

Faith *news*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
WOOD RIVER FIRST & ALDA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2025

You're Invited..!

If you have a birthday or anniversary during the month of February, come receive a special blessing from the congregation on Feb 9 at the Alda UMC at 10:00. We want to celebrate you!



Church Events

- Feb 3-10 Pastor Rachel on Vacation
- Feb 3 Ruth Circle 1:30
- Feb 6 Rachel Circle 1:30
- Feb 12 Youth Group 6:30
- Feb 20 Sewing Circle 9:30
- Feb 23 WRMA Soup Supper 5-7 at Community Center
- Feb 26 Youth Group 6:30
- Feb 27 Youth Group 6:30

The Greatest of All



You walk into a store shortly after Christmas and quickly realize how quickly things change. The bright green lights and festive decorations are removed and replaced by a single vibrant color. This color is present in almost every aisle, and sometimes it is as you enter or exit the store that you are embraced by it. Wait, did I also mention that you can find it at the checkout? If you guessed correctly, you know what I am talking about: the season of red colors. Even when February had not arrived yet, retailers and businesses were already ready to make a splash in the upcoming season of love.

February is known as the season of love. Gifts, flowers and cards with beautiful words of appreciation are written, and people look forward to being asked out to enjoy this day that is celebrated all over the world. It seems like a big deal, because it is. Love is a big deal. Everyone on this planet needs a little love. Love is big, but love is also powerful.

1 Corinthians 13 focuses on the action of love. If you take a closer look, you will realize that love is more than just words. It is about action. That is why you will see people offering flowers, as a sign of appreciation or consideration. Or gifts, for the same reason. God himself showed us this when He decided to save mankind from sin. It was love that prompted him to send His only Son for us.

God's action towards us was intentional, for He thought through the whole process, from his Son's coming to earth to the accomplishment of his redemptive mission. Intentionality is a great example of how love should be lived. "If I have prophetic powers, if I understand all mysteries and all science, if I have all the faith necessary to move mountains, and if I do not have love, I am nothing" (1 Cor. 13:2).

There are so many people around us, and sometimes even loved ones, who need this intended action of attention. You can show it in the simplest way, or you can show it in a more elaborate way. I have always loved the way children are content with the smallest things you give them. It is true that a piece of candy or a kind word can make a child feel appreciated. Let us show love to those around us and spread it as God would have His people experience it.

Happy February!

Pastor Rachel

Update on the Church Building in Wood River

You may have noticed activity at the church building in Wood River as we are working with Hayes Home Improvement. So far they have been focusing on the sanctuary by moving the pews, removing carpet, and ceiling drywall to better determine the damage and needed repairs. Until the ceiling drywall was removed, it was not possible to determine the extent of the damage and possible options for repairs. The next step will be for the building inspector to come out and weigh in on our plans for dealing with the damage. We are hopeful this can happen by the end of January. The insurance company will need to approve the repair plans and cost estimates next. Then if all goes as well, we can begin the repairs.



Shortly after the explosion, the gas company shut off all gas connections in the surrounding area. When they inspected our furnaces before turning on the gas, it was determined that four of the furnaces were tagged as not safe to return to service. This is partly due to the fact that they were original from the 1980's and the heat exchange elements were rusted and unable to be repaired. We have nine total furnaces in the building and seven are that same age. We need to consider replacing the seven at some point in the near future which is an added expense above what the insurance covers. We are exploring options to make this happen.

As it was announced, the Alda United Methodist Church has voted to close due to financial challenges. We understand that the Wood River United Methodist Church is able to use the Alda church building as long as needed until our repairs are completed. We will continue as is until further notice.

We will keep you informed of the progress as it occurs.



February 2025



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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2 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00	3 Ruth Circle 1:30 Pastor Rachel's vacation starts	4 Lorna Wescoatt	5 Bible Study 9:30	6 Rachel Circle 1:30	7	8 Adrianne Hypes Kyle & Becky Allan
9 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00	10 Kevin Mayfield	11 Pastor Rachel returns	12 Bible Study 9:30 Blood Mobile 12 -6 Youth Group 6:30	13 Miguel & Lori Rodriguez	14 Ken & Deb Fair- banks Rita Earnest	15 Jayden Molczyk
16 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00 Jaiden Schofield	17	18 Kyle Herber	19 Bible Study 9:30 Christian Thomp- son Jackie Franssen	20 Sewing Circle 9:30 UWF 1:30 Seth Smith	21	22 Megan Cons- bruck Brad & Cindy Schellpeper Jake & Sabrina Molczyk
23 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00 WRMA Soup Supper 5-7 Cheyenne Hester Ivan Bilslend	24 Kent Luebs Dale Moul Joan Brown	25 Harleigh Thomp- son Peg Heise	26 Bible Study 9:30 Kristin Carrol	27 Bob Allan Jr. Taryn Mayfield Danielle De- Vore	28 Madison Brown (29th)	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Sunday, February 23—Soup Supper—5 – 7 p.m.** at the Wood River Community Center. Funds raised will be used in the Wood River community as directed by the Ministerial Association. This event is hosted by Grace Lutheran Church.
- Youth Group dates: Feb 12 & 26; March 12 & 26; April 9 & 23 at the Senior Center at 6:30 -8:00. All kids, 6-12th grade are welcome!
- If you have a birthday or anniversary in the month of February, come receive a special blessing on 'Birthday Sunday' on Feb 9!
- Pastor Rachel will be taking vacation Feb 3-10. Bev Hieb is on call for any pastoral needs or emergencies.
- Looking ahead, Ash Wednesday is March 5 and Easter is April 20.

The Blood Mobile is coming Feb 12, 12-6pm at the WR Community Center. You can pre-register at redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-REDCROSS. The need is great so please consider making an appointment to give.



Giving Report

Wood River

Jan: \$8387

Dec: \$9625

Nov: \$6989

Average weekly attendance: 28

Alda:

Jan: \$650

Dec: \$1441

Nov: \$762

Average weekly attendance: 11



For a safe and secure way to give online, scan code with smartphone. You will need to create an account and be approved if it's your first time using.