

# THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 29, Issue 9, October 2024

## Christianity.....Political or Apolitical?

Have you had enough yet? Enough of the newspaper reports, the television and radio spots, the focus by the prime-time news programs and the plethora of yard signs? Labels of conservative, liberal, Republican, Democrat, Independent, right-wing, left-wing and neo-(fill in the blank)! What does it all mean?

Yes, this is the season for politics.....have you had enough yet?

Most adults in South Dakota are registered voters. Having said that, some will be more rabid in their party affiliation than others. Some will vote the party line, while others will vote for the individual. Yet, with all the voices swirling around us, how difficult it is to sift through all the political wrangling, to be able to make intelligent choices in our local, state, and national elections.

Does one political party or sub-group have a corner on the market for how a Christian person should vote? Are there Biblical standards that ought to guide us in voting rightly on Initiated Measures and Constitutional Amendments?

Our "Book of Faith", the Bible, has precious little to say of the political systems that are in play in America today. But it does speak volumes as to the ways in which people of faith should act in accord with Kingdom principals.

Any Christian should readily agree that we have a mission to "*care for the orphans and widows in distress.*" (James 1:19-27)

Any Christian should see at least some merit in Jesus' command to "*give unto the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.*" (Matthew 22:15-22)

Any Christian should embrace our need to "*share of our abundance and to act 'ethically.'*" (Luke 3:1-14)

And, any Christian should accept our common calling to "*pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.*" (Romans 14:1-23)

On these principals we should all agree. But, the manner by which we, as citizens, strive to make these principals become our reality, is politics. How do we expect our elected leaders to provide the resources to care for the most vulnerable among us?

What ideology will best serve our nation and our world in what makes for peace?



### **Christianity.....Political or Apolitical? Cont.**

Will more government involvement or less government involvement in these areas be the answer? Quite frankly, I don't have all the answers, but, I do know of a power that can guide us *"along right pathways for His name's sake"*. And you do know of whom I speak!

So, as you listen to the politicians, and as you prepare for your civic duty, take your cares and your hopes to God in prayer. For our God speaks to us saying: *"For I know the plans I have for you, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.* (Jeremiah 29: 11-13)

"In Christ's Service",

Pastor Tom Christenson

## **Church Directory Pictures!**

Al Schochenmaier and Diane Koosman have volunteered to spearhead a self-produced Picture Directory for

American Lutheran!

A sign-up sheet will be available on Sunday mornings for you to sign-up for your family or individual picture. Picture times will be in 10 minute intervals:

Sundays October 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:15 am -12:05 pm

Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 pm - 7:20 pm



## ***Gideon Sunday – October 27<sup>th</sup>***

On this Sunday a representative from Gideons International will be with us to give a Temple Talk on how we can partner with the Gideons in the ministry of placing the Word of God into the hands of people around the world. At the close of worship, an "Open-Bible" Offering will be received, with 100% of your gifts going to purchase Bibles that the Gideons will then place or hand-out around the world.

## **Who can help? – Community Thanksgiving Meal**

On Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> we will again host a community meal from 11:00-12:30. The Church Council is looking for assistance in coordinating, cooking and serving the meal. Please contact a Council member if you can take part.



THANK YOU THANK YOU  
THANK YOU THANK YOU

PASTOR  
**APPRECIATION**

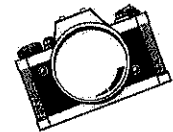
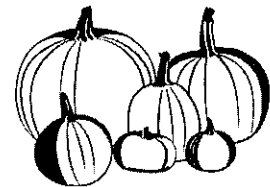
THANK YOU THANK YOU  
THANK YOU THANK YOU

# October 2024

Su	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

- 2nd 6:00 p.m. Confirmation  
7:00 p.m. Youth
- 6th 8:30 a.m. Sr. High/Adult Choir Practice  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School  
**10:15 a.m.—12:05 p.m. Directory Pictures**  
*12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open*
- 9th 1:00 p.m. Bible Study at Asst. Living  
6:00 p.m. Confirmation  
7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 13th 8:30 a.m. Sr. High/Adult 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.—12:05 p.m. Directory Pictures**
- 16th 6:00 p.m. Confirmation  
7:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 20th 8:30 a.m. Sr. High/Adult 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  
*12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open*  
*ESD Pastor at rural Canton*
- 22nd
- 23rd 1:00 p.m. Bible Study at Asst. Living  
6:00 p.m. Confirmation  
7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 27th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service—Gideon Sunday  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School  
**10:15 a.m.—12:05 p.m. Directory Pictures**
- 30th 1:00 p.m. Bible Study at Asst. Living  
6:00 p.m. Confirmation  
**5:30 p.m.— 7:20 p.m Directory Pictures**  
7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study





Josh Aderhold	10-01
Kari Nolte	10-07
Cheyann Kenyon	10-07
Ryder Mack	10-09
Julie Hofwalt	10-10
Lincoln Pribbenow	10-10
Melissa Prohl	10-13
Madyson Ching	10/14
Andrew Bemis	10-15
Diane Koosman	10-18
Wyatt Mack	10-20
Emma Lewno	10-21
Vadalia Smith	10-22
Joann Fischer	10-26
Taylor Hansen	10-30

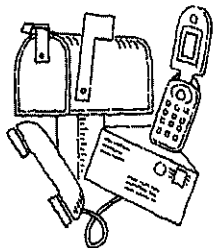


Josh Aderhold	10-01	Addyson Wittnebel	10-12
Mason Nielsen	10-01	Kylie Wittnebel	10-16
AJ Zimiga	10-01	Julie Fischer	10-21
Richard Ries	10-02	Michaela Davis	10-22
Travis Prohl	10-09	Daniel Davis	10-23
Arianna Bemis	10-12	Kari Nolte	10-25
		Ryan Greene	10-26
		Jennifer Hansen	10-27
		Aaron Ronne	10-30
		Jeremiah Wiersma	10-31



Roy & Dawn Wiersma	10-3
Aaron & Katelynn Ronne	10-5
Gareth & Sharla Hamen	10-8
Robert & Michelle Ronne	10-10
Richard & Neda Ries	10-15

If there is a need for pastoral care please contact



Pastor Tom Christenson  
605-793-2444.

Please notify the church with your...



### Sr. High/Adult Choir!

### Starting October 6<sup>th</sup>!

Practices on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month at 8:30 am and will usually provide the anthem on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Worship.

Karen Lund has graciously agreed to give a go at directing our choir again...for which we give her thanks, and unto God be the glory! Not a "professional" choir, but for those who love to sing and wish to be a blessing to our worship life. Come and join us as we sing to God a new song!





**Confirmation – Grades 6-8 – Meets every Wednesday in October at 6:00 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!

October Snack Families:

- 2 Reese Rawsthorne
- 9 Easton Carter
- 16 Ava Ruml
- 23 Lincoln Pribbenow
- 30 Bostyn Ruml



October Acolytes:

- 6 Trevor Everson
- 13 Reese Rawsthorne
- 20 Kendra Nielsen
- 27 Lincoln Pribbenow



**American Lutheran Youth!**

Meets on Wednesdays, October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Youth Group will be a combination of study, fellowship and planning for service events and fun stuff too! Bring your Bible and a friend!

***"Heaven & Hell"***

**Adult/Sr. High Bible Study**

*October: Wednesdays, 9, 23, 30 at 7:00 pm*

*(Also in November: Thursdays, 14 & 30 and in December: Wednesday, 11)*

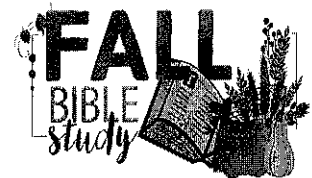
*Also offered at Castlewood Assisted Living at 1:00 pm*

The fall Bible Study, *Heaven and Hell* uncovers misunderstandings people have about life after death and tells the biblical truth about heaven and hell.

The six sessions include:

- There Is a Heaven-Really!
- Popular Misconceptions
- Pictures of Heaven
- That Other Place
- Living for Heaven
- Curiosity Questions about Heaven

Study Materials will be provided, so all you need to bring is your Bible and a writing utensil!



**Remember the CALENDAR on our Website!**

Go to: [americanlutheranchurch.com](http://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](mailto:pastortlc@gmail.com)

**American Lutheran Church Financial Report  
August 2024**

**General Account**

Balance on hand 8-1-2024		\$	62,253.25
Receipts			
Offerings	\$	7,625.00	
Confirmation	\$	10.00	
Thrivent	\$	-	\$ 7,635.00
Disbursements			
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$	4,712.98	
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$	298.40	
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00	
Thomas Christenson (Mileage - 36 Miles)	\$	24.12	
Retirement Contribution	\$	481.30	
EBSO (Health Insurance)	\$	-	
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)	\$	-	
Janell Bemis (Secretary - 24 hrs)	\$	332.46	
Tracy Laue (Custodian - 11.65 hrs)	\$	150.62	
Roxanne Bass (Organist - 1 Svcs)	\$	65.00	
Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist - 3 Svcs)	\$	195.00	
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$60, Pars: \$80.97)	\$	140.97	
ITC (Phone & Internet)	\$	127.19	
Northwestern (Ch: \$10.62, Pars: \$8.50)	\$	19.12	
Otter Tail Power (Ch: \$216.62, Pars: \$111.87)	\$	328.49	
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	434.17	
NALC	\$	50.00	
Office Peeps (Office supplies & Copier)	\$	39.19	
Thomas Christenson (meeting registration)	\$	25.00	
SD Secretary of State (annual filing fee)	\$	20.00	
Thomas Christenson (Castlewood Days potluck supplies)	\$	100.00	
Upper Room Ministries (Sept/Oct)	\$	34.25	
USPS (stamps)	\$	73.00	\$ (7,851.26)

<b>Balance on hand 8-31-2024</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>62,036.99</b>
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*** Confirmation Balance	\$	1,238.49
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$	3,527.95

**Building Account**

Balance on hand 8-1-2024		\$	51,186.17
Receipts			
Offerings for Building Fund	\$	195.00	\$ 195.00
Disbursements			
Thomas Christenson (paint for basement)	\$	151.10	\$ (151.10)

<b>Balance on hand 8-31-2024</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>51,230.07</b>
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**Mission Account**

Balance on hand 8-1-2024		\$	2,568.92
Receipts			
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	365.00	
Children's Offering	\$	25.08	
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	205.00	\$ 595.08
Disbursements			
Castlewood Blessing Center	\$	205.00	\$ (205.00)

<b>Balance on hand 8-31-2024</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>2,959.00</b>
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**Memorial Account**

Balance on hand 8-1-2024		\$	4,358.31
Receipts	\$	-	\$ -
Disbursements	\$	-	\$ -

<b>Balance on hand 8-31-2024</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>4,358.31</b>
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**Account Summary**

	Current Balance	Change August 2024	Change Year to Date
General Account	\$ 62,036.99	\$ (216.26)	\$ (6,919.95)
Building Account	\$ 51,230.07	\$ 43.90	\$ (1,435.16)
Mission Account	\$ 2,959.00	\$ 390.08	\$ 1,539.08
Memorial Account	\$ 4,358.31	\$ -	\$ (2,500.00)



### ONLINE GIVING

Our congregational website: [americanlutheranchurch.com](http://americanlutheranchurch.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. If you point the camera on your cell phone at the QR code it will take you to the donation page.

### The Servants of our Lord

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
October 6	Roxanne Bass	Philip & Jesse Ruml family	Chuck Juntti
October 13	Marsha Kurtenbach	Darin & Tracy Laue family	
October 20	Roxanne Bass	Traci Bass & Heidi & Emma Lewno	Doug Strait
October 27	Marsha Kurtenbach	John & Bonnie Bucher	Rod Fischer



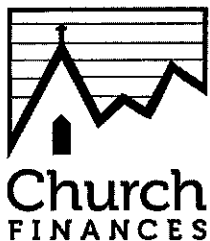
**SIGN -UP SHEET FOR**  
**Lectors—(Scriptures sheets available)**  
**&**  
**Fellowship Servers**  
**IN THE NARTHEX**

### ALTAR GUILD

October: Dawn Wiersma & Rhonda Karst

November: Angie Larson & Amanda Pribbenow

Altar Guild takes care of the communion ware, change altar clothes, banners and fill oil candles when needed. Thank you for your service.



	<b>General</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Mission</b>	<b>*Children</b>	<b>*Blessing Ctr</b>
<b>September 1</b>	\$2,525.00	\$100.00	\$138.00		
<b>September 8</b>	\$1,591.75	\$80.00	\$31.00		
<b>September 15</b>	\$2,615.00	\$5.00	\$303.00		
<b>September 22</b>	\$1,406.00		\$160.00		

\*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](http://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