

THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 29, Issue 4, April 2024

Let's Go Fishing! – P.T.'s Practical Theology

*After this Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. **John 21:1-19***

In the above post-resurrection story from John, we have a "fishy story"! It has some of Jesus' disciples deciding to go out fishing.....only to catch nothing. Then as dawn breaks a man yells out from the shore and dares them to cast their nets again....now the nets are breaking with such a great catch.....153 of them!

This story is intriguing because it's not just the miracle catch, nor the fact that the risen Christ had appeared again to the disciples, but it's John's specific numbering of the fish, and then Jesus' command; *bring them to me*.

Now, ever since John put pen to papyrus, Bible scholars have pondered over why John gives such a specific number of fish, and their thoughts are varied. But one thing that all scholars seem to share is the belief that this catch of fish prefigures what Jesus wants his followers to do, in bringing to Him a mighty catch of people!

Oh, we have some fancy titles for it, like evangelism and proselyting, but really it's just bringing those that are lost in the sea of hopelessness into an encounter with the living Christ. That's our job....that's our privilege, and Jesus will take it from there.



Let's Go Fishing! – P.T.'s Practical Theology (con't.)

Every day, we are given opportunities to bring others unto Jesus through our words or our deeds. Words of comfort because of our faith, acts of kindness, in the name of Jesus, and invitations to join us in our community of faith, God is giving us opportunities to throw out that net, so that one day, when the fish are hungry, they can grab that bait that we have been given and be drawn up to the master.

The master, who so freely gave of himself for you is the same one who boldly declared: "I am the way, the truth and the life....no one comes to the Father except through me". That is why Jesus wants us to bring others to him! He is passionately committed to all the fish in the sea...that is, all of God's children. And he wants **all** to come to a saving faith in him! Let's go fishing!!

In His Service,
Pastor Tom



Rite of Confirmation – Sunday, April 7th.

During the morning worship, the following will confirm their Baptismal Faith in the Rite of Confirmation:

Sawyer Gordon Craig, son of Lance Craig & Hillary Plucker
Confirmation Verse: Joshua 1:9

Charlye Lee Laue, daughter of Darin & Tracee Laue
Confirmation Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

Shawn William Prohl, son of Travis & Melissa Prohl
Confirmation Verse: Psalm 23:1

Larz Douglas Tvrdt, son of Austin & Leslie Tvrdt
Confirmation Verse: James 4:6

Vacation Bible School

Sponsored by

American Lutheran Church,
First Presbyterian Church,
Hamlin Reformed Church,
Bemis Presbyterian Church,
&

St. John's Catholic Church

June 24-28, 2024

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

(more information to come)

Rite of Reception to First Communion

The following youth had their first communion on Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024.

Vivian Grace – Daughter of Tyler & Tess Jankord

Maddox Austin – Son of Kendall & Alisha Nielsen

Londyn Arlette - Daughter of Kevin & Amanda Pribbenow

Veriti Lynn – Daughter of Andy & Sarah Smith

Laken Kale – Son of Landon & Lyndsey Vetter



"Flood insurance is very expensive, Mr. Noah, and besides, it would have to rain 40 days and 40 nights to flood around here."

Watertown Banquet – it was brought up at the March Church Council meeting that in the past ALC has served the Watertown Banquet. The Banquet is served on Mondays at Grace Lutheran Church. Serving time begins at 4:00 with coffee fellowship with the meal being served at 5:30. Anyone interested in coordinating a date and volunteers to serve the Banquet is invited to contact the coordinator, Darlene Bresson at 605-421-1258 or email: Dbress20@gmail.com



April 2024

Sun Mo Tue We 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

- 5th 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. NALC Mission District Convocation
- 6th 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. NALC Mission District Convocation
- 7th 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
- 9:00 a.m. Worship/Rite of Confirmation with Holy Communion
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 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 Income Tax Deadline
- 17th 6:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 18th ESD Pastors in Brandon
- 20th Private Family Function
- 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 Council
- 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 22nd Earth Day
- 28th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School



"Do something you really love in the most adventurous place you can and make sure it helps other people."
—Diane Sawyer

"None can believe how powerful prayer is, and what it is able to effect, but those who have learned it by experience."
—Martin Luther

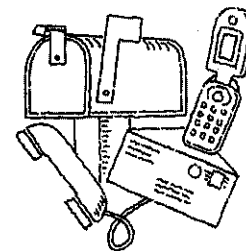
Items that you wish to borrow from the church, please contact Pastor Tom or Janell to coordinate the use of those items. Thank you!



Robert Ronne	4-03
Sydney Borer	4-08
Lonny Junker	4-08
Bob Miller	4-08
Neda Ries	4-11
Carmen Jankord	4-12
Phyllis Selchert	4-17
Daniel Lund	4-20
Lindsey Ching	4-24
Easton Carter	4-24
Tristan Nielsen	4-26
Tracy Laue	4-26
Duane Laue	4-30

Tanner Hanson	4-05
Collyns Ruml	4-07
Bonnie Top	4-19
Londyn Pribbenow	4-19
Brent Bass	4-20
Emerson Carter	4-21
Richard Tvedt	4-22
Bryce Wittnebel	4-22
Liyah Vetter	4-24
Kalee Jackson	4-26
Kelsi Langenfeld	4-26
Karen Lund	4-27
Jonah Wiersma	4-27
Hadley Severson	4-30

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



Russell & Lorie Mack
 April 24

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.



April Acolytes:

- 7 Kendra Nielsen
- 14 Lincoln Pribbenow & Easton Carter
- 21
- 28 Trevor Everson/

American Lutheran Youth! Grades 7-12 will meet on Wednesday, April 17th at 6:30pm for a "Spring Special"!!

Individual Support for Noah Wiersma – This past fall, Noah attended a Discipleship Training School and served on a foreign Mission Trip with *Youth With a Mission*. He has now been invited to take part in their nine-month School of Biblical Study. This intensive program will prepare him to go back into a mission field and teach Bible classes. The cost of this time of training will be \$10,000. The Church Council has made its commitment of \$2,500 in support. If you feel called to support Noah, please make your check out to *Noah Wiersma* and send to his parent's address: 509 1st Ave. North, Castlewood, SD 57223.

**American Lutheran Church Financial Report
February 2024**

General Account

Balance on hand 2-1-2024		\$	60,861.50
Receipts			
Offerings	\$	11,543.00	
Confirmation	\$	15.00	
Thrivent	\$	25.00	\$ 11,583.00
Disbursements			
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$	4,712.98	
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$	298.40	
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00	
Thomas Christenson (Mileage - 203 Miles)	\$	136.01	
Retirement Contribution	\$	481.30	
EBSO (Health Insurance)	\$	2,328.00	
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)	\$	512.29	
Janell Bemis (Secretary - 23 hrs)	\$	318.61	
Tracy Laue (Custodian - 20.5 hrs)	\$	265.04	
Roxanne Bass (Organist - 3 Svcs)	\$	195.00	
Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist - 3 Svcs)	\$	195.00	
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$60.00, Pars: \$83.04)	\$	143.04	
ITC (Phone & Internet)	\$	125.95	
Northwestern (Ch: \$347.60, Pars: \$95.79)	\$	443.39	
Ottertail (Ch: \$212.33, Pars: \$106.22)	\$	318.55	
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	434.17	
NALC (Benevolence)	\$	50.00	
Office Peeps (Office supplies & Copier)	\$	82.26	
Thomas Christenson (reimburse continuing education)	\$	321.16	
Thomas Christenson (reimburse church supplies)	\$	40.09	
Hurley's Religious Goods	\$	6.40	
Upper Room Ministries (March & April)	\$	34.25	
Watertown Wholesale (cleaning supplies)	\$	44.85	\$ (11,686.74)
Balance on hand 2-28-2024			\$ 60,757.76
*** Confirmation Balance	\$	1,152.49	
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$	3,214.95	

Building Account

Balance on hand 2-1-2024		\$	52,005.55
Receipts			
Offerings for Building Fund	\$	915.00	\$ 915.00
Disbursements			
Larry Dockter (furnace repair)	\$	75.69	\$ (75.69)
Balance on hand 2-28-2024			\$ 52,844.86

Mission Account

Balance on hand 2-1-2024		\$	1,546.92
Receipts			
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	239.00	
Children's Offering	\$	46.00	
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	250.00	\$ 535.00
Disbursements			
Castlewood Blessing Center (February offerings)	\$	250.00	
ALC Youth Group (Kids Against Hunger)	\$	300.00	\$ (550.00)
Balance on hand 2-28-2024			\$ 1,531.92

Memorial Account

Balance on hand 2-1-2024		\$	6,858.31
Receipts			
	\$	-	\$ -
Disbursements			
	\$	-	\$ -
Balance on hand 2-28-2024			\$ 6,858.31

Account Summary

	Current		Change	
	Balance	February 2024	Year to Date	
General Account	\$ 60,757.76	\$ (103.74)	\$ (8,199.18)	
Building Account	\$ 52,844.86	\$ 839.31	\$ 179.63	
Mission Account	\$ 1,531.92	\$ (15.00)	\$ 112.00	
Memorial Account	\$ 6,858.31	\$ -	\$ -	

Church Council Meeting Minutes
American Lutheran Church
February 18th, 2024

Members Present: John Bucher, Danny Davis, Lindsey Vetter, Traci Bass, Jessi Ruml, Amanda Pribbenow, Andy Smith, Mark Larson, Doug Strait, Lynn Borer, and Pastor Tom.

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

Prayer: Led by Pastor Tom

Annual Meeting Minutes: Council reviewed the annual meeting minutes. No questions or comments. No action taken.

Meeting Minutes: Review of the prior meeting minutes. Motion by Traci, second by Danny to approve the minutes as read. **MC**

Financial Report: Doug presented Rod's January 2024 financial report. Motion by Mark, 2nd by Traci. **MC**

Pastor's Report: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

Parsonage: Lynn Borer and Russel Mack have agreed to take this project on and will be looking at the issue today. Lynn will report back with an update at the next council meeting.

Church: Lindsey & Jess are planning on completing the painting of the basement. Dennis Strait will then install trim, so the basement is usable again.

Mark & John are still working on the installation of a floor in the storage shed.

Discussion was had concerning purchase of new software for the Church admin. This was tabled until after Easter 2024.

Communion Schedule: March 3rd – Traci / March 17th – Jessie / March 28th – Jessie / Easter- John Bucher

Lector & Fellowship Sign Up Sheets: No action taken.

New Business:

Election of Council Member Positions:

John Bucher – President (Motion by Jessie, 2nd by Traci). **MC**

Doug Strait – Treasurer (Motion by Jessie, 2nd by Traci). **MC**

Lindsey Vetter - Executive VP (Motion by Jessie, 2nd by Traci). **MC**

Mark Larson – Secretary (Motion by John, 2nd by Amanda) **MC**

Motion was made by Mark Larson with a 2nd by Lynn to allow for John Bucher and Doug Strait to have check/draft authority with 1st Premier Bank for the Church finances. Both John and Doug will stop in the bank to complete the necessary paperwork. **MC**

Pastor gave a brief report on next weekend's plan for Kids against Hunger. A motion was made by Lynn Borer to give \$300.00 from the mission fund and \$300.00 from the ALC youth fund for this. Amanda P. 2nd. **MC**.

Pastor mentioned that he and Pastor Biswell from Hamlin Reformed Church had recently visited, and that the construction of their new church is behind schedule. It was agreed to hold a joint service at ALC on Good Friday with Hamlin Reformed Church. Pastor Tom and Pastor Steve will work out the details.

The Rite of Confirmation is scheduled for April 7th, 2024. There are 4 youth who will be receiving (Sawyer C. / Charley L. / Shawn P. / Lars T.) Pastor made a motion to approve this and Traci 2nd. **MC**



Church Council Meeting Minutes Cont.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for March 10th, 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, ALC Secretary

The Servants of our Lord

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Scripture Lectors</i>	<i>Fellowship Servers</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
April 7	Roxanne Bass	Confirmands	Confirmation	Roy & Dawn Wiersma family	Chuck Juntti
April 14	Marsha Kurtenbach	Rod Fischer	Rod & Joann Fischer	Jake & Lacey Severson family	
April 21	Roxanne Bass			Andrew & Sarah Smith family	Doug Strait
April 28	Marsha Kurtenbach			Ernie & Rhonda Karst	Rod Fischer



ALTAR GUILD

April: Jenni Carter & Paula Grupe

May: Neda Ries & Carmen Jankord

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
Feb. 25	\$1,845.00	\$10.00	\$211.00	\$11.00	
March 3	\$2,905.00		\$36.00	\$11.00	\$25.00
March 6	\$390.00				
March 10	\$1,890.00	\$75.00	\$40.00	\$10.00	
March 13	\$415.00				
March 17	\$1,327.00	\$10.00	\$28.00	\$3.00	\$25.00
March 20	\$400.00			\$10.00	
March 24	\$2,050.00		\$112.00	\$17.00	\$95.00
March 28	\$661.00			\$15.00	
March 31	\$2,989.00	\$110.00	\$130.00		\$30.00



*Childrens and Blessing Center amounts are included into the Mission account totals.

The American Lutheran Caller

P.O. Box 132

Castlewood, SD 57223

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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