

The Link March 2025

St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church
www.stansgars.org | 507.263.3645 | 7459 MN 19
Cannon Falls, MN 55009



Everyone is invited to join us for:
Soup Supper @ 5:30pm
Holden Evening Prayer @ 6:30pm
on the following dates:

March 5th - Ash Wednesday
March 12th
March 19th
March 26th
April 2nd
April 9th - Pie Auction



Easter Flowers and Memorial Gift Forms are inside this newsletter. Please fill out your form and return it to church by **April 1st.**



← **March 9th**



Pastor's Message

“Your steadfast love, O Lord extends to the heavens,

Your faithfulness to the skies. – Psalm 35: 5

As I write this final newsletter article as your pastor, my heart overflows with gratitude. For the past two and a half years, we have walked this journey of faith together—worshiping, praying, serving, and growing as disciples of Jesus Christ. It has been an honor to share in the joys and challenges of ministry with you, and I leave this place deeply blessed by our time together.

God has indeed been at work among us. I have seen your love for one another, your commitment to the gospel, and your desire to serve. I have witnessed your generosity, your faithfulness in worship, and your willingness to step forward in faith. You are a congregation blessed with gifts, and I know that God will use you in ways beyond what you can even imagine. God's love is steadfast and extends beyond our imagination just like the Psalmist proclaims.

God is always at work, leading us forward, sometimes in ways we do not expect. As my season among you comes to a close, I encourage you to keep your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). Love one another well, extend grace to one another, and trust that God's Spirit is leading you into the future. Remember that the strength of this congregation is not in any one person but in the way you listen for God's voice, care for one another, and seek to be Christ's presence in the world.

May you continue to grow in love, in grace, and in the deep assurance that you are held by the One who calls us all forward.

In Christ,

Pastor Kira

JOIN US FOR A

ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION

**ST. ANSGAR'S CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

SUNDAY, MARCH 16 10:45AM

**CORNERED BEEF
AND CABBAGE;
IRISH SODA BREAD;
DESSERT &
BEVERAGE**

**GAMES AND FUN
FOR ALL AGES**

FREE WILL DONATION



We are asking the congregation for any help you can offer –

*Kitchen set up and/or serving and/or clean up.

*Game planning and coordinating

If you are able to help, please see or reach out to Deb Norstad.

Thank you.



**Saturday March 15th
10am Fellowship Hall
Blanket Tying for Senior Blankets
All are welcome!**

The Northfield Arts Guild presents
the Cannon Valley Regional Orchestra

English Garden

Conductor: Paul Niemisto

Performing the music of: Holst, Handel, Coates, Elgar, Purcell




Featuring
Soloist Deesa Staats
& Organist Richard Collman



Saturday, March 29th, 2025 at 3:00 pm

Bethel Lutheran Church in Northfield

Sunday, March 30th, 2025 at 3:00 pm

St. Ansgars Lutheran Church in Cannon Falls

Tickets: \$15 at the door



Message from Megan Hansen Council President

Hello congregation, and welcome to March! The month when daylight hours increase, the days (hopefully) get warmer, and we get closer to saying goodbye to winter. By the time you read this, we would have also said goodbye to Pastor Kira. I want to thank her for her contributions to St. Ansgar's. While our time was briefer than we hoped, a lot of good was done within our church. I wish nothing but the best for her and her family. We will miss them! Going forward, please remember:

As we enter this season of transition, I want to share a bit about how things will look. At our February church council meeting we had some guests from the Synod join us. They were so helpful and will be there to help guide us as we find our new pastor. While we will have some new faces leading us, our worship schedule will stay the same. We will continue to hold our Traditional services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, and Contemporary on the 2nd and 4th. Communion will also continue on the 1st and 4th Sundays.

I'm attaching some information the Synod provided us with on how the Call Process works. Please read about the different Phases we will be going through and reach out if you have questions.

Thank you!
Megan Hansen
Council President

SEMN Synod Call Process Overview for Congregations and Councils

The time between when a rostered leader announces his or her resignation and the next 'settled' roster leader begins his or her call is a special time in the life of the congregation. It is a time filled with hope and expectation, of questioning and experimentation. It can also be a time of anxiety.

The first and foremost task of the congregation and of its leaders during this time is spiritual reflection and prayer. Prayer, bible study, and regular devotions will keep the congregation spiritually centered, responsive to the movement of the Spirit, and focused on what God's hopes for this congregation and its mission are.

A Four Phase Process

The congregations of the SEMN Synod participate in a Four Phase Call Process.

Phase I: The Leave-taking/The Transition-time

At the point that a rostered leader announces that they are resigning their call at the congregation, a representative from the Office of the Bishop will meet with the congregational council to orient them to the call process. It is also at this time that information about transitional pastoral support is shared with the council in order that they might make the best decision about how the congregation and ministries will be cared for upon the departure of the current rostered leader. It is during this phase that a conversation is had regarding what it means for a rostered leader to leave well and the expectation to honor boundaries set forth by the ELCA between the congregation and the leaving rostered leader. This is also the time to celebrate the ministry that the rostered leader and the congregation have shared and the council forms and appoints the call committee.

Phase II: Self-Study Process and Ministry Site Profile Completion

In this phase, the call committee participates in an orientation facilitated by the assistant to the bishop. The call committee explores vision and ministry needs of the congregation by engaging the congregation in a self-study which may be accomplished through a variety of ways. The self-study leads to the completion of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) which becomes an integral document shared with potential candidates as their first exposure to who your congregation is. After the MSP is completed and before it is officially submitted, a congregational town hall meeting may be held to review and comment on the MSP. This is attended by the Assistant to the Bishop in call process. After final edits are made to the MSP, it is submitted by the call committee on the ELCA website.

Phase III: Interviewing Candidates/Discerning the Candidate of Choice

Once again, this phase begins with an orientation of the call committee. In the orientation the call committee will discuss its interview protocol, develop questions for candidates and prepare packets of information for candidates. It is also at this time that the call committee will elicit nominations of pastoral candidates from the congregation. When the call committee is ready to begin interviews, they will receive names of candidates from the Assistant to the Bishop in Call Process. The call committee engages in first interviews with each candidate that is presented to them. After the first interviews are completed, the call committee chairperson communicates with each candidate as to whether they will retain or release the candidate. The call committee engages in second interviews and gathers other information (including sermon and reference checks). The call committee discerns the candidate of choice and, with mutual consent from the candidate, presents the candidate of choice recommendation to congregation council. The congregation council sets the date for the special congregational call meeting.

Phase IV: Preparing for and Welcoming the New Pastor

The pastor, the council president and the Assistant to the Bishop coordinate a date for the installation of the new pastor. An Assistant to the Bishop will be present to perform the rite of installation. Congregation council and call committee plan activities to welcome the new pastor (and family) to the congregation and the community.

FEBRUARY 2025 COUNCIL MINUTES

St. Ansgar's Library – Tuesday, February 18, 2025

1. Meeting Called to Order – Megan Hansen

Devotion – Megan

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

2. Approval of February Agenda – *Motion, Second, Passed*
3. New Business - Call Process – *Pastor Barb and Bishop Regina spoke about the call process and interim candidates.*
4. 2025 Devotion sign-up (Pass Around)
5. Approval of January Minutes – *Motion, Second, Passed*
6. Financial Report – Paul Jacobsen – *Motion, Second, Passed to accept the Treasurer's report*

January Financial Report:

- a. Income \$ 31,319.53 YTD: \$31,319.53
- b. Expenses \$20,594.16 YTD: \$20,594.16
- c. Over/Under: \$10,725.37 YTD: \$10,725.37
- d. Designated Savings: \$149,754.43
- e. Designated Income: \$ 7,155.97 (Breakfast club \$2K)
- f. Designated Expense: \$2,777.90

We owe ourselves \$0 Parking Lot loan balance: \$36,821.25

Motion, Second, Passed to accept Finance Committee recommendation to transfer \$100k from Designated Savings to CDs which will improve our rate of return.

7. Reports:
 - a. Pastor Kira's Report *Received*
 - b. Minutes from Community Outreach Committee meeting 2-11-2025 *Received*
8. Old Business:
 - a. Soup Supper - *The serving schedule was revised, with the Council serving two suppers. We still need volunteers to serve on April 2nd*

9. New Business:

a. Committee Assignments

- i. **Business Ministry – Dave (Convener), Jason (Secretary), Paul (Reviewer)**
- ii. **Community Outreach – Jim (Convener), Josh (Secretary), Shari (Reviewer)**
- iii. **Worship & Education – Bob (Convener), Bill (Secretary), Jeff (Reviewer)**

b. **Worship Service Schedule – Stay as is currently**

10. Review 2-month Calendar

11. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 18th 2025 6:30pm

Devotions – Paul

Respectfully Submitted,

/

Tony Busiahn

Council Secretary

**Congratulations to St. Ansgar's New
2025 Church Council &
Executive Members**

Executive Members:

Megan Hansen - President

Sue Banks - Vice President

Tony Busiahn - Secretary

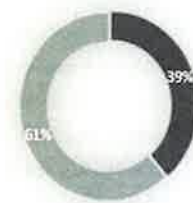
Paul Jacobson - Treasurer

**At Large: Bill Berg, Josh Dicke,
Bob Durdahl, Shari Ekstrom, David Hall,
Jim Lundell and Jeff Samuelson**

End of January

Original loan	\$	60,000
Principal repaid	\$	23,179
Remaining	\$	36,821

**Parking Lot Remaining
Loan**



■ Principal repaid ■ Remaining

Community Outreach Ministry Committee – 2/11/25 – Minutes

I. Introductions

Devotion: Reflection from Pastor Kira – Please keep in mind your “why’s” of why you do community outreach.

II. Community Outreach Ministry review- 3 months (Nov, Dec, Jan)

Finance - Paul passed out the Finance Ledger to Budget sheet

Caring Response Team -

Shut In’s – Pastor Kira has a list of those that should be visited. We will be looking for volunteers from the congregation to help visit these individuals. The Council is talking about the implementation of this.

Mission Team – Review of Globe Offering (what we gave) Nov, Dec, Jan:

Nov - Good Samaritan Fund -\$395

Dec – Toys for Tots -\$260

Jan – Valley View - \$295 (team will be shopping for items for residents)

Globe Offering for Feb will be Hope Coalition, March will be Food Shelf, & April will be ELCA Disaster Relief In May, we will consider an assistance network called Kiva. Kiva is a non-profit organization whose mission is to expand financial access to help underserved communities.

Welcome & Outreach – Review of past events & looking ahead to future events

1. Halloween Event- We had lots of kids (30-40 estimate). Everyone from the community was invited. There were fun games, good food and candy and it was mostly held inside aside from the bon fire w/ s’mores outside.
2. Super Bowl Event – Attendance was about 30-40; Chili was great, and Bingo was fun. We should do this event in the future.
3. “Together We Can” bulletin board – The consensus is it is working; we still need more to sign up for cookies after services and alter flowers
4. Lenten Soup Suppers – starts March 5 & will run for 6 Wednesdays. We have the following dates & committee/group hosts set: March 5 -Welcome & Outreach Comm., March 12- Property Comm., March 19 – Open, March 26-Choir, Apr 2- Church Council, & Apr 9 – Open
5. Easter Egg Hunt - The consensus is that we want to do this event again. The co-captains will be Robin & Danielle. We have all the plastic eggs from last year in storage and Danielle purchased 800 pre-filled eggs (filled w/ small toys) in the event we decided to have this event in the future.
6. Senior Sunday – will be on May 11; we likely will have 4 seniors. Carie is heading up the tie-blanket project and Liz will prepare the senior slide show. We may not live-stream the end of the service so that we can play the pre-recorded song and not infringe on copy-right [law](#) or we may ask Debra Norstad to sing again.
7. Quilt Team – They meet the 2nd Monday of the month. Marge Kurtz’s family donated her quilt fabric to the church, so we have lots of fabric.
8. Community Churches Interactive Council (CCIC) – Welcome to Kathy, who is a new member. There are 14 organizations that participate. The Thanksgiving Dinner went well, over 80 people were served. The Feed My Starving Children event went well. There is room for growth in funding for this. The Good Samaritan Fund gave away over \$20K to our community. We will be meeting with people from Hope Coalition to establish an outreach for Cannon Falls. Habitat for Humanity continues to do good work and they may be building a house in Cannon Falls in 2026.

III. Conclusion

Prayer for the Holy Spirit to guide us

Our next meeting will be May 13, 2025 @ 6:30 pm



Mission Projects

Things were looking bleak for five local families. One family shared that they had lost their home; another that Dad had suffered a stroke and was unable to work. Christmas 2024 was approaching and there was no money to buy presents for their children. That was when the members of St. Ansgar's stepped up and opened their hearts and wallets. The result was bags of gifts, toys, quilts, and food gift cards. As family members picked up their gifts, there were hugs and tears, sighs of relief and sincere expressions of gratitude. Thank you St. Ansgar's for making the Mitten Tree a huge success.

The Globe Offering for January was for the local Valley View Recovery Center. A carload of clothing including coats, winter hats, gloves, shirts, pants, etc. was delivered to the center. Cash donations amounted to \$295.34 and will be used to purchase toiletries and other needed items. We pray that the residents of Valley View feel your caring and support.

The February Globe Offering was for Hope Coalition, the emergency shelter for those fleeing domestic violence or sexual assault. Your donations of cleaning supplies, toiletries, and hygiene items were greatly appreciated. These items will soon be delivered to the Hope Coalition headquarters and then given to those leaving the shelter. Your financial donations will be used to purchase additional needed items.

March is Minnesota Food Share month and we will be collecting items for our local food shelf. Cash donations are also welcomed. Watch for posters and lists of especially needed items.

The Mission Team thanks you for all of your support.

March

Date 2025	Acolyte	Computer	Usher's & Greeters &	Sound board	Live Streaming	Reader	Communion
2-Mar	Andrew Rapp	Carsen Eckhoff	Dallas, Linda , Kirk & Mary	Doug	Bob	Vicky Duden	Bob, Paul & Shari
9-Mar	Louis Otto	Georgia Quiggle	Lydell, Megan, Scott & Paul	Bob	Bob	Bev Sundheim	
16-Mar	Georgia Quiggle	Louis Otto	Charlie, John, Curt & Maureen	Bob	Carie	Glenn Schulz	
23-Mar	Carsen Eckhoff	Andrew Rapp	Shari, Bill, Jeff & Tony	Doug	Paul	John Hobert	Jeff, Josh & Megan
30-Mar	Autumn Gagnon	Logan Otto	Dallas, Linda, Kirk & Mary	Bob	Mitch	Barbara Middaugh	

Altar Guild

Ann Rapp and Lydell Reinardy

Offering Counters

March 2 Bryce & Danielle

March 9 Donna & Debbie

March 16 Charlie & Maureen

March 23 Kris & Deb

March 30 Debra & Mary

LIVE STREAMING – Interested in learning how to live stream and become a producer of St. Ansgar’s services? Come in a half an hour before the service starts and we would be glad to go over it with you. It only takes a few minutes to get the hang of it.

See Paul, Carie, or Bob



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, Glenn & Lou Schulz, Marty Dettling and Marcus Cherwinka.

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



March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 9:30am Worship Service with Communion 3:00pm CF Bombers Dance Team (Mindy Sindt Fellowship Hall)	24 1:30pm Elizabeth Circle 7:00pm Ruth Circle	25 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group	26 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	27 10:00am Cannon Rivers Senior Community Church	28	1 7:00am Men's Bible Study
2 9:30am Worship Service with Communion	3 6:30pm Cub Scouts	4 7:00am CFBC 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group	5 Ash Wednesday 7:30am Courage Retreat (CF School) 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8 7:00am Men's Bible Study
9 1st Sunday of Lent Daylight-Saving Time Begins 9:30am Worship Service	10 1:00pm Mission Quilting 3:00pm Finance Team	11 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group 10:00am Retired Teacher Meeting 6:30pm Business Ministry Committee Meeting	12 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14	15 7:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Blanket Tying for Seniors
16 9:30am Worship Service	17  St. Patrick's Day 6:30pm Cub Scouts	18 7:00am CFBC 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group 6:30pm Church Council	19 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	20  First Day of Spring	21	22 7:00am Men's Bible Study 12:00pm Fellowship Hall Reserved (Jasmine Wood)
23 9:30am Worship Service with Communion	24 1:30pm Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Ruth Circle	25 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group	26 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28	29 7:00am Men's Bible Study
30 9:30am Worship Service 3:00pm CVRO Concert	31 6:30pm Cub Scouts	1 7:00am CFBC 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group	2 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	3	4	5 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

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: Megan Hansen
Ministers: EVERY member of the congregation
Organist: Jane Bracken
Choir Director: Cindy Hayward
Contemporary Director: Doug Anderson
Custodian/Maintenance: Robin McManus

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**

