

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

PARISH LIGHT

401 Flynn Drive, Milbank, SD 57252

December 2021

Here we are already at the end of November, ready to flip the calendar to December. Which means the rush and countdown to Christmas is on! Are the decorations up? Did the presents get bought and wrapped and shipped? Have the schedules for everyone in the family been coordinated so we can hit every gathering? Should we do a Christmas letter this year or not? All of that is on top of everything else that is already going on in our busy lives.

It can all be very overwhelming and stressful. Sometimes by the time December 24th rolls around, we are completely burnt out of Christmas and the real Reason for the Season gets completely lost.

In this aspect, the Church gives us a great gift in the Season of Advent. This season of the Church Year sometimes gets forgotten or lost in the midst of everything else going on in the world. So here is a brief description of the Advent Season. Much of the information comes from a book titled, "I Love to Live the Story: A Guide to Understanding and Celebrating the Christian Church Year" by Arden Mead and King Schoenfeld.

First of all, the word advent means coming. Of course this points us to the coming of Jesus. During Advent, we read passages from the Old Testament where prophets foretell of the coming of God's Messiah, the One whom God had promised to save God's people from their sins. As we get closer and closer to Christmas, the coming of Jesus gets more specific. We hear the stories of Mary and Joseph and Elizabeth and John the Baptist. Each week helping us to get ready for the coming of this Messiah.

Throughout Advent, we also hear about two other comings. The message that the One who comes is coming again. The Second Coming of Christ where He will judge the living and the dead. And we also hear in the Scripture Readings during Advent, about Jesus coming into our heart and lives right now by his Word so that we may believe in Him.

Of course, Advent is marked in our church by the lighting of the Advent Wreath. Each week as we get closer to the coming of the Christ Child and as the details become more specific another candle is lit. Each week the light gets brighter as we await the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. Then on Christmas Eve that light is shared and passed throughout the congregation as we sing "Silent Night" celebrating the light of Christ that overpowers the darkness.

So I encourage you to take advantage of the gift of Advent this year. It is in these four weeks that we get an opportunity to step out of the hustle and bustle of the Christmas chaos in the world for even an hour each Sunday to prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Christ.

May you and your family have a Blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas!

Pastor Justin

American Lutheran Church Staff Contact Information

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AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS AND UPDATES

CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Mark Leddy
 V.Pres: Josh Schmeichel
 Secretary: Heidi Wellnitz
 Treasurer: Mary Bjordahl

PROPERTY/ MANAGEMENT

Michael Cordingley
 Ryan Gruba

YOUTH/EDUCATION

Heidi Wellnitz
 Josh Schmeichel
 Heather Zinter

FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP

Mary Bjordahl
 Nancy Hansen
 David Bergan

WORSHIP/EVANGELISM

Peg Dohrer
 Amber Scriver
 Amanda Grabow

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NOVEMBER 10 COUNCIL MEETING

Property & Management Committee

- Considering recommendations and options given by Hasslen on replacing the screen behind the organ.
- Looking into duct cleaning

Worship & Evangelism Committee

- Looking at options for Welcome Center to be manned on Sunday morning.

Finance & Stewardship Committee

- Year-end audit of financials planned
- Bank accounts will be transferred to First Bank & Trust

Youth & Education Committee

- Working on Christmas Program Sunday
- A dedicated fund will be established for Preschool capital expenditures.
- Recommend a Faith Formation Team be formed to provide assistance with setting overall goals for ALC youth programs.

- Five students have registered so far for the 2022 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis.

Other Business (new & old)

- The Strategic Planning Committee will meet on December 4.
- The Preliminary Budget for 2022 was discussed at length. Each committee submitted the needs for their areas.
- Pastor Justin will send out a stewardship letter to all ALC members.
- There are 3 vacancies to fill on the council at the Annual Meeting in January.

Next Council Meeting - December 8 at 6:30

The congregation is encouraged to reach out to any council member with questions or input.

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

www.americanlutheran.com

Worship Service Videos & Bulletins



2nd Sunday Adult Forum

meets December 12
 after worship in the Library.

Pastor Wayne Gallipo from **St. Dysmas** of South Dakota will be with us to share about his work inside the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls.

*Have you wondered about what it is like to visit at the State Penitentiary?
 Come and Learn!*



The **American Lutheran Church Council** consists of 12 members. Members are elected each year at the Annual Meeting to serve 3 year terms.

Three members will be elected this year.

A **Nominating Committee** is also elected at each Annual Meeting, tasked with finding people to fill the open ALC Council positions the following year.

This year's nominating committee:

Rich Krueger, Mark Granquist, Jan Scriver,
 Rhonda Christopherson, and Dani Hicks

If you are interested in serving on the Church Council, or have questions, please reach out to one of the members of the nominating committee. You are also invited to talk to Pastor Justin or any of the council members.

Stewardship

Time, Talent, Treasure

Date	Attendance	Offering
11/07/21	201	\$ 8,537
11/14/21	244	\$ 3,530
11/21/21	330	\$ 8,118
11/28/21	186	\$ 1,976

Worship Services in December

Prepare
the way
of the
LORD
ISAIAH 40:3

**2nd Sunday
of Advent
Sunday
December 05**

9:00 Worship
"Continuous Communion"

The choir will sing a special music piece
and for the Advent Wreath lighting

8:15 Choir Practice
10:00 Coffee Fellowship
10:00 Sunday School



**3rd Sunday
of Advent
Sunday
December 12**

9:00 Worship
"Communion at the Rail"

Note-a-Bells will provide special music.
High School Singers will provide the music
for the Advent Wreath lighting

10:00 Coffee Fellowship
10:00 Sunday School
10:00 Adult Forum



**4th Sunday of
Advent
Sunday
December 19**

9:00 Worship

The preschool - 8th grade Sunday School
children will tell the story of Christmas
through a comedic radio show!

10:00 Coffee Fellowship
Christmas Cookies for all



**Blue Christmas
Worship Service
Sunday
December 19**

4:00 Worship

Join us at **American Lutheran** for a
special service of comfort and hope.

In scripture and song, this service is meant
to be a gift to all who would like a quiet
contemplative, Christmas Worship Service.

You are invited to stay for coffee and
fellowship following the service.



**Christmas Eve
Worship
Friday
December 24**

2:00 Candlelight Service of
carols & readings with Holy Communion

5:00 Candlelight Service of
carols & readings with Holy Communion



**1st Sunday of
Christmas
December 26
"Service of Lights"**

9:00 Worship
with Communion

10:00 Fellowship
(a leftover treats potluck)

**Bring your leftover
Christmas treats to share at coffee hour!**

ALC HS Youth Group

Wednesday 12/1 at 6:00

They will set up the
"Mitten Tree"

Help them fill their tree
with hats, mittens, &
scarves for area
families in need.



Wednesday 12/15 at 6:00



Christmas Flowers

You are invited to
provide flowers for the
Christmas services.

- Drop them off by 12/19. Pick them up by 1/2. They will be disposed of after that date.
- Names for the bulletin are needed by 12/19. Sign up at the Welcome Center.



Strategic Planning

Over the next several months Pastor Justin and a Strategic Planning Team will be working with Pastor Dave Zellmer, former Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, to develop a new Vision and Mission Statement for American Lutheran Church.

Pastor Justin and the Church Council began this conversation about doing some strategic planning and visioning for the church just before the pandemic. During the height of the pandemic the start date kept getting pushed back, but we are looking forward to beginning this work on Saturday, December 4th.

It now seems even more important as so much has changed because of the pandemic. It is a great time for us as a congregation to think about who we are, what is our purpose, and where are we going as we begin this next chapter in the life of American Lutheran Church.

Please hold the team in your prayers as we begin this work and be watching for more information as the mission and goals for our church are developed.



Thank you to Mark & Emily Mueller
for the beautiful Christmas tree.
Thank you to the Decorating Committee
for all of their hard work in decorating
the entire church for Christmas!



December Birthdays



12/1	Brodryck Speth	12/7	Asher Brandt	12/13	Lynelle Thyne	12/27	Marilyn Nef
12/1	Taylor Welberg	12/7	Claire Kastrup	12/16	Jacob Stinson	12/27	Amber Scriver
12/3	Nollen Sheeley	12/8	Carey Berry	12/18	Corinne Dohman	12/28	Bracen Grabow
12/4	Katie Heller	12/8	Jacksyn Johnson	12/18	Sid Fosheim	12/28	Justin Neugebauer
12/4	Suzan Roggenbuck	12/8	Jeffrey Nodsle	12/18	Alyssa Frogner	12/28	Tiffany Storm
12/5	Gail Barlund	12/8	Ciera Schwinger	12/20	Mary Kasuske	12/29	Brynlee Frerichs
12/5	Charlotte Farrell	12/8	Shirley Thorson	12/21	Chaxton Goldammer	12/29	Colleen Larson
12/5	Briggs Koepke	12/9	Heidi Mischel	12/23	Jasmine Smith	12/29	Hannah Lester
12/5	Siera Wenzl	12/9	Steve Storm	12/23	Chely Wellnitz	12/29	Melissa Schuneman
12/5	Emily Jo Wollschlager	12/9	Harley Zemlicka	12/24	Nicholas Frerichs	12/29	Betty Sipe
12/6	Michael Gruba	12/11	Lance Junso	12/25	Alan Mathiason	12/30	Tessa Johnson
12/6	Henry Heller	12/12	Doug Barlund	12/25	JoAnn Volkenant	12/31	Dillon Dwyer
12/6	Alex Pauli	12/12	Mark Leddy	12/26	Emily Brandt		
12/6	Steven Schlueter	12/13	Taylor Anderson	12/26	Joshua Moen		
12/7	Ariana Banken	12/13	Lorrie Hardy	12/26	Ray Ogdahl		



December 12 @ 5:00

ALC Holy Word Theatre

Pizza, Popcorn,

Soda, Candy

Free Will Offering

Sign up at Welcome Center
to help plan for numbers.



Christmas Gift Idea

The ALC Anniversary Committee is
selling items to help fund the
2022 ALC Anniversary Celebration.

These would make nice Christmas presents!

They are available to purchase after services
in December. They are also available at
“Now and Then” on Main Street.



American Lutheran Church
1947—2022
September 25, 2022



Music participants are needed
for the Christmas Services.

Call the Church Office if you
would like to participate.

“Vocal & Instrumentals needed”

Can you help?

- Lectors
- Greeters
- Ushers
- Food Providers
- Food Servers
- Communion

December 24 – January 2

We need volunteers

for the Christmas Services on

December 24, December 26, & January 2

*If you are unable to help for any of these services,
please consider signing up for a Sunday in January.*

*All information and available dates
are on the Welcome Center.*





Berkley Robby Junso
 Baptized November 14, 2021
 Daughter of Lance & Kendra Junso
 Sponsors: Jake & Kaitlin Knoll,
 Zach & Lindsay Orr, Seth Kramer



Aspen Marie Prisinger
 Baptized November 28, 2021
 Daughter of Kraig & Amy Prisinger
 Sponsors: Joseph & Jamie Banken,
 Justin Layher, Janet Eastman



Pastoral Acts

**Monica Larson
& Braydon Berger**
 Married: October 30, 2021



During quiet times when I think of the Savior's birth, I am truly humbled by its sacred nature and by the events that occurred both before and after. I think of Mary holding the infant surrounded by wise men and shepherds that have come from far away to honor and pay respect.

But when I think of Joseph, I think of a young man that exercised great faith in a difficult situation prior to the birth. I think of a man who loved Mary very much and was more concerned with her needs than that of his own.

I chose to portray Joseph taking a turn nurturing the newborn infant while Mary was able to get some much needed rest. The only earthly witnesses to his kindness are the animals found in the manger, who seem to sense the divine nature of his goodness.

"In the Hands of the Father" reflects the great responsibility that Joseph felt, but at the same time was able to draw strength from being in the hands of someone much greater than his own.

www.rogerlovelessart.com

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STAFF

Pastor Justin

<i>Nicole</i>	<i>Diana</i>	<i>Carol</i>
<i>Brittany</i>	<i>Amy</i>	<i>Mary</i>
<i>Rebecca</i>	<i>Gail</i>	<i>Gary</i>



SHUT-IN *Ministry*

Names and addresses are listed for our home-bound & shut-in members on hand-out sheets on the Welcome Center.

They always appreciate cards and notes.

2021

May Your Days Be Merry & Bright!

From:
American Lutheran Preschool



Becker Mueller

Harley Ehlebracht

Braxton Wilson

Brooklyn Gertsema

Kellen Ludwig

Olivia Kohl

Grayson Frogner



Graham Knoll

Jalyn Anderson

Jarret Bear

Carson Myrum

Lynden Harms

Owen Welberg

Adelynn Cordingley



Kaleb Pillatzke

Lydia Johnson

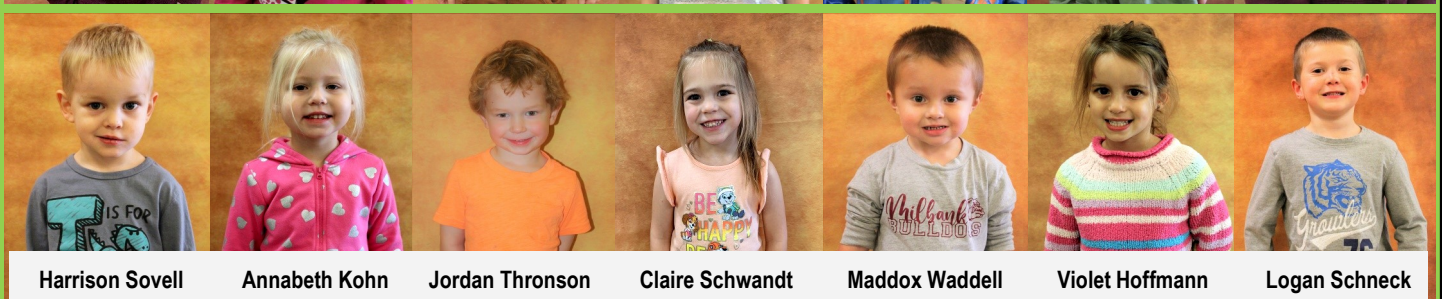
Owen Johnson

Millie VanMeter

Maddox Sackreiter

Olivia Prisinger

Case Conrad



Harrison Sovell

Annabeth Kohn

Jordan Thronson

Claire Schwandt

Maddox Waddell

Violet Hoffmann

Logan Schneck



Collins Mikkelson

Emmitt Welberg

Oakley Wildung

ALC Preschool Staff:

Nicole Scott, Brittany Bray, Rebecca Welberg

High School Cadet Teachers:

Hailey Hupke & Isaac Schulte



YOU Made A Difference!

On behalf of the preschool, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your support of our Kindness Project of gathering items to provide to children who come into foster care in our local area. In addition, many thanks for your generosity and supporting our Soup Fundraiser on Preschool Sunday.



Preschool Sunday 2021



Looking for a Great Stocking Stuffer Idea?

Purchase a Carwash Fundraiser Card

(Available mid-December thru mid-January)

ALC Preschool is teaming up with Craig & Allison DeBoer of Eastside Carwash in Milbank for this great opportunity to benefit ALC Preschool.

Cost: Each card is \$25 (pre-loaded with \$30)

Watch for more details coming in the next few weeks of how you can purchase.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



ALC Preschool is fortunate to utilize opportunities available from Thrivent Financial:

**Supported by the generous donors who dedicate Thrivent Choice Dollars to our preschool program.*

**Use of Thrivent Action Teams—\$250 Card to provide “seed” money to help us with a fundraiser or project. If you would like to help with a “project”, feel free to contact the preschool & we would be glad to guide you with some upcoming ideas.*

We are fortunate to those who have graciously helped us throughout this year by designating Thrivent Choice Dollars and applying for Action Team Cards.

Thank you for your generosity!



Save the Date! Enrolling Soon!

For 2022-2023 School Year—3’s Class (Must be 3 by September 1st, 2022)

Beginning January 3, 2022—Open Enrollment for Current Attending Families

Beginning January 10th, 2022—Open Enrollment for ALC Congregation Families

Beginning January 17th, 2022—Open to the Community (or until class is filled)

For More Information: E-Mail: alcps@itcmilbank.com | ALC Office: (605) 432-5566

Registration forms available online (www.americanlutheran.com) or on bulletin board near the classroom.

\$50 Registration Fee—(Fee includes Student Placement, School Supplies, Snacks, & T-Shirt)



The Sunday School kids finished “Big and Small,” which was a five week study of the book of Job. The kids have been working on learning lines and music for their Christmas program that will take place on December 19th during the church service.

There will be a full rehearsal for the Christmas program on Wednesday, December 15th at 5pm. The children



will be served pizza upon arrival and they can be picked up following the practice at 7:30pm. Please let your child’s Sunday School teacher or Amy Bass know if they will not be able to attend the program. If they would like to share a musical selection for the program, they should let Amy or Pam know.



The program will feature preschool through 8th grade Sunday School children as they tell the story of Christmas through a comedic radio show! There will not be Sunday School following the program or for the remainder of



2021. We will resume Sunday School classes on January 9, 2022. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Christmas Program



SAVE THE DATE
December 19th
9AM





Glory to God in the Highest!



ALC Photo Album of Events, Activities & Preparation In November 2021





Blue Christmas Worship, Sunday December 19 at 4:00 pm

An area Blue Christmas Service will be hosted by American Lutheran Church and the Parish Nurse Board on Sunday, December 19 at 4:00 pm, with light refreshments to follow.

Holidays are times people can feel out of place, different or alone. Some people feel alone because they are new to their community or away from their family. For others, the feeling of not quite fitting in comes because of major life events that forever change the status quo.

These events include illnesses, deaths, economic hardship, or changed relationships. But in every case, things would forever be different from what they were in the past. Sometimes, even good changes, new jobs, births, or even children moving away can change our perceptions of how we fit into a community. The holiday season makes these changes loom larger on our personal horizons.

I suspect Mary and Joseph struggled with how they fit into their world after accepting the impossible mission God had assigned them. Mary was an unwed mother. Joseph took on suspicion by accepting her as his wife. Yes, there were angels, but they made their announcement to shepherds, to social outcasts. Wise men came—but they were followed by Herod's soldiers and the threat of destruction. There were no others who could know their particular pain. Still they had God and each other.

That is the hope of this season: God knows our pain and sent His Son so that none of us would have to be truly alone. As people of God, we can reach out to others who need to know they are not alone.

If you are feeling alone, struggling with how you fit in the world this day, we hope that our Blue Christmas worship will speak to your particular pain. May you find that there is hope this season and may you find joy.

Bible Study, Service, & Mission Opportunities

Contact the Church Office for additional information about these groups.

Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10 am in the Library.

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.

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. Take a look at Advent & Christmas books & movies.

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.

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.

Wine, Women & the Word

An evening group that meets once a month.

ALC High School Youth Group

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month

Manna Praise Band

Practices on most Tuesday Evenings at 6:30

Note-A-Bells

A bell choir that practices most Wednesdays at 5:15.

Choir

No set schedule. They send out emails/texts when meeting.

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10 Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bell Practice 6 Choir Practice 6:00 Youth Group	2 8am Bible Study 10 Parish Nurse Christmas Party	3	4 <i>All day</i> Strategic Planning Committee
5 8:15 Choir Practice 9 Worship 10 Fellowship 10 Sunday School	6 7 Scouts	7 12 Peace Circle 3-8 Fellowship Hall reserved 6:30 Manna Band Practice	8 10 Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 Bell Practice 6:30 Church Council	9 8 am Bible Study 2 Vespers at St. Williams	10	11
12 9 Worship 10 Fellowship 10 Sunday School 10 Adult Forum 4:30 Piano Recital 5 Grown-ups Movie Night	13 7 Scouts	14 9 Quilting 10:30 Milbank Area Ministerial Assoc. 6:30 Manna Band Practice	15 10 Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 6:00 Youth Group Christmas Party 5:00—7:30 SS Program Practice	16 8 am Bible Study 5 Book Club	17	18
19 SS Christmas Program 9 Worship 10 Fellowship 4 Blue Christmas Service	20 7 Scouts	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 2:00 Worship 5:00 Worship	25
26 Service of Lights 9 Worship 10 Fellowship <i>with a leftover treats potluck.</i>	27	28 9 Quilting	29	30	31	

←—reduced office hours this week—reach out anytime using contact information on page one —→



And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."