

# THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 30, Issue 3, March 2025

Foolishness!

***"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God". 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:18***

*"What is your favorite memory of church, past or present, here or elsewhere"?*

Your answers to the above question could prove a powerful way of seeing the varied ways in which "church" has made a powerful and lasting impact on each of us. If you were to ask that question of me, I would respond in the Lenten mode, that the *"worship services of Good Friday hold my favorite memories"*.

I'm not usually a morbid guy, but there is just something so incredibly powerful about being in worship on Good Friday. The solemnity of the service, the slow and somber movement of the hymns, and the drama of entering once again into the passion story hits me with as much, if not more, power than the serene scene of a Christmas Eve candlelight service, or the joyous hymns of Easter.

It's the cross! It's the cross that transfixes me on Good Friday. It is that cruel instrument of death upon which Jesus was lifted up for my sake. On that night, of all nights, with the altar having been stripped of its finery, it is the cross that we are to view, and the one who hung there on Calvary is the one we are to reverently remember.

The Apostle Paul knew the truth about the power of the cross as he wrote to the believers in Corinth. He said: *"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God"*. For what the world may view as only an instrument of death, Christians believe the cross to be the sign of our salvation. What the world may view as a foolish way for one sent by God to die, Christians embrace the cross as the sign of God's deep and abiding love.

So, join us! Join us in our Lenten journey that will take us to the cross of Good Friday. Then come and celebrate the vindication that Christ won for himself and for all believers on Easter! To which we say: Thanks be to God!!

In His Service,  
*PASTOR TOM*



# Something's Fishy!!

Mid-Week Lenten Suppers and Services to begin on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Meal: 6:15-6:45 Served by Youth of ALC  
(Free-Will Offering for Youth Mission Trip)

Worship: 7:00 pm



“Something’s Fishy” is the of this year’s mid-week Lenten Worship. The theme will be introduced on Ash Wednesday, and then followed up in the subsequent 5 Weeks of Lent in which we will have dramatic dialogues each night. Pastor Tom will be looking for 1-2 volunteers each week to help lead us in these dramas. No memorization required! Please talk to Pastor Tom about your availability to serve.

**Lenten Devotionals** are available in the narthex. “*Unfolding Victory*” is the theme for this season, with devotions written by our North American Lutheran Church staff and select pastors.

**Confirmation Ministry**  
**Grades 7-9**  
Even though regular classes have finished, it is the expectation that Confirmation students will be part of the mid-week Lenten services.



- ASSISTED LIVING Residents**
- Castlewood Assisted Living  
*Geraldine Gantvoort*
  - Estelline Nursing Home  
*Carrie Henriksen*
  - Lake Norden Care Center  
*Richard Tvedt*
  - Jenkins Care Center  
*Lorene Tvedt*



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

- March Acolytes:**
- 2nd Lincoln Pribbenow
  - 9th Kendra Nielsen
  - 16th Bryce Wittnebel
  - 23rd Bostyn Ruml
  - 30th Huxley Craig



**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.



# March 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	29
30	31					



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2nd *Transfiguration Sunday*  
**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**  
*12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open*



5th **6:15 p.m. Lenten Supper**  
**7:00 p.m. ASH WEDNESDAY Worship**

7th *Pastor's Text Study—Watertown*  
8th *Spring Ahead One Hour before you go to Bed!*



9th *Daylight Saving Time Begins*  
**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**

12th **6:15 p.m. Lenten Supper**  
**7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship**



16th **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. Church Council**  
**1:30-4:30 Kids Against Hunger**  
*12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open*

17th *St. Patrick's Day*



19th **6:15 p.m. Lenten Supper**  
**7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship**

20th *First Day of Spring*

23rd **9:00 a.m. Worship Service**  
**10:00 a.m. Fellowship**  
**10:15 a.m. Sunday School**



26 **6:15 p.m. Lenten Supper**  
**7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship**

30th **9:00 a.m. Worship Service**  
**10:00 a.m. Fellowship**  
**10:15 a.m. Sunday School**



Kalee Jackson	3-02
Barbara Cozad	3-04
Tom Christenson	3-05
Arianna Bemis	3-06
Todd Eggleston	3-07
Karen Lund	3-08
Jonah Wiersma	3-09
Brenda McKee Almos	3-10
Bonnie Top	3-10
Lorie Mack	3-12
Hunter Smith	3-14
Bryce Wittnebel	3-17
Maddox Nielsen	3-17
Carson Borer	3-19
Russell Mack	3-19
Sawyer Craig	3-22
Richard Tvedt	3-22
Angie Larson	3-26
Duane Selchert	3-26
Sarah Smith	3-29
Vienna Smith	3-31



Russell Mack	3-01
Lynn Borer	3-02
Traci Bass	3-02
Asher Davis	3-06
Gareth Hamen	3-10
Hannah Mickey	3-10
Eric Aderhold	3-14
Lacey Severson	3-14
Carrie Henrichsen	3-16
Carter Larson	3-16
Kabren Jackson	3-19
Richard Strait	3-26
Lorene Tvedt	3-27
Thomas Christenson	3-29
Brody Bass	3-30

Please notify the church with your...



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

Pastor Tom Christenson  
605-956-0130



### Church Happenings

Colt Henry Pewe son of Cameron & Haley Pewe was baptized on February 23, 2025. Kristina Dahms & Levi Hentges were Sponsors



### Sr. High/Adult Choir!

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



Duane & Phyllis Selchert March 26  
Wayne & Carmen Jankord March 26

### 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**  
**January 19th, 2025**

**Members Present:** Danny Davis, Jessie Ruml, Lindsey Vetter, Andy Smith, Pastor Tom, John Bucher, Lynn Borer, Doug Strait, Traci Bass, Amanda Pribbenow 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:** Review of the December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting minutes. Motion by Lindsey, second by Lynn to approve the minutes as read. **MC**

**Financial Report:** Doug presented the December 2024 financial report for review. Motion by Mark, second by Jessie to approve both as presented. **MC**

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Tom reported that the youth have decided to not go to Nashville, TN for the annual mission trip and that he is working on arranging for a trip to the Twin Cities for mission work by the youth. This may take place in June of 2025 although Pastor will update us once he has more information.

**Old Business:**

Church:

The removal of the basement floor tile and other prep is now 80-85% completed. John B. presented two quotes for epoxy flooring and is awaiting one additional quote. The bids will be presented during the annual congregational meeting for further review and consideration.

The new furnace is in the basement and was installed by Larry Dockter and Lynn Borer. Lynn will also be installing a digital thermostat for the new furnace.

**Communion Schedule:** February 2<sup>nd</sup> – John Bucher                      February 16<sup>th</sup> – Traci Bass

**Sign Up Sheets:** Council members should continue to encourage the congregation for fellowship, reading and other needs.

Doug Strait will take care of ordering rolls for the upcoming annual meeting thru Ardi's Bakery / Kevee's and he will also make sure a microphone is present for the upcoming annual meeting.

**New Business:**

The east overhang supports / handrails were discussed. Due to the cold weather and other commitments, this will be put on hold for the time being.

Discussion was held regarding how to best utilize the balance of the funds raised from the Thanksgiving Dinner. A portion of the funds were given to a local family in Castlewood.

The annual meeting slated for next Sunday was discussed including the nominating & financial review committees.

Lynn Borer will be coming off the Church Council and agreed to serve with Rod and Landon on the audit committee. This will require an announcement and vote at the upcoming annual meeting.

Al Schochenmaier has agreed to take Lynn Borer's open position on the Church Council. This will require an announcement at the upcoming annual meeting.

A discussion was held concerning current Church Council Members and the length / number of terms each person has been on the Council. No action taken although this will have to be reviewed formally and memorialized for the future.

Pastor will be away from the Church on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, for his son's wedding. He has arranged for an interim pastor to fill in for Worship on this date.

A discussion was had concerning the 2025 Budget. Pastor Tom was requested to leave the meeting while Council members discussed his annual salary. After discussions, it was agreed to allow for a 4% raise to Pastor's 2024 Salary, as well as a 4% raise for both Janell Bemis (Secretary) and Tracy Laue (Custodian). Motion by Traci Bass and Second by Andy Smith. **MC**

**Next Council Meeting:** The next council meeting was scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, following worship.

**Closing:** With no further matters at hand a Motion by Jessie to adjourn. Second by Traci. **MC.**

Pastor led us in the Lord's Prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Larson, Secretary

**American Lutheran Church Financial Report  
January 2025**

**General Account**

Balance on hand 1-1-2025		\$	61,039.86
Receipts			
Offerings	\$	7,821.75	
Confirmation	\$	-	
Thrivent	\$	128.00	\$ 7,949.75
Disbursements			
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$	4,612.98	
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$	298.40	
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00	
Thomas Christenson (Mileage - 77 miles)	\$	53.90	
Retirement Contribution	\$	481.30	
EBSO (Health Insurance)	\$	2,450.00	
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)	\$	1,135.22	
Janell Bemis (Secretary - 38 hrs)	\$	547.45	
Tracy Laue (Custodian - 17 hrs)	\$	228.58	
Roxanne Bass (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$	130.00	
Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$	130.00	
NALC (Benevolence)	\$	50.00	
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$65, Pars: \$96.65)	\$	161.65	
ITC (Phone and Internet)	\$	130.13	
NorthWestern Energy (Ch: \$238.70, Pars: \$67.76)	\$	308.46	
Otter Tail Power (Ch: \$112.30, Pars: \$80.73)	\$	193.03	
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	402.97	
Office Peeps (Supplies & Copier)	\$	76.06	
KeVee (rolls for annual meeting)	\$	172.04	
Concordia (worship supplies)	\$	51.44	
Thomas Christenson (worship supplies)	\$	107.26	\$ (11,920.87)

<b>Balance on hand 1-31-2025</b>	<b>\$ 57,068.74</b>
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*** Confirmation Balance	\$ 1,303.49
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$ 2,279.36

**Building Account**

Balance on hand 1-1-2025		\$	42,911.38
Receipts			
Offerings for Building Account	\$	10.00	\$ 10.00
Disbursements			
Winsupply (parts for furnace installation)	\$	198.69	\$ (198.69)

<b>Balance on hand 1-31-2025</b>	<b>\$ 42,722.69</b>
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**Mission Account**

Balance on hand 1-1-2025		\$	3,865.58
Receipts			
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	85.00	
Children's Offering	\$	46.00	
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	180.00	\$ 311.00
Disbursements			
Castlewood Blessing Center (January offerings)	\$	180.00	\$ (180.00)

<b>Balance on hand 1-31-2025</b>	<b>\$ 3,996.58</b>
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**Memorial Account**

Balance on hand 1-1-2025		\$	4,358.31
Receipts			
	\$	-	\$ -
Disbursements			
	\$	-	\$ -


<b>Balance on hand 1-31-2025</b>	<b>\$ 4,358.31</b>
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**Account Summary**

	Current Balance	Change January 2025	Change Year to Date
General Account	\$ 57,068.74	\$ (3,971.12)	\$ (3,971.12)
Building Account	\$ 42,722.69	\$ (188.69)	\$ (188.69)
Mission Account	\$ 3,996.58	\$ 131.00	\$ 131.00
Memorial Account	\$ 4,358.31	\$ -	\$ -



*The Servants of our Lord*

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Fellowship</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
March 2	Roxanne Bass	Lance & Calonna Craig family	Craig & Roxanne Bass	Chuck Juntti
March 5 Ash Wed		VOLUNTEER		
March 9	Marsha Kurtenbach	Ernie & Rhonda Karst	Ernie & Rhonda Karst	
March 12 Lent		VOLUNTEER		
March 16	Roxanne Bass	Erin Ruesink & Traci Bass		Doug Strait
March 19 Lent		VOLUNTEER		
March 23	Marsha Kurtenbach	Joshua & Sara Nei family		Rod Fischer
March 26 Lent		VOLUNTEER		
March 30	Laren Lund	Ted & Cheryl Sutton		

**ALTAR GUILD**

*March: Carna Miller & Gail Nagelhout*

*April: Diane Koosman & Paula Grupe*

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

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

**Our Faithfulness in Giving**

	General	Building	Mission	*Children	*Blessing Ctr
February 2	\$1,825.00	\$25.00	\$136.00	\$11.00	
February 9	\$2,603.00	\$100.00	\$113.00	\$8.00	
February 16	\$1,515.00	\$5.00	\$167.00	\$7.00	\$70.00
February 23	\$1,560.11		\$262.00	\$12.00	



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





### “Kids Against Hunger” Food Packing Event - Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 1:30-4:30

This service project is for all ages, and will again be shared this year with members from Hamlin Reformed. We will carpool from ALC at 11:15 to Sioux Falls, and grab a bite in Brookings or in



**FOOD PANTRY**  
*Volunteers*

Sioux Falls. This non-profit asks for a suggested donation of \$30 per person to cover supplies, and we will be asking for some financial help to support this through the Mission Account and Youth Account. So, we are looking for workers, and financial donations are welcomed from those who cannot serve. (see Pastor Tom). There is a Sign-up Sheet in the Narthex.

### Youth Group Summer Mission Trip!

Put it on the Calendar  
June 15-18, Mission Trip to Minneapolis.



We will leave after church on Sunday the 15th, and will serve on Monday and Tuesday with Global Health Ministries, a Christian organization that our congregation and the women of the church have financially supported in the past

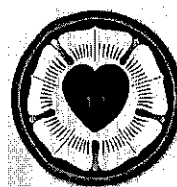
Our evening events will be decided by those who attend, but could include, a St. Paul Saints Baseball game, the Como Park Zoo, the Mall of America, or other sites and sounds of the big city! If the group chose we could come home on Wednesday morning, or if there was interest we could do the Minnesota Zoo at Apple Valley or ValleyFair.

**Again.....reserve the dates.** The youth fund and our fund-raisers will cover your costs. If you invite a friend to join us, their cost would only be \$100. Please contact Pastor Tom to reserve your spot!!

“The only thing of importance, when we depart, will be the traces of love we have left behind.”  
—Albert Schweitzer

### Joint Mission District Convocation – April 4-5 at Hosanna Lutheran in Watertown.

Please consider joining us for the annual Convocation of the Eastern South Dakota and Minkota Missio Districts of the NALC. It can't get any more convenient for us, since it's in our back yard!! We are honored to have Bishop Selbo joining us. Posted on the narthex bulletin board are copies of the Agenda, Registration Form, and an NALC Disaster Response Flyer, as we will be collecting needed items for our continental efforts. Please talk to Pastor Tom if you can attend or have any questions.



NORTH AMERICAN  
**LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

*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)**

**2025 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