

# THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 28, Issue 3, March, 2023

## ***The Devil made me do it! – P.T.'s Practical Theology***

*"For where God built a church, there the Devil would also build a chapel."*

— **Martin Luther**

It is certainly a false teaching by some, that say that once a Christian is converted, then the Devil no longer has control over them. That would only be wishful thinking.....since, all of scripture points to the fact that even among the most pious Christians, the devil still lurks!

*"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the **devil**."* Ephesians 6:11

*"Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the **devil**."* 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:7

*"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the **devil**, and he will flee from you."* James 4:7

*"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the **devil** prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."* 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:8

Those are just a few of the New Testament passages that go to show that the evil one is as resilient as he is persistent! In our heart of hearts, we know this to be the truth. We know how easily we can be tempted to betray the ways and will of God. We know that in our humanity, this will always be a struggle, yet we must battle against it, let it become our excuse to give into sin.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we will be tackling the issues of temptations to sin in this year's Mid-week Lenten series. Each week we will be taking from Holy Scripture a passage about how Jesus was tempted yet remained without sin. This Jesus could do since he is the very Son of God. However, His ability to resist the devil did not make the devil flee forever, but made him flee momentarily, only to return again and again.

We too, know the persistence of the devil. Even as we try to resist, he seems to come at us from another direction, with another accusation or perhaps an attractive lure. But, armed with the Word of God, in our hearts, and on our lips we can fight back against the devil and his evil schemes. Not always winning the battle, but even when we fail, we know to whom to look for restoration.

May the following words of King David, be our constant confession:

*"O Lord if you were mark our sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that we may stand in awe of you."* Psalm 130: 3-4

In His Service,

*Pastor Tom*



# Temptations

*"He was tempted as we are, yet without sin"*

This year our Midweek Lenten Services will focus on stories in which Jesus was tempted, with the theme based on Hebrews 4:15: *"He was tempted as we are, yet without sin"*. Our series will present in drama form, the times in which Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the ways Satan continues to tempt us to reject God's will for us.

Ways in which you grow in faith and serve:

**Join us for the fellowship meal**, serving from 6:15-6:45. The youth group families will be serving and providing desserts. Your free-will offering will go to the summer mission trip.

**Youth Group Families**, please see Pastor Tom for the sign-up clip board for serving the meal.... *(still have an opening on March 22nd)*.

Join us each in our 7:00 Midweek Lenten Worship (Wednesday, March 1 - March 29th). Reminder, that since Confirmation classes have come to a close this school year, it is our congregational expectation that confirmation students be with their families at these services.

**Volunteer to serve in one of the 2 drama rolls each week**, starting with March 1st. Script will be provided, and no memorization required! Talk to Pastor Tom.

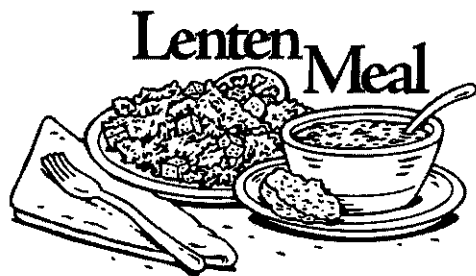
Theme Sermon – *"He was tempted as we are, yet without sin"*.

**March 1<sup>st</sup>** Drama: Tempted – God's Provision

**March 8<sup>th</sup>** Drama: Tempted – God's Care

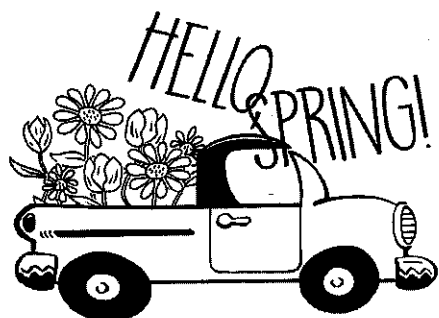
**March 15<sup>th</sup>** Drama: Tempted – God's Abundance

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>** Drama: Tempted – God's Dominion



**ALC Youth Group: Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, following the Lenten Service!**

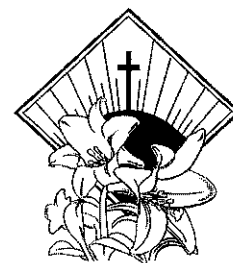
Due to weather related make-up dates and working around the school's Spring Break, we will only meet once this month.

**March 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	29	30	31	

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

1st	6:15-6:45 p.m. Fellowship Meal 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Worship
5th	8:30 a.m. Choir Practice 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion & Installation of Church Council 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
8th	6:15-6:45 p.m. Fellowship Meal 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Worship 7:45 p.m. Youth Group
12th	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. First Communion Inst. (grades 4-5)
15th	6:15-6:45 p.m. Fellowship Meal 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Worship
16th	<i>ESD Pastors at Roslyn</i>
17th	ST PATRICK'S DAY
19th	8:30 a.m. Choir Practice 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Church Council 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
20th	FIRST DAY OF SPRING
22nd	6:15-6:45 p.m. Fellowship Meal 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Worship 7:45 p.m. Rite of Confirmation Planning—9th grade
26th	9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
29th	6:15-6:45 p.m. Fellowship Meal 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Worship





## *Rite of Confirmation – Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.*

**Planning Meeting: Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> following the Lenten Service.**

In preparation for the upcoming Rite of Confirmation for our 9<sup>th</sup> graders, Pastor Tom is calling for parent/student meeting during which we will plan the service, be fitted for robes, and practice for the service.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Communion Instruction – Grades 4 & 5.**

Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – during the Sunday School hour.

Pastor Tom led a discussion at the last Church Council meeting as to the fitting age for reception to the Lord's Supper. It was decided that for American Lutheran we will work toward offering 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Instruction in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade. That means for this Lenten Season, Pastor Tom will be leading a class for our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, accompanied by at least one parent. In the Lenten Season of 2024, the class will be offered for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. **Recognition of the completion of First Communion**

**Instruction will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.** As in the past, it will remain the parent's determination if their son or daughter is ready for the reception of the Sacrament.

**Confirmation Ministry – Grades 7-9** Even though regular classes have finished, finished it is the expectation that confirmation students will be part of the mid-week Lenten services.

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

### **Installation of Church Council – Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

The following members have agreed to lead the mission and ministry of American Lutheran this year:

President: Dan Grupe

Vice President: John Bucher

Secretary: Mark Larson

Treasurer: Rod Fischer

Members at Large: Traci Bass, Danny Davis, Candy Gallisath, Carrie Henrichsen, Jessie Ruml, Lindsey Vetter and Pastor Tom Christenson (ex-officio).



## *The Servants of our Lord*

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Scripture Lectors</i>	<i>Fellowship Servers</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
March 5	Roxanne Bass	Rod Fischer	Fisher's	Travis or Melissa Prohl family	Chuck Juntti
March 12	Marsha Kurtenbach		Wittnebel's	Darin & Traci Laue family	
March 19	Roxanne Bass			Jerrold Bass, Brody Bass and Brent Bass	Doug Strait
March 26	Marsha Kurtenbach			Traci Bass family	Rod Fischer



	General	Building	Mission	Children	Blessing
January 29	\$1,701.00	\$150.00	\$95.00	\$10.00	\$85.00
February 5	\$2,636.00	\$135.00	\$87.00	\$274.00	
February 12	\$1,265.00			\$14.00	
February 19	\$1,814.00	\$10.00	\$163.00	12.00	\$25.00

### ALTAR GUILD

**March: Traci Bass &  
Janet Christenson**

***April: Jenni Carter & Paula Grupe***

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

## Ways you can **SERVE**

### MARCH ACOLYTES

5<sup>th</sup> – Adan Grupe  
12<sup>th</sup> – Emery Larson  
19<sup>th</sup> – Brody Bass  
26<sup>th</sup> – Hannah Wiersma

### **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!

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

**American Lutheran Church Financial Report  
January 2023**

**General Account**

Balance on hand 1-1-2023

\$ 172,863.95

Receipts

Offerings	\$	9,021.00		
Confirmation	\$	13.00		
Thrivent	\$	34.00	\$	9,068.00

Disbursements

Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$	4,472.80		
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$	289.72		
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00		
Retirement Contribution	\$	467.28		
EBSO (Health Ins. - Jan & Feb)	\$	4,656.00		
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits - Jan & Feb)	\$	1,247.32		
Janell Bemis (Secretary - 41 hrs)	\$	530.09		
Travis Prohl (Custodian - 7 hrs)	\$	84.04		
Roxanne Bass (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$	110.00		
Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$	110.00		
Karen Lund (Organist - 1 Svc)	\$	55.00		
NALC (Benevolence)	\$	50.00		
City of Castletown (Ch: \$60.00, Pars: \$81.03)	\$	141.03		
ITC (Phone and Internet)	\$	125.82		
Northwestern (Ch: \$311.79, Pars: \$88.82)	\$	400.61		
Oitertail (Ch: \$146.77, Pars: \$82.63)	\$	229.40		
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	314.25		
Office Peeps (Supplies & Copier)	\$	105.77		
Hy Vee (Rolls for Annual Meeting)	\$	127.85		
Travis Prohl (Reimburse for ice melt)	\$	11.46		
Deluxe Checks (Check Blanks)	\$	50.00		
Upper Room Ministries (Jan / Feb)	\$	32.25		
US Treasury (4th Q 2022 payroll taxes)	\$	241.49	\$	(14,052.18)

Balance on hand 1-31-2023

\$ 167,869.77

\*\*\* Confirmation Balance

\$ 1,143.23

\*\*\* Thrivent Choice Balance

\$ 2,523.95

**Building Account**

Balance on hand 1-1-2023

\$ 78,380.73

Receipts

Offerings for Building Fund	\$	331.00	\$	331.00
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Disbursements

Northern Plains Seamless (Siding Repair)	\$	1,989.19	\$	(1,989.19)
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Balance on hand 1-31-2023

\$ 76,722.54

**Mission Account**

Balance on hand 1-1-2023

\$ 4,069.92

Receipts

Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	325.00		
Children's Offering	\$	-		
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	165.00	\$	490.00

Disbursements

Castletown Blessing Center (Jan. offerings)	\$	165.00	\$	(165.00)
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Balance on hand 1-31-2023

\$ 4,394.92

**Memorial Account**

Balance on hand 1-1-2023

\$ 7,144.11

Receipts

	\$	-	\$	-
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Disbursements

	\$	-	\$	-
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Balance on hand 1-31-2023

\$ 7,144.11

**Account Summary**

	Current Balance	Change January 2023	Change Year to Date
General Account	\$ 167,869.77	\$ (4,984.18)	\$ (4,984.18)
Building Account	\$ 76,722.54	\$ (1,658.19)	\$ (1,658.19)
Mission Account	\$ 4,394.92	\$ 325.00	\$ 325.00
Memorial Account	\$ 7,144.11	\$ -	\$ -

## **AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

### **Church Council Meeting Minutes**

**December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Members Present:** Dan Grupe, Lindsey Vetter, Jessi Ruml, Rod Fischer, Mark Larson, Chuck Juntti, John Bucher & Pastor Tom.

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

**Prayer:** Pastor Tom led the council members in Prayer.

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

**Financial Report:** Treasurer Rod presented the financial report of November 2022. Motion by Chuck to approve the financial report as printed and John seconded. **Motion Carried.**

#### **Pastor's Report:**

Pastor reported that the Thanksgiving Dinner went very well and that he presided over one wedding in the last month.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Parsonage:

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

Church Building:

- Dan is continuing to check on thermostats for the narthex and sanctuary.
- Dennis Strait & Jim Bohls will begin working on the basement of the Church after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2023.
- Rod has secured the quote for a sign replacement from Persona, and they will begin with the work in the Spring when the weather allows.
- The carpeting for the church is still on schedule for the 1<sup>st</sup> week or so of January 2023. Dan Grupe will visit with Dennis Strait about getting the access holes cut into the floor.

**Communion Schedule:** December – Jessie / January - Dan

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Lindsey will handle the sign-up sheets for the month of January 2023.
- The Annual Meeting scheduled for January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, following worship or around 10:15 A.M. The Council is in charge of bringing rolls or doughnuts.
- Pastor Tom was asked to leave the meeting room while Council members discussed his financials / salary / bonus for 2022/2023. A discussion was had regarding the current cost of living and high inflation. John made a motion for an 8% increase in Pastor's Tom current salary and Jessie seconded. A discussion ensued about the fact that the amount of this increase would not be the "new normal" but due to current inflation and costs of living an 8% increase was warranted. **Motion Carried.**
- A discussion regarding a Pastoral bonus was had while Pastor was outside of the meeting room. Chuck made a motion for a \$1,000.00 bonus and John seconded. **Motion carried.**
- Pastor Tom re-joined the meeting and Council informed him of the salary increase and bonus.
- Discussion about Janell's current hourly wage took place and the council agreed that an increase was necessary. Motion by Rod to increase Janell's hourly wage from \$13.00 per hour to \$14.00 per hour and Lindsey seconded. **Motion Carried.**
- Discussion about a bonus for Janell. Rod made a motion for a \$500.00 bonus and Lindsey seconded. **Motion carried.**

### **Church Council Meeting Minutes, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Cont.**

- Discussion about the resignation of Amanda Pribbenow for custodial work and the need to fill this position. The council also discussed the need to increase the hourly rate for this work from \$11.75 per hour to \$13.00 per hour. Dan will visit with Amanda about this increase to see if she has any interest in continuing the work with the increase and Dan will get back to Council on this. Travis Prohl has also shown some interest in this position and Dan will visit with him about this. Motion by Pastor to increase the custodial hourly rate from \$11.75 per hour to \$13.00 per hour and seconded by Rod. **Motion carried.**
- Discussion about a bonus for Amanda Pribbenow for the custodial work that was performed during 2022. Rod made a motion for a \$500.00 bonus and Mark seconded. **Motion Carried.**
- Discussion about an increased wage for organists in 2023 which is currently at \$50.00 per service. Motion by John to increase the per service wage to \$55.00 and a bonus of \$250.00 for each organist. Chuck seconded. **Motion carried.**
- Two Council positions will need to be replaced in 2023 with one being for Josh Nei and the second for Chuck Juntti. Dan will visit with the nominating committee regarding these positions.

**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:** January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, following worship.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Chuck motioned to adjourn the meeting and Lindsey seconded. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mark Larson, Secretary

### **NALC Mission District Convocation – April 14-15 at Hosanna Lutheran, Watertown, SD**

American Lutheran Church is part of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). For contact and cooperation, all NALC congregations 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 a year in convocation. For the past 10 years we have held our convocation with members of the Minkota District (Northern Minnesota & Eastern North Dakota). It is our honor to host this year, so we have set our Convocation to be held at Hosanna Lutheran in Watertown.

We are honored this year to have the Rev. Dr. Amy Little, General Secretary of the NALC to be with us, as well as our keynote speaker the Rev. Dr. Sarah Stenson from Luther House of Study in Sioux Falls.

We can have as many representatives from our congregation as 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 posted on the main bulletin board, or contact Pastor Tom.

**Special In-Kind Offering for NALC Lutheran Disaster Response!** At the Convocation a representative from our church's Disaster Response team will be present for us to "stuff the trailer" with items to be distributed in areas affected by natural disasters. Grab a flyer from the bulletin board, and be ready to bring your items to the Convocation or arrange with Pastor Tom for them to be delivered.



**MARCH  
BIRTHDAYS**

Kalee Jackson	3-02
Kelsi Langenfeld	3-02
Barbara Cozad	3-04
Logan Gabur	3-04
Tom Christenson	3-05
Arianna Bemis	3-06
Todd Eggleston	3-07
Karen Lund	3-08
Jonah Wiersma	3-09
Brenda McKee Almos	3-10
Bonnie Top	3-10
Lorie Mack	3-12
Lorna Nielsen	3-14
Bryce Wittnebel	3-17
Maddox Nielsen	3-17
Carson Borer	3-19
Russell Mack	3-19
Tim Hofwalt	3-21
Angie Larson	3-26
Duane Selchert	3-26
Andrew Greene	3-27
Sarah Smith	3-29
Caleb DeKam	3-30
Vienna Smith	3-31



Russell Mack	3-01	Hannah Mickey	3-10
Lynn Borer	3-02	Eric Aderhold	3-14
Traci Bass	3-02	Carrie Henrichsen	3-16
Asher Davis	3-06	Carter Larson	3-16
Gareth Hamen	3-10	Kabren Jackson	3-19
		Larz Tvedt	3-22
		Richard Strait	3-26
		Thomas Christenson	3-29

**Records Review:** last month, each worshipping family of ALC was provided with a print-out of the information your congregation has for contacts as well as pastoral acts. If you have already made updates to yours and returned to the church office, we thank you!! If you have not yet made your updates, we ask that you do so as soon as possible.

**Remember there is CALENDAR on our Website!**

Go to: [americanlutheranchurch.com](http://americanlutheranchurch.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)



**MARCH 12, 2023**



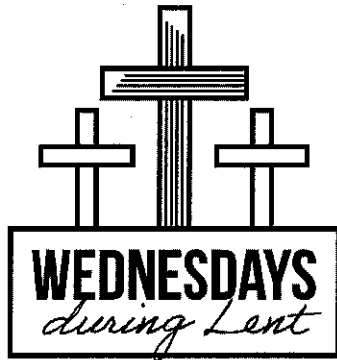
Duane & Phyllis Selchert	March 26
Wayne & Carmen Jankord	March 26
Alan & Candy Gallisath	March 28

*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)**

**2023 Church Council Members**

Dan Grupe, President

John Bucher, VP

Rod Fischer, Treas.

Mark Larson, Sec.

Jesse Ruml

Danny Davis

Traci Bass

Lindsey Vetter

Candy Galliseth

Carrie Henrichsen