



AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

PARISH LIGHT

A BEACON OF GOD'S LOVE | A HOME FOR ALL PEOPLE

February 2014 Newsletter



Tackle Hunger!
Let's help out the
Grant County Food Pantry

Super Bowl Sunday – February 2nd

Please bring donated food items to church,
so youth can box the donations and
deliver to the Food Pantry

Sponsored by: ALC Confirmation Class

pre-Valentine's
Day
Dinner

Sunday, Feb. 9
6:00 PM

in the Fellowship Hall

\$25 per person
(includes rose for the ladies)

Reservations Required

Please sign-up at the Welcome Center
& designate which food option you'd like

Babysitting Service Available

Treat your
Valentine
to a
Pre-Valentine's
Day dinner!
(hosted by ALC Youth)

Menu

Your choice of
Prime Rib & Baked Potato
or
Grilled Chicken Breast w/Rice

Also includes
beverage, salad, vegetable,
& dessert

-All proceeds go towards Youth Mission Trips and activities-

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Finding Faith in Troubled Times

In most years, February is the month that serves as the beginning of Lent, and each year my February pastor's article would feature thoughts on Lenten preparation. But this year Lent waits until March to come a calling, which means that I will need to guide my pen to write on a different February topic like the faith of Abraham Lincoln.

This past summer I found great enjoyment in reading the Lincoln biography "Team of Rivals" by Doris Kearns Goodwin. In the book, Goodwin shares the political genius of Abraham Lincoln as seen through the lens of his relationships with three men he selected for his cabinet, William H. Seward, Salmon P. Chase, and Edward Bates. All three of the cabinet members had been political rivals of Lincoln as all three ran against him for the 1860 Republican



A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" Mark 4:37-40

presidential nomination. But after having lost the nomination to Lincoln, it was the wisdom of the 16th president to invite them to work with him as his cabinet during the difficult years of the Civil War. By the end of the biography, Doris Kearns Goodwin showed how all three of the men came to respect the many qualities of the great president, qualities that they had originally disdained.

Also woven into the biography was a snapshot of Lincoln's spiritual side, as Doris Kearns Goodwin offered up a picture of a man, a backwoodsman who became president, who because of life situations eventually found faith. It was near the end of his life, that Lincoln told a few members of his cabinet:

"When I left Springfield, I asked the people to pray for me; I was not a Christian. When I buried my son, the severest trial of my life, I was not a Christian. But when I saw the graves of thousands of our soldiers, I then and there consecrated myself to Christ. I do love Jesus."

Sometimes it is in life's difficulties that our vision becomes clearer, and it is then that we are led to the foot of the Cross. It is in life's troubled waters that we call out for Jesus – who we then discover has been riding in the boat with us throughout our life, waiting for our call.

-Pastor Carl Larson



Please keep Susan and Kate Leddy in your prayers, as they will be traveling to Nicaragua with Gloria Dei Lutheran Church from Sioux Falls for a medical mission trip February 12th-19th.

During this trip, they will deliver the money to Maria from the wreath project last November. We will also extend greetings to Bishop Victoria, Mike Buseby and the rest of the staff at the Lutheran Church on behalf of the youth and adults from our congregation that traveled there last summer.

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

Pastor

Carl Larson

Administrative Ass't

Carol Ydstie

Church Council

President

Emily Mueller

Vice President

Gary Wellnitz

Secretary

Jennifer Waniorek

Treasurer

Mary Bjordahl

Property/Mgm't

Gerald Grimm

Neil Pauli

Gary Wellnitz

Youth & Education

Emily Mueller

Jessica Zemlicka

Deb Homan

Finance

Jason Mischel

Robert Biersbach

Shane Schuchard

Worship & Evangelism

Jennifer Waniorek

Shirley Olson

Ron Boe

The annual meeting took place on January 26th with 71 members in attendance. The budget was approved and 6 new council members were elected, Robert Biersbach and Jennifer Waniorek will be serving 1 year terms, and Ron Boe, Deb Homan, Jason Mischel and Shirley Olson will be serving 3 year terms. I want to start off by thanking the 6 outgoing council members. They volunteered to be on the council during a hard time of our church, and they have put in a lot of time and hard work to keep our church focused on our mission. I also want to thank Pastor Carl for doing an incredible job, which is evident in all of the new members and increased attendance. Looking ahead, because of increased attendance at Sunday worship services, one of the things council will be discussing is options for adding another weekly service. Other items that will be discussed this year are funding for playground equipment and parsonage updates. Please feel free to approach any of the council members with any thoughts and ideas. I am honored to be serving on the council for American Lutheran and I look forward to seeing all of the exciting things that will take place at ALC this year.

-Emily Mueller-Council President



Attention High School Youth!

South Dakota Synod High School

Gathering at Joy Ranch

March 28-30th, 2014

Cost: \$95.00 per person*

Visit www.sdsynod.org for Event Happenings & Online-Registration

(*Thrivent has offered to cover \$75 of the Registration Fee/Youth with the remaining \$20 as a deposit on your reservation to attend the event)

Pastor Carl, Val Mears, and Susan Leddy plan to attend as chaperones.

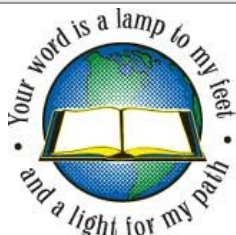
For questions or a Registration Form, please contact:

Valerie.Mears@bankeasy.com | (218) 556-3421

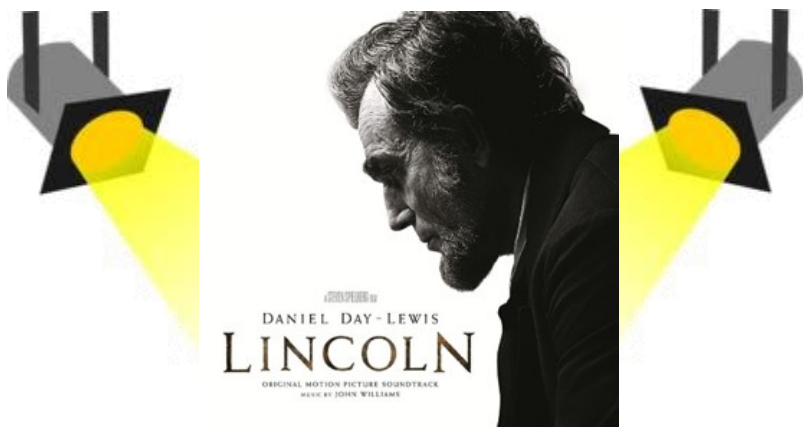
susan_m_leddy@yahoo.com | (605) 254-5595

LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY

	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
Feb. 2nd	Mal 3:1-4	PS 84	Heb 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
Feb. 9th	Isa 58:1-9a {9b-12}	PS 112:1-9 {10}	1 Cor 2:1-12 {13-16}	Matt 5:13-20
Feb. 16th	Deut 30:15-20	PS 119:1-8	1 Cor 3:1-9	Matt 5:21-37
Feb. 23rd	Lev 19:1-2, 9-18	PS 119:33-40	1 Cor 3:10-11, 16-23	Matt 5:38-48



EVENTS & HAPPENINGS



**You're invited to the HolyWord Theater
for the showing of "Lincoln" on
Sunday, February 16th.
Popcorn, peanuts, and cookies
will be served during the showing.
Come and enjoy a great movie!
Interested? Sign-up at the Welcome Center**

Holy Humor

A mechanic who worked out of his home had a dog named Mace. Mace had a bad habit of eating all the grass on the mechanic's lawn, so the mechanic had to keep Mace inside. The grass eventually became overgrown.

One day the mechanic was working on a car in the backyard and dropped his wrench, losing it in the tall grass. He couldn't find it for the life of him, so he decided to call it a day.

That night, Mace escaped from the house and ate all the grass in the backyard.

The next morning the mechanic went outside and saw his wrench glinting in the sunlight. Realizing what had happened he looked toward the heavens and proclaimed, "A grazing Mace, how sweet the hound, that saved a wrench for me!"

MUSIC NOTES

American Lutheran Church extends the invitation to our community for singers to join with our choir in presenting the cantata "Who Do You Say that I am?" by Lloyd Larson. Rehearsals will begin Sunday, March 9 from 1:30-2:30 in the ALC Music Room.

The cantata will be presented at American Lutheran on Sunday, April 13 (Palm Sunday) at the 9:00 worship and again at 2:30 for the community.

The cantata also includes monologues from John; Peter; Mary, the sister of Lazarus; Pontius Pilate; Joseph of Armathea; and Mary Magdalene.

If you are interested, please contact the ALC office at 432-5566 if you are planning to participate so that enough materials are ordered. Thank you.



Turn your radio dial to
1510AM KMSD to listen to
our service live each Sunday

Not able to make it to church?

Are you wanting to listen to the service?

Consider a Radio Ministry sponsorship, which gives others the chance to hear and listen via KMSD-1510AM at 9am on Sundays.

Sponsorship is \$100

Also, please consider enhancing the sanctuary with flowers. Sign-up sheets are available on the Kiosk located in the Narthex.

CHANCEL CHOIR will meet on Wednesdays, February 5 & 19 at 7:00 PM.

NEEDED:

Guitar players & drummer for Celebration Singers. If interested, please talk to Carol or Jon Ydstie.

We're on the Web!

www.americanlutheran.com

Did you miss the service or want to know what's going on @ ALC?



View our website to read the Bulletin & Newsletter, listen to audio, and view the church service.

MINISTRIES

Walking Program has begun!

We are "walking" to San Diego, CA.

Report on your miles every Wednesday until April 9th.



Want to join us? You sure can!

Just contact Diana Dirksen

Phone: 432-6128

E-Mail: dirksen@tnics.com

Blood pressure checks—February 9th @ 10am



Group 4

February & September '14

Craig Ash

Ron Bjerke & Kim Pinkert

Ron & Sandy Boe

Dustin & Angela Boerger

Danny & Glenda Bohn

Robert & Antonette Boone

Robert Crist

Carol Forman

Charlotte Fryer

Carolyn Giessinger

Mark & Theresa Granquist

Tammy Hippen

Wayne & Karen Jaquet

Thomas & Mary Kasuske

Karmen LaRoche

Carl & Carol Larson

Jeff & Marie Loutsch

Lynn & Brenda Maass

Gary & Cosette Mau

Candy Mohnsen

Deb Pierce

Harvey & Deanna Schaefer

Donald Settje

Michael & Karen Smith

Marlin & Tammy Snell

Del Stengel

James & Deanna Stickland

Darin & Jennifer Thiele

Melissa Thompson & Eric Moen

David & Lynelle Thyne

Kevin & Jody Welberg

Gary & Karla Wellnitz

Jeremy & Jessica Wieber

Dave & Rhonda Zinter

*denotes Monthly Chairperson



In the Beginning: Reading through Genesis

Breakfast Bible Study
Thursday Mornings
7:00 AM – Fellowship Hall

For more info, please contact the
church office at 432-5566

Page Turners Book Club

7:00 PM

Every 3rd Thursday of the month
(Discussions will last no longer than an hour)

All are welcome to join the group!
Bring along another book lover to the discussions

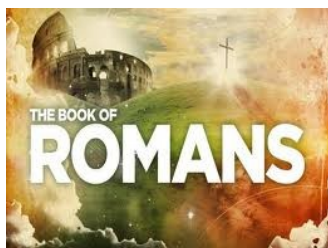
Attention Bakers

The Pink Ladies are looking
for donations of cookies for the
Hospital and St. William's
Nursing Home.

ROMANS: Book of Faith Series

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

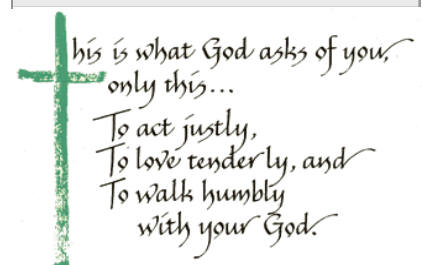
10:00 AM—Fireside Room



Paul's letter to the Romans is very different than any of his other letters. Paul addresses many of the important questions that arise when one considers the relationship between God and creation, as well as topics such as salvation and grace. Participants will engage in vibrant discussion around each of these topics in the course.

We're half way through the exploration of selected Paul's Letters to the Romans:

- Wed. Feb. 5 Where is God when we suffer? (Romans 8:18-39)
- Wed. Feb. 12 How can I keep from singing? (Romans 10:1-21)
- Wed. Feb 19 What does God want from us? (Romans 12:1-21)



micah 6:8



LITTLE OWL NOTES



It's "owl"ways a great day at preschool!

During the month of January, we were actively busy working on the diamond and heart shapes, color white, and letters Kk, Ii, & Qq.

We have been working on mastering the writing of our first names, and some have even took the challenge of writing their last names too. In addition, basic review of letters, numbers, shapes, etc. have also been a focus. Also, many of the kids took part in Kindergarten Registration at the end of January.



The kids continue to enjoy their exploratories each week with Pastor Carl and Music with Carol. As always, we sure do appreciate all their efforts and time.

As Valentine's draws near, we have set-up a "Mail Writing Center" in which the kids can experience the process of writing/drawing their own piece of mail, mailing, stamping, and sorting as well. The kids have thoroughly enjoyed making their masterpieces.

We are eagerly looking forward to the month of February with Groundhog's Day coming (will he see his shadow?), and lots of fun educational Valentine's activities, crafts, and learning.



*Let the children come to me.
Mark 10:14*



Now Enrolling! 2014-2015 School Year

Classes held Monday-Thursday (follow the Milbank School Calendar)

3 Year Olds: 8:15-11:15 AM | 4 Year Olds: 12:15-3:15 PM

For more info, please contact the Church Office or e-mail alcps@itcmilbank.com

CONFIRMATION MENTOR NIGHT—FEBRUARY 19TH

5PM Meal (Pizza, Pop, Ice Cream, & Cookies)

6PM Topic: The Last Supper (Holy Communion)



Information on the Mentor Night will be coming soon!

2nd Annual ALC Preschool Rummage Sale Friday, April 11th

Please keep this in mind when you are cleaning out your closets or doing spring cleaning!

Any and all donations are appreciated!

Last year this fundraiser brought in over \$2000 for the Preschool and we hope to continue this as a successful event. Thank you!

American Lutheran Church would like to purchase playground equipment to add to our already great facility.

Please keep this in mind if you are considering where to direct any extra donations.

If you are interested in being a part of the playground committee, please contact Emily Mueller.



A Valentine Quiz

St. Valentine was:

- 1.) a priest in the Roman Empire who helped persecuted Christians during the reign of Claudius II, was thrown in jail and later beheaded on Feb. 14.
- 2.) a Catholic bishop of Terni who was beheaded, also during the reign of Claudius II.
- 3.) someone who secretly married couples when marriage was forbidden, or suffered in Africa, or wrote letters to his jailer's daughter, and was probably beheaded.
- 4.) all, some, or possibly none of the above.

If you guessed 4) give yourself a box of chocolates. Although the February 14th holiday celebrating love and lovers remains popular, the confusion over its origins led the Catholic Church in 1969 to drop St. Valentine's Day from the Roman calendar of official, worldwide Catholic feasts.

YOUTH SERVICE

God's Heart..Our Hands

Bulletin Delivery Acolyte

**Rail Communion*

February 2	Jacob Stinson	February 2*	Jonny Ash
February 9	Bailey Storm		Ethan Paysen
February 16	Jordan Thiele	February 9	Brandon Hansen
February 23	Aimee Thyne	February 16	Hunter Burnett
		February 23	Rhianna Welberg

Coffee & Fellowship

February 2	Boy Scouts
February 9	Hannah Scriver Tannah Kathman Caleb Nolz
February 16	Alysha & Miranda Madsen Maddie & Nolan Foss William Hins
February 23	Jacob & Aimee Thyne Caden Bjordahl Morgan Jones

Note: If you are unable to serve on your particular Sunday, PLEASE find a replacement and notify the Church Office. Above all, THANK YOU for everything!




ALC Quilters,
Thank you so much for the beautiful quilt! It has already served me well for several naps and I will be sure to pack it when I leave for USD in the fall. Thanks!
 -Katie Loutsch

THANK YOU to the prayer shawl ministry for the lovely shawl. It went with me to the hospital in Sioux Falls. It was a great comfort to know that we are fortunate to belong to such a caring congregation as American Lutheran. Bless you.
 -Marge Keller

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Duane Prisinger | 12 Nicole Peterson | 22 Joan Aho |
| 2 Wynn Boerger | Bill St. Martin | 23 Carol Forman |
| Morgan Jones | 13 Jackson Bohlen | Ruth Gulck |
| Mattison Scott | 14 Nicole Appl | Tannah Kathman |
| 3 Kasi Schlueter | Jason Wellnitz | 24 Kristy Dorneman |
| Susan Stinson | Keith & Jennifer Borah (w) | Taedon Muilenburg |
| 5 Holly Hilbrands | Shane & Jessica Schuchard (w) | Kraig Prisinger |
| 6 Deanna Schaefer | Jan & Amber Scriver (w) | Macyn Stengel |
| Tyler Stickland | 15 Ron Bjerke | 25 Nathan Lease |
| Hal Teske | Justin Mathiason | 27 William Hins |
| 7 Tom Goetz | Karla Wellnitz | Leo & Diane Pillatzke (w) |
| 8 Arden Richardt | 16 Sean Lorenzen | 28 Neil Pauli |
| Cody Storm | Claire Mischel | Harold Stubbe |
| Aimee Thyne | James Stickland | |
| 10 Gretchen Biersbach | 17 Laura Johnson | |
| Kirsten Biersbach | 18 Chris Giesen | |
| Nichole Dybsetter | Pam Prisinger | |
| 11 Karen Jaquet | Jody Unzen | |
| Boyd Sussex | 21 David Thyne | |
| | Rhianna Welberg | |



Please inform the Church Office if we are missing your birthday and/or anniversary, or you discover a wrong date. Thank you!

American Lutheran Church Calendar of Events – February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>*Communion Served Services may be heard LIVE on 1510AM KMSD</p>						1
<p>2 Boy Scout Sunday 9am Worship KMSD * 9:57 Education Hour 10am Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>3 9-10:30 TOT School 7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 10am Bible Study 3:30 Confirmation 5:30 Note-a-Bells 7pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6 7am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 9am Worship KMSD* 9:57 Education Hour 10am Coffee Fellowship 10am Blood Pressure Checks 6pm Valentine's Dinner</p>	<p>10 9-10:30 TOT School</p>	<p>11 9am Quilting</p>	<p>12 10am Bible Study 2:15 Confirmation 5:30 Note-a-Bells 6pm Church Council</p>	<p>13 7am Men's Bible Study 10:30 Ministerial @ ALC</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 9am Worship KMSD* 9:57 Education Hour 10am Coffee Fellowship 10am March Love in Action 5pm Movie Night—"Lincoln"</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 12:00 Peace Circle 2pm Alzheimer's Support Group</p>	<p>19 10am Bible Study 5pm Confirmation Mentor Night 5:30 Note-a-Bells 7pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>20 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Page Turners (Book Club)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 9am-Worship KMSD* 9:57 Education Hour 10am Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>24 9-10:30 TOT School 7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>25 9am Quilting</p>	<p>26 10am Bible Study 3:15 Confirmation 5:30 New Member Potluck 5:30 Note-a-Bells 7pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>27 7am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>28</p>	