

THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 29, Issue 11, December 2024



"Tis the Season"! – P.T.'s Practical Theology

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life is the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.... And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."
John 1:1-5, 14

The time is upon us again, as the refrain sings out *"Tis the season to be jolly....fa la la la la!"*

Yes, Christmas is just around the corner! And, of course, you really didn't need me to tell you that, since the storefronts were beginning to be filled with Christmas Decorations since the week before Halloween! But, in our church life together we should be mindful not to skip over the new season precedes Christmas, which is Advent. Sunday, December 1st is the first Sunday in Advent, and this special season leads us up to the celebration of Christmas, just as the season of Lent leads us up to Easter.

In days past, the connection between the two preparatory seasons to Christmas and Easter was symbolized through the fact that both of these seasons of the church year were marked with purple paraments. This is the color of royalty to welcome the Advent (coming) of the King, as well as the color of penitence for our sins. Jesus' nativity, and His coming in human flesh, cannot be separated from His crucifixion. The purpose of Jesus' coming into the world, as the "Word made flesh" and dwelling among us, is to reveal God and His grace to the world through Jesus' life and teaching, but also through his suffering, death, and resurrection.



"Tis the Season"! – P.T.'s Practical Theology con't

But now, most Christian denominations have moved to using blue as the liturgical color of Advent, in order that we might strongly mark Advent as a season with a distinct flavor from Lent. So, we lift up Advent as the first season of the church year, and give it the marks of expectation, of anticipation, and of longing. We yearn for the light of Christ to shine upon us and in his power to save us from sin. For that is what the name Jesus means ;"he will save". The glory of the virgin birth is matched by the glory of the new life of Easter, because he came to save, and his power to save was proved in his rising. So, as we prepare to celebrate the miracle birth of the Christ Child, we also remember that the "Word became flesh" in order that he could pour out his life for your sake and mine. In that, Christmas and Good Friday are ever connected. In that Christmas and Easter are the days of God's greatest glory!

May the Blessings of the Christ Child shine on you and yours this Advent season!

Pastor Tom

**Christmas Program will be on Sunday,
December 15th at 10:00 am.**

Please note, this will be our Sunday Morning Worship, as the young people of ALC will proclaim the Christmas Gospel in drama, word and song!

Sunday School Christmas Program Practice!

Please make every effort for all our 3 year olds through Sr. High to be at the following practices at 10:15 am on Sunday the 8th and 9:00 on Sunday the 15th.



*Christmas
Program*



Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24th, 5:30pm!

Our worship will include lessons and carols as well as Holy Communion and the Candlelight ritual.

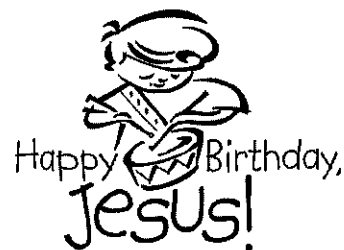


December 2024

Sun	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

- 1st** 8:30 a.m. Sr, High/Adult Choir Practice
9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 4th** 6:00 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 8th** 8:30 a.m. Sr. High/Adult Choir Practice
9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
10:15 a.m. Christmas Program Practice
10:15 a.m. Church Council
- 11th** 1:00 p.m. Bible Study at Asst. Living
6:00 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 15th** 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program Practice
10:00 a.m. Christmas Program
12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 18th** 6:00 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Caroling
- 21st** **First Day of Winter**
- 22nd** 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
- 24th** 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
- 25th** *Christmas Day*
- 29th** 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
- 31st** News Year's Eve



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



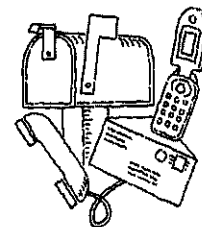
Traci Bass	12-04
Carter Larson	12-04
Gail Nagelhout	12-04
Rhonda Karst	12-09
Sara Nei	12-10
Kendall Nielsen	12-11
Ernie Karst	12-12
Landon Vetter	12-12
Carna Miller	12-16
Kevin Pribbenow	12-21
Larry Dockter	12-22
Lisa Janssen	12-27
Kendra Nielsen	12-27
Lorene Tvedt	12-27
Celia Kenyon	12-29
Jenny Carter	12-31
John Mickey	12-31



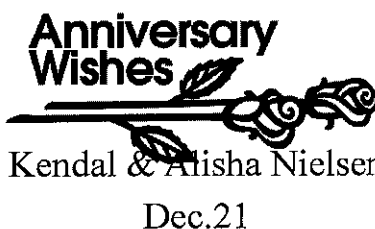
Joshua Nei	12-01
Drake Langenfeld	12-03
Julie Hofwalt	12-05
Lincoln Pribbenow	12-05
Clara Kenyon	12-08
Adrienne January	12-12
Barbara Stevens	12-19
Chuck Juntti	12-20
Emma Lewno	12-23
Todd Larson	12/31

If there is a need for pastoral care please contact ...

Pastor Tom Christenson
605-793-2444.



Please notify the church with your...



ONLINE GIVING

Our congregational website: 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.

Sr. High/Adult Choir!

Practices in December are on the 1st and 2nd Sundays, and we will sing on Sunday the 8th!

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





Confirmation – Grades 6-8 –

Meets Wednesday December 4th, 11th, & 18th 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!

December Snack Families:

- 04 Bostyn Ruml
- 11 Ava Ruml
- 18 Easton Carter

December Acolytes:

- 1 Bostyn Ruml
- 8 Huxley Craig
- 15 None/Christmas Program
- 22 Open
- 24 Open
- 29 Open



American Lutheran Youth!



Youth Group (grades 7-12) usually meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Youth Group is a combination of study, fellowship and planning for service events and fun stuff too! **In December we will meet at ALC on the 4th, and then at Castlewood Assisted Living on the 18th for some Christmas Caroling!!**



"Heaven & Hell"

Adult/Sr. High Bible Study

December: Wednesday, 11th

Offered at Castlewood Assisted Living at 1:00 pm & at ALC at 7:00 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.

This last in a series of 6 is entitled: *Curiosity Questions about Heaven*

NALC Advent Devotionals are available for pick-up in Narthex



The Servants of our Lord

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
December 1	Roxanne Bass	Landon & Lindsey Vetter family	Chuck Juntti
December 8	Marsha Kurtenbach	Barrett Wittnebel Bob Miller	
December 15	Roxanne Bass	Kendal & Alisha Nielsen family	Doug Strait
December 22	Marsha Kurtenbach	Mark & Angie Larson family	Rod Fischer
December 24	Roxanne Bass	Dan & Paula Grupe family	
December 29	Karen Lund	Jerrod Bass & Brody Bass	



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

ALTAR GUILD

December: Joann Fischer & Lorie Mack

January: Kari Nolte & Janet Christenson

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
October 27	\$3,050.00	\$10.00	\$33.00	\$8.00	\$25.00
November 3	\$2,883.00	\$75.00	\$28.00	\$7.00	
November 10	\$1,214.00	\$5.00	\$407.00	13.00	\$95.00
November 17	\$1,735.00	\$5.00	\$37.00	\$7.00	\$25.00

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



**American Lutheran Church Financial Report
October 2024**

General Account

Balance on hand 10-1-2024		\$		58,426.09
Receipts				
Offerings	\$		11,770.47	
Confirmation	\$		31.00	
Thrivent	\$		-	\$ 11,801.47
Disbursements				
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$		4,712.98	
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$		298.40	
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$		200.00	
Thomas Christenson (Mileage - 118 Miles)	\$		79.06	
Retirement Contribution	\$		481.30	
EBSO (Health Insurance)	\$		2,328.00	
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)	\$		512.29	
Janell Bemis (Secretary - 23 hrs)	\$		318.61	
Tracy Laue (Custodian - 18.5 hrs)	\$		239.19	
Roxanne Bass (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$		130.00	
Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$		130.00	
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$65, Pars: \$89.51)	\$		154.51	
ITC (Phone & Internet)	\$		127.63	
Northwestern (Ch: \$10.62, Pars: \$8.50)	\$		19.12	
Ottetail (Ch: \$250.03, Pars: \$122.46)	\$		372.49	
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$		434.17	
NALC	\$		50.00	
Office Peeps (Office supplies & Copier)	\$		83.47	
ALC Youth Group (Thrivent Choice purchase of 2 grills)	\$		942.88	
Bob's Piano Service (repairs)	\$		297.36	
Gideons (pulpit supply for 10/27/2024)	\$		175.00	
Upper Room Ministries (Nov/Dec)	\$		34.25	
US Treasury (3rd quarter)	\$		257.24	\$ (12,377.95)
Balance on hand 10-31-2024				\$ 57,849.61
*** Confirmation Balance	\$		1,269.49	
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$		2,585.07	

Building Account

Balance on hand 10-1-2024		\$		49,465.07
Receipts				
Offerings for Building Fund	\$		90.00	\$ 90.00
Disbursements				
Laser Crete (replace concrete steps on east side)	\$		5,061.34	\$ (5,061.34)
Balance on hand 10-31-2024				\$ 44,493.73

Mission Account

Balance on hand 10-1-2024		\$		3,189.00
Receipts				
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$		-	
Children's Offering	\$		34.60	
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$		175.00	\$ 209.60
Disbursements				
Castlewood Blessing Center (October)	\$		175.00	\$ (175.00)
Balance on hand 10-31-2024				\$ 3,223.60

Memorial Account

Balance on hand 10-1-2024		\$		4,358.31
Receipts	\$		-	\$ -
Disbursements	\$		-	\$ -
Balance on hand 10-31-2024				\$ 4,358.31

Account Summary

	Current Balance	Change October 2024	Change Year to Date
General Account	\$ 57,849.61	\$ (576.48)	\$ (11,107.33)
Building Account	\$ 44,493.73	\$ (4,971.34)	\$ (8,171.50)
Mission Account	\$ 3,223.60	\$ 34.60	\$ 1,803.68
Memorial Account	\$ 4,358.31	\$ -	\$ (2,500.00)

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