



Joann Volkenant shared the following story/devotion with me this past month. It was so powerful, that I shared it at our last council meeting as our closing devotion. They also were moved by it, which led me to wanting to share it with the whole congregation.

I think the message is especially appropriate this time of year. As I write this, we just finished up our last Wednesday Lenten evening filled with supper, activities for the kids, and worship. We are looking ahead to the busy days of Holy Week in the church. Every once in a while, with all that activity, the thoughts of the wear and tear on our church, the mess the kids might be making as they are running around between supper and worship, or the mud being dragged in along with the snow can creep into our minds. We might get tempted to get grumpy or worried about the state of the church or the carpet.

May this devotion help give you a different perspective if those thoughts ever tempt your mind.

*After everyone had left the church this morning, I noticed one of our dads stayed behind. "Do you need some help?" I asked him as I walked up behind him. "Oh no, Father. I just saw how dirty the floor was in the church after Masses, so I thought I'd sweep." He was going under every chair and kneeler carefully. I saw a huge pile of dirt at the end of the row that he had collected. As I looked around, he had collected several enormous piles of dirt and grass already. "It's amazing how dirty the floor gets in one weekend. Our volunteers cleaned on Friday. Look how much you have already swept!" I said. "You know, Father, I think this is wonderful. As I'm sweeping under each chair, I'm thanking God that someone was sitting in it this weekend. All the dirt I see is because someone came to church today. I love seeing how dirty this floor is." "You're right," I said. "If we wanted a clean church, we wouldn't let people inside. I hope everyone thinks the way you do. When a house is messy, it's because people live inside it. When the dishes need to be washed, it's because people ate together." "Father, sweeping this floor today makes me excited to go home and see my wife. I can't wait to tell her that I'm happy even when our house is a little messy. It means someone lives there. My wife and my kids and me are there. I'd rather us be together than have a perfectly clean house with no one inside," he replied. "And that's how I think Jesus feels about the Church. He'd rather us be here and get it a little messy than have it sparkling and empty." "Thanks, Father. I'm going to keep sweeping and praying for each person who came through this weekend." As I walked away, I smiled and said a prayer of thanksgiving. Thank you, Lord, for the dirt on your floor.*

I too am thankful for the dirt on our floor, for the dumpster overflowing with trash, for the mint jar that seems to always need refilling, for a church full of faithful worshippers, and for the wonderful noise of joyful children!

- 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

- Recommendation to replace siding and trim on the current church sign including letter and rail replacement was approved at an approximate cost of \$1,000. We are investigating the cost of a permanent digital sign for inside the sign structure.
- Grant County Highway Department will order and install a highway sign for us on Hwy 12. It will say American Lutheran Church with an arrow.
- Shelving was installed in the storage shed.
- One of the sky lights is leaking. This is being looked at.
- Working on a list of projects for the April 28 work day

### Youth & Education Committee

- Pizza Fundraiser ended on March 19.
- Preschool field trips are being finalized
- Preschool year-end program and graduation being planned.
- Confirmation class will serve Palm Sunday breakfast.
- Vacation Bible School is set for July 29 - August 1. It will have a sports theme.
- Considering a VBS option for 5-7<sup>th</sup> grades.

- HS Senior Recognition is set for May 5. Invitations will be sent. Underclassmen help with this event.

### Worship & Evangelism Committee

- Upcoming event: Roller Skating on April 13. Thrivent Choice funds have been set to help with cost.
- Annual clean-up day is April 28. A potluck will follow.

### Finance & Stewardship Committee

- Working with bankers on the 2023 audit.
- Reviewed the three 4038B9 employee retirement plans designed for religious organizations. A 2% match was approved in December. A plan with Servant Solutions was approved.

### Other Business (new & old)

- Approved \$1,000 Thrivent Choice dollars to be used towards the new ovens bill.
- New member Sunday was March 10. We have more requests for membership. We will have another day later in the year.
- Discussed an inquiry to add Venmo as another online giving option

The next council meeting  
 is April 10 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](http://www.americanlutheran.com)  
 Worship Service  
 Videos & Bulletins

## *Stewardship* Time, Talent, Treasure

Date	Attendance	Offering
3/03/24	229	\$ 2,856
3/10/24	220	\$ 5,948
3/17/24	290	\$ 4,702
3/24/24	153	\$ 3,528
3/31/24	465	\$ 7,526

## Lent Services

Date	Attendance	Offering
3/06/24	113	\$ 410
3/13/24	105	\$ 354
3/20/24	110	\$ 494
3/28/24	246	\$ 809
3/29/24	87	

Online giving: \$ 4,640

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

### OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Gail Selgeby  
 alcoffice@itcmilbank.com  
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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)

# Welcome to ALC. We are so glad are here!

New members were welcomed on March 10.



Patricia Loge



Marjorie Schmidt



Justin & Brigette Downes



Dan & Robin Snaza



Linda Thyberg



Carole Anderson



RuthAnn & Jerry Settje



Eunice Hallett



Lillian Jastrzebski



Julie Landmark



Karen Fee



Dan & Tammy Mikkelson

## WELCA Spring Gathering - Come and See, Follow Me

*John 1:43 Finding Philip, Jesus said to him, "Follow Me!"*

*John 1:46 Speaking to his friend, Nathaniel, Philip said, "Come and See!"*

Saturday, April 20

Registration 9:00 am-9:30 am

Cost: \$15.00

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer in Watertown





# Pastoral Acts

**Quinn Kay Pulscher**  
Baptized: March 10, 2024  
Parents:  
Hunter & Katie Pulscher  
Sponsors:  
Ted & Kathleen Holscher



## SAVE THE DATE!

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

Watch for a table near the end of April with envelopes to share cards and congratulations with this year's graduates.

The 2024 graduates are Carter Boerger, Aryianna Butler, Shaylee Schuchard, Matti Scott, and Hailey Zinter

### Congratulations to the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who celebrated First Communion on March 28

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Elsie Anderson  | Molly Magedanz    |
| Paxten Anderson | Vivian Mathiason  |
| Crosby Bass     | Lily Pillatzke    |
| Jalen Bear      | Cameron Prisinger |
| Morgan Dunning  | Averie Strege     |
| Judd Farrell    | Ryver Trapp       |
| Hudson Hicks    | Royce Van Meter   |
| Oscar Folk      | Clete Wellnitz    |
| Liam Koepke     | Priya Zemlicka    |

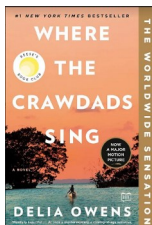


### Book Club

Printed books are provided. No cost.

**The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek** by Kim Richardson

April 29, 2 pm Church Library



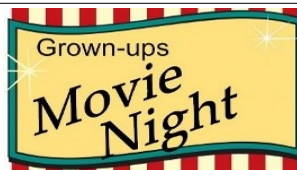
**Where the Crawdads Sing** by Della Owens

April 29, 5 pm

Church library, or if you would like to participate by Zoom, let Janelle know. [jrenaek@hotmail.com](mailto:jrenaek@hotmail.com)



### Baking the Bread for Maundy Thursday



**April 14 @ 5:00**  
**ALC Holy Word Theatre**  
Pizza, Popcorn,  
Soda, Candy  
Free Will Offering  
Sign up - Welcome Center

**Blood Pressures will be taken April 7 after worship.**

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

Walking program update: April 7 is our last day of the walking program. We averaged a little over 800 miles a week and will get close to 10,000 miles in.



**Diana Dirksen**  
Parish Nurse



## April Birthdays



4/1	Preston Barragan	4/9	Mackenzie Foss	4/17	Shirley Tucholke	4/26	Isaac Nolz
4/1	Lavonne Fraasch	4/10	Debra Homan	4/18	Kimberly Bjerke	4/26	Mark St. Martin
4/2	Liam Koepke	4/10	Brianna Kirchberg	4/18	Wade Ericsson	4/27	Debbie Johnson
4/2	Kay Thompson	4/10	Drake Wellnitz	4/18	Katie Fraasch	4/27	Valerie Mears
4/3	Kenzey Anderson	4/11	Craig Barlund	4/18	Dennis Nordquist	4/27	Jeremy Steffensen
4/3	Dennis Mears	4/11	Larry Thompson	4/19	Debra Appl	4/28	Keith Grabow
4/3	Lizzie Prisinger	4/12	Mike Thronson	4/19	William Gruba	4/28	Barbara Prisinger
4/4	Amy Bass	4/14	Brigette Downes	4/19	Ryan Mielitz	4/29	Kinslee Frerichs
4/4	Michelle Wellnitz	4/14	Justin Kohn	4/20	Hans Sacrison	4/29	Dar Prisinger
4/5	Karen Fee	4/15	Fischer Hawley	4/20	Michael Smith	4/29	Miriam Schwenn
4/5	Brittnee Frerichs	4/15	Holland Knoll	4/20	Sara VanMeter	4/30	Braxten Boerger
4/5	Tanner Kohn	4/15	Sara Koepke	4/21	Katie Pulscher	4/30	Saylor Jones
4/5	Darby Waniorek	4/15	Renee Neuharth	4/24	Mark Mueller	4/30	Quinn Mielitz
4/6	Brandon Sipe	4/16	Dillen Sheeley	4/25	Carter Boerger		
4/7	LaRon Unzen	4/16	Darien Waniorek	4/25	Stephanie Gruba		
4/8	Joel Foster	4/17	Parker Cordingley	4/25	Sheila Myrum		

*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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month

#### **ALC 7-8<sup>th</sup> 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

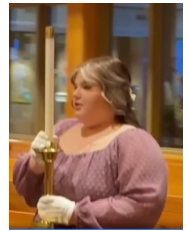
#### **Baking Angels Baking Group**

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 Roller Skating Party  
Saturday, April 13 4-8 pm  
Sioux Historic in Ortonville**

**FUN for All ages! All are Welcome!**

Free-will offering to cover skating & pizza.  
Concessions will be open to purchase pop, juice, snacks, etc.  
Sign up at the Welcome Center.



**All Offerings from the Evening Lent Services**

\$2,067 will be passed on to  
Grant County ICAP, St. Dymas Prison Ministry, & Church on the Street

**Free-Will Offerings from the Wednesday Evening Lent Suppers**

- 2/14 Served by Preschool Board for **Preschool** - \$350
- 2/21 Served by Worship/Evangelism Committee and A-F for **Calan Gengler Family** - \$525
- 2/28 Served by Finance Committee and G-L for **Preschool** - \$345
- 3/6 Served by Youth Group for **Youth Group** - \$442
- 3/13 Served by Youth and Education Committee and M-Sc for **Bible Camp Scholarships** - \$313
- 3/20 Served by Property Committee and Se-Z for **New Ovens in Kitchen** - \$392

## Would you like to learn more about Piece Corps quilting?

Quilting is a great way to share your time and talents, meet new friends, and provide a fabric hug for those in need. The quilters meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 9 am in the fellowship hall. Special talent is not required, if you can tie a knot, you can help tie a quilt. Stop by and see what they do.

Armed with needles, scissors, fabric, and thread, this amazing group continues to blanket the world with compassion, warmth, and love, one quilt at a time.



## Piece Corps Quilters



The Piece Corps Quilters thank you, our very generous congregation, for your continued support in our mission of creating quilts for Lutheran World Relief, Sleep in Heavenly Peace Beds, and our ALC baptisms and HS seniors. We are so blessed and humbled to have a congregation that joins us in the important mission to serve and help others. Your donations of fabric, bed sheets, money and Thrivent cards are so greatly appreciated.

Remember us when doing your spring cleaning—we gladly accept gently used sheets and spare yardages of fabric. Also, thanks for keeping us in your prayers as we use our hands to do God's work. God Bless each of you.

**Thank you!! Thank you!!**

## Join us for Rogation Sunday on April 28

Rogation (from the Latin word "rogare" which means "to ask") Sunday is a Christian tradition that celebrates our connectedness to the soil, to the seeds that are planted, and to those that tend the soil.

It is a time to remember that we serve alongside God in the care of God's creation and the creating of what is needed by humankind to thrive on the earth.

During the service we will ask for God's blessings upon the water, the seeds, the soil, and the laborers of the fields and gardens.

You are invited to bring some seeds and/or soil of your own to be included in the blessing.



# Summer camp

### REMINDER

If you have a child signed up for Bible Camp,

the church offers \$300 per camper to help support those going to camp.

There is a Bible Camp Assistance Request form on the Church Website.

The form is also available in the Church Office.



JESUS DECLARED,  
*"I am the bread of life.*  
 WHOEVER COMES  
 TO ME WILL NEVER  
 GO HUNGRY." *John 6:35*

# Mother-Daughter-Sister-Friend Event

## Purses & Bags with a Purpose

Sunday, April 7, at 3:00

Reserve your chair today: Call 605-432-5566  
or sign up at the Welcome Center.

**A fun event for all ages!**

Charcuterie Boards Buffet (desserts & appetizers)

Program:

Vicar Pat Schubert

(Pat is a former teacher and always a lot of fun!)

**Backpack Skit and the History of Purses**

Entertainment for the young ones with Sierra.

A Take & Trade Purse Table

Bring along your plastic grocery bags, old purses, backpacks or small travel bags, as donations for Orphan Grain Train, Area Foster Families & the Grant County Thrift Store.

Free-Will Offering



Clean-up Projects  
Service Projects  
Inside Activity  
Outside Activity  
FUN for the kids!

## Work & Fun Day April 28

Work & Fun Projects  
for all  
ages & abilities

Potluck Lunch

### POTLUCK LUNCH

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

- A-G Salads/Sides/  
Appetizers
- H-P Hot Dish
- Q-Z Desserts



spring  
work day

May  
Volunteers

Please sign up at the Welcome Center now to help with Sunday Worship in May.  
Usher, Lector, Serve Communion, Greet, Help with Coffee Fellowship

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



## Confirmation & Youth News

HS Youth Group meets the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month.

All are invited. Bring a friend!

Rachel Kiley, Youth Director



### Seder Meal

Confirmation watched the movie *Passion of the Christ* in March.

They also celebrated a Seder meal. A Seder Meal is a meal similar to what Jesus was celebrating on the Passover with his 12 disciples.

It was quite an experience for the youth.

What a great way to learn and use your taste, touch, and smell.

Ask Pastor Justin or the Confirmands to learn more about it!



The Youth Group gathered to help serve others at a Lenten Meal. The money collected at the meal will help ALC youth groups in the future. Thank you for supporting them at this meal.

We had 4 high school youth help in the activity area during the Lenten meals!

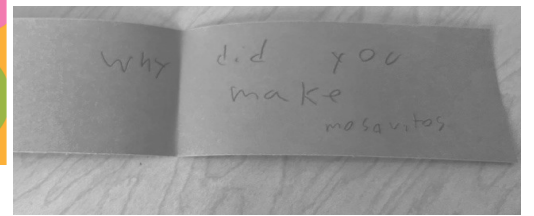
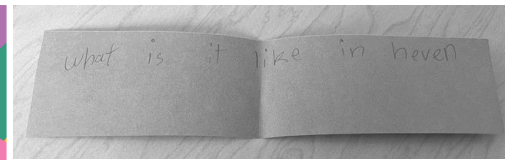
We are very thankful for their time.

A little basketball was part of the children's activities on a Wednesday Lenten Night.





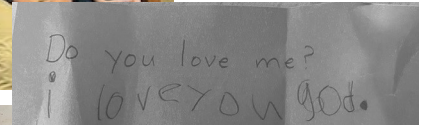
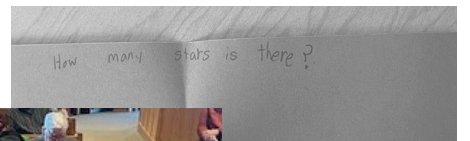
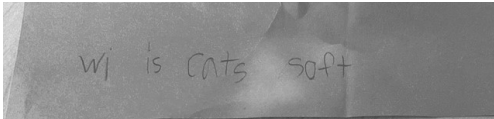
# SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School studied the Exodus story most of February and throughout March. They concluded the story with a "cake walk" where they earned candy that resembled the 10 plagues. They also enjoyed 10 commandment bingo. If you saw the hallway decorated with fish and the sea, it was a reminder of Moses' parting of the Red Sea.



The last week in March, we learned different ways to Pray and tried some fun ways to practice them. They moved around the Sunday School rooms, praying. They placed a band-aid on a body for someone who needs help healing. They pointed to a map and prayed for different countries. They prayed and asked God different questions.





# ALC Preschool



Morning Class: 8:00-11:00  
Afternoon Class: 12:15-3:15





# APRIL 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>2</b> 11 Peace Circle	<b>3</b> 10 Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bell Practice 6 HS Youth Group 6 Manna Praise Band	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9 Toddler Time	<b>6</b> 1 Baking Group
		<-----Directory Pictures being taken----->				
<b>7</b> <b>9 Worship</b> 10 Fellowship Hour 10 Sunday School  3 Mother-Daughter- Sister-Friend Event	<b>8</b> 7 Scouts	<b>9</b> 9 Quilting  10:30 Milbank Area Ministerial	<b>10</b> 10 Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bell Practice 6 Manna Praise Band 6:30 Council Mtg.	<b>11</b> 8 Men's Group  2 Vespers <b>Worship</b> at St. Williams Care Center	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  4-8 Roller Skating Party
<b>14</b> <b>9 Worship</b> 10 Fellowship Hour 10 Sunday School  5 Grown-up's Movie Night	<b>15</b> 7 Scouts  10:30 Funeral for Mike Erdahl at Mundwiler's.	<b>16</b> 1:30-3:30 Women's Connection at Central Church	<b>17</b> 10 Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bell Practice 6 HS Youth Group 6 Manna Praise Band	<b>18</b> 8 Men's Group  **Directory Pictures being taken	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>9 Worship</b> 10 Fellowship Hour 10 Sunday School Afternoon: <b>Worship</b> at area Care Centers. Afternoon: Rausch Piano Recital	<b>22</b> 7 Scouts	<b>23</b> 9 Quilting	<b>24</b> 10 Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bell Practice 6 Manna Praise Band	<b>25</b> 8 Men's Group  Preschool Field Trip	<b>26</b> 9 Toddler Time	<b>27</b> 5-7 High School using fellowship hall
<b>28</b> <b>9 Worship</b> 10 Sunday School 12 Potluck <i>Project Day Work &amp; Fun</i>	<b>29</b> 2 Book Club #1 5 Book Club #2 7 Scouts	<b>30</b>				



**American Lutheran Church Pictorial Directory**  
 There is still time to sign up. You may also submit your own picture. Call or email the church office 605-432-5566 or [alcoffice@itcmilbank.com](mailto:alcoffice@itcmilbank.com)