



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

**AMERICAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

TRADITIONAL: 8:00 & 10:30 CONTEMPORARY: 9:00 & 10:30

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Prescott, AZ 86301
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<https://www.americanlutheran.net>



Dear Members of American Lutheran Church,

As we reflect on 2025, I am filled with deep gratitude for the many ways God has blessed our congregation. This past year has been one of growth, faithful service, and shared commitment, and I am continually inspired by the generosity and dedication of our ALC family.

The Annual Report before you tells the story of this year—of ministries that thrived, lives that were touched, and the countless ways God worked through this congregation. I encourage you to take time to read it, as it reflects not only numbers and programs, but the faith, care, and effort poured into every aspect of church life.

I would like to offer special appreciation to our pastors and staff, whose leadership, compassion, and steady guidance sustain our ministries day in and day out. Thank you to our Church Council members for your faithful service, discernment, and countless hours spent supporting the mission and health of ALC. To our ministry leaders and volunteers, your willingness to serve—often quietly and behind the scenes—makes an immeasurable difference. Every hour given, every event planned, every prayer offered, and every act of kindness has helped make ALC a welcoming, Christ-centered community.

Together, we have celebrated milestones, supported one another through challenges, and carried out ministries that bring hope, love, and God's presence into our congregation and the wider community. Each contribution—large or small—has played an essential role in this shared work.

As we step into 2026, may we continue to walk in God's guidance, lift one another up, and serve with open hearts. On behalf of the Church Council, thank you for your faithfulness, your generosity, and your commitment to the mission of American Lutheran Church.

May the year ahead be filled with peace, joy, and renewed energy as we continue this journey together.

With gratitude and blessings,

Your Sister in Christ,

Pam Burmood

ALC Council President

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA**ALC ANNUAL MEETING
AGENDA****JANUARY 25, 2026 – NOON**

CALL TO ORDER	Pam Burmood
OPENING PRAYER	Pam Burmood
DEVOTION	Pastor Christian Thao
PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS	Pam Burmood
BUSINESS	

TOPIC	PRESENTER
• Approval of Minutes from Congregational Annual Meeting held on January 26, 2025	Pam Burmood
• State of the Church Message	Pastor Mark Johnson
• Endowment Board Update	Russ Laibl
• Status on Capital Projects and Campaign	Mike Burmood
• Review of the 2026 Budget	Lynda Parrish
• Approval of the 2026 Budget	Pam Burmood
• Nominating Committee Report	Andy Dyroy
• Election of 2026 Council Members	Pam Burmood
• Election of 2026 Endowment Board Members	Pam Burmood
• Election of 2026 Nominating Committee Members	Pam Burmood
• Recognition of Last Year's Council Members	Pastor Mark Johnson
• Installation of 2025 Council Members	Pastor Mark Johnson

CLOSING PRAYER	Pastor Mark Johnson
ADJOURNMENT	Pam Burmood

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2025, 12:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER (we have a quorum) Pam Burmood

OPENING PRAYER Pam Burmood

DEVOTION On Christian Fellowship - Koinonia Vicar Christian Thao
(1 Corinthians 13 and 1 Corinthians 16:14)

PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS Pam Burmood

BUSINESS

Topic	Presenter
Approval of Minutes from Congregational Annual Meeting held on January 28, 2024: Motion to approve the Minutes as shown in the Annual Report from the Congregational Annual Meeting held on January 28, 2024 was made by Tracy Uffelman and seconded by Dee Isham. MSP	Pam Burmood
State of the Church Message: On being The Body of Christ with Jesus as the Head. We must stay connected and continue to see the Lord. We must continue to serve the Lord and encourage others. We need to continue to share the Lord.	Pastor Mark Johnson
Associate Pastor Call Committee Update: Vicar Christian Thao has successfully completed all his studies. LCMC will be interviewing Christian, and he will be put in a position to be ordained. He will be given the opportunity to apply. If Council approves his application, there will be two Congregational meetings—one for information/questions, one for a vote. Timeframe—around Eastertime.	Mike Burmood
Endowment Board Update: Exists as a separate church fund funded by members. Exists to offer members the opportunity to make lifetime donations to outreaches and local charities. It provides for internal development (i.e. Youth activities, etc.) The fund also provides funds for improvements to the church. It is managed with the guidance of a local advisory company. There is \$665K available, and only the interest is used.	Russ Laibl
Adoption of the 2025 Budget:	Lois Hilgendorf

Topic	Presenter
<p>Financial addendum report is available today. We are in a positive, healthy financial position.</p> <p>No questions were presented to the Treasurer.</p> <p>Motion to adopt the 2025 Budget as presented in the Annual report was made by Lois Hilgendorf and seconded by Julie Darr. MSP</p>	
<p>Approval of Transfer of Funds:</p> <p>\$21,280.32 was used from the General Fund for architectural concepts related to the potential building expansion. A motion was made by Darrel Smith and seconded by Paula Johnson to approve the transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Capital Fund to cover the cost of the architectural work. Motion carried (MSP). MSP</p>	Pam Burmood
<p>Announcement of Upcoming Congregational Meeting:</p> <p>This meeting will be held for the purpose of voting on the updated Constitution and Bylaws. The ratification of the Constitution and Bylaws will take place at a meeting scheduled for April or May in 2025.</p>	Pam Burmood
<p>Nominating Committee Report:</p> <p>The 2025 Nominating Committee submitted the names: For Treasurer, Lynda Parrish; for Coordinator of Membership and Growth, Fred Hessler; for Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Constant Lu. Motion to accept the new Council members was made by Mike Parrish and seconded by Tracy Uffelman, MSP.</p>	Kris Foster
<p>Election of 2025 Council Members:</p> <p>Members to be re-elected: Pam Burmood, President; Dave Cox, Coordinator of Property and Assets; Julie Darr, Coordinator of Worship and Music.</p> <p>Members not up for re-elections: Renee Grojean, Vice President; Secretary, Connie Ellis; Coordinator of Adult Education, Altha Cline; Coordinator of Children's and Family Ministries, Sheryl Cossey; Coordinator of Benevolence, Community Outreach, and Missions, Lindsey Mills.</p>	Pam Burmood

Topic	Presenter
<p>Election of 2025 Endowment Board Members:</p> <p>Russ Laibl, Norma Bauer, Brenda Kieth, Julie Wilson, Andy Dyroy</p> <p>Motion was made to accept the nominees for the Endowment Board for 2025 by Dee Isham and seconded by Jim Haines. MSP</p>	Pam Burmood
<p>Election of 2025 Nominating Committee Members:</p> <p>Andy Dyroy* (chairperson), Lois Hilgendorf*, Phil Goehring*, Mike Burmood, Pastor Mark Johnson (advisor) (* denotes an outgoing council member)</p>	Pam Burmood
<p>Recognition of Last Year's Council Members:</p> <p>Thank you to the council members Phil Goehring, Andy Dyroy, and Lois Hilgendorf, who have dedicated their time and service to us and are now concluding their terms on the council</p>	Pastor Mark Johnson
<p>Installation of 2025 Council Members:</p> <p>OFFICERS: PRESIDENT - Pamela Burmood VICE PRESIDENT - Renee Grojean TREASURE - Lynda Parrish SECRETARY - Connie Ellis</p> <p>COORDINATORS: ADULT EDUCATION - Altha Cline CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY - Sheryl Cossey MEMBERSHIP GROWTH AND SUPPORT - Fred Hessler MISSIONS, BENEVOLENCE, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH - Lindsey Mills PROPERTY AND ASSETS - Dave Cox WORSHIP AND MUSIC - Julie Darr YOUTH MINISTRY - Constant Lu</p>	Pastor Mark Johnson
CLOSING PRAYER	Pastor Mark Johnson
ADJOURNMENT	Adjournment at 12:51 P.M. Pam Burmood

ALC is a member congregation of:

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) and North American Lutheran Church (NALC).

ALC MISSION STATEMENT

In the name of Christ, we "GATHER, GROW, and GO".
We "**GATHER IN CHRIST**" as we: Praise Him in worship and deed (Matt. 4:10b); Thank Him (I Thess. 5:18); Share the Means of Grace – Word and Sacraments (Col. 3:16); and Strengthen our Relationships with Him and one another (Eph. 4:3-6).

We "**GROW IN CHRIST**" as we: Learn more of Him through every stage of life (John 5:39 & Prov. 22:6); Pray constantly for and with one another (Rom. 2:12); Encourage each other as individuals, families and members of the body of Christ (I Thess. 5:11); and Develop our spiritual gifts (I Cor. 12:4-11).

We "**GO IN CHRIST**" as we: Share the precious Gospel (John 3:16); Shine as models of Christ in a sin darkened world (Titus 2:7); Love our neighbors, locally and globally (I John 4:7); and Establish partnerships to meet the needs of others (Heb. 13:16 & Php. 1:3-6).

Council Officers



President
Pamela Burmood



Vice President
Tracy Uffelman



Treasure
Lynda Parrish



Secretary
Connie Ellis

Council Coordinators



Small Groups
and
Discipleship
Altha Cline



Children's and
Family Ministry
Sheryl Cossey



Membership
Growth And
Support
Renee Grojean



Missions,
Benevolence,
and Community
Outreach
Lindsey Mills



Property and
Assets
Dave Cox

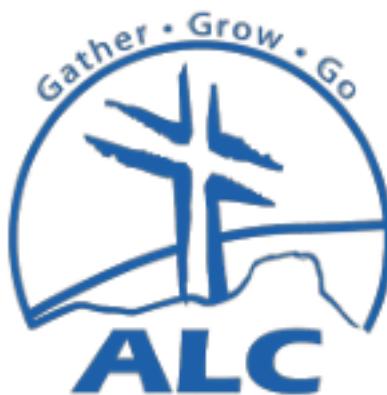
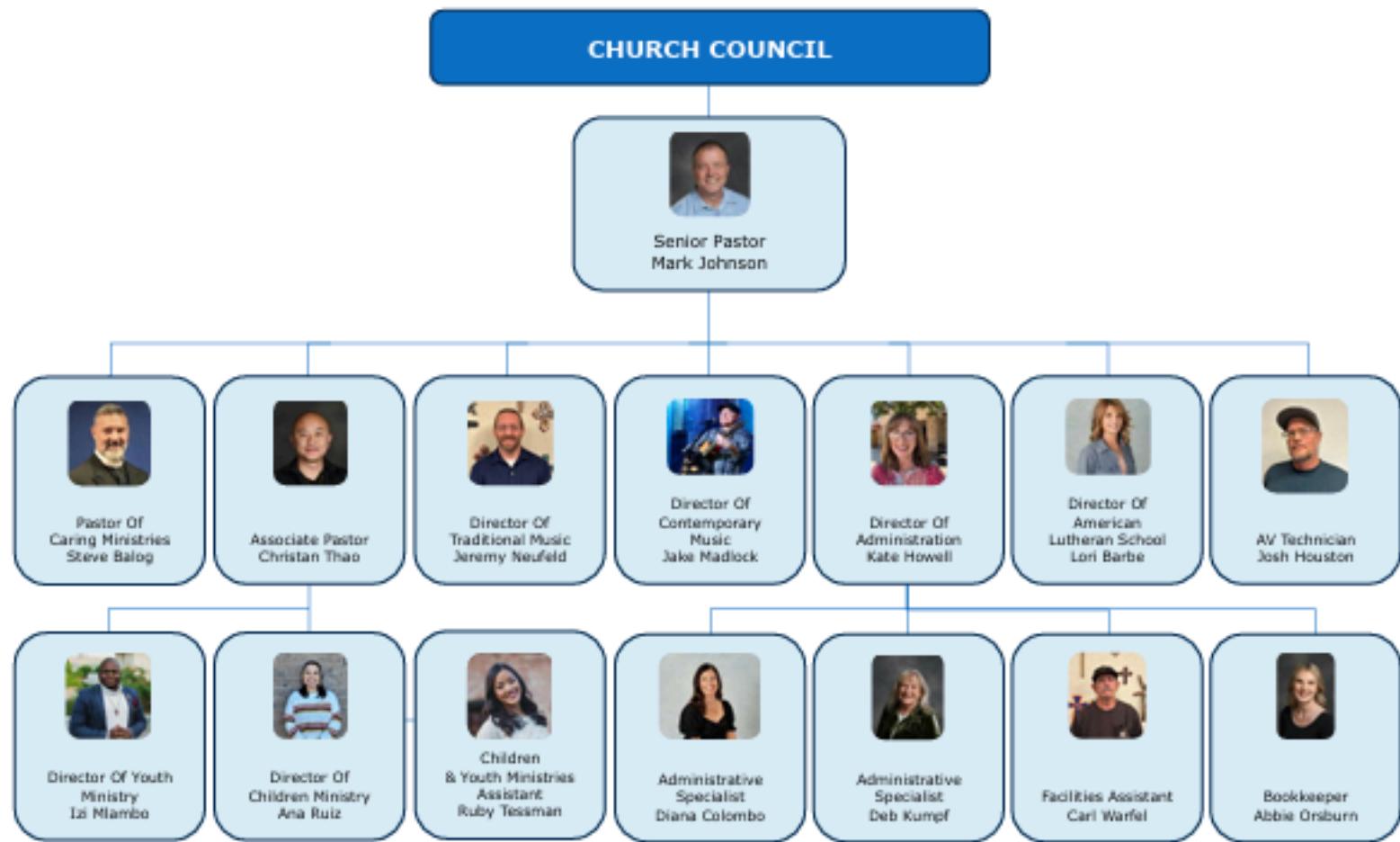


Worship and
Music
Julie Darr



Youth Ministry
Constant Lu

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF ORGANIZATION CHART



2026 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTIONS

Submitted by Andy Dyroy (chairperson), Lois Hilgendorf, Phil Goehring, Mike Burmood, and Pastor Mark Johnson (advisor)

COUNCIL MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

- **Secretary** – Brenda Keith
(first 3-year term expires 2028)

COUNCIL MEMBERS TO BE RE-ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

- **Coordinator of Children's and Family Ministries** – Sheryl Cossey
(partial term expires 2025 – first term expires 2028)
- **Coordinator of Small Groups and Discipleship** (Adult Education) – Altha Cline
(completed first 3-year term 2025 – second term expires 2028*)
- **Treasurer** – Lynda Parrish
(partial term expires 2025 – first term expires 2028)

COUNCIL MEMBERS – NOT UP FOR RE-ELECTION

- **President** - Pam Burmood
(completed first 3-year term 2024 – second term expires 2027)
- **Vice President** – Tracy Uffleman
(first 3-year term expires 2027)
- **Coordinator of Benevolence, Community Outreach, and Missions** – Lindsey Mills
(completed partial term 2020 - completed first 3-year term 2023 - second 3-year term expires 2026)
- **Coordinator of Membership Growth and Support** – Renee Grojean
(first 3-year term expires 2027)
- **Coordinator of Property and Assets** - Dave Cox
(completed first 3-year term 2024 – second term expires 2027)
- **Coordinator of Worship and Music** - Julie Darr
(completed first 3-year term 2024 – second term expires 2027)
- **Coordinator of Youth Ministry** - Constant Lu
(first term expires 2027)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2027 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Connie Ellis* (Chairperson), Mike Burmood, and Pastor Mark Johnson (Advisor). Two additional individuals are needed to serve on this committee.

*Denotes an outgoing council member.

****NOTE:** All council terms begin and expire at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January (e.g., Council terms ending in 2026 end at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January 2027).

****NOTE:** Those serving a "partial" term may subsequently be elected to serve up to two "full" 3-year terms.

Thank you to council member Connie Ellis, who has dedicated her time and service to us and is now concluding her term on the council.

2025 ENDOWMENT BOARD MEMBERS AND REPORT

President	Treasurer	Secretary	Board Member	Board Member
Russ Laibl	Norma Bauer	Brenda Keith	Julie Wilson	Andy Dyroy
				

The Endowment Board is a standalone governing body that operates independently from the Council. While the Council does not oversee or direct the Endowment Board's decisions, the Board maintains open communication by keeping the Council informed of its activities and financial status through regular updates by the designated liaison. The Endowment liaison to the council is the Vice President Tracy Uffelman.

ENDOWMENT REPORT

2025 was a successful year for the ALC Endowment Fund growing from \$665,794 to \$773,186 by November.

- We granted a total of \$25,063 in 2025.
- We committed \$13,560 to replace aging or outdated computers at ALC.
- We also granted \$2,640 for the ALC dental clinic.
- We have committed \$3,000 to The Prescott Community Cupboard.
- We have granted \$2,000 to Agape House.
- We have voted to use 5% of funds for granting in 2026.
- Our major grant will be \$15,300 to support our youth mission in Mexico mid 2026.

Challenges:

Creating ways to get the word out that ALC Endowment is;

- 1) A great way to leave a lasting legacy as a way to show your love for Jesus and furthering the ALC mission by remembering the church in your will.
- 2) To create awareness of the ALC Endowment Fund as a viable and important program for supporting our mission of supporting qualified charities, missions and Christ centered programs.



STATE OF AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH 2025

"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

It is indeed an honor to speak to the state of our church family, American Lutheran Church. I have had the honor and privilege to serve this congregation for almost 3 years now and am continuously amazed at the love and grace God shows us through each other! Jesus said that if we love one another the world will know we belong to Him. You are a great example of this love!

Looking into the days ahead, here are some things we will focus on:

Strategic Planning Group: Our church Council and Staff have begun a "Strategic Planning" group to focus our energies on both the needs of our congregation and ways we can build outreach into our community and our world! Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey we recently provided for feedback from you. Together we will work to build the Kingdom of God in our community!

Connection to families: We are blessed to have wonderful servants who provide leadership for our children and their families! Ana Ruiz, Izi Mlambo, Ruby Tessman and Pastor Christian along with many other leaders provide a team focused on sharing the gospel with our families in our Children's and Youth Ministries. Other outreaches like Connected Motherhood and Epic Dads provide places for young families to know they have a home here!

Exceptional Worship Experiences: We are so blessed to have the leadership of Jake Madlock and Jeremy Neufeld and their teams to provide the leadership for our distinctive worship services each week! We are thankful to the Lord to provide these talented people to guide us into worship and help us to engage in our relationship with the Lord. I am thankful to all who participate each week from Ushers, Greeters and Tech people, to Singers and Musicians, to Lay Assistant Ministers and Communion Helpers, to Decorators and Altar Guild and of course our Prayer Teams! This is the body of Christ at work! Thank you to all who make our worship times exceptional interactive times with the Lord and God's Word!

Outreach to our Community and our World: I love the heart of so many at ALC to be a blessing to our community and our world! Our weekly community meal serving at risk people for food is a powerful witness of our love and faith in Jesus! Sending people to serve others around the world like Tanzania and soon a youth trip to Mexico are ways we can put feet to our faith. There are many other ways we serve and provide witness, is there an outreach on your heart? Let's talk!

Faith and Fellowship Groups: Staying connected as a church family is so important and continuing to meet together for mutual encouragement is critical to our faith life! Ignite home groups, Crossfire, WOW and other times when we meet together are tangible ways we build each other up in the faith. If you are not connected in a small group, would you consider that in the coming year?

Prayer Ministry: I am so thankful for our Prayer Ministry people who provide prayer support for our people each week as well as meeting at other times during the week. Jesus said that this house is to be a house of prayer and I am thankful for our prayer partners who provide the undergirding for the ministry of our church! Let's continue to pray together for God's Kingdom to come and God's Will to be done in and through us!

Servanthood: Jesus said if you want to be great in God's Kingdom, learn to be a servant of all! There are so many opportunities to serve through the ministry of our church, I couldn't even begin to list them all! My prayer for the days to come is that we can work to help each person find a place to serve so that as a body of Christ we can flourish together!

I continue to be honored to serve Jesus with you. You are a wonderful congregation, and my prayer is that we continue to be salt and light in our community, pointing others to Jesus, inviting our friends, neighbors and family to join this amazing group of people at American Lutheran Church! God is good, all the time and all the time, God is good!

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

2025 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

	BAPTIZED	CONFIRMED
TOTAL MEMBERS FROM LAST YEAR	729	602
MEMBERSHIP ADDITIONS 2025		
By Baptism: children (15 yrs. & younger)		
By Baptism: adults (16 yrs. & older)	1	
	3	2
By affirmation of faith		
From other Lutheran congregations	23	23
From non-Lutheran congregations	8	6
Reinstated members	6	6
Baptized Youth who were confirmed in 2024		
Other sources/stat. adjustment	4	
TOTAL ADDITIONS	45	37
MEMBERSHIP REMOVED 2025		
By death	15	13
To other Lutheran congregations	4	4
To non-Lutheran congregations		
By inactivity		
By request		
By relocation	3	3
Other reasons/stat. adjustment		
TOTAL REMOVALS	22	20
TOTAL MEMBERS FOR THIS YEAR	752	619

2025 PASTORAL ACTS

PASTORAL ACTS 2025			
BAPTISMS	CONFIRMATIONS	WEDDINGS	FUNERALS CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE
4	0	1	13

AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

AVERAGE IN-PERSON WEEKLY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE (10 Years: 2016-2025)									
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
553	550	578	558	343	383	453	459	449	467



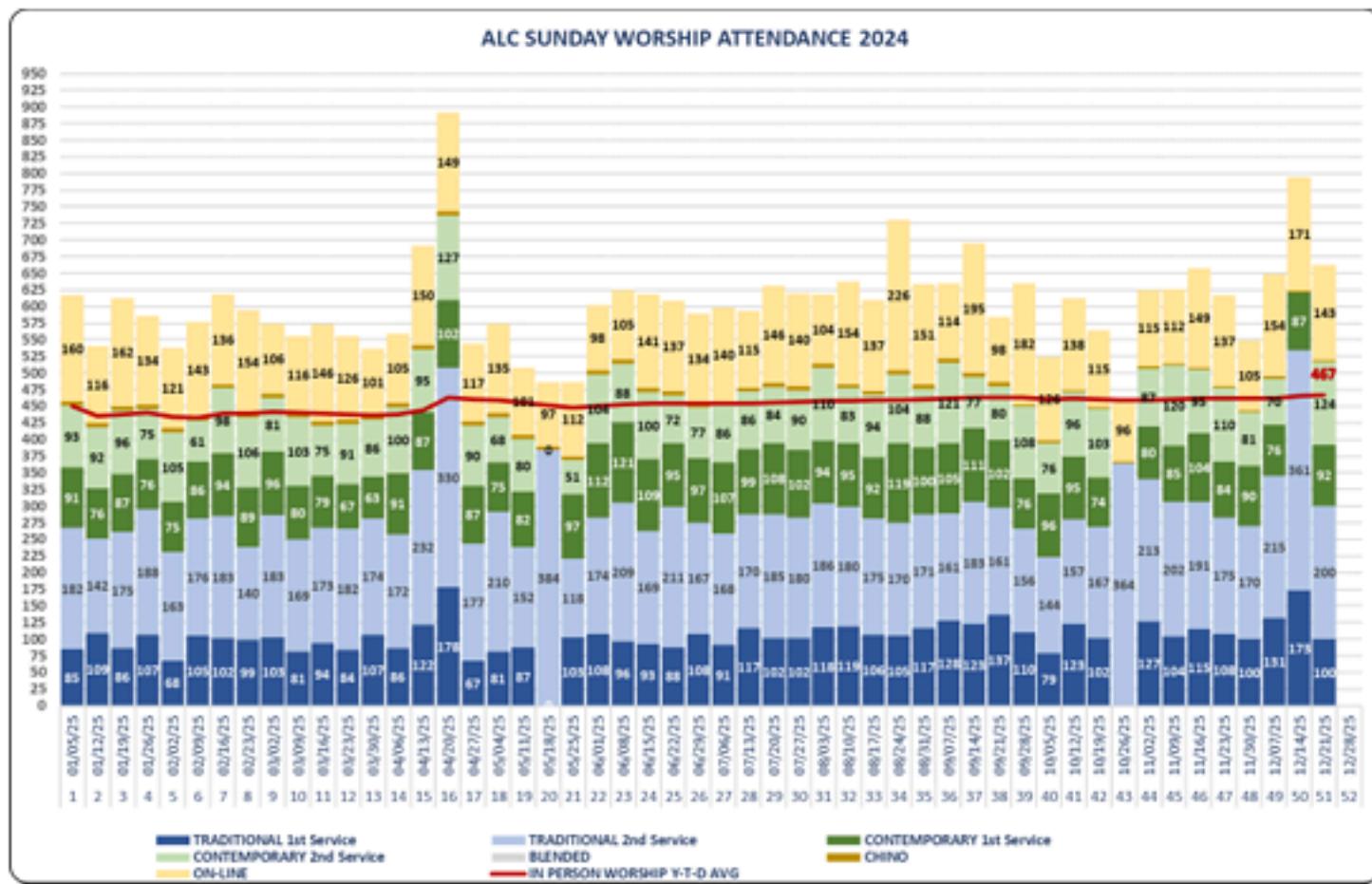
TRADITIONAL SERVICES

Sundays 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary



CONTEMPORARY SERVICES

Sundays 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall



2025 FINANCIAL STATUS

*The Treasurer will provide
the Y-T-D Budget versus Actuals for 2025
In the addendum to this document.*

2026 BUDGET
MINISTRY INCOME AND EXPENSE

Function Ministry	Total Income	Total Expense	Net Gain/Loss	% of Total
Administration	\$0	\$1,025,803	(\$1,025,803)	70.08%
ALC Art Series and Fine Arts	\$2,500	\$5,000	(\$2,500)	0.17%
ALC Kids	\$0	\$11,550	(\$11,550)	0.79%
Bus Ministry	\$0	\$6,650	(\$6,650)	0.45%
Caring Ministry	\$0	\$350	(\$350)	0.02%
Child Care	\$0	\$1,600	(\$1,600)	0.11%
Community Meal	\$0	\$4,000	(\$4,000)	0.27%
Connected Motherhood	\$8,500	\$15,525	(\$7,025)	0.48%
Crossfire	\$500	\$1,250	(\$750)	0.05%
Epic Dad	\$0	\$500	(\$500)	0.03%
Facilities	\$0	\$234,550	(\$234,550)	16.02%
Family Ministry	\$1,300	\$7,050	(\$5,750)	0.39%
General Kitchen	\$100	\$12,500	(\$12,400)	0.85%
Grief Share	\$0	\$5,250	(\$5,250)	0.36%
Knitters	\$0	\$500	(\$500)	0.03%
Medical Response Team	\$300	\$1,800	(\$1,500)	0.10%
Membership and Growth	\$1,700	\$10,900	(\$9,200)	0.63%
Missions and Evangelism	\$0	\$3,250	(\$3,250)	0.22%
Pastors	\$0	\$9,450	(\$9,450)	0.65%
Prayer	\$0	\$2,925	(\$2,925)	0.20%
Quilters	\$0	\$3,000	(\$3,000)	0.20%
Safety and Security	\$0	\$23,500	(\$23,500)	1.61%
Sheepdog Fellowship	\$0	\$1,400	(\$1,400)	0.10%
Small Group and Discipleship (Adult Education)	\$4,300	\$4,250	\$50	0.00%
VBS	\$9,600	\$9,410	\$190	-0.01%
Worship Contemporary	\$0	\$26,220	(\$26,220)	1.79%
Worship General	\$4,000	\$22,300	(\$18,300)	1.25%
Worship Traditional	\$0	\$27,000	(\$27,000)	1.84%
WOW	\$5,500	\$4,000	\$1,500	-0.10%
Young Adults	\$0	\$2,900	(\$2,900)	0.20%
Youth	\$10,500	\$28,150	(\$17,650)	1.21%
Grand Total	\$48,800	\$1,512,533	(\$1,463,733)	100%

2026 Budget Summary Using Projected Income

Budget Income	\$48,800
Budget Expenses	\$1,512,533
Projected net Budget Gain/(Loss)	(\$1,463,733)
Projected Income Based on Last Year's Actuals	\$1,529,271
Projected Growth from actual 2024 & 2025 Contributions @ 3.78%	\$57,806
Total Projected General Fund Contribution Income	\$1,587,077
Projected Benevolence Giving	(\$158,708)
Projected Interest Income	\$7,500
Net Projected Funds Available for Expense	\$1,435,870
Budget Above Projected Available Funds	(\$27,863)

Year	Pledged/Commitment		
	General Fund	Capital	Total
2023	\$1,054,163		\$1,054,163
2024	\$1,058,443	\$55,326	\$1,113,769
2025	\$1,050,624	\$70,484	\$1,121,108
2026	\$983,709	\$124,205	\$1,107,914

Pastoral**Senior Pastor
Mark Johnson****Highlights:**

"The Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100:5

Indeed the Lord is good and His love and faithfulness continue through all generations! 2025 has been yet another example of God's faithfulness here at American Lutheran Church! Whether we face difficult times or smooth sailing, we can depend on God's faithfulness to carry us and provide for us. As I look back on this year, some examples and highlights are as follows:

Our Staff at ALC: We spent a great deal of time working through some staffing issues, changes in our Custodian, Office Manager, Traditional Worship Director, Youth Director were all filled in 2025 and I love the team I get to work with! It is a joy to see God shine in each of these new people and I love getting to share the ministry of our church with them all!

Vicar Christian becomes Pastor Christian: What a great day it was on Sunday, May 18 when we were able to officially ordain Christian Thao into Word and Sacrament ministry! We combined the services together and made it a special day! It is a joy to see God developing him and his skills for ministry. God has used Christian in all our lives and particularly the youth of our church! We are blessed to have him!

Tanzania: In July our church commissioned and sent 7 of us to the ministry of Courage Worldwide which rescues and rehabilitates young girls out of sex trafficking in Moshe and Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. We brought supplies and resources as well as spent time sharing the love of Jesus with these young girls over about 2 weeks. We also received great blessings from their love and appreciation and shared those experiences with you! Thank you for supporting this important journey!

Teaching: I continue to enjoy teaching in various capacities at ALC. I teach weekly every other month in our men's Crossfire study, Thursday mornings from 6:30 am to 8 am. I have been leading the men through the gospel of John and now the book of Romans! I also get to teach our dads through a new ministry called "Epic Dads" which parallels our moms in Connected Motherhood. Of course, I teach our "What We Believe" Classes and I also teach weekly in our High School Release Time period which began this past fall. We have students that take an elective period every day and come to our Youth Center called The Rock and learn about their faith from some dedicated teachers. What a joy!

Weekly Worship: It continues to be a joy to preach almost every week at our worship services! Whether at the Traditional services or the Contemporary services, I love leading worship with you and sharing about God's Word! This summer we went through the book of Ephesians together and we are exploring other series to share. We have had some special times of worship around our church calendar with Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas as well as other times of sharing music and message. We have a great worship team at this church!

As we look toward the days ahead, let's keep our eyes on Jesus and the building of the Kingdom of God until He comes! There are many more who are ready to put their faith in Jesus, let's be faithful in inviting, sharing and loving people into the Kingdom of God! You are a special people and I love partnering with you in the gospel!

Blessings,
Pastor Mark

Goals:

Developing Deeper Spiritual Growth: ALC already has wonderful avenues of deepening spiritual growth for her people. We have great initiatives such as WOW, Ignite Small Groups, as well as other Men's and Women's Ministries. Please pray for me and our team as we explore ideas, such as all church spiritual focus in Sunday Worship, Personal Devotions, and Small group gatherings, all based on the same focus.

Community Outreach: We have made great strides in our Missions and Benevolence groups to develop deeper relationships with the people and organizations we support financially. A big thanks to our Missions and Benevolence team for vetting out and connecting with these groups. We look to continue to strengthen those relationships as well as bring a greater awareness to our church, both in information and participation! **Team Development:** We have a great team at ALC!

Both the staff and our congregation work together to make our congregation a place of grace and the building of the Kingdom of God! We want to deepen that team and find effective ways to connect the needs of our congregation and our community with people who want to serve and use their gifts as the Lord directs. We plan to develop a strategic planning group to help develop these goals in the days ahead. Thank you for your prayers and participation!

Pastoral**Associate Pastor
Christian Thao****Highlights:**

When I look and reflect on this past year it was filled with highlights. One highlight from this past year was God's faithfulness throughout my journey to becoming a pastor. This past year I finished all the necessary classes to be ordained. Then on May 18th I was ordained and installed as the next Associate Pastor of ALC. It has been such a blessing to have the opportunity to serve ALC as a Pastor. I've been able to grow and learn in so many ways because of this opportunity. I can't wait to see how God is going to continue to use me and this church to grow the Kingdom of God.

This year I saw the youth ministry grow beyond anything I could imagine. We started two brand new ministries. The first ministry we started is called Released Time. Over the past two years I've been working with the Director of Youthlink, Bob Dunn. Released Time allows any high school student at PHS to be released for Bible class during the school day. We had a handful of students sign up for this class. I've seen their faith and Bible knowledge grow beyond anything that can be accomplished at Youth Group. We get the opportunity to teach these students 5 times a week about Jesus Christ and the Bible. There really is no replacement for this opportunity.

The second new ministry we started this year is called Hebrews It. This ministry offers free coffee, donuts, and snacks for PHS students every Tuesday morning. Also, there is a short devotion and prayer for the students as well. As this ministry has grown throughout the year, we've seen more and more students come through the doors of the Rock. The real blessing through Hebrews It is the relationships we have developed with the students. It's in the development of relationships that God is working in this ministry.

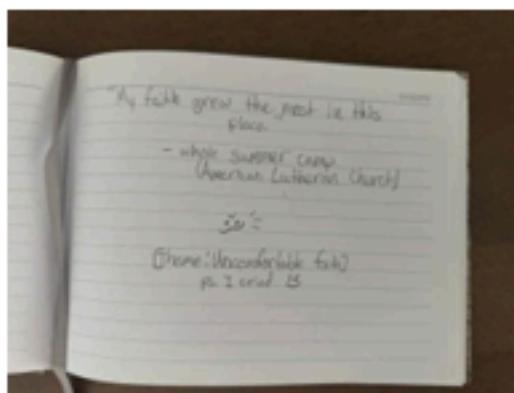
Also, as I was the Interim Youth Pastor as we searched for a Youth Director, I've seen other ways God has been working in the youth group. First, one of the goals when I took over the youth group was to develop a youth worship team. This year God has worked wonders, and I can gladly say that we now have a worship team fully led by youth group members. This is just the first step of a bigger vision.

Another highlight was summer camp. This year our theme was "Uncomfortable Faith" with 1 Peter 2:9 as the main Bible verse. The focus of the messages, and devotions were all center around the idea that we are called holy and set apart for God. In 1 Peter 2:9 we find that this means that we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God's possession. Since we live in a broken and sinful world it leads to an "Uncomfortable Faith" where our faith will be challenged, pushed beyond our comfort zones, and placed in difficult situations. "Uncomfortable Faith" embraces the

difficult truths, pursuing holiness, loving difficult people, and pursuing heavenly vs worldly things.

As the leaders shared messages, devotions, and their testimonies we saw the students slowly open up about the difficulties they were facing in life and the difficulties of being a Christian in a non-Christian world. There was intentionality behind every decision that was made at summer camp with the schedule, games, outings, messages, devotions, and testimonies. All of it led up to the last night. The goal was to break down all barriers and have the students become more comfortable with each other and the leaders. We wanted to create a space and a moment where the Holy Spirit can move. That's exactly what happened. We had leaders and students share their testimonies. We had leaders praying for each individual student and in return we had students praying for all the leaders. By the end of the night the Holy Spirit was moving and everyone was in tears.

This is what one of the students wrote in the guest book.



Another highlight throughout this year was the ability to teach chapel to our preschool students. It brings great joy to teach the youngest generation about Jesus Christ. I usually incorporate some kind of science experiment with the lesson, and I've found that the kids love it.

Lastly, as I reflect on this past year a highlight has been how much I've grown as a Pastor. I've found that God has placed the right mentors, friends, and support around me to grow as a Pastor. I've seen myself grow in preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and leadership to name a few.

Thank you for all your support and love!

Pastor Christian

Goals:

I would like to teach a 3-week seminar on the creeds of the Lutheran faith (Apostles, Nicene, and Athanasius) in 2025. The intention of this seminar will be to show how these creeds were formed and highlight the importance of these creeds to the church and to our faith today. Begin a coffee ministry for the high school students every Tuesday morning before school, offering coffee, donuts and other treats to students. Also, I will give a short devotion to the students and pray over them. Transform the inside of the Rock to make it more welcoming. Paint all the rooms on the main floor.

Convert the 3 backrooms to be used as small group rooms and a conference room. Update and redo the main worship wall. Update the technology at the Rock. Modernize the furniture on the main floor.

Pastoral

Pastor of Caring Ministries Steve Balog



Highlights:

Care Partners:

- Team conducts bi-monthly coordination meetings to ensure coverage of homebound and sidelined congregants
- Hospital visitation coverage plan initiated and successful
- Implemented ministry supply initiative, each team member has communion kit, oil, and devotional materials

Sheepdog:

- Members participated in the Veterans Day Parade
- Conducting studies of various specific Bible books to enhance spiritual development

Grief Share:

- Conducts three sessions per year and various add-on classes, for example, focus on holidays and loss of a child
- Ongoing training for leaders

Looking Forward:

- **Care Partners** - add training classes to the bi-monthly meeting
- **Sheepdog** - increase participation in community events, including assisting community veterans groups in outreach
- **Grief Share** - Implement a new structure to assist leadership and help coordinators avoid burnout

Pastor Steve

Administration

Director of Administration
Ministry Leader: Kate Howell



Highlights:

It's good to be back at ALC, especially with such dedicated, supportive co-workers and Council members. The past 6 months have been a bit of a whirlwind as I took the reins from Abbie Orsburn and she has stepped into the sole role of Bookkeeper. Our excellent office staff (**Diana Colombo and Deb Kumpf**) and new Facilities Assistant (**Carl Warfel**) continue to use their impressive skills to make the day-to-day operations of the church run smoothly. I am especially grateful for their servant's hearts and flexibility, patience, and willingness to go the extra mile under any circumstances. Accomplishments of note from our admin team since July include adapting to a new color copier, new IT management service, and new landscape maintenance company; fielding calls and visits from contractors working on numerous projects around the campus; and adapting to the rhythm and needs of several new key staff members and ministry leaders.



Challenges:

With aging facilities comes the need for ongoing repairs and upgrades, and some of the deferred maintenance suddenly presents itself with very little warning. Here are just a few of the items that have been attended to since the summer:



- New A/C unit and gutters installed at The Rock
- Coordinating 3 viable vendors for the much-needed Sanctuary lighting overhaul (final bids are in the works)
- Electrical review of the Sanctuary
- Upgraded IT, and new computers for all staff (thanks to the Endowment Board!)
- Renovations to walls in both the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall
- Reorganization of the upstairs kitchen and inspection/maintenance on appliances
- New window treatments in the Activity Center and The Pod
- Installation of out beautiful new entry sign
- Installation of an ADA door operator at the Fellowship Hall entry (happening this month)



A special thank you is extended to those who give to our Capital Improvement Fund, making some of these "big ticket" items possible.

Needs:

We love and appreciate our volunteers, and we have a long list of those who serve in some capacity...but we always need more help.

Top of the list right now is a **Bus Ministry Coordinator**, who arranges the Sunday pickup/dropoff and driver schedule and notes repairs needed for our 2016 Ford Econoline.

Have medical experience and/or CPR and first-aid training – or just have a calm demeanor and a willingness to learn with training? You are wanted on our **Medical Response Team**.

Always needed are **Sunday Servants** who can commit to a few Sundays or more each year as greeters, ushers, and communion assistants.

Can you spare some time for your church family? Please contact me through the church office. "Spiritual Gifts" assessment tools are available if you would like to discover your God-given gifts!



Goals:

Main goals for 2026 include: continued upkeep of our facilities while being a good steward of ALC's monetary resources; expanding the use of our church management software (Planning Center) and taking advantage of some of its untapped features; increasing our social media presence; and encouraging more members of the congregation to give of their time and talents through volunteering in specific ministries and areas – many hands make light work.

Benevolence, Missions, and Community Outreach

Lindsey Mills



Council Coordinator - Benevolence, Missions, and Community Outreach

Goals:

- Organize quarterly community service projects for House of Hope that engage at least 10 members of the congregation.
- Train and equip ten volunteers for local evangelism efforts related to Goal No. 1
- Organize biannual and annual community service projects such as Hope Fest, investigate opportunities such as Prescott Christmas Tree lighting and the Aker Fest.
- Establish a mission education program to raise awareness about global missions and support for missionaries to include: Development of information and messaging for mission support, such as the World Mission Prayer League Development of Temple Talks that inform and excite people with visual messaging to join mission programs Create funding programs for the youth trip to Mexico by establishing close relations with other committees and groups within and outside of ALC.
- Coordinate with the youth group to develop an ongoing mission program to another country or countries.
- Work toward ALC being a missionary sending church utilizing NALC and LCMC Mission organizations as a resource including World Mission Prayer League Institute tracking programs to measure results of the above.

Benevolence, Missions, and Community Outreach**Benevolence****Ministry Leader: Tracy Uffelman****Highlights:**

Benevolence continues to develop relationships with our many missions and charities. We have had 4 of our missions and charities come to ALC for lunch. Each of the leaders of the various groups presented to the committee and our three Pastors about their particular mission/charity. This has helped the Benevolence Committee and our Pastors understand the relationship we have had and hopefully we will develop those relationships. The first group consisted of 10 10 Ministries, House of Hope, Village of Hope and Shepherds Canyon Retreat. Below is a little composite for each.

1. 10 10 Ministries is a counselling program for Pastors that focuses on the issues at hand for them and their families. They also provide opportunities for follow-up sessions. These are wonderful Christian people who combine their love of God with a vocation. This is a local ministry that is owned by Robyn and Jon Coffman.
2. House of Hope is located in Prescott Valley and provides group homes for elderly people who other wise would be on the street. This is a Christ centered ministry lead by local resident Bert Hunt. The ALC Missions team has partnered with House of Hope to visit each house on a monthly basis bringing dessert or pizzas and visit with 35 precious people living in these homes, now with hope of a better tomorrow.
3. Village of Hope is a special program for woman in need of parenting skills and life skills. This ministry may be months or even years long for expectant or moms with young babies or a mom with a small child to learn to be able to be productive and effective parents. This program is run by Lindsey Chisholm who is married to a local Pastor. The Village of Hope program is Christ centered.
4. Shepherds Canyon Retreat is a program for Pastors and church workers and their spouses. This is a week long retreat and treatment program run by Executive Director Kevin Buelmann a Lutheran Pastor and his wife Tawn who serves as Executive Assistant. SCR has fully vetted Christian Counselors who work one on one and in group sessions with Pastors and Church workers and their spouses who are dealing with incredibly complex issues of burnout and many more serious issues unique to Pastors and church workers.

Mission Aviation Fellowship is an incredible program that operates out of Napa Idaho, but covers the world delivering the Gospel, medicine and supplies as well as missionaries to very remote areas of the world. ALC hosted a virtual reality flight

program called 'HOPE TAKES FLIGHT' that was modeled after an actual event that originated out of Ecuador and makes an emergency stop in remote part of the Amazon to rescue a young man. Who has a compound fracture of his arm. We were pleased that over 100 ALC members were able to partake in the flight. Our youth played a critical role in the success of this program. Thank you Ruby and Izzi!

We support and are working with Pastor Ravi Mohan of Zion Ministry in South East India who works with Widows, Orphans, and AIDs infected people. Hopefully, we will be able to bring him to Prescott to thank the many supporters at ALC and also meet with some other churches that will help support this ministry. This man has been beaten, bullied and run out of towns for presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He needs our help.

Each quarter the Benevolence Committee makes sure we support our own church members such as the youth mission to Mexico to build a home, Pastor Marks mission trip to Tanzania, and a ALC members daughter for a mission trip in Peru. We also support when national emergencies such as the destruction in the Carolinas and Texas occurred. We fund through Samaritans Purse who helped with rescue efforts in the those areas. We will continue to do what we call off the top giving to help our brothers and sisters in need. Early this year we sent \$5,000 dollars to a fellow Lutheran Congregation on Kodiak Island Alaska who lost the entire roof due to a large storm that came directly over the area.

Challenges:

Our biggest challenge is getting the word out to our congregation that Benevolence is ALC's largest outreach. We are responsible for granting 10% of all money given to ALC's General Budget by our members back into our communities to support our charities and mission groups which include; Hope Clinic in Guinea, Zion Ministry in South East India, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Jewish Voice Ministry, Community Bible Study International. We also continue to support local groups some which are mentioned earlier.

Goals:

Our number one goal is for people to understand ALC Benevolence needs to focus on Christian groups that need our help to reach people. We have removed from our granting schedule groups that just took money and didn't want to be accountable or already have a large financial base. These are well funded groups that hardly notice a check from ALC. We want to be impactful and thoughtful with your money. We will continue to review our giving on a quarterly basis to assure your giving is changing lives. We strive to be accountable to our members.

Our second goal is to work closer with the Missions and Evangelism group so both are more effective sharing Gods message.

God Bless.

Benevolence, Missions, and Community Outreach

Community Outreach - Community Cupboard



Ministry Leader: Lindsey Mills

Community Cupboard

- Supported by volunteers of ALC
- Donations received from ALC
- Benevolence Committee support quarterly
- ALC continues to support the Cupboard with packers every 5 to 6 weeks
- The Cupboard has expanded its distribution via vans to areas as far away as Cordes Junction and Paulden.
- The Cupboard has reported that the demand continues to grow, and the management of the cupboard has been streamlined to accommodate the demand.
 - Meets Every Other Thursday

Benevolence, Missions, and Community Outreach

Community Outreach - Community Meal



Ministry Leader: Carol Lake

Highlights:

Community Meal Serves Every Sunday at 1:15 p.m. in the Activity Center

We have made some changes to our Sunday Community Meal this past year. Our time is earlier, serving the meal at 1:15, with all positive comments from our guests with this change. We have folks asking for assistance with gas money each week. We have wonderful congregants who donate \$10 Fry's cards for us to give away. We noticed a marked increase from 3 requests a week to 10 each week.

We now draw names for 3 cards each week, 1 card per family per month. Again, positive comments from our guests regarding this change.

We are continually reminded of the Lord's Blessings each week: how our guests interact with each other and care for one another, how our wonderful Volunteer cooks and servers give of their time and talents and how they too interact with our guests.

Thank you to many ALC families and ALC Ministry groups who provided and cooked a delicious Thanksgiving Meal. We served over 40 meals. Here are a few of the comments from our guests:

"Appreciate your service~this is one of my blessings - Thank You"

"So grateful for all the effort + love you all give + Great meals. Bless you + may God hold you in His hands and forever Bless each and everyone one of you."

Challenges:

Volunteers and guest chefs are always valued! We have been very blessed to have dedicated servants assist in the ministry.

Benevolence, Missions, and Community Outreach**Community Outreach - Connected Motherhood****Ministry Leader: Ana Ruiz****Highlights:**

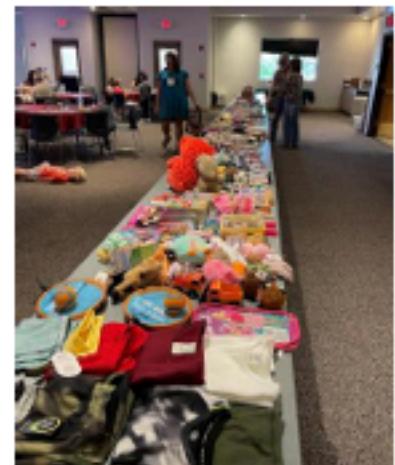
This year, **Connected Motherhood** has been blessed with a strong and dedicated leadership team. New faces enthusiastically stepped into leadership roles at the close of the spring semester, preparing for a successful start to the fall. Under the capable direction of Cari Ladehoff, the ministry has continued to flourish. Cari has provided clear communication, thoughtful organization, and inspiring vision for the group's ongoing growth and connection. She is a member of American Lutheran and wants to continue to integrate faith into the meetings and connect with mothers in our community.

Throughout the semester, participants have enjoyed a variety of enriching meetings, including guest speakers, fun activities, play dates, outreach opportunities and delicious meals—all designed to foster community, encouragement, and spiritual growth. While mothers gather, our remarkable childcare team provides a safe, nurturing, and fun environment for their children.

This year was the first year we offered an overnight retreat focused on women of the Bible with a wonderful guest speaker, dinner, small discussion groups, breakfast and activities to connect. We hope to continue to offer this to our group in the coming spring of 2026. Finally, our annual auction fundraiser was an amazing success with over \$8,000 raised for this group and all thanks to the generosity of our supporters. We will have our annual auction fundraiser in spring of 2026; we hope to see you there!

Currently, the group includes over 30 mothers and 40 children, and we hope to continue growing. Connected Motherhood remains committed to creating a space where moms in every stage of life, whether caring for newborns, raising school-aged kids, or supporting adult children—can find fellowship, encouragement, and support.

Meetings take place every other Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We warmly invite all mothers to join us in this uplifting community where faith, friendship, and motherhood intersect. Thank you to all those who support this ministry through volunteering, donations, and attending our events, we truly appreciate you.



Benevolence, Missions, and Community Outreach

Community Outreach - Prayer Shawl Ministry



Ministry Leader: Phyllis Linnebur

Highlights:

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets 2nd & 4th Fridays at 9:00-11:00 A.M. in the Library.

This year, we had several donations of yarn. We were then able to stay within our budget. Purchasing newer yarns are sometimes needed for our purposes. The donated yarns need to be sorted before we store them. Presently we are not accepting donations due to shortage of space.

- There are nine active members of our ministry who meet twice a month. There are also less active members creating and supporting our group.
- We have purchased hand looms to make some items like hats and scarves for those in need during the cold weather.
- We have continued our effort to improve communications with other ALC ministries as prayer shawls are a primary mission.

The following is a list of groups that we have presented items to. All items are blessed before distribution.

- Prayer Shawls - 8 to ALC members and non-members.
- ALC Community Meal - 14 hats total during two seasons.
- ALC Baptisms - 1 shawl for an adult, 1 blanket for an infant.
- Blankets For Kids - 6 blankets, 17 - hats and scarves.
- Stepping Stones - 8 lapghans.
- Hope Fest - 7 hats and 3 scarves.
- ALC Fall Fest - gave out 10 pocket crosses.

We appreciate the continued support of the ALC congregation and ministries for the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

1 Peter 4:10

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis Linnebur

Challenges:

Create a cohesive approach to distributing prayer shawls and other knitted and crocheted items across ministries, including WOW. Also, continue to seek the Pastor's blessings on each item before distribution.

Needs:

Storage at this time is at a premium. Yarn donations cannot be accepted due to storage limitations.

Benevolence, Missions, and Community Outreach

Community Outreach – Quilters



Ministry Leader: [Lola Dyroy](#)



Highlights:

The ALC QUILTERS meets every Tuesday at 9:00–11:30 P.M. in the Activity Center (A1&A2).

This year has proven to be a productive year for the quilters. Quilts were given out this year to:

- Blankets for Kids
- AZ Pioneer Home (retired AZ-born and retired AZ miners reside in this home)
- Good Sam/Marley House (hospice facility)
- Las Puentes (retirement/memory care)
- Liberty Pointe (which provides veteran housing and support)
- Prescott Samaritan Village (includes rehab facility)
- Warm for Winter (ALC partners up with Church of the Nazarene in providing quilts for this program)
- Yavapai Family Advocacy Center (clients consists of families in crises)
- Pastor Steve (on occasion we have members make placemats which are given to our church shut-ins by members working under Pastor Steve)
- Quilts for an orphanage in Mexico which our church member, Altha Cline, helps support.

We anticipate close to 200 quilts being completed this year (our year essentially ends January 31st).

The ALC Quilters thank the congregation and staff for their continued support of this ministry. The members are very dedicated to this mission, and we thank God for this opportunity to use our gifts to show God's love to others.

Challenges:

With the closure of Joann's, which was a major source for quilting materials, the group has experienced inconveniences with fulfilling needs. Creative use of online sources and shopping trips out of town have solved some of this problem. There have been some increases in costs as well for certain supplies.

Needs:

Always need twin and queen size flat sheets.

Benevolence, Missions, and Community Outreach

Missions

Ministry Leader: Linda Lucic Bell

Highlights:

LOCAL MISSIONS

Hope House – the Mission Committee voted to make the residents of Hope House a priority by serving them quarterly with cakes, coffee and accompanied with laughter, fellowship and Bingo! Linda Bush, our Coordinator for Hope House, planned Christmas dinner for all 30 residents last Christmas AND this Christmas. A pizza party was organized for Valentine's Day and Linda made sure we celebrated special events with each of the 30 residents with caring visits and goodies to eat!

Dental Clinic – Constant Lu organized our second Dental Clinic at ALC involving local dentists, hygienists and 25 volunteers. It was very successful with 49 people receiving fillings, cleanings, crowns and badly needed x-rays. Our Mission Committee voted to make the Dental Clinic an annual event.

Mission Aviation Fellowship – Tracy Uffelman headed up a very successful virtual Reality air adventure with over 100 participants participating. They experienced with the MAF pilots do to bring supplies and the gospel at the same time. WOW – it was an amazing adventure. A big thank you to Tracy for informing people of the importance of MAF and our continued support.

Hope Fest – Many thanks to Cathy Petzoldt for spearheading the Hope Fest. We had 60 children's bibles which were all given away. In addition to socks, there were other donated religious books plus personal care toiletries, little bags filled with crosses and sweets.

A heartfelt thank you to the following individuals:

Cathy Petzoldt who organized the event--her first time!

Dave McKee and Denny Larson who set up the tables and pop-up tents and brought many of the items for our tables.

Booth volunteers: Catherine and Alan Markham; Tracy and Donna Uffelman; Pope and Linda Bell; Milton and Linda Hanson; Linda Rossman; Brenda Keith

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Zion Ministries – ALC continues to support Pastor Ravi in India as he brings relief and the gospel to the widows and orphans in his area. Pastor Ravi is also tutoring six men in a study of John.

Tanzania Missions – Pastor Mark led a mission trip to Tanzania with seven others. They specifically ministered to Courage House, a faith based organization that rescues girls who have survived human trafficking. Pastor Mark and his team helped lead a vacation Bible school for three days for 50 girls, utilizing art supplies and crafts donated by ALC. Classes in health, oral hygiene and anger management were supported by 20 suitcases from ALC. Courage House is a long term therapeutic residential home where the girls are provided with food, clothing, education, counselors and medical care. We praise God that our team from ALC ministered God's Word and HIS love to the girls at Courage House!

Israel – Pope and Linda Lucic-Bell went to Israel with a team of 27 through Messianic Dance Camps International. We went to encourage and support the Messianic Jews in Israel through prayers, dance and charitable giving. We prayed with several IDF soldiers who were amazed and encouraged that we would come in a time of war! We danced at the Garden Tomb of Christ and several areas all over Israel to bring encouragement. On many occasions, the Israeli community would join us in dance. Probably the most memorable dance was at the Nove site wearing our orange t-shirts in memory of the two red-haired children that Hamas captured and killed. The greatest joy was celebrated on the day the hostages were released. All Israel rejoiced on every street corner with songs, dances and loud praises! Praise God we were there for such as a time as this!

South Asia Community Bible Study International – ALC supports these countries in South Asia: India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Buton, Bangladesh and Singapore. This year Linda Lucic-Bell attended the 50th anniversary of Community Bible Study in Colorado Springs CO. It was an incredible conference with 60 countries represented out of the 127 countries that CBS serves with 400 leaders worldwide attending out of 77,000 worldwide. The greatest number was 1.2 million now being reached with God's Word translated into their native tongues. The greatest outreach in South Asia is called spoken CBS. It is a program designed for people who cannot read. Leaders go through an extensive 24 hour training in order to be able to tell the many stories and parables in God's Word. The leader must memorize the verses verbatim. The leader cannot add or subtract from the verses. The number of CBS participants are doubling because of this program!

Hope Clinic – Our West African Mission continues to support the isolated Africans with diverse surgeries. Samaritan's Purse has now put Hope Clinic on their list for medical personnel to choose to serve at the clinic. This is a great honor!

Children and Family Ministries

Sheryl Cossey



Council Coordinator - Children and Family Ministries

Highlights:

It is such an honor to represent our Children's and Family Ministries on behalf of our church family. 2025 was a year of change, growth, and always a ton of activity and fun within our ministries!

- **Ana Ruiz** began 2025 as our new ministry leader and quickly developed a strong team of ministry volunteers and childcare workers. Ana is a joy to work with! We are so thankful for her outstanding leadership, consistently going above and beyond, and for the strong dedication of each of you who are a part of her team, either on a regular basis or for the many special events throughout the year.
- Our **American Lutheran School** continues to be highly regarded in our community as the premier Christian preschool program. Our school has been going strong for almost four decades and **Lori Barbe** is in her 18th year as Director. Lori ensures that instilling a love for Jesus is the "core curriculum" of each and every day for our children at preschool.
- Ana and Lori work together to include and involve our American Lutheran School children and families in our church family, both for our special events such as Vacation Bible School & Fall Fest, and also on a regular basis in our Sunday School, Coffee Cart fellowship and mid-week Later Gator classes.
- Our multi-use children's wing downstairs has been brightened this year with decor updates and changes. Our preschool gifted our space with beautiful new bathroom and kitchen flooring and counters, Ana and Lori updated hall decor, and fresh paint and blinds are in our Sunday School rooms. It is a welcoming and warm space, always a hub of happy voices and activity! We invite you to visit on a Sunday morning, and . . .
- **We invite you to spread the word about the love our church has for children and families!**

Children and Family Ministries

American Lutheran School



Ministry Leader: Lori Barbe



Highlights:

American Lutheran School - A Year of Growth and Gratitude!

American Lutheran School has been an outreach and ministry of American Lutheran Church for **37 years**. We are an intentional, Christ-centered enrichment program, pouring the love of Jesus into the families we serve. We use a classical education model to foster readiness, curiosity, and a lifelong love of learning in preparation for elementary school.

This year, we are blessed with 60 students across 6 wonderful classes.

Here are some highlights of what God is doing through our school community this year:

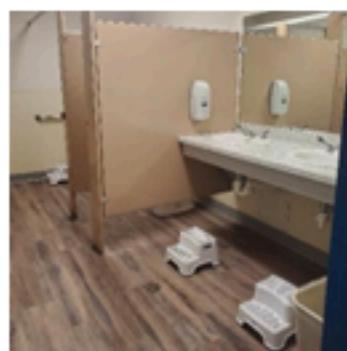
1. Updating our Space: Thanks to the Bulb Sale!

We want to thank the congregation for your continued and generous support of our annual Bulb Sale Fundraiser.

Goal Achieved! Thanks to your commitment, we successfully reached our fundraising goal and have completed much-needed updates to the children's wing bathrooms, hallways, and kitchen. We are looking bright, fresh, and truly "spiffy!"



2024 Before



2025 After



(We encourage you to stop by and see the beautiful results of your generosity!)

2. Hands and Feet of Jesus: Our Service Projects

At American Lutheran School, we believe it is vital to instill a heart for giving back, even at the preschool level. Our service projects teach our students how they can be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world:

- **Operation Christmas Child:** Every class participated in this meaningful project, packing gifts and praying for children in another country.
- **Neighborhood Outreach:** We love connecting with our local community! This year, we had wonderful visits, including:
 - Inviting the **Las Fuentes residents** to join us for a fun morning in our "pumpkin patch."
 - Participating in a festive costume parade at **Prescott Village**

**Both activities were deeply appreciated
and provided cherished intergenerational moments!**



Operation Christmas Child



Pumpkin Patch



Costume Parade

3. Celebrating Our Dedicated Pre-K Staff

We are incredibly blessed to highlight the remarkable longevity and dedication of our Pre-K teaching staff.

A special acknowledgement goes to:

- **Mrs. Darcel DuBord: 19 years** of faithful service.
- **Mrs. Charity Huard: 18 years** of faithful service.

These two women are the cornerstone of our program. For nearly two decades, they have consistently taught our little learners about Jesus while expertly preparing them for kindergarten. Their commitment is truly invaluable.



Darcel DuBord



Charity Huard

♥ A Note to Thrivent Members

If you are a Thrivent Member, please keep American Lutheran School in mind when directing your **Thrivent Choice dollars!** Your designation makes a real difference in supporting our mission.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support!

Children and Family Ministries**Sunday School****Ministry Leader: Ana Ruiz****Highlights:**

This year has been such a learning experience for me and working alongside all of you has been such a blessing in my life. I could not be more thankful for the opportunity, trust and love that you all have given me since taking on this role a year ago. I have learned so much this year and with God's grace and your help, there have been amazing things happening within our Children's and Families ministries.

Here is a year's recap of just *some* of the wonderful things that happened this year.

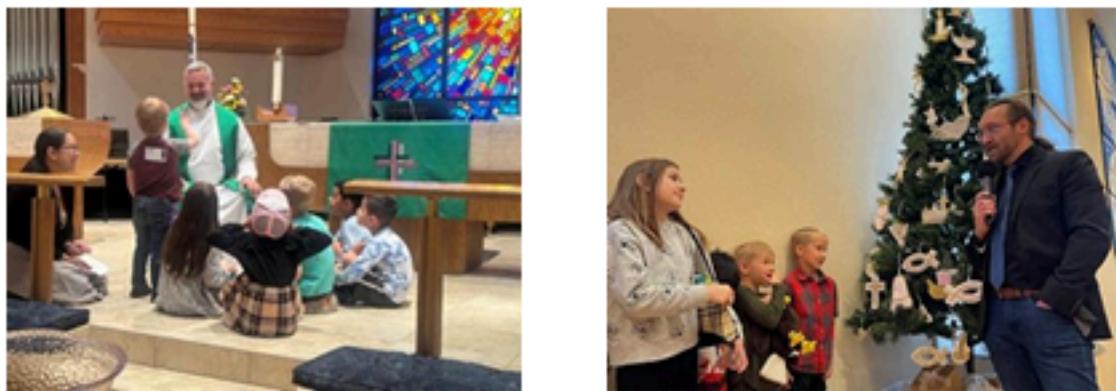
Sunday School has continued to thrive with the help of our volunteers who consistently show up to teach and assist during our children's messages and in the classrooms. Our summer was full of fun water play, Bible games and trivia, dress-up fun and so much more. Our Fall kick-off was well attended. Parents and volunteers learned what the year had in store for them, safety procedures, had an overview of our curriculum and were able to ask questions regarding our Sunday School Program.



Our Sunday School kids and other families had a wonderful day full of crafts, learning about the stations of the cross and egg hunting fun during Easter. Thanks to the generous Easter egg donations from the congregation, our Easter celebration was a huge success. Thank you to all those who donated or volunteered their time for this ministry; it truly makes a difference.



Children's Messages began in September, with one message on the Traditional side every second Sunday of the month and one on the Contemporary side every fourth Sunday of the month. Mark, Steve, Christian and Jeremy have been amazing at delivering these messages to our kids, we truly appreciate it.



Children and Family Ministries

Family Ministry

Ministry Leader: Ana Ruiz



Highlights:

We can't forget **the updates to The Pod** that were made throughout the year. Painting was done during the summer for both Sunday School rooms and the Children's Ministry office. New blinds were installed in late August.



We had multiple **fundraisers** throughout the year with the youth where many people came to support the children and youth ministries. The Bingo and Spaghetti dinners were wonderfully well attended, and we were able to do so much throughout the year with the funds raised. Thank you to all those who donated and attended.

Vacation Bible School was such a great time where over 300 children and volunteers come together to explore the wonders of the book of Matthew and how to trust Jesus in this wild world. Every corner of our church was used for this event, with different rooms used as classrooms, decorations down hallways, Fellowship Hall used for lessons, singing and dancing and our outdoor areas being used for games and bounce houses. So many kids from our community were able to learn about the wonders of Jesus and how they are not alone in this world. Plus, over \$2,000 was raised during this week for our church summer mission trip to Tanzania. A huge shoutout to all those who came to help with this event and for anyone who donated anything big or small.



Fall Fest was a wonderful time to come together as a church and show our community what American Lutheran has to offer. There were multiple ministries that ran booths and so many congregational members who volunteered their time, energy and resources to make this event a success. Barbara and her team did an amazing job cooking for this event. Thanks to everyone's hard work we were able to welcome over 250 people through our upper parking lot.



Christmas Breakfast and Mercado was well attended and so many volunteers came to help with this event. There were over 100 people in attendance and so many gifts were available for the kiddos to 'shop' for their family members.



Again, thank you, words cannot describe how much I enjoy being part of the ALC team and getting to know all of you. Here's to another amazing year.

"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." -Philippians 4:13

Children and Family Ministries

Later Gators

Ministry Leader: Ana Ruiz



Highlights:

Later Gators has continued to grow! This year we had our largest number of preschoolers registered with 19 Later Gators attending a fun Bible-based learning time from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. This program takes place for approximately 6 months between fall break and spring break.



Children and Family Ministries

Coffee Cart

Ministry Leader: Ana Ruiz



Highlights:

The coffee cart ministry did a wonderful job reaching out to preschool families and getting to know them better. Many parents look forward to this, as parents get a chance to talk and kids get to play in a safe environment in our lower grass area.



Medical Response Team

Tracy Uffelman



Council Officer - Vice President

Highlights:

The Council approved a new Charter establishing a Medical Emergency Response Team composed of trained and qualified volunteers to respond to medical emergencies during church services and events. Recruitment is underway, with the goal of having the team fully operational in 2026.

Needs:

The Medical Emergency Response program is a new ministry and requires volunteers to serve during ALC worship services and church events. Medical experience is helpful but not required, as training will be provided.

Goals:

To recruit and train a sufficient number of volunteers to support a safe and effective Medical Emergency Response Team.

Membership Growth and Support

Renee Grojean



Council Coordinator - Membership Growth and Support

Highlights:

Membership Growth and Support expanded its scope in 2025.

A Hospitality Ministry was initiated which transferred the food service duties from paid personnel to full-volunteer activity. This gave the church significant savings to dedicated to other ministries while maintaining service levels. Under the leadership of Paula Johnson, Sunday morning coffee and treats continued each week. The Special Events team, led by Barbara McLean, provide meals for two What We Believe classes, two New Member dinners, the Fall Fest chili dinner and lunch to both the volunteers and guests at the Free Dental Clinic. Shirley Urie headed up memorial receptions, which assisted families or provided refreshments at numerous events during the year. The Hospitality Ministry also reorganized the church's main kitchen and pantry so that it would function more efficiently for all who used them. More volunteers are needed to sustain this ministry.

For the first time in many years, ALC participated in both the Veteran's Day Parade and Christmas Parade. Dedicated teams worked with the city, and designed/decorated the floats. We deeply appreciate the loan of tractors, trailers and trucks, making our float entries possible. To build on this presence in the community in 2026, we encourage the participation of more ALC members and friends.

In addition to the above new ministries, Membership Growth and Support represents several ongoing ministries:

GriefShare continued to support those experiencing the loss of dear ones. The team facilitated two 13-week sessions (Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter), in addition to two "Surviving the Holidays" classes. Plans are underway for the Spring/Summer 2026 sessions.

Faith in Action (FIA) continued to minister to those on the prayer lists and homebound through cards and letters. The team supported numerous memorial services and helped with the setup/cleanup of the Fellowship Hall for special events such as our New Member dinners.

The Care Partners ongoing mission is to call, visit and delivered communion to those who are unable to attend church.

First Friday potluck dinners continued to serve up food, fun and fellowship 2025. The evenings typically feature an assortment of homemade dinner items, a Bible-based game or ice-breaker discussion and a hymn sing. All are welcome!

Membership and Growth and Support was an active participant in Fall Fest, The ALC community outreach. The Hospitality Ministry treated children (and adults) to flavored snow cones and the Faith in Action team hosted its annual Cupcake Walk.

Lastly, Membership Growth and Support made a concerted effort to encourage our new members to become active in ALC and its ministries. Sponsors were assigned and ministry leaders were asked to personally reach out to the new members, based on their expressed interests. Membership Growth and Support will continue to strive for greater membership involvement in church ministries using technology available through the Planning Center app.

Membership Growth and Support

Care Partners

Ministry Leader: Pastor Steve Balog



Highlights:

The Care Partners met on December 9 to review the status of those currently being visited and make new assignments. We also discussed how the team could support Pastor Steve in the weeks ahead. Eight were in attendance. The next meeting is scheduled for February 9th at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Membership Growth and Support

Faith In Action



Ministry Leader: Kris Foster

Highlights:

Faith in Action sent cards of caring in response to 222 prayer requests and known needs of the congregation.

We are sending 120 Christmas cards to shut-ins and others.

We assisted with the Christmas decorations and the memorial service for Elsie Lykken.

Membership Growth and Support

First Friday Potluck



Ministry Leader: Renee Grojean

Highlights:

The December First Friday Potluck continued its tradition of food, fun and fellowship with 16 in attendance. Please plan to join us in January!



Membership Growth and Support**Grief Share****Ministry Leader: Julie Backous****Highlights:**

Two successful GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays" seminars have transpired this season - the first November 22 and the second December 20. The December 20 seminar hosted 10 people and was led by Brenda Keith and Julie Backous. Several members of the Fall/Winter Session were in attendance. Positive feedback was received and it is felt to be a very worthwhile program.

There were three group sessions in December prior to the Christmas Break. Attendees are very appreciative of the space and time spent for this group. The group will resume January 8.

The Spring/Summer session has been scheduled to begin April 23 and will last until July 16. Facilitating will be Brenda Keith and Sharon Zuberbier as Assistant Facilitator. Subs will be Elena Engelsman and Linda Lucic-Bell. [Challenges:](#)

There are many behind-the-scenes tasks which include record keeping, planning, organization, supplies, promotions, phoning, communication, filing, copying, set-up and take down. We appreciate all who have volunteered to help in one way or another! We can always use more help.

A challenge occurred when Elena Engelsman was ill for the Surviving the Holidays November session, but we reached out to Scott Montayne, a former GriefShare facilitator/leader, and he was happy to substitute for Elena. The challenge was thus averted!

So far only three people have signed up for December's Surviving the Holidays, but we aren't very concerned as last month we had 6 walk-ins (didn't register online) and that is likely to happen again. Perhaps we should hold 1 session for Surviving the Holidays next year?

Challenges:

I can see some challenges ahead with a need for more help - facilitators, set up, phone calling, and promotion. Several of our facilitators travel and we may need help in the spring session, particularly in June 2026. The budget is a challenge and we are adapting by setting a future charge for workbooks at \$20 and offering one less Surviving the Holidays next year (2026). We have also cut down our spending on meals/snacks.

Needs:

We will need to order more books in the early Spring for our Spring/Summer session which begins April 23. However, this will be offset by charging \$20 / workbook and offering a scholarship for those in need.

Goals:

To continue to offer two sessions per year plus a Surviving the Holidays (one seminar next year) as well as a "Loss of a Spouse" seminar.

Membership Growth and Support

Hospitality Ministry



Ministry Leader: Paula Johnson, Barbara McLean, and Shirley Urie

Highlights:

The memorial service for Elsie Lykken was held December 12 with four members of the memorial reception team hosting the coffee bar.

Four new ALC members indicated an interest in the hospitality ministry. They were contacted and the activities for the three prongs of this ministry (Sunday mornings, special events and memorial receptions) were explained. To date, one has expressed willingness to help with memorial receptions.

Goals:

The Hospitality Ministry continues to need more people to support its responsibilities. If you are willing to lend a hand, please contact:

- Paula Johnson -- Sunday morning coffee & treats
- Shirley Urie -- Memorial service receptions (includes donations of salads and desserts)
- Barbara McLean -- Special event meals

Property and Assets**Ministry Leader: Dave Cox****Highlights:**

This has been a challenging year for the R & R maintenance crew and for developing concepts for building enhancements to be financed by the capital improvement fund.

Carl and the R & R team have worked closely together on many small projects, both at the main campus and at The Rock (house for youth ministries, across from the High School). Some work has been outsourced as needed; time constraints limit interruptions to the many ministries and services provided at ALC.

The Administration team has been developing plans for lighting improvements in the Sanctuary, including the transition to LEDs where feasible. The ALC entrance sign was replaced, lit from the inside, with a very attractive modern design.

SANCTUARY

The large TV monitor high on the back wall was installed, and the old wood facade was replaced with drywall. A new audio cable was run from the A/V room through the ceiling and along the floor to the organ area. The existing cable run under the floor was unsuitable for this purpose. Some downlights at the back of the room were replaced with LEDs. Temporary patches in the vestibule were removed, and the holes were filled with drywall pieces and painted.

FELLOWSHIP HALL

A team of volunteers tackled the job of refreshing the paint on the walls and ceiling. The old/ unused windows that had been covered for many years were removed, and the openings were patched with framing and drywall. The pass-through to the kitchen was also "filled" and painted. Several outlets on the stage were non-functional and have been replaced. The adjacent Prayer Room was also painted.

PRE-SCHOOL

The Pre-School administration team renovated flooring and countertops as needed in the bathrooms and "kitchen" alcove. R & R replaced water-stained ceiling tiles, changed out lighting, installed wall shelves for storage in the POD, and painted touch-ups. Other work included assembly of furniture and cabinets.

COLUMBARIUM

The water pump (fountain) and float valve were replaced. The planting along the base of the back wall was removed and replaced with newer shrubs. Lights were replaced with LEDs.

IRRIGATION & WELL WATER

We have determined that the integrity of the pipe from the well pump (located at the storage shed at the far parking lot) is compromised. Evidence of the shows up in the lower parking lot with water seeping up through the pavement. This also may or may not be the problem contributing to water damage in Jake's office. This work is ongoing.

THE ROCK

We continue to support this ministry with general maintenance and improvements. The eaves and gutters were replaced, and the front entry was refurbished.

TOOL ROOM

We continue to "remodel" this space as it accumulates various items over time. We are in need of tools, including power tools. We rely on the R & R volunteers to bring many of their personal items. Anyone wishing to donate to this cause, contact Carl or the R & R crew.

Small Groups and Discipleship

Connections



Ministry Leader: Altha Cline



Highlights:

The 36-week study of the book of Revelation by Pastor Chuck Swindoll. This study gave the 30 attendees a greater understanding of Revelation.

Challenges:

Finding facilitators for the weekly Connections Class.

Needs:

Volunteer facilitators.

Goals:

Increase weekly attendance and continue to search for biblically sound Bible studies for the Connections class.

Small Groups and Discipleship

Men's Bible Study-Crossfire



Ministry Leader: Mark Nietupski

Highlights:

CROSSFIRE

- Meets Every Thursday
- 6:30–8 AM
- Location: Fellowship Hall

Crossfire meets weekly each Thursday morning beginning at 6:30 AM with coffee and fellowship and Bible study with round-table discussions at 7:00 AM. Men, please consider joining us as we seek the Lord and His will for us through the study of His word.

Men's Bible Study-Good Book, Good Men, Good Morning



Ministry Leader: Russ Laibl

Highlights:

Good Book, Good Men, Good Morning

- Meets Every Thursday
- 8:15–9:30 AM
- Location: Parlor

Small Groups and Discipleship

Small Groups - Firm Believers



Ministry Leader: Lynda Parrish



Highlights:

Firm Believers is a Christ-centered ministry that brings together faith, fitness, and fellowship into community. As participants exercise to music, melodies and words linger in their hearts and minds--songs whose lyrics reflect Christian values and often draw directly from Scripture. Through shared movement and music, participants care for their God-given bodies while encouraging one another in friendship and a shared journey of faith. We are called to be faithful stewards equipped to carry out our callings as members of the body of Christ.

Goals:

As this ministry joyfully approaches its fourth year as an active program, we celebrate a growing community where fitness, fun, and faith come together.

Small Groups and Discipleship

Small Groups – Ignite



Highlights:

Chairpersons: Charlie and Linda Clegg

- Mondays
- 2 PM
- ALC Library

Chairperson: Linda Lucic Bell

- Mondays
- 2 PM
- Prescott Golf Club

Chairperson: Sharon Bock

- Monday Evenings
- Sharon Bock's Home

Chairpersons: Kevin and Louise Richard's

- Thursdays for dinner at 5:30, then Bible study.
- Kevin and Louise Richard's home, 642 Flora St., Prescott.
- Anyone interested in joining this small group can call Kevin at 928-277-7662.

Small Groups and Discipleship

Women's Bible Studies

Highlights:

Women's Book Club

- Meets First Tuesday of Every Month
- 10-11:30 AM



Deborah Circle

- Meets Third Tuesday of Every Month
- 4-5:30 PM
- Location: Prayer Room



Hope Circle

- Meets Second Tuesday of Every Month
- 9:30-11:30 AM
- Location: Prayer Room



Small Groups and Discipleship

Women's Bible Study - WOW

"Growing Women in Christ"



Ministry Leader: Lynda Kieckhefer

Report Submitted by: Connie Ellis

Highlights:



Regularly, the Fall, Winter, and Spring WOW sessions run from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with a first-hour study and ten second-hour classes. In the Winter 2026 session only, we will try a new pilot program where the times will be 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and will entail a first-hour format only with no second-hour classes.

WOW's local outreach projects are the Community Pregnancy Center, and Agape House. The WOW ladies generously donate to each one! The women also are very generous with the WOW Love Offering which augments WOW's budget each session.



Each session WOW welcomes new ladies to our membership. WOW's attendance has grown to pre-COVID numbers once again!

Treasure & Stewardship

Lynda Parrish



Council Officer - Treasure & Stewardship

Highlights:

It has been a privilege to serve alongside you during my first year as Council Treasurer. I am grateful for the guidance, trust, and support of the Church Council and Staff. I approach this responsibility with prayerful intention and mindful stewardship.

Highlights of the year include:

- Preparation and presentation of Treasurer's reports for Church Council meetings, the Monthly Congregational Report, and the Live Wire.
- Ongoing monitoring of budget-to-actual expenditures, bank account balances, and the accuracy of financial records.
- Review and update of the congregation's Financial Procedures and Policies to strengthen internal controls and provide clear, consistent guidance (in progress).

Goals:

Foremost, I will pray for guidance to be an effective team member of the ALC Church Council to nurture and grow the ministries so members of our church family, the community, and beyond connect and come alive to faith and the eternal relationship of life in Christ. I will carry out the tasks, duties & responsibilities of Council Treasurer to help facilitate responsible stewardship of the church's financial gifts and records to advance the ministries and programs of the American Lutheran Church to fulfill its vision and purpose.

We are called to be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to us, with careful attention to accurate recordkeeping and responsible spending. I look forward to strengthening our financial systems and reporting in the coming year.

Your generosity makes our ministries possible. May the Lord continue to bless our work and guide our shared mission to follow Jesus' command to proclaim the news of His redeeming Grace.

Worship and Music

Julie Darr



Council Coordinator - Worship and Music

Highlights:

Thanks be to our God for His continued blessings upon the many facets of worship at American Lutheran! During 2025, some of the many noticeable enhancements include:

- We have completed transition from extensive bulletin printing to liturgy experienced in print and on screen. This is a great financial and efficiency savings to our church!
- Fully staffed worship ministry roles have produced amazing worship collaboration for contemporary, traditional and occasional blended worship experiences.
- We owe a debt of gratitude to the interim leaders for traditional choral and bell choirs and to the search team that the Holy Spirit guided to our current circumstances.
- We look forward to the celebration of communion within services on a weekly basis starting in 2026. This has been a two-year goal of worship and pastoral ministries answering the desire of the ALC membership. This is accomplished weekly by the preparation of the Lord's table by the members of the Altar Guild.
- Attendance numbers have continued to demonstrate support for the worship experiences throughout 2025. Average in-person attendance has risen by 50 members, and the on-line viewers averages 150 per Sunday for all services.

Challenges:

In any organization, one of the continual challenges concerns volunteers. While it is a rich blessing to be involved in such an active worship atmosphere, there is an ongoing need for refreshment, training and appreciation of the many people it takes to run such an active ministry. By collaborating with ALC administration as well as the Council Coordinator for Membership, this endeavor will look to expand and look for more opportunities to help people realize and use their God-given gifts.

Needs:

Sanctuary lighting upgrades are being pursued to improve safety, efficiency and to complement the themes of worship services as well as special events.

Concerns over the ability of the audio technicians to hear the worship service have lead to the realization that the sanctuary sound booth must be updated. This may involve moving the A/V equipment within the sanctuary or modifying the area currently used.

Goals:

Introduce new visual worship elements (e.g., lighting) that complement worship service themes, aiming to create a more immersive experience by the end of the year.

Evaluate and upgrade sound system equipment to improve audio quality in the sanctuary.

Update the physical surroundings of the contemporary worship and entry spaces (e.g., décor, sound/lighting equipment) to improve the worship experience in the contemporary services.

Worship and Music

Contemporary Worship

Ministry Leader: Jake Madlock



Highlights:

As the Christmas season approaches, we are also partnering with our Children's and Youth departments to plan and prepare for the Family Christmas Eve service. This collaboration is helping ensure a meaningful and memorable worship experience for families in our congregation.

Significant progress was made this year in the contemporary worship space upgrading the look as well as operation: paint, stage appearance, window shades. Additional work behind the scenes included sound room and storage decluttering for function and safety.

The contemporary worship team continues to embrace a balanced approach in all our gatherings. Our desire is to offer our very best to God while creating an environment where the Holy Spirit is welcomed and our congregation can fully engage through worship and the Word. To this point, the focus is to present worshipful as well as encouraging music that supports the message of the week.

An expanding and exciting focus this year has been the investment in the next generation of worship leaders, musicians, singers, and followers of Christ. We continue to mentor and develop students and young adults who are consistently growing in confidence, ability, and spiritual maturity. This is an important part of the long-term health and future of worship ministry at ALC, and beyond its doors.

Challenges:

Our most significant challenge at the moment is our Live Stream. We are actively working toward solutions and are in conversation with a consultant who will help us assess and improve our current setup. My hope is to have a clear plan—and meaningful progress—by the start of the new year. Improving this area will greatly benefit those who cannot attend in person and help extend the reach of ALC to those who might consider visiting.

Needs:

In continuing to enhance the worship space as well as fellowship hall appearance we look to invest in a flooring upgrade.

Goals:

We look forward to the ongoing mentorship of new kingdom builders from within and without to grow the kingdom. We were blessed this year to have an intern in worship and will be continuing this program in 2026. This will be a collaboration with the pastoral ministry in order to grow a young intern in aspects of music production and worship planning as well as invest into greater spiritual maturity.

Worship and Music

Prayer Ministry

Ministry Leader: Jenni Madlock

Highlights:

Prayer Ministry – Year in Review

As we look back over this past year, we are grateful for how God has continued to move in and through the Prayer Ministry at ALC. Our heart has remained the same—to create space for prayer, encourage the congregation to seek God together, and serve our church through intercession.

United in Prayer – Monthly Churchwide Focus

Each month, we shared a United in Prayer focus and invited the entire church to join us in praying over one specific theme. It has been encouraging to see people engage with these focuses—carrying them into their personal prayer time, sharing testimonies, and aligning their hearts with what God is doing in our church and community. Nearly a year in, United in Prayer has helped build unity and intentionality within our congregation.

Weekly Prayer Stations

Every Sunday morning, the Prayer Stations have continued to be a meaningful place for people to come forward with personal needs. Whether someone needed healing, comfort, wisdom, or encouragement, our team was there to pray, listen, and stand with them. We've seen tender moments of breakthrough, tears of relief, and hearts strengthened through simple, faithful prayer.

Miracle Prayer Group – Tuesdays at 1:30 PM

Our Tuesday Miracle Prayer Group has remained a steady foundation for the ministry. Friends gather weekly to pray for healing and lift up the many needs in our church. This group has quietly supported individuals and families through sickness, crisis, and spiritual battles.

Planning Meetings

Our second-Sunday Planning Meetings have helped keep our team connected, encouraged, and aligned. These gatherings allowed us to pray together, prepare the upcoming United in Prayer focus, and stay centered on God's heart for our church.

National Day of Prayer

This year's National Day of Prayer was a beautiful moment of unity. Our team helped lead the congregation in intercession as we joined believers across the nation in praying for revival, healing, and God's guidance for our country.

ALC Fall Fest

Fall Fest was a sweet opportunity for our team to bless families in a simple, hands-on way. We prayed blessings over the children, gave them a space to write or draw what they were thankful for, and handed out little goodies. It was a joyful and relaxed time where prayer and gratitude blended naturally into the fun of the day.

Pastor & Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Covering our pastors and staff in prayer during the Appreciation Luncheon was one of the most meaningful highlights of the year. Honoring them spiritually—praying for strength, wisdom, and protection—remains a vital part of what we do as a team.

Challenges:

The Prayer ministry continues to need an influx of new members of all ages to meet ALC's needs.

Goals:

Coordinate with pastoral and worship ministries to conduct a prayer workshop to further establish prayer as a foundation at ALC.

Collaborate with traditional and contemporary music ministries to hold a Worship and Prayer Night of communal prayer and worship.

Worship and Music**Traditional Worship****Ministry Leader: Jeremy Neufeld****Highlights:**

Greetings and hope in the return of Christ Jesus!

Turning a new leaf in a ministry setting involves a plethora of changes, different idioms, and sub-cultural transitions as personalities, talents, and schedules align. I can safely announce the first six months of my position at American Lutheran Church have been wonderfully blessed with great worship, strong choral and handbell success, and supportive staff and pastoral direction. The musicianship and level of commitment of all the volunteers, both musical and technical, have further impressed upon me the heart for true worship and service to the Lord. Thank you for a great start at ALC and I look forward to where we can take the music ministry into the future!

As we continue through the season of Advent, it has been a joy to experience new sanctuary decor and treatments, hear the Advent congregational music, and rehearse towards our seasonal events. The choirs have been working hard leading worship services and building into the Advent and Christmas season. Sanctuary improvements have also continued with instrument improvements as well as the final meetings of our lighting update project.

On December 14, at both 8 and 10:30am services, the Chancel Choir presented, *Messiah Returns: An Advent Celebration*, featuring soloists, Kate Howell, Nicole Neufeld, and Bill Morris, along with instrumentalists, Bryn Cannon, Michele Pearson, and our own student trumpeter, Russell Pierre. For the event, we welcomed to Prescott for the first time, my brother, Dr. Jeffrey R. Neufeld, who performed the organ as orchestra. We also performed on ALC's very own harpsichord, a truly rare instrument, graciously donated by the Storwick's, which was repaired and made ready for Handel's music. It is a dream realized to be a part of this grand musical event, which can only be made possible due to the talents of our choir and soloists, generous gifts and monies which provided such glorious instruments, the technicians and volunteers who prepared the space, and the beautiful sanctuary in which we can perform this worship music for the Lord. Thank you, all!

Following *Messiah Returns*, we welcome back the community handbell group, *High Desert Ringers*, who will present a concert of Christmas favorites both Monday and Tuesday evening at 7PM. Wednesday, December 17, at 10:30AM, the American Lutheran Preschool presents their annual Christmas program for family and the church.

Christmas Eve Candlelight services will offer Holy Communion and be led by our handbell choir, chancel choir, and several soloists. This year, we are holding services at 4PM and 7PM to ease logistics and allow for folks to enjoy either a pre- or post-dinner worship service.

We are blessed with freedom to worship, pastors who love and preach the Word, and great musicians and singers who lead us into a glorious place of praise. May this Christmas season shine in your hearts as we celebrate the Messiah's coming and hope of return.

Merry Christmas!
Jeremy A. Neufeld

Youth Ministry

Constant Lu



Council Coordinator – Youth Ministry

Young Adults

Ministry Leader: Pastor Christian Thao



Highlights:

Our ministry called Koinonia focuses on creating opportunities for fellowship for young adults aged 18-30. This year we did a variety of activities. We went on hikes, played pickleball, did bible studies at coffee shops, and watched The Chosen in theatres during holy week. We only met in January through May this year. We paused this ministry in Fall and Winter, but we hope to resume in 2026. We will be trying some new things next year to attract more young adults. If you know of anyone in the age range of 18-30 looking for fellowship and discipleship reach out to Pastor Christian.

**Youth Group
Ministry Leader: Izi Mlambo**



Highlights:

2025 has been an amazing year for youth ministry! We are so grateful for all the time, dedication, and prayers poured into this ministry. We have successfully met several of our yearly goals, including a fall kick-off luncheon, hiring a youth director, increasing youth service involvement, updating The Rock, and starting a coffee ministry for high schoolers. We are excited to share a recap of just some of the amazing things that have happened this year.

The Rock

We are tremendously grateful for this facility. The location and space provide an ideal environment to minister to our youth and PHS students. Our goal is for the Rock to create a welcoming and safe space for fellowship and community. To best maintain the building, we have made several improvements, like installing new gutters, replacing the AC unit, fixing the heating unit, and updating the roofing. As for interior improvements, we have spent hours cleaning and organizing stuff at The Rock. Through de-cluttering efforts, the downstairs is finally a usable space with promising potential. Additionally, we invested in new chairs, NIV student Bibles, new toilets, and couch cushions.

Release Time

After 1.5 years of planning, we have started a release period bible instruction period at Prescott High School for the 2025-2026 year. Every school day, we provide a bible-based curriculum designed to grow students' knowledge and faith. There is a wonderful team of about six adult leaders and five high school students who are making this possible. It has been fulfilling to watch our students grow in confidence in their Biblical knowledge and ability to engage with God's Word.

HeBrews It

In March, we launched a coffee ministry for the high school students every Tuesday morning. Before school, we open The Rock and offer coffee, donuts, and other treats to students. We also provide a short devotion to the students and pray over them during this time. Around 30 high school students stop by The Rock each week for breakfast, conversation, prayer and devotion. It has been a joy to meet new students each week and form meaningful connections. This has become one of our most consistent outreach opportunities and opens opportunities to engage with the Prescott High School community.

Podlife

Podlife is a Sunday School space designed for 6th-12th graders that helps transition their role from children to active church members. In addition to our regular lessons, we often take the Podlife group into church services. Once a month, we take them to contemporary worship, and once a month, we take them to traditional service. Looking ahead, we plan to integrate the youth into serving regularly on Sundays.



Fundraisers and Service

This year, we really encouraged our students to get involved with all of our events. Youth students volunteered at several events, like serving dinner at the Seder Meal, volunteering at the Mission Aviation Fellowship flight experience, leading crews at VBS, and attending youth fundraisers. Furthermore, we arranged several fundraisers such as Bingo Night, Parents' Night Out, and Spaghetti Dinners to finance our growing ministry.

Youth Worship Team



Youth Group and Fellowship

We have a growing and thriving community of youth students. We meet weekly for youth group as well as several fellowship events throughout the year. Some highlights include Vacation Bible School, where we enjoyed fun and friendship with youth and crew leaders at outings like bowling, swimming, and attending the movies. Recently, we partnered with Family Ministries to go ice skating. We had a wonderful time and plan to hold this event every year. We hosted several young adult fellowship outings in the spring semester and intend to start a regular young adults ministry in the upcoming months.

Another huge goal for our youth group was to create a youth-led worship team. We are pleased to share our success in forming a youth-led worship team, which started in August. There are 3-4 high school students who have boldly stepped up to lead in this capacity. We are so proud of our student leaders!

Summer Camp

We have been working on creating a structured youth ministry calendar, including an annual summer camp. This year, we took 17 students to St. George, Utah for a 5-day summer camp. Our theme was "uncomfortable faith" where we focused on challenging the students to embrace the "uncomfortable" moments when their faith is tested. We emphasized that we, as Christians, are called to live differently from the rest of the world. A key aspect of camp is sharing testimonies. Both leaders and students shared their stories, which served as a powerful reminder of God's provision in every single person's life. In addition to worship and messages, we had a fun activity every day, such as golfing and swimming. Another integral summer camp element is baptism. Two students were baptized this year during summer camp. Every student and leader who attended had a transformative week where their faith was deepened. We are already starting the planning process for next year.

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported youth ministry through 2025!

