

# THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 29, Issue 10, November 2024

## **“For All the Saints” - P.T.’s Practical Theology**

*“Tom, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are of Castlewood and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”.*

If the above words sounded familiar, that’s because they were just a personalized version of the apostolic greeting which Saint Paul uses to open his letter to the Ephesians.

I ask you to read *that paragraph* again, this time giving special attention to how it is that you are addressed in the greeting. You are the one being addressed as among the saints! To call the faithful in Christ saints is a fairly common address in the New Testament. That’s because the word saint comes from a Greek verb that means “to set apart” or “make holy”.

I’m leading us into this “saintly” word study, due to the fact that as you read this message, we find ourselves between what many Christian denominations know as All Saints’ Day (November 1<sup>st</sup>) and All Saints’ Sunday (November 3<sup>rd</sup>). In the history of the church, All Saints has been mainly been celebrated as a day to venerate the martyrs and other faithful departed. And, in practice, that is still true today. However, in the early church, and especially as noted in the letters of the Apostle Paul, the saints were not just deceased men and women who had sainthood conferred upon them, the saints were also living people who sought to keep their faith and practice grounded in Jesus Christ. So, in this light, I greet the faithful among you as saints!

It is true that God has called you and me to be saints. That is to say that God has “set you apart” for work in His kingdom. God has “made you holy” so that you can witness to his glory. As so, Saint is not a title that is earned, rather it is a title that is received. The apostle Paul demonstrates this truth by his careful use of words. Note in Ephesians 1:1, Paul writes, “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God....”. Notice where the action lies; the action lies with God! So, we too, as ones who are “set apart” for work in God’s kingdom, need to accept this mission and calling with all humility. We know that apart from God’s power over our lives, we would utterly fail ever feat. But, because it is by God’s will that we are “made holy”, we can be confident that God will accomplish through us his will for our lives.

I don’t think that Hallmark has made any All Saints’ greeting cards, so don’t expect to receive one. Instead, pray that God will continue to mold and shape you for the Kingdom work for which you have been “set apart”. Blessed All Saints’ Sunday!!

To the Praise & Glory of God!

Pastor Tom



# November 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

- 3rd **Daylight-Savings**  
 8:30 a.m. Sr, High/Adult Choir Practice  
 9:00 a.m. All Saints Worship Service with Holy Communion  
 10:00 a.m. Move Pews  
 10:00 a.m. Fellowship  
 10:15 a.m. Sunday School  
 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 5th *Election Day*
- 6th 6:00 p.m. Confirmation  
 7:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 10th 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
- 11th **VETERANS DAY**  
 Pastor at NALC Meeting
- 12th Pastor at NALC Meeting
- 13th Pastor at NALC Meeting
- 14th 1:00 p.m. Bible Study at Asst. Living  
 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 17th 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  
 1:00—4:00 Private Event  
 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 19th ESD Pastor's Meeting @ Watertown
- 20th 6:00 p.m. Confirmation  
 7:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 21st 1:00 p.m. Bible Study at Asst. Living  
 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible
- 24th 9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
 10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
 11:00 a.m.—12:30p.m. Thanksgiving Meal
- 27th 7:00 p.m. Ministerial Thanksgiving Eve Worship  
 at Hamlin Reformed Church
- 28th *Thanksgiving Day*



**We're thankful for you!**



Join us for Thanksgiving!



*American Lutheran Church*

# COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

**Sunday, November 24, 2024**

**11:00 – 12:30p.m.**

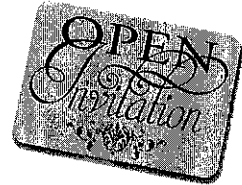
*Fellowship Hall*

Menu: Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed potatoes

Sweet potatoes, Corn, Cranberries,

Dessert, Milk, Juice & Coffee

*Free Will Offering*



### Who can help? –

**Community Thanksgiving Meal**

**November 24<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 Sunday School**

**10:00 Worship**

**11:00-12:30 Meal**

On Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> we will 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 Andy and Sarah Smith..... [lilwesty-chic07@hotmail.com](mailto:lilwesty-chic07@hotmail.com) or (605) 520-9774 if you can help.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER sign up sheets for Desserts and Bars will be available in the Narthex soon.



### Thanksgiving Eve Worship

**Wednesday, November 27**

**Hamlin Reformed Church**

**7:00 p.m.**

*Please mark your calendars and plan to join the Christians of the Castlewood area in thanks and praise to God!*



	Chuck Juntti	11-09	
	Claire Severson	11-09	
	Adrienne January	11-12	
	Jacob Severson	11-12	
	Mya Rae Craig	11-15	
	Joshua Nei	11-17	
Haley Strait Gallman	11-01	Barbara Stevens	11-19
Clara Kenyon	11-02	Todd Larson	11-20
John E. Bucher	11-02	Donald Galbavy	11-22
Janet Christenson	11-07	Roxanne Bass	11-24
Paul Christenson	11-08	Pat Docktor	11-24
AJ Zimiga	11-07	Bostyn Ruml	11-27
Kellyn Jackson	11-08	Noah Wiersma	11-27
Ava Ruml	11-08	Dick Strait	11-28



Kim Stevens	11-01
Geri Gantvoort	11-03
Cheyann Kenyon	11-08
Janell Bemis	11-09
Patricia Dockter	11-09
Ryder Mack	11-09
Kailyn Larson	11-13
Dawn Mickey	11-20
Calonna Craig	11-22
Wyatt Mack	11-27
Jessica Ruml	11-27
Drew Ruml	11-28



**ANNIVERSARIES**  
*to Celebrate*

- Nov. 6 Steve & Lisa Janssen
- Nov. 22 Lorene or Richard Tvedt
- Nov. 23 Ted & Cheryl Sutton
- Nov. 25 Tess & Tyler Jankord

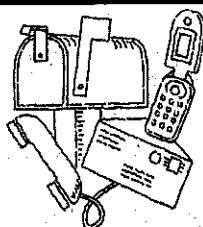
**Thanksgiving prayers**

For what I have received may the Lord make me truly thankful. And more truly for what I have not received.  
- Storm Jameson

O Lord that lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness.—William Shakespeare

If there is a need for pastoral care please contact

Pastor Tom Christenson  
605-793-2444.



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





**Confirmation – Grades 6-8 –**

**Meets Wednesday November 6th & 20th 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!

November Snack Families:

- 3 Easton Carter
- 10 Bryce Wittnebel
- 17 Lincoln Pribbenow
- 24 Huxley Craig



November Acolytes:

- 6 Kendra Nielsen
- 20 Pastor Tom



**American Lutheran Youth!**

Youth Group (grades 7-12) usually meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Youth Group is a combination of study, fellowship and planning for service events and fun stuff too! In November: we will meet on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

***"Heaven & Hell"***

**Adult/Sr. High Bible Study**

**November: Thursdays, 14 & 21 at 7:00 pm**

**(Also 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!





ASSISTED LIVING Residents



Castlewood Assisted Living  
Geraldine Gantvoort  
Estelline Nursing Home  
Carrie Henrichsen

### Church Happenings

October 12, 2024

Wrenlyn Violet Nei

Daughter of Corbin Nei & Jadyne Woltjer

Sponsors: Jackson Nei & Masie Jordan



### Sr. High/Adult Choir!

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.

Come and join us as we sing to God a new song!

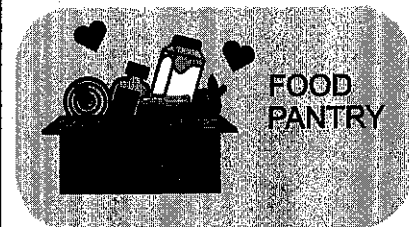


PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

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

### 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.



### Bible Quiz

Shortly after the birth of the church at Pentecost, which apostle(s) taught an Ethiopian official about Jesus and then baptized him?

- A. Philip
- B. Peter and Andrew
- C. James
- D. Paul and Silas



Answer: A (See Acts 8:26-40.)

### 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)

**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**American Lutheran Church**  
**September 15, 2024**

**Members Present:** Dan Davis, Pastor Tom, John Bucher, Lynn Borer, Traci Bass, Jessi Ruml, Doug Strait

**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 July 21, 2024.

Motion by Jessi, second by Doug to approve the minutes as read. **MC**

**Financial Report:** Doug presented the financial report for July & August.

Motion by Jessi, 2nd by Lynn. **MC**

**Pastor's Report:** Funeral for Jim Janssen was held in August. And the marriage of Lance Craig and Colana Rhody was held in August. Confirmation and Youth Group started up for the year.

Confirmation will meet every Wednesday and Youth Group will meet every other Wednesday. End of report.

**Old Business:**

- **Church Basement:** Painting has been started by Al Schochenmeier and Diane Koosman, starting on the stairway walls leading to the basement. Thank you Al & Diane! We are looking for someone to install a microwave in the basement kitchen. The electrical is there, we just need to mount it to the wall. Dan Davis has removed the old concrete stairs to the east entrance. Thank you Dan! Church approved with the bid from LaserCrete to install new stairs in place. John will be in contact with Ron White and Kirk Sackreiter to see about steel hand rails and supports for awning.
- **Auto Fund Transfers for Offering:** Doug stated there is a link on church website where offerings can be made and set up by members. Traci will create a letter to send to members about recent offering update.
- **Broken window on S side of fellowship:** Brian's Glass was out on 8.29.24 to measure window. Window will be in the week of Sept 16-20. Brian's Glass will schedule install when they are in the area.

**Communion Schedule:** October 6<sup>th</sup> – John, October 20<sup>th</sup> – Jessi

**Lector & Fellowship Sign Up Sheets:** No action taken.

**New Business:**

- 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
- Council approved the purchase of 2 36" Blackstone griddles with Thrivent Choice Dollars for the annual pancake feed, as well as future church functions. Motion by Jessi, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lynn. **MC**
- Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at ALC is slated for 11.24.24 from 11:30am – 12:30pm.
- Al Schochenmeier has mentioned that he will create an updated church directory and take member pictures in Oct.
- Dr. Abdul Massieh with New Hope Mission will be speaking to the church on 9.20.24. Traci motioned that \$250.00 be given to the New Hope Mission Society from the memorial fund, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessi. **MC**

**Next Meeting:** Scheduled for October 20th, 2024, following Worship.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Traci, second by Doug 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  
September 2024**

**General Account**

Balance on hand 9-1-2024		\$	62,036.99
Receipts			
Offerings	\$	10,648.75	
Confirmation	\$	-	
Thrivent	\$	-	\$ 10,648.75
Disbursements			
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$	4,712.98	
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$	298.40	
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00	
Thomas Christenson (Mileage - 178 Miles)	\$	119.26	
Retirement Contribution	\$	481.30	
EBSO (Health Insurance)	\$	4,656.00	
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)	\$	1,024.58	
Janell Bemis (Secretary - 26 hrs)	\$	360.17	
Tracy Laue (Custodian - 19 hrs)	\$	245.65	
Roxanne Bass (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$	130.00	
Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$	130.00	
Karen Lund (Organist - 1 Svc)	\$	65.00	
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$60.00, Pars: \$84.21)	\$	144.21	
ITC (Phone & Internet)	\$	127.76	
Northwestern (Ch: \$10.62, Pars: \$9.15)	\$	19.77	
Ottertail (Ch: \$245.75, Pars: \$129.47)	\$	375.22	
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	434.17	
NALC	\$	50.00	
Office Peeps (Office supplies & Copier)	\$	73.80	
Thomas Christenson (worship supplies)	\$	37.16	
Concordia (weekly inserts)	\$	107.23	
KeVee (food for ESD pastors meeting)	\$	88.62	
CCLI (copyright license)	\$	249.00	
Watertown Wholesale (cleaning supplies)	\$	19.90	
Christian Book Distributors (1st grade Bibles)	\$	109.47	\$ (14,259.65)
<b>Balance on hand 9-30-2024</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>58,426.09</b>
*** Confirmation Balance	\$	1,238.49	
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$	3,527.95	

**Building Account**

Balance on hand 9-1-2024		\$	51,230.07
Receipts			
Offerings for Building Fund	\$	185.00	\$ 185.00
Disbursements			
Bituminous Paving (resurface parking area)	\$	1,575.00	
Brian's Glass and Door (replace broken window)	\$	375.00	\$ (1,950.00)
<b>Balance on hand 9-30-2024</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>49,465.07</b>

**Mission Account**

Balance on hand 9-1-2024		\$	2,959.00
Receipts			
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	525.00	
Children's Offering	\$	46.00	
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	195.00	\$ 766.00
Disbursements			
New Hope Mission Society	\$	250.00	
Castlewood Blessing Center (September)	\$	195.00	
China Service Ventures (3 months childrens offering)	\$	91.00	\$ (536.00)
<b>Balance on hand 9-30-2024</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>3,189.00</b>

**Memorial Account**

Balance on hand 9-1-2024		\$	4,358.31
Receipts			
	\$	-	\$ -
Disbursements			
	\$	-	\$ -
<b>Balance on hand 9-30-2024</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>4,358.31</b>

**Account Summary**

	Current	Change	Change
	Balance	September 2024	Year to Date
General Account	\$ 58,426.09	\$ (3,610.90)	\$ (10,530.85)
Building Account	\$ 49,465.07	\$ (1,765.00)	\$ (3,200.16)
Mission Account	\$ 3,189.00	\$ 230.00	\$ 1,769.08
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>
November 3	Roxanne Bass	Roy & Dawn Wiersma family	Chuck Juntti
November 10	Marsha Kurtenbach	Travis & Sandra Everson family	
November 17	Roxanne Bass	Lynn & Kristy Borer	Doug Strait
November 24	Marsha Kurtenbach	Larry & Pat Dockter	Rod Fischer



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

### ALTAR GUILD

November: Angie Larson & Amanda Pribbenow

December: Joann Fischer & Lorie Mack

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
September 29	\$2,511.00		\$134.00	\$9.00	\$25.00
October 6	\$2,610.00	\$10.00	\$37.00	\$7.00	\$30.00
October 13	\$2,295.00		\$108.00	13.00	\$95.00
October 20	\$1,860.00		\$33.00	\$8.00	\$25.00

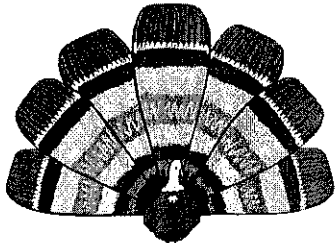
\*Childrens and Blessing Center amounts are included into the Mission account totals.

*The American Lutheran Caller*

*P.O. Box 132*

*Castlewood, SD 57223*

*Address Service Requested*



GIVE THANKS

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