

# THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 31, Issue 5, May/June 2026

## ***“Lord, teach us to pray” – P.T.’s Practical Theology***

*Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” And he said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.” Luke 11:1-4*

It was a simple request from Jesus’ closest friends; *“Lord, teach us to pray”*. Oh, it wasn’t that they didn’t know how to pray, for they were all Jews, and they had been nursed at the bosom of prayer. But as Jesus spoke to them of the ways of God, they had begun to sense a new way that God was working in their world, and they wanted the same work manifest in their lives. So, they asked: *“Lord, teach us to pray”*.

As you read above, Jesus taught them a version of what we have grown up knowing as “The Lord’s Prayer”. If it seemed a bit off when you read it, please know that the Gospel writers have quoted Jesus teaching this prayer in Luke 11, as noted above, and also in Matthew 6. The church has then drawn from both teachings, then added the doxology to give us the version of the prayer we use today.

Of this prayer, the Rev. Doctor Martin Luther wrote in 1519, saying: *“Since our Lord is the author of this prayer, it is without a doubt the most sublime, the loftiest and the most excellent. If He, the good and faithful Teacher had known a better one, he would surely have taught us that one too”*.

So, as we go to God in prayer, we have “the most sublime” model from Jesus in which to make communion with God. That is prayer is about leaning into a relationship that God has begun with us and wants us to share in common-union with Him. So, as we pray this “loftiest” of prayers, we worship God, we implore God to provide for us and keep us, and we claim God’s promises to us. Luther was so convinced of this that he provides in the Small Catechism the following meanings to each petition of this “most excellent” of prayers:

*Petition 1: God’s name is certainly holy in itself, but we ask in this prayer that we may keep it holy.*

*Petition 2: God’s kingdom comes indeed without our praying for it, but we ask in this prayer that it may come also to us.*



## ***“Lord, teach us to pray” – P.T.’s Practical Theology cont.***

Petition 3: *The good and gracious will of God is surely done without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may be done also among us.*

Petition 4: *God gives daily bread even without our prayer, to all people, though sinful, but we ask in this prayer that He will help us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanks.*

Petition 5: *We ask in this prayer that our Father in heaven would not hold our sins against us and because of them refuse to hear our prayer. And we pray that He would give us everything by grace for we sin every day and deserve nothing but punishment. So, we on our part will heartily forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.*

Petition 6: *God tempts no one to sin, but we ask in this prayer that God would watch over us and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful self may not deceive us and draw us into false belief, despair and other great and shameful sins. And we pray that even though we are so tempted we may still win the victory.*

Petition 7: *We ask in this inclusive prayer that our heavenly Father would save us from every evil to body and soul, and at our last hour would mercifully take us from the trouble of this world to Himself in heaven.*

*Doxology: Amen means Yes, it shall be so. We say Amen because we are certain that such petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven and are heard by Him. For He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us.*

So dear friends, let us always pray in faith and faithfulness for this is the good and gracious will of our God and Savior!!

To Him alone be the glory!

Pastor Tom

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## **Lots of Thanks!**

- ◆ Thanks to those who took part in the Lenten Dramas.
- ◆ Thanks to those who served the Lenten Meals.
- ◆ Thanks to those who gave free-will offerings for the meals....profit for the Youth Group.
- ◆ Thanks to those who provided Spring Flowers to beautify our sanctuary for Easter.
- ◆ Thanks to the ALC youth who led our Easter Sunrise Service.
- ◆ Thanks to Brenda Almos and Vicki Strait who facilitated the Easter Breakfast
- ◆ Thanks to those who enjoyed the Easter Breakfast....profit for the Youth Group.
- ◆ Thanks to those families that compiled and donated the 37 “Kitchen Kits” for NALC Disaster Response.
- ◆ Thanks to those who have led our Sunday School this season. Our last SS before summer break will be May 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## Senior Recognition Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>!

During the morning worship and the fellowship hour we will honor the following ALC graduates. Castlewood students graduate on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Their Baccalaureate Service will be on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the new gymnasium.

- Brody Bass\*
- Aiden Grupp\*
- Kylie Haight
- Emery Larson\*
- Emery Nzi
- Myles Rawsthorne\*
- Hannah Wiersma\*

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord...  
to give you a future with hope.  
Jeremiah 29:11*



(\* indicates those seniors who applied for and were approved by the Church Council to receive a \$250 American Lutheran Educational Scholarship.

### Youth Summer Mission Trip - June 13-20

#### Destination Nashville!

**Brenda Almos and Pastor Tom will be leading 9 youth on an urban ministry trip to Nashville. We will be serving with "Group" Ministries.**

**Those registered to attend are: Hannah Wiersma, Huxley Craig, Mya Craig, Charlsy Laue, Ava, Bostyn & Collyns Ruml, Brylee Rudebusch and Kiya Foreman.**



With the upcoming mission trip approaching, and we invite the congregation to partner with us through prayer and support. Please keep our mission team in your prayers as they prepare to serve and share Christ's love.

### 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.



# May 2026

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
31						



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

3rd	8:30 a.m. Choir Practice 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion/Sr. Recognition 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
6th	7:00 p.m. Baccalaureate Service
9th	1:00 p.m. Castlewood High School Graduation
10th	<i>Mother's Day</i> 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Fellowship
16th	<b>Armed Forces Day</b>
17th	8:30 a.m. Choir Practice 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
19th	Castlewood Last Day of School
24th	9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 2:00p.m. Worship at Estelline Care Center
25th	<b>Memorial Day</b>
31st	9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Fellowship

Graduation SUNDAY



ARMED FORCES DAY



### Remember there is 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)

### May Acolytes:

- 3rd Lane Foster
- 10th Lane Foster
- 17th Lane Foster
- 24th Liyah Vetter
- 31st Liyah Vetter

Sooner or later, we all quote our mothers.



Dawn Mickey	5-01	Dawn Wiersma	5-12
Kylie Haight	5-02	David Prohl	5-13
Jerrold Bass	5-03	Mark Larson	5-16
Lawson Vetter	5-04	Aidan Grupe	5-17
Henry Hybertson	5-07	Ted Sutton	5-20
Shawn Prohl	5-08	Emery Larson	5-21
James Mickey	5-11	Tanner Grupe	5-26
		Michaela Davis	5-27
		Tyler Christianson	5-28
		Garrett Karst	5-28
		Katie Fischer	5-29
		Kim Fischer	5-29

**Choir Practice:**  
We will have choir practice (Sundays at 8:30 am) on the first three Sundays of May...join us in making a joyful noise!



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



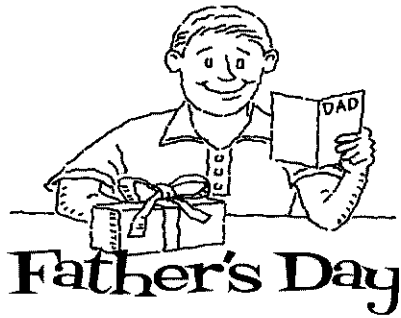
Angela Larson	5-08
Lorie Mack	5-11
Maddox Nielsen	5-11
Brenda Almos	5-12
Sharla Hamen	5-14
Easton Carter	5-16
Neda Ries	5-17
Barb Cozad	5-20
Robert Miller	5-31

*May Anniversaries*  
*Joanne & Rodney*  
*Fischer*  
*May 18*

*The Servants of our Lord*

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
May 3	Roxanne Bass	Dennis & Vicki Strait	Chuck Juntti
May 10 Mother's Day	Marsha Kurtenbach		Chuck Juntti
May 17	Roxanne Bass	Erin Ruesink	Doug Strait
May 24	Marsha Kurtenbach	Doug Strait & Dan Davis	Rod Fischer
May 31	Roxanne Bass	Russell & Lorie Mack	

**Sign -up SHEET**  
for  
**LECTORS &**  
(Scriptures sheets available)  
**FELLOWSHIP SERVERS**  
*in the narthex*



# June 2026

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Th	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

**7th** 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion  
 10:00 a.m. Fellowship  
 10:15 a.m. Church Council  
 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open

**13TH—20TH** YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO NASHVILLE

**14th** Flag Day  
 9:00 a.m. Worship Service


**21st** 10:00 a.m. Fellowship  
**Father's Day**

First Day of Summer  
 9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
 10:00 a.m. Fellowship  
 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open

**28th** 9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
 10:00 a.m. Fellowship



### The Servants of our Lord

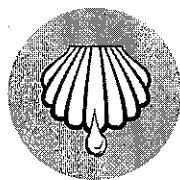
 YOUR GIVING MATTERS	Organists	Ushers	Audio-Visual Technician
June 7	Roxanne Bass	Brenda Almos & Gail Nagelhout	Chuck Juntti
June 14	Marsha Kurtenbach	Deb Aderhold & Jody Hansen	Chuck Juntti
June 21	Roxanne Bass	John & Dawn Mickey	Doug Strait
June 28	Marsha	Cory & Kalee Jackson	Rod Fischer

**"Fatherhood: the scariest hood you'll ever go through."**

Check out the **NEW BOX CARDS & NAPKINS** for sale in the narthex by American Lutheran Church Women



Kristy Borer	6-03
Geri Gantvoort	6-06
Michelle Ronne	6-06
Veriti Lynn Smith	6-06
Bonnie Bucher	6-10
Walker Borer	6-11
Vicki Strait	6-18
Tyler Jankord	6-19
Sharon Hattendorf	6-21
Doug Strait	6-24
Cheryl Sutton	6-24
Ashley Hofwalt	6-28



Mark Larson	6-01
Briar Borer	6-02
Hunter Smith	6-06
Lindsey Strait Ching	6-11
Robert Ronne	6-15
Aidan Grupe	6-16
Vienna Smith	6-19
Kristy Borer	6-21
Dawn Wiersma	6-21
Peggy Wittnebel	6-21
Carmen Jankord	6-23
Tyler Jankord	6-23
Tanner Grupe	6-25
Tyler Christianson	6-27
Cheryl Sutton	6-28

**June Acolytes:**

- 7th
- 14th Liyah Vetter
- 21st Mya Craig
- 28th

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

Pastor Tom Christenson  
605-956-0130



Lindsey & Carver Ching	6-3	Abby & Corben Leo	6-15
Cory & Kalee Jackson	6-9	Mark & Angela Larson	6-16
Ernie & Rhonda Karst	6-12	Haley & Charles Gallman III	6-17
Philip & Jessica Ruml	6-14	Kim & Barbara Stevens	6-19
Dan & Paula Grupe	6-15	Landon & Lindsey Vetter	6-19
		Craig & Roxanne Bass	6-21
		Brenda & Stuart Almos	6-22
		Andy & Sarah Smith	6/22



**ALTAR GUILD**

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

May: Neda Ries & Carmen Jankord  
June: Bonnie Top & Pat Dockter

You can watch a rebroadcast of American Lutheran church service on our channel and also with **YouTube ITC television**'s Video On Demand.

**Church Council Meeting Minutes  
American Lutheran Church  
March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Members Present:** Dan Davis, Amanda Pribbenow, John Bucher, Doug Strait, Andy Smith, Joann Fischer, Lindsey Vetter, Pastor Tom, and Al Schochenmaier.

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

**Prayer:** Led by Pastor Tom

**Meeting Minutes:** Review of the meeting minutes from February 15th, 2026. Motion by Pastor Tom, second by Doug to approve the minutes as written. **MC**

**Financial Report:** Doug Strait presented the February 2026 financial report. The only out of the ordinary charge was a hotel stay for pastor's continuing education. Motion by Lindsey and a second by Dan to approve the report. **MC**

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Tom reports he has been busy with Lent and Holy Week. He thanks all for attending the Lenten suppers and for the youth for helping.

**Old Business:**

Gerhold Brothers finished re-roofing the parsonage shed with corrugated steel roofing. Doug paid the bill to Gerhold's.

**New Business:**

Church Council President: Doug motions to elect Joann as president and add her to the church's checking accounts and CDs, removing John; second by Amanda. **MC**

Stewardship: Lindsey will put together a rough draft of online giving information by March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026, to be inserted in the April newsletter for church members. Council discussed first step is insert the info in newsletter, second step speak at a church service on stewardship this spring, and third step is creating a visual for families on giving.

Confirmation Sunday: Set for April 12, 2026. Doug will order the cake.

Scholarship Applications: Pastor Tom will send a reminder to return scholarship applications as we approach deadline.

Request to use facility: Council voted against allowing the use of our kitchen and fellowship area for use of a fundraiser request. Andy motions to decline the request, second by Doug.

Communion Schedule: 4/2/2026 (Maundy Thursday): Lindsey 4/5/2026 (Easter Sunday): John 4/19/2026: Amanda

**Next Meeting:** Scheduled for April 19th, 2026, following Worship.

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

**Closing Prayer:** The council ended the meeting with The Lord's Prayer

**Respectfully submitted, Amanda Pribbenow**

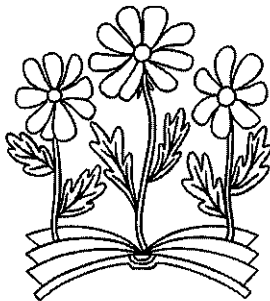


*The American Lutheran Caller*

*P.O. Box 132*

*Castlewood, SD 57223*

*Address Service Requested*



**Spend time with God this summer**

**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)**

**2026 Church Council Members**

Joann Fischer, President

Lindsey Vetter, Vice President

Mark Larson, Secretary

Doug Strait, Treasurer

Jesse Ruml

Dan Davis

Al Schochenmaier

Andy Smith

Amanda Pribbenow

John Bucher