



**LCMC**  
**Pastor Ethan Fearing**

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# May 2024 Newsletter



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## **From the Pastor....**

### **SCAMS**

To you, the LORD's beloved people of American Lutheran Church,

Here's the bottom line: I will never send you a message asking for money. Text, email, or DM – it doesn't matter – I won't do it, but it is something I should warn you about in the year 2024. We have, after all, seen scammers use this tactic many times in the past few years. Members of American Lutheran Church (ALC) have received messages from someone or a group claiming to be me. It's usually something like:

"Hello. This is Pastor Ethan. I'm in a meeting right now, so I can't talk. There are some cancer patients that need donations. Could you help me help them?"

Let's say you were to respond. Whoever writes these messages will then ask you to purchase cash or gifts cards, to send the numbers and information on the back, promising the money will somehow be shared with those in need. That's the scam! The money goes, not to charity, but straight into a stranger's bank account.

Here are some questions you might have and the answers we can provide at this time:

*How often does this happen?* Two or three times a year at ALC.

*Have we tried to find the person or persons running this scam?* We've been told the police can't do anything, and it would be expensive and likely fruitless to hire a computer security expert to track the hack.

# From the Pastor... (Continued)

*How did this happen?* We know my personal cellphone hasn't been hacked, because the messages go to people who aren't in my contact list. The information was therefore likely pulled from an ALC database, but the exact methods used to get around our current security measures are unknown.

*Are we the only church dealing with this?* No. In fact, several local congregations have shared their struggle with the same sort of messages.

*So, what now?* This message is a notice, a warning to not even respond to these messages. If you receive one, let the ALC office staff know. We will notify everyone we can of the scam attempt.

*Can't we do more?* We could, but just as we don't want you to be scammed out of your money, any further counter-measure would cost us all. Instead, we are raising awareness so everyone will simply ignore these messages when they happen.

Proverbs 10:9 promises this: "People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will be exposed." We trust the LORD will bring the source of these scam messages to justice in due time. Until then, let's ignore the lies and "walk safely" with Jesus Christ, our loving Savior.

Thanks and God bless you!

By grace, through faith, in Christ,  
Pastor Ethan Fearing  
320-874-0104

# Shoebox Update



**Check out our shoebox display table!**

Shoebox Workday Wednesday,  
May 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

## **SUGGESTED 2024 SHOEBOX SHOPPING**

**School Supplies** - Pencils, pens, Glue sticks, Tablets, Scissors, crayons, Markers, Notebooks, Colored pencils, Large pencil sharpeners, pencil pouch, paper clips, solar calculator,

**Hygiene supplies** Hair combs/brushes, Toothbrushes, Bath soap / wash cloths, Stick deodorant, chap stick (non-medicated) nail clippers, Nail files, wet wipes

**Clothing (sizes 2-18)** Shirts, pants, shorts, Skirts, pants, socks, Underwear, Flip-flops, sandals, Hats, mittens, gloves, Scarves, Light-weight rain poncho,

**Toys** Stuffedies, any balls, jump ropes, Soccer balls & pumps, color books, crafts, puzzles, Playdough, small vehicles, sidewalk chalk, dry paints (watercolors) & brushes, small Frisbees & sets, Jacks, Slinky,

**Other Ideas** Fishing supplies, small hand tools, compass, Hair accessories, jewelry, reusable dining utensils, backpacks,

**\* MOST NEEDED BOXES:**

**BOYS (ages 2-4 & 10-14)**

# Mission Focus – Page 1

## **Hazard Missionaries/SIM Ministries**

Thank you for your note and the ongoing prayers from American Lutheran Church. The people of American Lutheran are fondly remembered by both Dorothy and me, and you all are regularly prayed for by us.

Dorothy and I officially retired from active status with SIM in March last year though we continue on in ministry locally and through connections in Kenya and other places.

Dorothy teaches a course to women in the church on verse mapping which aids them in better analyzing and understanding specific verses in the Scriptures. She also mentors several of the younger ladies in godly living in the home as wives and mothers and is involved in other ministry work with the women in our local church. As you may remember, only just over two years ago, we were looking into hospice care for Dorothy as she was mostly unable to leave the bedroom except for medical appointments and was losing strength steadily. Then, in January two years ago, the Lord brought strength to her lungs so that she is now on oxygen only at night, able to do much more and able to consider longer distant trips. She has even started to drive again after many years of being unable to do so. She still cannot fly and does tire easily, but she has improved so much more than we even dared dream of. The disease that she has, pulmonary arterial hypertension, is one that normally continues to cause a decrease in abilities and is terminal. Even the medical people are left at a loss to fully explain why she is doing better short of a miracle.

I continue to teach various Bible classes; currently I teach a Monday evening class on the book of Philippians. In addition to teaching, I carry on with my responsibilities as a ruling elder in our local church, teaching the new members' class as well as helping teach the communicants' class to the children age 12 and above about the Christian walk and what membership in the local church means.

We both work, with limited success, to connect with our neighbors to befriend and share the Gospel with. The folks directly across the street are from Nicaragua and the parents speak little English. The neighbors on either side are a young family with three small boys on one side and an elderly man with health issues on the other. The elderly man connects remotely to attend the Bible classes I teach.

Concerning Kenya, we continue to pray for the work there and connect with various folks on different matters. We encourage and support a young Kenyan lady who is attending a Bible college and looking to go into fulltime ministry. I

## Mission Focus – Page 2

communicate with the acting Kenya Director on different matters and just this past week, I was privileged to take a colleague to the Charlotte airport so that he could fly to Kenya to check on the Borana ministry. The Borana are a predominantly Muslim semi-nomadic tribe that are closely related to the Somalis in Kenya.

While we no longer receive a living allowance or housing allowance from SIM, we receive Social

We can use these funds for ministry related expenses such as books, office and media supplies and most any expense that helps us do ministry. We can also use these funds for medical expenses which is a great help considering some of the special medical expenses that Dorothy has and really for both of us as we are getting a bit older now.

The Lord has richly blessed us through the support in prayers and finances over many years from American Lutheran. We have been and continue to be blessed by y'all (we have lived in South Carolina for seven years, so are able to talk Southern a bit).

Do share prayer requests with us, so that we can specifically pray for your needs and rejoice at the blessings as well.

By His grace (alone),

Dwight, for both of us.



Dwight and Dorothy Hazard  
2007 Downey St

# Service Group 3 – May - June

## **Service Group Responsibilities:**

- Serve for funerals on a rotating basis every 7<sup>th</sup> Funeral.
- Serve for special events occurring during the two-month period.
- Call for Ushers during the two-month period.

**Group 3 Leaders:**                    **Betty Oliver**  
    **Joretta Hinrichs**

## **Group 3 Members:**

Arenson, Karl & Beth  
Berscheit, Adam & Ashley  
Bodle, Kyle & Kate  
Drum, Kyle & Toni  
Fevig, Jon & Laurie  
Hillman, Stan & Joanne  
Hinrichs, Brad & Brenda  
Holmquist, Eugene & Amy  
Hotzler, Rhea  
Kircher, Brad  
Klinder, Marlyne  
Rach, Jeff & Roberta  
Thomas, Julie  
Warzecha, Shaughn  
Westerberg, Chris  
Wiegers, Sharon  
Young, Jonathan & Joni



# May

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2<sup>nd</sup> Jaden Evenson  
4<sup>th</sup> Brooke Ostendorf  
5<sup>th</sup> Taylor Lubbers  
9<sup>th</sup> Linda Haugen  
9<sup>th</sup> Brynlee Ostendorf  
9<sup>th</sup> Gerry Theis  
10<sup>th</sup> Dan Miller  
10<sup>th</sup> Aurora Reining  
10<sup>th</sup> Ethan Rickert  
11<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Ackerson  
12<sup>th</sup> Al Emblom  
14<sup>th</sup> Tristen Marcyes  
14<sup>th</sup> Jen Olson  
15<sup>th</sup> Julie Atkinson  
15<sup>th</sup> Kathy Parker  
15<sup>th</sup> Tom Wiegers  
17<sup>th</sup> Brad Evenson  
17<sup>th</sup> Jon Fevig  
17<sup>th</sup> John Monson  
20<sup>th</sup> Ali Barthel  
20<sup>th</sup> Ellie Bodle  
20<sup>th</sup> Woody Gustafson  
21<sup>st</sup> Ronelle Hasse  
22<sup>nd</sup> Betty Martin  
24<sup>th</sup> Kathy Guthrie  
25<sup>th</sup> Jason Parker  
27<sup>th</sup> Bob Kruzal  
28<sup>th</sup> Roger Theis  
29<sup>th</sup> Calypso Bleess  
30<sup>th</sup> Dee Gjerstad

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

7<sup>th</sup> Jeff & Roberta Rach  
8<sup>th</sup> Dennis & Betty Oliver  
11<sup>th</sup> Eugene & Amy Holmquist  
13<sup>th</sup> Mark & Jessie Berscheit  
23<sup>rd</sup> Scott & Heather Marcyes  
26<sup>th</sup> Mark & Jody Ellingson  
27<sup>th</sup> Jene & Laurie Barthel  
27<sup>th</sup> Glen & Karen St. Germain



# ALC CALENDAR MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> New 2 U Ingathering in Fellowship Hall <b>6:00pm</b> Quest Kids <b>6:30pm</b> Choir Practice <b>8:00pm</b> Deacon Meeting	<b>2</b> New 2 U Setup/Prep	<b>3</b> New 2 U Setup/Prep	<b>4</b> New 2 U Setup/Prep
<b>5</b> New 2 U Setup/Prep <b>9:00am</b> Worship Service with Communion <b>10:15am</b> Sunday School 	<b>6</b> New 2 U Setup/Prep <b>6:00pm</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00pm</b> Trustee Meeting	<b>7</b> New 2 U Setup/Prep	<b>8</b> New 2 U Setup/Prep <b>9:30am</b> Esther Circle <b>6:00pm</b> Quest Kids <b>6:30pm</b> Choir Practice <b>8:00pm</b> Church Council Meeting	<b>9</b> New 2 U Setup/Prep	<b>10</b> <b>8:00am</b> New 2 U Sale 	<b>11</b> <b>8:00am</b> New 2 U Sale
<b>12</b> <b>8:30am</b> Choir Practice <b>9:00am</b> Worship Service with Sunday School Program	<b>13</b> <b>6:00pm</b> Youth & Family Committee Meeting	<b>14</b> <b>8:15am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>15</b> <b>10:00am</b> Shoebox Workday <b>11:00am</b> Newsletter Articles Due	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>9:00am</b> Baccalaureate Worship Service with Communion  	<b>20</b> <b>6:15pm</b> Sarah Circle Singing at Meadow Place <b>7:00pm</b> Sarah Circle Bible Study	<b>21</b> <b>8:15am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>9:00am</b> Worship Service <b>10:00am</b> Prayer at Altar after Service <b>11:30</b> Missions Committee Meeting 	<b>27</b> Office Closed for Memorial Day 	<b>28</b> <b>8:15am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>9:00am</b> Audio-Visual Committee Meeting	<b>31</b>	