

PARISH LIGHT

AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
A BEACON OF GOD'S LOVE, A HOME FOR ALL PEOPLE



December 2014

FOR A
CHILD
HAS BEEN
BORN
FOR US,



A

SON
GIVEN
TO US...
ISAIAH 9:6

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

December 2, 2:00 pm

Parish Nurse Christmas Party

December 7, 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Oyster & Chili Feed

December 14, 9:00 am

Youth Christmas Program

December 14, 3:00, 3:45 & 4:30 pm

Nursing Home Vespers & Caroling

December 24, 1:00 pm

Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24, 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Pastor Carl Larson
 Christian Ed Coordinator Amy Lease
 Pre-school Nicole Scott
 Admin Assistant Carol Ydstie

COUNCIL UPDATE

The council continues to work on the 2015 budget. There are a few larger items we would like to add. With increased membership, attendance and giving, we are hoping to be able to build a few more things into the budget. We are looking at possibly doing a large spring fundraiser to help fund a few larger things as well. If you would be interested in being on a planning committee for that, please let a council member know. On that note, if you are thinking about having an event or fundraiser at ALC, please present it to council for approval prior to beginning planning. There are lots of fun events coming up, so check them out and put a few on your calendar. It is a great way to get to know new people, and spend time with those we already know! Please continue to bring us your ideas and keep us in your prayers.

-Emily Mueller, Council President

Church Council

President Emily Mueller
 Vice President Gary Wellnitz
 Secretary Jennifer Waniorek
 Treasurer Mary Bjordahl
 Property/Management Gerald Grimm
 Neil Pauli
 Gary Wellnitz



Wednesday, December 24
**Christmas Eve
 Worship**
Family Service at 1:00 pm
Candlelight Service at 5:00 pm
*Come and share in the celebration
 of the birth of the Christ child!*

Youth & Education Emily Mueller
 Deb Homan
 Jennifer Waniorek

*Carol and I wish you and your family, a very Merry Christmas as you celebrate—God with Us—and we ask God to bless you and your family throughout the coming year.
 God's richest of blessings,
 Pastor Carl and Carol Larson*

Finance Jason Mischel
 Robert Biersbach
 Shane Schuchard

DECEMBER LECTIONARY

	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
12/7	Is. 40:1-11	Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mk. 1:1-8
12/14	Is. 61:1-4, 8-11	Ps. 126	1 Thess. 5:16-24	Jn. 1:6-8, 19-28
12/21	2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16	Lk. 1:46b-55	Rom. 16:25-27	Lk. 1:26-38
12/24	Is. 9:2-7	Ps. 96	Titus 2:11-14	Lk. 2:1-20
12/25	Is. 62:6-12	Ps. 97	Titus 3:4-7	Lk. 2:1-20
12/28	Is. 61:10-62:3	Ps. 148	Gal. 4:4-7	Lk. 2:22-40

Worship/Evangelism Ron Boe
 Shirley Olson
 Dave VanVeen



FROM THE PASTOR

JOIN THE ADVENT-URE

Greetings in Christ,

Our day of national thanksgiving in 2014 is now behind us and it seems that the calendar has us bolting ahead toward the consumer driven Christmas that many in our culture want us to believe in. But it is my hope that this year, we, the members of American Lutheran, will step back from the hectic consumer Christmas and remember that there is a season of the church that precedes the celebration of Christmas. There are four weeks of the season of Advent that signal for us an important message of all that is to come, and ask us to step back and contemplate what the promise of the coming of Christ can mean for us.

In "Old English" the word *ure* means to work at, act on, or process, and the word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus* which means 'coming'. Together they make up the word *adventure*. During this season that precedes Christmas, it becomes a call for us to work at preparing ourselves for the coming Christ. In order to do that, we will need to 'work at our waiting' for the coming.

Advent is a season set aside for waiting - waiting for the promise. And to do that we must step away from our cultural imposed 'shop 'til you drop' Christmas mentality and focus in on the true meaning of the Christmas promise. One of the ways that many have found to help in their waiting is to set aside a time to contemplate the Advent. For my family, we often take time during our evening meal. We begin by lighting Advent candles and have often used a little litany as we light them. Then we read an Advent devotion and spend time during the meal talking about the scripture and the devotion. For our family, it always seemed that setting aside a little time to talk about our Advent helped us to create a focus for the rest of our days and weeks of waiting for Christmas.

God's blessings to all as you enter your advent-ure.

Pastor Carl



O come,
let us
adore
him



Thank you!

TO MY FRIENDS OF ALC

I was recently told of your very generous gift in memory of Dorothy which was given to the Oaks Indian Mission. As you know the Oaks is dear to my heart as it was to Dorothy's as well.

Thank You hardly seems an adequate expression of gratitude, yet know that it comes from my heart and that it will enhance, nurture and care for the lives of the children entrusted to the care of the Oaks.

Again, thank you all—ALC will always be remembered with love and gratitude for the time it was both privilege and honor for me to serve as pastor.

God Bless You All and give you Peace.
Pastor Don

American Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the blanket, water toys, and Bible for Titan's baptism. We are blessed to be part of such a wonderful church family!

Sincerely,

Aaron, Melissa, Hunter, Taya, Jacey, Hudson, Jocelyn & Titan Burnett

DECEMBER LOVE IN ACTION

Aho, Tara
Bates, Mark & Michelle
Boerger, Luke & Wendy
Bolstad, Wesley & Doris
Bohlen, Roberta
Buhler, Lois
Busk, Randy
and Rosemary Goetschius
Davis, Jim & Karen
Fosheim, Sidney & Nancy
Fraasch, Doug & Lavonne
Frederiksen, Joe & Jessica
Gomer, Blaine & Pam
Grabow, Jason
Gruba, Ryan & Steph
Gulck, David & Ruth
Hamman, Lance
and Lisa Anderson
Johnson, Debbie
Loeschke, Roger & Ann
Lohr, Carol
Mathiason, Alan & Kathy
Mathiason, Justin & Dana
Moser, Evelyn
Petersen, Herb & Arla
Pillatzke, Leo & Diane
Roedocker, Matthew & Jennifer
Roggenbuck, Kevin & Suzan
Schlueter, Steven & Tonya
*Schuchard, Shane & Jessica
Selgeby, Steve & Gail
Stubbe, Harold
Teske, Hal & Brenda
Volkenant, JoAnn
*Waniorek, Darien & Jennifer
Wenzl, Steve & Stephanie
Whitlow, Carol
Zemlicka, Galen & Janet
*LIA Chairs

EDUCATION COORINATOR

The advent season is just about upon us! The children have been busy learning about the Christmas Story for three weeks now. We are busy learning the story in many different ways and being reminded just how marvelous that Holy Night was. We are learning that we have so many ways we can tell and share the very same story. We are talking about various perspectives of the Nativity in Caring Conversation. Here are a few questions to spark some good conversation with those near and dear to you:

- 1) **Why do you think the Angels told the shepherds about Jesus' birth first? Who would you tell first?**
- 2) **Jesus is one of us! How are you and Jesus alike? What do you think the shepherds talked about on the way back to their fields after meeting baby Jesus?**
- 3) **What do you think it was like for the Wise Men to follow a star? What gifts would you bring to baby Jesus?**
- 4) **What do you think an angel looks like? What do you think Jesus's mommy thought when she laid him in the hay?**

Advent is full of preparation, traditions, and it can be easy to get caught in the busyness of it. It is a great time for you to consider starting your own traditions that make Christmas meaningful for your family. If you haven't considered an advent wreath in your home, it is a great way to form a tradition! Daily readings can be done at the breakfast/dinner table, in the car with the kids on the way to school, before bed or anytime that you can gather together. Here is a resource for you to have daily readings for yourself or your family as you prepare for the coming birthday of our Savior.

<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/holidays/making-meaningful-christmas-memories/celebrate-advent>

The Sunday School Christmas program will be during worship at **9 am on Sunday, December 14**. We are busy learning our music and getting our parts. Our **Sunday School time, December 7**, will be devoted to a first run through of our program and **Saturday, December 13 from 9:00 to 10:30**, we will have the last run through before our performance that next day. We ask that you have your child at both so that they know what they need to do and that they are prepared for our program. We would like to have 5-7 parent volunteers come along side us to help with minor costuming, crowd management, and encouragement along the way. Please see Susan Stinson or myself to let us know you are available to help!



I am still needing several volunteers for the next Sunday school rotation beginning January 4. If you can help for 5 weeks either by instructing one of 5 rotational groups, a Kindergarten group, a preschool group or by leading a 10 minute caring conversation group, please contact me. The investment of your time will leave you richer and likely will leave a smile on your face for the week.

amy.lease@americanlutheran.com

As we prepare, anticipate, and await the coming of Christmas, take time to wonder. See Christmas through many different perspectives. View it from the perspective of a 5 year old; as you hold a baby imagine Mary's thoughts and the things she likely pondered in her heart; how the shepherds felt when those glorious angels appeared in the sky on a "seemingly ordinary" night; The Angels Perspective as they proclaim the greatest news to a group of shepherd who were to tell the world; the Wise men as they bring unusual gifts to an infant who was the King. The story is so simple. Yet, it is so complex. Reframe your Christmas through the lens of the many people who had a part in unfolding the story. There is certain so much to ponder.

And yet....God came to us as a baby. He knows what it's like to be human. To feel what we feel, skin his knee, hug his mom and dad, learn from Joseph how to be a carpenter, celebrate with his family, walk with us and among us.....and to ultimately save us.

Blessings to you and your family as you prepare for this season.



Amy Lease
Christian Education Coordinator

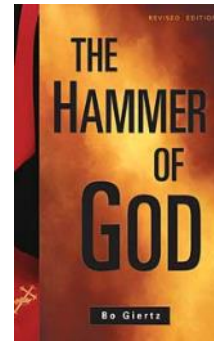
TAG – TEENS AMONG GOD

Friday, December 5 at 7:15 AM
HS Youth Breakfast & Devotions
with the Men's Bible Study group.

YOUTH SERVE—DECEMBER

	Acolyte	Bulletin Delivery	Coffee
12/7	Haeli Teske Daniel Thiele	Hunter Burnett	Nolan Foss Ria Teske
12/14	Isaac Johnson	Ethan Paysen	Gretchen & Kirsten Biersbach Jacob & Aimee Thyne
12/21	Jacey Burnett	Chris Loutsch	Caden Bjordahl Sean Zimny
12/24	Claire Mischel Rhianna Welberg	Chris Loutsch	
12/28	Elizabeth Smith	Mackayla Schuelke	William Mischel Alysha & Miranda Madsen

B I B L E S T U D Y



The Hammer of God is a bestselling novel about three pastors who learn the necessity of relying on God's grace. They fall short of their pastoral duties through public humiliation, self-doubt, inability to accept God's promises in their own lives, and divisions and quarreling among their parishioners.

Ultimately each man rejects temptations and permits the Holy Spirit to work through him.

This revised edition includes the final chapter, never before published in English. The new introduction provides historical and theological background to deepen the readers' understanding of the stories.

The nine week study will begin on Wednesday, January 7 at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday, January 8 at 7:00 a.m.

Please let us know if you would be interested in the study so that we can purchase books for you.

An ELCA Lutheran Advent Devotion



For the past five years, the presiding bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, The Anglican Church of Canada and The Episcopal Church have met to share with one another, provide worship observances for the 10th Anniversary of Full Communion agreements, to advocate for creation and the environment and to call members to prayer for situations of war and turmoil. At their most recent meeting, the leaders agreed to provide Advent devotions for the four churches. As members of the ELCA, we are encouraged to use and share these devotions during the season of preparation for the coming of our Lord. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton provides the devotions for the first week of Advent.

You can find the devotion on the ELCA webpage <http://www.elca.org>. It is found under the heading, "Worth a Look".

CRAFT DAY

Join us for a "craftafternoon"!
(The first of monthly Come-n-Go DIY Craft Day at ALC)

Sunday, December 14
2-5PM
ALC Fellowship Hall

Whether you are working on a quilt project, like to scrapbook, or time to do some of your own hobby/craft projects, please feel free to join us (& bring a friend if you'd like!) for a great afternoon of crafting and collaboration with others.

Bring supplies for your own projects
(Bring Pinterest ideas that you would like to share & maybe do sometime)

Cost is FREE – A snack to be shared is requested

For more information, please contact Heidi Mischel or Nicole Scott



**"...you will find a child
wrapped in bands of cloth
and lying in a manger."**

Luke 2:12

Parish



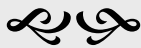
Nurse Diana Dirksen

Diana Dirksen 432-6128

Blood Pressure Checks
December 7



Memorials and gifts to the Parish Nurse program are always appreciated!



Please let me know if you are interested in the walking program. We will start walking/tracking miles on January 1st. Our destination is Maine.
Diana

Parish Nurse Christmas Party

Includes music, fellowship, food, and prizes

Tuesday, December 2 @ 2:00 PM
American Lutheran Church - Fellowship Hall

For any questions
or need a ride to attend,
please call Betty Torness (432-5845)

You're invited!
-All are welcome to attend-

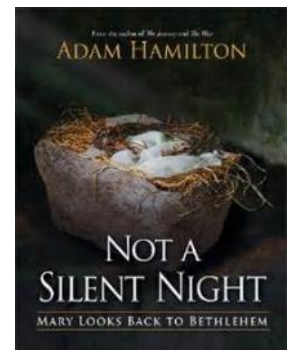


NOT A SILENT NIGHT

Central Methodist Church, Parkview, and American Lutheran are working together to share an Advent Devotional Study using Adam Hamilton's newest book: Not a Silent Night. Because schedules are so busy and diverse, there will be two opportunities each week to participate.

On **Mondays** we will meet at **noon at Central Methodist** for just less than an hour (feel free to bring your lunch!) On **Tuesday evenings**, we will meet at **American Lutheran Church beginning at 6pm**. Books are available for purchase in the church office for \$11 or you can sign up at the welcome center.

Classes will begin on Monday, November 24 at Central Methodist and Tuesday, November 25 at American Lutheran. Hope you can join us!



SAVE THE DATE

Supplemental funds from
 THRIVENT FINANCIAL

OYSTER & CHILI FEED

Free-Will donation with proceeds to benefit
American Lutheran Preschool

Sunday
December 7th
11 am - 1 pm

American Lutheran Church
401 South Flynn Drive | Milbank, SD

All are welcome.

BAKE AND CRAFT SALE A HUGE SUCCESS!

Thanks to the generosity of our members, the bake and craft sale on November 23 raised over \$1,100.00 for missions!

**Care to help? Lots of ways...
Any help is greatly appreciated!**

Monetary Donations-Gift Box available at Welcome Center
(used for ideas such as equipment, furnishings, supplies, etc.)

Snacks/Juice

Requested Items on Wishlist near classroom door

Amazon Wish List

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Reading or Doing an Activity

AmazonSmile Program

Shady Beach's Dine & Donate Program

(Sundays from 5-9PM)

Support our Fundraisers

Donations for Financial Scholarships*

*Please mark intended scholarship donations as such,
and you may give them to Pastor Carl or the Church Office



Teacher: Nicole Scott

Classes held

Monday-Thursday

3 Year Olds: 8:15-11:15am

4 Year Olds: 12:15-3:15pm

E-Mail:

preschool@americanlutheran.com

Board Members: Val Mears, Shane Schuchard,
Renee Neuharth, Sara VanMeter, & Brittni Cordingley



In November, we were kept quite busy enjoying the nice weather outside on the playground, up until mother nature played a trick on us and brought lots of snow. The kids have enjoyed getting some fresh air trekking, climbing, and playing in the snow though. We were fortunate enough to take a sneak peak at volunteers preparing & making the projects of lefse & Krumkake in the kitchen. Community Transit Bus Driver Mark stopped in for a visit to talk and show some of his collection of shark teeth. The kids enjoyed that!

Students also made a variety of projects that correlated with the month of turkeys, pilgrims, and being thankful. At this time, we are busy preparing a few songs to perform at the upcoming Christmas program being held on December 14th. We hope to see you there!

Just a quick THANK YOU to Heidi Mischel for organizing the Turkey Trot event as a fundraiser for the preschool and special kudos to those who have directed Thrivent Choice dollars to the Preschool, or have donated in any form and fashion.

Very much appreciated!

**We wish you a Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year!**

Students were asked,
"If they could have one thing for
Christmas, what would it be?"



"Real wipes & diapers for my baby" -Sophia

"Dinosaur Rescue Bot" -Cooper

"Walking Dog" -Kenzey

"EZ Bake Oven" -Hannah

"Min pin" -Calan

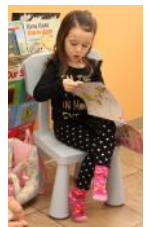
"Planes Fire & Rescue toy" -Jada Leigh

"Remote control baby" -Kyra

"Car that follows a special laser light" -Noah

"Scooter that runs & you can decorate" -Zadie

"A black kitty toy" -Taylor



**Preschool
FUN!**



**Enrolling Soon for
2015-16 School Year**

Beginning December 1st
ALC Congregation Families

Starting January 15th
Open to the Community

For more info, please watch the church bulletin
or e-mail preschool@americanlutheran.com

Food Pantry

Food Pantry items needed. Please bring items into worship and bring them forward during offering. Supplemental funds from Thrivent.



*In order to meet the cold-weather needs in the community, the **WARM & FUZZY TREE** is ready for children's mittens, hats, scarves, socks and slippers. As the tree fills, donations will be taken to the ICAP office.*

LET'S GO CAROLING...

for anyone interested in joining us on Sunday, December 14. We will meet at the church at 2:45 and lead nursing home vespers and travel to residences of our shut-ins.

Vesper schedule: St. Williams Home at 3:00
Golden Living at 3:45
Park Place at 4:30.

We will end at Jon & Carol Ydstie's for a light supper. We can add in potluck goodies.



Page Turners Book Discussion Group

Meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 PM

December — Hot Dish Heaven by Jeanne Cooney. Set in Minneapolis, this is a murder mystery with recipes. Our book discussion will include a potluck dinner at the home of Patti Frazee (908 S. Viola, two houses north of the parsonage), using recipes from the book.



January — The Welcome Committee of Butternut Creek by Jane Myers Perrine. This is the first book of a three part series. A brand new single minister arrives in town. Miss Birdie and friends are determined to educate him on how things are done...starting with finding him a wife!

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself.
Charles Dickens, 19th Century British author

Everyone is encouraged to donate an ornament to represent your family for the Family Tree in the Fellowship Hall this Christmas. The ornaments will be taken care of and used again next year. Your name may be put on the ornament if you wish.

Decorating the church ... Help is needed on Saturdays, December 6 and 20 at 1:00 PM.

Friday, December 12, the tree will be brought to the church. Help is needed at 6:30, to bring the tree into the sanctuary.




Please bring poinsettias to share after December 14.

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	Taylor Welberg (b)	11	Lance Junso (b)	25	Al Mathiason (b)
2	Jessica Wieber (b)	12	Doug Barlund (b)		JoAnn Volkenant (b)
4	Suzan Roggenbuck (b)		Craig & Brianna Kirchberg (w)	26	Emily Brandt (b)
5	Gail Barlund (b)	13	Taylor Anderson (b)		Merv & Dorothy Larson (w)
	Charlotte Farrell (b)		Lorrie Hardy (b)		Joshua Moen (b)
	Siera Wenzl (b)		Bob Johnson (b)		Ray Ogdahl (b)
6	Mike Gruba (b)		Lynelle Thyne (b)		Gene & Betty Torness (w)
	Alex Pauli (b)	15	Karen Hystad (b)	27	Marilyn Nef (b)
	Steve Schlueter (b)	16	Jacob Stinson (b)		Shirley Schmidt (b)
7	Claire Kastrup (b)	18	Gwen Biersbach (b)		Amber Sriver (b)
8	Doug & Peg Dohrer (w)		Sid Fosheim (b)	29	Colleen Larson (b)
	Jeff Nodsle (b)		Corinne Kastrup (b)		Tim & Amy Lease (w)
	Shirley Thorson (b)		Jerry & Renee Neuharth (w)		Melissa Schuneman (b)
9	Heidi Mischel (b)	20	Mary Kasuske (b)	30	Tessa Johnson
	Steve Storm (b)		Amanda Lambrechts (b)	31	Dillon Dwyer (b)
	Jackson Sussex (b)	23	Rudy & Marilyn Nef (w)		
	Harley Zemlicka (b)		Jasmine Smith (b)		

DECEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12:00 Advent Study @Central 7:00 Boy Scouts	2 2:00 Parish Nurse Christmas Party 6:00 Advent Study @ALC	3 9:00-10:30 TOT School 10:00 Bible Study 3:20 5-6th Gr. Conf. 4:30 7-8th Gr. Conf. 5:15 Note-a-bells 6:00 Manna	4 7:00 Men's Bible Study	5 7:15 HS Youth Breakfast	6 1:00 Church decorating
7 8:00 Chancel Choir 9:00 Worship/Communion/KMSD 9:55 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Blood Pressure checks 10:00 Baptism- Lily Pillatzke 10:15 HS - Sticky Faith 11:00-1:00 Oyster/Chili Feed 6:00 NA	8 12:00 Advent Study @Central 7:00 Boy Scouts	9 9:00 Quilting 6:00 Advent Study @ALC	10 9:00-10:30 TOT School 10:00 Bible Study 3:20 5-6th Gr. Conf. 4:30 7-8th Gr. Conf. 5:15 Note-a-bells 6:00 Church Council 6:00 Manna	11 7:00 Men's Bible Study	12 6:30 Tree Set-up	13 9-10:30 Sunday School program practice 5:00 Baptism - Vivian Mathiason
14 8:00 Chancel Choir 9:00 Christmas Program/KMSD 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 2-5:00 Come-and-Go DIY Crafts 3:00; 3:45; 4:30 Nursing Home Vespers and Caroling 6:00 NA	15 12:00 Advent Study @Central 7:00 Boy Scouts	16 12:00 Peace Circle 2:00 Alzheimer Support Group 6:00 Advent Study @ALC	17 9:00-10:30 TOT School 10:00 Bible Study 3:20 5-6th Gr. Conf. 4:30 7-8th Gr. Conf. 6:00 Manna	18 7:00 Men's Bible Study 2:00 Worship @St. Williams 7:00 Book Club Hotdish Heaven	19 1:00 Church decorating	20 1:00 Church decorating
21 8:00 Chancel Choir 9:00 Worship/Communion/KMSD 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 January LIA 10:15 HS - Sticky Faith 6:00 NA	22 7:00 Boy Scouts	23 Christmas Eve 1:00 Christmas Eve Family Service 5:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	24 Christmas Eve 1:00 Christmas Eve Family Service 5:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25  Merry Christmas!	26	27
28 9:00 Worship/Communion/KMSD 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 6:00 NA	29	30	31	Mark your calendars: January 25....Annual Meeting		

AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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MILBANK, SOUTH DAKOTA 57252-0287

GOD'S WORK....OUR HANDS

PARISH LIGHT
DECEMBER 2014

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alcpastor@itcmilbank.com

Web site: www.americanlutheran.com

