

THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 28, Issue 9, November, 2023

Nobody Eats Until the Amen” – P.T.’s Practical Theology

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” 1st Thessalonians 5:18

Back in August Janet and I took a little Saturday time to explore some of our neighboring communities. One place we stopped was at the “*Lucky Day*” Barn near Lake Norden.

While pokin’ around through the barn, seeing the eclectic variety of clothing, beach items and décor, I came across a little plaque that I thought might be a new addition to our kitchen. So, as every man would do, I showed it to my wife and asked if we could buy it. And.....she said “Yes”! It’s just a simple little box plaque that reads: “*Nobody Eats Until the Amen!*”.

Now, if such a motto is foreign to you, please know that it means that we are to pray before every meal. Many people refer to that as “saying grace”, as it is a natural time to thank God for gracing us with a meal, whether that be steak or last Sunday’s leftovers. But, of course, we should also give thanks to God for His gifts to us beyond our meals. For, as the Apostle Paul wrote, in the passage above, we are to “pray without ceasing”!

Now, I caution you, if you try to follow Paul’s command, you don’t have to always be folding your hands and closing your eyes when to “pray without ceasing”.....that’s how accidents are caused. But, for the sake of your own safety and of those around you, you can still “pray without ceasing” if you only remember that prayer is about being in a relationship of faith in the one to whom we give thanks.

So, we “pray without ceasing” when we have a hopper full of corn.....and think “God is Good”! We “pray without ceasing”, when we receive a phone call from one of our adult children, who reports that his or her company has achieved something that will make a positive impact on the world, and we remember that all that is good comes from God. We “pray without ceasing” when we know that God has redeemed and saved us, despite the fact that we have not been worthy of his mercy. Yes, we “pray without ceasing” because of his greatest gift to us and to all who will receive it, the atoning sacrifice of Jesus the Christ!

So pray: pray before and after your meals, pray with your children, pray with your church family, pray without ceasing, for that is the will of God in Christ Jesus!

To the Praise & Glory of God!

Pastor Tom



Who can help? – Community Thanksgiving Meal November 19, 2023

- 9:00 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship
- 11:00-1:00 Meal

On Sunday, November 19th we will 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.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 22nd, 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church

The Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship, sponsored by the Castlewood Ministerial Association, will be held this year at First Presbyterian Church. Pastor Steve Biswell from Hamlin Reformed, Pastor Duane Mullen of 1st and Bemis Presbyterian, and Pastor Tom are planning this worship for the whole community. *Please mark your calendars and plan to join the Christians of the Castlewood area in thanks and praise to God!*



This year, Pastor Tom will be the preacher, and ALC is on to provide treats for the Fellowship Time that is to follow. Please contact Pastor Tom if you are willing to bake or buy the treats.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join the Christians of the Castlewood area in thanks and praise to God!

Why didn't
the chef
season the
turkey?
**There wasn't
enough thyme.**

SIGN UP SHEETS FOR DESSERTS AND BARS FOR

- Community Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 19
- Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service Nov. 22

AVAILABLE IN NARTHEX IN NOVEMBER





November 2023

Su Mo Tu We Th 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 5:15 p.m. Confirmation Class
6:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 5th **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS**
9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 8th 5:15 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 11th VETERANS DAY
- 12th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
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
- 15th 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
- 19th 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Community Thanksgiving Meal
- 22nd **7:00p.m. Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship**
- 23rd **THANKSGIVING DAY**
- 26th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 29th 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

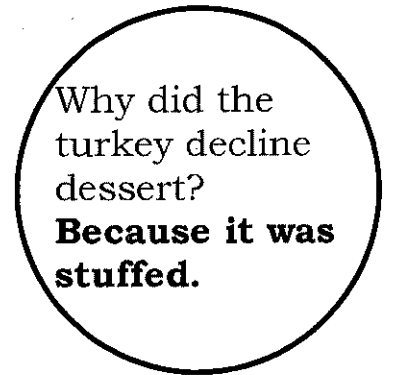
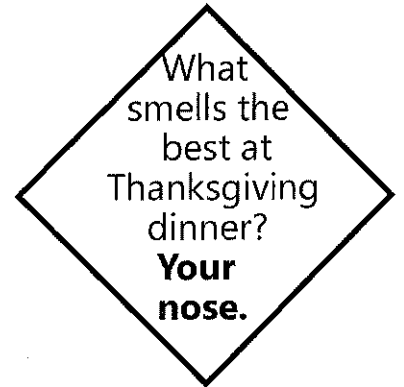




Haley Strait	11-01
Clara Kenyon	11-02
John E. Bucher	11-02
Janet Christenson	11-07
Paul Christenson	11-08
AJ Zimiga	11-07
Kellyn Jackson	11-08
Ava Ruml	11-08
Chuck Juntti	11-09
Claire Severson	11-09
Adrienne January	11-12
Jacob Severson	11-12
Joshua Nei	11-17
Barbara Stevens	11-19
Todd Larson	11-20
Donald Galbavy	11-22
Roxanne Bass	11-24
Pat Docktor	11-24
Reid Nolte	11-24
Bostyn Ruml	11-27
Noah Wiersma	11-27
Dick Strait	11-28



Kim Stevens	11-01
Geri Gantvoort	11-03
Cheyann Kenyon	11-08
Janell Bemis	11-09
Patricia Dockter	11-09
Ryder Mack	11-09
Kailyn Larson	11-13
Dawn Mickey	11-20
Wyatt Mack	11-27
Jessica Ruml	11-27
Drew Ruml	11-28
Richard Nolte	11-29



Nov. 6	Steve & Lisa Janssen
Nov. 22	Lorene or Richard Tvedt
Nov. 23	Ted & Cheryl Sutton
Nov. 25	Tess & Tyler Jankord



Remember there is CALENDAR on our Website!

Go to: 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

Bible Quiz

Fill in the blank:
 "Rejoice always, pray continually, give _____ in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

A. alms
 B. praise
 C. thanks
 D. offerings

Answer: C (See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NKV)



Confirmation Ministry – Grades 6-8

Confirmation Classes ,November 1, 8, 15, 29 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!

November Snack Families:

- 1 Sawyer/Huxley Craig
- 8 Easton Carter
- 15 Lincoln Pribbenow
- 22 No Class (Thanksgiving Eve Worship)
- 29 Sawyer/Huxley Craig



November Acolytes:

- 5 Easton Carter & Lincoln Pribbenow
- 12 Sawyer Craig
- 19 Ava Ruml
- 26 Charlsy Laue



American Lutheran Youth!

Youth Group (grades 7-12) usually meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Youth Group is a combination of study, fellowship and planning for service events and fun stuff too!

In November:

we will meet on Wednesday the 1st at 6:30 pm, and then on Sunday the 19th right after worship to serve the Thanksgiving Meal, alongside the Church Council.



Sr. High/Adult Choir!

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.

Why did the turkey cross the road twice?

To prove he wasn't a chicken!



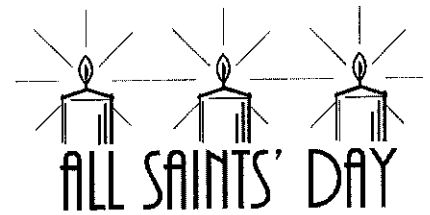
★ **Veterans Day:** ★
Thank You for Your Service!



Sunday, November 5th is the Celebration of All Saints!

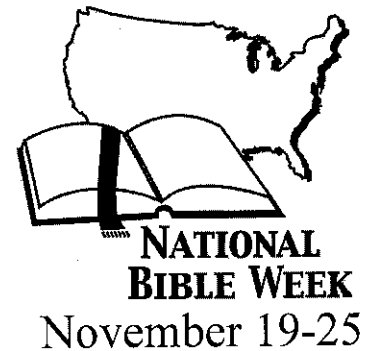
On this day, our liturgy will include a remembrance of those who have died in this past year, prepared with faith in God.

Also, on that morning we will be using for the 1st time a new Communion Chalice, Paten and Paten Cover, given to ALC in loving memory of Ruby and Douglas McKee. Our thanks to the McKee family for this memorial gift.



There are still ALC Christmas ornaments for purchase at \$7.00 each. *please contact a council member or email the church at americlc@itctel.com.*

Why did the turkey leave the band?
People were fighting over the drumsticks.



“Acts: The Gospel Throughout the World”

Adult/Sr. High Bible Study

Wednesdays - at 9:30 am & 7:00 pm

(also in 2023: 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 4—Marks of Maturity (Acts 6-7)

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

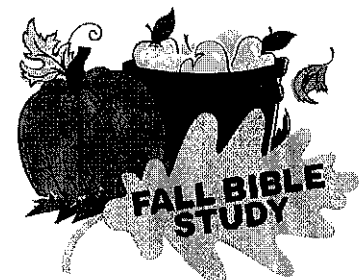
Lesson 6—Broadening Horizons (Acts 10-12)

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)



**Church Council Meeting Minutes
American Lutheran Church
September 17, 2023**

Members Present: Danny Davis, Lindsey Vetter, Dan Grupe, John Bucher, 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 August 6th, 2023. Motion by Rod, second by John to approve the minutes as read. **MC**

Financial Report: Rod presented the August 2023 financial report. Motion by Lindsey, second by Danny to approve as presented. **MC**

Pastor's Report: Bible study will start up with an afternoon & evening schedule.
Sunday, August 24th ALC will welcome new members.
Gideons are scheduled to be at ALC on Sunday, October 8th.
7th-12th youth gathered at Thunder Road in Watertown.

Old Business:

Parsonage: Water softener has been fixed.

Church Repairs: Sheet rock is done & walls are textured. Lindsey will reach out to Brenda & Traci to see if the youth can help paint.

There are two applicants for the janitorial position. A motion was made by Rod giving President Grupe the authority to offer the position to whomever he sees best fit, with a second from John. **MC**

New Business:

Communion Schedule: October- John

Lector / Fellowship Sign-ups: September-John

There was a brief discussion about moving the Church pews back to three rows & two aisles. This was tabled for the time being.

A motion by Rod, seconded by Lindsey to donate \$1000 to Noah Wiersma for his mission trip. **MC**

Council members were informed that the church's vacuum cleaners are not working well. A motion by Rod, seconded by John to allow the new janitor to buy a new vacuum up to \$300. **MC**

Thanksgiving Dinner will be held November 19th following worship from 11:00-1:00. Volunteers are needed.

Next Meeting: Sunday, October 15th, 2023, following Worship.

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

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

**Lindsey Vetter
Acting Secretary**

**American Lutheran Church Financial Report
September 2023**

General Account

Balance on hand 9-1-2023		\$	\$152,939.79
Receipts			
Offerings	\$	8,183.00	
Confirmation	\$	32.00	\$ 8,215.00
Disbursements			
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$	4,472.80	
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$	289.72	
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00	
Thomas Christenson (Mileage - 224 Miles)	\$	146.72	
Thomas Christenson (Reimburse-Stapler)	\$	24.42	
Thomas Christenson (Reimburse-Bible Study materials)	\$	35.05	
Retirement Contribution	\$	467.28	
EBSO (Health Insurance)	\$	2,328.00	
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)	\$	631.32	
Roxanne Bass (organist - 2 svcs)	\$	110.00	
Marsha Kurtenbach (organist - 2 svc)	\$	110.00	
NALC (benevolence)	\$	50.00	
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$60.00, Pars: \$83.161)	\$	143.16	
ITC (Church phone and internet & Parsonage phone)	\$	124.99	
Northwestern (Church: \$25.86, Pars: \$9.50)	\$	35.36	
Ottertail (Church: \$523.38, Pars: \$186.10)	\$	709.48	
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	329.00	
Office Peeps (supplies)	\$	55.73	
Concordia Publishing (Lectionaries)	\$	100.95	
CCLI (Licensing Fees)	\$	367.00	\$ (10,730.98)
Balance on hand 9-30-2023			\$ 150,423.81
*** Confirmation Balance	\$	1,084.49	
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$	3,014.95	

Building Account

Balance on hand 9-1-2023		\$	53,759.92
Receipts			
Offerings for Building Fund	\$	195.00	\$ 195.00
Disbursements			
Andrew Thu (Tape & texture basement drywall)	\$	1,000.00	
Castlewood Building Supplies (Drywall)	\$	459.42	
Elite Drain & Sewer Cleaning (Parsonage)	\$	230.99	\$ (1,690.41)
Balance on hand 9-30-2023			\$ 52,264.51

Mission Account

Balance on hand 9-1-2023		\$	4,352.26
Receipts			
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	160.00	
Children's Offering	\$	32.00	
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	140.00	
Check #1101 (Sept 2021) was never cashed	\$	166.00	
Check #1103 (Oct 2021) was never cashed	\$	192.00	\$ 690.00
Disbursements			
China Service Ventures (Jul - Sept. Childrens offerings)	\$	68.34	
Castlewood Blessing Center (Sept. offerings)	\$	140.00	
Noah Wiersma (mission)	\$	1,000.00	\$ (1,208.34)
Balance on hand 9-30-2023			\$ 3,833.92

Memorial Account


Balance on hand 9-1-2023		\$	6,798.31
Receipts (memorial for Doug McKee)	\$	30.00	\$ 30.00
Disbursements	\$	-	\$ -
Balance on hand 9-30-2023			\$ 6,828.31

Account Summary

	Current Balance	Change September 2023	Change Year to Date
General Account	\$ 150,423.81	\$ (2,515.98)	\$ (22,430.14)
Building Account	\$ 52,264.51	\$ (1,495.41)	\$ (26,116.22)
Mission Account	\$ 3,833.92	\$ (518.34)	\$ (236.00)
Memorial Account	\$ 6,828.31	\$ 30.00	\$ (315.80)



The Servants of our Lord

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Scripture Lectors</i>	<i>Fellowship Servers</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
November 5	Roxanne Bass			Kevin & Amanda Pribbenow	Chuck Juntti
November 12	Marsha Kurtenbach			Dan & Paule Grupe Family	
November 19	Roxanne Bass		Thanksgiving Dinner	Charlie & Jennn Carter Family	Doug Strait
November 26	Marsha Kurtenbach			Chuck Juntti & Bob Miller	Rod Fischer

ALTAR GUILD

November: Angie Larson & Amanda Pribbenow

December: Joann Fischer & Lorie Mack

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



	General	Building	Mission	Children	Blessing Ctr
Oct. 1	\$2,491.00	\$175.00	\$100.00		
Oct. 8	\$1,363.00	\$16.00	\$55.00	\$24.00	\$25.00
Oct. 15	\$2,110.00	\$10.00	\$172.00	\$24.00	\$25.00
Oct. 22	\$2,005.00		\$32.00	\$7.00	\$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 Christenson 605-793-2444.

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

*Grateful,
Thankful
&
Blessed*



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