



# ALMA LUTHERAN CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER

January 2021

Grace and Peace to you, from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This past year has been difficult for several reasons, yet we sunk our roots deeper into our foundation; so that, we might stay grounded in Christ and with our neighbor. The major and ongoing reason for the difficulty is due to the global pandemic that we have currently found ourselves in since all the way back in March. We were in the middle of Lent, when COVID-19 decided to rear its ugly head. Because of COVID, we had to hit pause on many of our celebrations for our 150th anniversary. As difficult as this has been, I have seen hope and perseverance in each one of you. This was new and uncharted territory for many of us. We experienced God in a plethora of ways and in about as many places too! Your cooperation and willingness to praise and worship God in new and unique ways during the past year gave way to potentially some new traditions.

During this year, I had read, listened to, even conversed with other pastors who feel that this year has shared similarities to the themes of exile or captivity in the Old Testament. Think of the lament and struggle of the Israelite people as they were taken out of their homes and into exile in Babylon. The Palmist of Psalm 137 captures the emotions of exile, while longing to return to Zion.

*137* By the rivers of Babylon,  
there we sat, yes, we wept,  
when we remembered Zion.  
*2* On the willows in her midst,  
we hung up our lyres.  
*3* For there our captors asked of us  
words of a song,  
and our tormentors asked of us jubilation,  
"Sing for us from a song of Zion."  
*4* How could we sing the song of Yahweh  
in a foreign land

I cannot say whether our next year together will resemble normality as we once knew it, much like when the Israelites finally did return to Zion. Perhaps we will still be in the wilderness. Nonetheless, we know with sure and certain confidence that God is accompanying us through our journey, guiding, leading, and sheltering us in all our days. Hear the words of the Prophet Jeremiah, "1 For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope..." We will continue to live into this hope in 2021.

Blessings, Pastor Quinlan

## ACTIVITIES

**Chat & Sew** – Meets the 1st Tuesday at 8:30am. Contact Sharon Hollst or Lana Krumpus for more information.

**Book Club** – Location and date varies. Contact Viki Miller for more information.

**Children's Sunday School** - 9:30am every Sunday except the 1st Sunday of the month. Ages 3 years old through 8th grade. Meets in the basement of the church. Contact Moriah Wellman for more information.

**Annual Meeting 1/17 following worship.**

**Book Study** January 24 following worship. It will be over Chapters 2 & 3; if you are not caught up, don't fret!

### ***\*Changes to Worship\****

As you can see, we have begun to move back inside for our regular Sunday Services. Some changes have been made to service for your and our communities safety. The first is that masks will be required. If you do not have a mask, a disposable mask will be provided upon entrance to the church. Secondly, we will be sitting every other pew when in our sanctuary, or spaced out at a minimum 6ft when in other places of our facility. Lastly, there will be minimal singing during service. This is to continue with a service that is meaningful and familiar, while recognizing that we are still in the midst of a global pandemic. As always, if you are experiencing a fever or any flu like symptoms we are asking that you stay home and join us for worship via our facebook live.



219 West 5th St.  
P.O. Box 88  
Mead, NE 68041  
(402) 624-3015

## BUDGET

### **As of 12/16/20**

Income: \$76,554.42  
Expenses: \$79,304.49  
Balance: -\$2,750.07

## INFORMATION

### **Pastor's Email**

**Pastor Quinlan Koch**  
quinlank57@gmail

### **Secretary's Email**

almalutheran@gmail.com

**Website** - [almalutheran.com](http://almalutheran.com)

**Facebook** - Search for "Alma Lutheran Church" and "Alma Lutheran Educational Ministries"

## MISSION STATEMENT

Disciples by grace, Growing in faith, Living our hope, Sharing God's love.