



It is hard to believe I am writing for the NOVEMBER newsletter already – feels like I am still getting used to writing 2023 instead of 2022! The days, weeks, and months just seem to fly by faster and faster every year.

This month dedicated to Thanksgiving, is a great time to stop and take a breath. To reflect on what has happened in these first 10 months of the year. To see where God has shown up along the way. And then to give thanks to God for His presence and for His many blessings He pours out upon us.

We know in just few short weeks we will be swamped with the hustle and bustle of December, Advent, and Christmas. So I invite you this month to find a moment (or two or three!!) to rest, to reflect, and to give thanks!

As the Psalms tell us, “Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise, give thanks to Him and praise His name.” Psalm 100

As I reflect on the last 10 months in the life of American Lutheran Church, here are a few things I am thankful to God for in the life of our congregation.

- We filled 3 Open Staff positions in the church this year (Preschool Assistant, Youth and Education Director, Janitor). I see all the “Help Wanted” ads in the newspaper week after week and so I give thanks to God that we were able to fill these positions in a timely manner!
- We are averaging 170 people in Sunday morning worship through the end of October. This is an increase from 145 people during the same 10 months in 2022. It is such a blessing to see our members and visitors faithfully attending worship. We are Church together and we live that out through our worship together. Thank you to God for filling us with His grace and love each week when we gather for worship!
- We give thanks that we have maintained a good financial standing throughout this year. We are experiencing some rising expenses due to inflation just like you are in your home budgets. Because of that, we especially give thanks to you for your continued generosity and support that helps us maintain the ministry of this congregation.
- I want to personally thank the staff that I get to work with every day. Their dedication and faithfulness to God and to this congregation are truly a blessing.
- I also give thanks for the countless volunteers that give of their time and talents throughout the year. Whether that is ushering, serving Communion, reading the lessons, teaching Sunday School, baking, serving, delivering bulletins, watering plants, decorating, maintenance, or any numerous other jobs and activities. Our church could not function without you! **Thanks be to God for you!**

What are you thankful for during this Season – at church, at home, at work, and in your daily 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

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 OCTOBER XX COUNCIL MEETINGS

Property & Management Committee

- Cody Kelly will take care of sidewalk snow removal and Dewey's will clear the parking lots this winter.

Worship & Evangelism Committee

- Church Directory Committee update from Sheila Myrum. They continue to plan for a new directory next spring.

Finance & Stewardship

- Working on a brochure to put in the church pews for memorial gift options.

Youth and Education

- Preschool is going well. 2 new students were added to the roster. They are working on the soup fundraiser on November 12. And looking for silent auction items.
- Trista Mikkelsen's term on the preschool board ends in December. Nicole Rinehardt will take her place.
- Approved purchase of a camera to be used for both Preschool and Sunday school,

Other Business (new & old)

- Committees are working on a 2024 budget. They will have preliminary numbers together for discussion in November.
- Final approval of the proposed budget will be made at the December Council meeting.

- The Gold Plus Portico Benefit offering for Pastor Justin was approved.
- Attendance on Sundays is up compared to years past. Members have been stepping up to help with all aspects of the worship services.
- So far, we have 6 youth & 2 adults registered for the 2024 New Orleans Youth trip.
- Our Middle School and High School Youth have been invited to a lock-in at Central Church on Friday, November 17. This lock-in will start at Central and then move to American Lutheran for the overnight part. Volunteers will be needed.
- Parents are volunteering to help lead youth group nights. This is appreciated!
- The nominating committee for new council members will start gathering names.
- We are looking at purchasing an artificial Christmas Tree. The decorating Committee is authorized to shop for an appropriate tree for the size of the space.
- Diana Dirksen will be recognized at the November 19th Worship Service for her 20th year of being a Parish Nurse,

The next American Lutheran Church Council meeting is November xx at 6:30.

Stewardship

Date	Attendance	Offering
10/01/23	220	\$ 3,792
10/08/23	213	\$ 4,610
10/15/23	299	\$ 5,590
10/22/23	200	\$ 6,540
10/29/23	300	\$ 4,077

Online giving: \$ 4,573

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
alcpastor@itcmilbank.com
Office 605-432-5566
Cell 605-228-8073

PARISH ASSISTANT

Carol Kirchberg
Carol.Kirchberg@americanlutheran.com
Office 605-432-5566
Cell 605-949-2942

ALC PRESCHOOL

Sierra Daugaard—Teacher
preschool@americanlutheran.com
Assistant: Mya Johanson

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Gail Selgeby
alcoffice@itcmilbank.com
Office 605-432-5566
Cell 605-467-3831

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Rachel Kiley
milbank.alc.youth@gmail.com
605-210-0753

CUSTODIAN

Peggy Mueller

PARISH NURSE

Diana Dirksen
dirksen@tnics.com



ALL SAINTS' DAY November 5

On Sunday, November 5, we remember those saints whose Baptism Journey has just begun and those saints whose Baptism Journey is complete.

There will be a time during the service where you may light a candle in remembrance of saints in your life.

Preschool Sunday November 12

Please join the ALC Preschool students for their Annual Soup Fundraiser !

Our students will be sharing their talents during the service and then invite you to join them for a delicious soup lunch after worship!

We will have 3 kinds of soup, plus macaroni & cheese, hot dogs, breadsticks, and dessert!

All the proceeds (free-will offering) will go to support our wonderful preschool!

Plan on joining us for food and fellowship!

****There will also be a Silent Auction.**



Christ the King Sunday November 19

*Christ the King Sunday celebrates the end of the Church Year.
Join us for Worship at 9:00.*

*At 10:00 we have the Mission Bake Sale, Wellness Fair,
and a Celebration of 20 Years of Parish Nursing.*

*PLUS - you won't want to miss the
old-fashioned potluck at 11:00.*

Church Potluck @ 11

Suggested items by last name.
(This is only a guideline. If you have a favorite dish to bring, that is great.)

- Garlic Toast & Drinks provided
- A-G Salads/Sides/Appetizers
- H-P Hot dish
- Q-Z Desserts

*Potluck starts at 11:00
so families may eat with their
Sunday School Children.*



Annual WELCA Mission Bake Sale

Peace Circle (WELCA) hosts a Mission Bake Sale every November.

You are invited to participate by bringing baked goods and treats for them to sell. Drop your items off Saturday or first thing Sunday morning.

The proceeds from this sale are used for local, national and world missions.



Wellness Fair

Blood Pressures

AED Training

Planet Heart Information

Johnson & Bjordahl Clinics -

Dental Health

Dr. Scott Torness – foot health

Big Stone Therapies

Healthy Living



20TH Anniversary Parish Nurse Program American Lutheran



Diana Dirksen

We celebrate 20 years of Parish Nursing at American Lutheran Church on Nov. 19.

Diana will share some of the history, programs and board members from the past 20 years.

She will also be available to take blood pressures as part of the Wellness Fair.

We thank Diana for the many, many things she does each month to care for our members. She is a blessing to all!



Letha Huffman



Jake & Emma Anderson



Kendra Junso



Mary Toftness



John & Kathy Konstant



Harlan & Charlotte Plagge



Alexis Schubert (Ally)

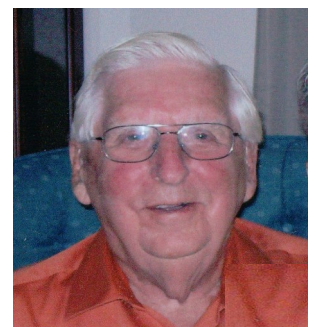


THANK YOU!

Thank you to Clayton Olson for his years of volunteering to build Baptism Boxes.

We have estimated that Clayton built over 130 Baptism Boxes to bless the youth and families of this congregation over the past 10 years or so.

Thank you Clayton for sharing your time and your talent with American Lutheran Church!



November Birthdays

11/1	Gracelynn Rinehart	11/8	Joey Christopherson	11/15	Heather Zinter	11/26	Eunice Hallet
11/1	Jordan Welberg	11/9	Kingston Frerichs	11/16	Anna Neugebauer	11/26	Jacob Thyne
11/2	Daejah Aho	11/9	Vanessa McFarland	11/16	Harlan Schlueter	11/26	Galen Zemlicka
11/2	Derrick Aho	11/9	Callie Myrum	11/16	Carole Walford	11/27	Abigail Barragan
11/2	Peyton Van Hoorn	11/10	Jim Davis	11/16	Kale Wenzl	11/27	Christopher Loutsch
11/3	Marilyn Theye	11/10	Charlie Johnson	11/18	Lance Hamman	11/28	Gene Boerger
11/4	Jada Leigh Wellnitz	11/11	Hudson Hicks	11/19	Sierra Daugaard	11/28	Evan Grong
11/5	David Bergan	11/11	Jeff Loutsch	11/19	Emily Mueller	11/28	Nathan Strege
11/5	Aspen Prisinger	11/11	Jordan Volkenant	11/19	Bennett Schwenn	11/29	Crosby Bass
11/6	Diane Hamman	11/13	Sophie Gruba	11/20	Amanda Grabow	11/29	Bernard Hermans
11/6	Jason Mischel	11/13	Harvey Schmeichel	11/21	Stephen Ash	11/29	Gus Johnson
11/7	Gunnar Anderson	11/14	Carol Kirchberg	11/23	Braden Femling	11/29	Korbynn Winston
11/7	Carson Myrum	11/14	Dean Smith	11/23	William Tesch	11/30	Brooklyn Bray
11/7	Jessica Rossow	11/15	Karla Kastrop	11/23	Dave Zinter	11/30	Carol Halverson
11/7	Tye Schaffer	11/15	Thomas Kasuske	11/24	Carol Whitlow	11/30	Brandon Hansen
11/7	Tammy Snell	11/15	Mackayla Schuelke	11/25	Donna Larson	11/30	Marlin Snell

Let the office know if there are any additions or corrections needed on the birthday list..



Confirmation

Thomas Bass
 Braxten Boerger
 Jeryn Bormann
 Parker Cordingley
 Macyn Dunnihoo
 Liam Heller
 Brander Hicks
 Macy Mueller
 Reese Schuneman
 Tayla Trapp
 Harley Zemlicka



*** Thank you to Amy Bass for taking the confirmation pictures this year.*

Pastoral Acts



Sarah Marie Steinlicht

Daughter of
 Nathaniel & Katelyn Steinlicht
 Baptized on October 15, 2023

Sponsors:
 Christopher Loutsch
 Nathan Loutsch
 Noah Steinlicht

ALC High School Youth News



The High School Youth group took over the Pumpkin Patch Oct. 4.



The students even voluntarily set down their cell phones to jump around. They also enjoyed time together on the hay ride.

Thank you to the Muellers for hosting us!



The youth will attend and help with a **Church on the Street** worship service and lunch in Sioux Falls Saturday, November 11.

They will also bring dessert for 200 people. The Baking Angels are providing this for them. (A BIG thank you to the baking group for the help!)

We do need extra people to go with.

If you are interested in helping—let Pastor Justin know.



A number of the youth, along with Rachel Kiley and Sierra Daugaard, set up and ran the ALC Booth at Treat Street on October 31.

Thank you to everyone that donated candy!

The regular High School Youth Group Meetings in November are Wednesday November 1 and 15.

Supper provided. Friends are always welcome!



Join in as we make **LEFSE**



November 7-10

If you haven't made lefse before - come and learn from the best.

Starting at 12:30 Tuesday - Peel Potatoes

Starting at 12:30 Wednesday - Mix up the dough

Starting at 09:00 Thursday - Roll & Fry

Starting at 09:00 Friday - Roll & Fry

- * You can come for a short time or stay through the session.
- * Thursday and Friday often goes into the afternoon. The lefse-makers like to potluck for lunch on these days.
- * Signing up is helpful in planning. Plus you will also receive any updates on times and progress.



CHURCH JANITOR

Thank you to Gary Christianson for his years of service as our Church Janitor. God's blessings to him and to his wife Rosie in their retirement.

We welcome Peggy Mueller as our new Janitor. We look forward to having her as part of our staff!

A NEW SHED

A new shed was added to the Church Property this summer. It will be used by the Property Committee to store supplies during the off season and other needed items for the Church.

A few thank you's to share for this project:

- Schmeichel families for the gift of the shed
- Danny Bohn, Ryan Gruba, and Willi Pauli for the work re-siding and painting and building a new door



Bible Study, Service, & Mission Opportunities



Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10 am in the church library room.

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 11:00 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

Usually meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month

ALC 7-8th Grade Youth 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

Angel Bakers Baking Group

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



Lightening basketball in October was a lot of fun. 5 families participated with multiple winners. The families also enjoyed ice cream on a hot October day after the tourney.



Avery VanOverbeke was presented the Eagle Scout Award on October 22.

Avery is a member of Troop 45 which is chartered by American Lutheran Church .

Congratulations Avery!

American Red Cross Blood



Thursday, November 16 at
Grant County 4-H Building
*(elf-red cross socks given to
donors as long as supplies last.)*



Register online at www.redcross.org
to donate blood.

ALC provides lunch for the Red Cross Workers.
Sign up at the welcome center to help.

If you are a first-time donor and have questions
contact Ruth Gulck at 605-880-7938 or
rgulck@gmail.com



November 26
@ 5:00
in the ALC Holy
Word Theatre
Pizza, Popcorn,
Soda, Candy
Free Will Offering



THANKS BE TO GOD!



City-Wide Middle School & High School Lock-In November 17-18

Central Church & American Lutheran Church
are joining together for a city-wide
Middle & High School Youth Lock-in.

The ALC Youth and Parents will be receiving all of the details.

Everyone can help out by providing food and supplies!

You are also invited to sign up to help on-site,
if you can, for whatever hours work best for you.

**Take a look at the sign-up sheet on the welcome center for details on
what is needed. Let Rachel Kiley know if you have any questions.**



BAKING ANGELS

The Baking Angels Baking Group

will meet at 9:00 Saturday, November 4
to bake treats for the November 5th coffee
fellowship hour plus 200 monster cookies for
the youth group to take to Sioux Falls for
Church on the Street.

They will also meet at 7:30 am Sunday
morning, November 26, to bake fresh Apple
and Cherry Crisp for the November 26th
Coffee Fellowship Hour.



Call to Freedom Presentation

This event was well attended by people
from throughout our community.

The information provided by Monica
Rilling of Call to Freedom in Sioux Falls
and Chief Cory Hooth from Milbank was
relevant and important.

Let Diana Dirksen, Parish Nurse, know if
you would like more information.



Pastor Justin recently
received a gift basket
and a poster that was
signed and decorated by
all of the Sunday School
children and teachers for
Pastor Appreciation Month.



ALC Preschool



Soup Fundraiser

We look forward to singing for you at the beginning of the church service on Sunday, November 12th. We invite everyone to join us after the service for soup and desserts.



We wish a Happy Thanksgiving to all!

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



American Lutheran SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School kids have been busy learning through Genesis. They have learned about the Creation Story, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and Noah's Ark. They have been doing reading, crafts, games and lock box that pertain to these stories.

The Goldfish servers will be passing out children's bulletins that correlate with the message for that Sunday. Please have students arrive early to pass them out. If a student turns in 7 partially complete bulletins they may go to treasure box.



The 3 year olds and 3rd graders received their Bibles. Pastor talked with 3rd graders about reading it. All the grades sang and learned about the Bible.



SAVE THE DATE
Christmas Program
December, 17th

The children have started to practice for the program. They auditioned and parts will be given out in November. It's important they attend as much as possible to practice parts. December 10th will be Christmas Rehearsal. More information to follow.



N·O·V·E·M·B·E·R

American Lutheran Church

2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 10 Bible Class 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bell Practice 6 Manna Praise Band 6 HS Youth Group	2 8 am Men's Group	3	4 9 Baking Angels Baking Group
5 All Saints Day 9 Worship 10 Sunday School 10 Coffee Fellowship	6 6 MHS Football Supper 7 Scouts	7 11 Peace Circle Milbank Ministerial Meeting	8 10 Bible Class 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bell Practice 6 Manna Praise Band 6:30 Church Council	9 8 am Men's Group 1:45 Vesper Worship at St. Williams	10	11 <i>Veterans Day</i> Church on the Street Trip
		<-----Lefse Making----->				
12 9 Worship 10 Sunday School 10 Preschool Soup Fundraiser	13 7 scouts	14 9 Quilting	15 10 Bible Class 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bell Practice 6 Manna Praise Band 6 HS Youth Group	16 8 am Men's Group Conference Pastors meet in Rosholt	17	18 <---Youth Group Lock-in--->
19 9 Worship 10 Sunday School 10 Wellness Fair 10 Mission Bake Sale 11 Potluck Worship at local care centers	21 7 Scouts	21	22	23 <i>Thanksgiving</i> 	24	25
26 1st Sunday of Advent 7:30am Baking Angels 9 Worship 10 Sunday School 10 Coffee Fellowship 5 Grown-ups Movie	27 7 Scouts 2 Book Club #1 5 Book Club #2	28 9 Quilting	29 10 Bible Class 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bell Practice 6 Manna Praise Band	30 8 am Men's Group		



Veterans Day 2023

THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE

Thank you for your service.



START CHILDREN OFF on the way they should go, and even when they are old THEY WILL NOT TURN FROM IT.

Proverbs 22:6, NIV



Looking ahead....

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year.

We are planning two Candlelight Services.

December 24, 2023

9 AM Sunday Morning
5 PM Sunday Afternoon.