

Alleluia! Alive!

Volume 6 Issue 01

January 2016



Pastor's Page

On Christmas Day my family and I went and saw *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, the highly anticipated first movie in the final Star Wars trilogy. A few days later, we watched *Cool Runnings* on Amazon Prime, the 1993 movie about the Jamaican Olympic bobsled team.

I cried at both.

I won't tell you why I cried at Star Wars, since some of you may not have seen it. But, I can tell you why I cried during *Cool Runnings* – because I was inspired. It is those inspirational stories that always bring tears to my eyes. And what could be more inspirational than a group of Jamaican sprinters who have never even seen snow making it to the Olympics as a bobsled team?

It's also a story of redemption for a coach who disgraced his team by cheating and now has the opportunity to repent and redeem himself by helping this hapless group of runners who know nothing about their newly adopted sport. Redemption stories also always bring tears to my eyes. Because they speak of our need to be forgiven, to be extended and to extend grace, to be offered a fresh start. And so I'm always rooting for the big comeback (perhaps that's why I love Minnesota sports teams!)

As I write this, it is snowing – the ground is being given a fresh coating of white, making everything look bright and beautiful. The New Year offers us the same opportunity – a fresh start, a new beginning, and grace for mistakes of the past. The flipping of the calendar from 2015 to 2016 somehow encourages us to do things differently this year as we write our New Year's resolutions -- to start over, to have a fresh start. And that's a good thing.

But, the truth is – every day is the opportunity for a fresh start for those of us who live by faith. In the waters of our baptism, we are promised a new beginning every day. In the words of Martin Luther, *every day* our sins and past mistakes are drowned in the waters of our baptism and a new person arise *daily*. We don't have to wait for the calendar to change to experience the fresh start that a new year symbolizes. We can experience this fresh start, this new beginning, every day.

My prayer for you in the coming year is that you experience the redemption and grace and forgiveness and mercy that washes over you in the waters of your baptism – that every day is a fresh start and new beginning.

Blessings to you in the New Year,

Pastor Jacqui



Alleluia! Alive!
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Alleluia!
LUTHERAN

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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!

Newsletter articles or updates should be submitted by **January 22 for the February 2016 issue**. Please send all updates and articles to Kelly Branch at: office@alleluialutheranchurch.org.



ANNUAL MEETING AND CHILI FEED

January 24

There will be one worship service at 10:00 am on January 24th in order to make it easier for people to stay and participate in the Annual Meeting. The Annual meeting will be held immediately following the 10:00 service. A "chili feed" lunch will be provided by youth who are participating in summer trips as a way to raise funds. Free will donations will be accepted. All members are encouraged to attend. Members include anyone who is confirmed. We will be voting on the annual budget, electing new council members, and getting a "State of Alleluia" address by Pastor Jacqui and the council. Please plan to attend this important meeting of the congregation.

WELCOME TO NEW WORSHIP TEAM LEADER!



Welcome to J.C. Lippold, our new worship team leader, who will be accompanying the music team on piano and leading music on Sunday mornings. J.C. spent time with our worship team throughout November and now will come on board on a regular basis. Many thanks to David Kolden who has accompanied the team over the past year. His last day will be January 10th, so please thank him for his service.

J.C. brings many years of contemporary worship leadership to this position and will collaborate with Pastor Jacqui and Mike Thorseth, who continues as Music Director, to shape worship. Mike will continue to oversee all that goes into making worship happen on Sunday mornings. With the Garage Band leading music on January 17, J.C. will begin on January 24. Please welcome him to Alleluia.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship at 9:00 and 10:30
Communion Served Weekly

Prayer Requests: Please contact the Church office or complete the Guest insert in the Sunday bulletin.

Moving? New Email? Family Status Change?: Alleluia maintains a database of all participants. If you have had any changes to your address, phone number, marital status, email, etc. please contact the office with your name, phone number and the changes that need to be made.

If You are Ill or in the Hospital: Local hospitals and clinics no longer let us know if they are administering care. Please let us know so that we can support you with prayer and with presence, 763-497-5816.

Visit Us Online! Our website is a great tool for keeping track of what's happening at Alleluia! We're just did a complete renovation! Visit www.alleluialutheranchurch.org to view and register for upcoming events, listen to sermons, and more!

ALLELUIA! MINISTRIES



BAPTISMS

Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit..." (Matthew 28:19)

- † **Charlotte Ruth Schoon**, daughter of Dustin & Saffron Schoon on December 6, 2015
- † **Grace Elizabeth Marie Thorseth**, daughter of Michael & Angela Thorseth on December 13, 2015
- † **Wyatt Nels Brenden**, son of Joshua and Emily Brenden on December 20, 2015



WEDDINGS

If you or a couple you know is planning a wedding and have questions about getting married in the Historic Church or Trinity Chapel, please contact the Church Office.

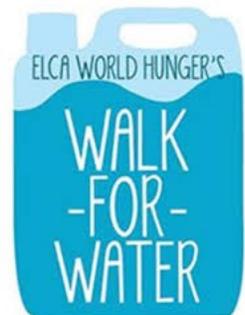
THANK YOU!

- † **To Confirmation Guides, Students, and ALL** who hosted activities at the Advent Fair.
- † **Karen Mason** for putting together the Cornucopia that was used at the Thanksgiving Eve Service.
- † **Grant Mosher** for the maintenance help at the church office - THANK YOU!
- † **Scott Giese** for picking up food and clothing dropped off at the church office and delivering it to Hanover on a weekly basis.
- † **Lori DeRoo** for ordering and arranging the poinsettia flowers for the Christmas Eve Services.
- † **Shannon Immer** for coordinating the Advent Fair bake sale.
- † **Kristin Skare** and the **High School Youth** for leading the Advent worship.
- † **Bev Arro, Jayme Lyke, and Jason Peterson** who are finishing their terms on the Church Council this month.
- † **David Kolden** for playing the piano during worship for the past year.
- † **Scott Giese** for preparing Trinity Chapel to hold the Christmas Eve service.
- † **Grant and Sara Mosher** for the use of their generator at Trinity Chapel.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who provided an offering at the December Advent worship services! Together we raised \$190.57 for ELCA Water Projects, which includes building clean drinking wells and education around the world. Together we are God's Hands and Feet!





- Christene Cin, President
- Bob Moore, Vice President
- Jayne Lyke, Treasurer
- Bev Arro, Secretary
- Aaron Schnitzler
- Curt Jenson
- Ann Ontjes
- Jen Williams
- Jason Peterson, Past President
- Pastor Jacqui Thone

Alleluia! Serving Without Walls *provided by Carol Langager*

Whether you have five minutes or five hours to give, whether you have an infant or a teen, whether you are doing well or working hard to get by — your family has a contribution to make. And in the process, you'll be teaching your children that giving back is a natural part of growing up. Make a giving plan for your family in 2016...

Serving in our Home



Make a 2016 calendar of giving. Sit down together and choose one simple service project per month from the ideas listed on the *Doing Good Together* website at: www.doinggoodtogether.org. Other great projects are listed in *Doing Good Together: 101 Easy, Meaningful Service Projects for Families, Schools, and Communities* (Free Spirit Publishing, 2010); or through the Big Hearted Families website at: www.bigheartedfamilies.org. Big-Hearted Families offers simple, fun and engaging activities for your family to live generously. Some projects are short and simple while others are more involved. Some take planning, while others require spontaneity. There are ideas to suit every family's style.

Serving in our Church and Community

Food Pantry Sunday and Clothing Drive – January 3rd!

Bring in your non-perishable food items and gently used clothing on the first Sunday of each month. Your generous donations will be taken to the Hanover Food Shelf and Clothing Closet to be distributed to the needy families in our community. Donations can be brought to the church on any Sunday or dropped off at the church office at any time.

Alleluia! Christ's List—Taking Requests! Any Alleluia! Member with a need—no matter how big or small, is encouraged to submit a request to the church office (office@alleluialutheranchurch.org) or by filling out the insert in the Sunday bulletin. The need requests could be for clothing, food, meals, housewares, household projects, yard maintenance, transportation, spring cleaning, etc... All individuals making need requests will be kept confidential. Once need requests are received, we will put them on the "Alleluia! Christ's List" for a fellow Alleluia! member to help fulfill. For more information, please contact the church office.

Prayer Shawl and Baptismal Blanket Ministry

Prayer shawls are a wonderful gift for people who are in the hospital or recovering from illness. If you have the gift of sewing, quilting, knitting or crocheting, please contact Kelly at the church office about knitting or crocheting a prayer shawl. We could also use more baptismal blankets. We have been blessed by MANY baptisms and are so grateful to those of you who have been creating the beautiful baptismal blankets.



Serving in our Community

Faith in Action Needs Volunteers

Faith in Action is a non-profit organization that works in our community. They serve individuals who are low income, socially needy, homebound, disabled, chronically ill, and elderly. FIA have several volunteer opportunities for men, woman, youth and small groups. Through your volunteering no matter the time commitment, together we can make a difference for our neighbors...and our community. If you are interested in learning more about the volunteer opportunities this month, please contact 763.263.4277.

Serving in our World

Alleluia 2016 Healing Haiti Mission Trip!

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Alleluia Haiti Mission Ministry and supporting us at this year 5th Annual Haiti Holiday Boutique on Dec 5th! Please continue to keep this team in your prayers as they continue to prepare for their journey to Haiti the week of Feb 22-29, 2016.



Consider making a donation to the ELCA World Hunger

Your gifts are urgently needed to support our church's response to the root causes of hunger and poverty. Donations to ELCA World Hunger support relief and development projects in over 50 countries worldwide, including hundreds of anti-hunger ministries in the United States. Visit www.elca.org/hunger to learn more.



Did you know...

- ...over 800 million people in the world do not get enough food each day to live healthy lives?
- ...in the United States, nearly 16 million children are not sure where their next meal will come from?
- ...about HALF of all adults in the United States aged 20-65 will need federal assistance to buy food at some point during their lifetime?

Did you ALSO know...

- ...the world produces enough food to give every living person 2,868 calories per day?
- ...the number of people living in chronic hunger worldwide has fallen 17 percent since the early 1990s?
- ...in 2014, gifts to ELCA World Hunger helped support over 380 anti-hunger ministries in the United States and 250 programs in over 50 other countries – from food pantries to community gardens, from health care clinics to job training programs, and so much more?

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY by Jen Teachout



PLEASE NOTE SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME CHANGE!

January 3 and January 24!

Worship and Sunday School at 10:00 am only

OUR
AMAZING
Volunteers

A look ahead, Baptismal medallions will be presented to children baptized in 2015 on Sunday, **February 7**. Please watch for a mailing with more information.

A big thank you to all that helped with the Sunday school Christmas program! The kids had so much fun sharing the message of the Birth of Jesus.

Questions, concerns or to volunteer with any of our children, youth or family ministries, please contact Jen Teachout at cyf@alleluialutheranchurch.org.





Confirmation will resume on **Wednesday, January 6** at 6pm. We have been blessed to welcome several new confirmation students prior to Christmas. This presented a need for another small group guide. We are pleased to have **Chris Fischer** lead our 6th grade boys in their small group!

SERVICE PROJECT/SERMON NOTES REMINDER

Lenten services will be a great way to earn service hours - watch for the sign ups to help with worship and soup suppers. A reminder that forms can be printed from Alleluia's website.

A reminder that 12 service hours and 12 sermon notes (turned into Jen by the end of May 2016) are required for all 5th-8th grade confirmation students.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENTEN SERVICES

Please note all confirmation students 5th-8th grade should plan to attend worship services beginning Ash Wednesday, February 10. Lenten services will continue February 17th-March 16th followed by family confirmation. Please mark your calendars - all should attend. The schedule will go as follows:

Soup supper - 5:45; Worship - 6:30;
Family Confirmation - 7:00-7:20pm

8th GRADE CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

A reminder that we meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the church basement. This is a requirement of this year's program.

All 8th grade confirmation students should have the mentor chosen and turned their name into Jen. Please do so as soon as possible if you have not. There will be a **mentor training on Sunday, January 31 at noon** in the church basement; a light lunch will be served. **This is a required part of our confirmation program, all students and mentors should attend the training.** Students will begin meeting with their mentors during Lent beginning on **February, 17.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
"ACT 2DAY 4TOMORROW"**

February 19-20



All ATM Youth are invited to participate in Act 2Day 4Tomorrow. Act 2Day 4Tomorrow is ELCA World Hunger's event for youth in high school. In this program, youth build community with each other, learn more about hunger and ELCA World Hunger, and take time to reflect on

how God is calling them to respond to needs in their world. We will be joining with Word of Peace Lutheran Youth for this event. More details coming soon!

7th GRADE CONFIRMATION RETREAT

The 7th grade confirmation retreat will be on **February 20th and 21st**. More info will be coming out as we draw closer.

SKY ZONE NIGHT - JANUARY 27

All Confirmation students are invited to attend Sky Zone on Wednesday, January 27. Our confirmation program consists of classroom time along with service and fun events. In place of class we will meet at 5:45pm in the parking lot and carpool to this fun night of jumping and fellowship. All students will need to bring a signed Sky Zone release and a small fee yet to be determined to participate. Drivers and chaperones are needed. This is always one of the most popular outings with most kids participating; I strongly encourage all students to participate.

**ALLELUIA! TEEN MINISTRY EVENTS
(8TH—12TH GRADE)**

ATM SUNDAY NIGHTS

January 10 & 17: All 8th -12th graders are invited to gather for devotions, fun, and growing in faith. Held at the Alleluia! Office at Colonial Mall from 6:30 pm-7:45 pm. Bring friends! Questions? Contact Kristin Skare, Pastoral Intern at (763) 245-6389.

CHILI FEED

Sunday, January 24 immediately following the 10 am worship service - ATM hosts the chili feed during the Congregational Annual Meeting. Plans for this event will be made at the January 10 ATM meeting and complete details will be provided at that time.

Adult volunteers will be needed to assist our youth on January 24! Thank you!

Contact Kristin Skare, Pastoral Intern, with your questions at intern@alleluialutheranchurch.org or (763) 245-6389

SMALL GROUPS



Study Groups

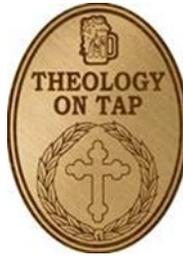
If you are looking to meet more people and grow in your faith, please consider joining a small group study. These groups meet at various days/times and typically cover short DVD or book series and have great discussion. There is also time for fellowship and fun! Please contact Sara Mosher to inquire about small groups that might work for your schedule. srmosher@hotmail.com.

Unravel [uhn-rav-uh l]

To free from complication or difficulty; Informal. to take apart; undo.

Come and “unravel” on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 6:30-8 pm. (Only one Monday this month - **January 18**) Kelly Branch and other experienced crocheters will teach you to crochet prayer shawls and baptism blankets. Open to both women and men! If you already crochet or knit, or want to work on scrapbooking or cross-stitch, or any other type of project, please feel free to join in on taking time to “unravel” for a couple of hours. If you have questions, please contact Kelly at kjbranch@comcast.net.

MAGNIFICENT MOMS Have you ever felt overwhelmed when reading your Bible, or felt as though the 66 books have seemed disconnected and irrelevant to your life? Our new study, “Seamless,” by Angie Smith will help you to look at the Bible as a whole and change the way you look at scripture. Over seven sessions we will gain an understanding of how the whole Bible – from Genesis through Revelation – connects as one beautiful, seamless thread. The Magnificent Moms group meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at the church office. Our new study begins on **January 25**. For more information or to sign up for the study, contact Joan Ege at 763-493-4156 or jege@charter.net; or Kindra Walker-Kuklock at kindrawalker@yahoo.com.



THEOLOGY ON TAP

Theology on Tap with Pastor Jacqui meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the night at 7:00 pm at the new Dunn Brothers in St. Michael. We meet in their private room. Each session will include a unique topic – so you can stop by when you can. Feel free to order your favorite beverage (Dunn Brothers also serves craft beer and wine in addition to their coffee drinks) and then join this informal conversation on topics of faith and daily life. To get on the e-mail list for the weekly topic, send an e-mail to Pastor Jacqui or contact Kelly at the church office. You'll receive an e-mail with the week's topic. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 19**.



WEDNESDAY WANDERINGS BIBLE STUDY

Wander through the Bible on Wednesday mornings with Pastor Jacqui and Pastoral Intern Kristin Skare. We meet at 10:00 am at the church office. We'll explore the upcoming Sunday's Scripture reading. This is a great way to get a “preview” of the worship text, and gain a deeper understanding of the Scripture reading. No previous experience with Bible study required. Come learn from one another during this lively conversation. The upcoming schedule includes:

Jan. 6: We all feel unclean. Jesus makes us whole (Mark 2:1-22)

Jan. 13: The Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-34)

Jan. 20: What does it mean to be Healed (Mark 5:21-43)

Jan. 27: Jesus Grieves John the Baptist (Mark 6:1-29)

Send an e-mail to Pastor Jacqui if you'd like to participate, or contact Kelly at the church office.

MORNING PRAYER



Morning prayer has been changed from Wednesday mornings to the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 9:30 am. January Prayer meetings will be on **January 14th** and **January 28th** at **9:30 am**. Feel free to join us in Pastor Jacqui's office – or send a prayer request to her e-mail.



BETTER HALVES FINANCIAL WORKSHOP

This three-week session will help committed couples understand the different ways we interact with money – practically, emotionally, and spiritually – and how that affects our most important relationships every day. As part of the workshop, couples will take the Prepare/Enrich computer inventory, which will be used in the workshop. The group will meet in Friday nights from 7:00 – 9:00 pm on **January 22nd, February 5th & 12th**. Cost is \$45 to cover materials. Sign up at the Welcome Center, or e-mail Sara Mosher.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The next Men's Fellowship event will be Broom Ball at **7:00 pm** on **Friday, January 29th**. The event will be hosted by Jeff Thone (aka Pastor Jacqui's husband), at their house at 9783 4th St. in Hanover. Come play or watch—plenty of brooms will be available. Then we'll head inside for darts/snacks/etc. If you would like to be added to the Men's Fellowship group e-mail list or to RSVP for this event please contact Justin Langager at jlanger@okabena.com.



Women's FELLOWSHIP

Looking for some time to hang out with your church friends outside of church or to meet new women? Any women interested in being on an email distribution list to get updates on upcoming ladies fellowship events should contact Carol at carolb_l@yahoo.com.

WOMEN'S WINTER RETREAT January 29-31



Do you sometimes wonder what God has planned for you? What is God calling you to do? What holds you back? Join Pastor Jacqui for a retreat at the beautiful House of Prayer Retreat center in St. Joseph as we explore these questions and more. There are still a few spots available. Sign up at the Welcome Table or RSVP to Pastor Jacqui to reserve your spot with a \$50 deposit. Cost of the retreat is \$175 and includes room and meals.

NEW MEMBER CLASS



There's Room for YOU!

The next New Member Class will be held on **Sunday, January 17** from **4:00—6:00 pm** at Pastor Jacqui's house. If you would like to find out more about membership, or want to participate in this class, please fill out the Guest Information Bulletin insert and turn it into the offering plate. Or contact Kelly at the Church Office. New Members will be received during worship on **January 24**.

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, January 24 @ 10 am

A Chili meal and the Annual Meeting will immediately follow!



Many people have questions about stewardship and how it ties into our life of faith. This monthly column is a way to address some of those questions. If you have a question you'd like addressed, send them to Pastor Jacqui.

What does it mean to “Practice Gratitude”?

grat-i-tude

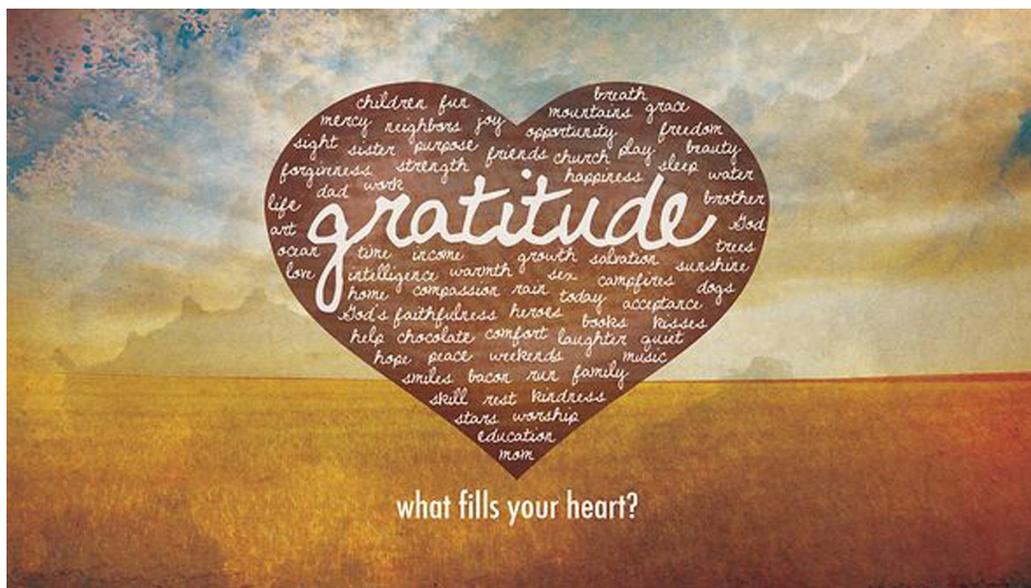
[grat i tood]

noun

the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness

Is gratitude something you just feel? Or can it be learned through practice? The truth is, when you “practice gratitude” – looking for the things that you’re grateful for throughout the day – you can develop a more thankful approach to life. Consider keeping a “gratitude journal” for 30 days. Simply take any notebook and each day, write down a few things you’re grateful for. As you continue this habit, you’ll probably find that the more you write – the more you look for things to be grateful for throughout your day. Here are few things you might discover:

1. Gratitude doesn’t always come naturally.
2. *But*, gratitude can be a learned behavior.
3. Happiness and contentment aren’t about what you have and what happens to you as much as they’re about your perspective.
4. We will never run out of things to be thankful for if we know how to look.
5. Gratitude has the ability to completely reframe your attitude for the rest of the day.
6. The truly satisfying moments in each day usually have very little to do with possessions and a lot to do with people and intangibles.



SCAN TO PAY OR GIVE

Donate from your smart phone! Alleluia! now offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone’s QR code reader!





JANUARY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2
3 Food Shelf Sunday 10:00am Worship/SS	4	5 9 am GIG Bible Study	6 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Worship Music Rehearsal (HC)	7	8	9
Pastor Jacqui on Vacation						
10 9:00am Worship/SS 10:30 am Worship/SS ATM Sunday Nights 6:30 pm (CO)	11	12 9 am GIG Bible Study 7 pm Neighborhood Connections	13 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Worship Music Rehearsal (HC)	14 9:30 am Prayer Group	15 7 pm Small Groups Dinner	16
17 9:00am Worship/SS 10:30 am Worship/SS Noon - DQ Fundraiser 4 pm New Member Class ATM Sunday Nights 6:30 pm (CO)	18 Office Closed for Martin Luther King Day 6:30 Unravel	19 9 am GIG Bible Study 7 pm Theology on Tap	20 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm 8th Grade Confirmation 7:30 pm Worship Music Rehearsal (HC)	21	22 Newsletter 7 pm Better Halves Financial Workshop	23
24 New Members 10:00 am Worship/SS (Regnier Baptism) ANNUAL MEETING POTLUCK 31 Women's Retreat 9:00am Worship/SS 10:30 am Worship/SS Noon - Mentor Training	25 6:30 pm Mag Moms	26 9 am GIG Bible Study	27 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Confirmation SKY ZONE! 7:30 pm Worship Music Rehearsal (HC)	28 9:30 am Prayer Group 7 pm Council Meeting	29 Women's Winter Retreat Men's Broomball 7 pm	30 Women's Winter Retreat
LOCATION KEY: TC—Trinity Chapel; HC—Historic Church; CO—Church Office						

Alleluia!

LUTHERAN

ALLELUIA! LUTHERAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 57
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OUR MISSION:

To actively invite people into God's family, to nurture them with Christ's love, and to send them out to serve others.

OUR VISION:

BELONG, BELIEVE, BECOME

PLEASE NOTE WORSHIP TIME CHANGE!

January 3 and January 24!

Worship and Sunday School at 10:00 am only



ANNUAL MEETING AND CHILI FEED January 24

The Annual meeting will be held immediately following the 10:00 service.

Please plan to attend this important meeting of the congregation.