. Lord’s Prayer – Pastor Nate ended in the Lord’s Prayer

Janet Brag - Council Secretary

Approved as is/As Corrected



South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

October/Fall 2025 Newsletter Inserts

From the Bishop's Desk

The Harvest Is Plentiful - and Shared

Dear Siblings in Christ,

The harvest is plentiful this fall, and so is my gratitude for this synod's faithfulness. Across our fields and towns, combines hum through the night, cattle prices are strong, yet grain markets remind us that plenty and pressure often live side by side. Rural life has always been that way — a mix of abundance and uncertainty, joy and challenge.

The same is true in the Church. Mission Support is how we hold one another steady through the swings of each season. It's how your congregation helps another find a pastor, sends kids to camp, trains leaders, and extends Christ's mercy in every corner of South Dakota.

When we share our gifts, we remind one another that we don't do ministry alone. We do it *together* — bound by the Spirit, sustained by grace, and strengthened by the generosity of those who believe the Gospel is worth sharing.

For those who share Mission Support/benevolence, I want to thank you sincerely. Your generosity sustains ministry across the synod and the wider Church. I invite you to consider a small step forward this year prayerfully — perhaps a 1–3% increase. Even a modest rise, shared across many, multiplies the impact we can have together.

For those congregations that have not yet found a way to participate, I invite you to think creatively. Maybe it's a once-a-year Mission Sunday offering, a set annual amount, or a small percentage of your income that reflects your gratitude. However you choose to give, know this: your gift connects your congregation to something larger — the shared ministry of the whole Body of Christ in South Dakota.

Let's rejoice in sharing our fruits — not because we have to, but because it's what the Church has

always done in times of plenty and need. Together, we make visible the abundance of God's grace.

Journeying together in Christ with you,
Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop of the SD Synod

Thinking about Discernment and Call

How do we think and speak about “call” as baptized people of God, particularly from a Lutheran lens? Throughout the last year in the synod newsletters, we have been focusing on discernment. Simply put, discernment is “perceiving the will and way of God in the church and in your life (*What Shall I Say? Discerning God's Call to Ministry*, p. 5).” One resource a person (like YOU!) can utilize is titled, *Called to Lead*, written by the Rev. Paul Baglyous.

On pages 15-16, Pr. Baglyous invites the reader to reflect on what it means to hear the Good News:

Because the ministry of Jesus included proclamation as well as action, the vocation of the baptized therefore also includes a call to speak as well as to act, a call to preach and teach, to bear the good news of God's love for the world in words as well as deeds. Writing to the Christians in Rome, Paul affirms that “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13, quoting Joel 2:32). Paul goes on to ask a series of questions: “But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?” (Romans 10:14). With these questions, Paul addresses the particular ministry task of proclaiming the good news so that people have an opportunity to hear it and believe it. A little later in his letter to the Romans, Paul concludes that “faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17).

Spend some time in the questions below in self-reflection, journaling, or with a friend or mentor. To work your way through *Called to Lead*, sign up for FREE through PASQUE, the SD Synod on-line learning community, at (www.sdsynodlearns.org).

YOUR STORY OF HEARING AND BELIEVING

Who have been the most important proclaimers of the good news in your life, the people whose words have helped you to hear and believe the words and the word of Christ? In what times and places, in what settings and on what occasions, did those people share the good news with you?

What is the earliest occasion that you remember hearing the good news? Do you remember what was said on that occasion? How did it affect you?

What has been your most memorable occasion of hearing the good news? How would you describe the way your faith was influenced on that occasion? What helped you to believe what you heard on that occasion?

What makes it easier or more difficult for you to believe the proclamation of others? Are there certain factors or circumstances that help you to believe the speech and words of others regarding the good news? Are there certain factors or circumstances that hinder you or make you less likely to believe the speech and words of others regarding the good news?

Rev. Renee Splichal Larson
Associate to the Bishop for Candidacy,
Congregation, and Rostered Minister
Accompaniment

3 Big Questions

On the day this is written, I hit a milestone in my life: my son turned 13. That might seem more like a milestone for him than me; however, it means my **youngest** is now a teenager. Yep, all of my children are teens. This isn't as scary as it might sound; instead, it is another opportunity to live into my vocation as a parent.

To mark the occasion, I decided to re-read a book that I first read when my daughter was turning this age, *3 Big Questions that Change Every Teenager*. This isn't a parenting book; instead, it is a youth ministry book from the Fuller Youth Ministry Institute that sums up a research project and reflects on all the questions they heard being asked by teenagers.

While no two students would ask the same questions the same way, the researchers grouped themes to determine the big 3.

Who am I?
Where do I fit?
What difference can I make?

I would contend that even adults ask these questions, but the point is that at the unique age and stage of teenagers, their world is oriented around these discoveries. As a parent, I'm curious about how my kids answer and navigate these questions, and how their responses have changed over time. As a pastor, I'm curious how our churches are a part of the conversation for *each* young person. As communities of faith, we have an essential ingredient in each answer.

And it's not just young people who ask these questions. Our congregations as a whole can do the same. Who are we as a church? Where do we fit into our community? How is God calling us to make a difference?

For anyone looking to understand young people better and how the church might play a larger role in their lives, I invite you to read *3 Big Questions* as well, and then ask the young people of your congregation how they might respond.

Rev. Jonathan Vehar
Associate to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical
Mission

Rural Ministry News

Coming this Advent! A new Bible Study for all congregations and individuals of our South Dakota Synod with Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen will be debuting soon. We will be workshopping this devotional with our Synod Authorized Ministers and Rural Ministry Ambassadors in early November and sharing it with everyone via Pasque in the coming weeks. Look for it at sdsynodlearns.org in mid-November!

Pastor Joel Pakan
Director for Rural Ministries
jpakan@sdsynod.org
sdsynod.org/rural

Ready to Play? Join the 2026 Holy Playground Cohort!

Something joyful is stirring across the South Dakota Synod. Congregations are discovering fresh ways to worship—where all generations, especially our youngest children, don't just *watch* worship happen... they *belong* in it.

The **Holy Playground Initiative** invites your congregation to join a year-long journey of imagination, discovery, and play as part of the **2026 Cohort**. Together with 20–30 congregations from across the synod, you'll explore what it means to worship intergenerationally—where children's laughter, elders' wisdom, and the Spirit's creativity all find space at the same table.

Each congregation will walk through a guided process that includes a January kickoff, in-person learning in April, and time to experiment locally with new ideas. Topics include design thinking, belonging, trauma-sensitive ministry, and engaging young children in meaningful worship.

Cohort congregations will also have access to grant funding to bring their Holy Playground "experiments" to life—projects that nurture joy, hospitality, and belonging for all ages.

If your congregation is ready to dream, try, and play in holy ways, now's the time to jump in!

Applications are open now through December 15, 2025

Early-bird applicants (by October 31) receive a \$500 photo + story bonus!

Learn more and apply at
sdsynod.org/holyplayground

Pastor Renae Boehmer
Director for the Holy Playground Initiative
rboehmer@sdsynod.org

Meet the Synod's New Missionaries in Nicaragua

We're pleased to share that two new young adults will be serving as missionaries from our Synod in Nicaragua: Anghy Aragon and Celeste Evora. You may have met Anghy while she was living in South Dakota this past year, visiting lots of communities and congregations around the Synod. Hopefully, we can arrange for Celeste to visit sometime in the near future!

Read more about Anghy and Celeste at sdsynod.org/companionsynods. We invite you to pray for Anghy, Celeste, and the people of ILFE, the Lutheran Church in Nicaragua. If you'd like to support the work of our missionaries you can either send a check to the Synod office with "ILFE missionaries" in the memo line or donate online at sdsynod.org/donate (select "Companion Synods" in the drop-down menu and put "ILFE missionaries" in the memo box).



Winter Coat Drive: ALC is collecting new and gently used winter coats to give to the local area to those in need.

If you have any new or gently used/clean coats please bring them to the church.

Suitcases: Our high school missionaries are in need of used suit cases for our next mission trip. We will be filling them with supplies and in-kind donations to take and leave in Jamaica.



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November 2025



Stay Connected! **Make plans to attend the annual**

Harvest Festival!

Bring your family and friends to the Harvest Festival and Bazaar on Sunday, November 2. Serving will begin following church services from 10:30 am to 12:30 p.m. The menu includes beef stew, chicken noodle and cheese soups, an assortment of breads served at each table, coffee and milk.

A freewill donation will be taken to support church, youth and ALCW projects.

Other activities include a bake sale and silent auction.

Advent Season

Is soon upon us! 1st Advent service begins Sunday, November 30th, 2025.

Sunday School Christmas Program

Mark your calendars! Sunday, December 14th, 2025.
During the 9:30am worship service.

