

# THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 28, Issue 2, February, 2023

## ***“Who wrote the book of love”? - P.T.’s Practical Theology***

Thinking of what to write to you, when we turn the calendar from January to February, a song sprung into my heart, and (as most often happens) unto my lips! Although this song was written.....a long, long time before I was born (okay, just 7 years, before) the song entitled *“Book of Love”* was released by the Monotones. A terrible name for a band, because it gives the connotation that they couldn’t sing worth a hoot, while that was far from the truth!

Anyway....as I began singing the song in my head, or out loud as the case may have been, I realized for the first time ever that if one only knew the chorus and first verse, it could be considered a religious song, instead of a doo-wop ballad.

*“Oh, I wonder, wonder, who, be-doo-oo-who?”*

*Who wrote the book of love”?*

*Tell me, tell me, darlin’, oh, who wrote the book of love?*

*I’ve got to know the answer, was it someone from above”?*

Well.....I can certainly answer that burning question! Indeed, it was someone from above.....for the Book of Love was written by God himself!

Oh, to be sure, the Holy Bible as we know it contains many forms of literature, but the “red thread” that runs from Genesis to Revelation is what God had done to express His love for His people! Thus.....the Bible can aptly be referred to as the “Book of Love”!

From creation to unto our final restoration, God has been and will continue to be about the work of loving his people. Not loving us because we are always “so loveable”, rather loving us for God is love!

St. John, the widely accepted author of the Gospel that bears his name, as well as three Epistle Letters of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> John was a disciple of Jesus. In the following passage from 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:7-12, he points us to the one who wrote the original “book of love”, by inspiring faithful ones of God to record what God had revealed to them about His nature and work:



***"Who wrote the book of love"?*** - P.T.'s Practical Theology cont.

*"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

God's love then, is a perfect love that he bears for us, loving us, despite our sins. Loving us enough, to not gloss over our sins, but ever calling us to amend our sinful lives to conform to His will. Yet, even then, we will not measure up, so God sent His Son! *"In this is love"*, John writes..... *"not that we loved God, but that he loved us"*. He loved us enough to send his Son to us to be the sacrifice on our behalf, so that God could be just, but merciful in all love.

This is vital for us to know and to believe, for any love that we are able to share with another has its foundation in the love that God bears for His people. And indeed, we are called to love others as God has loved us, since love is the fruit of our faith. Love is what God does in and through us as a result of us being found in Him, and in His Son. Love is a work, so it cannot save us.....but love must flow through us as we live in the sure and certain love of God for his creatures.

In the middle of this month, we will enter the season of Lent. It is a season of repentance; a time to realize what God did for our sake in the passion of the Christ. And as dark and foreboding as that is, let us remember that this was God at work in love for us.....that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

*"Who wrote the book of love"?* God did.....and he not only had it written down for us on paper, but also wrote his book onto the hearts of all who have come to know Him, and claim His love and mercy!

In Christ's Service,  
*Pastor Tom Christenson*

There was no quorum at the January Church Council meeting thus no reports were approved.



### American Lutheran Youth!

Grades 7-12 will meet at the church each 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

February 1<sup>st</sup> – 6:30 Practice Bible Trivia

**February 15<sup>th</sup> – Host Hayti/New Hope Lutheran's Youth Group for a meal and Bible Trivia!**



Confirmation News

### Confirmation Ministry – Grades 7-9

Wednesday, 5:15-6:15 pm.

Even though classes will be finished on February 15<sup>th</sup>, it is the expectation that confirmation students will attend all mid-week Lenten services.

### FEBUARY ACOLYTES

- 5<sup>th</sup> – Charlsy Laue
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Kendra Nielsen & Ava Ruml
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Trevor Everson & Easton Carter
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Emery Nei & Kylie Haight

### FEBRUARY SNACK FAMILIES

- 1<sup>th</sup> – Emery Larson
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Easton Carter
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Tom



### Bible Study



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

The last study in this series on the Augsburg Confession will be on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.

You are invited to attend at 2:00 pm at the Castlewood Living Center or 7:00 pm at the church. No prior preparation is required.....just come and join in the exploration of the grounds of our Christian faith.

“A friend is one of the nicest things you can have, and one of the best things you can be.”

—Douglas Pagels



## 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. 5	Roxanne Bass	Rod Fischer	Fischer's	John & Bonnie Bucher	Chuck Juntti
Feb. 12	Marsha Kurtenbach	Roxanne Bass	Mack's	Travis & Sandra Everson family	
Feb. 19	Roxanne Bass	Todd Larson		Roy & Dawn Wiersma family	Doug Strait
Feb. 22	Ash Wed.	Janet Christenson	*****	Mark & Angie Larson family	
Feb. 26	Marsha Kurtenbach	Joann Fischer		Kari Nolte & Carmen Jankord	Rod Fischer

	<b>General</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Mission</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Blessing Ctr</b>
<b>January 1</b>	\$1,210.00	\$102.00	\$138.00		\$25.00
<b>January 8</b>	\$1,954.00	\$49.00	\$87.00	\$10.00	\$
<b>January 15</b>	\$2,343.00	\$20.00	\$7.00	\$4.00	\$3.00
<b>January 22</b>	\$1,814.00	\$10.00	\$163.00	12.00	\$25.00

# Ways you can **SERVE**

### **ALTAR GUILD**

**February: Vicki Strait & Kristy Boer**

**March: Traci Bass & Carmen Jankord**

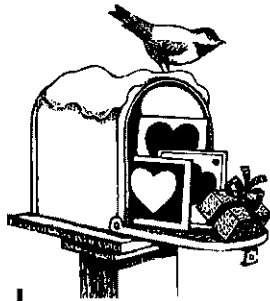
Altar Guild takes care of the communion ware, change altar clothes, banners and fill oil candles when needed.

Thank you for your service.

**SIGN -UP SHEET FOR  
Lectors—Scriptures sheets available**

**Fellowship Servers**

**IN THE NARTHEX**



# February

# February 2023

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				

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

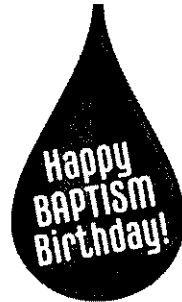
- 1st 5:15-6:15 p.m. Confirmation  
6:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 5th 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship  
12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 8th 2:00 p.m. Bible Study at Assisted Living  
5:15-6:15 p.m. Confirmation  
7:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 12th 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 14th *Valentine's Day*
- 15th 5:15-6:15 p.m. Confirmation  
6:30 p.m. Youth Group Meal/Bible Trivia
- 16th ESD Pastors at ALC
- 19th 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. Church Council  
12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 20th President's Day
- 22nd 6:15-6:45 p.m. Lenten Supper  
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship
- 26th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School





Celebrating You  
on Your  
Special Day

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



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
Sarah Christenson	2-25
Dennis Strait	2-27
Ashley Hofwalt	2-28



*NO*  
*February*  
*Anniversaries*



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

**CHRISTIAN SYMBOL**

ECCE AGNUS DEI – Latin for “Behold, the Lamb of God,” this is the phrase John the Baptist uses twice to point out Jesus to others (John 1:29, 36). It marks Jesus’ Epiphany (manifestation, revelation) as the Anointed One (Christ, Messiah).



**Sr. High/Adult Choir!**

Practices on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month in the fellowship hall and will generally be prepared to provide the anthem on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Worship. Come and join us as we sing to God a new song!



# LENTEN SERVICES

## Mid-Week Lenten Services to begin with Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

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

Worship: 7:00 pm



### CHURCH HAPPENINGS in January

Walker Dennis Borer baptized on January 8, 2023

Walker's parents are Carson & Cassidy Borer .

Sponsors: Gunner & Sydney Johnson



*Holy Baptism*

Madyson Lee Ching baptized on January 29, 2023

Madyson's parents are Carver & Lindsey Ching

**Bible Quiz**

Fill in the blanks for three qualities Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13, attributes to love: "Love is \_\_\_\_\_; love is \_\_\_\_\_ ... it keeps no record of \_\_\_\_\_."

- A. challenging, important, the past
- B. childlike, innocent, injustice
- C. self-sacrificing, generous, finances
- D. patient, kind, wrongs

**Love IS...**

**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.

Remember there is **CALENDAR** on our Website! Go to: [americanlutheran-church.com](http://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](mailto:pastortlc@gmail.com)

*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](http://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