

THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 27, Issue 2, February 2022

Let it Snow! – P.T.'s Practical Theology

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

Isaiah 55:10-11

Dear Members and Friends,

As I write this devotional it is snowing. And being stumped as to what to write, I went to my favorite on-line Bible, and looked up "snow".

I came across the above verses, and took it as a sign from God that this was the text, I was supposed to use for this newsletter. (*BUT, if this devotion makes no sense, it must not have been a sign from God!*)

This powerful passage from the prophet Isaiah is about both blessing and purpose. We are to understand that the snow and the rain that is sent down from heaven is a blessing from God. Any farmer will know that to be the truth, since without the moisture from the winter snows and the spring and summer rains, the soil will not produce a crop. And, no crop will mean no seed and no seed will eventually mean no bread. But, that is not God's intent. He has made to us the promise that He will provide for us all that we need. And for that we offer up our thanks and praise.

Likewise, we are to embrace the truth of Isaiah's parallel teaching here about God's word. As the snow and rain blesses the soil, nourishing it to grow life-giving food, so too is God's word sent to bless its recipients. God intends for His word to nourish the lives of all who will hear and believe. For when we believe that the purpose for which God gives us His word is to actually create faith, it is already succeeding in what God intended.

And even though faith is a gift from God, it is so precious that it deserves to be tended so that we receive its maximum benefits. For this reason, we are to make time in our lives to not only read the word of God, but to also let it seep into our hearts and minds as we seek to grow in relationship to the one who sent His word to bless and keep us.

So, my friends, we all know that winter will soon give way to spring, melting the snow. But, until then, look out upon you yard or your fields and remember that the dual image of snow and God's word, nourishing us, blessing us, and causing us to grow in life-giving faith.

In His Service,

Pastor Tom

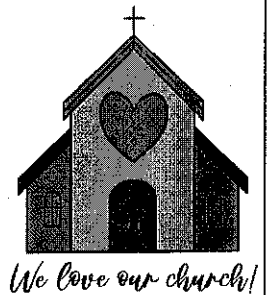


February 2022

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Th	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					

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 2nd 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
6:30 p.m. Youth Group
7:30 p.m. Bible Study at American Lutheran
- 6th 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 9th 2:00 p.m. Bible Study at Castlewood Assisted Living
5:15 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 13th 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School
- 14th Valgnting's Day
- 14th—17th Pastor Tom at NALC Conference —Office Closed
- 20th 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School
10:15 a.m. CHURCH COUNCIL
12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 21st **President's Day**
- 27th 9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School



Sometimes, Lord, you appear to us in brightness; sometimes, we hear your voice out of a cloud. Whatever our circumstances, may we be assured of your presence. Amen.

"Light trumps darkness, every time. You stick a candle into the dark, but you can't stick the dark into the light."
—Jodi Picoult



AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Church Council Minutes
January 9, 2022

American Lutheran church council met on Sunday, January 9, 2022 at the church. Those present were Dan Grupe, Dan Davis, Candy Gailsath, Lindsey Vetter, Chuck Juntti, Traci Bass, Craig Bass, Carrie Henrichsen, Rod Fischer, 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 December meeting was reviewed. Lindsey pointed out there needs to be a correction for the organists pay, which was \$45.00 not \$15.00. Rod made the motion to approve the minutes, second by Carrie. With all voting aye, motion passed. The financial report for December was reviewed. Motion by Craig, second by Traci to approve the financial report. With all voting aye, motion passed.

-Pastor Report:

- Pastor's Conference on Feb. 14-17, 2022 in Florida, will be here for Sunday Services.
- New Bible Study for 1 month.
- Council shared that there was positive feedback about the Christmas Eve Service except the small candlelight candles started to drip wax.
- Pastor suggested we purchase different candles for the Advent Wreath. There are those that holds liquid wax so that we can reuse the candles every year and to purchase plastic reusable candlelight service holders. Rod made the motion to purchase those candles, Dan second, with all voting aye, motion passed.
- Discussion on the topic of what Lent and Holy Week is like at ALC.
- Confirmation is set for April 24th. Need to visit with one more parent to confirm.

Old Business:

Parsonage:

- Cabinet and microwave have been installed.
- Continue to work on various repairs at the parsonage.

Sanctuary Maintenance:

- Pastor Tom and Dan G. met with Dion about lighting above the altar and we are on his agenda. Working on quotes.
- Pews are done, Dan G. will get them in a week. Dan has been using Lucas Mack's enclosed trailer for transporting pews. Rod made the motion to pay Lucas Mack \$500.00, Craig second, with all voting aye, motion passed.

Building Maintenance:

- Defibrillator pads - the battery should be checked
- Annual Meeting - January 16th after worship
- There are three opening on the church council, enough people have expressed interest to fill the openings.



**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Church Council Minutes
January 9, 2022**

-Communion Schedule: January – Craig, February – Dan Grupe
-There was some discussion if congregation members could assist with communion instead of Council members. Decision was tabled until next meeting.

New Business:

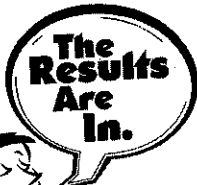
-There was discussion if church and parsonage insurance policy needs to be updated. It was decided to invite Strait Insurance to a council meeting in the near future to review the policy.
- Budget for 2022 was reviewed. Craig B. made the motion to accept the budget, Traci second, all in favor, motion passed.

Next Meeting: February 20th

Motion by Craig to adjourn. Second by Traci, all approved, motion passed.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Janell Bemis, for Secretary Craig Bass



**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2022**

Current Members of the Congregation Council and the year their term expires:

- Josh Nei (2023)
- Chuck Juntti (2023)
- Dan Grupe *(2024)
- Rod Fischer *(2024)
- Candy Gallisath *(2024)
- Lindsey Vetter (2024)
- Carrie Henriksen *(2025)
- John Bucher (2025)
- Barrett Wittnebel (2025)

Current Nominating Committee Members

- Doug Strait (2023)
- Jodi Hanson (2024)
- Traci Bass (2025)

Current Auditing Committee

- Doug Strait (2023)
- Dawn Wiersma (2024)
- Craig Bass (2025)

• denotes second term



Mid-Week Lenten Services to begin with Ash Wednesday, March 2nd

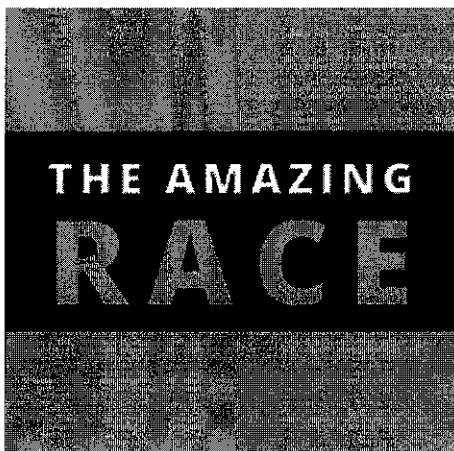
Meal: 6:15-6:45 Served by Youth of ALC(Free-Will Offering for Youth Mission Trip)
Worship: 7:00 pm

Lenten Drama Series: *“The Amazing Race” – Running with Endurance!*

Each week you will meet set of racers, styled after the popular reality TV show. As they “race around the world”, they will be encountered with challenges and opportunities met with God’s provisions and care.

2022- The Amazing Race – Running with Endurance!

• Introduction - Ash Wednesday *Our Father, who art in heaven*



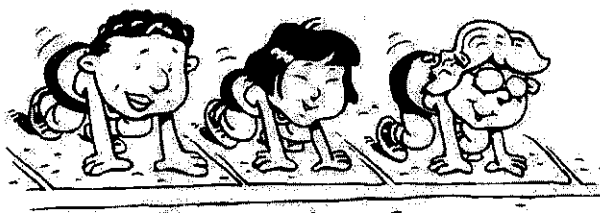
- 1st Petition - *Hallowed be thy name.*
- 2nd Petition: - *Thy Kingdom come.*
- 3rd Petition: - *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*
- 4th Petition: - *Give us this day our daily bread.*
- 5th Petition: - *And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.*
- 6th Petition – Maundy Thursday - *And lead us not into temptation.*
- 7th Petition – Good Friday - *But deliver us from evil.*

Doxology: Easter - *For*

thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. AMEN

Hebrews 12:1-2.....*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

(See Pastor Tom if you are willing to talk a role – 2 “Racers” each week. Script will be on cardstock, so NO memorization is required!)





Chad Langenfeld	2-02
Solvei Gasner	2-04
Hannah Mickey	2-09
Steve Janssen	2-10
Carrie Henrichsen	2-10
Emery Nei	2-11
Tanner Hanson	2-13
Emerson Carter	2-19
Sharla Hamen	2-22
Lynn Borer	2-23
Larz Tvedt	2-24
Brent Bass	2-28

*NO
February
Anniversaries*



Deb Aderhold	2-05
Chloe Carroll	2-08
Barrett Wittnebel	2-08
Kennedy Gallisath	2-10
Bostyn Ruml	2-12
Sherwin DeKam	2-13
Kellyn Jackson	2-13
Andrew Bemis	2-18
Christina Kenyon	2-18
Rod Fischer	2-22
Jodi Hanson	2-22
Darren Greene	2-23
Dennis Strait	2-27
Ashley Hofwalt	2-28

*ALC
75th
Anniversary*

Booklets available at the church

Video is available on YouTube

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



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

Remember there is CALENDAR on our Website!

Go to: americanlutheran-church.com and you can see the calendar of events for American Lutheran. If you have anything church related to add to the calendar, please contact Pastor Tom at pastortlc@gmail.com





American Lutheran Youth!

Grades 7-12 will meet at the church each 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm. February meetings are Feb. 2 & 16.

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 was due in January. If interested, visit with Pastor Tom.



Confirmation Class



Confirmation Ministry – Grades 7-9

(Wednesdays at 5:15-6:15 pm.)

Even though classes will be finished on February 9th, it is the expectation that confirmation students will be part of the mid-week Lenten services.

February Snack Families:

- 2nd – Emery Larson
- 9th – Emery Nei

February Acolytes:

- 6th – Kylie Haight
- 13th – Emery Larson
- 20th – Emery Nei
- 27th – Hannah Wiersma

Adult/Sr. High Bible Study – “The Incarnation”

Pastor Tom will be leading a 4 week study on the Incarnation, during the upcoming Epiphany season. This Bible Study series will help us to know “God with us” as we reflect on the following:

February 2nd – *Where the Lord may be found*

Materials are 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 (finishing Romans in January)
- 7:30 pm at American Lutheran

**American Lutheran Church Financial Report
December 2021**

General Account

Balance on hand 12-1-2021		\$	86,999.64
Receipts			
Offerings	\$	8,013.00	
Thrivent Choice	\$	57.00	
Confirmation	\$	-	
Transfer from Memorial Fund	\$	117.06	
ITC - Capital Credits	\$	422.72	
Donation to cover costs from Thanksgiving Dinner	\$	1,532.63	
Donation	\$	60,000.00	\$ 70,142.41
Disbursements			
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary + \$1,500 Bonus)	\$	5,826.68	
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$	268.26	
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00	
Thomas Christenson (Mileage - 751 Miles)	\$	420.56	
Retirement Plan Consultants	\$	432.67	
EBSO (Health Insurance)	\$	2,112.00	
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)	\$	701.86	
Thomas Christenson (Reimburse for Advent Candles)	\$	29.80	
Thomas Christenson (Reimburse for Communion Wafers)	\$	32.90	
Thomas Christenson (Reimburse for Altar Linens-Memorial)	\$	117.06	
Thomas Christenson (Reimburse for Sheet Music)	\$	5.31	
Thomas Christenson (Reimburse for Airfare for Conference)	\$	348.17	
Thomas Christenson (Reimburse for Conference Registration)	\$	125.00	
Janel Bemis (35 hrs + \$500 Bonus)	\$	879.79	
Dawn Mickey (20 hrs + \$500 Bonus)	\$	717.02	
Roxanne Bass (3 svcs + \$250 Bonus)	\$	385.00	
Marsha Kurtenbach (2 svcs + \$250 Bonus)	\$	340.00	
Karen Lund (Bonus)	\$	250.00	
NALC (benevolence)	\$	50.00	
NALC Eastern SD Mission District	\$	1,250.00	
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$60, Pars: \$81.93)	\$	141.93	
ITC (Church Phone & Internet & Parsonage Phone)	\$	125.20	
Northwestern (Ch: \$223.59, Pars: \$64.90)	\$	288.49	
Ottertail (Ch: \$221.84, Pars: \$79.86)	\$	301.70	
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	297.75	
Hamlin County Publishing (Ads for Thanksgiving Dinner)	\$	68.00	
The Upper Room (Jan/Feb 2022)	\$	32.25	
Office Peeps (Copier)	\$	83.75	
Concordia Publishing (Worship Materials)	\$	120.60	\$ (15,951.75)
Balance on hand 12-31-2021		\$	141,190.30
*** Confirmation Balance	\$	1,056.23	
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$	1,762.95	

Building Account

Balance on hand 12-1-2021		\$	33,984.76
Receipts			
Offerings for Building Fund	\$	23.00	
Offerings for Carpet Fund	\$	-	\$ 23.00
Disbursements			
Dan Grupe (Reimburse for Parsonage Cabinet)	\$	375.87	\$ (375.87)
Balance on hand 12-31-2021		\$	33,631.89
*** New Carpet Fund Balance	\$	22,470.00	

Mission Account

Balance on hand 12-1-2021		\$	3,670.97
Receipts			
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	510.00	
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	135.00	
Donation from Citizens State Bank	\$	250.00	
Children's Offering	\$	45.47	\$ 940.47
Disbursements			
China Service Ventures (children offering 3mths)	\$	178.97	
CW Blessing Center (Dec. offerings + \$2,500 Donation)	\$	2,635.00	
Abbott House	\$	500.00	
St Dymas	\$	500.00	
Institute of Lutheran Theology	\$	800.00	\$ (4,313.97)
Balance on hand 12-31-2021		\$	297.47

Memorial Account

Balance on hand 12-1-2021		\$	8,344.22
Receipts	\$	-	\$ -
Disbursements (Transfer to Gen Acct - Altar Linens)	\$	117.06	\$ (117.06)
Balance on hand 12-31-2021		\$	8,227.16

Account Summary

	Current	Change	Change
	Balance	December 2021	Year to Date
General Account	\$ 141,190.30	\$ 54,190.66	\$ 32,384.17
Building Account	\$ 33,631.89	\$ (352.87)	\$ 6,092.73
Mission Account	\$ 297.47	\$ (3,373.50)	\$ (4,898.25)
Memorial Account	\$ 8,227.16	\$ (117.06)	\$ (1,428.06)



The Servants of our Lord

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Scripture Lectors</i>	<i>Fellowship Servers</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
Feb. 6	Roxanne Bass	Rod Fischer		Jerrod & Brent Bass	Chuck Juntti
Feb. 13	Marsha Kurtenbach		Cindy & Sharla	Travis & Sandra Everson family	
Feb. 20	Roxanne Bass			Roy & Dawn Wiersma family	Doug Strait
Feb. 27	Marsha Kurtenbach			Josh & Sara Nei family	Rod Fischer

Our Faithfulness in Giving

	General	Building	Mission	Children	Blessing Ctr	Mission Trip
Dec. 24/26	\$2,058.00		\$250.00	\$10.00		\$250.00
Jan. 2	\$1,940.00		\$144.00	\$9.00	\$25.00	
Jan. 9	\$2,001.00	\$10.00	\$53.00	\$15.00	\$28.00	
Jan. 16	\$1,947.00	\$10.00	\$158.00	\$8.00	\$25.00	
Jan. 23						



ALTAR GUILD

February : Vicki Strait & Kristy Borer
March: Traci Bass & Carmen Jankord

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

Thank you for your service.

Continuing to search for volunteers for the month of September.

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 American Lutheran Caller

P.O. Box 132

Castlewood, SD 57223

Address Service Requested

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!

Love
ONE ANOTHER



americanlutheranchurch.com