

# THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 28, Issue 7, September, 2023

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

***“So that they may know.....”***

*Jesus said: You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8*

Does it seem that less and less people are taking time for the church? Oh, we know that there are many that would claim that they are spiritual, but not religious.....whatever that means! Seriously, what does it mean to be spiritual as compared with being religious. Is one about matters of the mind and the other about matters of works? So, it does beg the question of whether the church is a spiritual community, a religion community or both?

Well, if you have asked those questions of yourself or know someone who claims to be spiritual, but not religious, maybe we should explore these themes together. For, our Lord Jesus does have a word for us on what we should hold as his people. And in the Bible passage above, from Acts 1:8, we hear of our commissioning to witness to Jesus' saving power. We are to be His witnesses, so that all may know the salvation that He alone can grant to those who live by faith!

Now, there are some of you who have been engaged in learning from Jesus for much longer than I have. There are some of you who have forgotten most of what you learned. And there are still others who are pretty new to an adult relationship with Jesus and His church. And all of that is well and good, for we are in this journey together. We are bound together by faith in the one who can increase in us the power of His proclaimed word, and the will to take a closer walk with Him.

So, in order that we might better be witnesses of Jesus Christ to our families and into our world, I would encourage you to be part of our Adult/Sr. High Youth Bible Study starting in September. We offer three different opportunities on Wednesdays to accommodate your schedules. We are offering a 10 week series on the early Church from the book of Acts. This series will help us grow, as did the early disciples into the bold Christians and faithful witnesses that this world so desperately needs.....to the Praise of His Glory!!

In His Service,  
Pastor Tom



**Rally Sunday - September 10<sup>th</sup>  
Blessings Upon a New Year! - Bring Your Backpack!**

As our kids have now returned to a new school year, we also resume Christian Education for all ages with Sunday School, Youth & Adult Studies.



On Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> (Sunday after Labor Day), American Lutheran will mark this new season with a special blessing upon students and their teachers. On this Sunday, students are encouraged to **bring their school backpacks with them to worship, as they will receive a token to remind them of their roles as students, but also as the very children of God!**

**Confirmation Ministry – Grades 7-9**

**Confirmation Classes** begin on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, at 5:15 pm.

Information will be shared with the students as to expectations, acolyte training and sign-up as well as the snack list. Pastor Tom will contact personally the families of our Freshmen to get input into setting the Spring 2024 Rite of Confirmation.



**Please help:** 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! - Experience the Thunder!!**

**Fall Kick-Off!** On Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, all ALC youth in grades 7-12 are welcome to come with us to "Thunder Road" in Watertown for an event from 6:30-8:30.



We will carpool from the church at 6:00 and have a very brief meet-up before we return home. Wristbands for Go-Kart, Euro-Bungy, and Mini-Golf will be covered by the Youth Fund. Arcade tokens at 25 cents each, and on your own, if you wish.

Please RSVP to Pastor Tom, by Sunday the 3rd, so we can assure we have enough drivers.

**Starting on September 20<sup>th</sup>**, we will meet at the church each 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Youth Group will be a combination of study, fellowship and planning for service events and fun stuff too!



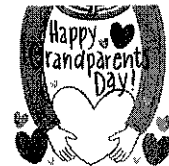
SEPTEMBER 2023



| 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  |

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 3rd **9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion**  
**10:00 a.m. Fellowship**  
**12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open**
- 4th *Labor Day*
- 6th **6:30—8:30 p.m. Thunder Road Event**
- 10th *Grandparents Day*  
**9:00 a.m. Worship Service**  
**10:00 a.m. Fellowship**  
**10:15 a.m. Rally Day**
- 13th **9:30 a.m. Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall**  
**3:30 p.m. Bible Study at Castlewood Assisted Living**  
**5:15 p.m. Confirmation Class**  
**7:00 p.m. Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall**
- 17th **9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion**  
**10:00 a.m. Fellowship**  
**10:15 a.m. Sunday School**  
**10:15 a.m. Church Council**  
**12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open**
- 20th **5:15 p.m. Confirmation Class**  
**6:30 p.m. Youth Group**
- 23rd **First Day of Fall**
- 24th **9:00 a.m. Worship Service—New Membership Sunday**  
**10:00 a.m. Fellowship**  
**10:15 a.m. Sunday School**
- 27th **9:30 a.m. Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall**  
**3:30 p.m. Bible Study at Castlewood Assisted Living**  
**5:15 p.m. Confirmation Class**  
**7:00 p.m. Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall**



**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.



|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Dan Grupe        | 09-03 |
| Kailyn Larson    | 09-04 |
| Lindsey Vetter   | 09-04 |
| Kylie Wittnebel  | 09-06 |
| Logan Ronne      | 09-08 |
| Debra Aderhold   | 9-10  |
| Kabren Jackson   | 09-15 |
| Janell Bemis     | 09-17 |
| Rick Ries        | 09-24 |
| Vale Smith       | 09-24 |
| Jeremiah Wiersma | 09-26 |
| Amanda Pribbenow | 09-26 |
| Kim Stevens      | 09-27 |

Baptized  
with  
the  
Holy  
Spirit



|               |      |                 |      |
|---------------|------|-----------------|------|
| Katie Fischer | 9-07 | Craig Bass      | 9-15 |
| Kim Fischer   | 9-07 | Darah DeKam     | 9-15 |
| Melissa Prohl | 9-10 | Erin Ruesink    | 9-15 |
| Kay Zimiga    | 9-11 | Michelle Ronne  | 9-17 |
| Justin Ries   | 9-12 | Abbey Strait    | 9-17 |
|               |      | Paula Grupe     | 9-19 |
|               |      | Marc Lewno      | 9-20 |
|               |      | Casey Kenyon Jr | 9-23 |
|               |      | Heidi Lewno     | 9-25 |
|               |      | Tara Nolte      | 9-27 |
|               |      | Charlsy Laue    | 9-28 |



|                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>John &amp; Bonnie Top</i>        | <i>September 2nd</i>  |
| <i>Lars &amp; Jodi Hanson</i>       | <i>September 13th</i> |
| <i>Sherwin &amp; Shelly DeKam</i>   | <i>September 16th</i> |
| <i>Dale &amp; Sharon Hattendorf</i> | <i>September 29th</i> |

*Welcomes*  
**New Members**

**New Member Reception** – Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> -  
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.



**SIGN -UP SHEET FOR**

**Lectors—  
(Scriptures sheets available)**

**&**

**Fellowship**

**Servers**

**IN THE**

**NARTHEX**

**Sr. High/Adult Choir! Starting October 1<sup>st</sup>!**

Practices on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month at 8:30 am and will generally provide the anthem on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Worship.

Karen Lund has graciously agreed to lead us again this year, so, come join us and make a joyful noise to the glory of God!



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

**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**American Lutheran Church**  
**June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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

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

**Prayer:** led by Pastor Tom

**Meeting Minutes:** Pastor Tom read the meeting minutes from the prior Meeting. Motion by Traci, second by Lindsey to approve the minutes as read. **MC**

**Financial Report:** President Grupe presented the April and March 2023 financial reports. A discrepancy/typo was noted in the general account > Ministerial Assoc. Copies in the amount of \$980.00. It appears that this amount should be \$98.00. Motion by Traci, second by John to approve this report once this discrepancy is reviewed by Rod. **MC**

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Tom gave a brief report on: All banners have been purchased and received. All banner sets were donated by 6 different families in the congregation.

**Old Business:**

**Parsonage:** Window Well Covers are installed and working after some additional work.  
Basement closet work is completed.

**Church Repairs:** Spray foam is installed, and we are awaiting drywall installation.  
Dan will call Dennis Strait during the week of June 19<sup>th</sup> RE: Drywall  
Traci will contact Mark Lewno to see about taping and texturing.  
Waiting for carpet material to complete the job. Lindsey will check on this.  
Concrete for the new sign will be poured soon. Russel Mack will help.  
New kneeler pad upholstery was discussed. No action taken.  
Dan G. will check with siding installer RE: gutter repair(s)  
New trees were installed and donated by Shane Mack

- Church cleaning will continue to be monitored and addressed as needed.
- Discussion regarding serving at the banquet in Watertown was had. Pastor Tom has visited with them, and they are full for 2023 except for the last weekend in July which doesn't work due to kids' sports. Pastor will visit with them and obtain some dates in 2024 to possibly serve.
- All high school seniors in our congregation have completed the scholarship applications. Pastor will visit with Rod concerning payment of the scholarships.
- A discussion was had concerning Russel and Lori Mack's assistance with the recent church sign and tree planting and the use of their skid steer and other equipment. A decision was made to give a \$100.00 gift card to Table's to the Mack's in appreciation for this. Motion by Traci to approve this, second by Dan Davis. **MC**

**New Business:**

- Communion Schedule: June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Rod Fischer / Month of July – Traci Bass.
- Lector / Fellowship Sign-ups: No action taken.
- Pastor Tom had previously requested a vacation day for July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to attend a wedding and military reunion which was previously approved via email by council members. Dan G. will be arranging pulpit supply for that Sunday.
- The NALC Convention is scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Oklahoma City, OK. Pastor Tom will be attending. The total approx. cost of the trip will be around \$1,500.00. Motion by Traci B and second by John B. to approve this expense. **MC**

**Next Meeting:** August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, following Worship.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Motion by Traci, second by Carrie to adjourn. **MC**

**Closing Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer

**Submitted by Mark Larson, Secretary**

**American Lutheran Church Financial Report  
July 2023**

**General Account**

|   |    |          |                      |
|---|----|----------|----------------------|
| Balance on hand 7-1-2023                        |    |          | \$158,832.01         |
| Receipts  |    |          |                      |
| Offerings                                       | \$ | 8,630.00 | \$ 8,630.00          |
| Disbursements                                   |    |          |                      |
| Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)              | \$ | 4,472.80 |                      |
| Thomas Christenson (Social Security)            | \$ | 289.72   |                      |
| Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)             | \$ | 200.00   |                      |
| Thomas Christenson (Mileage - 249 Miles)        | \$ | 157.86   |                      |
| Retirement Contribution                         | \$ | 467.28   |                      |
| EBSO (Health Insurance)                         | \$ | 2,328.00 |                      |
| Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)         | \$ | 631.32   |                      |
| Jerry Merkouris (Pulpit Supply + Mileage)       | \$ | 313.86   |                      |
| Roxanne Bass (Organist-2 Svc)                   | \$ | 110.00   |                      |
| Karen Lund (Organist-1 Svc)                     | \$ | 55.00    |                      |
| Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist-2 Svc)              | \$ | 110.00   |                      |
| NALC (Benevolence)                              | \$ | 50.00    |                      |
| City of Castlewood (Ch: \$99.39, Pars: \$83.97) | \$ | 183.36   |                      |
| ITC (Church and Parsonage)                      | \$ | 124.99   |                      |
| Northwestern (Ch: \$25.54, Pars: \$11.43)       | \$ | 36.97    |                      |
| Ottertail (Ch: \$184.66, Pars: \$195.82)        | \$ | 380.48   |                      |
| North Star Mutual Insurance Company             | \$ | 329.00   |                      |
| Office Peeps                                    | \$ | 32.79    |                      |
| Upper Room Ministries (Jul / Aug)               | \$ | 32.25    |                      |
| US Treasury (2nd quarter payroll taxes)         | \$ | 163.59   | \$ (10,469.27)       |
| <b>Balance on hand 7-31-2023</b>                |    |          | <b>\$ 156,992.74</b> |
| *** Confirmation Balance                        | \$ | 1,043.08 |                      |
| *** Thrivent Choice Balance                     | \$ | 3,014.95 |                      |

**Building Account**

|                                  |    |       |                     |
|----------------------------------|----|-------|---------------------|
| Balance on hand 7-1-2023         |    |       | \$ 53,773.92        |
| Receipts                         |    |       |                     |
| Offerings for Building Fund      | \$ | 85.00 |                     |
| Offerings for Carpet Fund        | \$ | 40.00 | \$ 125.00           |
| Disbursements                    | \$ | -     | \$ -                |
| <b>Balance on hand 7-31-2023</b> |    |       | <b>\$ 53,898.92</b> |

**Mission Account**

|                                  |    |        |                    |
|----------------------------------|----|--------|--------------------|
| Balance on hand 7-1-2023         |    |        | \$ 4,530.92        |
| Receipts                         |    |        |                    |
| Offerings for Mission Fund       | \$ | 110.00 |                    |
| Children's Offering              | \$ | 14.00  |                    |
| Offerings for Blessing Center    | \$ | 170.00 | \$ 294.00          |
| Disbursements                    |    |        |                    |
| Castlewood Blessing Center       | \$ | 170.00 |                    |
| Mackenzie Everson (Scholarship)  | \$ | 250.00 |                    |
| Jeremiah Wiersma (Scholarship)   | \$ | 250.00 |                    |
| James Mickey (Scholarship)       | \$ | 250.00 | \$ (920.00)        |
| <b>Balance on hand 7-31-2023</b> |    |        | <b>\$ 3,904.92</b> |

**Memorial Account**

|                                  |    |       |                    |
|----------------------------------|----|-------|--------------------|
| Balance on hand 7-1-2023         |    |       | \$ 6,703.31        |
| Receipts (Ruby McKee memorial)   | \$ | 95.00 | \$ 95.00           |
| Disbursements                    | \$ | -     | \$ -               |
| <b>Balance on hand 7-31-2023</b> |    |       | <b>\$ 6,798.31</b> |

**Account Summary**

|                         | Current<br>Balance   | Change<br>July 2023  | Change<br>Year to Date |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>General Account</b>  | <b>\$ 156,992.74</b> | <b>\$ (1,839.27)</b> | <b>\$ (15,861.21)</b>  |
| <b>Building Account</b> | <b>\$ 53,898.92</b>  | <b>\$ 125.00</b>     | <b>\$ (24,481.81)</b>  |
| <b>Mission Account</b>  | <b>\$ 3,904.92</b>   | <b>\$ (626.00)</b>   | <b>\$ (165.00)</b>     |
| <b>Memorial Account</b> | <b>\$ 6,798.31</b>   | <b>\$ 95.00</b>      | <b>\$ (345.80)</b>     |



**“Acts: The Gospel Throughout the World”  
Adult/Sr. High Bible Study**

**Wednesdays - September 13 & 27 at 9:30 am & 7:00 pm**

**(also in 2023: Oct. 11&25, Nov. 15&29, Dec. 13)**

**Also offered at Castlewood Assisted Living at 3:30 pm**

The fall Bible Study will take us back to the early church, as we work through the book of The Acts of the Apostles.

In many ways, we are again a 1<sup>st</sup> century church, with so many in our nation having heard of Jesus, but have yet to find him as Savior and Lord. So, come along for the journey as we trace the works of the Apostles in bringing the Gospel into our world.

Study Materials will be provided, so all you need to bring is your Bible and a writing utensil! We will generally only meet every other week, as the opposite Wednesday nights are being reserved for Youth Group.

Lesson 1—The Church is Born (Acts 1-2)

Lesson 2—The Infant Church Acts (Acts 3-4:31)

Lesson 3—Growing Pains (Acts 4:32-5:42)

Lesson 4—Marks of Maturity (Acts 6-7)

Lesson 5—Thrust Out of the Nest (Acts 8-9)

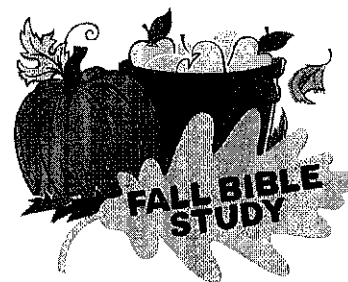
Lesson 6—Broadening Horizons (Acts 10-12)

Lesson 7—The Mature Church in Labor & Hardships (Acts 13-15)

Lesson 8—Nurturing Young Churches (Acts 16-20)

Lesson 9—Bound and Yet Free (Acts 21-24)

Lesson 10—The Church Prevails (Acts 25-28)



***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. 3  | Roxanne Bass      |                          |                           | Joshua & Sara Nei family  | Chuck Juntti                   |
| Sept. 10 | Marsha Kurtenbach |                          | Rally Day                 | Roy & Dawn Wiersma family |                                |
| Sept. 17 | Roxanne Bass      |                          |                           | Sherwin & Shelly DeKam    | Doug Strait                    |
| Sept. 24 | Marsha Kurtenbach |                          |                           | Barb Cozad & Brenda Almos | Rod Fischer                    |

**ALTAR GUILD**

September: Jodi Hanson & Roxanne Bass

*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