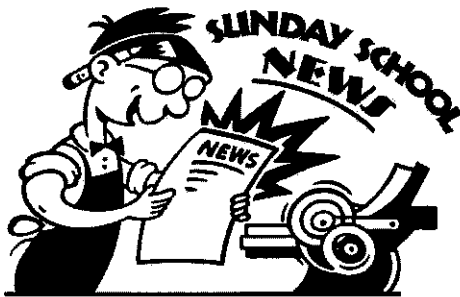


THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 27, Issue 9, September 2022



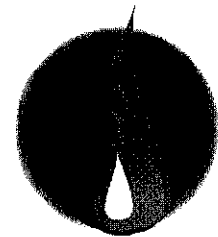
Sept 7th at 6:00pm : Sunday School Meeting
Interested parents and potential teachers/youth leaders meet at the church to brainstorm and plan for the upcoming Sunday School year. All welcome to attend. Items to think about – attendance, curriculum, music, volunteers etc.

September 18th: Rally Sunday

September 7th, 7:00 pm: Confirmation Parent/Student Meeting (Grades 7-9)

We ask that students and at least one parental-unit attend this opening meeting of our 2021-2022 Confirmation Year. Included in our time together will be:

- overview of curriculum
- class & homework expectations
- acolyte training & sign-ups
- snack sign-ups
- for 9th grade families – input into setting the Spring Rite of Confirmation



**Confirmation
News**

Confirmation Ministry – Grades 7-9

Will start on Wednesday, September 14th 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.



American Lutheran Youth!

Fall Kick-Off! On Sunday, September 11th, from 5:00-7:00 all youth in grades 7-12 are invited to the parsonage (509 E. Gerhold) for yard games and a grill out!

Then starting on **October 5th**, we will meet at the church each 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Youth Group will be a combination of study, fellowship and planning for service events and fun stuff too!



September 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

- 4th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 5th Labor Day
- 7th 6:00 p.m. Sunday School Meeting
7:00p.m. Confirmation Meeting
- 11th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
5:00 –7:00 p.m. Youth Fall Kick-Off at Pastor's
Grandparents Day
- 14th 5:15-6:15 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Adult/Sr. Bible Study
- 18th RALLY Day
9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
10:00 a.m. CHURCH COUNCIL
12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 21st 5:15-6:15 p.m. Confirmation
- 22nd First Day of Autumn
- 25th 9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
- 28th 5:15-6:15 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Adult/Sr. Bible Study



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



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

“Sanctified in the Truth”

Jesus said: I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. John 17:14-19

We live in challenging times! In the past few months, we have gone through storms of high winds and even a tornado! We have watched from afar the invasion of Ukraine, and have heard of the devastation left as the warfare still continues. We have been witnesses to times of government turmoil, which always leaves us embattled and affected by its decisions. And every time we dial up the news, we see how our society is ever being embroiled in matters that challenge our Christian norms and values. All of this in addition to the rigors of work and family!

What are we to do? Well, the short answer is to remain faithful!

Jesus, on the night in which he was betrayed, prayed the words above to His Father, who is also our Father. Jesus knew that His fate for the sake of saving our world was now just hours away, and yet chief on His mind was us! As He prayed for us, He knew that the power of the evil one would continue to work to draw us away from God.....that was true then, and is certainly still true today! But hear how Jesus prays for us! He does not ask God to remove us from the world, but to send us *into the world* as champions of the truth. “*Sanctify them in truth*”, Jesus prayed.

Truth then, is not some conjecture of our human minds. Rather truth comes from the one who breathes it into our lives and has provided His Word to guide and sustain us in what is pleasing unto our God. Jesus reminded God that while He was among the disciples, that He “*gave them your word*”. From the lips of the Son of God into the hearts of His chosen, Jesus imparted the truth, and the unbelieving world hated them. Why? Because, our sinful nature desires to be God, not to follow God! Yet, just as Jesus taught the truth to His disciples, we still have God's word of truth given to us in the word. Armed with this truth, we are kept in a right relationship with God, and given the parameters by which we live and teach, and preach.

Is this an easy road we trod? By no mean! For as Jesus said, “*the world*” hates the truth. The “world” does not want to be reminded that there is a God who has a plan and that His plan is for our good! The “world” wants to go it on its own.....and that fits just fine with the plans of the evil one. However, God is still God! The troubles and tumult of our lives are largely caused because “the world” has rejected any claim upon it from an almighty God. May it not be so among us!

Cont.



Calling all people! – P.T.’s Practical Theology “Sanctified in the Truth” cont.

American Lutheran Church remains as a testimony to the fact that God wants His people to ever seek him, as he ever seeks us. We exist for the purpose of proclaiming the forgiveness of sins to any and all who will turn to God for their deliverance. We live and serve in this community and into the world, because Christ has sent us into the world, just as he was sent.

Thus, we are to come together, to gather to worship God and receive from Him the promises that the just shall live by faith. We are to come to learn from one another how to live in this world, but not be led by this world. We consecrate ourselves to God, as we are sanctified (*cleaned up, made holy*) in His truth! For then, we shall know the truth and the truth will set us free to live in this world, but not of this world!

To the Praise & Glory of God!

Pastor Tom

Castlewood School District to use American Lutheran Church Building to temporarily host the Kindergarten and First grades. Starting this next Tuesday, September 6th, our facility will be used during the school days, until the District’s Mobile Classrooms arrive and are ready to be occupied. This outreach ministry of ALC will require all of us to be flexible in our use of the church for its programs. With this, the decision has been made to lock the church building when not in school/church program hours to safe-guard the equipment and materials that will be used by our public school teachers. If you need after-hour access to the church building, please contact Pastor Tom or Janell.

LUNCH SERVERS! – The school District is looking for two volunteers per day to serve lunches from 10:30-Noon. If you can help, please contact the school office at 605-793-2497.



Gideon Sunday – September 25th

On the last Sunday of September, the Church Council has invited a representative from Gideons International to bring us a Temple Talk on their ministry to share the Good News of Jesus Christ through their Bible Distributions around the world. On that day, a free-will Open Bible Offering will be taken to support this ministry. EVERY donation is used to purchase Bibles, as Gideon Members cover all the other costs of their ministry.



Food Donations

Blessing Center Collection –We remind the congregation that there is a collection box in the narthex, and ask that each ALC family bring in a few non-perishable items each month to support this local ministry.




SEPTEMBER
BIRTHDAYS

Dan Grupe	09-03	Kabren Jackson	09-15
Kailyn Larson	09-04	Janell Bemis	09-17
Lindsey Vetter	09-04	Clarence Rhody	09-19
Kylie Wittnebel	09-06	Rich Ries	09-24
Logan Ronne	09-08	Jeremiah Wiersma	09-26
Debra Aderhold	09-10	Amanda Pribbenow	09-26
Roni Jankord	09-12	Kim Stevens	09-27

Ruby McKee	9-06	Michelle Ronne	9-17
Katie Fischer	9-07	Abbey Strait	9-17
Kim Fischer	9-07	Paula Grupe	9-19
Ed Aderhold	9-10	Clarence Rhody	9-19
Melissa Prohl	9-10	Austin Nielsen	9-22
Justin Ries	9-12	Casey Kenyon Jr	9-23
Craig Bass	9-15	Chad Langenfeld	9-23
Darah DeKam	9-15	Tara Nolte	9-27
Erin Ruesink	9-15	Charlsy Laue	9-28



SEPTEMBER
BAPTISMS



SEPTEMBER
ANNIVERSARIES

John & Bonnie Top	September 2nd
Lars & Jodi Hanson	September 13th
Sherwin & Shelly DeKam	September 16th
Clarence & Melissa Rhody	September 24th
Dale & Sharon Hattendorf	September 29th

Sr. High/Adult Choir! Starting October 2nd!

Practices on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month at 8:30 am and will generally provide the anthem on the 3rd 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 a "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!





The Servants of our Lord

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Scripture Lectors</i>	<i>Fellowship Servers</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
Sept. 4	Roxanne Bass		Lorie & Russell Mack	Barb Cozad & Brenda Almos	Chuck Juntti
Sept. 11	Marsha Kurtenbach	Ruml's	Ruml's	Roy & Dawn Wiersma family	
Sept. 18	Roxanne Bass		Sunday School	Sherwin & Shelly DeKam	Doug Strait
Sept. 25	Marsha Kurtenbach			Joshua & Sara Nei family	Rod Fischer

Our Faithfulness in Giving

	General	Building	Mission	Children	Blessing Ctr
July 31	\$1,747.00	\$128.00	\$35.00		\$25.00
August 7	\$2,346.00	\$255.00	\$29.00		
August 14	\$1,035.00	\$30.00	\$30.00		\$25.00
August 21	\$2,370.00	\$4.00	\$159.00	\$3.00	\$90.00

ALTAR GUILD

September: Jodi Hanson & Deb Aderhold
October: Ruby McKee & Dawn Wiersma

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

SIGN -UP SHEET FOR
Lectors—Scriptures sheets available
Fellowship Servers
IN THE NARTHEX



A BIG Thank you for all youth, parents, Pastor, Janet, Vicki, Jonah and all who helped at the pancake feed and supported the event. It is very much appreciated.



Meeting Minutes of the Church Council American Lutheran Church July 17, 2002

Members Present: Dan Grupe, Chuck Juntti, Rod Fischer, Carrie Henriksen, John Bucher, Jessie Ruml, Pastor Tom Christensen

President Dan Grupe called the meeting to order

PRAYER: Pastor Tom led the council in prayer

COUNCIL MINUTES: Pastor Tom Christensen read the meeting minutes from the June 25, 2002 Council Meeting. Pastor made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, John seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED**

FINANCIAL REPORT: Treasurer Rod Fischer presented the financial report for the June 25, 2002 Council Meeting. Motion by Chuck to accept the Treasurers report, Jessie seconded. **MOTION CARRIED**

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor presented a thank you from Jonah Wiersma for the Scholarship the council (\$250 per graduating senior).

Vacation Bible School – All Castlewood Churches are participating. Cost for American Lutheran Church Sunday School was \$150 to go towards supplies and snacks.

A discussion on the new school schedule for the Castlewood School District. Tentative High School start is August 31st. With Grade School to follow.

OLD BUSINESS:

Infant defibrillator pads are in.

Sanctuary painting is complete and fellowship has been started. Will finish up the fellowship, bathrooms and the Pastor's study the week of July 18th.

Thermostat in the Fellowship hall seems to be mis-calibrated. Rod, Chuck and Larry Dockter checked it after the council meeting.

Unlike some older thermostats there is no way to calibrate it. A new thermostat may be required.

Church Repairs – drywall repair and painting will be under the \$15,000 budget allocated in the Congregational meeting.

Storm Damage – Dan Grupe contacted Strait Insurance regarding the damage sustained by the Castlewood tornado.

President Dan Grupe reported that the work in the church basement is on-going. Discussion to make this a church member project or to contract it out.

Parking Lot – Danny Davis continues to do work on the west side of the church parking lot. The goal is to increase the size of the parking lot, increase drainage, and make it more uniform.

Geise Funeral Chapel: Pastor passed on the Council's request for \$600 for the use of ALC for and viewings. Awaiting a reply from their insurance company

Dirt work at the parsonage for straightening out trees in the back yard is complete.

NEW BUSINESS:

Communion Assistant: August 7th John Bucher August 21st Dan Grupe

Tornado Damage – A check for \$74,291.15 was issued to American Lutheran Church by the insurance company. Will be deposited in the building account.

Several area church and individuals had made donations to American Lutheran Church to support tornado relieve efforts. Rod made a motion to allocate the \$6000 be given to the Castlewood Foundation, Seconded by Carrie. **MOTION CARRIED**

A suggestion was made by a member that something be done to add some way to differentiate the raised area for the pulpit and alter.

Council discussed making that an engineered wood plank floor instead of carpet. **No Action Taken**

A "Thank You" from the Ruml girls for ALC sponsoring part of the expense to go to NeSoDak this summer.

Pastor Tom asked the council if we would like to invite the Gideons to speak in the September/October time frame. Council agreed.

Pastor Tom will reach out to the Gideons.

How do we get people to sign up for reading the lessons or serving fellowship. Chuck will pass around the clip boards during fellowship for the rest of July.

Castlewood Days – August 13-14. Youth will serve the pancake feed. Pastor will check with the Castlewood organizers to see if ALC has any responsibilities. In the past duties such as the Sermon, ushers, setup (plates, cups, utensils) have been split up between all the churches.

Pastor's and Janell's chairs need to be replaced. It was decided to let Pastor and Janell pick out their own chairs. Rod made a motion to allow \$300 per chair, seconded by John. **MOTION CARRIED**

NEXT MEETING: August 21st. Pastor will not be available as he will be performing Pastoral Call Duties for another church as part of his duties as an NALC District leader.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Motion by Jessie to Adjourn, seconded by Rod. **MOTION CARRIED**

CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Tom lead us in the Lord's Prayer

**American Lutheran Church Financial Report
July 2022**

General Account

Balance on hand 7-1-2022			\$118,786.83
Receipts			
Offerings	\$	7,935.25	
Confirmation	\$	8.00	\$ 7,943.25
Disbursements			
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$	4,126.68	
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$	288.28	
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00	
Thomas Christenson (Mileage - 249 Miles)	\$	145.66	
Retirement Plan Consultants	\$	432.67	
EBSO (Health Insurance)	\$	2,218.00	
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)	\$	621.75	
Janell Bemis (Secretary-23 hr -June)	\$	276.13	
Janell Bemis (Secretary-26 hr -July)	\$	312.14	
Amanda Pribbenow (Custodian-11 hr)	\$	119.36	
Roxanne Bass (Organist-2 Svc)	\$	100.00	
Karen Lund (Organist-1 Svc)	\$	50.00	
Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist-2 Svc)	\$	100.00	
NALC (Benevolence)	\$	50.00	
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$60.00, Pars: \$104.35)	\$	164.35	
ITC (Church and Parsonage)	\$	125.74	
Northwestern (Ch: \$41.71, Pars: \$19.77)	\$	61.48	
Otertail (Ch: \$106.89, Pars: \$166.65)	\$	273.54	
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	314.26	
Office Peeps (\$207.60 Supplies + \$308.17 Office Chair)	\$	515.77	
Concordia Publishing	\$	74.63	
SD Secretary of State (File Annual Report)	\$	10.00	
US Treasury (2nd quarter payroll taxes)	\$	220.52	\$ (10,780.93)
Balance on hand 7-31-2021			\$ 115,949.15
*** Confirmation Balance	\$	1,064.23	
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$	2,489.95	

Building Account

Balance on hand 7-1-2022			\$ 34,083.04
Receipts			
Offerings for Building Fund	\$	508.00	
Insurance Payment	\$	74,291.15	
Offerings for Carpet Fund	\$	-	\$ 74,799.15
Disbursements			
SA Drywall (Fix cracks inside church - from Carpet Fund)	\$	7,710.00	
Sein Painting (paint inside - from Carpet Fund)	\$	5,610.00	\$ (13,320.00)
Balance on hand 7-31-2021			\$ 95,562.19
*** New Carpet Fund Balance	\$	9,094.00	

Mission Account

Balance on hand 7-1-2022			\$ 6,746.47
Receipts			
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	150.00	
Gifts for Storm Relief	\$	5,863.45	
Children's Offering	\$	19.01	
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	140.00	\$ 6,172.46
Disbursements			
Castlewood Relief Fund (\$5,863.45 + \$136.55 Council Vote)	\$	6,000.00	
Kennedy Gallisath (Scholarship)	\$	250.00	
Tanner Hanson (Scholarship)	\$	250.00	
Jackson Nei (Scholarship)	\$	250.00	
Addyson Witnebel (Scholarship)	\$	250.00	
Ryder Mack (Scholarship)	\$	250.00	
Tristan Nielsen (Scholarship)	\$	250.00	
Jonah Wiersma (Scholarship)	\$	250.00	
Deluxe Checks (Checks for Mission Account)	\$	25.00	
Castlewood Blessing Center (July offerings)	\$	140.00	\$ (7,915.00)
Balance on hand 7-31-2021			\$ 5,003.93

Memorial Account

Balance on hand 7-1-2022			\$ 7,528.41
Receipts	\$	-	\$ -
Disbursements	\$	-	\$ -
Balance on hand 7-31-2021			\$ 7,528.41

Account Summary

	Current	Change	Change
	Balance	July 2022	Year to Date
General Account	\$ 115,949.15	\$ (2,837.68)	\$ (25,241.15)
Building Account	\$ 95,562.19	\$ 81,479.15	\$ 81,930.30
Mission Account	\$ 5,003.93	\$ (1,742.54)	\$ 4,706.46
Memorial Account	\$ 7,528.41	\$ -	\$ (698.75)



Adult/Sr. High Bible Study – “Lutheranism 201”

(The Augsburg Confession & Its Apology)

Wednesdays - September 14 & 28 at 7:00 pm

Also offered at Castlewood Assisted Living at 2:00 pm

The fall Bible Study will focus on the Biblical Truths of our Reformation Faith. Study Materials will be provided, so all you need to bring is your Bible and a writing utensil!

We will only meet every other week, as the opposite Wednesday nights are being reserved for Youth Group. For now, with the Castlewood School District using our facilities into October, we will not be able to offer a morning session, but members are invited to join at the Castlewood Assisted Living Center time.

Session 1—Bible-Based Truth

Session 2—God: One Essence, Three Persons

Session 3—Sin and Free Will

Session 4—Jesus Christ: God’s Son, Savior, and Intercessor

Session 5—Justification: Righteousness before God

Session 6—The Gospel and the Sacraments

Session 7—The New Obedience: Faith and Good Works

Session 8—The Church: Congregation of Saints

Session 9—A Sacramental Means of Grace: Baptism

Session 10—The Holy Supper of Our Lord

Session 11—Repentance: The Christian Way of Life

Session 12—Civil Government: A Gift of God

Session 13—The Return of Christ



New Member Reception – Sunday, October 9th - We have some recent visitors who have expressed a desire to join us in membership. If you or someone you know may also be interested in joining, please contact Pastor Tom.

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!



americanlutheranchurch.com

2022 Church council members

Dan Grupe, President

Candy Galliseth, VP

Rod Fischer, Treas.

Mark Larson, Sec.

Jesse Ruml

Josh Nei

Chuck Juntti

John Bucher

Lindsey Vetter

Carrie Henrichsen