

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

PARISHLIGHT

401 Flynn Drive, Milbank, SD 57252 September 2023

Vision Statement

Christ Welcomes All at American Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

The Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to be a welcoming community for all people growing in faith, love, and service.

These statements were developed by the Strategic Planning Team as our guide for who we are as a congregation. We live into our Vision Statement by welcoming all people to worship, to Holy Communion, and to all of our programs – no matter who they are or where they are in their faith journey.

For this program year, I am inviting us to delve more deeply into our Mission Statement. To explore what that means for us as individuals and what this statement means for us as a congregation. In particular, I would like to focus on the closing of the statement – “growing in faith, love, and service.”

For the first few months of the program year (September – November), we will be exploring what it means to “grow in faith.” This seems like the appropriate time to think about this part of our Mission Statement, as we begin a new year of Christian Education. The goal of our Sunday School and Confirmation programs is to pass on the faith to the youth of our congregation – to help them grow in faith.

However, formal Christian Education does not mark the end of growing in faith in our lives. Faith isn't something we achieve or get and then are done with. It is a lifelong commitment in building a deeper relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ. We need to always be nurturing and feeding our faith to help it to grow. We remember Jesus' words from the Gospel of Matthew, “*For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.*”

When you plant a seed in the ground, it needs to be tended to, watered, and nurtured in order for it to grow into what it was intended to be. Our lives of faith are much the same – they need to be tended to and nurtured in order for us to grow into the disciples and people God wants us to be. Over the next couple months, in sermons and studies and activities, we will explore and challenge ourselves together to put into practice faith practices that will help us all “grow in faith.”

Then in the winter, our focus will be on “growing in love,” during our Advent and Christmas celebrations leading up to Ash Wednesday, which falls on Valentine's Day this year. Finally, we will close out the program year by “growing in service” as the focus of our Lenten and Easter Services.

Come and join us on this journey through our Mission Statement so that we can be the welcoming community for all people that the Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to be!

Pastor Justin

CHURCH COUNCIL

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

LISTEN TO THE SERVICE:

On the RADIO

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

FACEBOOK Live

"LIVE at 9 am on Facebook"

ALC APP

Worship Service Videos,
Bulletins, Newsletter

www.americanlutheran.com

Worship Service Videos
& Bulletins

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS AND UPDATES

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AUGUST 16TH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Property & Management Committee

- Quotes have been received to upgrade or replace the current sound system. They range from \$30,000—\$40,000. We will look into other options and work with the AV booth techs on what is needed.

Worship & Evangelism Committee

- Upcoming events: New Member Sunday - October 15. Church Potluck - November 19.
- Working on Membership engagement postcards to be sent out later this fall
- Golf Scramble Update: 16 people played but they were rained out after 8 holes.
- Bike Ride Update: 10 families attended. Fun was had by all.
- Still looking for volunteers for a Church Directory Committee. Two have come forward but we do need more.
- The Events Committee now has 6 members.

Finance & Stewardship

- Nothing to report.

Youth and Education

- We are working on clarifying the guidelines for the Preschool Board and the roles of the council liaison and the Pastor.
- A preschool scholarship committee has

been designated to review scholarship requests in the future.

- Amy Bass is working on getting Sunday School Teachers and planning Rally Day.

Other Business (new & old)

- Pastor Justin met with the musicians to plan out the Fall and Christmas season.
- Christmas Services: There will be a 9 am and 5 pm service on Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve. There will not be a Christmas Day service.
- Mutual Ministry Committee met to figure out a plan for replacement for the open Youth and Education Position. Adjustments were made by the council to classify the position as full time with options. The job description will be sent out to all ALC members with email.

We have funds left in the budget to cover the remainder of the year for this position. The new salary will be included in next year's budget approval.

The next American Lutheran Church Council meeting is September 13 at 6:30.

Stewardship

Date	Attendance	Offering
7/23/23	114	\$ 2,130
7/30/23	99	\$ 2,970
8/06/23	99	\$ 2,609
8/13/23	125	\$ 2,018
8/20/23	215	\$ 8,118
8/27/23	144	\$ 4,167
Online giving:		\$ 4,913

Our Vision Statement

Christ welcomes all at American Lutheran.

Our Mission Statement

The Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to be a welcoming community for all people growing in faith, love and service.

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 Daugaard—Teacher
preschool@americanlutheran.com
Assistant: Mya Johanson

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Gail Selgeby
alcoffice@itcmilbank.com
Office 605-432-5566
Cell 605-467-3831

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Amy Bass
Aw_35_star@hotmail.com

CUSTODIAN

Gary Christianson
Cell 605-924-0181

PARISH NURSE

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



✝ Pastoral Acts

Married on June 3, 2023

Taylor Berg and Ria Teske

Baptized on August 20, 2023

Collyns Elizabeth Mielitz

Parents: Ryan & Kylie Mielitz

Sponsors: Jessica Mielitz-Brandriet

Michael Mielitz



Peace Circle



American Lutheran Church Peace Circle meets on the first Tuesday each month at noon in the library.

PEACE CIRCLE IS INVOLVED IN MANY MISSIONS AND ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

You are invited to join them at their monthly meeting, on any month, and for any meeting. Just stop in.

Or, if you would like to have more information, contact the church office



Gather, the magazine of Women of the ELCA, offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions and stories of comfort and challenge that help readers grow in faith and engage in ministry and action.

Peace Circle uses the bible studies from *Gather* magazine for their monthly bible study.



Save the Date!
Prairie Coteau
WELCA
Fall Gathering

Thursday, October 12
12:00 Noon
at NeSoDak



Now
faith
IS THE SUBSTANCE
OF THINGS HOPED FOR,
the evidence
of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1, KJV



September Birthdays



9/2	Susie Schuneman	9/12	Owen Tesch	9/18	Cynthia Schumacher	9/24	Keith Pauli
9/3	Steve Selgeby	9/12	Benson Wellnitz	9/18	Jennifer Thiele	9/24	Clete Wellnitz
9/4	Paxten Anderson	9/13	Berkley Junso	9/19	Molly Magedanz	9/25	Michael Cordingley
9/4	Bruce Granquist	9/13	Cade Schwinger	9/19	Doug Wilke	9/25	Steven Farrell
9/4	Cooper Gruba	9/14	Layla Hardie	9/20	Dane Anderson	9/25	Douglas Fraasch
9/4	Steve Street	9/14	Audrey Schmeichel	9/20	Chad Nolz	9/26	Troy Kastrop
9/7	Ria Berg	9/15	Kristi Bunting	9/20	Leo Pillatzke	9/26	Alysha Madsen
9/7	Morgan Selchert	9/15	Darin Gruba	9/21	Ryan Dunnihoo	9/27	Liam Brandt
9/9	Mason Bray	9/15	Jan Scriver	9/21	Brent Smith	9/27	Alysha Johnson
9/9	Alexis Hilbrands	9/16	Nathan Granquist	9/22	Cameron Prisinger	9/27	Malinda Kohn
9/9	Brenda Maass	9/16	Tammy Schuelke	9/22	Nicole Van Hoorn	9/27	Katelynn Moen
9/9	Jack Mikkelson	9/17	Jeffery Anderson	9/22	Kammi Wietman	9/27	Matthew Moen
9/10	Lisa Wilke	9/17	Sara Johnson	9/23	Brock Anderson	9/28	Ashley Fahleen
9/11	Graham Knoll	9/17	Hannah Kirchberg	9/23	Kay O'Farrell	9/28	Matt Wellnitz
9/11	Andrew Leddy	9/17	Adam Wollschlager	9/24	Lance Frogner	9/29	Ken Giessinger
9/11	Rhonda Zinter	9/18	Donita Magedanz	9/24	Michael Larson	9/29	Craig Kirchberg
9/12	Dustin Koepke	9/18	Lily Pillatzke	9/24	Kathy Mathiason	9/30	Belva Stinson

Please let the Church Office know if there are corrections or additions to the birthday list.



Confirmation News

Grades 7 & 8 meet Wednesdays 3:30-5:00

The Confirmation Students will be studying the Small Catechism including the 10 Commandments, the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer throughout this year. They will also be applying what they are learning through some Service Projects and talking about how this faith changes the way they live.

Grade 9 will meet on Wednesday, September 27 at 5:30

The 9th graders will meet with Kathy Mathiason on September 27 to decorate and prepare their stoles.

There are 10 students completing the confirmation program in preparation for Confirmation Sunday on October 29. Please hold them in your prayers as they finish their final Faith Projects (which will be on display in mid-October) and prepare for this important milestone in their faith.



8th Grade Confirmation Mentors Needed

Pastor Justin is looking for 6 adult mentors to walk alongside our 8th Grade Confirmation students this year. As a Mentor, you will meet with your student about once a month to have a Guided Conversation about faith and to build a relationship with your student.

This is a great way to encourage these youth in their faith lives and the adults might learn something about their faith as well.

We need 3 males and 3 females. Please pray about this and if you are interested in serving in this way, please talk with Pastor Justin. The mentor program will start in October.



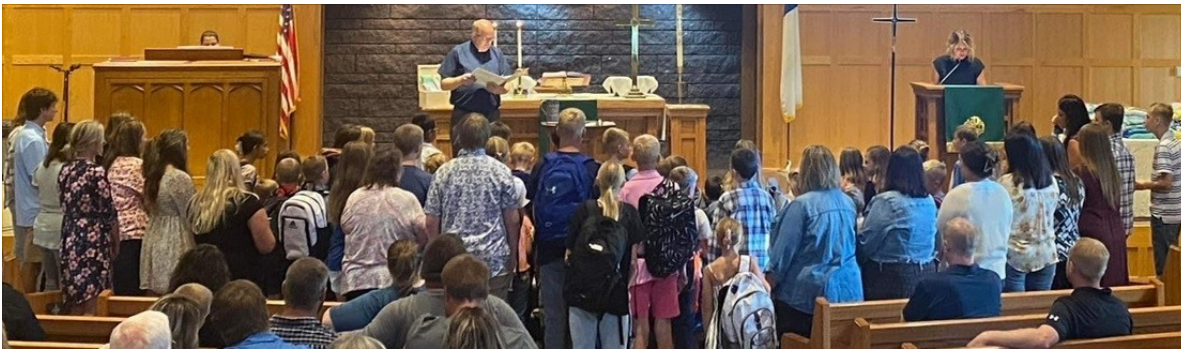
The High School Youth Group will meet September 6 and September 20 at 6:00.

Supper, devotions, games and activities. All are welcome. Bring your friends!

Volunteers Needed

Pastor Justin is looking for volunteers to help out with HS Youth Group. He is especially looking for people to help plan, prepare, and carry out the activities and games for each youth group evening. If you have an idea for one event or if you would like to be a regular volunteer, please talk with Pastor Justin

YOU ARE GREAT, O LORD GOD. FOR ... THERE IS NO GOD BESIDES YOU. 2 SAMUEL 7:22a



Backpack Sunday on August 20

Students, Teachers and School Personnel received a Blessing for the 2023-2024 School Year.

Around 70 students received backpack tags during the worship service on August 20. If your student was unable to be at worship that day, you can pick up a tag for them from Amy Bass.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawls were blessed during the worship service.

The prayer shawl group also prepared and served the snacks for the coffee fellowship hour.

We thank them for their hard work throughout the year!



FAMILY BASKETBALL LIGHTNING GAME

Saturday, September 9
at 9:00 am

ALC Parking Lot

Come join the fun!



Welcome,

New Members

We will welcome all new members, who joined American Lutheran Church since April 2023, on Sunday, October 15. Mark the date!

If you are interested in becoming a member of ALC or know of someone who is, contact Pastor Justin or the church office.

Be Encouraged
Be Encouraged
Be Encouraged

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM CARDS

If you are a Thrivent member, you are eligible to receive \$250 twice a year to help support events you or others are having.

Contact Carol in the church office for more information on how to help.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

VOLUNTEER TODAY

- Worship Volunteer
- Youth Group Volunteer
- Confirmation Mentor
- Sunday School Teacher/Helper
- Special Music Sunday Morning
- Landscape Care
- Altar Guild
- Shut in Visits
- Quilting for LWR



WORSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Group Morning Coffee Thursdays at 8:00

Come for good conversation, coffee, and discussion surrounding the Gospel text for the coming Sunday Worship service.

All are Welcome!

They will start meeting again on September 7, following their summer break.

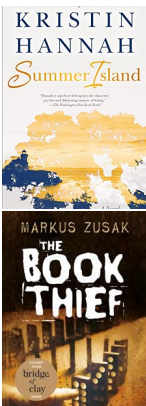


**ALC
MEN'S GROUP**

ALC Book Clubs

ALC has two book clubs. They meet the last Monday of each month. They will start up in September, after a summer break.

Books are provided for you. Contact the church office or Janelle Kelly for more information.



Book Club #1
Monday, Sept 25, at 2:00
They will discuss
Summer Island
by Kristin Hannah.

Book Club #2
Monday, Sept 25, at 5:05
They will discuss
The Book Thief
by Markus Zusak

Manna Praise Band

This group meets most Wednesdays at 6:00 pm for rehearsal. They provide music for the worship service about once a month.

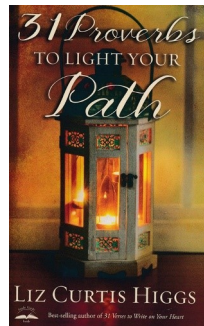
Contact any of the praise band members for information. Their contact information is available at the office.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study Wednesdays at 10:00

This group meets Wednesday mornings at 10 am in the library room. **You are invited them to join at anytime.**

September 6 and 13 will be the final two episodes of THE CHOSEN.



Beginning Wednesday, September 20, join us as we begin to read and study the book

31 Proverbs to Light Your Path by Liz Curtis Higgs

Please sign up at the Welcome Center so enough books can be ordered for everyone. Each week we will read and discuss a chapter or two of the book.

"Discover how the Lord can use even the smallest steps to lead us in the right direction.

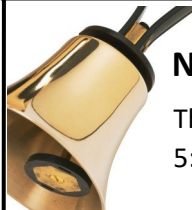
With her signature ability to blend biblical truth with real-life takeaways, Liz Curtis Higgs examines 31 selections from Proverbs - then offers a unique one-minute "do-it-now" challenge at the end of each chapter."



Note-A-Bells Handbell Choir

The handbell group meets Wednesdays at 5:15. Their first practice this fall will be on Wednesday, September 6.

If you are interested in learning more about Bell Choir or in learning how to play the handbells, contact Mary Bjordahl or Pam Neugebauer.



Volunteer Opportunities



HS Youth Group Helper

****YOU are needed!**

Pastor Justin is looking for volunteers to help with the High School Youth Group.

The Youth Group meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings during the school year.

Volunteers would help plan and lead activities while building relationships with some awesome youth!

He is looking for either 1 or 2 that would be at every Youth Group gathering or a team of volunteers that could share the commitment!

If you are interested or would like to learn more, please talk with Pastor Justin.

ALC Preschool Teacher and Helper Substitute List Needed

We would like to have a list of folks ready to fill in, if needed, as a substitute teacher or helper. Let Sierra, a preschool board member, or the church office know if this is something you are interested in doing.



Homecoming Parade Float

Help needed to put a float together.

The preschool staff (Sierra and Mya) are willing to plan and get the supplies for an ALC Parade Float for the parade. They would like assistance with putting everything together.

If you are willing to help, sign up at the Welcome Center. They will contact you closer to Homecoming Week (3rd week of September) with the day and time.

We also need a trailer, a garage or shed to work in, and a pickup and driver.



American Red Cross Blood Drive

at American Lutheran Church
on Thursday, September 21

12:00 - 6:00

Sign up to give blood at www.Redcrossblood.org
(once there - fill in the zip code 57252)

If you are available to help at the registration desk or with providing lunch for the Red Cross workers, sign up at the Welcome Center Counter.

If you are a first-time donor and have questions, feel free to contact Ruth Gulck at rgulck@yahoo.com or 605-880-7938.

2024 ALC Church Directory

It will be good to have a directory with updated pictures, addresses and phone numbers.



In order to do this, we need a group of people to help with different areas of planning and putting together a new church directory.

Call the church office (605-432-5566) or
Sara VanMeter (605-216-3135) for more information.



Baking Angels—Baking Group

The Baking Group meets about once a month. They bake treats to be used for Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship Hour.

They meet next on Saturday, September 9, at 9:00 in the church kitchen.

If you are interested in joining this group or learning more about what they do, contact Carolyn Giessinger.



ATTENTION – ALL MEMBERS/VOLUNTEERS

from the Worship & Evangelism Committee

The American Lutheran Church Council members met with congregational members during fellowship times this summer to receive any thoughts, concerns, and ideas that members had.

One conversation that was brought up numerous times was to bring back Love In Action.

The reasons stated

- 1) Liked having assigned months
- 2) People like to bake & bring food but did not want to, or were unable to, be in the baking group.

We heard you and we are going to implement something to that effect, but not exactly like, Love In Action.

SUNDAY WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SPOTS

We will continue with sign-up sheets on the Welcome Center counter. They will be there at least one month ahead of each assigned month. We hope that there are enough people willing to sign up and fill ALL of the spots EVERY month.

However, effective October 1, 2023, whatever spots do NOT get filled in will then be assigned to members according to the alphabet letter assigned to that month.

We know that many of you enjoy ushering, being a lector, serving communion, greeting and helping in the kitchen, You are encouraged to sign up WHENEVER it works for you, REGARDLESS of the letter your last name starts with. You can sign up as often as you like and for ANY month of the year.

Emails and/or letters will still go out to everyone that signed up or have been assigned by the committee.

We will do our best to keep to the alphabetical schedule when we (Worship/Evangelism Committee) need to assign. But there could be times we need to reach out to others.

This system is going to apply only to worship services (not to funerals, weddings, or special events).

Here are the months and alphabet schedule:

OCTOBER – C/D/E/N

NOVEMBER – K/Z

DECEMBER – B

JANUARY – F/V

FEBRUARY – J/L

MARCH – S

APRIL – A/G

MAY – Q/R/T/U

JUNE – M

JULY – P

AUGUST – W

SEPTEMBER – H

BAKING FOR SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP HOUR

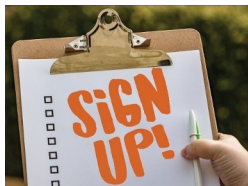
The ALC baking group gets together to bake items about once a month. They put these in the freezer.

If you like to bake and bring food for Sunday Fellowship, you are more than welcome to do so at anytime and it is appreciated.

We ask that you have your items to church by 8:00 am on Sunday morning (You can bring them in anytime during the week.) Please label them - marked for Sunday Fellowship - and put them on the counter or in the refrigerator.

When the volunteers come in on Sunday morning to get ready, they take whatever is marked for that Sunday, either from the counter or from the freezer.

During the summer months (mid May to mid Aug) approximately 4 dozen goodies are needed. During the school year approximately 12 dozen goodies are needed. Adults and Sunday School kids are offered the same thing. This does NOT mean you need to bring enough to serve everyone. We try to provide a variety each Sunday and there are always items in the freezer that can be used. We do ask that what you bring can be served on napkins only.



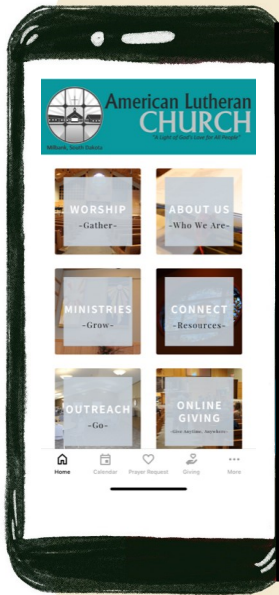
Thank you in advance for your willingness to assist and help in any way that you sign up and for what the committee assigns to you.

You are very much appreciated.

The Worship & Evangelism Committee

stay CONNECTED

Our App allows you to...



Listen to the
Worship Service

Read the
Bulletin

Read the
Newsletter

Give

Find Contact
Information

DOWNLOAD TODAY!



COMMUNITY EVENT

You're Invited To Milbank Women's Connection

Sept. 19 1:30-3:00 pm

Central Church - Fellowship Hall

- Speaker: Elaine Shay of Sioux Falls "New Life"
- Special Feature: Tammy DeWald "Butterfly Gardening"
- Music: Delvin and Cammy Hackwith
- A Light Dessert will be served.
- Silent Auction Fundraiser for Stonecroft Ministries.
- Reservations are appreciated but walk-ins are welcome.
Tickets \$5.00. RSVP to Peg Dohrer at 605-949-0311



Pastor Chris Matson is at American Lutheran Church.
August 7 at 2:59 PM · Milbank · 🌐

I love to travel and share the good news and updates with new and existing partners. Please let me know if you'd like me to visit your congregation. Sometimes I even get to run into dear old friends.
It's great to be Church together through the years and across the miles ❤️



It was a joy to have Pastor Chris serve as our guest minister at American Lutheran in early August.

Our youth will be visiting Church on the Street in Sioux Falls on November 11.

You are invited to learn more about this mission on their facebook page or website.



A School Prayer for Kindness

"Be kind to one another, be tender-hearted, forgive one another as God in Christ has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32

Jesus, would you give these children, teachers, peers, and others the ability to treat others with kindness. Fill their school and classroom with tenderness. Give everyone in our community an opportunity to forgive easily. Amen.
(* Blood pressures will be taken on Sunday, Sept 10)



Diana Dirksen
Parish Nurse



ALC Preschool



We are excited to welcome Mya Johanson into the classroom as our new assistant this year. Mya was a cadet teacher for Emanuel Lutheran Preschool and a Title Paraprofessional for Big Stone City Elementary School. Mya has 3 older sisters and 5 nieces and nephews.



Cadet teachers Hailey Zinter and Isabella Vogel will be joining us in the classroom in the afternoon this year.



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



American Lutheran SUNDAY SCHOOL



Rally Day will be Sunday, September 10th! All children, ages 3 years to 8th grade, are welcome to attend Sunday School and join in for fun and games on Rally Day! We are still in need of volunteers to help teach Sunday School! Please considering signing up for this rewarding experience. If committing to every Sunday doesn't work, grab a partner and co-teach! You can decide when it works for you to teach! Talk to Amy Bass or sign up at the Welcome Center at church!



If your child missed backpack blessing Sunday, you can still pick up a tag! Talk to Amy about getting your tag today!



Sunday School classes begin on Sunday, September 17th!



September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9 Worship 10 Fellowship	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5 12 Peace Circle	6 10 Bible Class 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bells 6 Manna Praise 6 HS Youth Group	7 8am Men's Bible Class 5:30 HS Football Supper	8	9 9 Baking Angels Baking Group 9 Lightning Basketball Tourney
10 Rally Day 9 Worship 10 Fellowship 10 Sunday School	11 7 Scouts	12 9 Quilting	13 10 Bible Class 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bells 6 Manna Praise 6:30 ALC Council	14 8 Men's Bible Class 2 Vespers Worship @ St. Williams 5:30 HS Football Supper	15	16
17 9 Worship 10 Fellowship 10 Sunday School	18 7 Scouts <—Fall Theological Conference —> Pastor Justin attending in Pierre	19	20 10 Bible Class 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bells 6 Manna Praise 6 HS Youth Group	21 8 Men's Bible Class 12-6 RED CROSS	22	23
24 Quilt Sunday 9 Worship 10 Fellowship 10 Sunday School	25 7 Scouts 2 Book Club #1 5 Book Club #2	26 9 Quilting	27 10 Bible Class 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bells 5:30 9 th Grade Confirmation—Stoles 6 Manna Praise	28 8 Men's Bible Class 5:30 HS Football Supper	29	30 