

A banner for the American Lutheran Church Parish Light. The background is a dark blue sky with silhouettes of rolling hills and two crosses on the right. The text is in white and black.

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

PARISH LIGHT

401 Flynn Drive, Milbank, SD 57252 March 2024

If you have been keeping up with the Daily Bible Reading Plan for Lent, you would have just read the following passage from Luke 5:29-32. ²⁹Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house; and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others sitting at the table with them. ³⁰The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” ³¹Jesus answered, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; ³²I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

This was the reading assigned for Tuesday, February 20. I have always loved this imagery and the response Jesus gives to the Pharisees. There are a number of lessons for us here in these few verses – lessons that speak of our mission and vision here at American Lutheran Church.

First, we find Jesus eating and drinking with tax collectors and others. And the Pharisees and their scribes, the religious leaders and decision makers of the time, did not like this one bit. This was out of line that Jesus would eat with these people or *those people*. They wanted to be the ones to decide who was welcome at the table and who was not. They wanted to control who could see Jesus and who could not.

Our vision statement says “Christ Welcomes All at American Lutheran Church.” Christ demonstrated that incredible welcome and hospitality, throughout His life. First, calling a group of outcasts, sinners, and down and out fisherman to be his disciples. Then, visiting and healing the sick and those possessed by demons. And in this story, sitting at a table with tax collectors and sinners. He was sent into this world for all people – for God so loved the world it says in John 3:16.

In Jesus’ response, He gives that image of a doctor, who comes for those who are sick. Jesus came to save the sinners. The Pharisees believed they could live righteously enough to earn their salvation. They could do enough good, sacrifice enough animals, do enough repentance to earn their good standing with God.

But Jesus reminds them (and us), that a Savior comes only for those who realize they need a Savior. A call for us to remember that we are all sinners. We all fall short and need that Savior in our life. At the end of this month, we get to take that walk through Holy Week once again. We get to hear of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross for our sake. We get to witness again Christ dying for us – to save us from our sin, to conquer death for us, to give us the gift of resurrection and eternal life.

Please join us for all of the Holy Week services to experience Christ’s incredible welcome for us and for all the world and receive the salvation and healing we need in our life.

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 FEBRUARY 11 COUNCIL MEETING

Property & Management Committee

- The painting of the Fellowship Hall and kitchen was completed
- Discussed having chip seal added to the parking lot to help with the icing problem.
- Furnace repairs were completed. Dedicated funds were used to pay for this.
- We will look at what is needed to add a church sign on Highway 12.

Worship & Evangelism Committee

- Update given on Church Picture Directory.
- Looking at a date for roller skating event.
- Rachel will organize the Donuts for Leap Day event on February 29
- Two Easter services are planned. 7 am and 9 am.
- Reported on New Member Sunday - planned for March 10.
- Working on a new time and talent survey to hand out at Church Directory appointments. An area will be added to inquire on areas of interest.

Finance & Stewardship Committee

- The proposed Employee Retirement Package was within our budget and approved.

Youth & Education Committee

- Pizza fundraiser for preschool planned for March
- Two preschool field trips are planned in May.
- The Camp Sunday Breakfast raised over \$1,000 for camp scholarships.
- High School Senior Recognition Sunday is planned for May 5.

Other Business (new & old)

- Various outings for the youth group were discussed.
- Discussed holding a Church Project and Work day on April 28 with a potluck dinner.
- Developed a project request form that will be available in the office.

**The next council meeting
 is March 13 at 7:15.**

Listen to the Worship Service:

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
2/04/23	210	\$ 2,966
2/11/23	194	\$ 9,007
2/18/23	236	\$ 3,730
2/25/23	173	\$ 3,266

Online giving: \$ 3,950

Date	Attendance	Offering
2/14/23	151	\$ 228
2/21/23	106	\$ 354
2/28/23	107	\$ 352

Thrivent Members—
THANK YOU for your support
 of ALC and the Preschool with
THRIVENT CHOICE!

**The deadline to assign
 2023 dollars is March 31.**

Go to Thrivent.com or
 call 800-847-4836 and say
 "Thrivent Choice" as prompted.

American Lutheran Church Staff Contact Information

PASTOR

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

PARISH ASSISTANT

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 Cell 605-949-2942

ALC PRESCHOOL

Sierra Dugaard—Teacher
 alcps@itcmilbank.com
 Assistant: Mya Johanson

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Gail Selgeby
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 Cell 605-467-3831

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

CUSTODIAN

Peggy Mueller
 peggymueller580@gmail.com

PARISH NURSE

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



First Communion
 Class will be
Sunday, March 24
 following the
 Palm Sunday Breakfast.

Letters were sent to all 3rd Grade Students.

If you have a 3rd grader who did not receive a letter, or an older student who has not yet had their First Communion, please reach out to Pastor Justin or the Church Office to enroll in the class.

Holy Week Schedule

PALM Sunday



Palm Sunday Worship at 9:00 am

- Sunday School children process with palms.
- “Cry of the Whole Congregation” reading of the Passion of Jesus Christ.
- Confirmation Youth serve breakfast at 10:00 am
- SS “Holy Week Walk Through” at 10:00 am

MAUNDY Thursday



Maundy Thursday Worship at 6:30 pm

- A Service of Holy Communion
- ALC Youth celebrate “1st Communion”
- The altar is stripped at the end of the service. We leave in silence.

GOOD Friday



Good Friday Tenebrae Worship at 6:30 pm

- Tenebrae Service - readings and candlelight reflecting on the 7 words Jesus spoke from the cross
- Worshipers leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the celebration of the coming Resurrection.

EASTER Sunday



Celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

- **7:00 am SONrise Worship with Communion**
 ALC Youth will help with parts of this service.
- **9:00 am Celebration Worship with Communion**



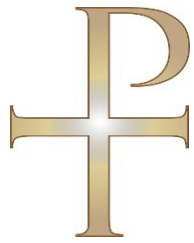
- 5:15-6:15** Supper
- 5:30-6:30** Kids Activities
 Game Room
 Craft Room
- 6:30-7:00** **Worship**



Wednesday, March 6, 5:15
 Served by ALC Youth
 BBQs, Hot Dogs, Sides, Desserts

Wednesday, March 13, 5:15
 Youth & Education Committee
 (Jessica Schuchard, Sheila Myrum
 Holly Hilbrands)
 Congregation: M-SC
 Hotdishes, French Bread,
 Fruit, Desserts

Wednesday, March 20, 5:15
 Property Committee
 Dan Bohn, Brett Storm,
 Kevin Schuelke
 Congregation: SE-Z
 BBQs, Chips, Sides, Desserts



Pastoral Acts



Herbert Fredrick Petersen
3/26/1931 — 2/14/2024
Funeral: February 19, 2024



Harlan Gordon Schlueter
11/16/1945 — 2/10/2024
Funeral: February 15, 2024



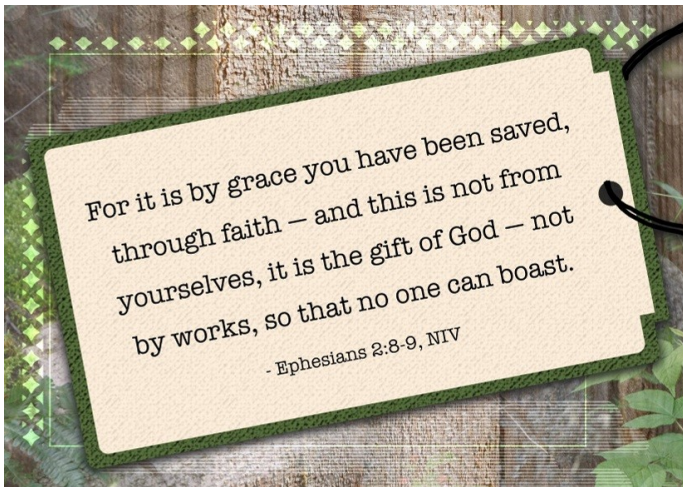
Jax Bryan Anderson
Baptized: February 4, 2024
Parents: Jake & Emma Anderson
Sponsors:
Clare & Riley Folk
Conner VanVooren &
Jocelyn Meyer



Jett James Jones
Baptized: February 18, 2024
Parents: Adam & Presley Jones
Sponsors:
Andy & Logan Buchele
Chase & Brandi O'Farrell
Morgan Jones



Shae Hayden Buchele
Baptized: February 18, 2024
Parents: Andy & Logan Buchele
Sponsors:
Adam & Presley Jones
Chase & Brandi O'Farrell
Jason & Nicole Van Winkle



Sign up at the
Welcome Center
to provide flowers
for the
Easter Service.



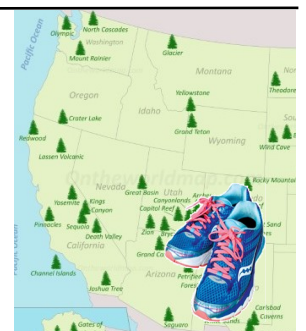
Diana Dirksen
Parish Nurse

Walking Program

We are going through National Parks in the midwest and western states. By the first of March, we should have about 4400 miles in and will have gone through SD, CO, NM, TX, AZ and Utah and then will be going into California, about 20 National Parks! So many beautiful places to see, I can understand why many make it a goal to visit all of them.

Blood Pressures will be taken March 10.

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





March Birthdays



3/1	Brady Ericsson	3/11	Casside Seezs	3/16	Shane Zemlicka	3/24	Laura Foss
3/1	Becky Nodsle	3/12	Lauren Leddy	3/17	Mason Cordingley	3/25	Willi Pauli
3/2	Cheryl Hermans	3/12	Caleb Nolz	3/17	Kevin Schuelke	3/26	Matthew Grabow
3/4	Morgan Dunnihoo	3/12	Hannah Sriver	3/17	Averie Strege	3/26	Herbert Petersen
3/4	Janet Granquist	3/12	Royce VanMeter	3/18	Shirley Schultz	3/26	Rhonda Thiele
3/4	Stephanie Wenzl	3/12	Howie Zemlicka	3/18	Jordan Tesch	3/26	Heidi Wellnitz
3/6	Becky Lambrechts	3/13	Douglas Sunne	3/20	Liam Heller	3/27	Melissa Thompson
3/7	Gloria Crist	3/14	Rebecca Barlund	3/20	Peggy Johnson	3/28	Nicole Rinehart
3/7	Travis Lester	3/14	Lainey Jones	3/20	Laverna Moldenhauer	3/29	Collins Mikkelson
3/8	Barbara Anderson	3/15	Diane Grabow	3/22	Angie Grong	3/29	William Mischel
3/8	Arlene Schlueter	3/15	Emelia Gulck	3/22	Ryan Gruba	3/29	Nancy Pauli
3/9	Bryan Lambrechts	3/15	Gianna Pauli	3/23	Douglas Bork	3/30	Sara Anderson
3/9	Jackson Wellnitz	3/15	Tarah Thyne	3/23	Carolyn Giessinger	3/31	Lynn Maass
3/10	Nancy Hansen	3/15	Tiffany Wellnitz	3/23	Brock Gomer	3/31	Andrew Mears
3/10	Daniel Thiele	3/16	Suzanne Nordquist	3/23	Josh Schmeichel		
3/11	Anne Lester	3/16	Harlan Plagge	3/23	Shaylee Schuchard		

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 10 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 the 4th 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

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

ALC Church Directory Photography

It's time for a new church directory. Sign up today!

Our 2024 church directory will not be complete without you.

Celebrating faith. Sharing hope.

Gathering families. Connecting generations.



Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at church on a Sunday, or simply go online and follow the instructions below.

Set your appointment with Universal today!

If we don't see your name on the appointment list, we will attempt to call you, to invite you to participate.

The session is free. You are not required to purchase anything.

Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a free 8x10 portrait PLUS a free directory.

Yes, you may provide your own picture to include in the directory.

The cost for this is \$15. But, you will receive a directory. Let us know if this is what you plan to do.

Universal provides a professional portrait studio right here. You will have a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options and have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

IN-PERSON scheduling is available at church, before and after worship, Sundays through 3/24.

ONLINE scheduling available Monday-Saturday. Go to www.ucdir.com

Click on the photography appointment scheduling login on the right side.

Appointment Times

Wednesday, April 3, 2:00-8:30

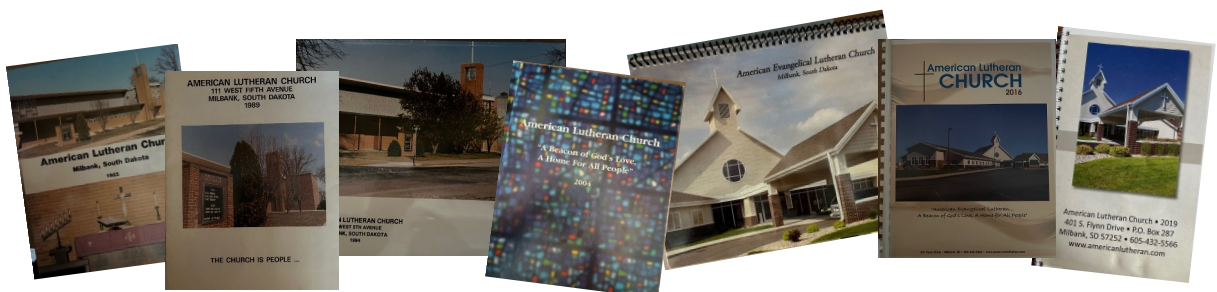
Thursday, April 4, 2:00-8:30

Friday, April 5, 2:00-8:30

Saturday, April 6, 10:00-4:00

- Enter your church code **sd128**
- Enter your church password **photos**
- Follow the prompts to schedule your appointment time.
- If you have six or more members in your group, please reserve two appointments consecutively.
- **Appointments fill up quicky, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.**

Questions? Visit with a Directory Committee Member: Sheila Myrum, Lavonne Fraasch, Lorrie Hardy, Peg Dohrer, or contact the church office. 605-432-5566 alcoffice@itcmilbank.com.





**He is not here; He has risen, just as He said!
Come, see the place where He lay.**

Matthew 28:6

A SONrise Service, with Communion,
was added for Easter Sunday this year.

The youth will be assisting
with parts of the service.

Join us in the Sanctuary at
7:00 AM

Easter Sunday, March 31



**“For where two or three are gathered in my name,
there am I among them.”** Matthew 18:20

Help is needed every month.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center now for **April and May.**

Usher, Lector, Serve Communion,
Greet, Help with Coffee Fellowship.

YOU ARE NEEDED!



Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you to everyone that donated items and money.

The Chiefs received 28 items and \$0.

The 49ers received 65 items and \$27.

An additional \$137 was given to “God’s Team”.

The confirmation students delivered everything to the
Grant County Food Pantry..

American Lutheran Preschool

Preschool registration is now open to the public. There are still a
couple of openings in the 3 and 4 year old classes.

Registration forms can be found on the
bulletin board outside of the preschool
classroom or on the church website.

If you have any questions about registra-
tion, please feel free to reach out to Sierra,
the Preschool Board of the Church Office.



**Skiers had good
snow for the
Andes Tower Hills
Ski Trip.**



**It was easy to
get up early to enjoy
“Donuts for Leap Day!”**





Grown-ups Movie Night

March 24 @ 5:00
ALC Holy Word Theatre
Pizza, Popcorn,
Soda, Candy
Free Will Offering
Sign up at
the Welcome Center

WELCA Spring Gathering
Saturday, April 20
Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer
in Watertown



COMMUNITY EVENT "Women's Connection", a nondenominational women's group

Tuesday, March 19, 2024
Central Church, Milbank, SD
in the church fellowship hall.

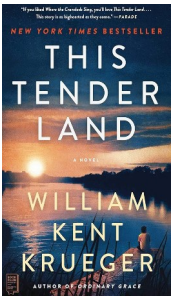
1:30 – 3:00 pm Tickets: \$5.00
A light dessert will be served.

- Speaker: Heidi Elder "Let's go on a Treasure Hunt -Discovering What Really Matters"
 - Special Feature: Heidi Elder "Essential Oils"
 - Music: Sherry DeBoer - piano
- If you are interested in attending and have questions, reach out to Peg Dohrer.

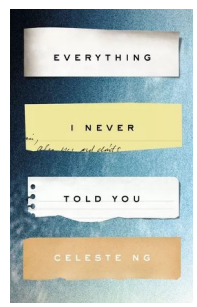
Book Clubs in March

Printed books are provided.
(You can also use an audible book).
If you would like to attend, Janelle Kelly,
Church Librarian, will get a book to you.
jrenaek@hotmail.com

This Tender Land
by William Kent Krueger
March 25, 2 pm
Church Library
Group #1



Everything I Never Told You
by Celeste Ng
March 25, 5 pm
Group #2



Church library, or if you would like to participate by Zoom, let Janelle know ahead of time.

THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Items recently added to the Church Library
(New books are placed under window on counter.)

**** 1-3 are an end-time trilogy (fiction)**

1. The Time of Jacob's Trouble - Van Liere
2. The Day of Ezekiel's Hope - Van Liere
3. Daniel's Final Hope - Van Liere
4. Esther's Anointing - Walters
5. Under Your Magnolias -Lowe
6. Twelve Ordinary men - MacArthur
7. Lineage of Grace: Women of the Bible - Rivers
8. The Prayer Box - Wingate
9. The Way: Walking in Jesus Footsteps - Hamilton
10. 31 Proverbs to Light Your Path - Higgs

**** 9-10 are former Bible Study books from**

our church's Bible Study groups. They will be on the shelf labeled:

Former BIBLE STUDY BOOKS

To check books out--- Sign your name on the card, from inside back of the book, and place the card in wicker basket on shelf.



PURSES WITH A PURPOSE

Save the Date!
Sunday, April 7

WELCA presents a
fun event for
"girls of all ages".



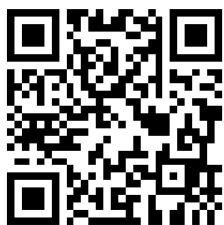
Save your used purses & miscellaneous
bags for this—they all have a purpose!



FEBRUARY

Toddler Time

Toddler Time is up and going! We have opened it to preschool age children as well! In January we had three kids and two grandparents. They had lot's of fun playing with the winter theme. In February, the group grew! We had 4 caretakers and 6 children playing. They made cards to share with someone special, played flower shop and so much more! This is a great time for the children to be introduced to the Sunday School wing, so they are less afraid for Sunday School. You are welcome to join us for the next Toddler Time with careTakers, TTT Time, on March 15 at 9:00 am. Sign up using the QR below or by talking with Rachel Kiley.



9:00am

Feb 23

MARCH

Toddler Time



Confirmands have been doing well this semester and finished up the Ten Commandments. They continue to meet with their mentors, and we are very thankful for those who volunteered to mentor American Lutheran Youth. They go through a lot of changes in middle school, and some difficult times and can use many people showing they care, in their lives. Remember to continue to pray for our youth. Youth traveled to the ICAP office and learned how they help our community. They also have been helping out with Lenten services, learning how to usher. I hope they continue to volunteer helping into adulthood. Besides Lenten worship you will also be seeing them serving breakfast on Palm Sunday. In March we will be studying Holy Week, and watching the *Passion of the Christ*.



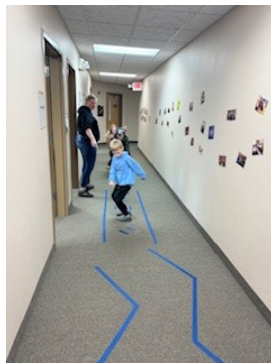
SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School has been studying Exodus. They ended Genesis with Joseph's story and enjoyed making their own colorful coats. We headed into Exodus, the kids are enjoying watching the Prince of Egypt. Then studying the story more in class. March 3rd they will be singing, while we read about the Ten Commandments in church, we will sing about letting God's people go. There is so much to Moses's story, so we are spending some time learning this story.

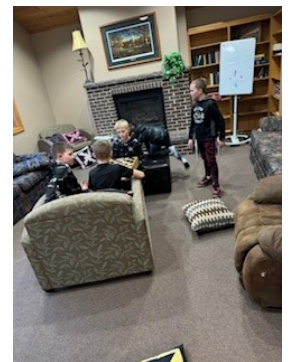
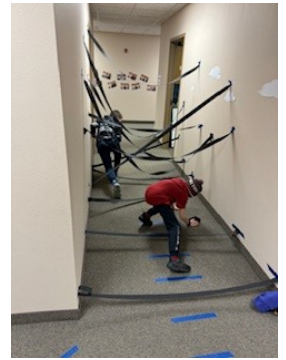
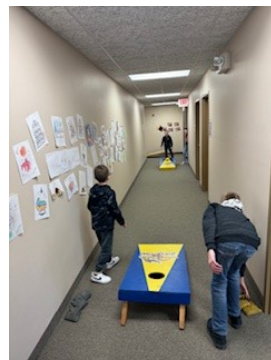
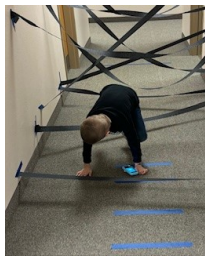
We also have been learning different ways to pray as a group. Whisper prayer and squeeze prayer are some new ones.



Kids Activities



We started Lenten activities 5:30-6:15 pm. The kids have been enjoying crafting in various ways, games, and physical activity. You are welcome to join us!





ALC Preschool



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





March

2024

He is risen, indeed!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Ski Trip	2 9 Baking Group
3 Worship 10 Fellowship Hour 10 Sunday School	4 7 Scouts	5 11 Peace Circle 6 Manna Praise Band	6 10 Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bell Practice 5:15 Meal 5:30 Children's activities 6:30 Worship	7 8 Men's Group	8	9
10 9 Worship 10 Fellowship Hour 10 Sunday School 2 Eagle Scout Ceremony	11 7 Scouts	12 9 Quilting 10:30 Milbank Area Ministerial 6 Manna Praise Band	13 10 Bible Study 5:15 Bell Practice 5:15 Meal 5:30 Children's activities 6:30 Worship 7:15 Council Mtg.	14 8 Men's Group 2 Vespers Worship at St. Williams Care Center	15 9:00 Toddler Time	16
17 9 Worship 10 Fellowship Hour 10 Sunday School	18 7 Scouts	19 6 Manna Praise Band	20 10 Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bell Practice 5:15 Meal 5:30 Children's activities 6:30 Worship	21 8 Men's Group	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 9 Worship 10 Breakfast 10 Sunday School 11 1 st Comm. Class 5 Grown-up's Movie Night	25 2 Book Club #1 5 Book Club #2 7 Scouts	26 9 Quilting 6 Manna Praise Band	27 10 Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bell Practice	28 Maundy Thursday 8 Men's Group 6:30 Worship	29 Good Friday 6:30 Worship	30
31 Easter 7 Worship 9 Worship						