

THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 27, Issue 4, April 2022

Lift Up Your Head! – P.T.'s Practical Theology

"If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above"

Colossians 3:1

It's time to raise your head again! What I mean is, that while you are out walking, it's okay to raise your head and eyes again. During the winter month, we all tend to walk around with our eyes cast downward...not that we are more ashamed of ourselves in the winter...rather here in South Dakota, we are on the lookout for ice and snow. But now, that spring is upon us, we can once again, get our chins off our chests and look out and up at the world around us!

Likewise, Lent is nearly over, and the season of Easter is soon upon us. And, whereas Lent is the season that causes us to look down within ourselves, Easter is the season to look up and see what God has done for us. So, again, lift up your head and eyes!

The miracle of Easter is the pinnacle of the life of Christ, and the lives of Christians. Had it not been for Easter, Jesus would have been just another good teacher, another good man, robbed of the fullness of life by a miscarriage of justice. Yet, Easter did happen. The new life that was manifest in this one man, is now proclaimed as the new life that is promised to all who live by faith.

The role of the Church that confesses the crucified yet risen Christ is to faithfully proclaim what has been revealed to us. We do so with humility, knowing that our calling is to share God's word, while remembering that it is solely God's call to judge our faithfulness to that word. As a church community, we also live out the word in the power of the Spirit that leads us to, and keeps us united in, the one true faith.

For over seventy-five years, American Lutheran Church has held a calling in this part of God's world to be a faithful to God's word and will. We look up to the Risen Christ in the promise of His Gospel word and we seek to make him known as Savior and Lord.

In the power of the one whose name is above all other names, let me say, once again, "Lift up you head, for Christ is Risen! In him there is fullness of life, in him and in no other". AMEN

In His Service,
Pastor Tom



2022- The Amazing Race – Running with Endurance!



Running with Endurance
Hebrew 12:1-2

The last Mid-Week Lenten Service will be April 6th!

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

Holy Week Services!

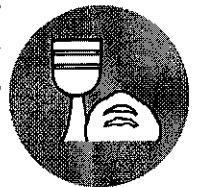
Palm Sunday – April 10th Sunday School Procession with Palms



This year we are asking that all Sunday School Students meet in the Fellowship Hall at 8:45 to be ready to process with palms at the beginning of our worship.

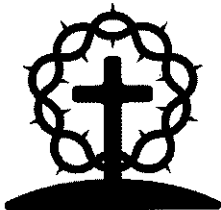
Maudy Thursday Worship – April 14th, 7:00 pm

Join us for worship as we retell the story of Jesus' life-giving Sacrament. For all who in faith partake in this meal receive the promise of forgiveness of sins, life and salvation in His name. This will also be a celebration of First Communion Reception for Lincoln Pribbenow.



Good Friday Tenebrae Worship – April 15th, 7:00 pm

Be with us as we gather at the foot of the cross to reflect on the seven last words of Christ. This worship will feature a *Tenebrae* ending. *Tenebrae* is a Latin word that means "darkness" or "shadows". In the *Tenebrae* portion of our service, candles will be extinguished after each scripture is read. The increasing darkness symbolizes the flight and denial of the disciples and friends of Jesus. The moment of complete darkness recalls the death of Christ.



Easter Sunday – April 17th

7:00 am - Sunrise Service led by our Youth
Full Breakfast Between Services – Egg Bakes, Sausage, Rolls
and Fruit

(Free-will offering for Youth Programs)

9:00 am - Festival Worship with Holy Communion





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Robert Ronne	4-03
Sydney Borer	4-08
Lonny Junker	4-08
Bob Miller	4-08
Neda Ries	4-11
Carmen Jankord	4-12
Phyllis Selchert	4-17
Daniel Lund	4-20
Lindsey Ching	4-24
Easton Carter	4-24
Tristan Nielsen	4-26
Tracy Laue	4-26
Duane Laue	4-30



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son....

JOHN 3:16, NIV

APRIL Baptisms

Tanner Hanson	4-05
Lorna Nielsen	4-07
Collyns Ruml	4-07
Bonnie Top	4-19
Londyn Pribbenow	4-19
Brent Bass	4-20
Emerson Carter	4-21
Richard Tvedt	4-22
Bryce Wittnebel	4-22
Kalee Jackson	4-26
Kelsi Langenfeld	4-26
Karen Lund	4-27
Jonah Wiersma	4-27



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Bill & Karen Hamill	April 17
Russell & Lorie Mack	April 24



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

What's Happening At Church?

Asher James Davis was baptized on March 6, 2022 during worship. Parents are Michala Davis & Wyatt Jorgenson. Sponsors were Elaine Aderhold & Ethan Jorgenson.



The Servants of our Lord

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Scripture Lectors</i>	<i>Fellowship Servers</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
April 3	Roxanne Bass	Kari Nolte	Wittnebel's/Bass	Rod & Joann Fischer	Chuck Juntti
April 10 Palm Sun.	Marsha Kurtenbach	Rod Fischer	Ruml's	Darin & Traci Laue family	
April 14 Maundy Thurs	Roxanne Bass	Brenda Almos	First Communion Reception	Volunteer	
April 15 Good Fri.	Roxanne Bass	Ryder Mack	*****	Volunteer	
April 17 Easter	Roxanne Bass	Joann Fischer	Easter Breakfast	Mark & Angie Larson family	Doug Strait
April 24	Marsha Kurtenbach	Mackenzie Everson	Confirmation Reception	Cory & Kalee Jackson family	Rod Fischer

Our Faithfulness in Giving

	General	Building	Mission	Children	Blessing Ctr	Mission Trip
Feb. 27	\$1,851.00	\$14.00	\$52.00	\$17.00	\$52.00	\$10.00
Mar. 6	\$2,155.00	\$13.00	\$244.48	\$7.48	\$62.00	
Mar. 13	\$2,800.00	\$10.00	\$8.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	
Mar. 20	\$1,645.00	\$8.00	\$216.45	\$11.45	\$95.00	

ALTAR GUILD

April: Jenni Carter & Paula Grupe
May: Joann Fischer & Sandra Everson

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

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!





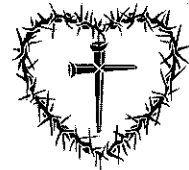
April 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 3rd 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
- 6th 6:15 p.m. Lenten Supper
7:00 p.m. "Amazing Race" Worship
8:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 10th 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School
10:00 a.m. CHURCH COUNCIL
11:00 a.m.—? "Kids Against Hunger"
- 14th 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship & First Communion
- 15th 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae Worship
- 17th 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service led by Youth
7:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast
8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
9:00 a.m. Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion
- 20th 6:30 p.m. ALC Youth
- 21st 1:00 p.m. CHS Graduation
- 24th 9:00 a.m. Worship with Rite of Confirmation
10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School
- 29th—30th NALC District Convocation



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



Rite of Confirmation Sunday, April 24th

During the morning worship, the following will confirm their Baptismal Faith in the Rite of Confirmation:



*Emerson Carter, Daughter of Charles & Jennifer
Paul Everson, Son of Tavis and Sandra
Drake Langenfeld, Son of Chad & Kelsi*

There will be a reception in the fellowship hall following the worship service.

American Lutheran Youth!

Grades 7-12 will meet on Wednesday, April 6th, directly following the Mid-week Lenten Worship and then on the 20th at 6:30 pm.

April Acolytes:

3rd—Drake Langenfeld
10th—Aidan Grupe
17th—Brody Bass
24th—Kylie Haight

Youth & Family Service Project – “Kids Against Hunger” - Sunday, April 10th

The ALC youth group has reserved 25 spots for a food-packing event on the afternoon of Palm Sunday. Following the Sunday School hour, we will carpool down to Sioux Falls, with a lunch stop in Brookings. The meals we pack will be sent to Ukraine and the surrounding countries that are caring for refugees. The food packing event is from 2:00-3:30 pm. Following our service project there will be time to stop at the Empire Mall before returning home.

The non-profit asks for a \$25 donation for each participant to pay for the food materials. Our Church Council has dedicated \$400 and the remainder will be covered by the Youth Group Fund. If you **cannot go with us but want to be a part of the project**, you can donate a financial gift.....make checks payable to ALC Youth, and give or send to Pastor Tom.

A sign-up is on a clipboard in the narthex. Drivers over the age of 21 are needed. Great service event for all!

Meeting Minutes of the Church Council

American Lutheran Church

20 February, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Bucher, Rod Fischer, Candy Gallisath, Dan Grupe, Carrie Henrichsen, Chuck Juntti, Jessie Ruml, Mark Larson, Lindsey Vetter and Pastor Tom Christenson.

CALL TO ORDER: President Grupe called the meeting to order, declaring a voting quorum as being present.

PRAYER: Pastor Tom led the Council in prayer.

COUNCIL MINUTES: Vice Pres. Had Pastor Tom read the Minutes from the January 9th February Council Meeting. Motion by Rod, second by Candy to approve as printed. **MC**

FINANCIAL REPORT: Treasurer Rod presented the Financial Report of January 31, 2022: Motion by Mark, second by Chuck to approve as printed. **MC**

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Tom gave a brief reports on:

- the NALC Pastor's Conference,
- the upcoming Joint ESD/Minkota Mission District Convo, April 29-30
- Lenten Plans

OLD BUSINESS:

Reviewed the list of tasks to be completed at the parsonage – **No Action**

(Front Door Trim, Floor Molding in ½ bath, Floor Molding in lower-level bath, Ceiling Trim in lower-level bath, Bi-fold Closet Doors in lower-level bedroom, Bathtub, Ductwork piece needing to be replaced in ½ bath, Egress Window panels)

President Dan reported that 3 screens for the parsonage have been fixed or replaced.

Reviewed contacts being made for sheetrock repair at the church building – **No Action**

Reviewed contacts being made with Dockter Electric to address lighting in the Chancel Area – **No Action**

Reviewed contacts being made to ensure the Defibrillator and its supplies is up to date – **No Action**

CONTINUING TABLED ITEM: Power to parsonage yard shed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Communion Distribution Volunteers – March=Rod, and April=Mark

Election of Council Officers:

- Motion by Rod, second by John to elect Dan as Council Pres. **MC**
- Motion by Rod, second by Candy to elect Chuck as Vice Pres. **MC**
- Motion by Dan, second by Jessie to elect Rod as Treasurer. **MC**
- Motion by Rod, second by Mark to elect Mark as Secretary. **MC**

Church Council Installation set for March 6th

Christmas Candle Holders – Motion by Rod and second by Mark to purchase 150 "plastic handle cups" for Candlelight Service. **MC**

Request for info about Summer Bible Camperships – Pastor Tom will follow up.

Approved "Food for the Poor" Worship for June 12th (Pastor Tom on Mission Trip)

TABLED ITEM: Motion by Rod and second by John to table Council Cmte. Assignments.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Motion by Rod, second by John to adjourn. **MC**

CLOSING PRAYER: President Grupe led us in the Lord's Prayer

NEXT MEETING: March 20, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Tom Christenson – Substitute Sec.

**American Lutheran Church Financial Report
February 2022**

General Account

Balance on hand 2-1-2022		\$	139,232.21
Receipts			
Offerings	\$	7,281.00	
Thrivent	\$	105.00	\$ 7,386.00
Disbursements			
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$	4,026.68	
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$	268.26	
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00	
Thomas Christenson (Mileage - 168 Miles)	\$	98.28	
Thomas Christenson (Reimb.-Comm. Wafers & Lighting Tapers)	\$	47.90	
Thomas Christenson (Reimb.-Lodging @ Pastors Conference)	\$	500.00	
Retirement Plan Consultants	\$	432.67	
EBSO (Health Insurance)	\$	2,218.00	
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)	\$	621.75	
Janell Bemis (Secretary - 24 hrs)	\$	288.13	
Amanda Pribbenow (Custodian - 14 hrs)	\$	151.92	
Roxanne Bass (Organist - 3 Svcs)	\$	150.00	
Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist - 1 Svc)	\$	50.00	
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$60.00, Pars: \$81.93)	\$	141.93	
ITC (Church & Parsonage Phone)	\$	125.84	
Northwestern (Ch: \$546.59, Pars: \$131.40)	\$	677.99	
Ottertail (Ch: \$191.89, Pars: \$96.74)	\$	288.63	
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	314.25	
NALC	\$	50.00	
Office Peeps (Copier)	\$	49.55	
Concordia Publishing (Worship Supplies)	\$	74.63	
Concordia Publishing (Candle Holders)	\$	209.70	
Upper Room Ministries (March / April)	\$	32.25	\$ (11,018.36)
Balance on hand 2-28-2022			\$ 135,599.85
*** Confirmation Balance	\$	1,056.23	
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$	1,867.95	

Building Account

Balance on hand 2-1-2022		\$	33,694.84
Receipts			
Offerings for Building Fund	\$	28.00	
Offerings for Carpet Fund	\$	-	\$ 28.00
Disbursements			
	\$	-	\$ -
Balance on hand 2-28-2022			\$ 33,722.84
*** New Carpet Fund Balance	\$	22,390.00	

Mission Account

Balance on hand 2-1-2022		\$	603.47
Receipts			
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	179.00	
Children's Offering	\$	45.32	
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	157.00	
Offerings for Youth Mission Trip	\$	40.00	\$ 421.32
Disbursements			
ALC Youth Group (Mission Trip)	\$	40.00	
Castlewood Blessing Center (Feb. offerings)	\$	157.00	\$ (197.00)
Balance on hand 2-28-2022			\$ 827.79

Memorial Account

Balance on hand 2-1-2022		\$	8,227.16
Receipts			
Memorial for Richard Wenzlick	\$	100.00	\$ 100.00
Disbursements			
	\$	-	\$ -
Balance on hand 2-28-2022			\$ 8,327.16

Account Summary

	Current Balance	Change February 2022	Change Year to Date
General Account	\$ 135,599.85	\$ (3,632.36)	\$ (5,590.45)
Building Account	\$ 33,722.84	\$ 28.00	\$ 90.95
Mission Account	\$ 827.79	\$ 224.32	\$ 530.32
Memorial Account	\$ 8,327.16	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00

Joint Mission District Convocation – April 29-30 at Mt. Carmel Ministries, Alexandria, MN

American Lutheran Church is part of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). For contact and cooperation, all NALC congregation also belong to a Mission District. Thus, we further belong to the Eastern South Dakota Mission District. Each Mission District is required to meet at least once during the year for its convocation. For the past 10 years we have held our convocation with members of the Minkota District (Northern Minnesota & Eastern North Dakota). It is the Minkota District's turn to host, so our gathering will be at Mt. Carmel Ministries. We are honored this year to have Bishop Dan Selbo joining us as well as a keynote speaker being arranged by the Minkota District. We can have as many representatives from our congregation who are willing to join us in this special time of learning, cultivating our leaders, and doing the work of the District. More information about the registration of this Joint Mission District Convocation is on the Narthex Bulletin Board. If you have interest in attending, please contact Pastor Tom.



Celebrate & Serve! National Volunteer Week, April 17-23, 2022

Thrivent will send every supporter who requests a limited-edition Thrivent Action Kit from April 17–23, Thrivent will provide a \$5.00 dona-



*ALC will have an **Easter Memorial Garden** again this year. Bring a flower or plant to place in the sanctuary in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Please have flowers at the church by noon **Saturday, April 16**. Complete the following form and return it to the church office or put in Janell's mailbox by **Wednesday April 13, 2022**. Thank you!*

*In memory or in honor of
(circle preference)*

To the glory of God from

The American Lutheran Caller

P.O. Box 132

Castlewood, SD 57223

Address Service Requested

*Worship With Us
This Easter*



April 17, 2022

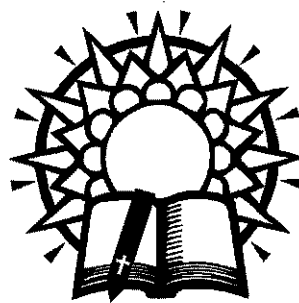
WATCH US ON YOUTUBE & ITC!

*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!



*Rejoice!
He Lives!*



americanlutheranchurch.com