



*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6*

I grew up in Corsica, South Dakota, a small town just southwest of Mitchell. From there it was just a few hours out to the Black Hills, which would often be our summer vacation destination. I love it out there with its beauty, its wildlife, its history, and all the fun sights to see – Mount Rushmore, Bear Country, Reptile Gardens, and Custer State Park, just to name a few.

One of the best ways to see the beauty of this area is to travel on the Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway. Now, if you were just trying to get through the Black Hills on your travels farther west, this would not be the recommended route. You would stay on the Interstate or one of the main highways that would be much straighter and the quickest way to get from Point A to Point B. Because, if you have been on the Scenic Byway you know it is full of pigtail bridges, single lane tunnels, twists, and turns that all disrupt the flow of traffic and cause you to slow down.

When I have been on that Byway as an adult in the recent years, you get a very different perspective. No longer just sitting back and enjoying the view of the trees, the rocks, and hopefully an elk or buffalo along the way. But now, I was now the one driving, paying attention to the road. Watching out for the twists and turns that come out of nowhere and making sure to stay clear of the edge of the cliff we were driving along. This road suddenly became a bit more frightening and caused some anxiety.

This road can sometimes be a perfect metaphor for our life. We think we are on the highway, the perfect path, going through life without much care or worry, and then suddenly something happens that makes us feel like we are on a Scenic Byway. Life throws a bunch of twists and turns at us, and we can no longer see the horizon or the ending, but are just caught up in the chaos of life. At times this can be beautiful and wonderful, while other times it can be completely terrifying, like we are hanging on the edge of a cliff.

We all experience these moments in life. Where it just seems like everything is out of our control and we cannot figure out what the future holds. Which brings me to the verses from Proverbs printed above that call for us to "trust in the Lord with all your heart."

God never promises a life without twists and turns, a life free from fear or worry or stress. However, God does promise to ALWAYS be with us. God promises to be with us as we go through this life, to help us navigate those tumultuous times and guide us back to a place where the path seem straight again.

If you are feeling a little lost or in a period of life surrounded by chaos, I encourage you to place your trust in the Lord. To find someone to pray with you and help you share your burdens with God. Knowing that God will be there to listen, to guide, to comfort you along the way. May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Pastor Justin**

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Pres: Ryan Gruba  
V. Pres: Sara VanMeter  
Secretary: Heather Zinter  
Treasurer: Emily Mueller

## PROPERTY/ MANAGEMENT

Ryan Gruba  
Dan Bohn  
Brett Storm

## YOUTH/EDUCATION

Jessica Schuchard  
Heather Zinter  
Holly Hilbrands

## FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP

David Bergan  
Sara Anderson  
Jacob Knoll

## WORSHIP/EVANGELISM

Laurie Strege  
Sara VanMeter  
Amanda Grabow

## **LISTEN TO THE SERVICE:**

### **On the RADIO**

LIVE at 9 am on KMSD  
(1510 AM / 95.1 FM)

### **FACEBOOK Live**

"LIVE at 9 am on Facebook"

### **ALC APP**

Worship Service Videos,  
Bulletins, Newsletter

### **www.americanlutheran.com**

Worship Service Videos  
& Bulletins

# AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS AND UPDATES

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JUNE 7 & JULY 12 COUNCIL MEETINGS

### **Property & Management Committee**

- Crane is coming to fix the steeple light.
- Working on hand rail plans for the front of the Sanctuary.
- The shed and new siding have arrived.
- Fixed a crack in the sprinkler system.
- Carpet cleaning scheduled for the sanctuary as part of an annual rotation.
- Some landscaping work has been done. A few evergreens needed to be removed.
- Waiting on a second quote to replace lights in the fellowship hall with LED.
- Mark Granquist will head up a committee to paint the fellowship hall this winter.
- Waiting on sound system replacement bid.
- Working on a capital expenditures plan for the next 5 years.

### **Worship & Evangelism Committee**

- Upcoming events: Golf Scramble – August 10; Bike ride/ice cream sundae bar this Fall; Potluck this Fall
- Working on membership engagement.
- St. Dymas prison visit went well. They plan to go again next spring.
- Looking for Church Directory Committee volunteers. Directory planned for 2024.

### **Finance & Stewardship**

- Continue drafting a gifting program.
- Reviewed recommendations of the Investment committee.

### **Youth and Education**

- Preschool board recommended the hiring of Mya Johanson as Preschool Assistant. She will replace the position previously held by Brittany Bray.
- VBS was a great success with approximately 70 children participating.
- Amy will get a sign-up sheet out for Sunday school teachers for fall.
- Backpack Blessing Sunday will be August 20.

### **Other Business (new & old)**

- Amy Bass, Education Coordinator, has submitted her resignation. She will help cover through the transition.
- Pastor Justin is working on fall scheduling as well as catching up on visitations.
- Pastor Cheryl from Grace Lutheran Church in Watertown is looking for support to help with Ukrainian refugees in the area.

**The next American Lutheran Church Council meeting is August 16 at 6:30.**

## Stewardship

Date	Attendance	Offering
6/11/23	140	\$ 3,600
6/18/23	91	\$ 2,155
6/25/23	110	\$ 5,057
7/02/23	85	\$ 2,774
7/09/23	114	\$ 3,025
7/16/23	102	\$ 3,324

**Online giving: \$ 7,162**

### **Our Vision Statement**

Christ welcomes all at American Lutheran.

### **Our Mission Statement**

The Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to be a welcoming community for all people growing in faith, love and service.

## American Lutheran Church Staff Contact Information

### PASTOR

**Justin Neugebauer**  
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Cell 605-228-8073

### PARISH ASSISTANT

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### ALC PRESCHOOL

**Sierra Daugaard—Teacher**  
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Assistant: Mya Johanson

### OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

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### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Amy Bass**  
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### CUSTODIAN

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### PARISH NURSE

**Diana Dirksen**  
dirksen@tnics.com  
605-432-6128 (leave message)



# Church on the Street—an ELCA Mission in Sioux Falls

Whether we are out on the streets, visiting with a congregation, or at a meeting of people who gather to discuss services that are already providing for the marginalized homeless community, the question we are asked most often is, “Why?” Why don’t you just invite everyone to church and call it good? This might work for some. But others need more. We introduce ourselves, listen to their entire life story, share kind words about how happy we are to have met them, and then invite them to join us in Ministry.

We don’t ask the unhoused to come to a worshipping community where they may not be able to read the bulletin or be uncomfortable about how long it has been since they have had a shower. We don’t ask them to put money into a basket because we know their pockets are light and they need the money they have to live. We don’t expect them to know when to stand, what to say when they “share the peace” or make small talk after worship. We expect none of these things. Church on the Street’s expectation is solely with the Holy Spirit. The work being done is The Holy Spirit surrounding us with compassion, acceptance, and understanding that whatever has or will happen, they are whole and loved by God, through us, his disciples.

Although we are a Church without walls, we are sturdy. Church on the Street moves to suit the needs of the people. After all, the people are the Church. As we are out on the streets sharing the Good News, we feel so much support from the Greater Church of the ELCA and local congregations who are asking why, spreading the word, and inviting their congregations to be a part of this powerful Ministry.

As Church on the Street is a Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community (SAWC) of the ELCA, we will continue to carry out Christ’s Great Commission by reaching out to ALL people to bring them to faith in Christ. Please, take a moment, say a prayer, answer your own WHY and then join us in this amazing Ministry!

## Come, meet Pastor Chris Matson, Lead Pastor at Church on the Street. Pastor Chris will serve as our Guest Pastor on Sunday, August 6.

Pastor Chris is passionate about sharing God's love with people from all walks of life. She relishes building community by hearing what God is up to in the lives of those she meets, sharing a word of prayer, and finding ways to meet needs with the abundant resources God provides.



Pastor Chris is an Ordained Pastor in the ELCA committed to working with ecumenical and interfaith partners, and a Mission Developer. And did you know? Pastor Chris’ mom has a home on Big Stone Lake.

**Pastor Chris Matson**

### Their Missions:

- Laundry with Love
- Undercover Closet
- Fruits of the Freezer
- Partners in Christ
- Health and Healing



**Harriet Monson**, Director Laundry with Love; **Luke Senst**, Director of Media Ministries; **Skylar Allen**, Director of Organization; **Becky Nelson**, Director of Music Ministries; **Mikala H.**, Lay Leader Assistant Music Ministries  
**Stacy W.** Lay Leader, Children’s Ministry; **Cindy D.**, Lay Leader; **Dra H.**, Lay Leader



**Church on the Street**



Dear South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

THANK YOU for sending your rostered leaders and voting members to the 2023 synod assembly. **Almost 400 people gathered under the theme of "Cultivate" with a focus on rural ministry.**

Our two keynote speakers, Rev. Mark Yackel-Juleen from Wartburg Seminary and Rev. Jon Anderson from Luther Seminary, shared hard facts and data as well as hope and future vision.

**Did you know that Region 3, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, are the largest region in the ELCA? Did you know that 75% of the members of the ELCA live in rural communities? And did you know that the average worship attendance across the ELCA is 50-75 people?**

When I travel and visit congregations across our synod I either hear directly or in between the lines that ministry can feel lonesome as a rostered leader as well as a congregation. I hope you heard at the synod assembly that you are not alone, but that you have partners that care and are standing by to accompany you.

Rev. Phil Hirsch was our churchwide representative at the Synod Assembly. While I give thanks for his report, what I want to share with you, that you do not know, is that you have left an impression on him.

Once the synod assembly concluded on Saturday, he took off with our Rural Ministry Liaison, Pastor Alan Blankenfeld, and Kathy McHenry from Lutheran Planned Generosity to experience rural South Dakota.

I know that he enjoyed his experience, both at the assembly as well as the tutoring from the synod, because he said so. It has sharpened his understanding of rural ministry and our place in the life and ministry of the ELCA.

Thank you, South Dakota Synod, for your hospitality, your welcome, and for your ministry. I pray for adequate moisture, farm and ranch safety, energy as you plan for fall ministry, and fun and growth during your summer ministry programming.

Please know that I am always happy to come and visit. Crystal McCormick at the synod office will be delighted to schedule a visit with you; just reach out to her via email [cmccormick@sdsynod.org](mailto:cmccormick@sdsynod.org) and she'll get us together.

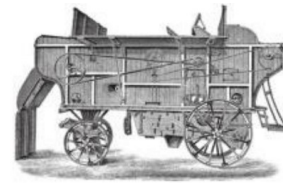
**Journeying in Christ with you,**

**Rev. Constanze Hagmaier  
Bishop of the SD Synod**



**BERGEN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
THRESHING BEE FOR RURAL MINISTRY  
Sunday, July 30, 2023**

North of Bristol, SD 6 miles on Co. Rd. 33/423 Ave.  
East 2 miles on Co. Rd. 10/134<sup>th</sup> St. (follow the signs)



**9:00 AM Old-Fashioned Church Service**

**10:00 AM Country Breakfast** (free-will donation) seating under the big tent - pancakes, eggs, sausage & drinks included  
**\*\*Sweet as Pie Auction** (during breakfast)

**10:00 AM - 3:30 PM Threshing & Antique Farming**  
Covered Wagon Rides, Horse-Drawn Plowing, Antique Hay Stacking, Corn Shredding, Threshing, Potato Picking, Bucket Raffle, Old-Fashioned Trading Post, Children's Activities, Norwegian Bake Sale, Two Crafty People Home Decor

**LIVE AUCTION at NOON**

45 RPM Jukebox -- 2-Night Guided Fishing Trip at Lynn Lake Lodge--Case Tractor Quilts & more!

Check out **Bergen Threshing Bee for Rural Ministry** on Facebook for additional details.

Luther League Root Beer Floats and Cotton Candy  
**CASH AND CHECKS PLEASE - NO CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED**

**ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT  
RURAL MINISTRY ACROSS THE  
SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD ELCA**

Call 605-237-0310 for more information.

Incredible Edibles Food Truck will be serving from 12 -3:30



# ALC Grown-Ups Golf Scramble

Thursday, August 10, at 5:30  
Whetstone Creek Golf Course

*Attendees are responsible for their own green fees.  
Dinner will be available off the menu at your own expense.  
Call the Church Office or Sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to attend.*



## Garden Share Table

There is a table in the entry area for you to drop off extra garden produce and flowers.  
Don't let them go to waste! Everyone is encouraged to pick up items they can use.



Join us Wednesday, July 26, at 7 pm  
for worship (with communion) around the campfire!

Meet on the patio outside of the Fellowship Hall.  
S'mores will be served following our time of worship!  
You may bring your own lawn chair.



Thank you to everyone that filled  
the Sunday Morning Volunteer  
spots this Summer!



Sign-up sheets to help with ushering,  
greeting, serving communion,  
serving as lector, or helping with  
coffee fellowship for fall will be on  
the Welcome Center in August.

## Sunday, July 30

Thank you for submitting names of favorite hymns this summer.  
Our "Hymn Story" series concludes on Sunday, July 30, with the children's hymns.  
Come, join us as we learn about and sing the following!

Praise Him, Praise Him, All You Little Children!  
Jesus Loves Me  
This Little Light of Mine  
This is the Day!  
Down in My Heart



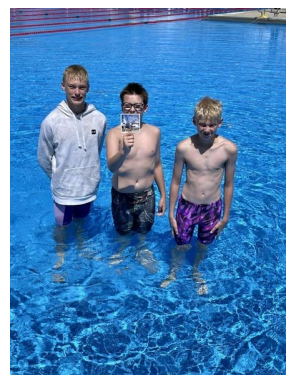
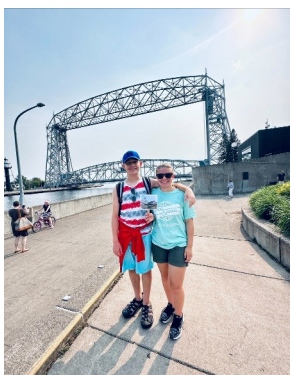
## Sweet-Mixers Baking Group

This group gets together to bake treats for the Sunday Morning Fellowship Hour.  
If you are in the group, or would like to learn more about it, they will be meeting  
following worship on Sunday, August 27, to organize and get ready for fall.



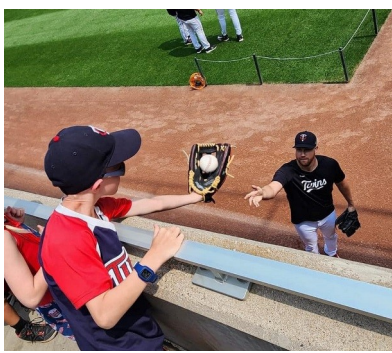


# Take-Out Church Boxes



Take Out Church Boxes for families heading out of town this summer are still available on a table in the entry area. Inside, you will find everything you need to have "Church on the Go" with your family - devotions, prayer activities, serving opportunities, plus some fun surprises! The pictures show some of the families that used the boxes the first part of this summer.

# Everyone had a great time! Minnesota Twin's Bus Trip June 17





The  
**CHOSEN**

Wednesday Mornings at 10 am  
In the Holy Word Theatre



Season 2



**THANK YOU TO Braydon Bauer and members of Milbank Troop 45** (chartered by American Lutheran and supported in part by Grant County Combined Appeal) for building a new fire pit for American Lutheran Church as part of Braydon's Eagle Scout goals.

To attain the Eagle rank, a Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges, fulfill leadership roles, display outdoor skills, demonstrate by example the Scout Oath and Law, and complete a comprehensive service project in the community.



June 4  
Kickball Fun  
& picnic on the  
Church Lawn



You are invited to an  
**OLD-FASHIONED PICNIC**  
 here at church  
**MONDAY, JULY 24, AT 11:30.**

All food provided.

Sponsored by the Parish Nurse Board.

Sign up at the Welcome Center or RSVP to  
 Diana Dirksen, Parish Nurse at 605-949-1403  
 to help plan for food.



## AED TRAINING

Automated External Defibrillator



### Would you know how to use an AED if needed?

AEDs are simple to use and require no experience.

If you are interested in learning how they work and  
 how to use one, sign up at the Welcome Center.

We will notify you when a demonstration is scheduled.

**American Lutheran has an AED in the  
 hallway close to the Coffee Bar.**

**Youth Group Kick-Off**  
**Wednesday, August 23**  
**6 pm in Fellowship Hall**



All 9-12<sup>th</sup> Grade students welcome.

Come for supper, devotions, and activities.



### Confirmation Orientation

**Wednesday, August 30**

5:15-6:00 **7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade** Confirmation  
 Orientation with Parents

6:00 **9<sup>th</sup> Grade** Confirmation  
 Orientation with Parents



## LWR SCHOOL KIT PROJECT

Imagine having to choose between a  
 meal or purchasing a notebook.

You are encouraged to purchase ANY  
 of the school supplies listed below.

Drop them off at church any time in August.

WELCA Peace Circle purchased book bags and assemble  
 and pack the supplies in September.

## Shopping List

- FOUR** 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose leaf paper
- ONE** 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ONE** pencil sharpener
- ONE** pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- FIVE** unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- FIVE** black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- ONE** box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ONE** 2 1/2" eraser

### Back to School Family Bike Ride

**Monday, August 14, 6:30 pm**

For all ages! Shorter trails for young families & seniors.  
 Join in afterwards for an "Ice Cream Sundae Bar".



I will give to the Lord  
*the thanks*  
 due to his righteousness,  
 and I will sing praise  
 to the name of the Lord,  
*the Most High.*

Psalm 7:17







# American Lutheran SUNDAY SCHOOL



Vacation bible school was held on June 14 and 15. We had about 70 kids in attendance between the two nights! The kids enjoyed supper, crafts, games, music and bible adventures each night. The theme helped the kids understand that we should care for each other the way that Jesus cares for us. Thank you to everyone that volunteered time to help teach, make food, clean up or help in any way make VBS a success! The time and supplies given are very much appreciated!

Watch for a sign-up at the Welcome Center to volunteer to teach Sunday School for the 2023-24 school year or talk to Amy Bass!



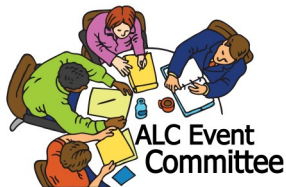
Save the date for back-to-school backpack blessing! Sunday, August 20th!

# AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12 Peace Circle	2 10 Bible Class	3	4	5 Fellowship Hall Booked
-----Pastor Justin on Vacation ----->						
6 9 Worship 10 Fellowship	7 7 Scouts	8 9 Quilting	9 10 Bible Class 6 Manna Praise Band Practice	10 9 Grown-Ups Golf Outing	11	12
-----Pastor Justin on Vacation ----->						
13 9 Worship 10 Fellowship 1-4 Preschool Open House	14 7 Scouts 6:30 Bike Ride	15	16 10 Bible Class 6:30 ALC Council (Milbank Public Schools Start)	17 2 Vespers Worship at St. Williams Worship	18 Wedding Rehearsal	19 Wedding Wollschlager/Berg
20 Blessing Sunday 9 Worship 10 Fellowship	21 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Preschool 7 Scouts	22 9 Quilting	23 10 Bible Class 6 High School Youth Group Kickoff	24	25	26
27 9 Worship 10 Fellowship 10 Sweet—Mixer's Meeting	28 7 Scouts	29	30 10 Bible Class  Confirmation Orientation 5:15 Grades 7/8 6:00 Grade 9	31		

## ALC Church Directory

We are looking for a group of people to help with different areas of planning and putting together a new church directory.



ALC Event Committee

We need a few more people on the ALC Event Committee. If you like to plan events and activities—for any age group—there is a spot here for you.

If you have questions on either of these groups, call the church office (605-432-5566) or Sara VanMeter (605-216-3135) for more information.

## Blessing Sunday (Prayer Shawl & Backpack Sunday) Sunday, August 20

We recognize and give thanks for the ALC Prayer Shawl Ministry.

