

The Link January 2025

St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church

www.stansgars.org | 507.263.3645 | 7459 MN 19

Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Notice of Annual Meeting

ATTENTION CHURCH MEMBERS:

Please join St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church for our Annual Meeting.
Sunday, January 26th immediately following worship at 9:30 am.



Pastor's Message

Dear St. Ansgar's family,

As we step into a new year, I am reminded of the profound truth that we are all part of the body of Christ. Each of us—through our time, talents, prayers, and presence—contributes to the life and ministry of this congregation. Together, we ensure that the gospel is proclaimed, the hungry are fed, the grieving are comforted, and the next generation is nurtured in faith.

This work is not done in isolation; it is the fruit of our collective effort, empowered by the Holy Spirit. That's why the annual meeting, scheduled for Sunday, January 26, is so important. This meeting is not just a formality—it's an opportunity to discern together where God is leading us in the coming year. It's a time to celebrate what we've accomplished, to plan faithfully for the year ahead, and to prayerfully consider how we can best serve Christ through our congregation.

As we approach this annual meeting, I ask you to take time in prayer to ask where the Holy Spirit might be nudging you to get involved. Reflect on how you can help our church continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, both within our walls and beyond.

Please mark your calendars for January 26 and plan to attend. I am deeply grateful for each of you and excited for what God will do through us in 2025.

In Christ,
Pr Kira

Committee for the Election of a Bishop

Southeastern Minnesota Synod ELCA
semnsynod.org/BishopElection



December 6, 2024

Dear Pastors, Deacons, and Congregations of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

We are entering the season for the solemn and prayer-filled discernment and election of the Bishop for the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. This packet of information is being provided to you now so your congregation may participate in the Bishop election process and prepare for the 2025 Synod Assembly on May 30-31.

You are invited to use these materials to guide discussions at your congregation's annual meeting or perhaps a special meeting at which you may choose to submit the name of a nominee for the office of Bishop. Any rostered ELCA pastor is eligible for nomination by a congregation. These materials include:

- The Southeastern Minnesota Synod Site Profile
- The Bishop Profile
- A Study Guide to help engage your congregation in discerning a candidate for Bishop
- A Nomination Form for the congregation to complete
- A Biographical Form for a candidate to complete

If your congregation chooses to nominate a pastor to be a candidate in the bishop election process, your congregation must complete the Nomination Form and send it to the Committee for the Election of the Bishop to be received before January 30, 2025. In addition, your congregation needs to notify the candidate of your nomination and provide that person with the Biographical Form for completion and submission also by January 30, 2025. Both forms can be mailed to the Committee Chair (as directed on the form). These forms are also available for online submission at semnsynod.org/BishopElection.

Here are the next steps of the election process:

- **January 30, 2025:** Deadline date for congregations to meet and submit nominations and for candidates to submit biographical forms.
- **February 16, 2025:** Conference Assembly voting members will vote on candidates submitted by congregations by January 30. No new names can be nominated at the Conference Assemblies.
- **March 2025:** Candidate profiles will be created.
- **May 2025:** Candidates will participate in discernment conversations to be scheduled at locations throughout the synod.
- **May 30-31, 2025:** Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly will be held in Mankato with the election of the bishop by ecclesiastical ballot.

We hold you all in prayer as your congregations deliberate this important opportunity to submit nominees for the role of bishop.

In peace,

The Committee for the Election of a Bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod

Dr. Joyce A. Thompsen, Chair – Minnesota River Conference – joycethompsen@gmail.com

Barb Anderson, Secretary – Zumbro River Conference – barblea46@gmail.com

Rev. Kurt Bockoven – Root River Conference – pastorbockoven@gmail.com

Paul Jacobson – Canon River Conference – mpjacobs5981@gmail.com

Rev. Kristi Mitchell – Blue Earth River Conference – pastor@redeemeralden.com

Rev. Mike Walerius – Minnesota River Conference – pastormike@oursaviorsowatonna.com

Jean Wichmann – Blue Earth River Conference – jeanwichmann@centurytel.net

<https://semnsynod.org/pages/election-of-a-bishop>

Youth Page

9/18/24	First Night of Faith Night
9/25/24	
10/2/24	
10/9/24	
10/16/24	No Faith Night - MEA Break
10/23/24	
10/30/24	
11/6/24	
11/13/24	
11/20/24	
11/27/24	No Faith Night- Thanksgiving Break
12/4/24	
12/11/24	No Faith Night - Christmas Break
12/18/24	No Faith Night - Christmas Break
12/25/24	No Faith Night - Christmas Break
1/1/25	No Faith Night - Christmas Break
1/8/25	
1/15/25	
1/22/25	No Faith Night
1/29/25	
2/5/25	
2/12/25	
2/19/25	
2/26/25	
3/5/25	No Faith Night - Ash Wednesday
3/12/25	No Faith Night - Attend Lent Worship
3/19/25	No Faith Night - Attend Lent Worship
3/26/25	No Faith Night - Attend Lent Worship
4/2/25	No Faith Night - Attend Lent Worship
4/9/25	No Faith Night - Attend Lent Worship
4/16/25	No Faith Night - HOLY WEEK
4/23/25	
4/30/25	Last Faith Night

Faith Night is for Kindergarten through 12th grade.

6pm – Dinner

6:20 – Worship

6:45- 7:30 – Small group learning

K-5th with Robin

6th-8th with Pr. Kira

9th-12th with Carie

What a wonderful Advent event after the Christmas program. Thank you to all of those who made egg bakes and banana bread, prepared crafts and treats, and for all who came and shared fellowship!



The new 2025 sign up sheets are posted in the narthex on bulletin board for: Coffee & Fellowship and Altar Flowers.



Due to the Annual Meeting, there will be NO February Link



Calling all congregational members who are or would like to become Ushers, WE NEED YOU!

Join us on Sunday, January 19th for an Ushers Meeting after worship.

We will review what an "Usher/Greeter" does, and answer any questions!

We also are looking for more people to join the volunteer group! If you have never been an usher but would like to learn more, please come to the meeting! We would love to have you!

Charlie Sabrowsky and Pastor Kira

Globe Offering for January



Valley View
Recovery Center

Our globe offering for January will be used to help the residents of Valley View Recovery Center here in Cannon Falls. The center offers high intensity residential treatment services to adult men seeking recovery from substance use and mental health disorders.

Over half of the individuals who choose to pursue treatment at Valley View arrive there with only the clothes on their backs. They need clothing! We are asking you to bring in new or gently used clothing for men of any size. Winter attire is especially needed this time of year – hats, gloves, jackets, etc. Even dress clothes are needed, as some men might need to go to job interviews or court appearances at some time. Under garments must be new and still in their package. **NO USED UNDERWARE CAN BE ACCEPTED.**

If you wish to contribute financially you can drop off your contribution into the globe on the table in the narthex or you can put it in the offering plate indicating on your envelope that it is for the Globe Offering, or write "Globe Offering" in the memo line of your check.

Someone on the Mission's Team will do the shopping with these funds.

There will be plastic tubs on and under the globe table for donated items.

Thank you all for your generosity and kind, sharing hearts!

December Council Minutes 12.17.24

St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church Library

Present: P. Kira, Bob D., Shari E., Danielle L., Megan H., Tony B., Jeff S., Jason N., Paul J., and Kathy H.

Meeting Called to Order: - *Vice President Bob Durdahl*
Minutes taken by; Secretary Danielle Lingenfelter

Devotion: *Megan Hansen*

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.

Council Guest – Kathy Hall (addresses '7e' under New Business)

December 17th 2024 Council Agenda – Approved as written.

Reviewed & Approved November 19th 2024 Council Minutes.

**Motion was made and approved for Council Members to review monthly minutes before being published in link so congregation can receive timely and accurate information.*

Financial Reporting: - *Shari Ekstrom*

Income: \$17,080

Expenses: \$25,838.51

= -(\$8,758.51) YTD: = -(\$27,258.90)

Designated Savings: \$151,951.98

Parking Lot Loan Balance: \$37,789.25

Reports:

Pastor Kira's December Report as submitted.

Received in 12/10 Business Ministry Meeting Minutes. - Discussion ensued on review and approvals for 2025 Ministry Minutes written before final publishing.

OLD Business:

Christian Nationalism & ELCA Speak the Truth Publishing Discussion

Committee Funds - Council received Executive Committee's recommendation that each committee is allowed authorization to use some of general budget

NEW Business:

Council Representative Responsibilities

Worship & Education Ministry Meeting – Monday January 13th 2025 6:30pm

Memorial Team – Motion to Table until February 2025 Council Meeting

Nominations & Policies

The Assistance Network Policy Final Draft was reviewed.

A Motion was made to accept it and was approved.

Endowment – Kathy Hall presented ‘Approved Financial Requests’ per Endowment Committee.

A Motion to accept their recommendation was made and approved.

Council Reviewed Tickler File 2-Month Calendar (Jan/Feb 2025)

NEXT Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 21st 2025 6:30pm Library

January Devotions: Pastor Kira Anderson

Motion for Adjournment / Closed with the Lord’s Prayer



How You Can Help

If you would like to receive occasional email updates from us, sign up at <https://cannonfallstreehouse.org/newsletter-signup-form/>.

TREEHOUSE If you would like to provide meals for our Tuesday meetings, sign up at <https://bit.ly/THMakeAMeal>.

ENDING HOPELESSNESS AMONG TEENS

If you would like to provide financial support you can give online at

<https://cannonfallstreehouse.churchcenter.com/giving>

or mail donations to Cannon Falls TreeHouse, 410 Dakota St W, Cannon Falls, MN 55009.

If you would like to consider volunteering in any way, contact Scott Wildenberg

at cannonfallstreehouse@gmail.com

Finally, invite any teens you know to join us Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8pm at True North Church.

Area Director: Scott Wildenberg

Phone: (507) 298-9247

BUSINESS MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Date: December 10th @ 6:30pm

Council Representatives: Shari Ekstrom, *Megan Hansen, Jason Nelson *Convening the meeting

Staff Support: Financial Administrator & Custodian

Attendance: Sue Banks, Kathy Hall, Darlene Hallanger, Curt Burdick, Paul McNamara, Randy Rechtzigel, Jason Nelson, Shari Ekstrom, Paul Jacobson, Jim Lundell, Megan Hanson, Pr Kira Anderson

Agenda Details

DEVOTION: REFLECTION FROM PASTOR KIRA

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.

Reflection Question: Our Committees should be guided by the Mission and Vision statements.

Consider how is this ministry committee fulfilling this mission and vision?

BUSINESS MINISTRY REVIEW 3 MONTHS (R) & PROJECTIONS 3 MONTHS (P)

Finance Team – Paul & Shari

(R) Financial Update 2024: First two Sundays in December saw \$7,995 go into the general budget, at this rate we will not make budget for December and we are \$20,000 behind in giving going into December.

(R) 2025 Budget Process Update: Council will receive the 2025 projected budget next week, we are looking at having to use \$19,000 in estate gifts to make budget

(P): Stewardship we have received about 55 household units in pledges. We have 215 households.

4. Estate gift funds are sitting in an account not earning high interest. The committee is suggesting Finance look at putting it somewhere to earn more interest.

Endowment Team – Kathy Hall

(R) Disbursements Update (See attached)

(R) Summary to AnnMarie for Processing Funds: Kathy will have Endowment cut a check to St. Ansgar's and then Annmarie will have to disburse funds from there.

Human Resources Team – Jim Lundell & Paul Jacobson

(R) Approved All Job Descriptions, pending signature from all employees

(R) Compensation: Salary team met to suggest 2025 wage increases and it will be on the 2025 budget proposal to council next week.

Property Team – Charlie Sabrowsky

(R) Water Heater Update: done and paid for

(R) Trees: received bill, will submit to AnnMarie to be paid out of designated funds

(P) Shampoo Carpet: Finance has suggested not completing this task due to the lack of general funds coming in and our deficit.

(P) Pews: Per Pr Kira's recommendation the Property team is ready to move one pew in the sanctuary to allow for seating of all mobility (walkers, wheel chairs, etc.) This will be done in January.

Memorial Team – Darlene Hallanger

(R) 2024 Memorial Disbursement: They are considering gifting money to the following areas: Kitchen renovation of refrigerator, cemetery sign, chalice, Halloween Party, fireproof safe for historical records, TV for sanctuary so it can be seen from the front. We would like input from people on what is needed at church.

(R) Nominating Requirements for Team Members: there are no guidelines or elections to this team. Council should discuss how they want to proceed with this, is it a team that should have elections and spending guidelines?

6. Communications & Technology Team

1. There is no team at this point. Paul suggested advertising for one at the annual meeting.

Cemetery Committee – Charlie Sabrowsky

(R) Nomination: to be made at the annual meeting

(R) Lawn mowing, upkeep of fencing and grounds has been well maintained it is ready for winter, just need to consider updating the sign

Audit Committee – Megan Hanson

(P) Audit process for Annual Meeting: to be done in January after AnnMarie closes out year end. Megan will have to step down since she is on council

(P) 2025 Audit Process (Memorials, WELCA Endowment, Cemetery, St. Ansgar's General and Designated Financials....)

Nominating Committee – Pr Kira

(R) 2025 Ballot: see attached. The committee hopes to have all in place by Christmas

January

Serving Schedule - Jan

2025	Acolyte	Computer	Usher's & Greeters & Bell	Sound board	Live Streaming	Reader	Communion
5-Jan	Volunteer	Kim Durdahl	Lydell, Megan, Scott & Paul	Doug	Bob	Cindy Hayward	Jim, Bob & Paul
12-Jan	Bryer Gustafson	Cashden Cassidy	Charlie, John, Curt & Maureen	Bob	Carie	Maxine Rademacher	
19-Jan	Kylie Sindt	Rowen Bollinger	Shari, Bill, Jeff & Tony	Doug	Paul	Cathy Hanson	
26-Jan	Volunteer	Kylie Sindt	Dallas, Linda, Kirk & Mary	Bob	Mitch	Paul Jacobson	Bob, Jeff & Tony

Altar Guild

TBD



Offering Counters

Jan 5 Debra & Mary
 Jan 12 Gary & Cheryl
 Jan 19 Bryce & Danielle
 Jan 26 Donna & Debbie



As a community of faith, we invite you to hold these people in prayer this week:

Linda Rifenberick, Sue Samuelson, Don & Darlene Sundheim, Cindy Hayward, Maureen Sabrowsky, Tim and Chris.

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

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:30am Worship Service - Lessons & Carols	30	31 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group	1 New Year's Day No Faith Night Office Closed	2	3	4 7:00am Men's Bible Study
5 9:30am Worship Service with Communion	6 3:00pm Finance Team 6:30pm Cub Scouts	7 7:00am CFBC 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group	8 6:00pm Faith Night 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9 9:30am CRC Cross of Christ (Welch) 10:00am Cannon Rivers Senior Community Church Service	10 3:00pm CF Bombers Dance Team (Mindy Sindt- Fellowship Hall)	11 7:00am Men's Bible Study 8:30am Christmas Tree Take Down
12 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am New Member Meeting - after Worship	13 Pastor Kira - Retreat 1:00pm Mission Quilting 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Worship & Education Ministry	14 Pastor Kira - Retreat 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group 10:00am Retired Teacher Meeting 5:00pm Executive Meeting	15 6:00pm Faith Night 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18 7:00am Men's Bible Study
19 New Member Service 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Usher's Meeting	20	21 7:00am CFBC 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group 6:30pm Council Meeting	22 No Faith Night 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25 7:00am Men's Bible Study
26 Congregational Annual Meeting 9:30am Worship Service with Communion	27 6:30pm Cub Scouts	28 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group	29 6:00pm Faith Night 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	30	31	1 7:00am Men's Bible Study

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

The Link



Staff Contact Information:

Church Office: 507-263-3645
Hours: M-F 8am –12pm

Pastor: Kira Anderson
Direct Line: 507-757-1050
sapastorkira@gmail.com

Kim Durdahl
Office Manager
Direct Line: 507-757-1051
sachurchoffice@gmail.com

AnnMarie Otto:
Finance Director
Direct Line: 507-757-1053
safinances7459@gmail.com

Children, Youth & Family Coordinator
Robin McManus
saofficecyf@gmail.com

Council President: James Lundell
Ministers: EVERY member of the congregation
Organist: Jane Bracken
Choir Director: Cindy Hayward
Contemporary Director: Doug Anderson

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**

