

THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 29, Issue 6, June/July 2024

"Let us draw near!" – P.T.'s Practical Theology

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:19-25

School is out! The summer season is here!!

But, just because it's summer, most of us aren't excused from going to work or tending to the daily chores. Oh, we might be able to sneak in a few weekends for camping, or a week-long special trip, but it's not three months off as it will be for many of our younger children.

Of course, the same is true for some of our church programs, in that summer is a tough season to get any critical mass of folk together. So, regular Confirmation Classes, Sunday School and Bible studies are on pause. But even though that is our reality, it does not mean that we can *"neglect to meet together"*!

That is part of the thrust we hear in the 10th chapter of the book of Hebrews; a reminder that faith is a 24/7, seven day a week emphasis.

Because of the great gift we have in Christ Jesus, we don't just *"take the summer off"* from attention given to holding fast to our confession or meeting together. No, it might mean if we are away from home visiting relatives, we should experience worship with them. In the case of your relatives not being active in their faith, then you, finding a place to worship in their area, will be part of your confession. In the rare



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chance that your vacation takes you to such a remote area, that there is not a Christian community with which to gather, then your family gathering for scripture reading and prayer, will still be “meeting together”.

God is faithful to his promises to us, so in thankfulness to Him, the very least we can do is hold fast to our confession and encouraging others to do the same! To God be the Glory!!

In Christ’s Service,
Pastor Tom Christenson

Youth Mission Trip – June 16-22

This year the youth decided to do their mission trip on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation, right here in South Dakota. The trip is being coordinated with Next Step Ministries, and will **include** a full week of service, Bible Study, Worship Services and Christian Fellowship with other youth from around the United States.

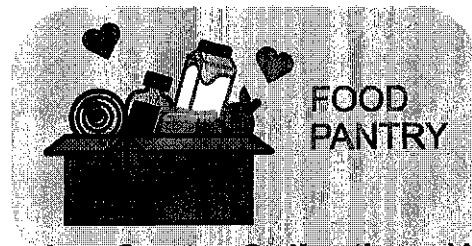


Please remember in your prayers during this week: Body Bass, Kolby Davis, Hannah Wiersma, Kendra Nielsen, Traci Bass, Brenda Almos & Pastor Tom.

FLAG DAY



June 14, 2024



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.

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



Austin Tvedt	6-02
Kristy Borer	6-03
Geri Gantvoort	6-06
Michelle Ronne	6-06
Veriti Lynn Smith	6-06
Bonnie Bucher	6-10
Walker Borer	6-11
Brittany Wittnebel	6-15
Vicki Strait	6-18
Tyler Jankord	6-19
Sharon Hattendorf	6-21
Doug Strait	6-24
Cheryl Sutton	6-24
Ashley Hofwalt	6-28
Marissa Gasner	6-29
Ryan Greene	6-30



Mark Larson	6-01
Hunter Smith	6-06
Scott Gasner	6-09
Lindsey Strait Ching	6-11
Robert Ronne	6-15
Aidan Grupe	6-16
Vienna Smith	6-19
Kristy Borer	6-21
Dawn Wiersma	6-21
Peggy Wittnebel	6-21
Carmen Jankord	6-23
Tyler Jankord	6-23
Tanner Grupe	6-25
Tyler Christianson	6-27
Cheryl Sutton	6-28
Brittany Wittnebel	6-30

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



Lindsey & Carver Ching	6-3
Jeff & Brenda Shepherd	6-3
Cory & Kalee Jackson	6-9
Ernie & Rhonda Karst	6-12
Philip & Jessica Ruml	6-14
Dan & Paula Grupe	6-15
Mark & Angela Larson	6-16
Haley & Charles Gallman III	6-17
Kim & Barbara Stevens	6-19
Landon & Lindsey Vetter	6-19
Craig & Roxanne Bass	6-21
Brenda & Stuart Almos	6-22
Andy & Sarah Smith	6/22

June is the beginning of a popular wedding season. So here's some marriage advice from across the centuries.

"Watch yourself, be the first to ask pardon if you both err, and guard against the little piques, misunderstandings, and hasty words that often pave the way for bitter sorrow and regret." (Louisa May Alcott, 19th century)

"The ear is the center of all relationships. It's not the heart, it's not the mind, it's the ear. Listening is the beginning and the end." (Henry Winkler, 21st century)

"On the other hand.....In every good marriage, it helps sometimes to be a little deaf." (Evelyn Ginsburg, mother-in-law of a Supreme Court justice, 20th century)



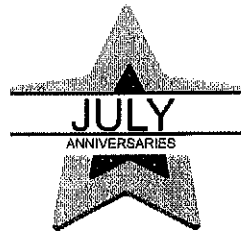
		Laken Vetter	7-14
		Lane Tvedt	7-15
		Darin Laue	7-18
		Casey Kenyon Jr.	7-20
LaRoy Wiersma	7-05	Erin Ruesink	7-23
Shelly DeKam	7-09	John Top	7-26
Richard Fischer	7-09	Hannah Wiersma	7-28
Emily Janssen	7-09	Corbin Nei	7-28
Dale Hattendorf	7-12	Drew Ruml	7-31
Addyson Wittnebel	7-14	Tess Jankord	7-31

Please notify the church with your...



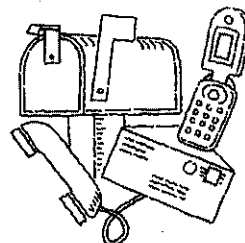
Baptisms

		Doug Strait	7-13
		Shelly DeKam	7-14
Tracy Laue	7-02	Alisha Nielsen	7-15
Lawson Vetter	7-02	Jordan Ruesink	7-16
Conner Greene	7-03	James Mickey	7-18
Duane Selchert	7-03	Sharon Hattendorff	7-19
Shawn Prohl	7-06	Ted Sutton	7-20
Emery Nei	7-06	Vicki Strait	7-21
Jerrold Bass	7-09	Bonnie Bucher	7-23
Garrett Karst	7-09	David Prohl	7-24
Jackson Nei	7-12		



Travis & Melissa Prohl July 10
Jordan & Erin Ruesink July 28

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



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



June 2024

July 2024

Su	Mo	Tue	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						

Sun	Mo	Tue	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



- 2nd 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 5th 5:00-7:00 p.m. Pie & Ice Cream Social
- 9th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
- 16th FATHER'S DAY
9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 15th Strait/Corben Wedding
- 16th-22nd Youth Mission Trip
- 23rd 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
- 24th—28th Community VBS
- 30th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Fellowship



- 4th Independence Day
- 7th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 14th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
- 21st 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
10:15 a.m. Church Council
12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 28th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Fellowship





Vacation Bible School June 24-28, 2024 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

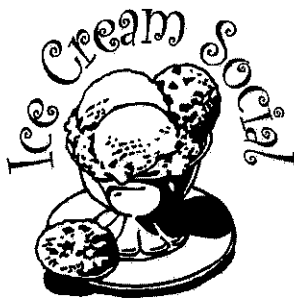


Sponsored by American Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church, Hamlin Reformed Church, Bemis Presbyterian Church, & St. John's Catholic Church

Students entering preschool - 6th grade in the Fall of 2024 are welcome to attend. Invite your family & friends!

See sign-up sheets at the narthex table or contact Laura Ries (880-0168 fpccastlewood@gmail.com), April Brouwer (880-5403 prlbrwr@hotmail.com), or Ruth Fodness (520-4035 rfodness@mchsi.com) if you can volunteer/help during the week and to register students that plan to attend.

Students should still bring a sack lunch M-Th and should bring a white t-shirt by Tuesday, June 25 with their name in/on it with permanent marker.



ALC Pie & Ice Cream Social will be June 5, 2024 from 5:00 - 7:00p.m. in the fellowship. Sandwiches & salad, pie & ice cream will be served. Freewill offering.

ALC Pie Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

WORSHIP IN WONDER

Worship is a faith-building, faith-sustaining act. It's also a form of service to God. Remember to worship regularly during the summer, even when you're out of town.

- "Worship is like corrective lenses for our souls, bringing God clearer into view. That's important for all of us, especially when life goes off the rails." —Louie Giglio



Church Council Meeting Minutes
American Lutheran Church
April 21st, 2024

Members Present: John Bucher, Danny Davis, Traci Bass, Amanda Pribbenow, Andy Smith, Doug Strait, Lynn Borer, Mark Larson, 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

Meeting Minutes: Review of the meeting minutes from March 10th, 2024. Motion by Traci, second by Doug to approve the minutes as read. **MC**

Financial Report: Doug presented the March 2024 financial report. There will be a few invoices coming for basement/shed/parsonage repairs. Motion by Lynn, 2nd by Traci. **MC**

Pastor's Report: Pastor recently attended the NALC Minn Kota Mission District Convocation, and the national conference will be in early August. Nothing further to report.

Old Business:

Parsonage: The parsonage tub project is completed.

Church Basement: Dennis Strait has finished his work. Discussion was had concerning flooring and electrical work to be performed sometime. Discussion was tabled for now.

Church Yard Shed: Project completed.

New software for the church: Tabled until further notice

Communion Schedule: May 5th, 2024 – Lynn Borer

May 19th, 2024 – John Bucher

Lector & Fellowship Sign Up Sheets: No action taken.

New Business:

Discussion was held concerning the replacement of the concrete stairs on the east side of the Church. Lynn Borer will be getting a bid for like/kind concrete steps. Danny Davis volunteered his time and equipment for removal/demo/hauling of the existing concrete steps if/when the time comes. Lynn will report back with the quote during the next meeting.

High School Scholarships:

5 of 6 seniors have responded with their applications being received prior to the due date. The completed scholarships were reviewed and approved. Motion by Traci to approve the 5 applications and 2nd by Amanda. **MC**.

Motion by Traci Bass to move \$2,000.00 from the general fund to the Mission fund for the scholarship payments and any other mission work. 2nd by Lynn. **MC**

Motion made by John Bucher to give St. Dymas \$100.00 for mission work. 2nd by Mark. **MC**

Lynn Borer asked about setting up a ETF payment program for people who aren't able to attend Church. John Bucher will visit with Breanna Beebe from 1st Premier Back concerning this.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for May 19th, 2024, following Worship.

Adjournment: Motion by Traci, second by Andy 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
April 2024

General Account

Balance on hand 4-1-2024		\$	58,977.64
Receipts			
Offerings	\$	10,855.00	
Confirmation	\$	18.00	
Thrivent	\$	44.00	\$ 10,917.00
Disbursements			
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$	4,712.98	
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$	298.40	
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00	
Thomas Christenson (Mileage - 34 Miles)	\$	22.78	
Retirement Contribution	\$	481.30	
EBSO (Health Insurance)	\$	-	
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)	\$	512.29	
Janell Bemis (Secretary - 32 hrs)	\$	443.28	
Tracy Laue (Custodian - 21 hrs)	\$	271.51	
Roxanne Bass (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$	130.00	
Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$	130.00	
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$60, Pars: \$81.81)	\$	141.81	
ITC (Phone & Internet)	\$	125.47	
Northwestern (Ch: \$216.09, Pars: \$71.85)	\$	287.94	
Ottertail (Ch: \$163.44, Pars: \$70.96)	\$	234.40	
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	434.17	
NALC	\$	50.00	
Office Peeps (office supplies & copier)	\$	61.30	
US Postal Service (stamps)	\$	68.00	
HyVee (cake for confirmation)	\$	62.65	
Thomas Christenson (church supplies)	\$	15.02	
Upper Room Ministries (May/June)	\$	34.25	
US Treasury (1st quarter payroll taxes)	\$	290.70	
Transfer to Mission Account (pay for scholarships)	\$	2,000.00	\$ (11,008.25)
Balance on hand 4-30-2024		\$	58,886.39
*** Confirmation Balance	\$	1,172.49	
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$	3,494.95	

Building Account

Balance on hand 4-1-2024		\$	51,042.10
Receipts			
Offerings for Building Fund	\$	275.00	\$ 275.00
Disbursements			
Dennis Strait (materials for basement windows)	\$	174.00	
Castlewood Building Supplies (plywood floor in shed)	\$	396.93	\$ (570.93)
Balance on hand 4-30-2024		\$	50,746.17

Mission Account

Balance on hand 4-1-2024		\$	1,108.92
Receipts			
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	355.00	
Children's Offering	\$	27.00	
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	170.00	
Transfer from General Account	\$	2,000.00	\$ 2,552.00
Disbursements			
St Dymas (prison church)	\$	100.00	
Castlewood Blessing Center	\$	170.00	
Kailyn Larson (scholarship)	\$	250.00	
Tanner Grupe (scholarship)	\$	250.00	
Lane Tvedt (scholarship)	\$	250.00	
Kylie Wittnebel (scholarship)	\$	250.00	
Kabren Jackson (scholarship)	\$	250.00	\$ (1,520.00)
Balance on hand 4-30-2024		\$	2,140.92

Memorial Account

Balance on hand 4-1-2024		\$	4,358.31
Receipts	\$	-	\$ -
Disbursements	\$	-	\$ -
Balance on hand 4-30-2024		\$	4,358.31

Account Summary

	Current		Change		Change
	Balance		April 2024		Year to Date
General Account	\$ 58,886.39	\$	(91.25)	\$	(10,070.55)
Building Account	\$ 50,746.17	\$	(295.93)	\$	(1,919.06)
Mission Account	\$ 2,140.92	\$	1,032.00	\$	721.00
Memorial Account	\$ 4,358.31	\$	-	\$	(2,500.00)



The Servants of our Lord

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
June 2	Roxanne Bass	Deb Aderhold & Jody Hansen	Chuck Juntti
June 9	Marsha Kurtenbach	Kim & Barbara Stevens	
June 16	Roxanne Bass	Richard & Neda Ries	Doug Strait
June 23	Marsha Kurtenbach	Dale & Sharon Hattendorff	Rod Fischer
June 30	Karen Lund	Craig & Roxanne Bass	
July 7	Roxanne Bass	John & Bonnie Top	Chuck Juntti
July 14	Marsha Kurtenbach	Duane & Phyllis Selchert	
July 21	Roxanne Bass	Kari Nolte & Carmen Jankord	Doug Strait
July 28	Marsha Kurtenbach	Russell & Lorie Mack	Rod Fischer



SIGN -UP SHEET FOR
Lectors—
(Scriptures sheets available)
&
Fellowship Servers
IN THE NARTHEX

ALTAR GUILD

June: Sharon Hattendorf & Pat Dockter

July: Brenda Almos & Traci Bass

August: Roxanne Bass & Sandra Everson

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
April 28	\$1,933.00	\$5.00	\$183.00	\$	\$30.00
May 5	\$2,915.00	\$100.00	\$189.00	\$7.00	\$95.00
May 12	\$1,310.00	\$30.00	\$178.00	\$3.00	\$105.00
May 19	\$5,995.00	\$5.00	\$189.00	\$2.00	\$25.00

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

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

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