

THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 29, Issue 1, January 2024

P.T.'s Practical Theology

New Year - "All Things New"

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. Revelation 21:5-7

Usually we associate the word "new" with something exciting or at least something that is positive.

As we start this new calendar year, we have greeted and been greeted with the words, "Happy New Year", and the New Year of 2024 will certainly have some moments of excitement, even though the specifics are yet to be revealed. And anyone old enough to read this brief devotion will also know from experience that the New Year will also present us with some negative elements, even though the specifics of those are also yet to be revealed.

So, what are we to do, while we await in expectation and dread of what this New Year will bring to us?

Let me suggest that the best thing any of us can do is to place this New Year in the hands of the one who truly holds our future. Not Uncle Sam, not even your mom, but in the one who was from the beginning and will be unto the end, Jesus the Christ!

Without confidence that He is the one who holds our futures, we might indeed be given over to dread. But, when we hear and believe that in Jesus all things become new, we can live in the expectation that whatever happens in this New Year, He still offers us a future secure in His keeping.

From the Revelation to John, as printed above, we have Jesus' words of declaration that He makes all things new! This was not only in regards to the new work that God had done in the life of his Son, but this is also that promise that he makes us new. And being made new in Him, we are confident that He has forgiven us of our past sins, and is preparing us for the fullest, most blessed New Life when we are fully joined with Him in His eternal home.

Let us pray: Most Holy God, help us to enter this new year in the joyful expectation that you are daily making us anew. Help us to cast off the sins that have put us at odds with you. Help us to resolve to more diligently study your word and seek your will that we might radiate the mercy of Jesus Christ into the world! **AMEN**



January 2024

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	31			

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 1st **Happy New Year!**
- 3rd 5:15 p.m. Confirmation Class
6:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 6th 1:00 p.m. American Legion Oratory
- 7th 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
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
- 10th 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
- 11th ESD Pastor's in Brandon
- 14th 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. Church Council
- 15th **Martin Luther King Jr Day**
- 17th 5:15 p.m. Confirmation Class
6:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 21st 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
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 Annual Meeting
12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 24th 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
- 28th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 31st 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





Annual Meeting of the Congregation is Sunday, January 21st at 10:15!

Current Members of the Congregation Council and the year their term expires:

- Dan Grupe *(2024)
- Rod Fischer *(2024)
- Candy Gallisath *(2024)
- Lindsey Vetter (2024)
- John Bucher (2025)
- Jessie Ruml (2025)
- Mark Larson (2025)
- Carrie Henrichsen *(2025)
- Dan Davis (2026)
- Traci Bass (2026)

♦ denotes second term

Current Nominating Committee Members

- Jodi Hanson (2024)
- Phil Ruml (2026)

Current Auditing Committee

- Dawn Wiersma (2024)
- Craig Bass (2025)
- Landon Vetter (2026)

♦ Please consider volunteering to be on the church council or committee.

♦ Please have annual reports to the office by Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024

Confirmation Ministry – Grades 7-9 (Wednesdays at 5:15-6:15 pm.)
Confirmation classes resume on January 3rd and will run through the 31st.

Students: BRING YOUR OWN BIBLE & WRITING UTENSIL!

January Snack Families:

- 3 Hannah Wiersma
- 10 Ava Ruml
- 17 Easton Carter
- 24 Kendra Nielsen
- 31 Trevor Everson



January Acolytes:

- 7 Charlsy Laue
- 14 Huxley Craig
- 21 Lars Tvedt
- 28 Lincoln Pribbenow/
Easton Carter

Church Council Sets End-of-Year Missions Giving:

At the December Church Council Meeting it was decided to give to the following mission:

- \$500 – Eastern South Dakota Mission District of the NALC
- \$500 - "Today, Tomorrow, Forever" Initiative of the NALC
- \$500 – Beacon Center of Watertown
- \$500 – Bellamy Sikkink Medical Support
- \$250 – Blessing Center of Castlewood
- \$250 – St. Dysmas Prison Ministry

Thank you for your ongoing financial support to the mission and ministries of American Lutheran Church



ALTAR GUILD

January: Janet Christenson & Kari Nolte

February: Vicki Strait & Kristi Borer

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

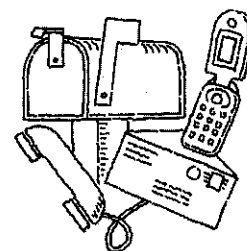


Barrett Wittnebel	1-02
Gareth Hamen	1-04
Jodi Hanson	1-04
Breanna DeKam	1-09
Darren Greene	1-09
Collyns Ruml	1-10
Eric Aderhold	1-11
Lacey Seversen	1-11
Sherwin DeKam	1-12
Sarah Christenson	1-12
Rodney Fischer	1-14
Asher Davis	1-16
Bill Henrichsen	1-20
Brody Bass	1-25
Alisha Nielsen	1-29
Dennis Strait	1-30



Janet Christenson	1/01
Larry Dockter	1-02
Vale Smith	1-02
Vavalia Smith	1-06
Walker Borer	1-08
Sara Nei	1-11
Ernie Karst	1-12
Haley Strait	1-12
Taylor Hanson	1-16
Landon Vetter	1-20
Noah Wiersma	1-21
Gail Nagelhout	1-23
Logan Ronne	1-24
Kendall Nielsen	1-27
Kevin Pribbenow	1-27
Carna Miller	1-29
Madyson Ching	1-29
Roxanne Bass	1-30
Celia Kenyon	1-30
Kendra Nielsen	1-31

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

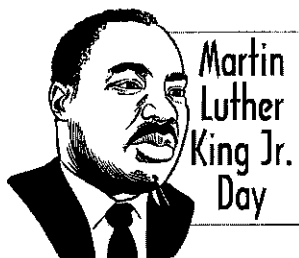


Remember there is CALENDAR on our Website!

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 pas-tortlc@gmail.com



Larry & Pat Dockter



Martin Luther King Jr. Day

"I Have a DREAM..."

Sr. High/Adult Choir!

Practices on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month in the fellowship hall and will generally be prepared to provide the anthem on the 3rd 'Sunday in Worship.



Church Council Meeting Minutes
American Lutheran Church
November 11th, 2023

Members Present: Danny Davis, Traci Bass, Jessi Ruml, Dan Grupe, John Bucher, Rod Fischer, Carrie Henriksen, 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 October 15th, 2023. Motion by Traci, second by Rod to approve the minutes as read. **MC**

Financial Report: Rod presented the October 2023 financial report. Motion by Traci, second by John to approve as presented. **MC**

Pastor's Report: Brief report on memorial given in memory of Douglas and Ruby McKee, and the summer 2024 Youth Mission Trip.

Old Business:

Repairs: Parsonage Tub – No Action
Rain gutters at church to be fixed in November
Paint for Basement of Church – Lyndsey is to purchase

New Business:

Communion Schedule: November- Rod, December 3rd-John, 24th - Jessie
Lector / Fellowship Sign-ups: No action taken.

Thanksgiving Dinner is scheduled being scheduled by Rod. Caterer is Tables. Kari Nolte received at \$250 Thrivent Action Team card to offset expenses. Proceeds from Dinner were discussed and tabled. (Possible recipient Dustin & Melissa Bruckner of Watertown-House Fire/Medical Bills.

Motion by Rod, second by Traci to allocated up to \$600 for Mark Larson to spearhead the raised floor in the garden shed. **MC**

Motion by Traci, second by John to empower Rod to get from First Premier Bank a 17 month CD, investing \$100,000 from General Fund, as well as a 7 month CD, investing \$30,000 from General Fund. **MC**

Next Meeting: Sunday, December 17th, 2023, following the Christmas program.

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

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Tom, Acting Secretary

**American Lutheran Church Financial Report
November 2023**

General Account

Balance on hand 11-1-2023			\$	202,830.37
Receipts				
Offerings	\$	8,470.00		
Offerings from Thanksgiving Dinner	\$	1,395.00		
Thrivent Grant	\$	59.00	\$	9,924.00
Disbursements				
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$	4,472.80		
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$	289.72		
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00		
Thomas Christenson (Mileage - 152 Miles)	\$	99.56		
Retirement Contribution	\$	467.28		
EBSO (Health Insurance)	\$	2,328.00		
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)	\$	631.32		
Janell Bemis (Secretary - 26 hrs)	\$	336.15		
Janell Bemis (Reimburse for stamps)	\$	66.00		
Tracy Laue (Custodian - 19 hrs)	\$	228.10		
Roxanne Bass (Organist - 1 svc)	\$	55.00		
Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist - 3 svcs)	\$	165.00		
NALC (benevolence)	\$	50.00		
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$60.00, Pars: \$81.81)	\$	141.81		
ITC (Church phone & internet & Parsonage Phone)	\$	125.69		
Northwestern (Ch: \$47.77, Pars: \$21.190)	\$	68.96		
Ottertail (Ch: \$193.95, Pars: \$64.86)	\$	258.81		
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	329.00		
American Church (2024 Offering Envelopes)	\$	499.10		
Castlewood Corner Market (ESD Pastor Meeting)	\$	104.38		
Office Peeps (Supplies)	\$	308.17		
Dakotaland Mortgage (Special Mission)	\$	2,000.00		
Castlewood Corner Market (Thanksgiving Dinner)	\$	258.45		
Tables (Thanksgiving Dinner - Also had \$250 Thrivent Card)	\$	1,075.00		
Justice Fire & Safety	\$	333.46	\$	(14,891.76)
Balance on hand 11-30-2023			\$	197,862.61
*** Confirmation Balance	\$	1,107.49		
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$	3,073.95		

Building Account

Balance on hand 11-1-2023			\$	52,600.51
Receipts				
Offerings for Building Fund	\$	285.00	\$	285.00
Disbursements				
Lindsey Vetter (Reimburse for primer and paint)	\$	207.02		
Northern Plains Seamless (Gutter Repair)	\$	163.26	\$	(370.28)
Balance on hand 11-30-2023			\$	52,515.23

Mission Account

Balance on hand 11-1-2023			\$	3,628.92
Receipts				
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	175.00		
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	160.00		
Children's Offering	\$	33.00	\$	368.00
Disbursements				
Castlewood Blessing Center (Nov. offerings)	\$	160.00	\$	(160.00)
Balance on hand 11-30-2023			\$	3,836.92

Memorial Account

Balance on hand 11-1-2023			\$	6,828.31
Receipts (Memorial for Doug McKee)	\$	30.00	\$	30.00
Disbursements	\$	-	\$	-
Balance on hand 11-30-2023			\$	6,858.31

Account Summary

	Current	Change	Change
	Balance	November 2023	Year to Date
General Account	\$ 197,862.61	\$ (4,987.76)	\$ 25,008.66
Building Account	\$ 52,515.23	\$ (85.28)	\$ (25,865.50)
Mission Account	\$ 3,836.92	\$ 208.00	\$ (233.00)
Memorial Account	\$ 6,858.31	\$ 30.00	\$ (285.80)



"Acts: The Gospel Throughout the World"

Adult/Sr. High Bible Study

Wednesdays – January 10th, 24th & 31st at 9:30 am & 7:00 pm

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!

January 10thLesson 8—Nurturing Young Churches (Acts 16-20)

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



The Servants of our Lord

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Scripture Lectors</i>	<i>Fellowship Servers</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
January 7	Roxanne Bass			Mark & Angie Larson Family	Chuck Juntti
January 14	Marsha Kurtenbach			Landon & Lindsey Vetter Family	
January 21	Roxanne Bass			Rod & Joann Fischer	Doug Strait
January 28	Marsha Kurtenbach			Philip & Jessie Ruml family	Rod Fischer



	General	Building	Mission	Children	Blessing Ctr
Nov. 26	\$1,475.00		\$37.00	\$2.00	\$37.00
Dec. 3	\$2,680.00	\$135.00	\$133.00	\$8.50	\$25.00
Dec. 10	\$2,020.00	\$10.00	\$34.00	\$9.00	\$25.00
Dec. 17	\$2,167.00		\$150.00		\$85.00
Dec. 24	\$1,720.00		\$26.00	\$1.00	\$25.00

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



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