

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH PARISH LIGHT

401 Flynn Drive, Milbank, SD 57252 February 2023

If you have been out and about at all, you probably have noticed the red and pink heart decorations everywhere – in businesses, the schools, and even here at church! It is a sure sign that it is almost February and Valentine’s Day is coming soon. That wonderful holiday celebrating love!

But did you know that Valentine’s Day has its roots in Christianity. The Feast Day in the church is named after St. Valentine, an early Christian martyr who died for his faith. There isn’t much known about him, except a beautiful story of him handing a heart-shaped note signed “your Valentine” to his jailer’s daughter, who he had healed of her blindness.

From that story, Valentine’s Day has evolved over the years into what we know of it today – a celebration of romantic love. And of course, anytime we talk about love and connect it to Scripture, we will think almost immediately of 1 Corinthians 13!

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.” 1 Corinthians 13:5-8a

These verses are read at the majority of weddings as two people are celebrating their love and joining their lives together as husband and wife. However, Paul did not write this passage specifically for weddings. His intention was to teach the people at the church in Corinth what true Christian love looked like. This list of what love is and what love is not is how we are to live our lives. Now, if you look at that list, it is pretty daunting.

Even on our best days and with those we love the most, I am afraid there will be times when we fail. When we get angry, or become rude. When we lose our patience or stop trusting those we love. But what Paul is encouraging us is to strive to love in this way. Strive to love the way Jesus loved in his life. Jesus showed kindness to lepers, patience with his disciples, humility by befriending prostitutes and thieves, and did not resent those who crucified him.

This is our goal as followers of Jesus Christ to take the love He has shown us and make it a part of our life. But then the question is, “To whom are we supposed to show this kind of love?” Our spouses, family, and friends, of course. But also our enemies – those people we disagree with, don’t get along with at times, or just don’t like. Jesus tells us to love our neighbors. To love all people, because all people are created by God.

I wish everyone a Happy Valentine’s Day! Celebrate the romantic love that you have in your life. But also, take some time this month, to remember the Christian foundations of this holiday and celebrate the love God has for you. And strive to love the people in your life, with the love of 1 Corinthians 13.

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Justin



AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS AND UPDATES

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JANUARY 11 COUNCIL MEETING

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pres: Ryan Gruba
V. Pres: Sara VanMeter
Secretary: Heidi 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

Property & Management Committee

- The Parish Nurse will train on using the new AED device.

Worship & Evangelism Committee

- Upcoming events planned: Roller Skating Party; Men's visit to a St. Dysmas Prison Ministry Worship Service; Bus trip to Twins game.

Finance & Stewardship Committee

- Annual audit planned for January

Youth & Education Committee

- Sunday School Youth will provide special music for Worship on January 22 and 29.
- The preschool board is currently working on enrollment for 2023-2024
- The Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for January 22 with all proceeds going to Camp scholarships.

Other Business (new & old)

- Wednesday night Lent Meals
- Wednesday night activities during Lent
- Nominating committee update: Currently have 4 nominations. Looking for 1 more.
- Committees have turned in their reports for the Annual Report
- Pam Neugebauer led a discussion on 2023 goals for the council. The first goal is to explore future staffing needs. Sara Koepke will begin discussions with existing staff members. The council will continue to work on this at the next meeting.
- Committees will continue to work on one specific goal per committee and then on an overall council goal at the February meeting.

The next American Lutheran Council meeting will be February 8, 2023 at 6:30.

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
1/01/23	66	\$ 1,060
1/08/23	165	\$ 1,891
1/15/23	140	\$ 5,948
1/22/23	264	\$ 5,865
1/29/23	169	\$ 7,719

Online giving: \$ 6,073

thrivent

Connecting faith and finances for good.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®

Thrivent Financial members that have Choice Dollars® have until Wednesday, March 31 to direct them

THANK YOU Thrivent Members!

We appreciate the Thrivent Choice Dollars you direct each year to American Lutheran Church and American Lutheran Church Preschool. Your dollars make a difference! (The deadline for 2022 dollars is 3/31/23)

American Lutheran Church Staff Contact Information

PASTOR

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Assistant—Brittany Bray
Volunteer—Rebecca Welberg

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CUSTODIAN

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Cell 605-924-0181

PARISH NURSE

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

Pastoral Acts



Baptized on January 22, 2023
Ledger Barragan and Bishop Barragan
 Parents: Preston & Abigail Barragan
 Sponsors: Isaac Snaza,
 Jalen & Mariah Snaza



Married on January 21, 2023
Michael Miller & Crystal Folk



A Scout is Reverent Scout Sunday, February 5, 2023

The Scouting program at American Lutheran Church is more than just an activity for our youth to learn about the outdoors.

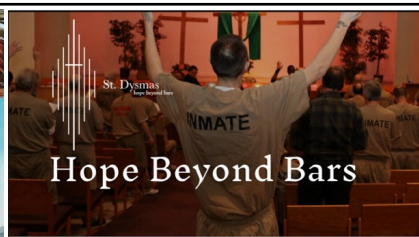
Scouting provides fun, fellowship, and training to the youth in our community. It emphasizes honesty, self-reliance, and respect. Through a year-round program, it affects character, citizenship, and personal fitness. But the success of our Scouting depends on our volunteers, who serve in a variety of leadership roles so that our young people may benefit from our Scouting ministry.

As the Boy Scouts of America celebrates its 113th anniversary (February 5) and Troop 45's seventy-eighth year, we salute the splendid volunteers both past and present who have served as Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, committee members and in other positions of leadership to make this year round program a success.

We salute the youth who have joined this outstanding program and are striving to follow the Boy Scout Oath and Law in their every day lives.

**Troop 45 welcomes new membership year round. Young men from age 11 to 18 are welcome to visit the troop at one of their regular Monday night meetings or call/text Jeff Loutsch (949-1354) to join them on one of their monthly adventure outings to check out Scouts.*

***Troop 45 is supported in part by Grant County Combined Appeal.*



St. Dymas PRISON WORSHIP SERVICE VISIT March 9, 2023

**Sign up or let the Church Office know if you are interested.
We have to register visitor names well ahead of the visit.**

Thank You!

THANK YOU to the following Church Council members whose terms ended at the Annual Meeting.

Josh Schmeichel
Michael Cordingley
Amber Scriver
Mary Bjordahl
Sara Koepke

Your service on the ALC Council and to this congregation is greatly appreciated!

THANK YOU THANK YOU
 THANK YOU THANK YOU

Summary from the 2022 Annual Meeting on January 29, 2023

70+ voting members were present.

Pastor Justin and Josh Schmeichel (Council President) reviewed 2022 and highlighted events and goals for 2023.

The 2023 Budget was approved as written.

New ALC Council members elected are:

Jacob Knoll	Sara VanMeter
Brett Storm	Holly Hilbrands
Sara Anderson	

Following the Annual Meeting, the council met to elect new officers for 2023:

- **Ryan Gruba—President**
- **Sara VanMeter—Vice President**
- **Heather Zinter—Secretary**

Committee assignments are listed on a sidebar on the Council Page of this newsletter (page 2)

The next council regular meeting is February 8.



Ash Wednesday February 22

8 am - 10 am & Noon - 3 pm

Pastor Justin will be available at Church. If you are unable to join us for Ash Wednesday service, but would like to receive the Imposition of Ashes, just stop by the Church and Pastor Justin will provide that for you

10 am

“The Chosen” Join together as we watch and discuss the first ever multi-season TV show about the life of Jesus.

5:15-6:15

Supper served by Preschool Board

6:30

Worship with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes
“A Life of Faith – We are Claimed”

Mid-Week Lenten Series “A Life of Faith”

We are people of faith! But what does that truly mean and truly look like in our day to day lives?

We will be digging into 6 different aspects of our Faith during the Wednesday evening Lenten Services.

This series is based on a Bible Study put together by Pastor Greg Johnson of Beaver Valley Lutheran Church in Brandon, SD.

Come and join me as we dig deeper into what it means when we say we are living a life of Faith!

February 22	We are Claimed
March 1	We are Fed
March 8	We are United
March 15	We are Taught
March 22	We are Saved
March 29	We are Sent

Lent Devotions and Bible Study Options

These 40 days of Lent (not counting the Sundays) are a perfect time to spend in some extra study of Scripture and Jesus’s sacrifice for us. Which is why we gather for worship on Wednesdays and Sundays during this Season.

There will also be other opportunities for you to study the Scriptures and spend time with Jesus in these 40 days.

“The Chosen” Television Mini-Series

Wednesdays at 10:00 am

Come, watch an episode of the series and then we will discuss what was viewed.

If you are interested in viewing this series, but Wednesday mornings do not work, please talk with Pastor Justin. Another viewing option would be made available if there is interest.

40 Days with Jesus Bible Reading Plan

There will be a daily reading from the Gospels of Mark and John following the life the Jesus.

These readings will be posted every morning on the ALC Facebook page. You may also pick up a Reading Plan Bookmark at the Welcome Center.



Countdown to Easter Paper Chain

The Sunday School children will be creating Paper Chains to help countdown the days of Lent until Easter.

Each link of the chain includes an activity or Bible reading for you to do as a family.

There will be extra copies of the Paper Chain to make at home if you would like one and were not in Sunday School that day.

Return to the Lord,
your God



February Birthdays



2/1	Duane Prisinger	2/8	Richard Krueger	2/15	Justin Mathiason	2/22	Kalli Mielitz
2/2	Wynn Boerger	2/8	Cody Storm	2/15	Karla Wellnitz	2/22	Delores Street
2/2	Morgan Jones	2/8	Aimee Thyne	2/16	Claire Mischel	2/23	Carol Forman
2/2	Lincoln Kiley	2/8	Hailey Zinter	2/17	Bennett Cordingley	2/23	Ruth Gulck
2/2	Kaitlin Knoll	2/10	Gretchen Biersbach	2/17	Grayson Frogner	2/23	Melissa Sackreiter
2/2	Mattison Scott	2/10	Kirsten Biersbach	2/17	Arnie Kirchberg	2/24	Kristy Dorneman
2/3	John Forman	2/11	Patricia Jonescheit	2/17	Emily Neugebauer	2/24	Macyn Dunnihoo
2/3	Kasi Schlueter	2/11	Boyd Sussex	2/17	Tayla Trapp	2/24	Kraig Prisinger
2/3	Susan Stinson	2/12	Bodie Knoll	2/18	Cory Harms	2/25	Paisley Steffensen
2/5	Paul Farrell	2/12	Scott Myrum	2/18	Pamela Prisinger	2/27	William Hins
2/5	Holly Hilbrands	2/12	Joan Sacrison	2/18	Jody Unzen	2/28	Neil Pauli
2/6	Deanna Schaefer	2/12	Billy St. Martin	2/21	Brad Hodenfield	2/28	Jackie Sipe
2/6	Matt Scott	2/13	Jackson Bohlen	2/21	David Thyne	2/28	Julie Nolz
2/6	Hal Teske	2/14	Nicole Appl	2/21	Rhianna Welberg	2/29	Dean Wellnitz
2/8	Roman Fahleen	2/14	Jason Wellnitz	2/22	Joan Aho		

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



Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study

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 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 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.



Milbank Blood Drive at the Grant County 4-H Building

Wednesday, February 15, 2023
12 pm to 6 pm



Warm hearts. Warm thoughts. Give in February
for a \$10 gift card by email - thanks to Amazon.

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

*** American Lutheran Church is in charge of helping
with all of the Grant County Blood Drives in 2023.

ALC Roller Skating Party

Sunday, February 26
4:00 at Sioux Historic

This is for all ages! Skating & Pizza

Games will be set up on tables for spectators.
\$10 for pizza & skating \$5 for pizza only

***We are trying to determine the interest in this event.
Sign up at the Welcome Center if you think you will attend.*



Grant County Visiting Neighbors

The Grant County Visiting Neighbors is a special program designed to help the elderly and handicapped so that they can remain independent and stay in their own homes for as long as possible.

If you are in need of some help with housekeeping, laundry, personal cares, etc; contact **Karen Layher** at 605-880-5726 or **Marie Loutsch** at 605-949-0510 for more information and program details.



“Battle of the Bowl”

Sunday, February 12

following worship
for the Fellowship Hour.

Sign up at the Welcome Center by February 5 if you plan to bring a favorite football appetizer to share with all.

Judging will take place and the winner will receive a prize.

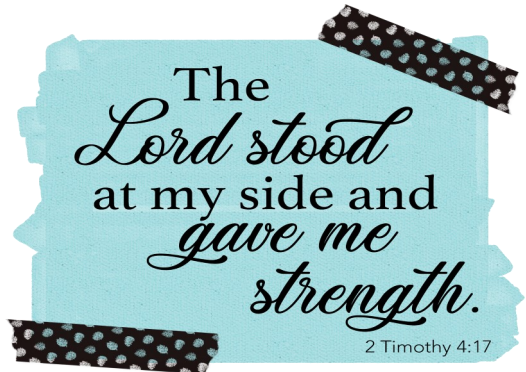
You are invited to wear your favorite team jersey or shirt!



Would you like to sponsor
a Sunday Morning
Radio Broadcast?

This could be in memory of someone, in thankfulness, in honor of someone, 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 equipment needed for the videos and broadcasts on facebook.



Confirmation Youth Project



TACKLE HUNGER

Bring in items for the Grant County Food Pantry

There are shopping carts in the entry area to hold your donations. All items are welcome.

The Grant County ICAP office gave us a "Shopping List" of items they can use.

Lists will be available in the carts for you to pick up.

ALC High School Youth Group



We meet in the Fellowship Hall
Suppers are provided.

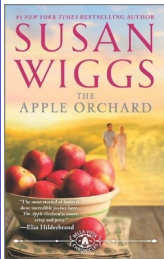
Wednesday, February 1 at 6 pm
Wednesday, February 15 at 6 pm

All High School Youth are invited!

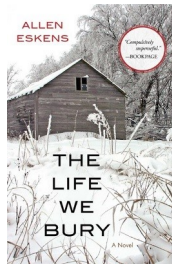
You are WELCOME to bring friends!

Book Clubs in February

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



February 27, 2 pm
Group 1
The Apple Orchard by S. Wiggs



February 27, 5 pm
Group 2
The Life We Bury by A. Eskens



February 26 @ 5:00
ALC Holy Word Theatre
Pizza, Popcorn, Soda, Candy
Free Will Offering
Sign up at Welcome Center to help plan for numbers.

The CHOSEN

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. See Jesus through the eyes of those that met him.

Join us
Wednesday mornings
at 10 am starting
February 22



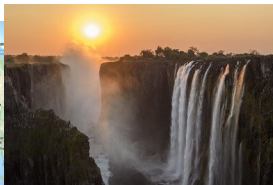
Walking Program



Diana Dirksen
Parish Nurse



The Walking Group is making great progress, plus, learning about the sights along the way.



Victoria Falls



Walking program has **63 participants** this year and we already have logged over 1700 miles. We started in Cape Town, South Africa and journeyed to Botswana and through Zimbabwe, on our way to Victoria Falls which will be about 2500 miles.

We have only completed 3 weeks, so, if interested, you can still join. Call or text me at 605-949-1403.

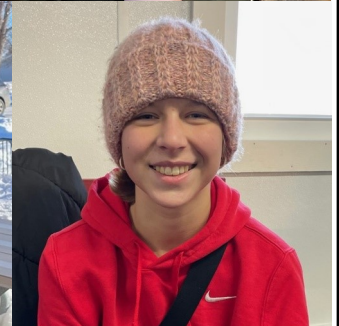
American Lutheran

SUNDAY SCHOOL

January got us back into the rhythm of our normal Sunday School schedule. The kids had the opportunity to learn about summer camp options from Lutherans Outdoors during Camp Sunday. The free-will pancake brunch on that Sunday is our major camp scholarship fundraiser. If you sign your child up for summer camp, ALC offers up to \$300, or the cost of the camp (whichever is less) per camper beyond the down payment to assist families. The Bible Camp Assistance request form can be found on the church



website and app or by contacting the church office. The first through eight grade students sang special music on camp Sunday and the preschool and kindergarten classes played a bells selection on our annual meeting Sunday. The kids also enjoyed a movie!



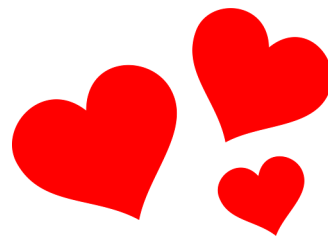
The junior high youth group had an afternoon of ice skating at Hurley Park on January 22. The weather was beautiful for skating. Cookies and hot chocolate were enjoyed by all.

Amy Bass, Education Coordinator



ALC Preschool

Preschool registration is open. We currently have openings in both the 3-year-old and 4-year-old classes. 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 Valentine's Day!



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



February 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			<p>1 10 Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 6 HS Youth Group 6:30 Manna Praise Band Practice</p>	<p>2 8 Men's Group</p>  	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 Scout Sunday 9 Worship 10 Fellowship Hour 10 Sunday School 2 Blue & Gold Ceremony</p> 	<p>6 12 Staff Meeting 7 Scouts</p>	<p>7 12 Peace Circle Women of the ELCA</p>	<p>8 10 Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 6:30 Council Mtg. 5:15 Bell Practice 6:30 Manna Praise Band Practice</p>	<p>9 8 Men's Group 2 Vespers Worship at St. Williams Care Center</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 1 Sweet-Mixer's Baking Group</p> 
<p>12 Souper Bowl Challenge-Food Pantry 9 Worship 10 Fellowship Hour 10 Sunday School <i>Super Sunday Football Appetizer Challenge for Coffee Fellowship</i></p> 	<p>13 12 Staff Meeting 7 Scouts</p>	<p>14 Valentine's Day</p>  <p>9 Quilting 10:30 Milbank Area Ministerial</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>10 Bible Study 12-6 Milbank Red Cross Blood Drive 5:15 Bell Practice 6 HS Youth Group 6:30 Manna Praise Band Practice</p>	<p>16 8 Men's Group</p> 	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 9 Worship 10 Fellowship Hour 10 Sunday School</p>	<p>20 President's Day 12 Staff Meeting</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>Ash Wednesday 10 Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bell Practice 5:15 Meal 6:30 Worship</p>	<p>23 8 Men's Group</p> 	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 9 Worship 10 Fellowship Hour 10 Sunday School 4 Roller Skating Party 5 Grown-up's Movie</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 style="text-align: center;">Mark the Dates!</p> <p>March 9 - St. Dymas Worship Service Visit March 19 - "Easter Sign Painting" Event June 17 - Bus trip to Minnesota Twins</p>			