

# THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 26, Issue 10, October 2021

## ***Calling all people! – P.T.'s Practical Theology***

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith'."*  
Romans 1:16-17

It is no secret that of all the New Testament letters, the good ol' Dr. Martin Luther was most in love with the letter to the Romans!

In the introduction to his commentary on Romans, Luther wrote the following:

*"This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament and is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread for the soul. We can never read it or ponder over it too much; for the more we deal with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes....."*

That's quite the ringing endorsement for the Apostle Paul and his powerful letter written to the Romans. So, as I needed to choose what would be the content for my first Sr. High/Adult study with you, it seemed "right and salutary" that we should both challenge ourselves and prepare to receive faith in our study of this, the "purest gospel".

Although relatively brief at just 16 chapters, the letter to the Romans lays out the chief teachings of Christian as no other single book of the Bible. In it, we will discover themes of law, gospel, sin, punishment, grace, faith, righteousness, works, love and certainly the centrality of Jesus Christ!

Now.....if you are one who has been in the practice of Bible Studies for many years, come and expect to learn something new.....not because the book itself has changed, but you will have changed in your life experience since the last time you made a study of Romans.

But, if the thought of an adult Bible Study is intimidating, please come and prepare to be fed! There will be no tests! Likewise, there will be no demands for individuals to give answers, we will just read of the "daily bread for the soul", and share if you wish of how the word impacts your faith.

And, if you have a friend who is not a member of American Lutheran, of course! ....he or she is welcome to join us!

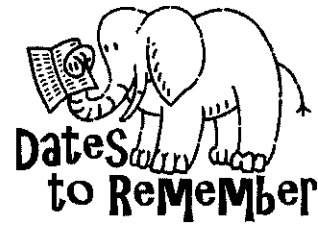
In His Service, Pastor Tom



# October 2021

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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 3rd 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service with communion  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School  
12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 6th 10:00 a.m. Bible Study at American Lutheran  
2:00 p.m. Bible Study at Castlewood Assisted Living  
5:15 p.m. Confirmation Class for Grades 7-9  
8:00 p.m. Bible Study at American Lutheran
- 10th 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School
- 11th **Columbus Day/Native American Day**
- 13th 10:00 a.m. Bible Study at American Lutheran  
2:00 p.m. Bible Study at Castlewood Assisted Living  
5:15 p.m. Confirmation Class for Grades 7-9  
8:00 p.m. Bible Study at American Lutheran
- 17th 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service with communion  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School  
*10:15 a.m. COUNCIL MEETNG*  
12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 20th 10:00 a.m. Bible Study at American Lutheran  
2:00 p.m. Bible Study at Castlewood Assisted Living  
5:15 p.m. Confirmation Class for Grades 7-9  
8:00 p.m. Bible Study at American Lutheran
- 24th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School
- 27th 10:00 a.m. Bible Study at American Lutheran  
2:00 p.m. Bible Study at Castlewood Assisted Living  
5:15 p.m. Confirmation Class for Grades 7-9  
8:00 p.m. Bible Study at American Lutheran
- 31st Reformation Day  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School  
**Halloween**





## *The Servants of our Lord*

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Scripture Lectors</i>	<i>Fellowship Servers</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
Oct. 3	Roxanne Bass	John Top	Fischer's	Everson Family	Chuck Juntti
Oct. 10	Marsha Kurtenbach	Rod fischer	Server Needed	Ruml family	
Oct. 17	Roxanne Bass	Mackenzie Everson	Traci Bass	Candy Gallisath & Traci Bass	Doug Strait
Oct. 24	Marsha Kurtenbach	Janet Christenson	McKee Daughters	Dennis & Vicki Strait	Rod Fischer
Oct. 31		Ruml Girls	Ruml's	Wiersma family	

### Our Faithfulness in Giving

	<b>General</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Mission</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Blessing Ctr</b>
<b>August 29</b>	\$6,297.00	\$20.00	\$168.00	\$13.00	\$25.00
<b>Sept. 5</b>	\$2,647.00	\$115.00	\$144.00	\$5.00	\$29.00
<b>Sept. 12</b>	\$1,651.90	\$115.00	\$49.50		
<b>Sept. 19</b>	\$1,231.00	\$350.00	\$ 25.00		\$25.00



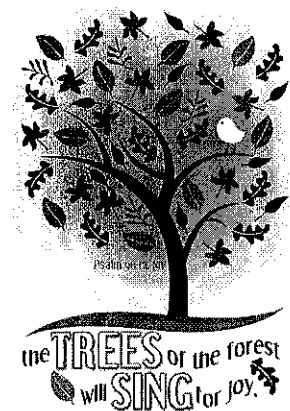
### Sr. High/Adult Choir!

**8:30 am, starting Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>!**

Practices on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month in the fellowship hall and will generally be prepared to provide the anthem on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Worship.



Karen Lund has graciously agreed to give a go at directing our choir again...for which we give her thanks, and unto God be the glory! Not "professional" choir, but for those who love to sing and wish to be a blessing to our worship life. Come and join us as we sing to God a new song!





Josh Aderhold	10-01
Lisa Shepherd	10-03
Doug McKee	10-07
Kari Nolte	10-07
Cheyann Kenyon	10-07
Ryder Mack	10-09
Julie Hofwalt	10-10
Lincoln Pribbenow	10-10
Andrew Bemis	10-15
Brenda Shepherd	10-17
David Olson	10-17
Donavin Rhody	10-20
Wyatt Mack	10-20
Joann Fischer	10-26
Taylor Hansen	10-30



Josh Aderhold	10-01	Glen Christianson	10-12
Lauren Gabur	10-01	Addyson Wittnebel	10-12
Mason Nielsen	10-01	Kylie Wittnebel	10-16
AJ Zimiga	10-01	Julie Fischer	10-21
Richard Ries	10-02	Michaela Davis	10-22
Talia Petersen	10-04	Daniel Davis	10-23
Travis Prohl	10-09	Kari Nolte	10-25
Arianna Bemis	10-12	Ryan Greene	10-26
		Jennifer Hansen	10-27
		Aaron Ronne	10-30
		Jeremiah Wiersma	10-31



Roy & Dawn Wiersma	10-3
Aaron & Katelynn Ronne	10-5
Gareth & Sharla Hamen	10-8
Robert & Michelle Ronne	10-10
Richard & Neda Ries	10-15
Doug & Ruby McKee	10-29



Pastor Appreciation



If anyone has announcements for the bulletin or caller e-mail [Americlc@itctel.com](mailto:Americlc@itctel.com) or [janell-bemis@hotmail.com](mailto:janell-bemis@hotmail.com) or call/text/message Janell at 605-880-0917.

If there is a need for pastoral care please contact Pastor Tom Christenson at 605-793-2444.



**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Church Council  
September 2021**

American Lutheran church council met on Sunday, September 19, 2021 at the parsonage. Those present were Dan Grupe, Rod Fischer, Craig Bass, Dan Davis, Candy Gailsath, Lindsey Vetter, Chuck Juntti, Josh Nei, Traci Bass, Carrie Henrichsen and Pastor Tom Christenson.

Council meeting was called to order by President Dan Grupe.

Pastor Tom said a prayer

The minutes for the August meeting was reviewed. Motion by Rod, second by Josh to approve the minutes. With all voting aye, motion passed.

The financial report for August was reviewed. Motion by Chuck, second by Craig to approve the financial report. With all voting aye, motion passed.

**Old Business:**

**-Parsonage remodel**

- The council had a walk through of the parsonage.
- cabinet above microwave is coming
- discussed other items the need to be done.
- Thanks to Josh for spearheading the remodeling
- There was a motion made to contact Ryder Seppala to fix the vent in the parsonage, motion passed with all voting aye.
- A motion was made to pay Pastor Tom \$200.00 for miscellaneous expenses. All voted aye, motion passed.

**-ALC History**

- Chuck and Janell are working on it.

**-Thanksgiving Dinner – Sunday, November 21, 2021**

- Will ask for volunteers to serve as chairpersons.

**-Rally Day – September 12 - Rally Sunday went very well.**

**-Confirmation – 12 students**

**-Laptop for Pastor Tom has been purchased.**

**New Business:**

-Pastor Tom brought to the council that he and Janet would like to have a pet. Carrie made the motion that the council give them permission to have a pet. Traci second, motion passed with an aye vote.



**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Church Council cont.  
September 2021**

-Pastor asked the council to donate \$500.00 to the Augustana District for Ethiopia. Rod made the motion, Traci second and the motion passed unanimously.

-Pastor Tom will have October 31, 2021 as a day off. His father-in-law is a Gideon and will be preach that day. Motion by Carrie, second by Traci to allow fo "Open Bible" offering for the Gideon Ministry.

Motion made to adjourn by Rod, second by Chuck, with all voting aye, motion passed. Closed by praying Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Craig Bass, council secretary

**ALTAR GUILD**

**October: Ruby McKee, Dawn Wiersma  
November: Angela Larson,  
Amanda Pribbenow**

Altar Guild takes care of the communion ware, change altar clothes, banners and fill oil candles

**ALTAR GUILD – HELP!**

There is a list in the Narthex of those who have agreed to serve a month at a time on the Altar Guild, but we do have some holes! We are looking for someone to work with Vicki Strait for the month of February, and with Carna Miller for the month of September. ALSO.....we need a couple folk to take on the month of April.

Pastor Tom is willing to work with the seasoned pros to make up a list of duties, so that it can be easy for new people to volunteer and serve on the Altar Guild. IF YOU ARE one of the seasoned pros, please talk to Pastor Tom!

**"I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."  
—Martin Luther**

HELP WANTED --- The audio visual team at church is looking for 2 more people. We will train. You would be responsible for sound and video recording of the church services for 1 week a month. Chuck will handle the video editing and uploading. Several people rely on the video rebroadcasts of our services. This is a great way to serve your church from the sidelines. See Chuck, Rod, or Doug if you are interested.



**American Lutheran Church Financial Report  
August 2021**

**General Fund**

Balance on hand 8-1-2021			\$	86,359.54
Receipts				
Offerings	\$	12,796.00		
Thrivent	\$	-		
Confirmation	\$	36.00	\$	12,832.00
Disbursements				
Jerry Merkouris (Pulpit Supply 1 Svc July + 1 Svc Aug)	\$	350.00		
Jerry Merkouris (Mileage)	\$	237.44		
Thomas Christenson (Salary)	\$	2,163.34		
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00		
Tristar Management (September Ancillary Benefits)	\$	701.86		
Hope Lutheran Church (2nd half August Health Insurance)	\$	1,196.95		
Tristar Management (September Health Insurance)	\$	2,112.00		
Janell Bemis (secretary - 27 hours)	\$	292.98		
Dawn Mickey (custodian - 20 hours)	\$	217.02		
Roxanne Bass (organist - 3 svcs)	\$	135.00		
Marsha Kurtenbach (organist - 2 svcs)	\$	90.00		
NALC (benevolence)	\$	50.00		
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$60.00, Pars: \$81.03)	\$	141.03		
ITC (Phone and Internet - Church)	\$	124.57		
Northwestern (Church: \$10.65, Pars: \$8.52)	\$	19.17		
Ottertail (Church: \$228.94, Pars: \$58.89)	\$	287.83		
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	297.75		
Office Peeps (\$54.74 supplies & \$72.37 copier)	\$	127.11		
Upper Room Ministries (Sept/Oct booklet)	\$	32.25		
Concordia Publishing (Communion wafers)	\$	45.49	\$	(8,821.79)
Balance on hand 8-31-2021			\$	90,369.75
*** Confirmation Balance	\$	603.76		
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$	1,668.95		

**Building Fund**

Balance on hand 8-1-2021			\$	39,798.34
Receipts				
Offerings for Building Fund	\$	1,523.00		
Offerings for Appliances from Hannah Circle	\$	350.00		
Offerings for Carpet Fund	\$	60.00	\$	1,933.00
Disbursements				
Andor, Inc. (work at parsonage)	\$	2,051.66		
Squeaky Clean Ducts (parsonage)	\$	372.75		
Joah Nei (reimburse for parsonage supplies)	\$	392.45		
Thomas Christenson (reimburse for parsonage supplies)	\$	335.42	\$	(3,152.28)
Balance on hand 8-31-2021			\$	38,579.06
*** New Carpet Fund Balance	\$22,450.00			

**Mission Fund**

Balance on hand 8-1-2021			\$	3,349.47
Receipts				
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	180.00		
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	182.00		
Children's Offerings	\$	228.25	\$	590.25
Disbursements				
Castlewood Blessing Center (August offerings)	\$	182.00	\$	(182.00)
Balance on hand 8-31-2021			\$	3,757.72

**Memorial Fund**

Balance on hand 8-1-2021			\$	9,089.72
Receipts	\$	-	\$	-
Disbursements	\$	-	\$	-
Balance on hand 8-31-2021			\$	9,089.72

**Account Summary**

	Current	Change	Change
	Balance	August 2021	Year to Date
General Account	\$ 90,369.75	\$ 4,010.21	\$ (18,436.38)
Building Account	\$ 38,579.06	\$ (1,219.28)	\$ 11,039.90
Mission Account	\$ 3,757.72	\$ 408.25	\$ (1,438.00)
Memorial Account	\$ 9,089.72	\$ -	\$ (565.50)

<b>Parsonage Remodel Costs as of 9/18/2021</b>		
March 24, 2021	Reiffenberger Construction (1st Payment)	\$ 9,000.00
April 3, 2021	Menards (Cabinets and vanity)	\$ 418.52
April 3, 2021	Amazon (Door knobs)	\$ 58.36
April 18, 2021	Reiffenberger Construction (2nd Payment)	\$ 6,304.88
May 23, 2021	Jerke's Home Inspection	\$ 319.50
June 3, 2021	Andor, Inc. (Install vanity, change plumbing, etc.)	\$ 1,023.88
June 4, 2021	Lowe's	\$ 79.00
June 5, 2021	Lowe's (Carpet)	\$ 3,499.07
June 8, 2021	Jim Bohl's Construction (Rebuild Stairs)	\$ 612.25
June 9, 2021	Menards (Paint and supplies)	\$ 400.14
June 13, 2021	Menards (Paint)	\$ 115.58
June 17, 2021	Reiffenberger Construction (3rd Payment)	\$ 2,005.28
June 23, 2021	Menards (Paint and supplies)	\$ 207.87
June 28, 2021	Lowe's (Bathroom Flooring)	\$ 1,543.10
July 1, 2021	Menards (Paint and supplies)	\$ 193.20
July 6, 2021	Menards (Paint and supplies)	\$ 153.30
July 18, 2021	Kelly's Tree Service	\$ 213.00
July 20, 2021	Menards (Light Fixtures)	\$ 117.65
July 21, 2021	Karl's (Appliances)	\$ 3,558.92
July 24, 2021	Menards (Vanity, dehumidifier, etc.)	\$ 600.23
August 9, 2021	Menards (Towel bars, light bulbs, etc.)	\$ 392.45
August 19, 2021	Andor, Inc. (Plumbing after flooring install)	\$ 1,551.98
August 22, 2021	Squeaky Clean Ducts (Duct Cleaning)	\$ 372.75
August 22, 2021	Menards (Supplies)	\$ 335.42
August 31, 2021	Andor, Inc. (Repair Leak)	\$ 466.68
September 4, 2021	Castlewood Building Supplies (Front Door, etc.)	\$ 2,036.05
September 7, 2021	Jeremy Espland (Finish Carpet Installation)	\$ 400.00
<b>Total Expenses to Date</b>		<b>\$ 35,979.06</b>

	Menards Rebate certificates	\$ 179.25
	Menards materials returned	\$ 73.97
	Lowe's (Change to available bathroom flooring)	\$ 60.26
	Donations made for appliances	\$ 2,600.00
<b>Additional income / offsets</b>		<b>\$ 2,913.48</b>

<b>Net Expenses to Date</b>		<b>\$ 33,065.58</b>
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## Confirmation Ministry – Grades 7-9



**Continues on Wednesdays at 5:15-6:15 pm.**  
Please remember, if your son or daughter will not be in class for any reason, it is the parent's responsibility to contact Pastor Tom in advance to arrange for the make-up material. ([pastortlc@gmail.com](mailto:pastortlc@gmail.com))

### October Snack Families:

- 6<sup>th</sup> – Kylie Haight
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Charlsy Laue
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Drake Langenfeld
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Hannah Wiersma

### October Acolytes

- 3rd Brody Bass
- 10th Paul Everson
- 17th Drake Langenfeld
- 24th Emerson Carter
- 31st Hannah Wiersma

## American Lutheran Youth!

Grades 7-12 will meet at the church each 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Youth Group will be a combination of study, fellowship and planning for service events and fun stuff too!



### TIME TO HIT DELETE?

If we really have too much to do, there are some items on the agenda that God did not put there. Let us submit the list to him and ask him to indicate which items we must delete. There is always time to do the will of God. If we are too busy to do that, we are too busy.

—Elisabeth Eliot

[NewsletterNewsletter.com](http://NewsletterNewsletter.com)

## Adult/Sr. High Bible Study – “Romans – Alive in Christ!”

Beginning on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Tom will be leading a 13 week study in the Book of Romans. Material is provided, so all you need to bring is your bible, a writing utensil, and a heart that is ready to dig into God's word!

The study will be offered at the following times each week:

- 10:00 am at American Lutheran
- 2:00 pm at Castlewood Assisted Living
- 8:00 pm at American Lutheran

### Lessons Titles:

1. The Power of God (Romans 1)
2. Righteousness Apart from the Law (Romans 2:1-3:20)
3. Righteousness from God (Romans 3:21-31)
4. Promise and Faith (Romans 4)
5. Adam versus Christ (Romans 5)
7. Baptism, Death & Resurrection (Romans 6)
8. The Struggle Within (Romans 7)
9. No Condemnation (Romans 8)
10. Jesus Christ – The End of the Law (Romans 9-10)
11. The Remnant and “All Israel” (Romans 11)
12. Living Sacrifices (Romans 12)
13. Submission and Love (Romans 13)



*The American Lutheran Caller*

*P.O. Box 132*

*Castlewood, SD 57223*

*Address Service Requested*

**WATCH US ON YOUTUBE & ITC!**

**CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!**

*American Lutheran  
Church's  
Mission Statement*

The mission of American  
Lutheran Church is to

**welcome,  
worship,  
teach and  
serve**

In the name of Christ our Lord  
and Savior!

S H A R E  
  
G O D ' S  
  
B O U N T Y

**2021 Church council members**

Dan Grupe, President  
Candy Galliseth, VP  
Rod Fischer, Treas.  
Craig Bass, Sec.  
Traci Bass  
Josh Nei  
Chuck Juntti  
Dan Davis  
Lindsey Vetter  
Carrie Hendersen