



Arlington Hills

LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Lights From the Heights” - May 2026 Newsletter

1115 Greenbrier Street St. Paul MN 55106

Office: 651-771-5501

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NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Our new church office hours will start in May:

Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursdays and Fridays - Closed

We have decided to decrease the hours that the church office is open during the week for financial savings. Outside the office hours, Mary Kowitz can be reached by calling her cell at 651-242-0538. She will continue to check email and voicemail from home and will be available if other needs arise during the closed hours.

This cut in hours was recommended by Mary and approved by the Church Council at their April 21 meeting.

“LIGHTS ON - THE MAKING OF IN THE GARDEN

Amy & Adams' & ace film maker Paul Krause' new film “LIGHTS ON”- THE MAKING OF IN THE GARDEN (dealing with the power of beloved music to renew mind, body, and spirit) has had almost 50,000 views so far. We invite you to give a look and listen and share it with those you love.



Here is the link to the video:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=N5am3uy8YoY&fbclid=IwVERDUARTG5BleHRuA2FibQExAHNydgMGYXBwX2lkCjY2Mjg1NjgzNzkAAR6fK6P2tfKVY_HucfA7emxZoyDW-2AF9OCiMT_Qul_3v8Ab2KJYBSJY4Rp8Pw_aem_s-bnCzk2KRHhLOKVZpzpQ

From Pastor Walter Still - May 2026

Go to Galilee...

On Easter Sunday, we heard the victorious crucified and resurrected Lord direct the faithful to follow him to Galilee. Galilee was Jesus' home and center for ministry with the people around him. As we heard from the Gospels, Jesus reached and touched the wider community of neighbors in Galilee. He healed, fed, taught, welcomed and loved, especially those discerning how to navigate the mazes of life.

I believe that the people of our neighborhoods, and ourselves, are part of Jesus' Galilee. In the many issues of lives and community, the presence of Christ happens in the relationships and discernment that surrounds us.

The faithful of Arlington Hills Lutheran Church have been engaged for some time working through the opportunities and challenges of ministry today. You know them well. We continue to walk faithfully!

An article recently captured my attention: "Closing a Congregation as an Act of Faithfulness" by Pr Lee Ann Pomrenke, regrading a suburban St Paul Synod congregation. The many questions that swirled in the congregation and her heart about their situation, was addressed with an insight of a colleague that opened a gift in faith filled paradigm. She wrote, "A more experienced pastor, who had closed two older, urban congregations, helped me to see that while ours was not the usual story of a congregation closing, it still brought the heart of the matter into sharp focus: closing the ministry was not a failure, it was a way of living faithfully." She continued:

...We also read John's account of Mary Magdalene weeping in the garden but finally recognizing Jesus when he called her by name. This was the most crucial task of the tight-knit group (of the congregation), who could call each other by name and thereby reveal Jesus still alive and well in their midst. Their relationships were proof that Jesus foils death and brings new life, however unrecognizable it is at first. But nobody has been abandoned. Closing is *not an indication that God has abandoned us or that we have abandoned God. Scripture bears witness to this, certainly, but so does our experience. When we are most bereaved, troubled, or feeling like failures, the Holy Spirit opens us to new possibilities. That's a terrifying unknown, but one deeply rooted in God's great faithfulness and commitment to us.*

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The transformation of heart and attitude of the faithful at the Easter tomb and the appearances of the resurrected Christ are incredible gifts. That gift motivates us to celebrate God's work that is woven, with us as partner, to create the fabric of faith and life. The Easter proclamation continues the dynamics of our congregation and community. We continue boldly to "go to Galilee...to meet Jesus."

Blessings,
Pr Walter

You can read Pr. Pomrenke's article at: <https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/closing-a-congregation-as-an-act-of-faithfulness/>

WELCOME PASTOR BRIAN MORTENSON



On Sunday, May 17th we welcome Pastor Brian Mortenson back to our pulpit. Brian served as our Senior Pastor from 1990-1993.

Following his time at Arlington Hills, he served as Senior Pastor of First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls before making a significant vocational transition into healthcare philanthropy. He spent 14 years as President of the Sanford Health Foundation. During that same time, at the

request of the Sheriff and Chief of Police, he founded and served as Senior Chaplain for the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office and Sioux Falls Police Department chaplaincy program, also for 14 years.

He later served in a similar healthcare foundation leadership role in Arizona.

In later years, Pastor Mortenson returned to congregational ministry as an intentional interim senior pastor, serving five larger multi-staff congregations across South Dakota, Colorado, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Florida. He concluded his career leading the planned giving program for Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and its affiliated ministries, bringing together his pastoral experience and philanthropic work. He retired from that role on March 1.

Brian and his wife, Sheri, have three married children and 12 grandchildren. He continues to share a valued friendship with Interim Pastor Walter Still, dating back to their time serving together in interim ministry in Des Moines, IA. He holds fond feelings for the people and place of Arlington Hills, with enduring appreciation for the impact of the congregation and gratitude for his years of ministry on the East Side of St. Paul.

LENT AND EASTER SEASON - THANK YOU FOR A BEAUTIFUL SEASON



ASH WEDNESDAY



MID-WEEK SOUP AND SCRIPTURES



SUNDAY SERVICES



PALM SUNDAY



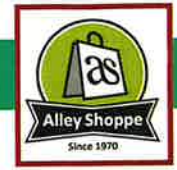
GOOD FRIDAY AT FIRST LUTHERAN



EASTER SUNDAY



EASTER MEMORIAL GARDEN



As we wind down the Alley Shoppe season there are a couple of important dates for you to be aware of.

Tuesday May 5 is the last day we would like donations.

Tuesday May 19 is our last day for this season.

Please hold onto your donations until we reopen in September. If you do have questions about donating during the summer don't hesitate to give me a call.

We certainly have faced many challenges in our community this season. We remained open all year and adjusted how we served families throughout the year. Volunteers dropped off items at clients' homes, we worked with the Open Door School to have door monitors, and we started to have more food available for people to take home. Things have calmed down and we are seeing an increase in the number of families that are coming back in to shop.

As I have said many times, we are so fortunate to see God at work in our world every week. Here are a few fun things we have learned or experienced.

People love spaghetti noodles as well as rice, but ramen is a favorite food!

We received over 1000 pillows from the U of MN. How wonderful to be able to give a pillow to each person in the family.

Volunteers had to blink back tears when a beautiful formal dress perfectly fit a young girl who would be celebrating her Quinceanera. We also had a special dress for her younger sister. Incredible!

China, tea cups, silverplated trays, candle sticks and more are treasured by our immigrant families.

We brought items to clients in the hospital, in long term care facilities, in prison, living behind buildings, and those trying to make it month to month. We delivered couches, beds, baby equipment and more all around the community.

The volunteers are committed to the ministry, they love the families we see, and we believe that what we do in the basement helps ease the burdens that so many people face. One of the volunteers said our clients don't have 1 or 2 strikes against them, they have 13. I think he is right. We are planning to remain in this location, loving and serving our neighbors as long as we can.

Thank you for your continued support,

Pam Wiehe

A Note From Literacy Minnesota and Open Door



You may have recently learned, whether through a message from our interim leadership team, a conversation with staff, or word of mouth, about staffing reductions at Literacy Minnesota and the funding shortfall that led to those decisions. We know this news was hard to receive and raised important questions for many of you. We're actively working on scheduling opportunities for you to meet with our interim leadership to ensure you get the information you need.

We want to acknowledge that directly. We hear you, and we take your concerns seriously. We want to share what's happening and why, and what comes next.

As a Board, we're responsible for making sure Literacy Minnesota is here for the long haul. In partnership with interim leadership, we had to make the difficult decision in March to reduce staffing in order to put the organization on a solid footing.

These were difficult decisions that affected people we care about. They were also necessary to ensure that Literacy Minnesota continues to operate and fulfill our mission.

Many of our programs continue without interruption, and others have been temporarily paused. Pausing a program doesn't mean we've walked away from it. It means we need to get the organization to a place where we can sustain it well. We are actively planning toward resuming paused programs in fall 2026. We're not just stabilizing – we're planning for a successful future in unstable times.

That work is already underway. Current priorities include:

- Directing resources where we can maintain the strongest continuity for learners right now
- Strengthening internal planning, communication, and financial oversight
- Supporting staff, volunteers, and learners through this transition

To our volunteers, your dedication is essential to this work. The way you show up for our learners has never mattered more than it does right now.

Literacy Minnesota has a long history of impact and resilience. More than 50 years ago, this organization was built by people who simply showed up because they believed in this work. That's still the heart of who we are, and this moment is bringing us back to those roots.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment.

Harold Hegg On behalf of the Board of Directors Literacy Minnesota

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Rachel Lyness, Learning Center and Early Learning Coordinator (RLyness@LiteracyMN.org) or Jessica Jones, Lead ESL Teacher (JJones@LiteracyMN.org).

THANK YOU! IT MEANT SO MUCH!



Agape Quintet - April 12, 2026

Mike Johander-bass guitar,
Ben Anderson-percussion,
Dave Miller-keys,
John Egnell-trumpet and flugelhorn, and
Chuck Linderkamp-guitar, handpan,
percussion
Thank you for sharing your gifts of music at
our Worship Service!

Bible Study: ESTHER



Hello Bible Study Friends! Our last Bible Study on the Jewish Nation in exile will be on Monday, May 4th at 1:00. It ends with a great heroine, Esther.

Does God position people to accomplish His purposes? Does God put in place the right people at the right time? When you read the Book of Esther, you could believe this to be true. God will position certain people to accomplish His purpose. And this is the book we will be studying Monday, May 4th.

Esther was a Jewish exile chosen as queen in Persia. Esther bravely intervened on behalf of her people saving them from annihilation.

An interesting fact: God's name is not mentioned in this book, but the message is still very clear. He may seem absent, but He is there. We see that God works behind the scenes to accomplish his purpose to save the Jewish nation. Will God do the same for you and me?

How does Esther react when the world around her is chaotic and evil? How do we think and act when we cannot figure out what God is doing? Can we trust God when we don't understand the world today? This was Esther's dilemma. Find out how this story unfolds on Monday, May 4th at 1:00.

Valerie Robertson-Osmundson



SUNDAY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Ushers	Hospitality
May 3	Dana Nelson Mary Kowitz	Janine Almquist Dana Nelson Kathy Brackey	David Almquist Tom Brackey	Valerie and Orval Osmundson
May 10	Diane Allmendinger Cheryl Hollman	Elaine & Charles Rohrbach	David Almquist Wayne Hansen	Cheryl Hollman
May 17	Barb Schmidt Jim Persoon	Jim Persoon Barb Schmidt	Florence R David Almquist	Michelle Hanggi Barb Burgu
May 24	Valerie and Orv Osmundson	Valerie and Orv Osmundson	Elaine & Charles Rohrbach David Almquist	TBD
May 31	Jon Helgason Dennis Rasmusson	Florence Rasmusson Cheryl Hollman	Elaine & Charles Rohrbach David Almquist	Kathy Brackey Mary Kowitz

SCRIP CARDS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

We have Scrip cards available in the office . Stop by and see Mary or Chris to pick up cards that you might need for **Graduation gifts**. We also have an order form in the office for those cards that we might not have in stock right now. They usually arrive here within a week.

GRADUATION PICTURES FOR THE JUNE NEWSLETTER

Please submit Names, Pictures and Bios for the June newsletter by May 20th.

LET'S CELEBRATE!



May Birthdays

Priscilla Reeve	May 1
Dave Balfanz	May 1
Adam Ebert	May 1
Clara Rocco	May 4
Dee Anne Nelson	May 4
Tom Brockway	May 5
Tom Schaber	May 9
Sharon Vicic	May 16
Eugene Karls	May 20
Evan Peterson	May 31

May Anniversaries

Ken and Kate Wagner	May 3
Jon and Karen Helgason	May 9

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU



On Sunday March 7th we honored Barb Rossow for 30 years with
Arlington Hills Lutheran Church.
We are blest and lucky to have you here!

TRUSTING IN THE RESURRECTION

We pray for the family of:

Victoria Person, mother of Jim Person, who passed on April 4, 2026



Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort, graciously tend those who mourn, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Your generosity of spirit and money makes all that we are as a church and a community possible. Please consider making an online donation by filling in the form found on our website. Your contribution will be processed by our secure payment center.

You may also mail your donation by cash or check, payable to:
Arlington Hills Lutheran Church- 1115 Greenbrier Street - St. Paul, MN 55106.

Financial Report Card

	2026		2025	
	Current	YTD	Current	YTD
Revenue				
<i>March</i>	\$ 100,483.38	\$ 147,203.97	\$ 32,222.38	\$ 133,384.14
Expenses				
<i>March</i>	\$ 43,480.58	\$ 120,448.31	\$ 50,279.17	\$ 137,272.37
Surplus/ (Deficit)	\$ 57,002.80	\$ 26,755.66	\$ (18,056.79)	\$ (3,888.23)

Growing Through Loss

Twin Cities East Metro Grief Coalition

Spring 2026

Tuesdays
6:30pm - 8:15pm
Registration starts at 6:00pm

**Gustavus Adolphus
Lutheran Church**
1669 Arcade St.
St. Paul, MN 55106

May 5, 2026

**Intentional Hope: Choices
to Protect Our Peace**
Rachel Engstrom
MSW, CHES, CGC

May 12, 2026

Service of Remembrance
Rev. Ruthie Mhanga
Pastor at Gustavus Adolphus
Lutheran Church

Each session is complete in itself. Attend one or all.
Suggested donation \$5.00 per session.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Worship Services are at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Alley Shoppe Volunteers, Mondays and Tuesdays 9:00 a.m.

Alley Shoppe Clients - Tuesdays 9:30 a.m. - 1:00p.m.

Alley Shoppe Donations - Mondays and Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - noon

Romeo Breakfast - Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. Perkins County Road D & WB Avenue

May 1	May Day!
May 3	Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.
May 4	Monday – Bible Study 1:00 p.m. – Reception Room
May 5	Tuesday – WMA Board Meeting 10:00 a.m. – Pastor’s Office Last Day for Alley Shoppe Donations until Fall
May 6	Wednesday – MIF Board Meeting – noon – Reception Room
May 10 th	Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. Mother’s Day
May 13	Wednesday – FPA Meeting
May 15-16	Synod Assembly – St. Andrews Lutheran Church Election of new St. Paul Area Synod Bishop.
May 17	Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. We welcome Pastor Brian Mortenson today.
May 19	Last Day for Alley Shoppe Clients until Fall Congregation Council Meeting
May 24	Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30 a.m.
May 25	Memorial Day – Office Closed for the Holiday
May 31	Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30 a.m. Forum following the Worship Service

OUR STAFF

Reverend Dr. Walter Still - Senior Pastor

Email: pastor@ahlc-stp.org

Barbara Rossow - Organist/Choir Director

Email: pianobr@aol.com

Mary Kowitz - Business Administrator

Email: office@ahlc-stp.org

Chris Vos - Financial Administrative Assistant

Email: finance@ahlc-stp.org

Church Phone - 651-771-5501

Arlington Hills Lutheran Church

1115 Greenbrier Street

St. Paul, MN 55106



OUR VISION

**“Arlington Hills Lutheran Church
Community, A Beacon for the Kingdom
of Jesus Christ.”**

OUR MISSION

**“To Spread the Good News of
Jesus Christ to all in word and deed.”**