

THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 30, Issue 2, February 2025

"What's Love Got to do with it?" - P.T.'s Practical Theology

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1st John 4:7-10

As I sat down to "put pen to paper" for this monthly devotional, the word love came to mind. After all, it's February, and it's the "love month"; so named because of St. Valentine's Day. And, as for the above title to this devo, I must give credit to the Washington Pavillion. For they have seemingly bought a spot on every television commercial break to advertise their upcoming show: "Tina!" Yep, it was Tina Turner who so poetically asked the question in song: "*What's love got to do with it?*"

Those of you who want to look up the lyrics and ponder Tina's signature question, will soon realize that her song is about a broken relationship between a man and a woman. And we have all known some couple that were in love, fell out of love, and maybe are seachin' for love again!

But, I am not a sociologist, nor am I an expert on the pompatus of love. (*Steve Miller Band...look it up!*) However, I do know a little about theology, and when it comes to such matters of highest importance, I can say without a doubt that "Love, has everything to do with it"!

Love is the signature emotion that our creator God bears for His creation. It was out of His love that God created man and woman with a freedom to choose love; for who wants to be the recipient of love because that is what you were created to do? Out of love, God created us to choose to love what is holy, right and good, which are the defining marks of our Father God. This was and still is God's desire for us, to choose to love Him in ways that honor who He is for us.

But, love is a fickle thing, and once man and woman tasted what was promised to bring them wisdom, love for God became at best second place to love for self. That is sin! Not that we cannot love parts of ourselves, since we are made in the image of God. But, when we love ourselves more than we love our God, we have failed to get our priorities right, and thus we have once again proved we are slaves to sin.



“What’s Love Got to do with it?” - P.T.’s Practical Theology con’t.

So, what was God to do? Out of love he had created, and even though we chose not loved Him back in even a shadow of the same depth, God decided to still love us. As St. John wrote, He loved us so much *“he made his love manifest among us...as the propitiation for our sin”*. That word propitiation is the “scape-goat” word. And the depth of “what God’s love has got to do with it” is that he heaped the sins of the whole world on the one He loved the best, the one eternally begotten of the Father. Yes, Jesus is then the Love of God Incarnate. The love of God in human flesh who chose obedience to the Father for the sake of the one He was sent to save.

Friends.....when it comes to the ways of God..... *“loves got everything to do with it”!*

Let us pray: *God of mercy, God of love, help us we pray to daily recall the depth of the love that you bear for us. Help us we pray to respond to your love in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Lead us to love others in ways that show them your love alive and working through us, until that day when you send your Son to claim the faithful unto you. AMEN and AMEN*

In Christ’s Service,

Pastor Tom Christenson

Confirmation – Grades 7-9

Confirmation classes will run through February 12th 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!

February Snack Families:

5th Trevor Everson

12th Bryce Wittnebel



February Acolytes:

2nd Reece Rawsthorne

9th Easton Carter

16th Ava Ruml

23rd Trevor Everson



American Lutheran Youth!

Grades 7-12 will meet at the church 7:00 p.m.
February 5th and 19th



Council Update

Thank you to those who attended and participated in the church annual meeting on January 26th. The meeting went very well and was productive in its business for the church. The council would like to especially thank Lynn Broer for completing his term on the church council. We also welcome Al Schochenmaier as a new member to the Council

Your council looks forward to serving the faith and the needs of American Lutheran Church in the coming year. The council members welcome your suggestions and comments for American Lutheran.

Your 2025 Church Council will be installed on February 9th, with offices of President, Vice-President and Secretary being elected by the members at the meeting to follow our worship service.

Treasurer: Doug Strait

Traci Bass

John Bucher (re-elected)

Dan Davis

Mark Larson (re-elected)

Amanda Pribbenow

Jessi Ruml (re-elected)

Al Schochenmaier

Andy Smith

Lyndsey Vetter

Nominating Committee Members

Phil Ruml (2026)

Dan Grupe (2027)

Rod Fischer (2027)

Auditing Committee Members

Landon Vetter (2026)

Rod Fischer (2027)

Lynn Borer (2028)

“God, I don’t know what to do!”

Decisions

Adult/Sr. High Bible Study

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

What kind of decisions are you facing? Yes, we have a God who can help, but how do we tap into His wisdom and divine guidance? In this 4-session study we will build on our relationships with God and others, as God in Christ intends. He knows our feelings, He relates to us, and He has the answers we have been looking for.

February 12th - Empowered by Grace to Choose

February 26th - Enabled by Grace to Help





FEBRUARY

birthdays

Hadley Severson	2-02
Solvei Gasner	2-04
Hannah Mickey	2-09
Steve Janssen	2-10
Carrie Henrichsen	2-10
Emery Nei	2-11
Tanner Hanson	2-13
Briar Borer	2-13
Cora Pewe	2-15
Emerson Carter	2-19
Sharla Hamen	2-22
Lynn Borer	2-23
Skyler Ruesink	2-23
Larz Tvedt	2-24
Brent Bass	2-28



FEBRUARY

baptisms

Deb Aderhold	2-05
Barrett Wittnebel	2-08
Bostyn Ruml	2-12
Kellyn Jackson	2-13
Claire Severson	2-14
Kylie Haight	2-17
Andrew Bemis	2-18
Christina Kenyon	2-18
Rod Fischer	2-22
Jodi Hanson	2-22
Jacob Severson	2-23
Sarah Christenson	2-25
Dennis Strait	2-27



FEBRUARY

anniversaries

NO
February
Anniversaries

Please notify the church with your...



JESUS
LOVES YOU
and so do we!

Church Happenings



Holy Baptism

Nora Ann Severson daughter of Jacob & Lacey Severson was baptized on January 5th, 2025



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

Pastor Tom Christenson
605-956-0130



FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Sr. High/Adult Choir!

Practices on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month in the fellowship hall and will generally be prepared to provide the anthem on the 3rd Sunday in Worship.

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

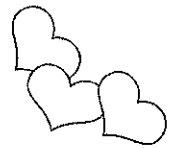


February 2025


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	

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 2nd 8:15 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
 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
 Groundhog Day
- 5th 6:00 p.m. Confirmation
 7:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 9th 8:15 a.m. Sr. High/Adult Choir Practice
 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Church Council Installation
 10:00 a.m. Fellowship
 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
 10:15 a.m. Church Council
- 12th 1:00 p.m. Adult/Sr. High Bible Study at Asst. Living
 6:00 p.m. Confirmation
 7:00 p.m. Adult/Sr. High Bible Study
- 14th VALENTINE'S DAY
- 15th 9:00—12:00 p.m. Baby Shower
- 16th 8:15 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
 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
- 17th **Presidents Day**
- 19th ?Confirmation (Snow Day)
 7:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 20th ESD Pastors Meeting—Hayti
- 21st Luther House Pastor Text Study—Watertown
- 23rd 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
 10:00 a.m. Fellowship
 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 26th 1:00 p.m. Adult/Sr. High Bible Study at Asst. Living
 7:00 p.m. Adult/Sr. High Bible Study



*The Servants of our Lord*

 WAYS YOU CAN SERVE	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Fellowship</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
February 2	Roxanne Bass	Lynn & Kristy Borer	Al Schochenmaier & Diane Koosman	Chuck Juntti
February 9	Marsha Kurtenbach	Kevin & Amanda Pribbenow family	Larson's	
February 16	Roxanne Bass	Diane Koosman & Al Schochenmaier	Carna Miller & Gail Nagelhout	Doug Strait
February 23	Marsha Kurtenbach	Travis & Melissa Prohl family		Rod Fischer

SIGN -UP SHEETS

Lectors—(Scriptures sheets available)

&

Fellowship Servers
IN THE NARTHEX**ALTAR GUILD***February: Vicki Strait & Kristi Borer**March: Carna Miller & Gail Nagelhout*

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

Our Faithfulness in Giving

	General	Building	Mission	*Children	*Blessing Ctr
January 5	\$2,256.00		\$37.00	\$12.00	\$25.00
January 12	\$1,715.00	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$5.00	\$25.00
January 19	\$1,641.00	\$5.00	\$194.00	\$19.00	\$19.00
January 1926	\$1,790.00		\$50.00	\$10.00	\$10.00

CHURCH*Giving*

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

**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.

**Church Council Meeting Minutes
American Lutheran Church
December 8th, 2024**

Members Present: Danny Davis, Jessie Ruml, Lindsey Vetter, Andy Smith, Pastor Tom, John Bucher, Lynn Borer, Doug Strait 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: No meeting was held in November of 2024. Review of the prior meeting minutes from October 20th, 2024. Motion by Lynn, second by Lindsey to approve the minutes as read. **MC**

Financial Report: Doug presented the October and November 2024 financial reports for review. Motion by Jessie, second by Andy to approve both as presented. **MC**

Pastor's Report: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

Church: Doug Strait presented a quote from Total Epoxy of Brookings, SD for the installation of Epoxy on the basement floor and a discussion was had. It was agreed that John Bucher will obtain a couple more estimates for epoxy for comparison purposes. Mark will be sending a sample or samples of the current tile flooring in for analysis.

The new furnace is in the basement and will be installed in the coming weeks by Larry Dockter.

A special Thank You was given to Andy & Sarah Smith for their coordination and help with the Thanksgiving Dinner.

Communion Schedule: December 24th, 2024 – Jessie
December 29th, 2024 – John B.
January 5th, 2025 – Jessie
January 19th, 2025 - Mark

Sign Up Sheets: No action taken.

New Business:

The east overhang supports / handrails were discussed. Ron White is working in competing these and installation will then take place.

Discussion was held regarding how to best utilize the balance of the funds raised from the Thanksgiving Dinner. No action was taken.

Mission Giving:

A discussion was held regarding end of the year mission work. After discussion it was agreed to give as follows:

NALC:	\$500.00
Blessing Center:	\$250.00
NALC Eastern Mission Fund:	\$250.00
St. Dymas:	\$250.00
Beacon Center:	\$500.00
Haggenson Family:	\$250.00
3 Senior Scholarships:	<u>\$750.00</u> (\$250.00 each)
Total:	\$3,750.00

Motion by Jessie to approve the above mission work, Second by John B. **MC**

A discussion was held concerning a constitutional change relating to increasing the Church Council's authority for expenses from its current amount of \$2,000.00 to \$8,000.00. This will be added to the Annual meeting agenda for review.

The annual meeting was scheduled for January 26th, 2025, following worship.

A discussion was held concerning a stewardship letter prepared by Lynn Borer. The letter was reviewed and approved to be sent to the congregation. John B. offered to print the letters in color and Lynn will coordinate mailing of the letters.

A brief discussion was held regarding the nominating and finance review / audit committees. No action was taken.

A discussion was held regarding printing costs associated with the new church directory. Two quotes were received from local printing companies with the low quote being received from Jurgens Printing in the amount of \$626.85. An anonymous donation of \$100.00 was given towards this cost. Motion by Jessie to utilize the Thrivent Choice Balance funds to cover the costs of this. Second by John. **MC**

Pastor will be away from Church on the 16th of February for his son's wedding. He will find a replacement for Worship on this date.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for January 19th, 2025, following Worship.

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

Closing Prayer: The council ended the meeting with a short Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

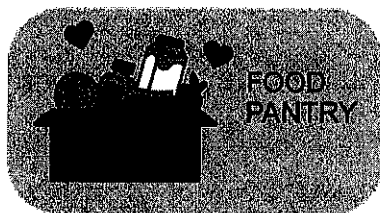
Mark Larson, Secretary



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.



As days grow longer and we continue to celebrate your light this Epiphany season, dear Jesus, help us spread kindness and compassion in ever-widening circles as testimony to you.



Castlewood Assisted Living

Geraldine Gantvoort

Estelline Nursing Home

Carrie Henrichsen

**American Lutheran Church Financial Report
December 2024**

General Account

Balance on hand 12-1-2024		\$	53,965.87
Receipts			
Offerings	\$	17,164.32	
Confirmation	\$	-	
Thrivent	\$	23.00	\$ 17,187.32
Disbursements			
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$	4,712.98	
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$	298.40	
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00	
Thomas Christenson (Mileage - 140 Miles)	\$	93.80	
Retirement Contribution	\$	962.60	
EBSO (Health Insurance)	\$	-	
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)	\$	-	
Janell Bemis (Secretary - 34 hrs)	\$	470.99	
Tracy Laue (Custodian - 18.5 hrs)	\$	239.19	
Roxanne Bass (Organist - 3 Svcs)	\$	195.00	
Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$	130.00	
Karen Lund (Organist - 1 Svc)	\$	65.00	
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$65, Pars: \$91.43)	\$	156.43	
ITC (Phone & Internet)	\$	129.41	
Northwestern (Ch: \$70.16, Pars: \$32.45)	\$	102.61	
Ottertail (Ch: \$98.77, Pars: \$81.42)	\$	180.19	
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	375.33	
NALC	\$	50.00	
Office Peeps (Office supplies & Copier)	\$	376.88	
Thomas Christenson (worship supplies)	\$	104.61	
Hamlin County Publishing (Thanksgiving newspaper ad)	\$	102.00	
US Treasury (4th quarter)	\$	303.71	
Concordia (Strength for the Day)	\$	162.49	
Jurgens Printing (church directories)	\$	555.71	
US Postal Service (stamps)	\$	146.00	\$ (10,113.33)

Balance on hand 12-31-2024	\$ 61,039.86
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*** Confirmation Balance	\$	1,303.49
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$	2,151.36

Building Account

Balance on hand 12-1-2024		\$	44,474.23
Receipts			
Offerings for Building Fund	\$	380.00	\$ 380.00
Disbursements			
First Premier Bank (checks)	\$	27.46	
Johnstone Supply (basement furnace)	\$	1,725.39	
Mark Larson (asbestos test)	\$	190.00	\$ (1,942.85)

Balance on hand 12-31-2024	\$ 42,911.38
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Mission Account

Balance on hand 12-1-2024		\$	4,789.64
Receipts			
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	1,187.00	
Children's Offering	\$	43.28	
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	170.00	\$ 1,400.28
Disbursements			
Beacon Center	\$	500.00	
NALC	\$	500.00	
St Dymas	\$	250.00	
Jesse & Teri Haagensen	\$	250.00	
ESD Mission District	\$	250.00	
Castlewood Blessing Center	\$	250.00	
China Service Ventures (childrens offering Oct, Nov, Dec)	\$	126.88	
First Premier Bank (checks)	\$	27.46	
Castlewood Blessing Center (December offerings)	\$	170.00	\$ (2,324.34)

Balance on hand 12-31-2024	\$ 3,865.58
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Memorial Account

Balance on hand 12-1-2024		\$	4,358.31
Receipts			
	\$	-	\$ -
Disbursements			
	\$	-	\$ -

Balance on hand 12-31-2024	\$ 4,358.31
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Account Summary

	Current Balance	Change December 2024	Change Year to Date
General Account	\$ 61,039.86	\$ 7,073.99	\$ (7,917.08)
Building Account	\$ 42,911.38	\$ (1,562.85)	\$ (9,753.85)
Mission Account	\$ 3,865.58	\$ (924.06)	\$ 2,445.66
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

Dan Davis

Traci Bass

Al Schochenmaier

Andy Smith

Amanda Pribbenow