



Here we are nearing the end of another Program Year in our congregation. It has been an incredible year of learning and growing in faith together.

Youth Programs

Many thanks goes to Rachel for her leadership and guidance of the Youth Programs and activities at our church.

Sunday School—We continue to see wonderful growth in our Sunday School program with over 120 students on our roster, which includes Preschool to 8th Grade. What a tremendous responsibility to walk along side parents and helping these students learn about God, the Bible, and lay that foundation for a life of faith. *The most important thank you goes to our volunteer teachers, leaders, and helpers. This program would not be possible without their dedication, faithfulness, and love of the children of our congregation.* If you see any of these volunteers this month, please make sure to show your appreciation to them!

Confirmation—There were 18 students (7th and 8th Grade) in Confirmation. It has been a joy to work through the Catechism with these students this year. We have spent the last few weeks of our year learning about other Christian Denominations and discussing how we live out our faith. Our year has also been broken up by a number of Service Project days. *Thank you to all the parents who provided snacks for the students each week.*

Youth Group—We gather every 1st and 3rd Wednesday evening with the High School Youth Group for supper, activities, and devotions. We have had around 5-15 students at each gathering. Seven youth will be travelling with Pastor Justin and Rachel to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 14-21. Please hold us in prayer as we prepare and attend this faith filled event. *We again thank the parents who sign up to provide supper for the students each time we meet.*

Adult Education

Men's Group—Around 8-10 men meet every Thursday morning for coffee, breakfast, and conversation. We also spend some time each week reading through the Gospel lesson that will be read on the upcoming Sunday morning. I enjoy hearing what parts of the lesson sparks their interests and the questions they have about the text.

Women's Bible Study—This group gathers on Wednesdays, now at 9:30 am. Our time is spent reading through a book together and sharing our thoughts about what we had read. Our group has grown this year to around 15 women and it has been inspirational to hear their faith stories and experiences.

Summer Programming

Even though our Program Year is coming to a close and we will pause many of these regularly scheduled activities over the Summer, there will still be plenty of activities around the church and opportunities to continue growing in your faith and staying connected with your Church Family.

Please see Rachel's pages for the Youth Activities that are already being planned for this Summer!

We will also be bringing back a couple unique Worship Opportunities this Summer.

Church to Go Boxes will be available again with brand new content. These work great for taking along on vacation or a weekend away at the lake or when traveling for children's sports activities. Look for these in the coming weeks in the Entry Way at Church.

Campfire Communion will also be held again on a few Wednesday evenings. Come enjoy worship and fellowship around the Campfire with your Church Family. The dates are still being finalized (please watch Facebook and the Summer newsletter for information).

Sunday Worship—throughout the Summer we will be diving into those familiar Sunday School stories that we may not have looked at for some time. What do Noah, Joseph, Moses, Jonah, Daniel and the others have to teach us still to this day? Is there more to be learned from their stories than we remember from when we first learned them?

Please don't take a Summer Vacation from your FAITH this Summer!

...Pastor Justin

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS AND UPDATES

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pres: Sara VanMeter
V. Pres: Sara Anderson
Secretary: Donita Magedanz
Treasurer: Emily Mueller

PROPERTY/ MANAGEMENT

Dan Bohn
Brett Storm
Kevin Schuelke

YOUTH/EDUCATION

Jessica Schuchard
Holly Hilbrands
Sheila Myrum

FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP

Sara Anderson
Jacob Knoll

WORSHIP/EVANGELISM

Laurie Strege
Sara VanMeter
Donita Magedanz

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE APRIL 10 COUNCIL MEETING

Property & Management Committee

- The leak near the skylight was evaluated. We are awaiting a formal estimate.
- We will order supplies to do a simple repair on the church sign for now.
- The church exterior will need to be re-sided within 3 years.
- April 28 work day project ideas discussed.

Youth & Education Committee

- An update on the May 5 High School Graduation Recognition was given.
- The preschool raised \$3,000 with the pizza fundraiser. Field trips are planned for Bramble Park Zoo and a tour of Milbank.
- Preschool fall enrollment update: 4's class is full. There is still an opening in the 3's class.
- VBS will be held evenings July 23-25 with a sports theme.
- The last day of Sunday School is May 12 with a sendoff party.
- Looking at starting a young adults bible study group.
- Discussed scholarships for Lutheran Camps. Forms to apply are available on the ALC Website.

Worship & Evangelism Committee

- 182 families are signed up for directory pictures as of this date. Others are submitting photos. Everything has gone smoothly.
- Approximately 70 have signed up for the Roller Skating Event.
- April 28 Work Day and Potluck planned.

Finance & Stewardship Committee

- Retirement package company did not accept our business as we are a member of the ELCA. We continue to look for a company that specializes in church-based needs.

Other Business (new & old)

- Shut-in communion was cancelled during covid. We hope to find volunteers to start this up again.
- Discussed feedback on Lenten Services.
- Inquiries asking for the use of church facilities in the summer were discussed.
- Staff reviews planned for this summer.
- Working on creating and printing Thank You Cards for the Council to use.
- Summer Worship options discussed.

The next council meeting
is May 8 at 6:30

Listen to Worship On the RADIO

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

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 |
|---------|------------|----------|
| 4/07/24 | 199 | \$ 7,136 |
| 4/14/24 | 192 | \$ 1,776 |
| 4/21/24 | 196 | \$ 5,532 |
| 4/28/24 | 179 | \$ 5,648 |

Online giving: \$ 5,250

Scan the
QR Code to
give on-line
and support
the ministry
of ALC.



SCAN ME

American Lutheran Church Staff Contact Information

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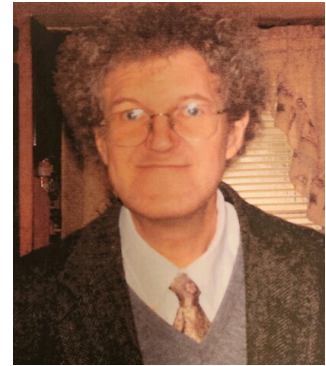
Diana Dirksen
dirksen@tnics.com
605-949-1403 (leave message)



Bennett Daniel Peiker
Baptized: April 14, 2024
Parents: Shane & Allison Peiker
Sponsors: Bailey Storm,
Sam & Megan Athey



Pastoral Acts



Michael Erdahl
Funeral April 15, 2024
July 21, 1955 - March 10, 2024



Hailey Zinter

Milbank High School Senior Recognition Sunday

There is a graduate display table in the entry area. You are invited to drop off cards or notes of encouragement for our graduates.

We will recognize our 2024 HS graduates on **Sunday, May 5** with prayers and blessings during worship with a reception during fellowship time.



Aryianna Butler



Matti Scott



Carter Boerger



Shaylee Schuchard

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11


May Birthdays


| | | | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|------|-------------------|------|--------------------|------|------------------|
| 5/1 | Kyle Pillatzke | 5/6 | McKenzie Johnson | 5/13 | Marion Mischel | 5/26 | Doris Bergan |
| 5/2 | Mary Bjordahl | 5/7 | Janine Folk | 5/13 | Carly Peterson | 5/26 | Steph Gruba |
| 5/2 | Cindy Bork | 5/7 | Morgan Kiley | 5/16 | Garrett Cook | 5/27 | Joan Johnson |
| 5/2 | Wendy Boerger | 5/7 | Alexa Fraasch | 5/16 | Laramie Steffensen | 5/27 | Bryan Appl |
| 5/2 | Adelyn Cordingley | 5/7 | Reese Schuneman | 5/17 | Amy Peterson | 5/27 | Hudson Mueller |
| 5/3 | Ryan VanMeter | 5/8 | Lee Huffman | 5/17 | Rochelle Welberg | 5/27 | Parker Sipe |
| 5/3 | Andrea Schuelke | 5/8 | Linda Schmeichel | 5/17 | Rhett Dunnihoo | 5/28 | Dustin Prisinger |
| 5/3 | Nicholas Mears | 5/8 | Janice Storm | 5/19 | Jesse Heller | 5/28 | Ashley Smith |
| 5/3 | Araya Andrews | 5/8 | Jennifer Waniorek | 5/22 | Elisabeth Schwenn | 5/28 | Jordan Dorneman |
| 5/3 | Owen Johnson, | 5/9 | Marjorie Schmidt | 5/22 | Kalli Grong | 5/28 | Amber Unzen |
| 5/4 | Terenn Winston | 5/11 | Jalen Bear | 5/23 | Archer Mathiason | 5/29 | Nancy Fosheim |
| 5/5 | Drew Dohman | 5/12 | Jeanne Krueger | 5/24 | Miranda Madsen | 5/29 | Amber Wellnitz |
| 5/5 | Katelyn Steinlicht | 5/12 | Jordan Hins | 5/24 | Logan Paysen | 5/31 | Isaac Johnson |
| 5/6 | Neil Thorson | 5/13 | Don Strege | 5/24 | Sophia Winston | | |

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.



Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study

Meets on Wednesdays at 9:30 am.

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 meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesday each month at 9.

Peace Circle (WELCA)

Bible Study, Fellowship, and Community Service. Meets first Tuesday of each month at 11 am in the Library.

Page Turners Book Clubs

There are two book clubs that meet once a month on a Monday. (2 pm or 5 pm) Books are provided for you.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This group crochets or knits prayer shawls (on their own time) to give to members 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 Group

This group meets occasionally for events.

Manna Praise Band

Usually practices one evening a week.

ALC Library

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

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.

Plant Care

Water and care for indoor plants on a weekly basis.

Boy Scouts

Meet on Monday Evenings

Baking Angels Baking Group

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

988 is your always-on, always listening lifeline for behavioral health support.

988

988 connects you directly to local professionals at the Helpline Center who are trained to assess your condition and provide help, even outside of a crisis. When you call 988, you talk to someone in South Dakota. You talk to someone who cares.

988 also provides prevention and crisis resources for loved ones. If you're concerned about someone in your life but don't know where to start, call 988.



Baking Angels

Thank you!

Thank you to all of the bakers for baking delicious treats for fellowship!!

We will be on Summer Break until Sunday School starts back up in the Fall!



American Lutheran Book Clubs

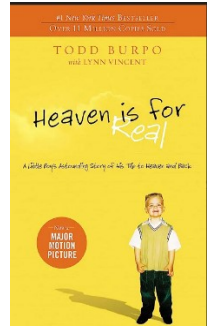
Print books are provided at no cost to you.

Contact Janelle Kelly if you have any questions.
jrenaek@hotmail.com

Book Club #1

Heaven is for Real by Todd Burpo

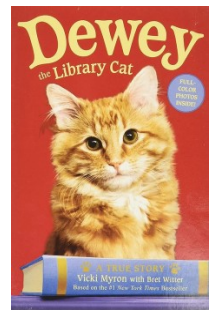
We will meet at church Tuesday, May 21, for a potluck starting at 12:30. The normal book club discussion will then start at 2 pm.



Book Club #2

Dewey, The Library Cat by Vicki Byron

We will meet on Thursday, May 23, at 5:05 at Pizza Ranch in the back room for book club discussion and food. If you would like to join by Zoom, let Janelle know.



*Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.
Psalm 31:24, niv*

"It Only Takes a Spark"

Luminaries for the June 14 Cancer Walk in Milbank will be sold Sunday mornings at the end of May and beginning of June.

If you are a member of a team, you are invited to be here to sell for your team.

The walk through the National Parks program has ended and we met our goal of 10,213 plus a few extra for hikes in the parks. We achieved 10,372 miles plus an additional 145 miles with some challenges during the 12 week period. We visited 36 National Parks in Midwest and Western US.

We had 56 participants and the miles per person ranged from a total of 32 to 901 miles. We plan on having a celebration May 7 at 2 pm at Parkview Methodist church. We hope to see all our participants there.

**Please contact me if you are interested in a visit.
My contact information is on page 2 of the newsletter.**



Diana Dirksen

Mother-Daughter-Sister- Friend Event

Thank you to everyone who worked on this event. The dessert tables and charcuterie boards were picture worthy and delicious. The decorations were extraordinary. The program was wonderful. The speaker was inspiring. So much fun plus good memories for everyone!



Project Day - "Rogation Sunday"



Fun at the Roller Rink Skating event!

Everyone had a great time - whether they were just learning to skate or showing off their roller skating skills.

Some hadn't skated for years!

It was even just plain fun to be there and to watch!



DIRECTORY UPDATE AND A DEADLINE

The deadline to submit your own pictures for the directory and pay \$15 is Sunday, May 19. **Money is ONLY due from those who are submitting their own pictures.**

POSTAGE DUE ISSUE

If you received anything "Postage Due" from the company, send the receipt to them OR bring it in and we will mail it to them. They apologize for the error and will be happy to send you a check to reimburse the amount.

YOU ARE NEEDED THIS SUMMER!

Can you greet, usher, lector, serve communion, or help with coffee fellowship on a Sunday morning? Sign up sheets are on the Welcome Center counter now for June, July, and August.

Towards the end of May, all of the OPEN spots will be filled in with remaining member names by the ALC Council Worship Committee.

Summer is a busy time. It is hard to plan ahead and weekend plans can change at the last minute.

If you sign up and then are unable to be here, it will not be a problem. Just call the church office and we will find a replacement for you.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Matt. 18:20



PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 19, 2024

When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:1-2

2024 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Registration for the 2024 SD Synod Assembly, which will be held on May 31 & June 1 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, is now open.

The theme this year is "Connect(ed)."

Let Pastor Justin know if you would be interested in attending.



Milbank Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, May 9
at American Lutheran Church

Call 1-800-733-2767 or go to RedCrossBlood.org and enter 57252 to schedule an appointment.

American Red Cross

TABLECLOTH PROJECT

Our tablecloth project is complete. Neat, organized and dust free. The storage units are on wheels. So easy to take from table to table.



MEMORIAL DAY MONDAY, MAY 27

On Memorial Day we remember all of the brave men and women who died in defense of our freedom.

The debt America owes them runs deep and never ends.

May God be with their loved ones today and every day.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13



Summer Youth Activities



Youth Movie Series for Grades 6-8 ('23-'24 year)

Drop off your child for a movie experience at ALC.

Movies will be shown in the ALC theater, with a short discussion after the movie.

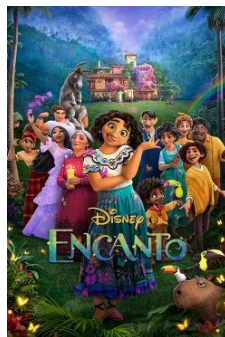
Popcorn provided. You MUST sign up at the Narthex.

The first movie is May 20.

Look for more movie opportunities during the summer. Days and times will vary.

Monday, May 20 at 4:00 pm Movie: Wall-E Rated: G

Discussion: Theme of caring for creation. Connect with story of God creating the world. Genesis 2:15 gives humankind the responsibility of caring for the planet.





UPCOMING DATES

Friday - May 17 @ 9:00

NEW Summer Times

Thursday - June 6th @ 9:00 AM

Thursday-June 20th @ 9:00 AM



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will be wrapping up for the summer. The 8th graders will be meeting with mentors over the summer. They will be working on their Bible Verse and Projects that will be displayed on Confirmation Sunday.

We will be needing mentors next year, please reach out to Pastor Justin or Rachel Kiley if you are interested.





The year of Sunday School will be soon coming to a close. We have been studying Old Testament stories throughout the year. The older kids have been discussing various themes. The last day of Sunday school will be May 12 with a Summer Send Off party. There will be fun activity stations for each younger grade. I know how busy summer can be with sports and activities. But it also can be a time to slow down and spend sometime with our Lord. These activities will help remind them of different ways to spend time with God this summer. I hope they continue to grow closer to God this summer!

Rachel Kiley , ALC Youth Director

Backpack Blessing on August 25 & Sunday School Rally Day on September 8



Thank you to all the Teachers who made Sunday School possible. Your time and talents were a blessing. It was a fun year! If you would like to help with the fun next year, please reach out to Rachel Kiley, ALC Youth Director



Hurray for our Sunday School Teachers!

Teachers:

- Music – Pam & Anna Neugebauer
- P - Amber Wellnitz / Alyssa Frogner
- K - Melissa Schuneman / Brittini Cordingley
- 1 - Kaitlin Knoll / Heidi Wellnitz
- 2 - Trista Mikkelson / Sierra Wenzl
- 3 - Jody Bear/ Dana Mathiason
- 4 - Sierra Daugaard
- 5 - Sheila Myrum / Heather Zinter
- 6 – Donita Magedanz / Kari Schmeichel
- 7/8 – Dani Hicks / Sara Johnson

Substitutes and Helpers:

- Noah Thompson
- Reese Schuneman
- Josh Schmeichel
- Mary Toftness



VBS SPORTS COACHES NEEDED

We will be in need of Sports coaches for **July 23-25 evenings**. VBS is sports themed. This is a great opportunity to involve those dads!

Help direct a sports station. There will be sign-up in narthex.

We also will be looking for VBS leaders to help with the kids as they transition to different stations. Come, be a part of the fun.

Please reach out to Rachel Kiley with any questions.





ALC Preschool



ALC PRESCHOOL PIZZA HUT FUNDRAISER
Thursday, May 9, 2024
20% sales goes back to American Lutheran Preschool!
This flyer must accompany order.



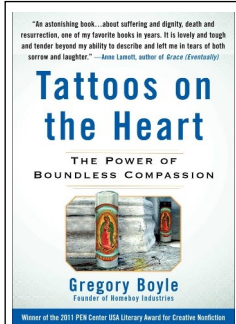
Morning Class: 8:00-11:00 Afternoon Class: 12:15-3:15 Email: alcps@itemilbank.com



MAY



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| | | | 1 9:30 Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bell Practice 6 HS Youth Group 6 Manna Praise Band | 2 8 Men's Group Preschool at Bramble Park Zoo. Evening: MHS Educational Foundation | 3 | 4 |
| 5 HS Senior Graduate Recognition Sunday 9 Worship 10 Fellowship Hour 10 Sunday School 6 Baccalaureate at the High School | 6 | 7 11 Peace Circle 2 Parish Nurse Walker's Celebration at Parkview | 8 9:30 Bible Study 6 Manna Praise Band 6:30 Council Mtg. Evening: Girl Scout's Court of Awards Ceremony | 9 Ascension Day 8 Men's Group 12-6 Red Cross 6 Preschool Graduation | 10 **A Graduation Reception | 11 **A Graduation Reception |
| 12 Mother's Day 9 Worship 10 Fellowship Hour 10 Sunday School **A Graduation Reception | 13 7 Scouts | 14 9 Quilting 10:30 Milbank Area Ministerial | 15 9:30 Bible Study 6 Manna Praise Band | 16 8 Men's Group | 17 9 Toddler Time w/Caretakers | 18 **A Graduation Reception |
| 19 Pentecost Sunday 9 Worship 10 Fellowship Hour | 20 7 Scouts 4 Youth Movie | 21 12:30 Book Club # 1- | 22 9:30 Bible Study | 23 8 Men's Group 5:05 Book Club #2 at Pizza Ranch 2 Vespers Worship at St. Williams | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9 Worship 10 Fellowship Hour | 27 <i>Memorial Day</i> Office Closed | 28 9 Quilting | 29 9:30 Bible Study | 30 | 31 | |



Tattoos on the Heart

The Power of Boundless Compassion

You are invited to our Wednesday Morning Bible Study.

We meet at 9:30 in the church library room.

Meals-On-Wheels

American Lutheran is in charge of providing drivers to deliver "Meals-on-Wheels" in June. There are 3 routes each day at 11:30 Monday-Friday.

If you are available to help, please sign up at the Welcome Center. You can sign up for one day or several days.

If you have any questions, call or email the Church Office. 605-432-5551 alcoffice@itcmilbank.com

