

THE LIVE WIRE

www.americanlutheran.net

PLUG INTO THE HIGHEST POWER

November 18, 2022

A LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First, we want to apologize for all the inappropriate emails that went out to many of our members. We do not know the author of these emails, and we are sorry for all the confusion and hurt they caused.

Our church takes personnel issues seriously, and nothing is done hastily. When an issue arises at a ministry level, it is first worked with our pastors to resolve. If results are not accomplished, it moves to an Executive Committee for review and HR involvement as required. In this case, both of our pastors were in alignment that it was time for our church to part ways with Kenny James. The issue was then presented to our church council for review. After deliberation, the Council agreed with the recommendation that was presented to them to part ways with Kenny while providing him with a generous severance package.

After the termination, Pastor Erich reconsidered his position and brought his concerns to the Council. After 4 ½ hours of relooking at all the facts and spending time in God's Word and prayer, the Council found their initial decision was still valid.

Again, we ask your prayers that our Lord will be with our Church and Kenny as we go forward, doing His will for His glory.

We also ask your prayers for Pastor Erich, who, after much prayer and heart-searching, feels led by the Holy Spirit to decline the call to become the next senior pastor and resign his current position as associate pastor of our church. His resignation letter to the congregation is below.

Although Pastor Jack will be retiring in January, he is willing to serve as our contracted Interim Pastor until we can find another pastor to serve in this capacity. We are very grateful for Pastor Jack and his loyalty to our church. The current call committee for the Associate Pastor's position has agreed to take on the responsibility of finding who God has selected for our next Senior Pastor.

We also appreciate Pastor Steve's willingness to share God's message with the Contemporary worshipers on Sunday mornings. Our Lord is blessing us with such faithful servants.

We are hopeful Christian Thao will accept our offer to start his vicarship with us in early December. This is a unique opportunity, responsibility, and honor for ALC, and one which both the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) and the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) fully support. We will have a Vicar Committee of five members, including two retired pastors who will help mentor Christian.

During this time of transition, may we remember our Lord's promise in Romans 8:28: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

ALC's Council

A LETTER FROM PASTOR ERICH

Dear American Lutheran Church family,

After much prayer and heart-searching, I feel led by the Holy Spirit to decline the call to become the next senior pastor and to resign my current position as associate pastor of American Lutheran Church. Though circumstances such as these can create a wealth of mixed emotions and a myriad of questions, I am grateful for God's faithfulness to bring comfort and clear direction as we place our eyes firmly upon Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our Faith.

It was a little over 9 years ago that I accepted the call to be your associate pastor. This was a huge change for our family having lived in the Pacific Northwest our entire lives. We moved far away from family and friends to a place that was unfamiliar. We were excited about our new life and yet saddened to leave behind familiar places, many family members and dear friends. Though, at times, the transition was difficult and challenging for us, your hearts and lives were open to us. As a husband, father, pastor and friend, I thank you. I praise God for you! I can only hope that God has given me and my family the opportunity to be a blessing to you in some way commensurate to your extraordinary blessing to each of our lives.

Transitions are oftentimes challenging but they can provide an opportunity for growth and new horizons as we open up our hearts to discover God's will and humbly follow His direction. As the Apostle Paul writes: "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

May the Lord richly bless you for allowing me the extraordinary opportunity to serve the Lord alongside you as a pastor and friend. God has raised us up together as His children to love Him with all our heart, body, mind, soul and strength and to continue to love one another as Jesus has loved us. I will carry your lovingkindness with me always as I "... press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

In His amazing love,

Pastor Erich Sokoloski

ASSOCIATE PASTOR CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

With unanimous approval, church council extended an offer to Christian Thao for a vicar position at ALC. As noted before, a vicar is a member of the clergy who, while not high ranking, is still considered a Holy representative of the church. Compensation for the position is in discussion between the church council and Christian, and we are looking at a December 1 start date for him. We ask you to pray for Christian as he considers the position and a relocation to Prescott.

If you have questions, please submit them to alc2022callcommittee@gmail.com. You will receive a response. Thank you.



SATURDAY, DEC. 10, 6-8 PM & SUNDAY, DEC. 11, 3-5 PM

The 2022 Yule Fest, *The Rose of Light*, will join choir, handbells, organ, and the congregation to create the most beautiful selections of Christmas music you will hear this holiday season.

Make Yule Fest an annual Christmas time tradition for your family as we proclaim the Good News of Christ's birth in word and song!

Seating is open, so arrive early. Free admission, with a freewill offering received.



In order to decorate our worship spaces for Christmas, we are asking the congregation for donations toward festive décor, flowers, trees, and wreaths. A special Christmas Eve bulletin insert will acknowledge gifts given in honor of, in memory of, or in celebration of individuals.

Please fill out an information card available in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall Lobby and return it with your donation to the church office by Dec. 21st.



Join us on Thanksgiving Eve! Wednesday, November 23rd at 7 PM in the Sanctuary. Come worship with us and give thanks for all the Lord has given us! Holy Communion will be celebrated.



The month of November is upon us and that means.....
THANKSGIVING and giving praise to our Lord and Savior for all of his mercies and kindnesses. It also means we will offer the opportunity to support the Community Cupboard with a canned food drive! Boxes will be placed in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall Lobby for your gifts. As always, the Community Cupboard can use any and all non-perishable food but especially high on the list is peanut butter, canned meats and cereal! If you know of anyone who is experiencing food insecurity, please tell them about the Community Cupboard and its services. They are there to provide some basic necessities. Bless you for your generosity! Especially in these inflationary times.

HAND-IN-HAND

Hand-in-Hand widows group will be meeting Tuesday, Dec. 13 at Oliver Garden (3060 E SR 69 Prescott, AZ) If you would like more information please call Myrna Gifford at (928)710-3676. If you would like to join us please RSVP to Myrna at (928)710-3676.

FINANCES

At the end of 3rd quarter we should be at approximately 75% of budget. We are working on the budget for our new fiscal year beginning February 1, 2023. The Council and Finance team are so grateful for your continued support, as evidenced by our current budget being so closely on track. The current U.S. economy is in a far different place that it was a year ago, and is part of our budget planning for the upcoming year.

If anyone has questions please contact:

Lois Hilgendorf, Treasurer;
 hilgendorflois@gmail.com / 928-899-2134 OR

Andy Dyroy, Finance & Budget Coordinator;
 andylola79@aol.com / 818-427-2416

These reports will be provided Quarterly.

Lois Hilgendorf, Treasurer

2022 ALC BUDGET SUMMARY			
FEBRUARY 1, 2022– OCTOBER 31, 2022			
	Annual Budget Approved	2/1-7/31/2022 Actuals	
Projected Income	\$1,628,743.00	\$1,231,227.00	76%
Projected Ministries Income	\$49,750.00	\$39,130.00	79%
Total Projected Income	\$1,678,493.00	\$1,270,357.00	74%
Benevolence Giving (10%)	(\$162,874.00)	(\$120,044.00)	74%
	\$1,515,619.00	\$1,150,313.00	76%
Total Expenses	\$1,614,199.00	\$1,254,580.00	78%