

THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 26, Issue 12, December 2021

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

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life is the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.....And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." **John 1:1-5, 14**

It's Here!! A joyous season, a busy season, a season filled with excitement and wonder! It's Advent!!

Yes, I said Advent! Even though many have already strung Christmas lights and even set up Christmas trees, it's not Christmas yet! It's Advent!

For those who didn't know that there was a celebration between Thanksgiving and Christmas, don't feel too bad! After all, Hallmark doesn't sell Advent Cards!

Advent is more of a church "insider" celebration. Although it's not secretive; it is not a big, single day festival day like Christmas, or Easter. Advent is really a month long celebration by which we prepare ourselves to celebrate once again, *the Word becoming flesh and living among us*.

So, in the four Sundays prior to Christmas day, which mark the Advent season, our scriptures will focus on the coming of the Christ, for that is what the word Advent means, it means "coming".

- The scriptures will cause us to look back to the Old Testament as we hear about the Hebrew's longing for the coming of the Messiah.
- The scriptures will cause us to consider how the disciples and followers of Jesus awaited the coming glory of Jesus' earthly reign.

And the scriptures will cause us to look forward to the Second Advent of Jesus, when he returns to usher in the age of salvation for all who believe.

Some families chose to mark the Season of Advent by lighting the candles of an Advent wreath as part of their family's devotions. Some families may have a special book, calendar or wall hanging that has a thought or assigned reading for each day of the Advent season. Both are good disciplines, but whether or not you use one or the other, consider lifting up the meaning of the season in your prayers. Pray that God will deepen your walk with His coming Son, and pray that you will be found ready when Christ comes again in His glory.

May the Blessings of the Christ Child shine on you and yours this Advent season!

Pastor Tom

**December 2021**

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1st	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 (Snack Pastor Tom) 6:30 p.m. Youth Group—Romans 8:00 p.m. Bible Study at American Lutheran
5th	8:30 a.m. Choir Practice 9:00 a.m. Advent Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
8th	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 (Snack Aidan Grupe) 8:00 p.m. Bible Study at American Lutheran
12th	8:30 a.m. Choir Practice 9:00 a.m. Advent Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School 10:15 a.m. CHURCH COUNCIL
15th	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 (Snack—Emery Nei) 6:30 p.m. Youth Group—Romans 8:00 p.m. Bible Study at American Lutheran
18th	9:00 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Pageant practice
19th	8:30 a.m. Choir Practice 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Pageant practice 10:00 a.m. <i>Sunday School Christmas Pageant</i> 11:00 a.m. <i>Fellowship</i> 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
22th	Start CHS Christmas Break (Dec. 22, 2021-Jan. 2, 2022) 10:00 a.m. Bible Study at American Lutheran 2:00 p.m. Bible Study at Castlewood Assisted Living 8:00 p.m. Bible Study at American Lutheran
24th	7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
25th	CHRISTMAS DAY
26th	9:00 a.m. Advent Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship
31st	New Year's Eve <i>Happy New Year!</i>



American Lutheran Youth!

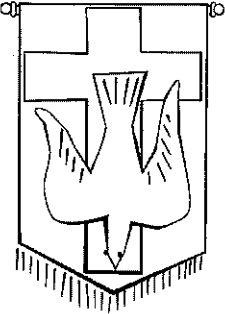
Grades 7-12 will meet at the church each 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm. December meetings are Dec. 1st and 15th.

Summer 2022 Mission Trip is set for June 12-18! This coming summer we will head to Colorado Springs, CO to partner with Next Step Ministries in their work in the inner city. Those currently in grades 7-12 are eligible to go. A **\$50 deposit** for each participant will be due at Youth Group on Wednesday, January 5th.



Thanks to those who bought Lefse!

Confirmation Class



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.

December Snack Families:

- 1st – Pastor Tom
- 8th – Aidan Grupe
- 15th – Emery Nei

December Acolytes

- 5th—Emery Nei & Kylie Haight
- 12th—Emery Larson & Hannah Weiserma
- 24th—Brody Bass
- 26th—Aiden Grupe

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

Pastor Tom is 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



Sr. High/Adult Choir!

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

Come and join us as we sing to God a new song!



The Servants of our Lord

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Scripture Lectors</i>	<i>Fellowship Servers</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
Dec. 5	Roxanne Bass		Karst's & Tvedt's	Richard & Neda Ries	Chuck Juntti
Dec. 12	Marsha Kurtenbach		Wittnebel's	Joshua & Sara Nei Family	
Dec. 19	Roxanne Bass		Youth Sunday School	Lars & Jody Hansen family	Doug Strait
Dec. 24			*****	Barrett & Peggy Wittnebel family	
Dec. 26	Marsha Kurtenbach			Doug Strait & Dan Davis	Rod Fischer

Our Faithfulness in Giving

	General	Building	Mission	Children	Blessing Ctr
Oct. 31	\$1,045.00	\$150.00	\$35.00	\$10.00	\$25.00
Nov. 7	\$3,569.00	\$10.00	\$211.00	\$13.00	\$88.00
Nov. 14	\$2,493.00	\$	\$41.05	\$	\$
Nov. 21	\$2,220.00	\$30.00	\$ 117.00	\$	\$



ALTAR GUILD

December: Joann Fischer, Lorie Mack
January: Kari Nolte & Janet Christenson

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 the month of September.

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!





SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

10:00 a.m. Sunday, December 19

Invite grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins!

Enjoy fellowship following the pageant!

(Practice on Saturday & Sunday @9:00 a.m.)



Christmas Eve Worship

Friday, December 24th, 5:30 pm!

*This year our Christmas Eve Candlelight
Worship will be at 5:30 pm. This time change
was made by the Church Council with input
from a survey of those present at worship on
Nov. 21st.*

*Our worship will include lessons and carols as
well as Holy Communion and the Candlelight
ritual.*

NEW CALENDAR on our Website! Thanks to
Doug Strait, we now have a calendar posted on
the American Lutheran Website: [americanlutheran-
anchurch.com](http://americanlutheran-
anchurch.com) If you have anything church re-
lated to add to the calendar, please contact Pas-
tor Tom at pastortlc@gmail.com



EVERGREEN—These trees, which keep their green leaves year-
round, are symbolic of Christmas, eternal life and God's ever-
lasting love. In the Bible, evergreen trees are called the "cedars
of Lebanon," suggesting growth (Psalm 92:12), height (Amos
2:9), fragrance (Hosea 14:6) and steadfast faith.

Newsletternewsletter.com



DECEMBER



Traci Bass	12-04	Kevin Pribbenow	12-21
Carter Larson	12-04	Larry Dockter	12-22
Rhonda Karst	12-09	Marci Lewno	12-26
Sara Nei	12-10	Lisa Janssen	12-27
Chloe Carroll	12-11	Kendra Nielsen	12-27
Kendall Nielsen	12-11	Celia Kenyon	12-29
Ernie Karst	12-12	Jennifer Carter	12-31
Landon Vetter	12-12	John Mickey	12-31
Carna Miller	12-16		

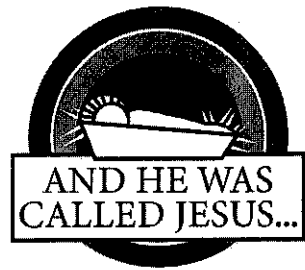
Joshua Nei	12-01	Reid Nolte	12-10
Drake Langenfeld	12-03	Adrienne January	12-12
Julie Hofwalt	12-05	Gayla Dean	12-15
Lincoln Pribbenow	12-05	Barbara Stevens	12-19
Clara Kenyon	12-08	Chuck Juntti	12-20

Baptized
with
the
Holy
Spirit




Ed & Deb Aderhold
Dec. 19th

Kendal & Alisha Nielsen
Dec. 21



THE GREATEST GIFT GIVER

When we give each other Christmas presents in [God's] name, let us remember that he has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans — and all that lives and moves upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused. And to save us from our own foolishness, from all our sins, he came down to earth and gave us himself. - Sigrid Undset

From Newsletternewsletter.com

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



AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 14, 2021

American Lutheran church council met on Sunday, November 14, 2021 at the church. Those present were Dan Grupe, Dan Davis, Candy Gailsath, Lindsey Vetter, Chuck Juntti, Traci Bass, Craig Bass, Carrie Henrichsen, Janell Bemis and Pastor Tom Christenson.

Council meeting was called to order by President Dan Grupe.

Pastor Tom said a prayer.

The minutes for the October meeting was reviewed. Motion by Traci, second by Lindsey to approve the minutes. With all voting aye, motion passed.

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

-Pastor Report:

- Youth will take a mission trip to Colorado Springs this summer, there are 25 slots.
 - Reservation fee of \$50.00 per person by January 1.
 - Cost \$500.00 per person
 - Discussion on funding, if in need can transfer funds from mission or general account to youth account. Will return to discuss at a later date.
 - Lefse fund raiser Sunday November 21.
- Thanksgiving Eve Community Service is sponsored by Castlewood Ministerial.
 - Pastor Steve Biswell of Hamlin Reform Church will preach
 - Presbyterians will serve fellowship.
 - Event will be held at ALC, November 24 at 7:00 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Worship Service Dec. 24
 - Discussion on 5:30 or 7:00p.m Chuck made a motion & Traci 2nd to ask congregation by show of hands at next church service. Motion passed.
 - Bought Advent candles & Gluten Free wafers with personal CC, give Rod the bill.
- Dedicated memorials? We need new altar linens. After discussion, Traci made the motion to use funds from Memorial/ALCW funds to purchase Altar cloths. Candy second, motion passed with aye vote.

Old Business:

- Parsonage remodel
 - cabinet above microwave and new microwave – still waiting for cabinet, has been ordered
 - Creaking Tub – Dan has been in contact with Barrett, wait until winter.
 - Trim: Utility room – basement bathroom (including ceiling trim) and front door – Dan has been in contact with Barrett
 - possibly putting electricity in the yard shed which is tabled until spring
 - Pastor gave a list of repair items to Dan
 - Upstairs utility room - need to replace a piece of ducting – Dan will contact Seppala Heating
- Sanctuary Maintenance
 - dropping mics from the ceiling was discussed
 - lighting above the altar – Dan to get quotes on sheetrock repairs from Arnie Anderson for 2022 spring/summer
 - Last four pews are ready, need slip pad for under the cushions
- Building Maintenance
 - Smoke detectors: We need to buy & fire department will install.



**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
November 14, 2021
Continued**

- Defibrillator pads: Dan got a contact from Tracy Laue
- 75th Church Celebration
 - History & video done
 - Thanksgiving Dinner – Sunday, November 21, 2021
 - Sunday School will be at 9:00 a.m., Worship at 10:00 a.m., meal at 11:00 a.m.
 - Youth will assist with serving – Traci will talk to Brenda
- Communion Schedule:
 - November Traci x2, December Lindsey x2, Traci – Christmas Eve
- Church Custodian:
 - Mickey's will retire at end of year.
 - There has been two inquires.

New Business:

- School November 7, 2021
 - Christmas Pageant: December 19, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., Sunday practice 9:00 a.m.
 - Annual Meeting: January 16th, 2022, 10:15 a.m., January Council: Jan. 9th, 2022.

Next council meeting: December 12, 2021

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

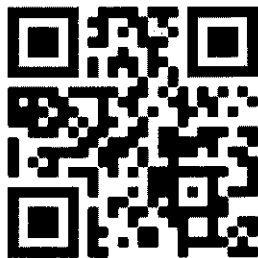
Respectfully submitted,

*American Lutheran Church
75th Anniversary*

Booklets available at the church

Video is available on You-Tube

<http://youtu.be/JJ-RydZBOc> or use the
OR code



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 side-lines. See Chuck, Rod, or Doug if you are interested.

**American Lutheran Church Financial Report
October 2021**

General Fund

Balance on hand 10-1-2021			\$	87,137.46
Receipts				
Offerings	\$	11,211.57		
Thrivent Choice	\$	-		
Check #3284 was not cashed	\$	50.00		
Confirmation	\$	21.75	\$	11,283.32
Disbursements				
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$	4,326.68		
Thomas Christenson (Social Security - Oct)	\$	268.26		
Thomas Christenson (Social Security - Prior paychecks)	\$	402.38		
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00		
Thomas Christenson (Mileage - 220 miles)	\$	123.20		
Gideons International (Pulpit Supply Oct 31, Dick Nicolai)	\$	175.00		
Gideons International (Mileage - 34 miles)	\$	19.05		
Retirement Plan Consultants	\$	432.67		
EBSO (Health Insurance - Nov.)	\$	2,112.00		
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)	\$	701.86		
Janell Bernis (Secretary - \$238.72 Sept + \$249.58 Oct)	\$	486.30		
Dawn Mickey (Custodian - 15 hrs)	\$	162.77		
Roxanne Bass (Organist - 2 svcs)	\$	90.00		
Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist - 3 svcs)	\$	135.00		
NALC (benevolence)	\$	50.00		
City of Castewood (Ch: \$60.00, Pars: \$84.63)	\$	144.63		
ITC (Church phone & internet & Parsonage Phone)	\$	124.61		
Northwestern (Ch: \$10.65, Pars: \$9.71)	\$	20.36		
Ottetail (Ch: \$243.82, Pars: \$114.02)	\$	357.84		
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	297.75		
Office Peeps (Copier)	\$	71.06		
Upper Room Ministries (Nov/Dec print)	\$	32.25		
Concordia Publishing (Bulletin Inserts)	\$	77.28		
Bob's Piano Service (Piano Tuning)	\$	255.60		
CCLI (Copyright Licensing)	\$	88.00		
Deluxe Checks (Order checks)	\$	50.00		
US Treasury (3rd quarter payroll taxes)	\$	226.51	\$	(11,433.06)
Balance on hand 10-31-2021			\$	86,987.72
*** Confirmation Balance	\$	633.51		
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$	1,668.95		

Building Fund

Balance on hand 10-1-2021			\$	35,565.44
Receipts				
Offerings for Building Fund	\$	214.00		
Offerings for Carpet Fund	\$	-	\$	214.00
Disbursements	\$	-	\$	-
Balance on hand 10-31-2021			\$	35,779.44
*** New Carpet Fund Balance	\$	22,470.00		

Mission Fund

Balance on hand 10-1-2021			\$	3,187.47
Receipts				
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	228.00		
Children's Offering	\$	79.45		
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	192.00	\$	499.45
Disbursements				
Castlewood Blessing Center (Oct. offerings)	\$	192.00	\$	(192.00)
Balance on hand 10-31-2021			\$	3,494.92

Memorial Fund

Balance on hand 10-1-2021			\$	9,089.72
Receipts	\$	-	\$	-
Disbursements				
Pheasantland Industries (Pew Repair)	\$	745.50	\$	(745.50)
Balance on hand 10-31-2021			\$	8,344.22

Account Summary

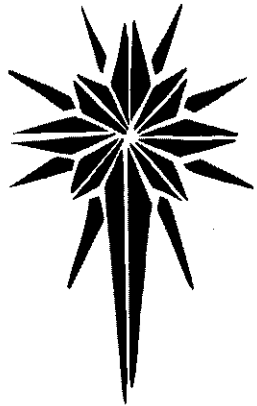
	Current	Change	Change
	Balance	October 2021	Year to Date
General Account	\$ 86,987.72	\$ (149.74)	\$ (21,818.41)
Building Account	\$ 35,779.44	\$ 214.00	\$ 8,240.28
Mission Account	\$ 3,494.92	\$ 307.45	\$ (1,700.80)
Memorial Account	\$ 8,344.22	\$ (745.50)	\$ (1,311.00)

The American Lutheran Caller

P.O. Box 132

Castlewood, SD 57223

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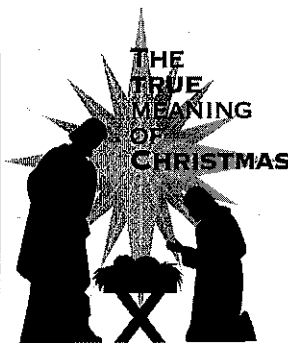
WATCH US ON YOUTUBE & ITC!

*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!



*Christmas Eve
Worship
Friday,
December 24th,
5:30 pm!*

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