

The ALC Council

John Chamberlain – President
Arthur Melhoos – Vice-President
Sarvo Martin – Secretary
Mark Lanham – Treasurer
Sarah Kaldestad – Education Chair
Ingrid Fosslund – Fellowship Chair
Wyonne Long – Membership Chair
Nick Berryman – Properties Chair
Lisa Gabrielsen – Outreach Chair
Eric Mandeville – Volunteers Chair
Torill Sebros – Worship Chair



The American Lutheran Congregation

Fritznersgate 15, 0264, Oslo, Norway

Mailing address: PO Box 3012 Elisenberg, 0207 Oslo

T: +47 22 44 35 84;

<https://www.facebook.com/alc Oslo/>

office@alcoslo.org; pastor@alcoslo.org

January 2018

Volume 62 Issue 1



The ALC Messenger

Fritznersgate 15, 0264 Oslo, Norway

The mission of the American Lutheran Congregation is to bring people of different nations and denominations together, and in the English language, empower them into becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

About us

Church Office

THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN CONGREGATION

Fritznersgate 15, 0264 Oslo, Norway

tel. +47 22443584

email office@alcoslo.org

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

www.alcoslo.org

www.facebook.com/alcoslo

- Pastor: Joel Rova-Hegener (pastor@alcoslo.org)
- Church Office Administrator: Rie Melhoos (office@alcoslo.org)
- Council President: John Chamberlain (jhc_nha@yahoo.com)
- Messenger Editor: Kari Berit Gustafson (kbustafson1225@gmail.com)

We Need Your Time and Talent!

Are you willing to share your gifts and a little part of your time in ministry of ALC? Please fill out **TIME AND TALENT SHEET** and tell us about your gifts. Thank you!

News from ALC

Friendly Reminder from our Board of Trustees & Property Committee Chair:

Heating the building is one of the most expensive things we do. Please help keep the thermostats set at 20C in Hanson Hall and throughout the building. Thank you very much.

Do not forget your offerings to the ALC!

Why not set up an automatic payment of your monthly offerings?

- Offering Bank acct: 50810747827
- Our Vipps account 62855

Weekly News Blast

The American Lutheran Congregation sends out a weekly email news blast once a week. If you would like to receive our email news, please write to our church office (office@alcoslo.org)

From *The Messenger* Editor:

In an effort to save on color copying costs, this shortened edition of "The Messenger" only has color on two pages. I've also tweaked the design fonts a bit to make up for the removal of color.

The American Lutheran Congregation Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 28, 2018 - Meeting to begin at 13:00 in Hanson Hall. Potluck precedes the meeting, following worship. Only Voting Members (age 18 or older, per the constitution) are able to partake in the proceedings of the Annual Meeting. Voting Members must sign in before the meeting to establish that a quorum is present. Non-members and visitors may observe, but not vote, nor partake in the legislative proceedings, this includes: commenting, making motions, etc. Annual Report is ready to pick up at the church. You can find it on the table in the Narthex. Members, please sign when you pick it up.

Women's Fellowship (WF)

We look forward to our WF meetings in 2018. The theme is ongoing: exploring ways to deepen our fellowship and daily walk with the Lord. Our devotion this time will focus on letting God's Word speak to us in ways that make it relevant to our everyday lives. Watch the email blast for our next meeting, or contact one of us through our group email: groupemail.alcwf@gmail.com

Emily, Piia and Ulrike

From the Pastor

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

Isaiah 1:18b

"To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen."

Revelation 1:5b-6

Fellow "shovelers,"

Do snowstorms remind you of Jesus and his work of salvation? Probably not, but at times they do for me. Do not feel guilty if they don't; it is probably because I am a pastor that they do.

You have probably guessed that I was thinking about Jesus and his work of salvation earlier this week. Specifically while shoveling a path at church down each set of stairs to the sidewalk. As I was taking frequent breaks from that heavy snow, I would stand and look at the beautiful scene that surrounded me. The snow had covered every horizontal surface, and was continuing to fall adding centimeter upon centimeter to its depth. Almost all I could see was the pure, white snow.

Gone were the dead leaves in the gutters, the trash on

the sidewalks, and the grey slush, which had sat on the ground becoming more dirty and gray with each passing day. All I saw now was the white of the snow; everything else was covered up. It is this last realization, that of a deep snowfall, that makes me think of Jesus and his blood.

Many of the writers in the Bible comment upon Jesus' spilled blood covering over our sins, even washing us as white as snow. They are writing to help us see what Jesus' death and resurrection do for us in our lives. It is Jesus sacrifice that forgives us of our sin, which cleanses us of our wrongdoing, and which saves us from eternal death.

What better way to understand all of that, then to think of it as the beautiful, pure, white snow, that decks the ugliness of the world. Jesus work of salvation—dying upon the cross in our place, and thus gifting us with life through faith in him—is as beautiful a gift in our lives as a snowfall is to our eyes. So the next time you are standing in the snow, especially if you're resting from the hard work of shoveling, remember Jesus' hard work and the result. Though our sins were like scarlet, they have been made as white as snow!

Keep shoveling!
Pastor Joel

Ash Wednesday Worship Service - Wednesday, 14 February at 19:00

Come and worship with us for Ash Wednesday and the start of the Lenten season. There will be the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion during the service. All are welcome!

Lenten Mid-week Soup Suppers and Worship begins on Wednesday, 21 February

Soup supper starts at 18:00 and the service begins at 19:00. Both are held in Hanson Hall. Please look for the Soup Supper sign-up, we need at least two large soups, and lots of bread each week!

Weekly Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Join us each Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at ALC. Meets for one hour of study and fellowship. All are welcome!

The sermons are recorded

Each Sunday Don Osthoff is recording Pastor's sermon and Mark Lanham is uploading it on our web site and Facebook. You can listen to it on [facebook.com/alcosl0](https://www.facebook.com/alcosl0) or [alcoslo.org](https://www.alcoslo.org)