



July 2022



June '22							August '22						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			28	29	30	31			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1 Pastor's Day Off	2
3 9:30am Worship/Communion 10:30 Fellowship 7pm Worship/Communion	4  4th of July Office Closed	5	6 Pastor's Text Study 10:30-1 7:30 Boards Meet 8:00 Church Council	7	8 Pastor's Day Off	9
10 9:30am Worship 10:30 Fellowship 7pm Worship	11	12 VBS 5:30-8pm Pastor Jonathan on Vacation<-	13 VBS 5:30-8pm	14 VBS 5:30-8pm	15	16
17 9:30am Worship 10:30 Fellowship 7pm Worship	18	19	20	21 Pastor Jonathan on Vacation->	22 Pastor's Day Off	23
24 9:30am Worship 10:30 Fellowship No Evening Worship	25 Operation Love 1:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30pm	26	27 Pastor's Text Study 10:30-1	28 1st Call Cohort 12-4pm West Prairie Lutheran-Lennox	29	30
31 9:30am Worship/Communion 10:30 Fellowship 7pm Worship/Communion		Notes <div> Church Phone - 854-3684 Parsonage Phone - 854-3745 Church Email - office@americanlutherandesmet.org Pastor's Email - pastor@americanlutherandesmet.org </div> 				

American Lutheran Church

The Voice

July 2022



Birthdays;

Maurice Kruger—2
Harris Baszler—3
Lane Holland—3
Stuart Twite—3
Callie Martens—4
Dustin McCune—5
Amy Hoefert—5
Ashley Flood—6
Scott Myers—6
Emmet Zell—6
RJ Cleveland—9
Alijah Roth—10
Roger Page—12
Tad Flood—12
Jessica M. Anderson—13
Douglas Geyer—13
Lyle Gehm—14
Andrea Skyberg—15
Shelby Brodersen—16
Henry Albrecht—17

Rachel Anderson—18
Kyle Siver—19
Jeremiah Roth—20
Dan Hojer—21
Jason Pommer—21
Debra Combs—22
Randy Holland—22
Gayle Grothe—23
Amy Gronewold—23
Glen (Tex) Anderson—24
Lynda Brodersen—24
Nathan Mann—24
Caryn Pastian—25
Oliver Steffensen—26
Perry Sand—27
Irene Petersen—28
Grace Albrecht—30
Kenna Currier—31
Meridith Geyer—31
Alexandra Munger—31
Cora Wilkinson—31

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Steve & Laurie Anderson—1
Norman & Kay Koehlmoos—7
Marvin & Joyce Thompson—13
Tyler & Taylin Anderson—20
Ron & Audrey Lembke—20
Lyle & Marcia Richards—26
Erin & Cheryl Wilkinson—31

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARY

Tegan Currier 7/1/2012
Cody Zell 7/19/2009
Andrea Skyberg 7/24/2004
Lane Holland 7/27/2003
Jacie McCune 7/31/2005



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A Reflection on Our First 3 Years in Ministry Together

On June 21, 2019 my brother-in-law Jeremey and myself arrived at the parsonage. 8 ALC members greeted us and immediately we went about unloading in the U-Haul within 2 hours. It was an extremely impressive feat. I am still and will always be extremely grateful for those of you from church who helped us move that day! Thank you!

June 24, 2019 was officially my first day in the office. It's crazy to think that it has been 3 full years now that I have been serving as your Called and Ordained Pastor! What a precious gift it is to walk alongside you, celebrate with you, grieve with you, minister to you and serve with you! Thank you for taking a chance on a First Call Pastor and allowing me to learn some of what it means to be a pastor serving a people of God in a specific time and place!

Yet, hardly anything about my first 3 years with you all has been normal. Much of which is attributed to the COVID-19 Pandemic beginning approximately 9 months after I began serving you. While these 3 years have now come and gone, I'd be lying if I said they went quickly. Because they haven't gone quickly for the vast majority of us.

The past couple years have been taxing on nearly all of us. There is a lot of unspoken hurt, loss, death, grief, depression, anxiety that many, many people are carrying with them still. Unsure of how to express it to those who care the most about them like their spouse, parents or siblings. Because maybe we know that person who loves us is struggling with their own sense of doubt or grief or change. Maybe it is because we know that in unloading our unspoken issues on someone else we may very well be overburdening them and causing them undue hardship.

Fortunately, you do have someone who's calling in life is to hear those things and respond sharing the love of God, your pastor. It is a holy and sacred part of ministry to be invited into those extremely difficult conversations so that you have an opportunity to hear out loud that God loves you for you. That God loves the you that you even try to hide from the world. I don't want to us to dwell in our entirety on this, but I would be doing a disservice to the honest truth of our reality if I were to simply ignore this topic all together.

There have been many other aspects of shared ministry worth celebrating. Firstly, of course was the wonderful 100th Anniversary of the merging of St. Petri and St. Pauli into “The American Lutheran Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.” Of course over time members from St. Matthews, East Bethany and West Bethany also came into the history, mission and ministry of ALC between 1920 – 1970.

In these first 3 years there have been continual improvements to our church building that have changed the functionality of the space. The lighting in the sanctuary was greatly improved. Most people have forgotten how dark it used to be in there. But I can tell you that folks who have not been in the congregation in many years are immediately taken aback. The breezeway was redone and a wheelchair lift was installed going up the stairs of the Education Unit. Now, those with limited mobility are able to access approximately 80% of the church building! A new gable was constructed over the entrance of the church to help create a more welcoming space away from the elements outside with a small ramp for accessibility purposes.

There have been 8 people baptized; 7 children and 1 adult. On the other hand, there have been approximately 25 funerals. However, 10 of those funerals have had Holy Communion which is a brand new practice for ALC’s history! I can’t tell you the number of parishioners who have remarked just how special or meaningful it was to take Holy Communion in the midst of the funeral or who would like it at their own funeral. There have been over 30 youth who have Affirmed their Baptism through the Rite of Confirmation. ALC has had 1 wedding. (Obviously this is another thing greatly impacted by COVID-19.) There are two future ALC weddings scheduled for August of 2022. ALC members also stepped up and took on a new challenge of doing Vacation Bible School without the assistance of Bible Camp Staff (because there is a shortage of Camp Staff, most camps have cut their VBS programming).

There are some new things on the horizon for ALC. The future looks hopeful. I’m grateful that you have Called me to walk alongside you as you discern all that God has planned for you in De Smet, South Dakota, the USA and the world. May you continue to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit to do the important work the Father has called you into, that is, sharing with everyone the impact of the saving work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

In humble service of the Triune God,

Jonathan David Dolan

KINGSBURY COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

End of Month Report May 2022

Non-Perishable Foods In Need of:

Peanut Butter & Jelly
Canned Fruit
Canned Meat
Cookies & Snacks
Hamburger Helpers
Boxed Potatoes (Not Mashed)
Soup & Crackers
Sugar / Salt / Pepper
Ketchup
Mustard
Juice / Coffee / Tea
Cereal

Non-Foods In Need of:

Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Kleenex
Laundry Soap
Dryer Sheets
Dish Soap

Personal In Need of:

Shampoo / Conditioner
Deodorant
Body Wash
Toothpaste / Toothbrush
Liquid Soap

Non-perishable food for the pantry can be purchased and left at Maynards to be delivered.

If you do not have time to shop, we can also use monetary donations.

Our mailing address is:
PO Box 202
DeSmet SD 57231

18=Families
1=New Families
27=Individuals
3=Children (17 & Under)
13=Seniors (60+)
17=Senior Box
45=Backpacks

11=DeSmet
41=Lake Preston

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It's that time again!

As we prepare to get family portraits for this year's church directory, we need to get a committee of volunteers to assist in this process.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Janet Brag or the church office.



The Minions! I am incredible.

VBS will be held July 12-14 (Tues-Thurs) from 5:30pm to 8pm at American Lutheran Church. Grades K-6th for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year.



A meal will be served from 5:30-6pm.

MENTORS FOR CONFIRMATION

Starting in September, we would like to provide each of our Confirmands with a mentor from our congregation.

As a mentor, you would walk alongside the Confirmand as they explore their faith, help them with the transition of becoming a young adult member of our congregation and most importantly as their mentor - pray for them. We are still working through the details of the mentorship so more info will be forthcoming this summer.

If you are interested in being a mentor, please contact the Church office, Desa Rae Cleveland or Dianne Mollner.

Characteristics of Excellent Mentors:

1. Good listener
2. Flexible.
3. Value diversity of perspectives.
4. Knowledgeable.
5. Nonjudgmental.
6. Able to give constructive feedback
7. Honest and candid.



Dear ALC Congregation,

Breeze Database committee will be mailing information to you regarding your profile, which contains the information that we have for each person in this congregation. When you receive this mailing we need; address (physical and mailing), phone numbers, email, and birthdate. We ask that you look over your profile for accuracy and return to the office as soon as possible.

To those who have already completed and returned your profile, THANK YOU!

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WE WELCOME:

Braxtyn Charles Anderson to the church through Baptism. Braxtyn's parents are Tyler & Taylin Anderson, his sponsors are Austin & Julianna Langemeier, Jaden & Emily Amdahl.



Synod Assembly Recap

The 2022 South Dakota Synod Assembly was held on June 3-4, 2022 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD. It was good to be gathered as God's people in South Dakota for the first time in person since 2019. Pastors, deacons, lay members, and visitors gathered each day in worship to center ourselves on the necessary work of the church. Assembly participants were invited to *imagine* new ways of being church through a series of Imagination Labs. In addition to worship and learning, here are some of the highlights of the synod assembly:

Rev. Keith Fry, executive for administration in the Office of the Secretary, delivered the ELCA report on behalf of our Presiding Bishop, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton. Together, the congregations in the South Dakota Synod made it possible for the synod to share \$812,120 with the churchwide organization to support our ministry together.

Bishop Constanze Hagmaier shared highlights of the past year of synod ministry including the call of Pastor Alan Blankenfeld to serve as the synod's Rural Ministry Liaison and the formation of the Digital Ministry Task Force. These new initiatives will support congregations and ministry sites of the South Dakota Synod imagine new ways of being church together in order that the Gospel will continue to be proclaimed throughout the South Dakota Synod. The "Church Basement Ladies" from Split Rock Lutheran Church provided commentary and challenged us all to not be afraid of change.

Peggy Hahn, Executive Director of LEAD (Living Everyday as Disciples), was the keynote speaker. Peggy challenged us to think of "church" as a verb: from *going to church* to *sent to be the church*.

Throughout the assembly, Glocal Musicians provided music leadership. Glocal is a coalition of musician educators that create music influenced by global themes in communities worldwide.

Actions approved by the Synod Assembly included:

1. Election of new South Dakota Synod Council Members and approval of synod committee members.
2. Approval of new compensation and guidelines for rostered and lay staff.
3. A memorial was adopted to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly to review the process for on leave from call roster status.
4. The 2023 Mission Plan for the South Dakota Synod was adopted.

Thank you to all, and Tristin Gruenhagen, Bonita Albrecht & Pastor Jonathan who participated in the synod assembly this year!

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THE VOICE

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PO Box 31

411 4th St. SW

De Smet, SD 57231

Standard Mail

U. S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 54

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

July 2022



JULY WORSHIP SERVICES

Altar Guild— Arlys Skyberg
Ushers - Norm & Kathy Whitaker



Date	Projection	Sound System	Lectors	Communion Assist	Acolytes
July 3	Cheryl Palmlund	Cheryl Palmlund	Gale Anderson	Glenda Haines	Cody Zell
July 10	Wade Hoefert	Wade Hoefert	Cheryl Noem	No Communion	Owen Anderson
July 17	Amy Hoefert	Warren Rusche	Wade Hoefert	No Communion	Jennifer Davis
July 24	Bonita Albrecht	Bonita Albrecht	Tammy Albrecht	No Communion	Rogan Albrecht
July 31	Sharry Knock	Warren Rusche	Marcine Smith	Kay Koehlmoos	Bella Wilkinson

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American Lutheran Church
Regular Council Meeting – June 8, 2022

Pastor: **Jonathan Dolan**

Officers of the Congregation: President **Todd Wilkinson**, Vice-President **Robin Gigov**, Treasurer Amy Hoefert, Secretary **April Rusche**

Board of Trustees: Chair **Greg Noem**, Norm Koehlmoos, **Bonita Albrecht**, **Rich Abrahamson**, **Norm Whitaker**

Board of Parish Education: Co-Chair Desa Rae Cleveland, Co-Chair **Vicki Dylla**, **Dianne Mollner**, **Monica Roth**, Darcie Tolzin

Board of Deacons and Deaconesses: Chair **Devon Clubb**, Secretary **Glenda Haines**, **Jake Anderson**, Justin Smith, **Kathy Heller**, **Kay Koehlmoos**, **Matt Rusche**, Gordie Skyberg, **Greg Skyberg**, Rhona Albrecht

Devotion - lead by Pastor Jonathan

Approval of Agenda- President, Todd Wilkinson added points to the agenda. **Rich Abrahamson** made a motion to approve the changed agenda. **Greg Skyberg** seconded. The motion passed.

Secretary's Report The minutes of the previous meeting were presented. **Glenda Haines** offered a correction to the minutes. **Greg Noem made a motion to approve the changed minutes. Seconded by Greg Skyberg.** - Motion passed

Treasurer's Report The treasurer's report for the month of March 2022 was presented. **Motion made to accept Treasurer's Report by Bonita Albrecht and was seconded by Vicki Dylla - Motion passed**

Pastor's Report

- Confirmation went well
- Attended Synod Assembly
- Preparations are being made for Confirmation Camp
- Pastor will be on vacation from July 12 - 21

Old Business

I. President

- a. Discussion of inactive members and how to re-engage them
- b. Janet will prepare lists of member status and present to the council

I. Trustees

- a. Greg Noem reported that research was being done on gable lighting and a double-sided sign for the church
- b. Boiler installation is temporarily on hold until a part arrives

I. Deacons and Deaconesses

- a. Nothing to Report

I. Board of Parish Education

- a. Nothing to report

I. Other Old Business

a. **Bonita Albrecht made a motion to proceed with “Unique Church Solutions” to photograph and produce the church directory.** Seconded by Vicki Dylla

New Business

I.Trustees

- a. Greg Noem reported that the Disaster Relief updates continue. Discussion followed about possible protocols to add which included CPR training.
- b. Discussion of sending funds to help Beaver Valley Lutheran Church with storm damage
Greg Noem made a motion to donate \$500. Seconded by Kaye Koehlmoos. Motion passed.

I.Deacons and Deaconesses

- a. Communion assistants and lectors are being arranged for July.
- b. Stuart Twite will be covering for Pastor in his absence.
- c. There will be no evening service on June 26
- d. Discussion about reinstating altar communion
- e. Discussed bringing back Special Music.

I.Board of Parish Education

- a. 8 students will attend confirmation camp at NeSoDak...figuring out transportation
- b. Planning for VBS continues...possibly taking place the 3rd week of July
- c. Looking for confirmation mentors for students

I.President

- a. Fact-Finding committee will meet June 15 at 6:00
- b. Pastor's Evaluation will be taking place soon

The motion was made by Bonita Albrecht to adjourn the meeting and move into Executive Session. It was seconded by Norm Whitaker

The next meeting will be held on July 6, 2022, at 8:00 PM. Boards will meet at 7:30 prior to the meeting.

Todd Wilkinson adjourned the meeting around 9:50 PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

April Rusche, Secretary

Approved as read/corrected on



South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

July 2022 Newsletter Inserts

From the Bishop's Desk

Dear South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

Thank you for your participation in the 2022 South Dakota Synod Assembly. Together we imagined ministry in our time and space. If you missed this year's assembly, please talk to your pastor, deacon, and voting members. They will be able to share with you about the manifold ways we were church together for almost two days. It is my hope that you will find rest throughout the summer months before ministry gears back up for Fall and Winter activities. Journeying with you in Christ,

Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop of the SD Synod

On the Road Again – or off – could be both!

Once again, I have the pleasure to hoop in my truck and head out to visit another of the great congregations in the South Dakota Synod. In the churches that I have been, 13 so far, one thing is happening in all of them; even though the people may not see it, the Holy Spirit is at work in and through the people, congregation and community! What fun it is for me to point this out to the good folks that I visit with. You see, at times of stress and fear, both of which are present for churches in transition, they don't see the positive mission that is going on right in their midst. So, if you are one of the congregations in transition at this time just know that you are not alone, Jesus is walking with you! The Bishop and synod staff care about you and we too walk with you as you continue to spread the Gospel of Jesus in your homes, churches and communities.

Blessings to you all,
Pr. Alan Blankenfeld
Rural Ministry Liaison for the SD Synod

Lutheran Disaster Response

Now for some positive and uplifting news about the ELCA and Lutheran Disaster Response. Beaver Valley Lutheran Church sustained significant damage from a confirmed EF-1 tornado on Memorial Day very early in the morning. Before noon Bishop Hagmaier and Pastor Alan were at the church, the Bishop called LDR and the process was started on getting aid for the church. We are excited to inform you all that LDR will be providing \$12,000 directly to BVLC and an additional \$10,000 to the SD Synod that will also go on to BVLC! This is church together as we will continue to walk with Beaver Valley. If you feel so moved, you can donate to the special offering fund for Beaver Valley at sdsynod.org/donate.

You're Invited!

South Dakota Synod Farm to Table Dinner

Bishop Constanze Hagmaier and the South Dakota Synod invite you to join us for our inaugural Farm to Table Dinner, to be held on Sunday, August 21, 2022. This event in support of rural ministry will be held at Messiah Lutheran near Flandreau, home church of Pastor Alan Blankenfeld, our first rural liaison.

Through two-week immersions in rural congregations across the state, the rural liaison offers a sounding board to members of the community, listening to struggles, offering life and energy to churches that support families and youth in joy and crisis far beyond their own walls and membership.

Here are comments from some of the places Pastor Alan has visited this year:

"The Rural Liaison's care for our grieving school and community after the accidental death of a young man was a real blessing. He spent time on the ranches, and made a 6-hour road trip in support of the girls' basketball team. The door is always open - we would welcome him back with open arms."

"Pastor Alan's presence is a life-giving, life-supporting transfusion. The boost can be transformative and allows the community to be re-energized."

"The responsibility was lifted off my shoulders for that two weeks. I felt supported, like I wasn't doing it alone. The attitude of the church community changed, with a new spark. Sometimes, it's nice for God's helper to have skin in the game."

Pastor Alan was himself a farmer for more than 30 years before entering ministry. This work has made a tremendous difference that needs to continue and expand. With your help, we can make it happen, and make a difference across South Dakota.

Limited tickets available through July 12 at \$100/person or a reserved table for eight at \$750.00.

Visit www.sdsynod.org/dinner for additional details and to purchase tickets or make a contribution. Questions? Interested in sponsorship opportunities? Call Kathy McHenry at 605-274-5030.

Someday Might Be Too Late

Thinking about a will or trust makes nearly everyone a world-class procrastination expert. There's no can easier to kick down the road than setting an appointment with an attorney and committing plans for all our worldly possessions to a legal document. "I'll get to it **someday**, after _____" or "We'll have more time **someday**, when _____ is done."

I'm sharing very personal thoughts this month, in hopes that each of us are motivated to do the hard work and stop counting on **someday**. My dad recently had heart incident that earned him a helicopter ride and a few days in the hospital (and thankfully, a full recovery). Behind all of the expected worry and stress was a very real, very practical concern. I knew my parents had been working on amendments to their estate plan for years, but nothing has been finalized. The decisions are complicated and emotional, and easy to ignore. In those initial moments when the future looked bleak, thoughts of the potential nightmare of settling an estate without clear, legal instructions and guidance were unavoidable.

I'm incredibly grateful that my sweet, ornery dad is still with us. The grief of losing a parent can be unbearably hard. But wading through business decisions and questions and potential arguments without guidance because someone planned on a **someday** that didn't come, makes it so much

harder. Can we all agree to make a difference by making **today** our **someday**?

If you'd like to know more about how to create a legacy plan honoring your family and your faith, visit www.lpgsd.org or contact Kathy McHenry, Executive Director of Lutheran Planned Generosity of SD at (605) 274-5030 or kmchenry@sdsynod.org.