

THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 28, Issue 8, October, 2023

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery". Galatians 5:1

Have you noticed all the people wearing "Freedom" T-shirts? Janet and I were at a recent volleyball game and between sets, my eyes scanned the fans on both our side and the other, and I spied at least six freedom shirts. Now these t-shirts came in different colors and in different styles, but all of them bore some version of the American flag or a logo from one of our armed forces. A patriotic bunch we have here in Hamlin County.....boldly declaring our love of freedom! This great, yet imperfect nation of ours, was built on the rallying cries of *"freedom from tyranny"*, *"no taxation without representation"* and *"liberty from oppression"*! And now, after over 200 years since our founding there is a resurgence of calls for freedom, or at the very least a reminder to our politicians that our freedoms formed the bedrock of our nation, and we are not too anxious to see any of those freedoms diminished.

But the kind of freedom from of the t-shirt variety is different from the kind of freedom that the Apostle Paul wrote about in his letter to the churches in Galatia. Whereas today's freedom slogans are political in nature, Paul's reminder of our freedom is spiritual in nature. That is, when Paul was writing to the Galatians about Christian Freedom, he was not writing about a power or an enemy encroaching on our freedoms. No! Paul was writing about our freedom from the law that ever and always accuses us. It accuses us, because we are never on this side of heaven going to measure up to the demands of the law, which then leaves us bound by our sin.

So, Paul is declaring again and again, that our only spiritual freedom can come through Christ Jesus. Only the very Son of God, whose blood was spent for the sake of sinners, can bring us unto true freedom. Freedom from having to meet the laws demands, because Christ paid, once and for all times, the cost for our freedom!

The rest of Galatians 5 is worth a read, since then Paul preaches to us that since we are free from perfectly meeting the laws demands, we should use our freedom not to usurp God's will, but to follow His will for us, for he knows what is best for us. Then it is not just "freedom from", but also "freedom for". Freedom for rendering our lives back to the God who gave us life, has protected us in life, and is perfecting us for the life to come. That kind of freedom cannot be fully expressed in a t-shirt slogan, but is one lived as a testimony to the freedom that has set all believers free!

To the Praise of His God!

Pastor Tom



Noah Wiersma, son of Roy & Dawn Wiersma is currently in Kansas City at the Discipleship Training School (DTS). He is learning how to strengthen his relationship with God and how to spread his story to others. After the 12 week program Noah will go overseas for 8 weeks meeting new people, helping them and sharing about Jesus.

Noah would appreciate support through prayers. However if you would like to help support Noah financially, you can Venmo him at Noah-Wiersma, 509 N 1st Ave. Castlewood, SD 57223, 605-793-2767.

Who can help? – Community Thanksgiving Meal

On Sunday, November 19th we will again host a community meal from 11:00-1:00. The Church Council is looking for assistance in coordinating, cooking and serving the meal. Please contact a Council member if you can take part.



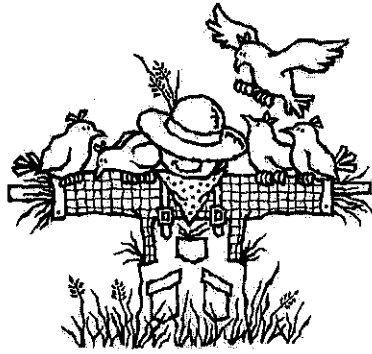
Gideon Sunday – October 22nd

On this Sunday a representative from Gideons International will be with us to give a Temple Talk on how we can partner with the Gideons in the ministry of placing the Word of God into the hands of people around the world. At the close of worship, an "Open-Bible" Offering will be received, with 100% of your gifts going to purchase Bibles that the Gideons will then place or hand-out around the world.





October 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 **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
- 4th 5:15 p.m. Confirmation Class
 6:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 8th **9:00 a.m. Worship Service**
 10:00 a.m. Fellowship
 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 11th 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
- 15th **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
- 18th 5:15 p.m. Confirmation Class
 6:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 22nd **9:00 a.m. Worship Service**
 10:00 a.m. Fellowship
 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 25th 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
- 29th **Reformation Sunday**
 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
 10:00 a.m. Fellowship
 10:15 a.m. Sunday School

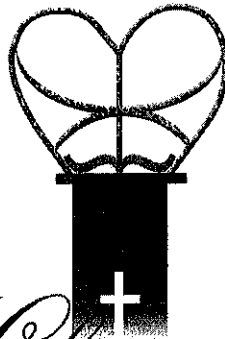




Josh Aderhold	10-01
Kari Nolte	10-07
Cheyann Kenyon	10-07
Ryder Mack	10-09
Julie Hofwalt	10-10
Lincoln Pribbenow	10-10
Melissa Prohl	10-13
Madyson Ching	10/14
Andrew Bemis	10-15
Wyatt Mack	10-20
Emma Lewno	10-21
Vadalia Smith	10-22
Joann Fischer	10-26
Taylor Hansen	10-30



Josh Aderhold	10-01	Glen Christianson	10-12
Mason Nielsen	10-01	Addyson Wittnebel	10-12
AJ Zimiga	10-01	Kylie Wittnebel	10-16
Richard Ries	10-02	Julie Fischer	10-21
Travis Prohl	10-09	Michaela Davis	10-22
Arianna Bemis	10-12	Daniel Davis	10-23
		Kari Nolte	10-25
		Ryan Greene	10-26
		Jennifer Hansen	10-27
		Aaron Ronne	10-30
		Jeremiah Wiersma	10-31



Clergy
APPRECIATION
month



Roy & Dawn Wiersma	10-3
Aaron & Katelynn Ronne	10-5
Gareth & Sharla Hamen	10-8
Robert & Michelle Ronne	10-10

October...

- Keep your eyes to the sky for meteor showers.
- October best time to see fall foliage at its peak
- Octobers full Moon known as Hunters Moon

Folklore for the Season

- When deer are in a gray coat in October, expect a hard winter.
- Much rain in October, much wind in December
- A warm October means a cold February
- Full Moon in October without frost, no frost till full Moon in November
- For every fog in October, a snow in the winter

JOKE

Q. What is a pumpkin's favorite sport?

A: Squash!

FRIGHTFULLY
GOOD!





Confirmation Ministry – Grades 7-9

Confirmation Classes ,October 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th at 5:15 pm.

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.

Students: BRING YOUR OWN BIBLE & WRITING UTENSIL!

October Snack Families:

- 4 Lincoln Pribbenow
- 11 Charlsy Laue
- 18 Kendra Nielsen
- 25 Ava Ruml



October Acolytes:

- 1 Larz Tvedt & Trevor Everson
- 8 Larz Tvedt & Trevor Everson
- 15 Charlsy Laue
- 22 Sawyer Craig
- 29 Kendra Nielsen & Ava Ruml

American Lutheran Youth!
Meets on October 4 & 18 at 6:30 pm. Youth Group will be a combination of study, fellowship and planning for service events and fun stuff too!



Sr. High/Adult Choir! Starting October 1st!
 Practices on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month at 8:30 am and will generally provide the anthem on the 3rd Sunday in Worship.
 Karen Lund has graciously agreed to give a go at directing our choir again...for which we give her thanks, and unto God be the glory! Not a "professional" choir, but for those who love to sing and wish to be a blessing to our worship life. Come and join us as we sing to God a new song!

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



“Acts: The Gospel Throughout the World”

Adult/Sr. High Bible Study

Wednesdays - 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 1st 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 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)

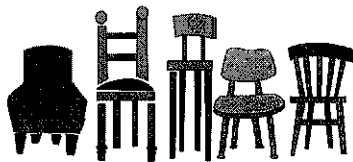
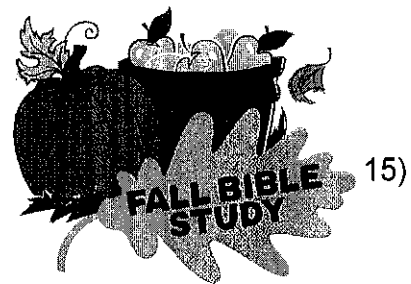
Lesson 6—Broadening Horizons (Acts 10-12)

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

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)



There's a Place for You!

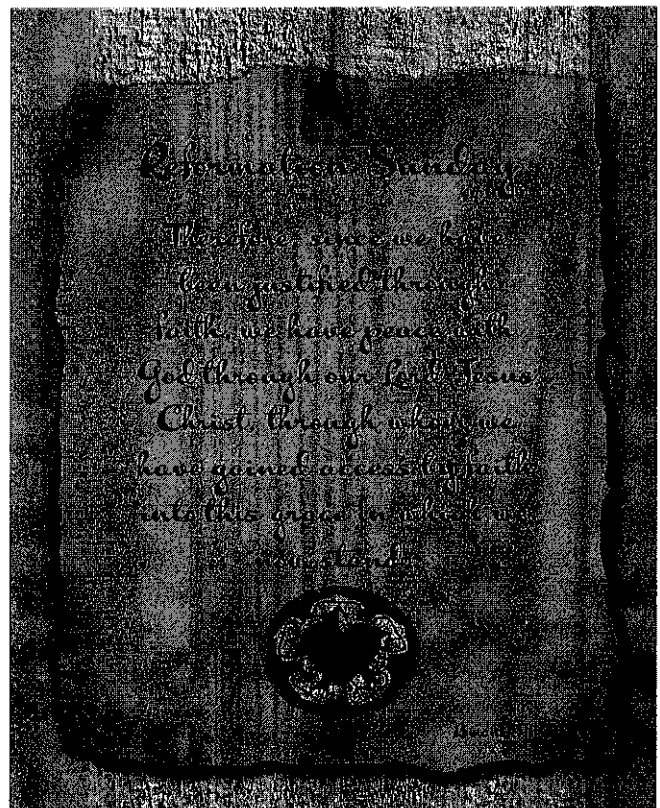
Welcome to ALC!

Gail Nagelhout

Jacob & Lacey Severson and
Claire

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

On September 4, 2023 Doug McKee passed away, his funeral was at ALC on September 8, 2023. Prayers to his family.



**Church Council Meeting Minutes
American Lutheran Church
August 6th, 2023**

Members Present: Danny Davis, Lindsey Vetter, Traci Bass, Jessi Ruml, Dan Grupe, John Bucher, Mark Larson, Rod Fischer, and 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: Review of the meeting minutes from June 11th, 2023. Motion by Traci, second by Lindsey to approve the minutes as read. **MC**

Financial Report: Rod presented the June and July 2023 financial reports which were reviewed. Motion by Mark, second by Jessi to approve as presented. **MC**

Pastor's Report: Pastor Tom will be at the NALC conference in Oklahoma from Tuesday until Saturday of this week.

Hamlin Reformed Church will be leading the community service including supplying the main course for Potluck.

Discussion was had on a social media campaign to inform more people of our presence in the community. Pastor Tom will be working on this with his wife and Janelle. A discussion was also had concerning a possible newspaper ad in the future.

Old Business:

Parsonage: Creaking tub is still an issue – no action was taken.

Church Repairs: Dennis Strait will begin installation of the drywall in the basement and is looking for add'l help with this.

Traci Bass will retain Mark Lewno to complete taping and texturing once drywall is hung. (18) 8' sheets

Danny Davis informed Council that he had visited with Travis Prohl and that Travis had informed him that he was no longer interested in performing janitorial duties. It was agreed that this position would be advertised in the bulletin and during announcements at the beginning of Worship. Pastor Tom mentioned that he would like to see a general clean up after Worship each Sunday as well as a general clean up after on Wednesdays. Dan Grupe will talk to Amanda Pribbenow to see if she is able to "sub" while we look for a replacement and Traci Bass advised that she would be willing to take care of it if Amanda P. doesn't want to.

Concrete for the sign has been poured and is ready for installation of the sign which will take place on Monday, August 7th at 6:00 PM.

New Business:

Communion Schedule: August – Mark (3rd Sunday) September – Traci Bass (all month)

Lector / Fellowship Sign-ups: No action taken.

Rally Sunday and Castlewood Days were briefly discussed. No action was taken.

Some water and sand were recently discovered in the parsonage basement. After having Elite Sewer & Drain inspect it was determined that the water softener appears to have been leaking. Water King will be in tomorrow (Monday) to inspect. Motion made by Rod F. to give Pastor \$2,500.00 in authority to repair or replace the water softener. Lindsey 2nd. **MC**

Discussion was had concerning Gideon's attending worship towards Sept./Oct of 2023. Motion by Rod to donate \$500.00 to The Gideon's. 2nd by Lindsey. **MC**

Discussion was had concerning the storage shed floor and what could be done to protect items better. Pastor recommended using some left-over lumber from the basement project to possibly raise the shed floor. No action was taken although Mark will look into this a little more and report during the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Sunday, Sept. 17th, 2023, following Worship.

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

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Mark Larson, Secretary

**American Lutheran Church Financial Report
August 2023**

General Account

Balance on hand 8-1-2023		\$	156,992.74
Receipts			
Offerings	\$	6,960.00	
Confirmation	\$	9.41	\$ 6,969.41
Disbursements			
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$	4,472.80	
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$	289.72	
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00	
Thomas Christenson (Mileage - 166 Miles)	\$	108.72	
Thomas Christenson (Reimburse-Convocation Motel)	\$	703.00	
Retirement Contribution	\$	467.28	
EBSO (Health Insurance)	\$	2,328.00	
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)	\$	631.32	
Janel Bemis (July-\$219.79, Aug-\$284.44)	\$	504.23	
Amanda Pribbenow (custodian - 6 hours)	\$	78.00	
Roxanne Bass (organist - 1 svc)	\$	55.00	
Karen Lund (organist - 1 svc)	\$	55.00	
Marsha Kurtenbach (organist - 2 svcs)	\$	110.00	
NALC (benevolence)	\$	50.00	
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$60.00, Pars: \$81.21)	\$	141.21	
ITC (Phone and Internet - Church)	\$	124.99	
Northwestern (Church: \$49.02, Pars: \$9.51)	\$	58.53	
Ottertail (Church: \$201.45, Pars: \$57.76)	\$	259.21	
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	329.00	
Office Peeps (copier & supplies)	\$	22.00	
Upper Room Ministries (Sept/Oct booklet)	\$	34.35	\$ (11,022.36)
Balance on hand 8-31-2023		\$	152,939.79
*** Confirmation Balance	\$	1,052.49	
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$	3,014.95	

Building Account

Balance on hand 8-1-2023		\$	53,898.92
Receipts			
Offerings for Building Fund	\$	255.00	\$ 255.00
Disbursements			
Water King (Water Softener Repair)	\$	394.00	\$ (394.00)
Balance on hand 8-31-2023		\$	53,759.92

Mission Account

Balance on hand 8-1-2023		\$	3,904.92
Receipts			
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	175.00	
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	160.00	
Children's Offerings	\$	22.34	
Check #1125 from July 2022 was not cashed	\$	250.00	\$ 607.34
Disbursements			
Castlewood Blessing Center (August offerings)	\$	160.00	\$ (160.00)
Balance on hand 8-31-2023		\$	4,352.26

Memorial Account

Balance on hand 8-1-2023		\$	6,798.31
Receipts			
	\$	-	\$ -
Disbursements			
	\$	-	\$ -
Balance on hand 8-31-2023		\$	6,798.31

Account Summary

	Current Balance	Change August 2023	Change Year to Date
General Account	\$ 152,939.79	\$ (4,052.95)	\$ (19,914.16)
Building Account	\$ 53,759.92	\$ (139.00)	\$ (24,620.81)
Mission Account	\$ 4,352.26	\$ 447.34	\$ 282.34
Memorial Account	\$ 6,798.31	\$ -	\$ (345.80)



The Servants of our Lord

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Scripture Lectors</i>	<i>Fellowship Servers</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
October 1	Roxanne Bass	Brenda Almos	Macks	Landon & Lindsey Vetter family	Chuck Juntti
October 8	Marsha Kurtenbach			Andrew & Sarah Smith family	
October 15	Roxanne Bass			Steve & Lisa Janssen	Doug Strait
October 22	Marsha Kurtenbach			Tyler & Tess Jankord family	Rod Fischer
October 29	Karen Lund			Barrett & Peggy Wittnebel family	



ALTAR GUILD

October: Dawn Wiersma

November: Angie Larson & Amanda Pribbenow



	General	Building	Mission	Children	Blessing Ctr
Sept. 3	\$2,491.00	\$175.00	\$100.00		
Sept. 10	\$1,471.00	\$10.00	\$158.00	\$8.00	\$90.00
Sept. 17	\$1,814.00	\$10.00	\$32.00	\$7.00	\$25.00
Sept. 24	\$2,439.00		\$42.00	\$17.00	\$25.00

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

If there is a need for pastoral care please contact Pastor Tom

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.



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

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