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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

***One in Spirit; One in Christ; One God We Serve***

October 2025

*“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” ~Luke 2:7*

These words from Luke are super familiar words. We read them every year. But we do not usually read them in October. You would be forgiven for checking the rest of the pages to see if maybe you had been sent the wrong month’s newsletter.

I invite you to think about the coming of the baby Jesus in these opening days of fall instead of the darkest days of winter. The decorations are in boxes away from the sparkle and celebration that we will give them in a couple of months. Think of the first home of our Lord and Savior, God-with-us, Jesus Christ. But instead of picturing the fancy nativity set that you set up by the pretty tree, take the time to picture the roughhewn, wooden feed box full of smelly hay. Strip the baby of his radiant, white, flowing wrappings and see the bands of cloth, the scraps, that Mary used to keep her baby clean and warm.

The passages from Luke have nothing to do with the holiday that we tie them to. They are about a greater truth, a truth that should be a part of every day, every month, every season. Jesus Christ was born among us – God with us – Emmanuel. We also must deal with the birth and death of Jesus being separated by 3 or 4 months. We tend to ignore the death at Christmas time and just forget about the birth at Easter, but they are connected and important each and every day. All of God’s promises that have been made will become flesh in Jesus and all God’s plans will be realized in the church. Whatever the season, this is the Good News, this is what we believe.

Blessings,

Vicar Kim

**COUNCIL NOTES**

* Landon Ries will be getting bids for tree removal at St. John’s cemetery. There are 25-30 trees that would be removed. He has also talked to Dean Heerdt about burying the trees in his field next to the cemetery.
* Amanda reported that Loren Meyer and Letty Henriksen have updated all of the records for the cemeteries, through May 2025. The cost of the update was $865.
* Letters have been sent out to get updated information on some of our members.
* The council voted to pay Vicar Kim’s Portico insurance premiums for the upcoming year.
* Alex and Erica Krantz will not be doing the snow removal this winter. The council is looking for someone to take on this job for the winter.
* Council officers and committee heads are: President, Amanda Morris; Vice President, Landon Ries; Secretary, Lisa Luke; Evangelism & Worship, Jeff Anderson; Property & Maintenance, David Solberg; Parish Education, Liza Bollig; Financial Secretary, Connie Wilson

**Based on the approved 2025 budget of $104,008,** our monthly goal from members is $8,667/month or $2000/week, our total as of Sept. 21 is $55,331 putting us $22,672 **behind** budget.

**Wreaths Across America ~** The 3 Ringsted cemeteries will be participating in Wreaths Across America on Saturday, December 13. Donations are being accepted through Ringsted CAC . For information on donating in honor of a Veteran contact Robin Hansen 712-363-1066 or Anita Larsen 712-363-1060

**Snow removal:** The council is looking for someone to take on the task of removing snow on the church and parsonage property this winter season. Contact a council member if you are interested.

**UDMO needs for October:** They would like to restock their diaper room for parents! They have plenty of sizes Newborn, 1, and 2 but would love any sizes bigger than that! They also give wipes to parents when those are available as well. They do not have a brand preference on these items!

**There is a benefit** being planned for Jenna Hertrampf(daughter of Tom & Lisa Hanson). The supper event is planned for Saturday, November 8th at the Armstrong Community Center. There will be a planning meeting held Wednesday Oct.1st at 6:00 pm at the Armstrong VFW. Anyone interested in helping is invited. If you would like to help but can’t be there, please contact Renata Moore at 712-260-2279.

They will also be looking for accepting donations for an auction in the near future.

**HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS TO ….**

1 – Deb Cole 18 – Nevaeh Johnson

2 – Travis Griffith Augustine Johnson

4 – Jolene Rogers 20 – Marguerite Brandenburg

6 – Jim Kacmarynski 25 – Rebecca Hammond

Larry Jensen 29 – Blake Cole

11 – Allen Fothergill 30 – Russ Handeland

13 – Dennis Minier

17 – Athlyn Black

Jacob Nicoson

Gavin Petersen

**HAPPY OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY TO …..**

1 – Jim & Kim Kacmarynski

18 – Ron & Connie Wilson

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**MC900048046[1]Nursing Homes:** Berdine Paulsen, Greg Fink - Valley Vue

Gary Clausen – Spring Creek

Russell Handeland – Good Sam, Algona

Mike Rasmussen – ASPIRE, Estherville

**Ill or Recovering:** Bill Hassel, Lyric Schultz, Patti Paulsen, Travis Griffith, Ros Gunderson, Lili Jensen, Jim Kacmarynski, Jo Rogers, Daniel Nelsen, Barb Rikansrud, Stacy Hanning, Judy Voetmann

**Our military people:** All military personnel.

The only way we know when someone is hospitalized and/or in need of a visit is if the family calls the church at 866-0881, Vicar Kim Kacmarynski at 712-298-1077 or Gayle Petersen at 712-866-1326 or 712-363-1200