



AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

PARISH LIGHT

CHRIST WELCOMES ALL AT AMERICAN LUTHERAN

American Lutheran Church

401 Flynn Drive, Milbank, SD 57252

March 2023

It was recently brought to my attention that this year commemorates the 250th anniversary of the beloved hymn, “Amazing Grace.” The hymn was first sung at the New Year’s Day service in 1773 in the small town of Olney, in rural Buckinghamshire, England. It has become maybe the most well-known of all of our hymns and one many of us know by heart.

I love to learn about the stories behind the hymns and so because of this special anniversary year, decided to dig into the history of “Amazing Grace.” It was written by the Reverend John Newton who would write hymns to accompany his weekly sermons to help his flock understand the message he was preaching. (Thankfully, we have a whole hymnal of songs that I get to choose from to do this now and I do not have write my own hymns!!)

He wrote the words to this hymn, and originally titled it “Faith’s Review and Expectation.” It accompanied his study of 1 Chronicles 17:16-17 -

¹⁶Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and said, “Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? ¹⁷And even this was a small thing in your sight, O God; you have also spoken of your servant’s house for a great while to come. You regard me as someone of high rank, O Lord God!

As a young child, he was nurtured in the faith by a devoted mother. However, she died when he was about seven years old. He eventually ended up living a life on the high seas. First as part of the British Navy until he deserted and became a very successful slave trader. His early years filled with sinfulness, dangers, toils and snares. Then in 1748 at the age of 23, he was caught in a fierce storm off the coast of Ireland and fearing for his life cried out to a God he barely knew. He promised to devote his life to God’s service if his life was spared.

The ship and his life were spared that day and he began a slow spiritual journey that lead him to become a pastor in the Church of England. Now remembered as one of the most powerful evangelical preachers in British history.

The words to “Amazing Grace” speak powerfully of Newton’s own personal experience of grace – how God had seen him through the many dangers, toils and snares of his life, how he had been spiritually lost and was now found.

I am sure he never believed we would still be singing these words 250 years later. But those powerful words speak so deeply to each of our experiences of God’s grace. How God’s love reaches out to us at just the right moment, to rescue us, to comfort us, relieve us of our fears, and to remind us that we are never alone.

I encourage you to find a favorite recording of “Amazing Grace” or just sing out boldly yourself and commemorate this wonderful hymn and be reminded of God’s Amazing Grace in your life!

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

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS AND UPDATES

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FEBRUARY 8 COUNCIL MEETING

Property & Management Committee

- The Bottle-Filling Water Fountain has been installed.
- Quotes for a 12x16 utility shed were received. It was decided to table it at this time and come up with a fundraising plan.

Worship & Evangelism Committee

- Upcoming events include Roller Skating on February 26, St. Dymas Prison visit on March 9, and a bus trip to a Twins Game on June 17.

Finance & Stewardship Committee

- The 2022 Financial Audit was completed.

Youth & Education Committee

- Preschool is working on 2023-2024 enrollment. Most of the spots are filled.
- No Sunday School on March 19 as many families and teachers will be gone for Spring Break.

Other Business (new & old)

- Continued discussion on 2023 Council Goals with a focus on membership engagement, reviewing additional staffing, and developing and growing the youth program.

- Lent meals and activities were discussed. Each committee has been assigned a week and will plan the meal and find volunteers.
- Benevolence for Lenten Services will go to Lutheran World Relief and St. Dymas.
- The Pancake Breakfast in January brought in \$1,100 for camp scholarships.
- Holy Week Services were discussed. Palm Sunday will have a breakfast for fellowship by the confirmation families. There will be one Easter service with no Sunday School or Fellowship.
- The SD Synod Annual Meeting is June 2-3, 2023 in Sioux Falls. We will be looking for 3 voting members to attend for ALC.
- Discussion on Sub-Committee guidelines.
- Discussed changing the Strategic Planning Committee to a Mutual Ministry Committee to continue forward-thinking work for the church.

The next American Lutheran Council meeting will be March 8, 2023 at 7:15.

Thrivent Members Reminder

March 31 is the deadline to donate your 2022 Thrivent Choice Dollars.

We appreciate the dollars you choose to designate to American Lutheran Church and to American Lutheran Church Preschool!

Thank You!

Listen to the Worship Service:

On the RADIO

LIVE at 9 am on KMSD (1510AM/98.3FM)

FACEBOOK Live

“LIVE at 9 am on Facebook”

ALC APP

Worship Service Videos, Bulletins,
Newsletter

www.americanlutheran.com

Worship Service Videos & Bulletins

Stewardship *Time, Talent, Treasure*

Date	Attendance	Offering
2/05/23	177	\$ 4,568
2/12/23	193	\$ 5,153
2/19/23	175	\$ 3,203
2/26/23	207	\$ 3,719

Online giving: \$ 3,249

American Lutheran Church Staff Contact Information

PASTOR

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Cell 605-228-8073

PARISH ASSISTANT

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ALC PRESCHOOL

Sierra Daugaard—Teacher
preschool@americanlutheran.com
Assistant—Brittany Bray
Volunteer—Rebecca Welberg

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Gail Selgeby
alcoffice@itcmilbank.com
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Cell 605-467-3831

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

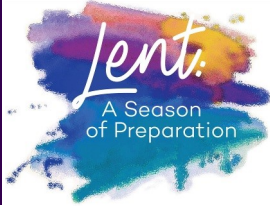
Amy Bass
Aw_35_star@hotmail.com

CUSTODIAN

Gary Christianson
Cell 605-924-0181

PARISH NURSE

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



We are turning, Lord, to hear you; you are merciful and kind — slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.

40 Day Bible Reading Plan

Read through the life of Jesus with daily readings from the Gospels of Mark and John.

The Bible Reading will be posted on the ALC Facebook page, each morning (Monday - Saturday) at 7:30 am.

Printed bookmarks giving the Reading Plan are also available for you to pick up at the Welcome Center.

Sacrificial Giving

One of the disciplines of Lent is Sacrificial Giving.

Offerings from this year’s Mid-Week Lenten Services go to **Lutheran World Relief & St. Dymas Prison Ministry.**

Thank you for your generosity that will support these two great Ministries sharing the Love of God in the world!

Worship Wednesday’s at 6:30

“A Life of Faith”

- March 01 - We are Fed March 22 - We are Saved
- March 08 - We are United March 29 - We are Sent
- March 15 - We are Taught



Activities are planned for the children every Wednesday evening in the Education Wing from **5:30-6:15.**

Amy Bass, Christian Education Coordinator, and helpers will meet you there.



Wednesday Evening Meals 5:15 - 6:15

If you are not called to provide food, you are invited to be there on your Wednesday to help with serving the meal or cleaning up afterwards.



Date	Team	Council Member Leads	Meal
3/01/2023	A-F	Jessica Schuchard, Heather Zinter, Holly Hilbrands and the Preschool Board Members	Tacos, Fruit & Desserts (<i>changed from original plan as the Feb 22 meal was cancelled</i>)
3/08/2023	G-L	Laurie Strege, Amanda Grabow, Sara VanMeter	Lasagna, Sides & Desserts
3/15/2023	M-Sc	Ryan Gruba, Dan Bohn, Brett Storm	Smoked Brisket Sandwiches, Sides & Desserts
3/22/2023	Se-Z	Dave Bergan, Sara Anderson, Jacob Knoll	Tacos, Sides & Desserts
3/29/2023		High School Youth	Soups, Sides & Desserts



THE CHOSEN
 Wednesday Mornings
 from 10-11 am in the
 ALC Holy Word Theatre

A charismatic fisherman drowning in debt. A troubled woman wrestling with real demons. A gifted publican ostracized by his family and his people. A religious leader struggling with his beliefs. In this ground-breaking first season of *The Chosen*, see how Jesus reaches each of these and more as He works His first miracles and embarks on His ministry to change the world. See Him through the eyes of those who met Him. *The Chosen* is the first multi-season television show about the life of Jesus Christ and His disciples.



March Birthdays



3/1 Brady Ericsson	3/11 Anne Lester	3/17 Mason Cordingley	3/23 Shaylee Schuchard
3/1 Becky Nodsle	3/11 Casside Seezs	3/17 Kevin Schuelke	3/24 Laura Foss
3/2 Cheryl Hermans	3/12 Lauren Leddy	3/17 Averie Strege	3/25 Willi Pauli
3/4 Morgan Dunnihoo	3/12 Caleb Nolz	3/18 Shirley Schultz	3/26 Matthew Grabow
3/4 Janet Granquist	3/12 Hannah Scriver	3/18 Jordan Tesch	3/26 Herbert Petersen
3/4 Stephanie Wenzl	3/12 Royce VanMeter	3/20 Liam Heller	3/26 Rhonda Thiele
3/6 Becky Lambrechts	3/12 Howie Zemlicka	3/20 Peggy Johnson	3/26 Heidi Wellnitz
3/7 Gloria Crist	3/14 Rebecca Barlund	3/20 Laverna Moldenhauer	3/27 Melissa Thompson
3/7 Travis Lester	3/14 Lainey Jones	3/22 Angie Grong	3/28 Nicole Rinehart
3/8 Barbara Anderson	3/15 Diane Grabow	3/22 Ryan Gruba	3/29 Collins Mikkelson
3/8 Arlene Schlueter	3/15 Emelia Gulck	3/22 Madilyn Lagred	3/29 William Mischel
3/9 Bryan Lambrechts	3/15 Tarah Thyne	3/23 Douglas Bork	3/29 Nancy Pauli
3/9 Jackson Wellnitz	3/15 Tiffany Wellnitz	3/23 Carolyn Giessinger	3/30 Sara Anderson
3/10 Nancy Hansen	3/16 Suzanne Nordquist	3/23 Brock Gomer	3/31 Lynn Maass
3/10 Daniel Thiele	3/16 Shane Zemlicka	3/23 Josh Schmeichel	3/31 Andrew Mears

Please let the Church Office know if there are corrections or additions to the birthday list.



Bible Study, Service, & Mission Opportunities Contact the Church Office for additional information about these groups.



Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10 am. Currently watching THE CHOSEN.

Thursday Morning Men's Breakfast Group

Thursdays at 8 am in the library. Great conversation plus they look at the upcoming Sunday's gospel lesson.

Piece Corps Quilters

The quilters create quilts that are given to Lutheran World Relief and local charities plus an infant quilt for every child baptized at ALC and every ALC HS Graduate. Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Peace Circle (WELCA)

Bible Study, Fellowship, and Community Service. Meets the first Tuesday of each month at NOON in the Library.

Page Turners Book Clubs

There are two book clubs. They each meet once a month. (2 pm or 5 pm) Books are provided for you. Contact Janelle Kelly jrenaek@hotmail.com for more information.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This group crochets or knits prayer shawls (on their own time) that are given to members that are in need of a special touch of love. Yarn is provided.

ALC High School Youth Group

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month

ALC 7-8th Grade Group

This group meets occasionally for events.

ALC Library

It's easy to check out books. No time limit. Two locations: a Book Cart in the entry area and the Church Library room.

Manna Praise Band

Usually practices one evening a week.

Note-A-Bells

A bell choir that practices most Wednesdays at 5:15.

Choir

No set schedule. They send out emails/texts when meeting.

Decorating Committee

This group changes the décor in the church to match the seasons and celebrations.

Event Committee

Plan and help with events throughout the year.

Altar Guild

This group takes care of the altar. They set up the altar for communion each week for worship. Teams sign up for one month each year.

Plant Care

Water and care for indoor plants on a weekly basis.

Boy Scouts

Meet on Monday Evenings

Sweet-Mixers Baking Group

This group meets once or twice a month to bake the treats for the Sunday Coffee Fellowship hours.

THE COMMUNITY OF
ST. DYSMAS
I was in Prison & You Came To Visit Me



Thursday March 9 - St. Dymas Visit

There are a number of men from ALC traveling to Sioux Falls on Thursday, March 9, to attend a worship service at the SD State Prison.

They have been invited to meet the St. Dymas Pastor at the Fryin' Pan Restaurant ahead of their visit. This will also give them an opportunity for an early supper.

For those planning to be at the supper, they should leave from the church at 2 pm instead of 3 pm.

We were notified the prison is in need of yarn for inmates to use. There is a basket in our entry area for donations. The Men's Group will take the yarn along on their visit.



**TROOP 45
NEWS**



February included celebrations of the **113th Anniversary of Scouting** and **78th Anniversary of Milbank's Troop 45**, chartered under American Lutheran Church.

They held their **Blue and Gold Ceremony** and saluted all of the splendid volunteers, both past and present, as well as the young men and women involved in scouts.



THANK YOU for supporting the Confirmation Youth with donations to the Grant County Food Pantry during their "Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive".

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday

Worship at 9:00 am
Palm Sunday Breakfast at 10:00 am
Easter Party for Sunday School

Thursday, April 6 – Maundy Thursday

Worship with First Communion Celebration – 6:30 pm

Friday, April 7 – Good Friday

Tenebrae Worship – 6:30 pm

Sunday, April 9 – Easter

Worship – 9:00 am
No Sunday School or Coffee Fellowship



**Everyone had fun
at the ALC
Roller Skating Party
on February 26**

Thank you to the ALC WELCA group, along with funds from the Lefse sales, for the purchase of the new Water Bottle filling station by the preschool.

And thank you to Ryan Gruba for installing the unit.





Easter Sign Painting Event

Sunday, March 19, at 2 pm

Registration & Pre-Pay by March 13

Sign-up at the Welcome Center

Contact Carolyn Giessinger or Rachel Kiley with any questions.

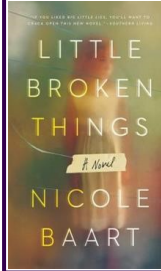
\$16 Round - \$35

Build-a-Bunny Kit for Kids - \$15



Page-Turner's Book Clubs in March

Books are provided. If you would like to attend, Janelle Kelly, Church Librarian, will get a book for you.



Monday, March 27, 2 pm

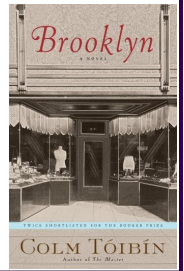
Group 1

Little Broken Things by N. Baart

Monday, March 27, 5 pm

Group 2

Brooklyn by C. Tolbin



Sunday, March 19 @ 5:00

ALC Holy Word Theatre

Pizza, Popcorn, Soda, Candy
Free Will Offering

Sign up at Welcome Center to help plan for numbers.

Open to all ages! Leave early morning, back late night.

SIGN UP!

American Lutheran is headed to see a Twins Vs. Detroit Tigers game on Saturday June 17th!

Right now we're looking only for INTEREST, not firm commitments! If your just thinking about, sign up at lobby kiosk. it will help determine cost for bus. May 1st we'll be asking for firm commitments.

LET'S PILE IN AND HEAD TO A TWINS GAME!

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Feb. 12 Appetizer Challenge 1st place award went to the Mark & Emily Mueller family!



Thinking about going to church camp this summer?

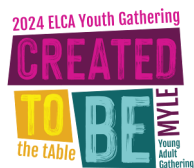
There are funds available for every ALC camper.

Contact the church office for information.

check out all the camps at www.losd.org

SUMMER 2023
WONDER
LUTHERANS OUTDOORS IN SOUTH DAKOTA





2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans

Informational Meeting on Wednesday, March 1, following the Lenten Service

Come and learn about the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans from July 16-20, 2024.

There will also be a Youth Adult Gathering for those ages 18-35 (with most programming geared towards those 18-25) that will happen alongside the Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

This was added to next year's Gathering because the 2021 Gathering was cancelled due to COVID and those young adults were never able to experience a Gathering.

Registration for both Gatherings will open in September!

If you have a student that is interested in the Gathering but cannot be at the meeting, please let Pastor Justin or Amy know and they will share the information with you.



First Communion Class Sunday, March 26 10:15-12:30

Third Grade Students will celebrate First Communion during the Maundy Thursday Worship service on April 6.

First Communion Instruction will take place on Sunday, March 26, beginning during the Sunday School hour and continuing until around 12:30. All Third Grade Students are invited to attend.

If you have an older student who has not received First Communion Instruction, they are welcome to join with this class. Please speak to Pastor Justin before this class so enough materials can be prepared.



Prairie Coteau Conference Assembly Sunday, March 5, 2:00 pm NeSoDak Bible Camp

Voting Delegates from American Lutheran Church are needed.

Please talk with Pastor Justin if you have questions or are interested in attending.



Worship Volunteers for April and May

Sign-up sheets are on the Welcome Center for April & May Sunday Worship Volunteers.

Please sign up if you can serve as a **lector, communion server, usher, greeter, or to help with Fellowship Hour.**

This will include the worship services for Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter.



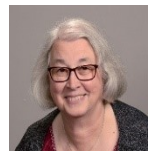
Would you like to sponsor a Radio Broadcast?

This could be in memory of someone, in thankfulness, in honor of someone, or whatever is meaningful to you.

There is a 3-ring binder in the entry area to register. The cost is \$125. (You do not need to pay right away when you sign up.) The funds help cover the cost of the radio plus the ongoing expenses for the equipment needed for the videos and broadcasts on Facebook.

Parish Nurse News

Diana Dirksen
Parish Nurse



2023 Walking Program Update

As of the first of March we will be in our 7th of 12 weeks of walking.

We have over 60 walkers this year and they are tallying over 1000 miles a week. We will soon be in Asia and then into Russia.

Blood Pressures

Blood pressures will be taken March 5 after worship.



Stonecroft Community Bible Study Inquiry to Determine Interest Attention all Ladies in Community:

A community group is looking to see if there would be an interest in Milbank to have **Women's Connection, (formerly Christian Women's Group)**, an affiliate of Stonecroft Ministries, to meet once a month on Tuesday afternoon for a time of fellowship together with ladies in our community.

Once a month meetings would feature a motivational & inspirational speaker, music, & a light dessert.

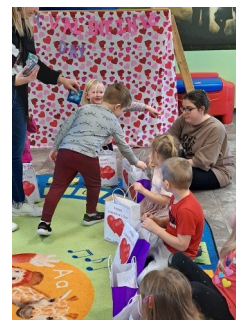
If this would be of any interest to you, please contact **Nancy Copeland at 605-432-9434**, or sign up at the Welcome Center, so they can begin the process of bringing Women's Connection to our community once again.

Further details will be given if interest is shown.



ALC Preschool

Preschool registration is open. We currently have openings in both the 3-year-old and 4-year-old class. Registration forms can be found on the bulletin board outside the preschool classroom or on the church website. If you have any questions about registration, please feel free to reach out.



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Morning Class: 8:00-11:00; Afternoon Class: 12:15-3:15; Email: alcps@itcmilbank.com



American Lutheran SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School kids put together Lenten Countdown calendar chains during Sunday School in February. They constructed chains with 46 links to account for every day during Lent leading up to Easter Sunday. Each link has an activity, instruction, or Bible



verse listed on it for the day. They also received a countdown wall calendar to keep track of their days. They all did a wonderful job putting them together! The older kids completed their chains first and had the opportunity to help the little ones with theirs.



There will not be Sunday school on March 19th during Spring Break! Mark your calendars!





2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p><i>Lent</i> IS A JOURNEY THAT MOVES US TOWARD THE CROSS.</p>			<p>1 10 Bible Study-The Chosen 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bell Practice 5:15 Meal 5:15 Children's Activities 6:30 Worship 7:15 2024 Youth Gathering Information Meeting 7:15 Manna Band Practice</p>	<p>2 8 Men's Group</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 9 Sweet-Mixer's Baking Group</p>
<p>5 9 Worship 10 Fellowship Hour 10 Sunday School 2 Prairie Coteau Conference at NeSoDak</p>	<p>6 12 Staff Meeting 7 Scouts</p>	<p>7 12 Peace Circle</p>	<p>8 10 Bible Study-The Chosen 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bell Practice 5:15 Meal 5:30 Children's Activities 6:30 Worship 7:15 ALC Council Mtg. 7:15 Manna Band Practice</p>	<p>9 8 Men's Group 2 St. Dymas Prison Worship</p>	<p>10 2 Vespers Worship at St. Williams Care Center</p>	<p>11 9-12 Boy Scout Eagle Ceremony</p>
<p>12 9 Worship 10 Fellowship Hour 10 Sunday School</p> <p><i>Daylight Savings Time begins</i></p>	<p>13 7 Scouts</p>	<p>14 9 Quilting</p>	<p>15 10 Bible Study-The Chosen 5:15 Meal 5:30 Children's Activities 6:30 Worship 7:15 Manna Band Practice</p>	<p>16 8 Men's Group</p> <p>←-----School is on Spring Break -----></p>	<p>17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p>-----Pastor Justin on Vacation -----</p>
<p>19 9 Worship 10 Fellowship Hour 10 NO Sunday School</p> <p>2 Easter Sign Painting Event 5 Grown-up's Movie</p> <p>-----></p>	<p>20 12 Staff Meeting 7 Scouts</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 10 Bible Study-The Chosen 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Meal 5:30 Children's Activities 6:30 Worship 7:15 Manna Band Practice</p>	<p>23 8 Men's Group</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 9 Worship 10 Fellowship Hour 10 Sunday School 10:15-12:30 First Communion Class</p>	<p>27 12 Staff Meeting 2 Book Club (Group 1) 5 Book Club (Group 2) 7 Scouts</p>	<p>28 9:00 Quilting</p>	<p>29 10 Bible Study-The Chosen 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bell Practice 5:15 Meal 5:30 Children's Activities 6:30 Worship 7:15 Manna Band Practice</p>	<p>30 8 Men's Group</p>	<p>31</p>	<p><i>Return to the Lord, your God</i></p>