

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER



When is our new pastor coming? Is 2025 the year?

It has been over a year since Pastors Matt and Janine left and we are still waiting! What is the deal?

Whatever you do, don't blame the Call Committee. They have done yeoman's work and did it in a very timely and efficient manner. You could blame the bishop and the synod office but be careful, they might ask you, "How many people have you sent to seminary in the last 10 years?" They can't send us pastoral candidates if we don't send them seminary candidates.

There is a shortage of Lutheran pastors. Actually, there is a shortage of pastors in general. This year we may have to look at

some creative options if we don't get any more candidates to interview.

American Lutheran is an amazing congregation. I have enjoyed preaching here more than anywhere else. And supply preachers tell me the same thing. You are a fun congregation with lots of energy and a real heart for mission.

Maybe the Holy Spirit is getting us ready for something different.

Whatever this new year holds, I would ask you to be diligent and disciplined in prayer. As you do your daily devotions, or what ever form your spiritual discipline takes, please be praying for your church.

Pray for its leadership and its staff. Pray for your interim pastor.

And finally, as we wait and pray, we keep doing ministry. There are still hungry people to feed. We will have a new member class this year. A men's group will take a new form. Our community needs us.

And so, we pray. Not just telling God what we need, but listening to God and the nudging of the Holy Spirit. Pray and then listen and watch. I believe strongly in the power of prayer. And remember, God is not required to act according to our timetable.

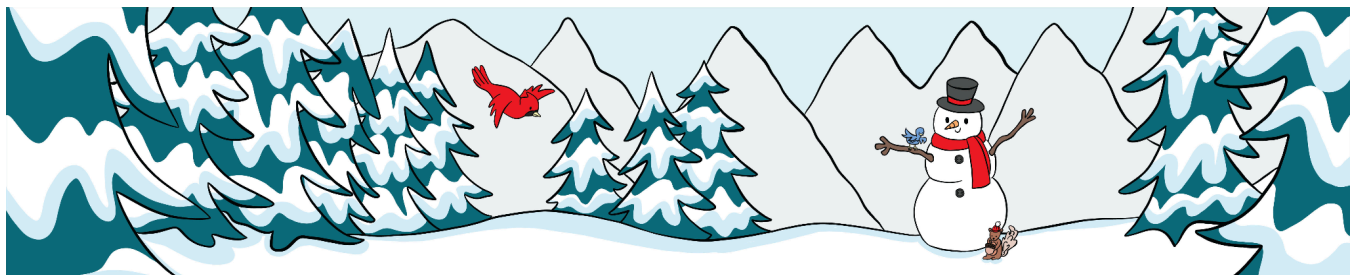
God's peace to you and Happy New Year,

Interim Pastor Bob

Interim Pastor Bob

208-446-5206 pinetreepadre@gmail.com

Call, text, email, stop by and talk. I am in Newport Sunday through Tuesday.



Synod Companionship Results in Such Wonderful Things

Dear Friends in Christ,

Advent brings with it many wonderful characters and stories and gifts. Here are three words I commend to you as we enter into this joyful and hopeful season and look ahead to the new year.

Listen:

The angel Gabriel announces to Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, that he and wife Elizabeth will bear a son, but Zechariah questions how this can be, given their ages. Gabriel responds, "But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur." I would not wish this on anyone, and yet I think that wondering about Zechariah's experience can be helpful. What if we listened more deeply, particularly to those with whom we often disagree? We might have to break silence to ask questions that help the conversation deepen. If you are familiar with the Morning Prayer Canticle, you know that after his many months of silence, Zechariah sings this amazing blessing (Luke 1:67-79). Will all that listening make us so poetic? I don't know, but it will surely bring about deep spiritual wisdom.

Welcome:

The story of Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus landing in a barn with a manger because there was no room for them in the inn, is surely a reminder that God shows up in the hidden and unexpected places of life. It is also a reminder for us to welcome the strangers and the outcasts. Moving over to Matthew's narrative and the holy family's flight to Egypt, we are reminded that Jesus himself was a refugee fleeing danger. From Global Refuge, formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, "For the over 120 million people currently displaced worldwide, this sacred story has similarities to their lived experiences. After all, Jesus was a refugee, God with us as the most vulnerable among us, an infant without a safe place to call home. We invite you to download our Advent Story Calendar. Each day of Advent, as you reflect on the Holy Family's journey as a displaced people at the vulnerable time of childbirth, experience stories of immigrants, former refugees, and supporters in their own words as together, we build a more welcoming world." Maybe your community does not have many refugees or immigrants. Who, in your context, needs a welcome?

Ponder:

On Christmas Eve, the gospel from Luke 2 includes this remarkable verse, "But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." Amidst the flurry of the season, give yourself time and space to ponder the wonder of the incarnation. The incarnation and the resurrection are the mysteries and gifts at the center of our faith, but sometimes I worry that we gloss over them. While you are doing something mundane (stirring a pot of soup, riding a chair lift, going on a walk, sitting in the pew after receiving Holy Communion) breathe deeply and give thanks for Immanuel, God with us. We trust that God came as a human being and lived among us. That's worth taking some time to ponder.

Light o'er the land of the needy is beaming;
rivers of life through its deserts are streaming,
bringing all peoples a Savior redeeming.
Come and save us soon! Come and save us soon!
(Lost in the Night v. 4)

Blessed Advent,
Bishop Meggan Manlove

Pastor Call Committee News

We appreciate your kind support and patience.
Please continue to reach out to any one of us with questions, concerns and comments.

Blessings;
ALC Call Committee
Annie, Larry, Kristy, David, Jason, Pat and Sandee

Thank you, all, for your input, prayers, and support as we continue our work.

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Kristi Bell	kristibell55@gmail.com	509-447-4117

Your Call Committee



Wine, Women and Wisdom:

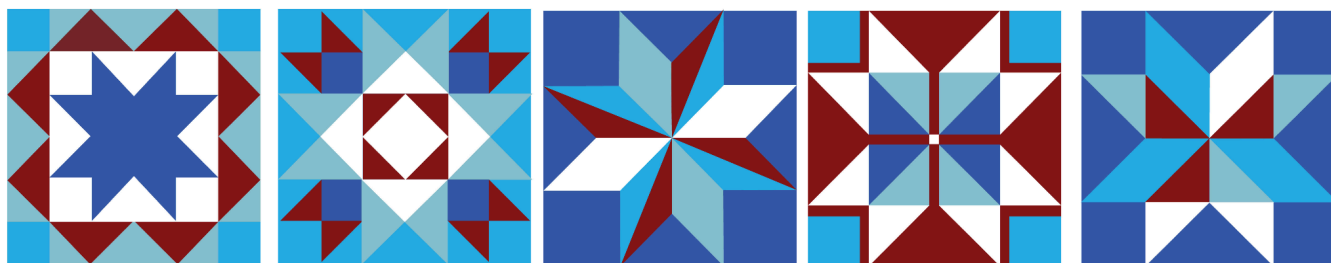
For the winter months WWW will meet
January 18th at 1pm &
February 15th at 1pm
In the Fellowship Hall.



Women's Fellowship



As we continue to adjust to an upcoming new Pastor, be reminded that although the Pastor fills a leadership role, we, the Congregation, are the body of Christ in Newport. It is through the prayers and works of our members that the life of American Lutheran Church carries on. We are grateful for the many seen and unseen moments that bind us together in faith and fellowship. The Spirit flows throughout, REJOICE!



Quilting Group's next meeting is January 7th



Blanche Wall	01-04
Van Smith	01-05
Lee Shaver	01-11
Nicole Seeber	01-14
Nicole Smoot	01-15
Racine Balow	01-18
Kristi Bell	01-19
Faith Hughes	01-20
Les Wall	01-21
Janel Waterman	01-22
Sandy Ellersick	01-23
Kervin Waterman	01-24
Carol Wootan	01-25
Lynda Heckman	01-28
Ken Peralta	01-30
Anna Jones	01-30
Pat Kowal	01-31

Ushers & Greeters



January 2025

5 - Cheryl Graff

12 - Elaine Peterson

19 - Theresa Watson

26 - Liessa Thorson

January 2025

5 - Kristi Bell

12 - Sandee Meade

19 - Larry Sauer

26 - Julie Brown



Anyone interested in sponsoring future 2nd Harvest Mobile Markets please contact Jeff Bell

Dates for 2025:

Wednesday March 5

Thursday May 8

Thursday June 12

Thursday September 11

Thursday November 6

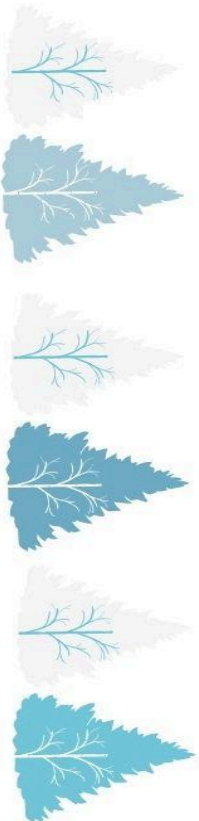
Thrivent Members

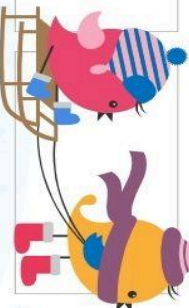
We don't have a current membership list, so if you are a Thrivent member (formerly called Lutheran Brotherhood and Aid to Lutherans) please contact Hedy Mitchell, Kristi Bell or Sandy Ellersick.



JANUARY

2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 		31	1 	2 	3	4
5 WORSHIP 10AM COUNCIL MEETING	6 10AM: BIBLE STUDY NOON: AL-ANON	7 10AM: QUILTING	8	9 7PM: CHOIR	10	11
12 WORSHIP 10AM	13 10AM: BIBLE STUDY NOON: AL-ANON	14 10AM: ANNA CIRCLE	15	16 7PM: CHOIR	17	
19 WORSHIP 10AM	20 10AM: BIBLE STUDY NOON: AL-ANON	21 10AM: QUILTING	22	23 7PM: CHOIR	24	
26 WORSHIP 10AM	27 10AM: BIBLE STUDY NOON: AL-ANON	28 10AM: QUILTING	29	30 7PM: CHOIR	31	

American Lutheran Church



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Church Council Members

President: Annie Frederick

Vice-President: Katie Kersting

Secretary: Pam Thompson

Treasurer: Kristi Bell

Education:

Shannon Radke
Monica Jones
Terry Zakar

Evangelism:

Val Samson
Sandy Loskill
Sue Scobby

Missions & Social Concerns:

Mary Bug Smith
Jeff Bell
Bob Kowal

Property & Maintenance:

Toby Johnson
Jason Jones
Dennis Alliger

Stewardship:

Sophie Hinchcliff
Ken Brown
David Grice

Worship & Music:

Nancy Sauer
Hedy Mitchell
Millie Brumbaugh

*Marked with the cross of Christ forever,
we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world*

