

# March 2021

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 3:45 7th & 8th Confirmation  7:00 Lenten Worship	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30am Worship/Communion 10:30am Sunday School 7:00pm Worship/Communion	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 3:45 7th & 8th Confirmation  7:00 Lenten Worship 8:00 Church Council	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 5:30pm High School Youth Group 7:00 Worship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 3:45 7th & 8th Confirmatio  7:00 Lenten Worship	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:30am Worship/Communion 10:30am Sunday School 7:00pm Worship/Communion	<b>22</b> 1:00pm Operation Love	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 3:45 7th & 8th Confirmation  7:00 Lenten Worship	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:30am Worship/Communion 10:30am Sunday School 5:30pm High School Youth Group 7:00pm Worship/Communion	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 3:45 7th & 8th Confirmation	<b>1 MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 7:00 Maundy Thursday Worship/Communion	<b>2 GOOD FRIDAY</b> 7:00 Good Friday Worship	<b>3</b>
<b>4 EASTER</b> 7:00am Sunrise Worship Communion 9:30 Worship/Communion	<b>5</b>	Notes <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">             Church Phone - 854-3684    Parsonage Phone - 854-3745              Church Email - office@americanlutherandesmet.org              Pastor Jonathan Email - pastor@americanlutherandesmet.org              Church Website - americanlutherandesmet.org           </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">               Calendar Templates by Vertex42  <a href="https://www.vertex42.com/calendars/">https://www.vertex42.com/calendars/</a> </div>				

## A Message from the President

Last year, we welcomed Pastor Jonathan into our parish along with his wife, Lisa, and their family. Shortly thereafter, we found ourselves dealing with a pandemic of worldwide proportions, and no one figured it would last this long. As this pandemic becomes more and more trying, our church has had to learn to adapt to new changes in the way our church is being run, how our council handles matters, and how our services are conducted.

Our church council has worked hard to make every decision with the whole congregation in mind. The council has taken the approach of finding ways that will be comfortable for everyone to continue to be part of American Lutheran Church. We first made the decision to suspend services from the information that was presented to us at that time. Once it seemed like things were changing with COVID, our council made the decision to resume services with added precautions to protect our church family as much as we could. The council has offered many ways of participating with church services: Facebook and YouTube via the internet, parking lot services with sound system then upgrading to an FM transmitter, and finally getting back to in-person attendance. These options allow the parishioners the choice of what best fits their needs. The council added a TV in the basement for overflow for people that want to social distance but still be in church. I am so very proud of this council for taking on and helping tackle some of these decisions as we continue with this pandemic. I am also very grateful to Desa Rae Cleveland for stepping up and assisting with the videoing of services, uploading the services, maintaining our website, and posting on Facebook to help keep people informed of the happenings of American Lutheran Church.

The council has started a music committee of parishioners to assist with choosing songs for worship services. To aid in this, the council purchased a license to a song library of thousands of songs. We have added communion cups that already have a host/wafer and grape juice to allow for communion during church. The thing that amazes me is seeing everyone that comes to church. They may be wearing masks, but everyone is glad to see each other. Our church family has been holding on very strong throughout this whole situation. This has been a trying year, and I hope that I have met or exceeded your expectations as your President.

One thing this pandemic and all the other things that have happened this last year has taught me is that we need to focus less on our differences and come together as the church family that we are so proud to be a members of. Some of you have been members of this church a lot longer than I have; you have seen some of the trying times of the past and have seen that when we come together strong as a church family, we can accomplish anything. Whether it is helping our pastor get a better understanding of our congregation and the wants and desires of its members or finding a way to assist those that are worshipping outside of the church, or by checking in on one and another during this pandemic, our goal is that no one feels left behind. Whatever the situation is, I feel that if we can come together as a strong church family, we can overcome this pandemic and its complications.

In closing I want to share this quote from a movie called "God is Not Dead." The pastor says the following: "God is good all the time. And all the time, God is good."

Thank you for your time and may the good Lord and Savior bless you and your family.

President Wade Hoefert

## **Our Focus Turned Toward the Cross**

During the Season of Lent, our focus of prayers, readings, music and preaching shifts heavily toward repentance and the forgiveness that flows from the Cross of Jesus Christ. Nearly everything that is done during the 40 Days of Lent is viewed through daily dying to one's self and rising to new life through the power of Jesus' death and resurrection.

The most ancient cross that we have found in Christian art is a small ivory carving on the side of a box from the late 300's. When execution by crucifixion was commonplace in the Roman Empire, Christians were understandably horrified by the cross, and only after Emperor Constantine outlawed crucifixions could Christians adopt the cross as a symbol of God's grace. Today, a cross is the most visible sign that a person is a follower of Jesus Christ.

“All that matters is the cross and dying on that cross: there is no other way to life and real inward peace except the way of the holy cross, and of daily dying to self. Go where you like, look for what you like, you will not find a higher way above or a safer way below than the way of the holy cross. The cross is always close by and waits for you everywhere. You cannot escape it, wherever you may run. If you carry your cross with gladness, it will carry you and lead you to that longed-for goal where there will be no more suffering. If you carry it grudgingly, you will make it a burden and weigh yourself down, but all the same you will have to bear it. If you throw one cross aside, you will certainly find another, and possibly one that is heavier to bear.”

— “On the Imitation of Christ (1427)” by Father Thomas á Kempis

As we journey through Lent, we do so in a way that ought to shift how we view the cross in our daily life. As Father Thomas rightly suggests, if we throw it aside, we may pick up a heavier one. If we carry it grudgingly it may become a burden. If we carry our cross with gladness, we will enter into eternal life where there will be no more suffering.

But it is not through our power that we find eternal life. Our Lenten journey clearly reminds us of this as we make our way to Holy Week. As we celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, we see the humbleness of our King. As we witness the false testimony, scourging at the pillar, the crowning of thorns, we see the immeasurable love laid out for us. As we hear Jesus' words from the cross, we hear the forgiveness he offers. As we marvel at the empty tomb, we see the victory over death and the gates of paradise opened for all. Set your gaze this day, upon the cross.

*Pastor Jonathan David Dolan*

# American Lutheran Church

## Regular Council Meeting – February 10, 2021

Pastor: Jonathan Dolan

Officers of the Congregation: President **Wade Hoefert**, Vice-President **Lindsay Nolte**, Treasurer **Amy Hoefert**, Secretary **Robin Gigov**

Board of Trustees: Co-Chair **Greg Noem**, **Bill Wilkinson**, **Rich Abrahamson**, **Norm Whitaker**, **Chuck Johnson**

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 **Pam Hojer**, Co-Chair **Devon Clubb**, Secretary **Glenda Haines**, **Craig Bjordahl**, **Kathy Heller**, **Matt Rusche**, **Gordie Skyberg**, **Greg Skyberg**, **Devon Clubb**, **Jacob Anderson**, **Kay Koehlmoos**

Visitors: Marie Rusche

President **Wade Hoefert** called to order the regular monthly meeting of American Lutheran Church Council on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 8:00 PM.

**Devotion:** None

**Agenda:** **Greg Skyberg** made a motion to approve the agenda. **Desa Rae Cleveland** seconded. The motion passed.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the previous meeting (01/13/2021) were presented. **Bill Wilkinson** moved to approve the minutes. **Desa Rae Cleveland** seconded. The motion passed.

**Treasurer Report:** The treasurer's report for the month of January 2021 was presented. **Pam Hojer** moved to approve the report as presented. **Gordie Skyberg** seconded. The motion passed.

### **Pastor's Report:**

- Paternity Leave started early because of being a close contact of COVID-19 exposure; grateful Stuart Twite for conducting Christmas Eve services and for Pastor Gary Anderson who led leading worship for the month
- Provided care for families that have been impacted with by COVID-19
- Provided care for three families that lost a loved one
- Conducted funeral planning sessions and a funeral
- Took home communion to four parishioners
- Attended several zoom meeting

### **Old Business**

1. Wellness Committee – none
2. Deacon's and Deaconesses
  - a. Discussion regarding Advent/Christmas offering. It will go to the Heritage Scholarship fund as decided in earlier meetings
3. Trustees

- a. **Gordie Skyberg** made a motion to approve the 2021 budget; **Pam Hojer** seconded. The motion passed.
4. Board of Education - none
5. President
  - a. Technology
    - i. Facebook Live update
    - ii. Positive feedback received
    - iii. Bluetooth connection to sound system should improve audio for all services
    - iv. Mount for basement TV

### **New Business**

6. Marie Rusche shared that she will be retiring at the end of they year.
7. Wellness Committee – none
8. Outreach Committee – goal is to reconnect with families and connect with new families
  - a. February Outreach Projects – cookie plates, sent packets for homebound
  - b. Birthday and Anniversary Cards – positive feedback
9. Deacon's and Deaconesses
  - a. Review current service format during COVID-19
  - b. Ash Wednesday Services Start February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 and run through Lent
10. Trustees
  - a. Wheel Chair Lift – Update new members on projects; started working with Butler Mobility
  - b. Screen coverings the balcony donated by CMI
  - c. Printer Update – new color printer in the office
  - d. Valley FiberCom installed at the parisnage – cancelled services with Mediacom
11. Board of Education
  - a. Acolytes resume duties – a list was sent home
  - b. 2021 Scholarship have been sent out
  - c. Discussion on Confirmation Camp – potential of 20 attendees
  - d. Vacation Bible School
  - e. Ash Wednesday – working on assemblies with Sunday School for Lent
12. President
  - a. Mid States Audio (Bluetooth connection mount for tv, tv in sanctuary)
  - b. Valley FiberCom has been installed
  - c. Looking into floor options in breezeway
  - d. Spring Cleaning in the education until and the church coming up

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 10th, 2021 at 8:00 PM. Boards will meet at 7:30 prior to the meeting. Members can meet at the church or via Zoom.

There was a motion for adjournment by **Rich Abrahamson**. **Desa Rae Cleveland** seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Robin Gigov  
Secretary

Approved as read/corrected on \_\_\_\_\_

# Say Cheese Little Ones



# Gifts to and from The Village



# All about the Ashes



### KINGSBURY COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

If you would like to donate to the food pantry directly at the food pantry on Tuesdays. If you are unable to drop off items, our collection team would be happy to pick up your items on Tuesday mornings between 11:00-1:00. Just call Mary or leave a message at the church on Monday afternoon. For no-contact pickup just hang your contribution on your front door! 605-854-3684.

If you are unable to shop for items call Maynards on Tuesday mornings and they will deliver to the Food Pantry! 854-3432

In January we served 23 families, a total of 47 people. 93 backpacks went to the De Smet School and 80 went to the Lake Preston School.

#### Some of the needs at the pantry are:

Family size & regular size soups, Ramen Noodles, Ravioli, Spaghetti-Os, individual packs of flavored oatmeal, juice, canned fruit, all kinds of pasta, pasta sauce, canned tuna, chicken and Spam, all types of crackers, cleaning supplies, Kleenex, paper towels, dish soap, laundry soap, liquid hand soap, garbage bags, shampoo & conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors and shaving cream.

Monetary gifts may be sent to: Kingsbury County Food Pantry, PO Box 202, De Smet, SD 57231

Thank you to all who donate! We thank St. Thomas Catholic Church for supplying the church in January with food and monetary donations.

### BIRTHDAYS

Jessica L. Halverson	3/3	Jeanne Denevan	3/18
Jace Hojer	3/3	Steve Palmlund	3/19
Daniel Albrecht	3/4	Terran Skyberg	3/19
Michelle Orton	3/4	Monte Albrecht	3/20
Lynora Albrecht	3/4	Courtney Scofield	3/20
Jill Hoek	3/5	Marcia Richards	3/23
Allan Larson	3/5	Mary Wilkinson	3/23
Audrey Lembke	3/5	Ann Feltman	3/24
Ross Petersen	3/6	Sam Munger	3/24
Nate Wilkinson	3/6	ReAnn Smith	3/24
Steven C. Siver	3/8	Steve Anderson	3/25
Riley Albrecht	3/9	Rod Feltman	3/26
Alexandrea Flood	3/9	Dennis Holmlund	3/26
Cortney Wendel	3/10	Ivy Peterson	3/26
Mike Martens	3/11	Sam Gigov	3/27
Robin Gigov	3/13	Colt Wipf	3/28
Megan Albrecht	3/14	Alexis Alderman	3/29
Lyla Lembke	3/14	Jared Tolzin	3/30
Dayton Lembke	3/17	JoAnn Wilhelm	3/30
Paul Larson	3/18	Dylan Zell	3/31

### MARCH BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

Edger Wilkinson	3/5
Mackenzie Zell	3/9
Slayten Wilkinson	3/9
Jeffrey Davis	3/10
Charli McCune	3/15
Elizabeth Albrecht	3/16
Tyler Albrecht	3/22
Hunter Wipf	3/24
Emerie Orton	3/29

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Lyle & Helen Gehm	3/13
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**LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES will be held each Wednesday evening at 7:00pm during Lent.**

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday @ 7:00pm	April 1	Worship/Communion
Good Friday @ 7:00pm	April 2	Worship
Easter Sunday @ 7:00am & 9:30am	April 4	Worship/Communion

### COMFORT

We express our Christian sympathy to the family of Anitra Schardin and the family of Ella Weerts. Please keep their families in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.



### SERMONS ON THE WEBSITE

Worship service sermons at American Lutheran are recorded and are available to be viewed on the website:

[americanlutherandesmet.org](http://americanlutherandesmet.org)



“For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

*Jeremiah 29:11*

### THANK YOU TO CMI

We would like to extend our thanks to CMI for donating screen coverings for the organ pipes.

**Lenten Worship Services are being held each Wednesday at 7:00pm during Lent.**

### Are YOU a THRIVENT Member Ready to Give Back?

You have until March 31st to designate where you Choice Dollars are donated to.

To donate you dollars, visit [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice), log in and click on Direct Now or call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say Thrivent Choice then Press 1 to Direct Dollars. To donate to ALC, type “American Lutheran Church De Smet, SD” into the Search Organizations keyword bar. Thank you for your continued support!

## AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Phone 605-854-3684    Parsonage Phone 605-854-3745

**NEW** Church email: [office@americanlutherandesmet.org](mailto:office@americanlutherandesmet.org)

Pastor's email: [pastor@americanlutherandesmet.org](mailto:pastor@americanlutherandesmet.org)

# THE VOICE

American Lutheran Church  
PO Box 31  
411 4th St. SW  
De Smet, SD 57231

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Permit No. 54

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## MARCH, 2021

### MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES

Altar Guild—Dianne Mollner

	<u>Projection</u>	<u>Sound System</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
Weds., March 3			Grant Wilkinson
Sunday, March 7	Cheryl Palmlund	Cheryl Palmlund	Lane Albrecht
Weds., March 10			Alexis Alderman
Sunday, March 14	Sharry Knock		Slayten Wilkinson
Weds., March 17			Josiah Roth
Sunday, March 21	Bonita Albrecht	Bonita Albrecht	Logan Griffith
Weds., March 24			Audi Currier
Sunday, March 28			Easton Ruml