

THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 27, Issue 12, December 2022

The New Covenant – P.T.'s Practical Theology

*“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” **Jeremiah 31:31-34***

What must it be like to live without hope?

What must it be like to live outside of the promise of a brighter future?

Brothers and sisters in Christ, for those of us who place their faith in the blessed Trinity, need not dwell on such questions, for we have faith that God has already made His provisions for us!

The prophet, Jeremiah, in the passage, above preached to God’s people a word of hope and promise that God had given him to deliver. The Old Covenant that God had sworn to Abraham and Isaac, had been broken, over and over again. The sin of the people had brought separation from God’s plans and blessings, and the people were suffering. Oh, God was still active in their lives, but for the time, they suffered because of their sin and unbelief.

So, God speaks through the prophet of a day of restoration, a day of hope, and a day of a promise that cannot be broken! For the Israelites it would be in the day of the coming of the Messiah. The long-awaited Messiah, who would bring God’s eternal reign among them in the form of a child! What a crazy notion, of a God taking on human flesh to work his work in His people! Crazy to us, but not to God! For how much more intimate can God become than to take on flesh and live among us?

Certainly, this is the story of this Advent and coming Christmas seasons. As we gather for worship, we mark the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that came among us in the birth of the Messiah, the Christ. We believe that in Him, God was instilling in us the New Covenant, that we would not be able to break, for it would not be one of the law, but one of the indwelling of God in us, for us!



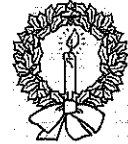
We are by faith in Christ Jesus, the recipients of the hope and promise that Jeremiah had foretold. Despite the stresses and strains of our lives, still mired in sin, we are filled with the blessed hope and promise of the one who came among us to save us; to save us from sin, death and the devil. The one in whom we remember and worship as the sign of God's undying love for all His people, and undying promise to all who place their faith in Him alone!

That, my fellow believers, is why we need not live as people without hope! That is why we cling to the promise that no matter what befalls us in our earthly lives, our futures are secure in the one who writes his claim on our hearts.

As we mark this season of preparation for the Christ coming among us, let us remember that the celebrations, the purchasing of gifts, the acts of Christian charity, all should stem from our faith in the one who came among us, and is coming again to make us heirs of God's blessed hope and promise!

May the knowledge of the Christ Child, bless your lives during this Advent season!

Pastor Tom



Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 18th at 10:00 am.

Please note, this will be our Sunday Morning Worship, as the young people of ALC will proclaim the Christmas Gospel in drama, word and song!

Sunday School Christmas Program Practice!

Please make every effort for all our 3 year olds through Sr. High to be at the following practices:

10:15 am on Sundays the 4th and 11th

9:00 am on Sunday the 18th

(Reserve Saturday Morning, December 17th for a possible added practice)



Christmas Program

"HE WILL BE GREAT AND WILL BE CALLED THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH."

LUKE 1:32



Christmas Eve Worship

Friday, December 24th, 5:30pm!

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

Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 25th, 9:00 am!



American Lutheran Youth!

ALC Youth will meet at the church each 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm.— December 7th & 21st.

Christmas Caroling – Wednesday, the 21st – gather at the Church, and we will then go to Castlewood Assisted Living to share the joy of the season!



Confirmation
News

Confirmation Ministry – Grades 6-8

Wednesday, 5:15-6:15 pm. December 7, 14, 21.

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 ACOLYTES

- 4 Kendra & Ava Ruml
- 11 Larz Tvedt
& Easton Carter
- 24 Brody Bass
- 25 Open

DECEMBER SNACK FAMILIES

- 7th—Brody Bass
- 14th—Kendra Nielsen
- 21st—Hannah Wiersman



Advent Families:
 4th – Kristi Sikkink & Kylie Haight
 11th – Austin Tvedt Family
 18th – Kendall Nielsen Family

Advent Devotionals are Available – Daily devotions, written by the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) staff are available in the narthex.

What do you sing at a snowman's birthday party?

"Freeze a jolly good fellow!"



What kind of photos do Santa's helpers take?

Elfies

Why did Rudolph get a bad report card?

Because he went down in history.



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. 4	Roxanne Bass	Rumml family		Traci Bass & Candy Gallisath	Chuck Juntti
Dec. 11	Marsha Kurtenbach	Rod Fischer	Carter's, Larson's, Pribbenow's	Kevin & Amanda Pribbenow	
Dec. 18	Roxanne Bass	None	*****	Dennis & Vicki Strait	Doug Strait
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve			*****	Travis & Sandra Everson	
Dec. 25	Marsha Kurtenbach	Rod Fischer	*****	Austin & Leslie Tvedt family	Rod Fischer

	General	Building	Mission	Children	Blessing Ctr
October 30	\$2,035.00	\$10.00	\$169.00	\$14.00	\$65.00
November 6	\$2,925.00	\$295.00	\$169.85	\$14.85	\$25.00
November 13	\$1,442.00	\$10.00	\$154.47	\$4.47	\$85.00
November 24	\$1,017.00	\$13.00	\$135.00	\$8.00	\$65.00

ALTAR GUILD

December: Joann Fischer & Lorie Mack

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

Thank you for your service.

SIGN -UP SHEET FOR Lectors—Scriptures sheets available

**Fellowship Servers
IN THE NARTHEX**

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.



December 2022

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

- 4th 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program Practice
12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 7th 5:15-6:15 p.m. Confirmation
6:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 11th 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program Practice
10:15 a.m. Church Council
- 14th 2:00 p.m. Bible Study at Assisted Living
5:15-6:15 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Bible Study at Sharla & Garreth Hamen
- 17th TBA ??SS Program Practice??
- 18th 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program Practice
10:00 a.m. **Sunday School Christmas Program**
12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 21st First Day of Winter
5:15-6:15 p.m. Confirmation
6:30 p.m. Youth Group—Christmas Caroling
- 24th 5:30 p.m. *Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service*
- 25th 9:00 a.m. *Christmas Worship*
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
- 28th No Activities—Christmas Break
- 31th New Year's Eve

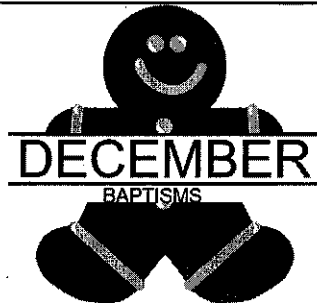


Remember there is CALENDAR on our Website! Go to: americanlutheran-church.com and you can see the calendar of events for American Lutheran. If you have anything church related to add to the calendar, please contact Pastor Tom at pastortlc@gmail.com



DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS

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



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



Ed & Deb
Aderhold
Dec. 19th

Kendal & Alisha
Nielsen
Dec. 21st

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?

It's Christmas, Eve!



What does the gingerbread man put on his bed?

Cookie sheets.



Sr. High/Adult Choir!

This month we practice on the 4th and the 11th, and provide the anthem on December 11th.

Adult/Sr. High Bible Study – "Lutheranism 201"

(The Augsburg Confesion & Its Apology)

Wednesday – December 14th at 7:00 pm

Also offered at Castlewood Assisted Living at 2:00 pm

Session 6—The Gospel and the Sacraments



AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Church Council Meeting Minutes
October 16th, 2022

Members Present: Dan Grupe, Lindsey Vetter, Jessi Ruml, Rod Fischer, Mark Larson, Kari Henriksen & Pastor Tom Christenson.

Call to Order: Dan Grupe called the meeting to order, declaring a voting quorum as being present.

Prayer: Pastor Tom led the members in prayer.

September 2022 Council Minutes: Minutes were reviewed by all members. Rod made a motion to approve the council minutes as printed and Jessi seconded. **Motion Carried.**

Financial Report: Treasurer Rod presented the financial report of September 2022. Motion by Pastor to approve the financial report as printed and John Lindsey. **Motion Carried.**

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Tom will be away on November 13th, 2022, presenting to the North Preston Church on behalf of the NALC.

OLD BUSINESS:

Parsonage:

- Dan is working with Dennis Strait on the creaking tub, egress windows and basement trim.

Church Building:

- Dan is continuing to check on thermostats for the narthex and sanctuary.
- Dennis Strait has voiced his concerns over the noise that will be produced while working in the basement of the church and would like to wait until after the school has left the building.
- Lindsey brought up an error in the September 2022 Council minutes pertaining to the carpeting. The September 2022 minutes were not clear on the fact that both sets of stairs in the Church will be carpeted and not have vinyl flooring on them.
- President Dan indicated that the gutters on the Church have been replaced following the storm damage. The siding repairs are scheduled for the Spring of 2023.
- Rod is continuing to work on obtaining a quote for a sign replacement.
- The carpeting for the church is ordered and a ½ down payment is needed. Rod will issue a check for the ½ down and give the check to Lindsey for delivery.
- Pastor reports that the school superintendent has mentioned to him that the school has advised they would likely be in the Church until mid to late November 2022. It was agreed that with this news and the upcoming Holiday season that the flooring installation should be moved to after January 1st, 2023.

Communion Schedule: November – Lindsey December - Jessi

NEW BUSINESS:

- Community Thanksgiving to be held on November 20th, 2022. Sunday School at 9:00 am, Worship at 10:00 am and meal to follow. Rod will be look into possibly using the Community Center for this event due to the school staff and supplies possibly still being present in the Church. Rod will also visit with Tables about catering this event.
- John Bucher has completed repairs of advent supplies.

Mission Work:

- Motion by Rod to give \$250.00 to St. Dysmas and seconded by Mark. **Motion Carried.**

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Rod motioned to adjourn the meeting and Kari seconded. **MC.**

CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Tom led the council with the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: November 13th, 2022, following Worship.

Respectfully Submitted, Mark Larson, Secretary

**American Lutheran Church Financial Report
October 2022**

General Account

Balance on hand 10-1-2022			\$	111,854.93
Receipts				
Offerings	\$	9,925.00		
Confirmation	\$	11.00	\$	9,936.00
Disbursements				
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$	4,126.68		
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$	268.26		
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00		
Thomas Christenson (Mileage - 207 miles)	\$	121.09		
Retirement Plan Consultants	\$	432.67		
EBSO (Health Insurance - Nov.)	\$	2,218.00		
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)	\$	621.75		
Janell Bemis (26 hrs)	\$	312.14		
Amanda Pribbenow (Custodian - 14 hrs)	\$	151.92		
Roxanne Bass (Organist - 2 svcs)	\$	100.00		
Karen Lund (Organist - 1 svc)	\$	50.00		
Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist - 2 svcs)	\$	100.00		
NALC (benevolence)	\$	50.00		
City of Castewood (Ch: \$63.65, Pars: \$82.12)	\$	145.77		
ITC (Church phone & internet & Parsonage Phone)	\$	125.48		
Northwestern (Ch: \$10.65, Pars: \$10.82)	\$	21.47		
Ottertail (Ch: \$491.43, Pars: \$163.63)	\$	655.06		
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	314.25		
Office Peeps (Copier)	\$	113.63		
CCLI (Copyright Licensing)	\$	221.00		
Justice Fire & Safety (Fire Ext. Maintenance)	\$	86.00		
US Treasury (3rd quarter payroll taxes)	\$	216.91	\$	(10,652.08)
Balance on hand 10-31-2022			\$	111,138.85
*** Confirmation Balance	\$	1,130.23		
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$	2,489.95		

Building Account

Balance on hand 10-1-2022			\$	95,594.66
Receipts				
Offerings for Building Fund	\$	235.00		
Offerings for Carpet Fund	\$	10.00	\$	245.00
Disbursements				
Northern Plains Seamless (Gutter Repair)	\$	1,071.43		
Duane's Floor Covering (Carpet Down Payment)	\$	17,038.50	\$	(18,109.93)
Balance on hand 10-31-2022			\$	77,729.73

Mission Account

Balance on hand 10-1-2022			\$	4,347.92
Receipts				
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	340.00		
Children's Offering	\$	46.00		
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	230.00	\$	616.00
Disbursements				
Castewood Blessing Center (Oct. offerings)	\$	230.00		
St. Dymas	\$	250.00	\$	(480.00)
Balance on hand 10-31-2022			\$	4,483.92

Memorial Account

Balance on hand 10-1-2022			\$	7,144.11
Receipts				
	\$	-	\$	-
Disbursements				
	\$	-	\$	-
Balance on hand 10-31-2022			\$	7,144.11

Account Summary

	Current Balance	Change October 2022	Change Year to Date
General Account	\$ 111,138.85	\$ (716.08)	\$ (30,051.45)
Building Account	\$ 77,729.73	\$ (17,864.93)	\$ 44,097.84
Mission Account	\$ 4,483.92	\$ 136.00	\$ 4,186.45
Memorial Account	\$ 7,144.11	\$ -	\$ (1,083.05)



Church Staff Opening

American Lutheran Church is looking for a custodian starting at the beginning of 2023. It is a paid position. Please contact Dan Grupe if interested.



Seeking the story

Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.



WORD BANK

- Shepherds
- Child
- Nazareth
- Census
- Baby
- David
- Mary
- Travel
- Town
- Register
- Born
- Night

T	B	W	Y	A	Z	K	E	S	H	N	G	D	J	K
Q	O	Y	A	P	R	A	L	B	F	P	I	C	Q	L
N	R	W	X	B	E	Y	R	M	B	D	M	O	E	E
S	N	O	N	W	G	A	I	B	A	C	D	O	T	D
R	G	X	J	F	I	W	M	V	B	R	R	C	E	O
P	S	C	E	N	S	U	S	H	Y	U	Y	F	P	N
O	T	P	I	G	T	Q	C	N	T	G	M	U	S	T
O	A	N	D	B	E	C	H	I	L	D	N	Z	F	A
A	T	B	A	U	R	W	H	G	F	V	A	B	U	M
T	R	A	V	E	L	J	C	H	V	O	Z	G	N	H
F	B	Q	I	W	D	X	P	T	E	N	A	O	L	Q
Z	C	R	D	Q	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	V
R	U	V	Y	K	N	I	R	T	K	G	E	Y	I	R
K	V	A	Z	X	L	S	H	Y	T	P	T	J	S	K
L	L	E	S	M	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	H	V	W	X

"Today in the town of David a _____ has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

LUKE 2:11, NIV



Fall Weddings

Tyler Jankord & Tess Wilke were married on November 25, 2022. Happy Blessings!



For
to us
a child
is born,
to us
a son
is given.



Isaiah 9:6

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