

THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 29, Issue 3, March 2024

Fire and Brimstone!

"Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon". Isaiah 55:6-7

You have heard of "*Fire and Brimstone*" sermons. You may have been on the receiving end of such sermons punctuated by a lot of accusation, maybe some pulpit pounding, and certainly calls to repent of your sins, and seek God's forgiveness.

The term "*Fire and Brimstone*" comes both from the Old Testament and the New. Fire...eternal fire is synonymous with the kingdom of Satan, the place for those who refuse to accept God's mercy. Brimstone is a word derived from the Hebrew noun "gofrit" or as an adjective "gofer" meaning wood, such as the gofer wood that Noah used to build the ark. But brimstone is not the wood planks that come from the tree, rather it is more specifically the tree sap or resin that is highly flammable.

So, if you are on the receiving end of a "*Fire and Brimstone*" sermon, you are hearing both of the place called Hell, with it's eternal flames, and the highly flammable substance which are the deeds and attitudes that might get us sent to hell.....God forbid!!

During the church season of Lent, many of the readings for our worship services tend to be the "*Fire and Brimstone*" themes. That is fitting, since by design, the season of Lent is a penitential season, causing us to reflect on our sin, repent of them, and seek the mercy of the Christ who alone has fully atoned for our sins. Yet, even as we reflect on the "*Fire and Brimstone*" that will be the eternal fate of some, we also know that it is not God's desire that any should come under that condemnation.

The whole of God's relationship with His people from Adam & Eve, to the day of Jesus' passion, to the very present is mercy. God has always had the disposition of mercy upon His people. God has always sought to have mercy on those created in His image, even when we have strayed from him. While we still have breath, there is the chance for us to receive His mercy. A mercy that was demonstrated most clearly in the sending of His Son, the perfect sacrifice, for our redemption.

Thus, in the sure and certain hope that in Christ we fear neither "Fire" nor "Brimstone" let us ever embrace this refrain from the Prophet Isaiah:

"Seek the Lord while he may be found....for he will abundantly pardon".

In His Service,
Pastor Tom



ALC Youth Group: Wednesdays, March 6th & 20th following the Lenten Service!
We welcome all in grades 7-12 to join us for Bible Study, Fellowship and Fun!

Confirmation Ministry – Grades 7-9



Confirmation Ministry – Grades 7-9
Even though regular classes have finished, it is the expectation that confirmation students will be part of the mid-week Lenten services.

March Acolytes:

- 3 Charlsy Laue
- 10 Trevor Everson/Larz Tvedt
- 17 Kendra Nielsen/Ava Ruml
- 24 Huxley Craig
- 29 Need a Volunteer! (Good Friday)
- 31 Need a Volunteer! (Easter)

1st Communion Instruction – Grade 3 +

Sunday, March 24th – during the Sunday School hour.

Students in grade 3 and above who have not yet received Holy Communion are encouraged to bring at least one parent and meet with Pastor Tom during the Sunday School hour on March 24th to learn about the Sacrament and be prepared to receive it.

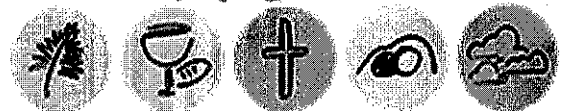
Recognition of the completion of First Communion Instruction will be held on Maundy Thursday, March 28th.

As in the past, it will remain the parent's determination if their son or daughter is ready for the reception of the Sacrament.



**MARCH 10,
2024**

Happy Easter





March 2024

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 World Day of Prayer
- 3rd **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
- 6th 6:15-6:45 p.m. Lenten Supper
7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship
7:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 10th *Daylight Saving Time*
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
- 13th 6:15-6:45 p.m. Lenten Supper
7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship
- 17th **St Patrick's Day**
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
- 19th *First Day of Spring*
- 20st 6:15-6:45 p.m. Fellowship Meal
7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship
7:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 24th **8:30 a.m. Choir Practice**
9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. 1st Communion Instruction
- 28th 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship/First Communion Reception
- 29th 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship at ALC with Hamlin Reformed
- 31st 7:00 a.m. Youth Sunrise Worship
8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service





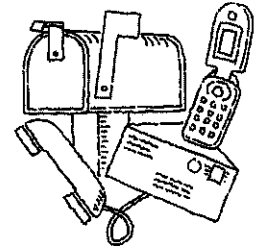
Kalee Jackson	3-02
Kelsi Langenfeld	3-02
Barbara Cozad	3-04
Tom Christenson	3-05
Arianna Bemis	3-06
Todd Eggleston	3-07
Karen Lund	3-08
Jonah Wiersma	3-09
Brenda McKee Almos	3-10
Bonnie Top	3-10
Hunter Smith	3-14
Lorie Mack	3-12
Bryce Wittnebel	3-17
Maddox Nielsen	3-17
Carson Borer	3-19
Russell Mack	3-19
Richard Tvedt	3-22
Angie Larson	3-26
Duane Selchert	3-26
Sarah Smith	3-29
Vienna Smith	3-31



Russell Mack	3-01
Lynn Borer	3-02
Traci Bass	3-02
Asher Davis	3-06
Gareth Hamen	3-10
Hannah Mickey	3-10
Eric Aderhold	3-14
Lacey Severson	3-14
Carrie Henrichsen	3-16
Carter Larson	3-16
Kabren Jackson	3-19
Larz Tvedt	3-22
Richard Strait	3-26
Lorene Tvedt	3-27
Thomas Christenson	3-29
Brody Bass	3-30

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

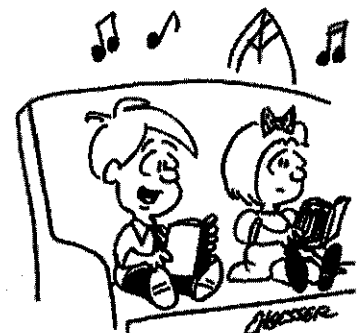


Duane & Phyllis Selchert March 26
Wayne & Carmen Jankord March

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.

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



"Hope the choir does some hip-hop for Easter!"



Rite of Confirmation — Sunday, April 7th.

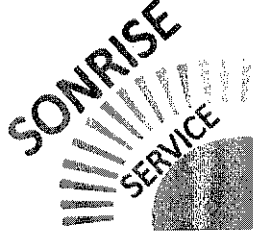
Planning Meeting: Wednesday, March 13th following the Lenten Service.

In preparation for the upcoming Rite of Confirmation for our 9th graders, Pastor Tom is calling for parent/ student meeting during which we will plan the service, be fitted for robes, and practice for the service.



EASTER SUNDAY

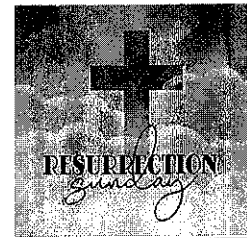
7:00 A.M.



8:00 A.M.



9:00 A.M.



NALC Mission District Convocation – April 5-6 at Foosten, MN

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), who is our host this year.

We are honored this year to have the Rev. Kevin Ree, the NALC North-Area Assistant to the Bishop to be with us, as well as our keynote speaker the Rev. Dr. Tom Jacobsen from the Institute of Lutheran Theology.

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.

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.

They Were There

Mid-Week Lenten Services Continue – March 6, 13, & 20

Meal: 6:15-6:45 Served by Youth of ALC
(Free-Will Offering for Youth Mission Trip)

Worship: 7:00 pm



“They Were There” is the dramatic dialogue series we are using for our Mid-Week Lenten Worship. Pastor Tom will be looking for 1-2 volunteers each week to help lead us in these dramas. No memorization required! Please talk to Pastor Tom about your availability to serve.

Characters we will meet in this series include: Judas Iscariot, Pilate, Claudia (Pilate’s Wife), Barabbas, and Peter.

ALC Easter Memorial Garden

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 Fellowship Hall by noon Friday, March 29, 2024. Complete the following form and return it to the church office or Janell’s mailbox by Wednesday March 27 2024.

Thank you!

In Memory

In Honor

To the glory of God

**Church Council Meeting Minutes
American Lutheran Church
January 14th, 2024**

Members Present: Danny Davis, Lindsey Vetter, Traci Bass, Jessi Ruml, Dan Grupe, 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 prior meeting minutes. Motion by Rod, second by Traci to approve the minutes as read. **MC**

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

Pastor's Report: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

Parsonage: Mark will contact Lucas Mack to see if they would be willing to remove & replace the bathtub. Traci will contact Water-Tight Plumbing concerning this as well.

Church: Lindsey & Jess are planning on completing the painting of the basement. Mark & John are still working on the installation of a floor in the storage shed. John has purchased new fridge from Karl's.

Communion Schedule: January: Mark February: Traci (4th, 14th & 18th)

Sign Up Sheets: No action taken.

Software: This is still in process. No action taken at this time.

Annual Meeting: Meeting is scheduled for January 24th, 2024, following Worship. Rod will purchase 5 dozen rolls.

Council Members: Rod, Dan, Candi & Carie are coming off. Doug Strait has agreed to come on as the Treasurer and Jon Bucher has agreed to be the new acting President. A brief discussion was had concerning other potential candidates for the other 3 spots. No action taken.

New Business:

2024 Budget was reviewed and discussed. Motion by Traci, second by Lindsey to approve as presented. **MC.**

A discussion was had concerning making sure the furnace filters are changed once a month in order to keep the furnaces running smoothly and efficiently. Snow removal from the sidewalks was also discussed. Both of these items are the responsibility of the custodial staff.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for February 18th, 2024, following Worship.

Adjournment: Motion by Lindsey, second by Traci to adjourn. **MC**

Closing Prayer: The council ended the meeting with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Larson, Secretary

American Lutheran Church Financial Report
January 2024

General Account

Balance on hand 1-1-2024		\$	68,956.94
Receipts			
Offerings	\$	5,749.00	
Confirmation	\$	15.00	
Thrivent	\$	-	\$ 5,764.00
Disbursements			
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$	4,612.98	
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$	298.40	
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00	
Retirement Contribution	\$	481.30	
EBSO (Health Ins - Dec & Jan)	\$	4,656.00	
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits - Dec & Jan)	\$	1,024.58	
Janell Bemis (Secretary - 32 hrs)	\$	443.28	
Tracy Laue (Custodian - 14 hrs)	\$	200.40	
Roxanne Bass (Organist - 3 Svcs)	\$	195.00	
Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist - 1 Svc)	\$	65.00	
NALC (Benevolence)	\$	50.00	
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$60.00, Pars: \$81.87)	\$	141.87	
ITC (Phone and Internet)	\$	125.73	
Northwestern (Ch: \$201.30, Pars: \$64.75)	\$	266.05	
Ottertail (Ch: \$178.89, Pars: \$78.67)	\$	257.56	
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	329.00	
Office Peeps (Supplies & Copier)	\$	123.45	
Hy Vee (Rolls for Annual Meeting)	\$	117.92	
US Treasury (4th Q 2023 payroll taxes)	\$	270.92	\$ (13,859.44)

Balance on hand 1-31-2024		\$ 60,861.50
*** Confirmation Balance	\$ 1,122.49	
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$ 3,164.95	

Building Account

Balance on hand 1-1-2024		\$	52,665.23
Receipts			
Offerings for Building Fund	\$	140.00	\$ 140.00
Disbursements			
Karl's Appliance (Kitchen Refrigerator)	\$	799.68	\$ (799.68)

Balance on hand 1-31-2024		\$ 52,005.55
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Mission Account

Balance on hand 1-1-2024		\$	1,419.92
Receipts			
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	105.00	
Children's Offering	\$	22.00	
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	170.00	\$ 297.00
Disbursements			
Castlewood Blessing Center (Jan. offerings)	\$	170.00	\$ (170.00)

Balance on hand 1-31-2024		\$ 1,546.92
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Memorial Account

Balance on hand 1-1-2024		\$	6,858.31
Receipts	\$	-	\$ -
Disbursements	\$	-	\$ -

Balance on hand 1-31-2024		\$ 6,858.31
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Account Summary

	Current Balance	Change January 2024	Change Year to Date
General Account	\$ 60,861.50	\$ (8,095.44)	\$ (8,095.44)
Building Account	\$ 52,005.55	\$ (659.68)	\$ (659.68)
Mission Account	\$ 1,546.92	\$ 127.00	\$ 127.00
Memorial Account	\$ 6,858.31	\$ -	\$ -



Installation of Church Council – Sunday, March 10th

The following members have agreed to lead the mission and ministry of American Lutheran this year:

President: John Bucher

Vice President: Lindsey Vetter


Secretary: Mark Larson

Treasurer: Doug Strait

Members at Large: Traci Bass, Lynn Borer, Danny Davis, Amanda Pribbenow, Jessie Ruml, Andy Smith and Pastor Tom Christenson (ex-officio).



The Servants of our Lord

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Scripture Lectors</i>	<i>Fellowship Servers</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
March 3	Roxanne Bass			Doug Strait & Keith Miller	Chuck Juntti
March 10	Marsha Kurtenbach			Todd Larson & Brent Bass	
March 17	Roxanne Bass		<i>Volunteers Needed</i> 	Austin & Leslie Tvedt family	Doug Strait
March 24	Marsha Kurtenbach			Dennis & Vicki Strait	Rod Fischer
March 31				Kevin & Amanda Pribbenow family	

ALTAR GUILD

March: Janet Christenson & Gail Nagelhout

	General	Building	Mission	Children	Blessing Ctr
Jan. 28	\$2,307.00		\$34.00	\$4.00	
Feb. 4	\$2,845.00	\$100.00	\$132.00	\$2.00	
Feb. 11	\$1,540.00		\$111.00		
Feb. 18	\$2,244.00	\$5.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	
Feb. 20	\$400.00				



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The American Lutheran Caller

P.O. Box 132

Castlewood, SD 57223

Address Service Requested

HAVE A
blessed
EASTER

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

2024 Church Council Members

John Bucher, President

Lindsey Vetter, Vice President

Mark Larson, Sec.

Doug Strait, Treas.

Jesse Ruml

Danny Davis

Traci Bass

Lynn Borer

Andy Smith

Amanda Pribbenow