

# THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 28, Issue 4, April, 2023

## ***Meeting Jesus on the Road! – P.T.'s Practical Theology***

*"They said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?' And they rose at that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were gathered together, saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed'."*  
Luke 24:32-34

*Where have you met Christ? Have you found him in our worship, in your devotions, in your scripture readings, or in a chat with a friend? Where else have you met Jesus?*

*The scripture above is part of the Road to Emmaus story, which is only found in Luke's Gospel. The scene takes place on what we now call Easter Sunday. Two followers of Jesus were in a funk. A funk caused by seeing their master crucified and buried. They had been filled with such hope that this teacher from Nazareth might have actually been the promised Messiah of God. But, no! Couldn't be! For they had been with him on the night on which he had broken the bread before them and proclaimed it to be his body; a gift for them. Although, that had sounded odd, it was still Jesus giving them something, and maybe later they would understand.*

*But, all seemed so tragic now! For between their intimate meal with Jesus and that morning, they had witnessed their great hope being delivered over to the Jewish Authorities, who then found a way to ensure Jesus' death. Crestfallen, they now were trudging out of Jerusalem.....just getting out of town. Maybe a change of scenery, a walk on a lonely road could give them some sense of what the future would now hold for them.*

*It was then, while they walked together, that suddenly a stranger fell in step with them. The stranger sensed that they were despairing men and questioned them as to what they had been talking about. Now, one would not normally share your sorrows with a complete stranger, but something led them to do the abnormal and they began to tell this man about the death of the one they had hoped would redeem them and all of Israel. Their story of Jesus ended with the saga of his trial and crucifixion, and then a confusing report that just that morning some of their women folk had reported that they had seen angels who declared that Jesus was alive! But, that had to be nonsense. They had seen Jesus taken down from the cross and had accompanied a small band of followers who had place him in a tomb and sealed it with a large stone. Death! It's final! Whatever the women thought they had seen and heard was all malarky!*



## **Meeting Jesus on the Road! – P.T.'s Practical Theology cont.**

*But the stranger was a wise man, maybe a prophet. For he then began to unpack the scriptures for them that pointed to the anointed one as dying, and then coming into his glory. Again, didn't make a lot of sense to them, but he seemed like a nice enough guy. So, as evening was coming, the two despairing men invited the stranger to join them in a meal. And while reclining at table, the stranger took a loaf of bread, broke it, and blessed it and gave it to them. Why did this seem so surreal? When had they witnessed such an act? And, as soon as they remembered Jesus' last meal with them.....they knew they were in his presence again!*

*These two men met a stranger on the road. But he wasn't really a stranger, just in their grief they had not recognized him.....their eyes had been blinded from recognizing him! But, in the simple act of the breaking of the bread, their hope was instantly restored, and they ran back to Jerusalem to proclaim the miracle of Easter!*

*Where have you met the Christ? Hopefully it was in the places that you had expected to find him, among his people, gathered to be fed on the Word and Sacrament. But where else have you met the Christ?*

*Brothers and sisters, we are a people of the Good News! We are a people who have found Jesus coming up alongside us in our times of trouble and despair. We are a people who have also found Jesus alongside us in the daily miracles and blessings we have received. Sometimes Jesus is best revealed to us when we gather as his people. But other times we may meet him in the unexpected places as he comes alongside us in the form of a fellow believer who has a story of hope and promise to share with us.*

*Christ is alive, and he lives in the hearts and through the lives of those who have known him in the breaking of the bread; given for our journey into faith and faithfulness. So, if you have tasted of the Lord and found him to be good, who are you going to run off to tell! The world is desperate to have the hope that is ours in the one who was crucified, but now has risen!*

In His Service,  
Pastor Tom

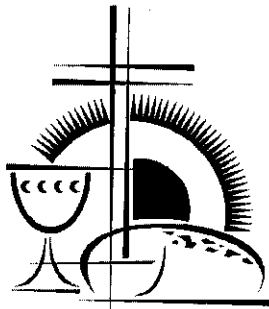
Items that you wish to borrow from the church, please contact Pastor Tom or Janell to coordinate the use of those items. Thank you!



**Palm Sunday – April 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.

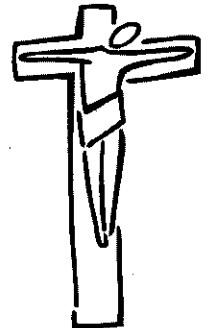
JOHN 6:56, NRSV

**Maundy Thursday Worship – April 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm**

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

**Good Friday Tenebrae Worship – April 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 9<sup>th</sup>**

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

**YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:**

**American Lutheran Youth!** Grades 7-12 will meet on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm to rehearse for the Sunrise Service!



# April 2023



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						

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1st April Fools Day  
 2nd Palm Sunday  
 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion  
 10:00 a.m. Fellowship  
 10:15 a.m. Sunday School  
 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open

5th 6:30 p.m. Youth Group

6th 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship  
 First Communion Reception

7th 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae Worship

9th 7:00 a.m. Youth Sunrise Worship  
 8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast  
 9:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service

14th 5:00—9:00 p.m. Mission District Convocation

15th 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Mission District Convocation

4:00 p.m. Wedding

16th 9:00 a.m. Rite of Confirmation Worship Service with Holy Communion

18th Taxes Due

22nd EARTH DAY

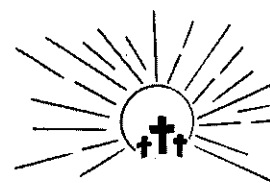
23rd 9:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Fellowship

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

30th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Fellowship



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



# Confirmation

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

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

*Brody Bass, Son of Jerrod Bass and Traci Bass*

*Aidan Grupe, Son of Dan and Paula Grupe*

*Kylie Haight, Daughter of Kristie Sikkink and Brad Haight*

*Emery Larson, Daughter of Mark and Angie Larson*

*Emery Nei, Daughter of Joshua and Sara Nei*

*Hannah Wiersma, Daughter of LaRoy and Dawn Wiersma*



*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 **Friday, April 7** Complete the following form and return it to the church office or put in Janell's mailbox by **Thursday, April 6, 2023**. Thank you!*

*In memory of*

*In Honor*

*To the glory of God*



## *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 2 Palm Sunday	Roxanne Bass	McKenzie Everson		Kenday & Alisha Nielsen family	Chuck Juntti
April 9 Easter Sunday	Marsha Kurtenbach	Kay Zimiga	*****	Austin & Leslie Tvedt family	
April 16 Confirmation	Roxanne Bass		Confirmation Reception	Robert & Michelle Ronne	Doug Strait
April 23	Marsha Kurtenbach			Cory & Kalee Jackson	Rod Fischer
April 30	Karen Lund			Doug Strait & Todd Larson	



### **Church Finances**

	<b>General</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Mission</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Blessing Ctr</b>
<b>February 26</b>	\$948.00	\$30.00	\$162.00	\$7.00	\$150.00
<b>March 5</b>	\$2,168.00	\$145.00	\$334.00	\$7.00	85.00
<b>March 12</b>	\$1,770.00		\$31.00	\$6.00	\$25.00
<b>March 19</b>	967.00		\$31.00	\$6.00	\$25.00

### **ALTAR GUILD**

*April: Jenni Carter & Paula Grupe*

*May: Joann Fischer & Sandra Everson*

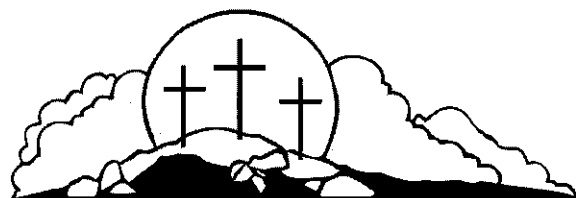
Altar Guild takes care of the communion ware, change altar clothes, banners and fill oil candles when needed. Thank you for your service.

### **April Acolytes (so far!)**

2<sup>nd</sup> – Aidan Grupe

6<sup>th</sup> – Hannah Wiersma

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



## **SONRISE SERVICE**



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## STILL TIME TO REGISTER!!

### 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.



**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)



"No, Peter Cottontail was not an apostle!"



**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Members Present:** Dan Grupe, Lindsey Vetter, Jessie Ruml, Mark Larson, John Bucher, Danny Davis, Traci Bass, Carrie Henrichsen & 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.

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

**Financial Report:** Dan Grupe presented the financial reports of December 2022 and January 2023 as Rod was absent. Motion by Traci and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John to approve the December 2022 financial report. **Motion Carried.** Motion by Mark and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lindsey to approve the January 2023 minutes. **Motion Carried.**

**Pastor's Report:**

- Pastor Tom gave Thanks for being able to attend the recent Retreat in San Antonio, TX.
- Pastor Tom will be away on Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as he has been asked to sponsor a baptism.

Pastor has a replacement for Worship that day.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Parsonage:

- Dan is working with Dennis Strait on the creaking tub, egress windows and basement trim / closet door. Dan will be applying spray foam to the bottom side of the tub to see if that corrects the problem. Dan will also visit with Dennis Strait or Jim Bohls about completing the basement trim and closet door.

Church Building:

- Larry Dockter has the new thermostats mounted and they are operating properly.
- Dion Dockter is coming to wire the basement in the next week or so and Dan Grupe will be present to show him where the various electrical outlets / receptacles are needed.
- Mark and/or Traci will check with a couple spray foam companies in getting a bid for the spray foaming of the basement Church.
- Lindsey will be checking with the carpet folks again this coming week to determine their schedule.
- Discussion was had regarding 1<sup>st</sup> communion being moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade rather than 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The current suggestion is doing 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades this year and then transitioning it to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade next year.

**SIGN UP NEEDED:** Dan Grupe will work on getting volunteers for Lectors and Fellowship.

**COMMUNION SCHEDULE:** February – Lindsey

March – John Bucher, Dan Grupe and Traci Bass will cover this.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Dan Grupe received an anonymous donation of \$8,838.00 which will be delivered to Rod Fischer this week for depositing.
- Traci Bass volunteered to take down the nativity set in front of the Church.





- Contact information was gathered for new Council Members Dan Davis and Traci Bass.
- Discussion was held regarding a \$400.00 fee for the use of the Church for an upcoming wedding on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, that is taking place at our Church due to the Hamlin Reformed Church not being available. It was agreed that \$300.00 of the \$400.00 fee would be waived and that the \$100.00 fee would cover the increased cost of custodial work to be performed after the wedding. Traci moved to waive the \$300.00 fee keep the \$100.00 custodial fee and Carrie seconded. **Motion Carried.**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** President: Dan Grupe  
 Vice President: John Bucher  
 Treasurer: Rod Fischer  
 Secretary: Mark Larson

Pastor Tom moved to approve the above nominations for Church Council Officers. Traci Bass seconded. **Motion Carried.**

**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:** March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Jessie made a motion to adjourn. Traci seconded.

Motion carried.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Mark Larson, Secretary



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



Happy Anniversary!

Russell & Lorie Mack  
 April 24



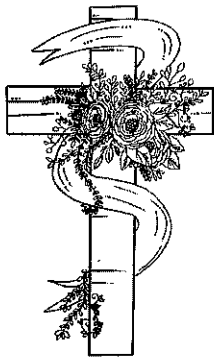
Tanner Hanson	4-05
Collyns Ruml	4-07
Bonnie Top	4-19
Londyn Pribbenow	4-19
Brent Bass	4-20
Emerson Carter	4-21
Richard Tvedt	4-22
Bryce Wittnebel	4-22
Lyah Vetter	4-24
Kalee Jackson	4-26
Kelsi Langenfeld	4-26
Karen Lund	4-27
Jonah Wiersma	4-27

*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