



THE CALLER

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH CASTLEWOOD, SD

Volume 31, Issue 7, September/October 2026

"Caller" – September 2026

".....in the meantime....." – P.T.'s Practical Theology

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Hebrews

10:23-25

We are a people that are living "in the meantime"; that is, we are living between Jesus' promise of salvation through faith, and the fulfillment of that promise. Like the many generations over the last 2,000 years, we are "in the meantime". As we see our parents or our neighbors age, and go to their reward, we might not automatically think so much about "the Day" of reckoning for ourselves. Yet, the writer of the book of Hebrews, was also living "in the meantime". But, for him, he wrote to his people saying that "the Day was drawing near". Does such a word comfort you or trouble you?

If we see the day of reckoning as a comfort, that means that we are confident in the precious promise of Jesus that when we believe in Him, we shall never die (John 11:26). And because of that confidence we are to continue in the Christian disciplines as the writer of Hebrews instructs: *"hold fast the confession of our hope, stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, and encouraging one another."*

If on the other hand, the thought of the Day of reckoning drawing near troubles our spirits, then all the more we are to dig into those Christian disciplines that help build confidence in Christ together we His people, the church: *"hold fast the confession of our hope, stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, and encouraging one another."*

If that was the recipe for "living in the meantime" for the 1st Century, I fully believe that the same is still right and salutary for us today!

God Bless you "in the meantime"!!

In His Service,
Pastor Tom



Adult & Sr. High Youth Bible Study

"Love and Hate, Light and Darkness"

an 11 week study in 1st, 2nd & 3rd John

In this study we will seek to understand the themes and teachings from St. John's letters to the churches. This study will be offered at 9:30 am and also at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays as follows:

September 9	The Word of Life
September 16	Light and Darkness
September 30	Christs and Antichrists
October 7	Children of God, Children of the Devil
October 14	Love and Murder
October 21	Spirit of God, Spirit of the Antichrist
October 28	Love
November 4	Fear
November 11	Faith
November 18	Prayer
December 2	Specifics of 2 nd & 3 rd John



2-4-6-8

WHO DO WE
APPRECIATE?

PASTOR TOM!

Lord, thank you for Pastor Tom and other leaders you've placed among us. Please Lord give them strength and encouragement. Help us honor their calling and support them with love and prayer and thank you notes and books and treats (lefsa, krumkaka) and gift cards and candy and etc.

ALTAR GUILD

September: Kari Nolte & Janet Christenson

October: Dawn Wiersma & Rhonda Karst

November: Angie Larsson & Amanda Pribbenow

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

Sr. High/Adult Choir! Starting October 4th!

Practices on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month at 8:30 am and will usually provide the anthem in worship on the 3rd Sunday.

Karen Lund has graciously agreed to directing our choir again...for which we give her thanks, and unto God be the glory! Not a "professional" choir, but for those who love to sing and wish to be a blessing to our worship life. Come and join us as we sing to God a new song!





September 2026

Su M Tu W 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

1st	10:30 a.m. Roger Greenfield Funeral
2nd	6:00 p.m. Confirmation
6th	9:00 a.m. Worship Service—with Holy Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
7th	Labor Day
9th	7:00 a.m. Youth Breakfast (Wednesday in the Word) 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
11th	Patriot Day
13th	<i>Grandparents Day</i> 9:00 a.m. Worship Service—Rally Sunday 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
16th	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
20th	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 12:30—1:30p.m. Blessing Center Open
22nd	Autumnal Equinox
27th	9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
30th	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Bible Study





Dan Grupe	09-03
Kailyn Larson	09-04
Lindsey Vetter	09-04
Calonna Craig	09-04
Kylie Wittnebel	09-06
Logan Ronne	09-08
Debra Aderhold	09-10
Lance Craig	09-11
Kabren Jackson	09-15
Janell Bemis	09-17
Rick Ries	09-24
Vale Smith	09-24
Huxley Craig	09-24
Jeremiah Wiersma	09-26
Amanda Pribbenow	09-26
Kim Stevens	09-27



Katie Fischer	9-07
Kim Fischer	9-07
Melissa Prohl	9-10
Justin Ries	9-12
Craig Bass	9-15
Erin Ruesink	9-15
Michelle Ronne	9-17
Abbey Strait Leo	9-17
Paula Grupe	9-19
Marc Lewno	9-20
Casey Kenyon Jr	9-23
Heidi Lewno	9-25
Tara Nolte	9-27
Charlsy Laue	9-28



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

Pastor Tom

Christenson

605-956-0130

pastortlc@gmail.com



Estelline Nursing Home

Carrie Henrichsen

Geraldine Gantvoort

Duane Selchert

Castlewood Assisted Living

Lorene Tvedt

At Home

Barb Stevens



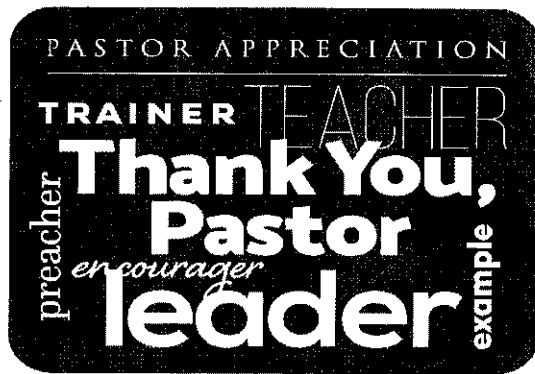
<i>John & Bonnie Top</i>	<i>September 2nd</i>
<i>Lars & Jodi Hanson</i>	<i>September 13th</i>
<i>Kyle & Julie (Fischer) Winberg</i>	<i>September 27</i>
<i>Dale & Sharon Hattendorf</i>	<i>September 29th</i>

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.

Remember there is 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

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



October 2026

Su 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

4th 8:30 a.m. 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

7th 7:00 a.m. "Wednesday in the Word" Youth Breakfast
 9:30 a.m. Bible Study at ALC
 6:00 p.m. Confirmation
 7:00 p.m. Bible Study at ALC

11th 8:30 a.m. Choir
 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
 10:00 a.m. Fellowship
 10:15 a.m. No Sunday School (3 day weekend)

12th 1:00—4:00 p.m. Girl Scout Event at ALC

14th 9:30 a.m. Bible Study at ALC
 6:00 p.m. Confirmation
 7:00 p.m. Bible Study at ALC

18th 8:30 a.m. Choir
 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

21st 9:30 a.m. Bible Study at ALC
 6:00 p.m. Confirmation
 7:00 p.m. Bible Study at ALC

25th 9:00 a.m. Reformation Worship Service
 10:00 a.m. Fellowship
 10:15 a.m. Sunday School

28th 9:30 a.m. Bible Study at ALC
 6:00 p.m. Confirmation
 7:00 p.m. Bible Study at ALC





Josh Aderhold	10-01
Kari Nolte	10-07
Cheyann Kenyon	10-07
Ryder Mack	10-09
Julie Hofwalt	10-10
Lincoln Pribbenow	10-10
Melissa Prohl	10-13
Madysen Ching	10-14
Andrew Bemis	10-15
Nora Severson	10-17
Diane Koosman	10-18
Wyatt Mack	10-20
Emma Lewno	10-21
Vadalia Smith	10-22
Joann Fischer	10-26
Taylor Hansen	10-30



Baptism

		Julie Winberg	10-21
		Michaela Davis	10-22
		Daniel Davis	10-23
Josh Aderhold	10-01	Huxley Craig	10-24
Mason Nielsen	10-01	Kari Nolte	10-25
Richard Ries	10-02	Jennifer Hansen	10-27
Travis Prohl	10-09	Skylar Ruesink	10-28
Lance Craig	10-11	Arron Ronne	10-30
Arianna Bemis	10-12	Jeremiah Wiersma	10-31
Kylie Wittnebel	10-16		



"One in the
Bond of Love"

Roy & Dawn Wiersma	10-3
Gareth & Sharla Hamen	10-8
Robert & Michelle Ronne	10-10
Richard & Neda Ries	10-15
Diane Koosma & Al Schochemaier	10/28

Attention American Lutheran Youth! "Wednesday in the Word!"

On Wednesday, September 9th we encourage our youth in grades 7-12 along with their friends to join us from 7:00-8:10 for a breakfast at American Lutheran. There will be a full breakfast, a special Devotional, guided meditation and prayers. Please bring a Bible and a friend! We will ensure that any Jr. High student who is dropped off to attend, will get a ride to the school!

Our deepest thanks to Brenda McKee Almos, for her many years of leadership with Sunday School and Luther League (Youth Group)!! In August she informed Pastor Tom that she would be stepping down from her leadership of these two ministries but will remain available to assist in ways that would be helpful. Once again, thanks to Brenda for her past leadership and service for the sake of the kingdom!

ONLINE GIVING

Our congregational website: americanlutheran-church.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.





YOUTH

As our kids have now returned to a new school year, we also resume Christian Education for all ages with Sunday School, Youth & Adult Studies.

Rally Sunday - September 13th

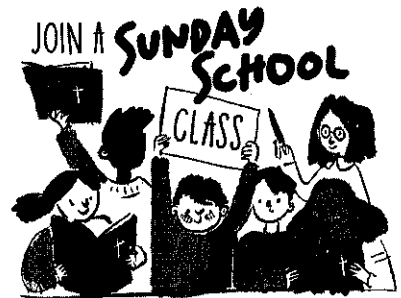
On Sunday, September 13th, American Lutheran will mark this new season with a special blessing upon students and their teachers. Sunday School is geared for 3 year olds through 6th grade. 7th-12th graders are encouraged to attend and assist in leadership. Those willing to help with roles of teaching, song-leadership or crafts are encouraged to contact Vicki Strait (520-0771) or Heidi Lewno (881-1938).

Acolytes

Sept. 6	Liyah Vetter
Sept. 13	Reese Rawsthorne
Sept. 20	Bostyn Ruml
Sept. 27	Collyns Ruml
Oct. 4	Londyn Pribbenow
Oct. 11	Reese Rawsthorne
Oct. 18	Collyns Ruml
Oct. 25	Vivian Jankord

Snack Families

Sept. 2	Smith
Sept. 9	Craig
Sept. 16	Rawsthorne
Sept. 30	Rawsthorne
Oct. 7	Pribbenow
Oct. 14	Jankord
Oct. 21	Jankord
Oct. 28	Pastor Tom



I bring to you, Jesus, the whole mix of emotions of my day and week. Thank you for taking me as I am.

Confirmation Ministry – Grades 7-9

Confirmation Classes began on Wednesday, August 26th at 6:00, with eleven 7th - 9th graders. This year we are doing an in-dept study of the Confirmation Promises as well as memory work from the Meanings to the Petitions of the Lord's Prayer as well as select Bible Verses.

Parents: if your son or daughter will not be in class for any reason, it is your responsibility to contact Pastor Tom **in advance** to arrange for the make-up material.

Students: BRING YOUR OWN BIBLE & WRITING UTENSIL!

*The Servants of our Lord*

	<i>Organists</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Technician</i>
September 6	Roxanne Bass	Danny Davis	Chuck Juntti
September 13	Marsha Kurtenbach	Kari Nolte & Carmen Jankord	
September 20	Roxanne Bass	Robert & Michelle Ronne	Doug Strait
September 27	Marsha Kurtenbach	Kevin & Amanda Pribbenow Family	Rod Fischer
October 4	Roxanne Bass	Travis & Sandra Everson family	Chuck Juntti
October 11	Marsha Kurtenbach	Ryder Mack & Brent Bass	
October 18	Roxanne Bass	Dustin & Danielle Foster family	Doug Strait
October 25	Marsha Kurtenbach	Janet Christenson & Carla Gerber	Rod Fischer

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



*May my offerings
 of praise and
 worship — as
 well as of money
 and time — be
 pleasing to you,
 Lord*

(see Malachi 3:4)

Our Faithfulness in Giving

	General	Building	Mission	*Children	*Blessing Ctr
July 5	\$3,116.00		\$206.00	\$6.00	\$25.00
July 12	\$1,123.00	\$5.00	\$128.00	\$3.00	
July 19	\$1,620.00		\$233.00	\$3.00	\$100.00
July 26	\$740.00	\$5.00	\$133.00	\$8.00	
August 2	\$3,515.00	\$5.00	\$194.00	\$4.00	\$25.00
August 9	\$1,025.00		\$153.00	\$3.00	
August 16	\$995.00		\$297.00	\$7.00	\$100.00
August 23	\$1,495.00	\$5.00	\$140.00		

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

“The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you.”

November 1
Daylight-Saving
Time Ends—Fall
Back!



**Church Council Meeting Minutes
American Lutheran Church
June 7th, 2026**

Members Present: Dan Davis, Lindsey Vetter, Al Schochenmaier, Doug Strait, John Bucher, Pastor Tom, 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 the meeting minutes from April 19th, 2026. Motion by Pastor with a second by Doug to approve the minutes as read. **MC**

Financial Report: Doug presented the May 2026 Financial Report. With the last Sunday of May being on the 31st, the offering deposit for May 31st is not included in this report.. Motion by Lindsey, with a second^a by Mark to approve the report. **MC**

Pastor's Report: Vacation Bible School was a success with 80+ attendees and 40+ teen/adult volunteers. Thank you to all for making this a success.

Pastor and Brenda will be traveling with 8 youth to Nashville, TN for the Summer Mission Trip from June 13th thru the 20th.

Old Business:

Stewardship: Doug Strait advised that stewardship/giving is up 12% year-to-date compared to last year. Our goal continues to be a 20% increase which is the level needed to reach breakeven, and Council will continue to monitor this.

The updated signatures for all bank accounts have now been completed.

The Parsonage tree trimming was completed. Thank you to Cut-Rate Tree Service and Tyler Jankord for assisting with this.

Communion Schedule: June 21st – Lindsey / July 5th – John B / July 19th – Mark Larson / August 2nd – Lindsey

New Business:

Pulpit Supply for June 14th, 2026, will be Dr. Dick Nicolai as Pastor Tom will be on the youth mission trip. Doug will meet Dr. Nicolai on the 14th prior to Worship. Pulpit Supply fee of \$225.00 will apply.

Pastors Neeraj & Pastor Nijjar from World Mission Prayer League will be with our Congregation on July 12th, 2026, as they travel across the USA. A motion by Pastor to present a check in the amount of \$2,000.00 to them as part of our mission work. A 2nd by Lindsey to approve. **MC.**

Next Meeting: Scheduled for August 9th, 2026, following Worship.

Adjournment: Motion by John, second by Mark to adjourn. **MC**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mark D. Larson

Mark Larson, Secretary

**American Lutheran Church Financial Report
June 2026**

General Account

Balance on hand 6-1-2026			\$	22,632.35
Receipts				
Offerings	\$	17,053.80		
Thrivent	\$	105.00	\$	17,158.80
Disbursements				
Thomas Christenson (Pastor Salary)	\$	4,905.50		
Thomas Christenson (Social Security)	\$	310.34		
Thomas Christenson (Housing Equity)	\$	200.00		
Thomas Christenson (Mileage - 96 Miles)	\$	69.60		
Matrix Trust Co (Retirement Contribution)	\$	500.55		
EBSO NALC (Health Insurance)	\$	2,581.00		
TRISTAR Benefit (Ancillary Benefits)	\$	1,197.42		
Janeil Bemis (Secretary - 13 hrs)	\$	192.08		
Dawn Mickey (Custodian - 15 hrs)	\$	214.71		
Roxanne Bass (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$	140.00		
Marsha Kurtenbach (Organist - 2 Svcs)	\$	140.00		
City of Castlewood (Ch: \$71.00, Pars: \$110.45)	\$	181.45		
ITC (Phone & Internet)	\$	124.33		
NorthWestern Energy (Ch: \$105.19, Pars: \$43.00)	\$	148.19		
Otter Tail Power (Ch: \$95.34, Pars: \$86.66)	\$	182.00		
North Star Mutual Insurance Company	\$	598.95		
NALC	\$	50.00		
Office Peeps (Office supplies & Copier)	\$	111.96		
Gideons (pulpit supply for 6/14/2026)	\$	225.00		
UPPS (post office box rent 12 months)	\$	68.00		
Concordia (weekly inserts)	\$	112.35	\$	(12,253.43)
Balance on hand 6-30-2026			\$	27,537.72

*** Thrivent Choice Balance \$ 3,443.49

Building Account

Balance on hand 6-1-2026			\$	26,941.67
Receipts				
Offerings for Building Fund	\$	10.00	\$	10.00
Disbursements				
Watertight (water heater for parsonage)	\$	1,200.67	\$	(1,200.67)
Balance on hand 6-30-2026			\$	25,751.00

Mission Account

Balance on hand 6-1-2026			\$	5,041.76
Receipts				
Offerings for Mission Fund	\$	803.00		
Children's Offering	\$	21.00		
Offerings for Blessing Center	\$	25.00	\$	849.00
Disbursements				
Global Health Ministries (childres offering April, May, June)	\$	94.64		
Castlewood Blessing Center (for June)	\$	25.00	\$	(119.64)
Balance on hand 6-30-2026			\$	5,771.12

Memorial Account

Balance on hand 6-1-2026			\$	4,369.36
Receipts	\$	-	\$	-
Disbursements	\$	-	\$	-
Balance on hand 6-30-2026			\$	4,369.36

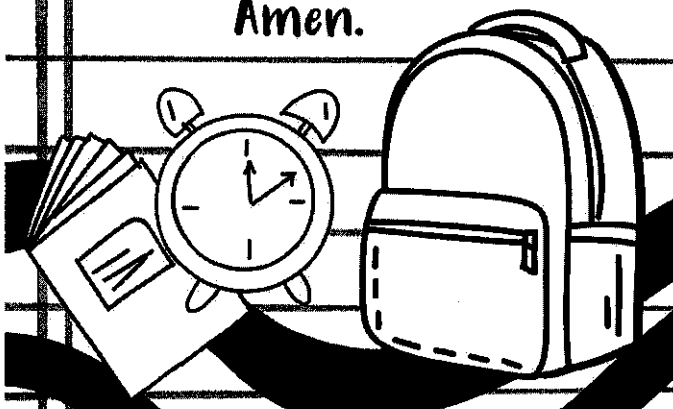
Account Summary

	Current Balance	Change June 2026	Change Year to Date
General Account	\$ 27,537.72	\$ 4,905.37	\$ (10,041.44)
Building Account	\$ 25,751.00	\$ (1,190.67)	\$ (2,783.65)
Mission Account	\$ 5,771.12	\$ 729.36	\$ 1,841.00
Memorial Account	\$ 4,369.36	\$ -	\$ -



Lord, bless this
backpack and the child
who carries it. Guide their
steps, guard their heart,
and help them shine
your light
wherever they go.

Amen.



A Prayer for Joy and Laughter

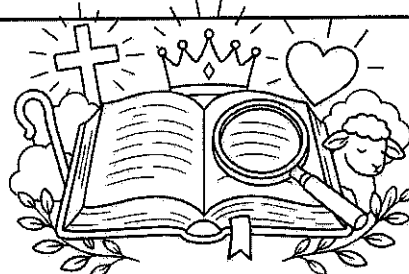
Give me a sense of humor, Lord,
Give me the wit to see a joke
To get some humor out of life,
And pass it on to other folk.
—Anonymous

Puzzle!



NAMES OF GOD

Every name of God tells us something about his power, love and care for his people. Use the Scripture clues to uncover just some of these special names.



F _____ (Matthew 6:9)

A _____ and O _____ (Revelation 1:8)

I A _____ (Exodus 3:14)

Y _____ (Exodus 6:2-3)

G _____ M _____ H _____ (Genesis 14:19)

G _____ A _____ (Genesis 17:1)

R _____ (Psalm 18:2)

J _____ (Psalm 75:7)

F _____ (Psalm 18:2)

H _____ O _____ (Isaiah 40:25)

Answer key: Father, Alpha and Omega, I AM, Yahweh, God Most High
God Almighty, Rock, Judge, Fortress, Holy One

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

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