

# The Link

Staff Contact Information:

Church Office: 507-263-3645

Hours: M & F 8am – 4pm

T-TH 1pm-3pm

Pastor Andrew Thompson

Cell: 920-517-4020

Direct Line: 507-757-1050

[pastorandrewstansgars@gmail.com](mailto:pastorandrewstansgars@gmail.com)

Preston Parks

Office Manager

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AnnMarie Otto:

Finance Director

Direct Line: 507-757-1053

[safinances7459@gmail.com](mailto:safinances7459@gmail.com)

Children, Youth & Family Coordinator

Robin McManus

[saofficecyf@gmail.com](mailto:saofficecyf@gmail.com)

Council President:

Ministers: EVERY member of the congregation

Organist: Jane Bracken

Choir Director: Cindy Hayward

Contemporary Director: Doug Anderson

Custodian: Escape Cleaning Company



WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday Morning

9:30am Worship Service

Our Vision Statement:

"A welcoming church, focused on Christ,  
together actively reaching  
out to the community."

Our Mission Statement:

"Proclaiming God's love and salvation for  
everyone through Jesus Christ."

**Return Service  
Requested**

**Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Cannon Falls Permit #65**



# The Link February 2026

**St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church**

**[www.stansgars.org](http://www.stansgars.org) | 507.263.3645 | 7459 MN 19**

**Cannon Falls, MN 55009**

Wednesday  
*Lenten*  
SERVICES



Everyone is invited to join us for:

Soup Supper @ 5:30pm

Holden Evening Prayer @ 6:30pm

on the following dates:

February 18th - Ash Wednesday – Soup Supper

February 25th

March 4th

March 11th

March 18th

March 25th - Soup Supper

March 29th Palm Sunday—Pie Auction

# Pastor's Message

February 2026

Greetings, January 14, 2026

Peace be with you. I am excited to write my first monthly letter for the Link as the newly called pastor of St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Pastor Andrew Thompson. I grew up in eastern Wisconsin in a town smaller than Cannon Falls called Rosendale, WI. My family lived in Rosendale for almost twenty years as my dad served as a pastor at a local congregation. I went to college at UW-Eau Claire and earned a degree in music education in Fall 2019. Through working at a Lutheran summer camp and through my involvement in campus ministry, I began feeling God's calling for me to pursue a future in ministry my junior and senior years of college.

Beginning seminary at Wartburg in Iowa in Fall 2020, I lived in Dubuque attending classes residually. On the side, I worked as a chapel musician playing piano for daily services and on off days would substitute teach in local schools. I met my wife Savannah during this chapter of my life, and we were married in September 2024. Savannah is a social worker with Benedictine Living Communities. We currently live in Red Wing with our two cats, Arlo and Mazzy.

I was ordained as a pastor in the ELCA in May 2024. Previously, I served Immanuel Lutheran Church over in Pepin, WI until January 4. Following God's calling through much discernment between me and my family, I was led to accepting the offered call at St. Ansgar's. There is so much to be grateful for as we begin ministry together! The diligent work of the call committee. The willingness of the interim pastor, Paul, to meet with me and give us all a smooth transition. The friendly 'hello's' and greetings I have already received from so many of you in my first week in the office. I hope and pray that this season of 'excitement' we are all in together gives us through the Holy Spirit the clarity we need in turning towards the larger Cannon Falls community together. May the "peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" focus our hearts and minds together in "Christ Jesus, our Lord" (Philippians 4:7).

In Christ,  
 Pastor Andrew Thompson  
[pastorandrewstansgars@gmail.com](mailto:pastorandrewstansgars@gmail.com)  
 (920)517-4020 call/text

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Worship Service with Communion	2 6:30pm Cub Scouts	3 7:00am CFBC 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group 1:00pm Pastor - Text Study	4 6:00pm Faith - Adult Night 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	5 3:00pm Bombers Dance Team	6 Pastor - Out of Office	7 7:00am Men's Bible Study
8 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Executive Team	9 1:00pm Mission Quilting 4:00pm Finance Team 6:30pm Cub Scouts	10 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group 10:00am Retired Teacher Meeting 1:00pm Pastor - Text Study 6:30pm Community Outreach Ministry	11 6:00pm Faith - Adult Night 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	12	13 Pastor - Out of Office	14 Valentine's Day 7:00am Men's Bible Study
15 9:30am Worship Service	16 1:30pm Elizabeth & Ruth Circle	17 7:00am CFBC 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group 1:00pm Pastor - Text Study 6:30pm Church Council	18 Ash Wednesday 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal	19	20 Pastor - Out of Office	21 7:00am Men's Bible Study
22 9:30am Worship Service with Communion	23 6:30pm Cub Scouts	24 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group 1:00pm Pastor - Text Study	25 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal	26	27 Pastor - Out of Office	28 7:00am Men's Bible Study

*When scheduling an activity at the Church please contact the office at (507-263-3645) as soon as possible for availability and fill out a "Facilities Use Request" form.*

## Serving Schedule (Feb 2026)

2026	Acolyte	Computer	Usher's & Greeters & Bell	Sound board	Live Streaming	Reader	Communion
1-Feb	Christopher Jones	Carson Eckhoff	Tony, Shari, Bill	Doug	Eastin	Carter Hayward	TBD
8-Feb	Carly Jones	Eastin Hansen	Jeff, Maureen & Charlie	Bob	Bob	Kris Sande	
15-Feb	Rowen Bollinger	Bryer Gustafson	Megan, Scott & Donna	Doug	Carie	Deb Norstad	
22-Feb	Bently German	Logan German	Liz & Deb	Bob	Paul	Linda Henderson	TBD

### Altar Guild

Debra Norstad  
Lindsay Reid  
Barb Middaugh

### Offering Counters

February 1 Charlie & Maureen  
February 8 Kris & Deb  
February 15 Megan & Paul  
February 22 Gary & Cheryl

**As a community of faith, we invite you to hold these people in prayer this week:** Linda Rifenerick, Sue Samuelson, Cindy Hayward, Danielle Lingenfelter, Larry Duncan, Chuck Bracken & Barb Monroe .

We pray for those who have been called to active military service and for our mission partners around the globe.



## Holy Week



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March 29th  
Palm Sunday  
(Pie Auction)

April 2nd  
Maundy Thursday  
(6pm Worship Service)

April 3rd  
Good Friday  
(6pm Worship Service)

April 5th  
Easter Sunday  
(9:30am Worship Service)

We are pleased to  
welcome Preston Parks as our new  
Office Manager.

Please contact Preston at  
stanschurchoffice26@gmail.com  
or 507-263-3645

Hours: Monday & Friday 8am –3pm  
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 1pm –3pm

## Thank You St. Ansgar's Congregation!

St. Ansgar's members were able to brighten Christmas for three local children through our Mitten Tree Project. You can imagine the relief of parents as they picked up their bags of gifts from St. Ansgar's. Think of the joy of the kids as they excitedly opened the gifts which you selected, purchased, and wrapped for them. These families were probably also treated to a special Christmas dinner because of the Family Fare gift cards purchased from your cash donations. Thanks to all who made this project possible. Your willingness to help those struggling families is heartwarming!



**Music** – Jane, Cindy, Doug

Cindy had sent in the music through the end of May  
Planning through April

**Offering Counters** – New List is out. Paul and Megan are a new Team

• **Tech Support** (Streaming & Sound)

**Liturgy** – Pr Andrew

• **Funeral Volunteers** – Sue B. & Shari E.

**Education**

Children – Robin M. meeting with Pastor this Wednesday.

Faith Night – Pr Andrew

Faith Night along with Robin and the younger kids will be starting back up on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January.

Sr. Recognition – 17 May 2026

Confirmation tentatively – 25 October 2026

Bible Study Groups/WELCA – Jim L. & Cindy H.

Men's Bible Study is now up to 12 – 13

**Library** – Anne A.

**ADDITIONS**

Worship & Education Next Meeting April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – 6:30

thank you

I would like to thank everyone who offered condolences after the recent deaths of my sisters. Your words are truly appreciated! It is so good, at a time of loss, to know that so many care. Praying God's blessings on each one of you!

Bev Sundheim

## WORSHIP & EDUCATION MINISTRY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Monday, January 12th @ 6:30pm

Council Representatives: Bill Berg, Jeff Samuelson, Bob Durdahl \*Convening the meeting

Staff Support: Worship Leaders, Christian Education Coordinator

The Vision and Mission Statements were read to start the meeting.

Vision Statement: A Welcoming Church, focused on Christ, together actively reaching out to the community.

Mission Statement: Proclaiming God's love and salvation for everyone through Jesus Christ.

### **Finance Team**

Financial Update

Paul provided the Ledger by Account and General Fund Ledger to Budget Reports.

Jim L. gave an update on the year end details.

### **Holy Week**

Ash Wednesday Feb 18 – Welcome and Outreach will be doing the Soup Supper

Alter Guild will be doing the Soup Supper on 25 March

Palm Sunday Mar 29 – Pie Auction

Maundy Thursday Apr 2

Good Friday Apr 3

Easter Sunday Apr 5

Kim's replacement has started and is in training. Preston Parks

Hours M & F – 8:00-3:00 Tue, Wed, & Thurs – 1:00-4:00

### **Worship Team**

Altar Guild – Deb N.

Deb is looking into doing Feast of St. Ansgar's and continuing with St. Patrick's Day event and others possibly celebrating our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July.

Communion

Ushers/Greeters

Will be purchasing new Christmas trees this year with help from the Memorial Committee

Will be using Holden Evening Prayer for Lent again this year.



## *February Globe Offering*

The Globe Offering for February is Hope Coalition. Hope Coalition, which recently celebrated their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, is a non-profit organization serving Goodhue and Wabasha counties. It is dedicated to ending domestic violence, child abuse, and homelessness by providing community support, emergency shelter, and essential resources. *Haven of Hope* is one of their programs. It provides safe, short-term, emergency housing in a 24 bed shelter. This program also offers safety planning, legal advocacy, support groups, and a 24 hour crisis hotline. Their *Kids Count* program offers support, education and advocacy to youth ages 0 to 24 who have experienced emotional, physical or sexual abuse or neglect. Hope Coalition offers a youth advocate in the Cannon Falls School system.

Please offer your support to this organization which is working to provide safer communities. Lists of the most needed items can be found by the Hope Coalition display. Financial donations can be placed in the globe or offering plate in an envelope marked Globe Offering or Hope Coalition. The Mission Team will use this money to purchase more necessities. Thank you.

### **Hope Coalition Drive**

#### **Household Items Needed:**

Shower curtain liners

Cleaning Spray

Laundry detergent

Laundry baskets

Dish Soap

Washcloths

Garbage bags

Disinfectant wipes

Hand soap

Sponges

Towels

Hand towels

# **JANUARY 2026 COUNCIL MINUTES**

*St. Ansgar's Library – Tuesday, January 20, 2026*

Meeting Called to Order – Megan

Devotion – **Pastor Andrew – God is at Work in Creation**

Vision Statement: A Welcoming Church focused on Christ, together actively reaching out to the community.

Mission Statement: Proclaiming God's Love and salvation for everyone through Jesus Christ.

Approval of January Agenda – **Motion, Second, Passed**

Approval of December Minutes – **Motion, Second, Passed**

Financial Report – Paul – **We ended 2025 with a surplus. Finance Committee recommendation to allocate \$3000 towards the Parking Lot Fund and \$1500 to Endowment Fund was approved by the Council.**

December Financial Report:

- a. Income \$ 24,281.81                      YTD: \$236,306.41
- b. Expenses \$18,477.90                  YTD: \$231,554.69
- c. Over/Under: \$5,803.91              YTD: \$4,751.72
- d. Designated Savings/CD's: \$142,021.54 (Excludes CFBC)
- e. Designated Income: \$1,967.21 (Excludes CFBC)
- f. Designated Expense: \$3,833.68 (Excludes CFBC)

We owe ourselves \$0                      Parking Lot loan balance: \$31,364.81

Reports:

- Pastor's Report - **Received**
- Minutes from Worship & Education Committee meeting 1-12-2026 - **Received**

Review 2-month Calendar – **Reviewed with corrections/changes made**

Old Business:

- Office Admin position Update – **Preston is in his third week and doing a great job**
- Custodian position Update – **Escape Cleaning is up and running, cleaning Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Property Committee is covering snow shoveling and funeral/event set-up**
- Annual Meeting – **Meeting is set for this Sunday after church, all reports are in and ready to go**
- Budget 2026 – **The proposed 2026 Budget was reviewed and approved by the Council, to be presented to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting for final approval**

New Business:

- Lay Ministry Team – **A summary document describing the new Lay Ministry Team was presented and reviewed. Some clarification regarding consecration of the elements was requested. Pastor Andrew took an action item to edit the document and clarify how we will handle this in accordance with Lutheran doctrine and church policy.**

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 17th 2026 6:30pm  
Devotions – Volunteer

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Tony Busiahn**  
**Council Secretary**

## **End of December**

**Original loan            \$ 60,000**  
**Principal repaid        \$ 28,635**  
**Remaining                \$ 31,365**

