

THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 29, Issue 7, August 2024

“Receive the Prize” – P.T.’s Practical Theology

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.” 1st Corinthians 9:24-25

We are in the middle of the Summer Olympics! Perhaps you are an avid watcher of the competitions or just catch the highlights on the news. Either way, don’t you marvel at the skill of these world-class athletes?

When the Olympics are in Europe, like they are this year, I am one who tries not to watch or listen to any news during the day, so that I don’t hear results being broadcast as the competitions finish. I would rather get home, get supper started and then tune-in to the evening recaps of what has already taken place. Even though I know it’s childish to seemingly deny that the competitions have not already finished, I at least get to enter into the spectacle of the games, watching as athletes compete for their countries and for the prized medals.

Years of preparation, years of training, and years of sacrifice are part and parcel of what it takes for athletes to compete on an Olympic level. And yet with all that effort, in each category of sport there is only one individual one team that will win the gold medal.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the churches during a time in which athletes who won a competition were awarded, not with a gold medal, but with a laurel wreath, made of small branches or vines in the shape of a crown. This was the symbol of victory and honor. And the wreath would have been worn by the victor for a day or two, but then it would begin to droop and its leaves began to weaken and fall, for the laurel wreath was perishable.

But when Paul is making his case for faith in Christ, he asserts that when we place our faith and trust in Jesus, we too get a crown; however, ours is imperishable! This crown is imperishable, not because we have won the prize, but we have received the prize!

In the “race” that is set before us, we have a choice, to run with the Savior, or run life without him. With him we have an Olympic-class coach unto the ways of God. Yet with Jesus as the coach, he is also the athlete; as he runs the race for us. And even though he did exerted all the effort, we receive the prize....the upward call of Christ Jesus unto life eternal! Such a prize is imperishable for God in Christ Jesus has made it so. What is required of you? Show up! Show up and you will stand on the only podium that really matters, as you receive the blessed crown of life!

Thanks and praise be to God!! AMEN



CASTLEWOOD DAYS



ALC YOUTH PANCAKE FEED
Castlewood Community Center
Saturday, August 10, 2024
7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Free Will Offering



**Regular
Worship
Service
9:00 a.m.**

Church at the Ball Park

Sunday, August 11th, 2024
11:00 a.m.



COMMUNITY POTLUCK



Sunday, August 11th, 2024
12:00 noon
Picnic Shelter

Bring a dish to pass

ALC is responsible for the 'main dish.' We will provide brats & buns.
Plates, utensils, cups & drinks provided



NALC Mission Convocation

Attend and represent our congregation without leaving your home! Friday, August 9th from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. CST. Register at Lutheran week.com




August 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	31

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

4th	9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 12:30—1:30p.m. <i>Blessing Center Open</i>	 PANCAKES!	
9th	5:00—8:00p.m. NALC Mission Convocation		
8th—11th	Castlewood Days		
10th	7:30 a.m. <i>ALC Youth Pancake Feed</i>		
11th	9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Community Worship at the Ballpark 12:00 p.m. Community potluck at the Park		
18th	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. <i>Blessing Center Open</i>		 FALL SPORTS
22nd	<i>First Day School Castlewood</i>		
23rd	First CHS Football Game vs Warner (home)		
27th	First Volleyball Game vs Clark/Willow Lake (home)		
25th	9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Fellowship		

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

Remember the CALENDAR on our Website!

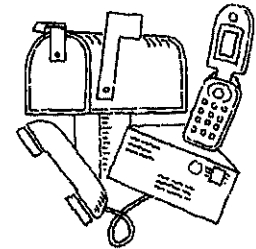
Go to: americanlutheranchurch.com and you can see the calendar of events for American Lutheran. If you have anything church related to add to the calendar, please contact Pastor Tom at pastortlc@gmail.com



Celebrating You
on Your
Special Day

Travis Prohl	08-04	Tara Nolte	08-14
Craig Bass	08-05	Dan Davis	08-18
Marc Lewno	08/07	Darah DeKam	08-19
Jessica Ruml	08-09	Julie Fischer	08-20
Kay Zimiga	08-11	Andy Smith	08-22
Charlsy Laue	08-12	Heidi Lewno	08-23
Londyn Pribbenow	08-12	Justin Ries	08-26
Drake Langenfeld	08-14	Mason Nielsen	08-27
Abbey Strait Leo	08-14	Jennifer Hanson	08-30
Paula Grupe	08-17	Christina Kenyon	08-31

If there is a need
for pastoral care
please contact
Pastor Tom



Baptism
All things have
become new.
2 Cor. 5:17

Corbin Nei	8-01	Hannah Wiersma	8-19
Darin Laue	8-02	Clayton Gasner	8-20
Tristan Nielsen	8-03	Lane Tvedt	8-21
Veriti Smith	8-03	John Top	8-26
Dale Hattendorf	8-06	Richard Fischer	8-29
Emery Larson	8-17	Marissa Gasner	8-31



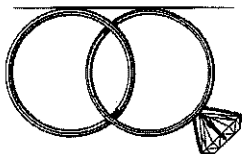
Happy
Anniversary!

Joshua & Sara Nei	—	August 3
Dennis & Vicki Strait	—	August 10
Lynn & Kristi Borer	—	August 11
John & Bonnie Bucher	—	August 11
Reid & Kari Nolte	—	August 17
Tom & Janet Christenson	-	August 20
Heidi & Marc Lewno	—	August 20
Kevin & Amanda Pribbenow	—	August 29
Darin & Tracy Laue	—	August 30

**Please notify the
church with
your...**



WEDDING RINGS — The exchange of wedding rings isn't found in Scripture. It came into practice among Christians in the late ninth century. The unending circle profoundly symbolizes a couple's mutual promises of ongoing love and commitment, as well as God's promise of eternal love that surrounds all — including each couple and marriage.



**Church Council Meeting Minutes
American Lutheran Church
May 19th, 2024**

Members Present: Dan Davis, Andy Smith, Amanda Pribbenow, Lynn Borer, Lindsey Vetter, John Bucher, Doug Strait, Pastor Tom, and Mark Larson.

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 April 21st, 2024. Motion by Lynn, second by Lindsey to approve the minutes as read. **MC**

Financial Report: Doug presented the April 2024 financial report. There was a null entry for health insurance in the April report which will be reflected in the subsequent financial report. Motion by Mark, 2nd by Lindsey. **MC**

Pastor's Report: Pastor is working with the community regarding the upcoming VBS. He will have more information in the coming week(s).

Pastor reported there are two new families that will be joining our Congregation soon. He will have more information in the coming week(s).

Old Business:

Church Basement: Dennis Strait has finished his work. There is still some touch up painting to be completed and Pastor and Janet will look at this next week. Discussion was had concerning flooring and electrical work to be performed sometime. Discussion was tabled for now.

EFT/Accounting Software: Information regarding possible electronic fund transfers was had including new accounting software for the Church. Doug and Lindsey will continue to work on this and will provide further information. No action taken.

Communion Schedule: June 2nd, 2024 – Lynn Borer June 16th, 2024 – Mark Larson

Lector & Fellowship Sign Up Sheets: No action taken.

New Business:

East side Concrete steps: John Bucher supplied a bid he received from Laser Crete, LLC which is a local concrete company. Lynn Borer is also attempting to obtain a bid and will present it once he has it. No action taken at this time.

Parsonage Drainage: Pastor Tom indicated that he would like to improve some drainage on the east side of the driveway of the parsonage. Currently the area doesn't drain which causes ice dams in the winter months. Danny agreed to meet with Pastor and look to determine the best course of action.

Live Stream of Worship Service: Lynn Borer discussed possibly providing a live stream of Sunday worship and Doug indicated that we currently had all the equipment needed to do this. Doug is going to speak with Chuck Juntti and will report back at the next meeting. No action taken.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for July 21st, 2024, following Worship.

Adjournment: Motion by Doug, second by Amanda 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
June 2024**

General Account

Balance on hand 6-1-2024		\$	63,598.14
Receipts			
Offerings	\$	7,444.00	
Confirmation	\$	10.00	
Thrivent	\$	33.00	\$ 7,487.00
Disbursements			
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$	4,712.98	
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$	298.40	
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00	
Thomas Christenson (Mileage - 198 Miles)	\$	132.66	
Retirement Contribution	\$	481.30	
EBSO (Health Insurance)	\$	2,328.00	
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)	\$	512.29	
Janell Bemis (Secretary - 12 hrs)	\$	166.23	
Tracy Laue (Custodian - 12 hrs)	\$	155.15	
Roxanne Bass (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$	130.00	
Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$	130.00	
Karen Lund (Organist - 1 Svcs)	\$	65.00	
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$60.00, Pars: \$84.12)	\$	144.12	
ITC (Phone & Internet)	\$	125.47	
Northwestern (Ch: \$83.49, Pars: \$36.97)	\$	120.46	
Ottertail (Ch: \$158.55, Pars: \$86.08)	\$	244.63	
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	434.17	
NALC	\$	50.00	
Office Peeps (Office supplies & Copier)	\$	46.83	
Concordia (worship supplies)	\$	99.29	
Upper Room Ministries (July/August)	\$	34.25	
Tracy Laue (supplies)	\$	37.12	
John Bucher (parsonage mower battery)	\$	42.47	
US Postal Service (annual PO box)	\$	64.00	\$ (10,754.82)
Balance on hand 6-30-2024		\$	60,330.32
*** Confirmation Balance	\$	1,207.49	
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$	3,527.95	

Building Account

Balance on hand 6-1-2024		\$	50,876.17
Receipts			
Offerings for Building Fund	\$	185.00	\$ 185.00
Disbursements			
	\$	-	\$ -
Balance on hand 6-30-2024		\$	51,061.17

Mission Account

Balance on hand 6-1-2024		\$	2,411.92
Receipts			
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	44.00	
Children's Offering	\$	28.00	
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	195.00	\$ 267.00
Disbursements			
China Service Ventures (childrens offerings April, May, June)	\$	76.00	
Castlewood Blessing Center	\$	195.00	\$ (271.00)
Balance on hand 6-30-2024		\$	2,407.92

Memorial Account

Balance on hand 6-1-2024		\$	4,358.31
Receipts	\$	-	\$ -
Disbursements	\$	-	\$ -
Balance on hand 6-30-2024		\$	4,358.31

Account Summary

	Current Balance	Change June 2024	Change Year to Date
General Account	\$ 60,330.32	\$ (3,267.82)	\$ (8,626.62)
Building Account	\$ 51,061.17	\$ 185.00	\$ (1,604.06)
Mission Account	\$ 2,407.92	\$ (4.00)	\$ 988.00
Memorial Account	\$ 4,358.31	\$ -	\$ (2,500.00)



MOBILE GIVING

ONLINE GIVING

Our congregational website: americanlutheran-church.com now has a link on the home page for online donations: **DONATE NOW**. From that link, you can set One-time, Weekly or Monthly Offerings.



	General	Building	Mission	*Children	*Blessing Ctr
July 7	\$3,680.00	\$105.00	\$239.00	\$4.00	\$135.00
July 11	\$1,251.00	\$5.00	\$75.00		\$75.00
July 21	\$1,830.00	\$5.00	\$100.00	\$5.00	\$95.00
July 28	\$1,330.00		\$11.00	\$11.00	

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

The Servants of our Lord

	Organists	Ushers	Audio-Visual Technician
August 4	Roxanne Bass	Steve & Lisa Janssen	Chuck Juntti
August 11	Marsha Kurtenbach	Cory & Kalee Jackson family	
August 18	Roxanne Bass	Bard Cozad & Traci Bass	Doug Strait
August 25	Marsha Kurtenbach	Tyler & Tess Jankord family	Rod Fischer



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

ALTAR GUILD

August:: Roxanne Bass & Sandra Everson

September: Jodi Hanson & Roxanne Bass

Altar Guild takes care of the communion ware, change altar clothes, banners and fill oil candles

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