

# THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 30, Issue 4, April 2025

## ***Lent gives way to Easter! – P.T.'s Practical Theology***

*“Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. **Matthew 28:1-3***

The penitential season of Lent spans 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. It is then that Lent gives way to the joyous season of Easter, this year on April 20<sup>th</sup>. And do you know what event will again in our area mark the passing from Lent to Easter? The Shrine Circus!!

The first time the Watertown Shrine Club hosted the circus on Holy Saturday, I was serving a church in Watertown. I remember my neighbor across the street who was a member of the Shine, came over to my house to tell me of the “unfortunate schedule” before it was broadcast around town. Well, I remember that I was a bit dismayed. But I did understand that local club did not get to set the date but had to take a day that was available by the traveling circus. Yet, as my neighbor was apologizing for the Shrine’s largest fundraiser falling during Holy Week, I got to thinking that Holy Saturday might not be such a bad day for a Circus Break!

Think about it! After leaving worship in silence on Good Friday, do we really need to stay afflicted and grieved for another 36 hours prior to our Easter Worship? Shouldn’t there be some buffer that helps us span the stark contrasts of Good Friday with Easter? So, why not take the kiddos up to Watertown to attend the circus as a primer for Easter worship!

With a little imagination, the ear-splitting music of the circus performance is almost like the sound of an earthquake!

With a little imagination, the performers under the circus lights may even look like lightning.... with their clothing as white as snow.



### ***Lent gives way to Easter! – P.T.'s Practical Theology Cont.***

For that is the buffer that Matthew's Gospel gives us between the events of Good Friday and the Easter proclamation. And what a glorious proclamation it is!! *"The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He has risen!"*

So, come be with us during Holy Week:

Come and join in the shouts of "Hosanna" on Palm Sunday.

Come and hear of Jesus who gives a new and eternal meaning to bread and wine.

Come and hear of Jesus who gave his life in order that we may have life.

Go to the Circus and cast off the Lenten dreariness, then

Come and hear of the wonder of the ages...for Christ has Risen! He has risen indeed!

Blessed Lent & Easter!!  
Pastor Tom

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



Answer: A (See Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34; and Psalm 22:1.)

*Easter Sunday*  
*April 20, 2025*

**SONRISE SERVICE** 7:00 A.M.

8:00 A.M. **Easter Sunday Brunch**

**Easter SUNDAY** 9:00 A.M.  
*He is Risen*



# Something's Fishy!!

Mid-Week Lenten Suppers and Services continue on April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<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.

## Rite of Confirmation Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>

During the morning worship, the following will confirm their Baptismal Faith in the Rite of Confirmation:



*Easton Carter*

son of Charlie & Jenny Carter

*Trevor Everson*

son of Travis and Sandra Everson

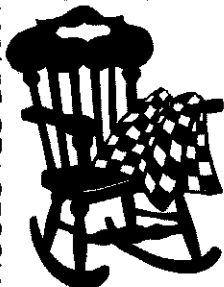
*Kendra Nielsen*

daughter of Kendall & Alisha Nielsen

*Ava Ruml*

daughter of Phil & Jessie Ruml

### ASSISTED LIVING Residents



**Estelline Nursing Home**

*Carrie Henrichsen*

*Geraldine Gantvoort*

**Lake Norden Care Center**

*Richard Tvedt*

**Castlewood Assisted Living**

*Lorene Tvedt*



### 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.



# April 2025

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
		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

4th 5:00 p.m. Opening of Convocation at Hosanna in Watertown

5th Noon— Closing of Convocation

6th 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

9th 6:15 p.m. Lenten Supper

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship

12th 9:00 a.m.—Noon Shower

13th **Palm Sunday**

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

17th 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship

18th 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship

20th **Easter**

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service

8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Sr. High/Adult Choir Practice

9:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service with Holy Communion

22nd Earth Day

27th 9:00 a.m. Rite of Confirmation Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Fellowship

10:15 a.m. Sunday School





# APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Robert Ronne	4-03
Sydney Borer	4-08
Bob Miller	4-08
Neda Ries	4-11
Carmen Jankord	4-12
Phyllis Selchert	4-17
Lindsey Ching	4-24
Easton Carter	4-24
Tristan Nielsen	4-26
Tracy Laue	4-26
Duane Laue	4-30

# Baptism BIRTHDAYS

Tanner Hanson	4-05
Collyns Ruml	4-07
Cora Pewe	4-14
Bonnie Top	4-19
Londyn Pribbenow	4-19
Brent Bass	4-20
Emerson Carter	4-21
Sawyer Craig	4-22
Richard Tvedt	4-22
Bryce Wittnebel	4-22
Liyah Vetter	4-24
Kalee Jackson	4-26
Karen Lund	4-27
Jonah Wiersma	4-27
Hadley Severson	4-30

Please notify the church with your...



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

Pastor Tom Christenson  
605-956-0130



# APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Russell & Lorie Mack  
April 24

## 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.



## Church Happenings



### We've Lost a Friend

Dick Strait, long standing member of American Lutheran Church passed away on Tuesday, March 18, funeral was Monday, March 24, 2025. Comfort and Blessings to his family.

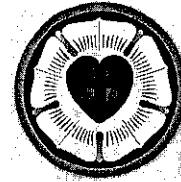
## Remember the CALENDAR on our Website!

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)



**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**



**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!!



**Are there any kids going to a Bible Camp this summer?**

If you are planning to send your son or daughter to a Bible Camp this summer, please contact Pastor Tom as there will be some Campership monies from our congregation. If you are looking for a solid camping program, Pastor Tom suggests Byron Bible Camp, which is between here and Huron. See their website: [byronbiblecamp.com](http://byronbiblecamp.com)



**"What could I say? They are her most Easterly shoes."**

**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**American Lutheran Church**  
**February 9th, 2025**

**Members Present:** Danny Davis, Jessie Ruml, Lindsey Vetter, Pastor Tom, John Bucher, Amanda Pribbenow, Doug Strait, Traci Bass, Al Schochenmaier and Mark Larson.

**Call to Order:** Vice President Vetter called the meeting to order, declaring a voting quorum as being present.

**Prayer:** Led by Pastor Tom

**Meeting Minutes:** Review of January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting minutes. An error was noted in that Amanda Pribbenow was not listed as being present when in fact she was present at the January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting. Motion by Traci Bass and second by Doug Strait to approve the amended minutes. **MC**

**Financial Report:** Treasurer Strait presented the January 2025 financial report for review. Motion by Mark, second by Amanda to approve the report as presented. **MC**

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Tom handed out information on an upcoming Joint Convocation for Eastern South Dakota and Minkota Mission Districts (NALC) to be held at Hosana Lutheran Church in Watertown, SD on April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Pastor encouraged Council members to be present for this event and that he will also be announcing this event to the Congregation in the coming weeks.

Pastor Tom is working on finalizing plans for the youth mission trip which will be in Minneapolis, MN thru Global Health Ministries (<https://www.ghm.org/>)

Pastor Tom also discussed the upcoming Lenten Season and weekly youth meal in which he will prepare the "main course" of the meal and youth/parents will be asked to provide dessert(s).

**Old Business:**

The base trim in the basement will need to be removed prior to the floor being finished. A discussion was held concerning the two bids received to date for the application of epoxy. One bid was \$11,250.00 and the other was \$9,132.00. The low bid was received from Total Epoxy of Brookings, SD. President Bucher mentioned that the cost for grinding and polishing of the floor (no epoxy application) was within a few hundred dollars of the epoxy application cost. A motion was made by Jessie Ruml with a second by Traci Bass to accept the bid from Total Epoxy with the understanding that President

Bucher will visit with Total Epoxy to determine any possible decrease in their bid as well as color choices. **MC**

**Communion Schedule:**

March 2<sup>nd</sup> : Lindsey Vetter

March 5<sup>th</sup>: Amanda Pribbenow

March 16<sup>th</sup> : Lindsey Vetter or John Bucher

**New Business:**

The east overhang supports / handrails are essentially completed and ready for installation. Installation will be completed when the weather / temperatures improve.

A suggestion was made by a member of the Congregation to a council member concerning looking into the purchase and installation of a security system and/or security cameras for the Church. A discussion was held concerning this subject including the logistics, number of cameras and entrance doors to be monitored and if anyone was aware of any prior incidents that would have precipitated this suggestion. After discussion, it was the Council's unanimous decision to not pursue this currently.

The election of Church Council positions for 2025 was held. Current positions are:

President: John Bucher

Vice President: Lindsey Vetter

Secretary: Mark Larson

Treasurer: Doug Strait

A unanimous vote/motion was cast by Traci Bass for the current Council positions to remain the same for 2025. Danny Davis seconded this, and all members were in favor. **MC.**

**Next Council Meeting:** The next council meeting was scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, following worship.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Larson, Secretary



**American Lutheran Church Financial Report  
February 2025**

**General Account**

Balance on hand 2-1-2025			\$ 57,068.74
Receipts			
Offerings	\$	14,923.91	
Confirmation	\$	38.75	
Thrivent	\$	30.00	\$ 14,992.66
Disbursements			
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$	5,005.50	
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$	310.34	
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00	
Thomas Christenson (mileage)	\$	167.00	
Retirement Contribution	\$	500.55	
EBSO (Health Insurance)	\$	2,450.00	
Tristar Management (Ancillary Benefits)	\$	576.61	
Janell Bemis (Secretary - 23 hrs)	\$	331.35	
Tracy Laue (Custodian - 18.5 hrs)	\$	248.75	
Roxanne Bass (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$	130.00	
Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$	130.00	
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$65, Pars: \$90.17)	\$	155.17	
ITC (Phone & Internet)	\$	130.27	
NorthWestern Energy (Ch: \$347.95, Pars: \$98.60)	\$	446.55	
Otter Tail Power (Ch: \$124.79, Pars: \$98.30)	\$	223.09	
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	466.25	
NALC	\$	50.00	
Thomas Christenson (worship supplies)	\$	6.53	
Upper Room Ministries (March / April)	\$	34.25	
Jerry Mekrouis (pulpit supply 2-16-2025)	\$	315.00	
Concordia (bulletin inserts)	\$	107.58	\$ (11,984.79)
<b>Balance on hand 2-28-2025</b>			<b>\$ 60,076.61</b>
*** Confirmation Balance	\$	1,342.24	
*** Thrivent Choice Balance	\$	2,309.36	

**Building Account**

Balance on hand 2-1-2025			\$ 42,722.69
Receipts			
Offerings for Building Fund	\$	130.00	\$ 130.00
Disbursements			
	\$	-	\$ -
<b>Balance on hand 2-28-2025</b>			<b>\$ 42,852.69</b>

**Mission Account**

Balance on hand 2-1-2025			\$ 3,996.58
Receipts			
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	690.95	
Children's Offering	\$	38.00	
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	70.00	\$ 798.95
Disbursements			
Castlewood Blessing Center (February)	\$	70.00	\$ (70.00)
<b>Balance on hand 2-28-2025</b>			<b>\$ 4,725.53</b>

**Memorial Account**

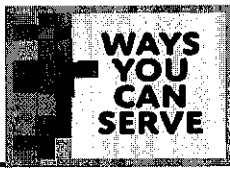
Balance on hand 2-1-2025			\$ 4,358.31
Receipts	\$	-	\$ -
Disbursements	\$	-	\$ -
<b>Balance on hand 2-28-2025</b>			<b>\$ 4,358.31</b>

**Account Summary**

	Current Balance	Change February 2025	Change Year to Date
General Account	\$ 60,076.61	\$ 3,007.87	\$ (963.25)
Building Account	\$ 42,852.69	\$ 130.00	\$ (58.69)
Mission Account	\$ 4,725.53	\$ 728.95	\$ 859.95
Memorial Account	\$ 4,358.31	\$ -	\$ -



*The Servants of our Lord*

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Fellowship</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
April 2 Lent		Volunteer		
April 6	Roxanne Bass	Carmen & Haley Pewe family		Chuck Juntti
April 9 Lent		Volunteer		
April 13	Marsha Kurtenbach	Brenda Almos & Gail Nagelhout		
April 17 Maundy Thursday		Volunteer		
March 18 Good Friday		Volunteer		
April 20	Roxanne Bass	Andrew & Sarah Smith family		Doug Strait
April 27	Marsha Kurtenbach	Marc & Heidi Lewno family		Rod Fischer

**ALTAR GUILD**

*April: Diane Koosman & Paula Grupe*

*May: Neda Ries & Carmen Jankord*

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
<b>March 2</b>	\$2,260.00	\$130.00	\$109.25	\$9.25	
<b>March 9</b>	\$1,575.00		\$137.00	\$7.00	
<b>March 16</b>	\$1,990.00	\$5.00	\$237.00	\$7.00	\$70.00
<b>March 23</b>	\$1,560.00		\$262.00	\$10.00	

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



**“Kids Against Hunger”**

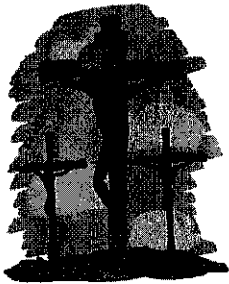
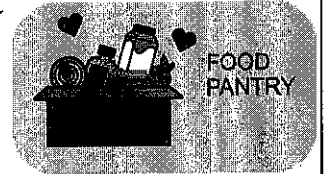
**Food Packing Event was a success!**



On Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> members of American Lutheran joined with our brothers and sisters from Hamlin Reformed to do a food-pack for “Kids Against Hunger”. In just over 2 hours of service, 12,700 meals were packed and paid for. A good cause! A good and fun service project! Thank you for those who supported the event through serving, direct gifts and through the mission budgets of ALC and ALC Youth.

**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.



From the cross, Jesus prayed words from the book of Psalms. What were they?

- A. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
- B. “I thirst!”
- C. “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”
- D. “It is finished!”

*ALC will have an **Easter Memorial Garden**. Bring a flower or plant to place in the sanctuary in **memory** of or in **honor** of a loved one. Please have flowers at the church by noon **Friday, April 18**. Complete the following form and return it to the church office or put in Janell’s mailbox by **Thursday, April 17, 2025**. Thank you!*



*In memory or honor of*



*To the glory of God*



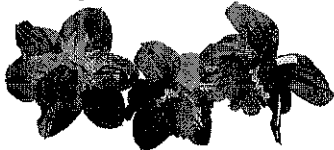
*The American Lutheran Caller*

*P.O. Box 132*

*Castlewood, SD 57223*

*Address Service Requested*

*Worship With Us  
This Easter*



**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