

THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 29, Issue 8, September 2024

“Fellowship Requires Fellow Believers”! – P.T.’s Practical Theology

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. Acts 2:42-43

Sad to report that with the coming of Labor Day, what we generally think of as summer will soon be over. Hopefully you had times over the last three months to pull off a family vacation, visit the relatives, maybe do a Bible of Sports Camp, or maybe for our teen-agers, get in some work to gain some fun-money!

Whatever your summer held for you, it's now back to the more regular schedule of school and work.....and that too can be good for our families!

We are a people who have been created to be in relationship with one another, with family as the core relationship that we are to tend and nourish. And family can be defined in the narrowest biological sense to the wider sense of family being those that share the same set of values, beliefs and/or goals. That would make the membership of American Lutheran Church a family!

In the passage above we hear of the beginning acts of the Christian Church on the Day of Pentecost. You may remember that before Jesus had ascended into heaven, he told his disciples that he would not leave them orphaned (without parents) but would send the Holy Spirit to live and work God's work through them. The gifting of the Holy Spirit happened on Pentecost, enlivening the disciples in the faith, and enabling them to preach the Good News in many languages. Pentecost would then become known as the birthday of Christ's Church.

To those who heard the disciples preach of the redemption through Jesus Christ, “thousands” on that day became believers in the Gospel. And once they came to believe, Luke, the writer of the Gospel and the Book of Acts reports these new believers *“devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers”*. Family stuff!



"Fellowship Requires Fellow Believers"! – P.T.'s Practical Theology con't

We too, as fellow believers, are to embrace and celebrate in the fellowship into which the Spirit has called us. This fellowship can happen in many ways in the life of our church family: from informal chats during the fellowship hour, to the divine fellowship that happens when we worship, study and serve in Jesus' name. The Church is called to be the family of God for the building up of the saints and for the spread of the Gospel.

So, as some may lament the end of summer, I will rejoice if the family of faith comes back stronger and more committed this fall that it may be said of us that we are *"devoted to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers"*.

In His Service,
Pastor Tom



Notice of Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday, September 15th

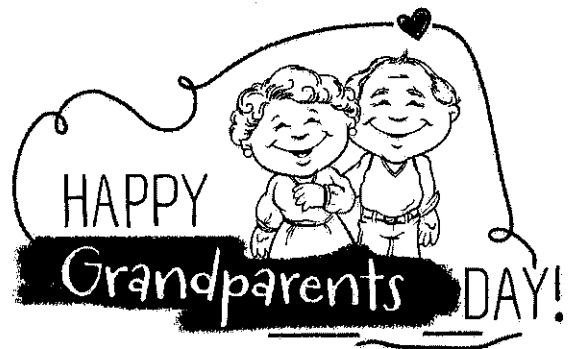


Due to the language of our Congregational Constitution, allowing only for the Council to expend up to \$2,000 for items not in the budget, the Church Council has set this Special Meeting. The East steps of the church building are deteriorating and need to be replaced. The Council has sought bids and is recommending the low bid of \$6,000 Laser-Crete of the Castlewood area. The prep work in removing the old steps will be done by a church member. This is the only item that will be considered at this special meeting, and thus we will hold the meeting during the announcements at 9:00 on the 15th.



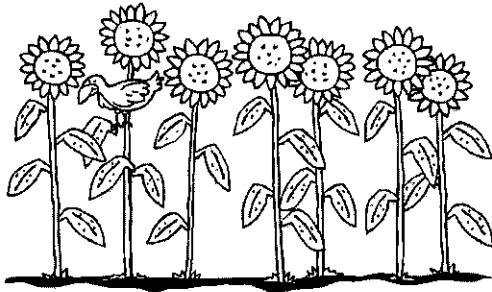
An Adult Bible Study will be held this fall once Confirmation, Sunday School and Youth Group have had their kick-offs. In the past year we met twice a month on

Wednesday nights at 7:00. This time, day or the choice of study materials have not yielded much participation. So, Pastor Tom is open to your suggestions in the hopes of having an Adult Study to begin in October.



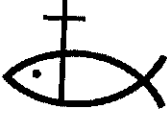




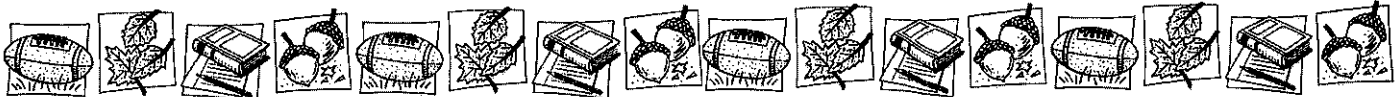
September 2024



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

1st	9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open	
2nd	LABOR DAY	
4th	5:30 p.m. Confirmation Orientation	
8th	Grandparents Day 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 5:00—7:00 p.m. Youth Group Games & Cookout at Parsonage	
11th	5:15 p.m. Confirmation	
15th	9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Rally Day! 10:15 a.m. Church Council 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open	
18th	5:15 p.m. Confirmation	
20th	Castlewood High School Homecoming	
22th	Autumnal Equinox 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School	
24th	9:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.	
25th	5:15 p.m. Confirmation	
29th	9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School	





September BIRTHDAYS

Dan Grupe	09-03
Kailyn Larson	09-04
Lindsey Vetter	09-04
Calonna Craig	09-04
Kylie Wittnebel	09-06
Logan Ronne	09-08
Debra Aderhold	09-10
Lance Craig	09-11
Kabren Jackson	09-15
Janell Bemis	09-17
Rick Ries	09-24
Vale Smith	09-24
Huxley Craig	09-24
Jeremiah Wiersma	09-26
Amanda Pribbenow	09-26
Kim Stevens	09-27

September BAPTISMS

Katie Fischer	9-07	Erin Ruesink	9-15
Kim Fischer	9-07	Michelle Ronne	9-17
Melissa Prohl	9-10	Abbey Strait Leo	9-17
Kay Zimiga	9-11	Paula Grupe	9-19
Justin Ries	9-12	Marc Lewno	9-20
Craig Bass	9-15	Casey Kenyon Jr	9-23
		Heidi Lewno	9-25
		Tara Nolte	9-27
		Charlsy Laue	9-28

September ANNIVERSARIES

<i>John & Bonnie Top</i>	<i>September 2nd</i>
<i>Lars & Jodi Hanson</i>	<i>September 13th</i>
<i>Sherwin & Shelly DeKam</i>	<i>September 16th</i>
<i>Dale & Sharon Hattendorf</i>	<i>September 29th</i>

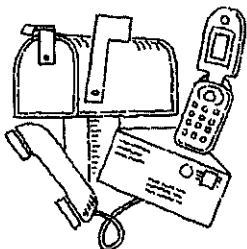
Remember the CALENDAR on our Website!

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

If there is a need for pastoral care please contact

Pastor Tom

Christenson
605-793-2444.



Bible Quiz

Who helped Samuel understand that it was the Lord calling him in the night?

- A. his mother, Hannah
- B. Moses
- C. his father, Elkanah
- D. Eli



Answer: D (See 1 Samuel 3:1-10.)



YOUTH ministry

Rally Sunday - September 15th- Asking God's Blessing Upon a New Year!

As our kids have now returned to a new school year, we also resume Christian Education for all ages with Sunday School, Youth & Adult Studies.

On Sunday, September 15th, American Lutheran will mark this new season with a special blessing upon students and their teachers. Sunday School is geared for 3 year olds up to Sr. High. Those willing to help with roles of teaching, song-leadership or crafts are encouraged to contact Brenda Almos.....868-0826 or blmckee96@gmail.com



American Lutheran Youth! Fall Kick-Off!

Sunday, September 8th, all ALC youth in grades 7-12 are welcome to come to the parsonage (509 E. Gerhold) from 5:00-7:00 for a Cookout, Games and setting the Youth Group Meeting times and events for this school year. In the past we have met twice a month on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, please consider whether or not this is still the best time for us to gather for study, fellowship and service.



Confirmation Ministry – Grades 7-9

Confirmation Orientation – Wednesday, September 4th at 5:30 pm. This meeting is for students in grades 7-9 as well as at least one parent. Please bring your calendars, as information will be shared with the students as to expectations, acolyte training and sign-up as well as the snack list. For our Freshmen, we will also be discussing a date in the Spring of 2025 for your Rite of Confirmation.

Confirmation Classes begin on Wednesday, September 11th, at 5:15 pm.

Please help: if your son or daughter will not be in class for any reason, it is the parent's responsibility to contact Pastor Tom **in advance** to arrange for the make-up material.

Students: BRING YOUR OWN BIBLE & WRITING UTENSIL!



What does the English teacher make for breakfast?

Why was the arithmetic book so sad?

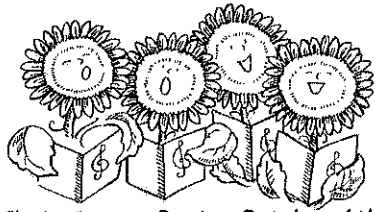
What is the blackboard's favorite drink?

Synonym rolls

It had too many problems.

Hot chalk-olate





Choir Season Begins October 6th

Sr. High/Adult Choir! Starting October 6th!

Practices on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month at 8:30 am and will generally provide the anthem on the 3rd Sunday in Worship. Karen Lund has graciously agreed to lead us again this year, so, come join us and make a joyful noise to the glory of God!

Residents



ASSISTED LIVING

Castlewood Assisted Living

Geraldine Gantvoort

Estelline Nursing Home

Carrie Henrichsen

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

Church Happenings

Baptism



Tully Grace daughter of Mike & Kaylea Johnson was baptized on August 11, 2024

Funeral

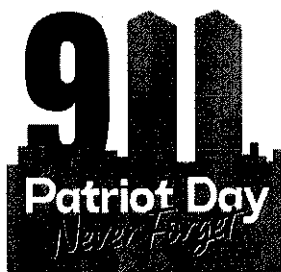


The funeral of James Janssen, was held on August 18, 2024

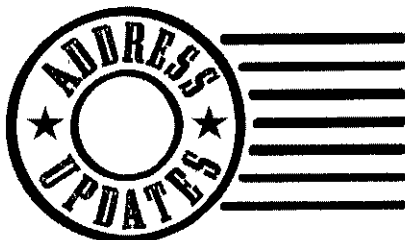
Wedding



Congratulations to Lance Craig and Calonna Rhody on their marriage on August 24, 2024

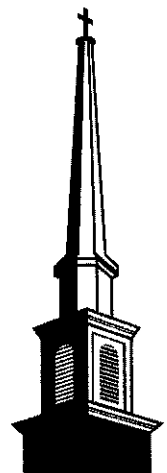


Please notify the church with your...



CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

Steeple is a remnant of Gothic church architecture of the Middle Ages, marked by high open spaces and pointed arches that direct attention heavenward. Nowadays a steeple atop a church small or large serves the same function. Typically topped with a cross, it designates a Christian house of worship. Steeples sometimes double as bell towers, sending out a call to worship high above the surrounding land.



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

Members Present: Dan Davis, Pastor Tom, John Bucher, Lynn Borer, Traci Bass, Amanda Pribbenow, Lindsey Vetter, Andy Smith

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 prior meeting minutes from May 19, 2024. Motion by Doug, second by Lynn to approve the minutes as read. **MC**

Financial Report: Doug presented financial report for May & June. Doug noted that we are down \$3,200.00 in the general account. Lynn noted that offering hasn't been deposited and this may be some of the result to a decrease. Roxanne Bass mentioned that organ and pianos should be tuned this fall. This request was approved to move forward. Motion by Lynn, 2nd by John. **MC**

Pastor's Report: 10 new members in June. 6.15.24 – member wedding was held at ALC. Member wedding is to be held in Aug at ALC. ALC Youth Group Mission Trip was taken in June to the Cheyenne Eagle Butte Reservation. Community VBS was the following week with record attendance. Pastor requested Mission Convocation reimbursement of \$25.00, which was approved by council. End of report.

Old Business:

Church Basement: foam has been disposed of, lumber may be used by PT if not disposed of, PT and Janet will finish painting.

Auto Fund Transfers for Offering: Doug stated there is a link on church website where offerings can be made and set up by members.

New Software for Church: Tabled

Bids on East Entrance Stairs: 2 formal bids were received

Communion Schedule: August 4th– Traci August 18th – Lindsey

Lector & Fellowship Sign Up Sheets: No action taken.

New Business:

- LaserCrete @ \$5,061.34 & Mack Concrete @ \$8,750.02. Motion made by Traci to accept the bid from LaserCrete. 2nd by Lynn. Dan Davis will remove and dispose of old steps.
- Broken window on South side of church, this will be repaired.
- Asphalt repair in parking lot on south side (in front of main entrance), Lynn mentioned contacting the city to see when they are doing chip sealing on city streets and having the company do the parking lot as well.
- Pastor would like a discussion and possible improvement for improving the drain off from the parsonage driveway, ice builds up there every winter.
- Surge protectors on all major electrical items: Traci will contact electrician on this
- Castlewood Days Comm. Worship Meal – ALC is responsible for the 'main dish.' We will provide brats & buns. Community Worship to be held at baseball field at 11am, potluck meal to follow.
- Pastor request vacation days: October 27th & November 17th

Pulpit Supply:

10.27 – Dr. Dick Nicolai with Gideons International (this will also be Gideon Sunday)

11.17 – Jim Erickson from Spirit of Truth Lutheran of Brandon Valley

Motion to approve by Traci. 2nd by Amanda. **MC**

- Cooling coils on AC units – Lynn cleaned them out and noted that coils are bent from storm damage. Will purchase coil comb to fix.

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

Adjournment: Motion by Doug, second by Andy to adjourn. **MC**

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

Respectfully submitted, Traci Bass, ALC Council Member

**American Lutheran Church Financial Report
July 2024**

General Account

Balance on hand 7-1-2024		\$		60,330.32
Receipts				
Offerings	\$		12,866.00	
Confirmation	\$		21.00	
Thrivent	\$	-	\$	12,887.00
Disbursements				
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$		4,712.98	
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$		298.40	
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$		200.00	
Thomas Christenson (Mileage - XXX Miles)	\$		83.75	
Retirement Contribution	\$		481.30	
EBSO (Health Insurance)	\$		2,328.00	
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)	\$		512.29	
Janel Bemis (Secretary - 22 hrs)	\$		304.76	
Tracy Laue (Custodian - 12.3 hrs)	\$		159.03	
Roxanne Bass (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$		130.00	
Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$		130.00	
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$60.00, Pars: \$82.05)	\$		142.05	
ITC (Phone & Internet)	\$		127.19	
Northwestern (Ch: \$17.44, Pars: \$11.55)	\$		28.99	
Ottertail (Ch: \$183.20, Pars: \$88.83)	\$		272.03	
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$		434.17	
NALC	\$		50.00	
Office Peeps (Office supplies & Copier)	\$		42.76	
Thomas Christenson (worship supplies)	\$		103.93	
Church Art Online	\$		69.95	
First Premier Bank (4 boxes of checks)	\$		109.84	
US Treasury (2nd quarter taxes)	\$		242.65	\$ (10,964.07)
Balance on hand 7-31-2024			\$	62,253.25
*** Confirmation Balance	\$		1,228.49	
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$		3,527.95	

Building Account

Balance on hand 7-1-2024		\$		51,061.17
Receipts				
Offerings for Building Fund	\$		125.00	\$ 125.00
Disbursements				
	\$		-	\$ -
Balance on hand 7-31-2024			\$	51,186.17

Mission Account

Balance on hand 7-1-2024		\$		2,407.92
Receipts				
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$		141.00	
Children's Offering	\$		20.00	
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$		305.00	\$ 466.00
Disbursements				
Castlewood Blessing Center	\$		305.00	\$ (305.00)
Balance on hand 7-31-2024			\$	2,568.92

Memorial Account

Balance on hand 7-1-2024		\$		4,358.31
Receipts				
	\$		-	\$ -
Disbursements				
	\$		-	\$ -
Balance on hand 7-31-2024			\$	4,358.31

Account Summary

	Current Balance	Change July 2024	Change Year to Date	
General Account	\$ 62,253.25	\$ 1,922.93	\$ (6,703.69)	
Building Account	\$ 51,186.17	\$ 125.00	\$ (1,479.06)	
Mission Account	\$ 2,568.92	\$ 161.00	\$ 1,149.00	
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
August 4	\$3,584.00	\$175.00	\$207.00	\$7.00	\$50.00
August 11	\$1,167.00		\$25.00		25.00
August 18	\$1,289.00	\$10.00	\$171.08	\$6.08	\$95.00
August 25	\$1,585.00	\$10.00	\$192.00	\$12.00	\$35.00

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

The Servants of our Lord

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
September 1	Roxanne Bass	Chuck Juntti Hunter Smith	Chuck Juntti
September 8	Marsha Kurtenbach	Robert & Michelle Ronne	
September 15	Roxanne Bass	Joshua & Sara Nei family	Doug Strait
September 22	Marsha Kurtenbach	John & Dawn Mickey	Rod Fischer
September 29	Karen Lund	Sherwin & Shelly DeKam	



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

ALTAR GUILD

September: Jodi Hanson & Roxanne Bass

October: Dawn Wiersma & Rhonda Karst

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