

# American Lutheran Church

October, 2017

## From Your Pastor

Dear Friends at American Lutheran,

*In cooperation with ELCA recommendations, a sabbatical of twelve weeks may be granted by the Church Council to rostered clergy after serving at the Church for no less than five years.* This statement was taken out of our congregation's Employee Handbook. In my annual reports to Bishop Crist, she has been encouraging me to take a sabbatical and to make it a part of our congregation's life. We have been blessed with long tenures at American Lutheran and, it is time to follow the recommendation of others to bless our pastors with this opportunity for rest and renewal.

This past month, American Lutheran's Church Council voted to grant me a sabbatical in the summer of 2018, and Pastor Elizabeth a sabbatical in the summer of 2019. Being part of a team ministry will mean that the impact to congregational life, worship, and budget will be minimal at these times since one pastor is always on duty. It won't be unlike when Pastor Elizabeth has been on maternity leave (although maternity leave is no time for rest for the mother!).



A sabbatical is based on the Biblical concept of Sabbath. It is to be a time of regeneration and renewal, of

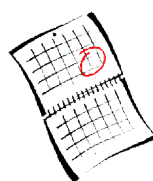
continuing education and visiting other churches and otherwise generating new ideas for the life of the congregation. I'm at a different stage in life with this sabbatical than the one you granted me ten years ago. With grown kids around the country, Marcia by my side, and new perspectives on ministry with more years under my belt, I'm excited for opportunity to travel, spend time with my adult kids, and invest in turning towards the next stage of our life together as a congregation.

You'll be hearing more about this in the future as I develop a plan for the 12 weeks and discuss

objectives of the sabbatical. I am so grateful to be serving as forward-thinking and outward-reaching a congregation as American Lutheran.

Serving Christ with you,  
Pastor Tim

## Thursday Morning Bible Study:



Mark your calendars for **Thursday, October 5 at 10:00 a.m.** That's when this Bible study will resume. All are welcome to join this engaging and lively group.

## Family Promise

American Lutheran Church is hosting Family Promise participants on **October 8-15**. Family Promise is an ecumenical ministry in that provides shelter, meals and comprehensive support to Billings families without homes. During "our" week, 4 families (up to 14 people) will take their evening meal and sleep on airbeds in our church. During the daytime hours, these people spend time at the Family Promise Day Center as well as at their places of employment.

Please volunteer to help with this essential ministry. Sign up on the clipboard that is circulated during the worship service, or leave you name at the reception desk. Volunteers are needed in all of these areas: evening host, bring part of the evening meal, overnight host, set-up, and take down. Training and support is given for all new volunteers. Join us in being a part of this important program!



## Adult Forums

**Oct 1—15**

**Reformation 500:** During these three forums, we'll focus on the legacy of Martin Luther. Using Rick Steves' video on the Reformation and the PBS special

on Martin Luther we'll learn about the forces that shaped the Reformation and led Europe out of the Middle Ages and into the modern age.

### Oct 22

TBA

### Oct 29

**New Member Brunch/Confirmation Sunday:** All are welcome for the New Member Brunch. The brunch will be an opportunity not only to share in fellowship, but to be introduced to our new members, and to hear from this year's Confirmands about the work they have done.

## Unde"feet"ed

Thanks to everyone who brought new and gently used shoes for the Family Service Shoe Drive. What a terrific response! Any future donations of shoes may be brought directly to the Family Service, Inc. location at 1824 1st Ave N.

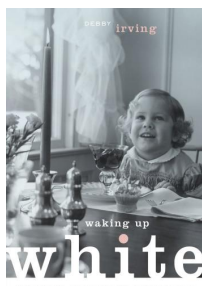
## Newcomers Class



If you are new to American Lutheran and would like to learn more about our congregation, then please plan on attending our 2-part Newcomers Class on Sunday, October 15th and Sunday, October 22nd at 9:45 a.m. This informal class is a great way to meet the staff and other newcomers, to find out more about our projects and programs, and to learn more about what it means to be "Lutheran". The class is held in the Shepherd Lounge, located at the end of the office hallway. The nursery is available for those with young kids. There's no need to register, just join us! If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

## Book Study with Pastor Elizabeth

Want to join the conversation about race in America? Join Pastor Elizabeth in reading the book "Waking Up White" by Debby



Irving and participating in a study of the book put together by the Presbyterian Church USA. We will try to tackle the whole book in one meeting- Tuesday night **October 24 at 6:30pm** so we have plenty of time for conversation. Please let Pastor Elizabeth know if you plan on joining her in case there are helpful study aids to pass along before the class.

## Youth Schedule

Our Sunday school and youth schedules for October are listed below. Please email [rochelle@amluth.org](mailto:rochelle@amluth.org) if you have any questions.

### Sunday, Oct. 1

Sunday school, 9:45 – 10:45 (meet in the Chapel for opening)

### Wednesday, Oct. 4

Kid's Club, 5:00 – 6:00  
Meal, 6:00 – 7:00  
Confirmation, 7:00 – 8:00  
Youth Group, 7:00 – 8:30

### Sunday, Oct. 8

Sunday school, 9:45 – 10:45 (meet in the Chapel for opening)

### Wednesday, Oct. 11

Kid's Club, 5:00 – 6:00  
Meal, 6:00 – 7:00  
Confirmation, 7:00 – 8:00  
Youth Group, 7:00 – 8:30



### Sunday, Oct. 15

Sunday school, 9:45 – 10:45 (meet in the Chapel for opening)

### Wednesday, Oct. 18

NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

### Sunday, Oct. 22

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL – FALL BREAK

### Wednesday, Oct. 25

Kid's Club, 5:00 – 6:00  
Meal, 6:00 – 7:00  
Confirmation, 7:00 – 8:00  
Youth Group, 7:00 – 8:30

### Sunday, Oct. 29

Sunday school, 9:45 – 10:45 (Reformation Sunday – Big Group)

## Beer and Hymns:

**Saturday, October 28, 3:30 p.m.** at the **3 North Bar & Grill, 8369 Hwy 3 North**, a 15-20 minute drive northwest of Billings. This establishment is on the

site of the old **Acton Bar** and is owned by American Lutheran members **Lynnette and Jen Downs**. This gathering will be the fifth annual Reformation edition of *Beer and Hymns*. We'll gather to sing *A Mighty Fortress* and other favorites. All are welcome to join us for dinner we sing our together. This opportunity to fellowship with Lutherans and community. family and reception desk.



and a beverage as favorite hymns event is a great enjoy fun and fellow American to reach out to the Invite friends and please sign up at the

## Confirmation Preparations:



**Wednesday, October 25: 6:30 p.m**  
**Confirmation rehearsal** for this year's **Confirmands** and their **parents**. You are also welcome to join us for the meal at 6:00 p.m.  
**Sunday, October 29: Confirmation Sunday**

**9:45 a.m.**      **Reception** for this year's Confirmands and **New Member Brunch**. Please remember to bring your stoles.  
**11:00 a.m.**      **Service of Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation)**

## Reformation Sunday Continental Breakfast

On October 29th, we'll have many reasons to celebrate. That Sunday marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation! It is also Confirmation Sunday and New Member Sunday at American Lutheran Church. What's a celebration without delicious foods? We are looking for volunteers to bring a **loaf of sweet bread** (like banana bread, zucchini bread, etc.) as part of our continental breakfast that day. Also, if you can **volunteer in the church kitchen**, please sign up for that as well. Looking forward to a terrific and tasty morning!



## Attention 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Students and Families

Your final confirmation retreat is fast approaching, and we want to make sure that you are ready to go! Most of you have probably already received an email from Pastor Elizabeth regarding the retreat dates and cost. As a quick recap, the retreat will be held at the Christikon Living Center. We will depart Wednesday evening (October 18<sup>th</sup>) around 5:00, and will return to the church on Friday afternoon (October 20<sup>th</sup>) between 2:00 and 3:00. The cost per student is \$60, which will be used to cover the cost of food, Christikon fees and gas. The trip will be chaperoned by Pastor Elizabeth, Rochelle Buyse and Brenden Schmidt. **This year's confirmands are Kaycee Kern, Lucas Valdez, Ryan Senitte, Maddie Stubson, Emilie Stubson, Abby Holbrook, Adam Baker, William McPherson, Julia Smith, Kendell Ellis, Mette Fears, Kyle McKee, Annika Rickbeil, and Jacob Nottingham.** Please keep all of our confirmands and chaperones in your prayers as they set out on this adventure, and as the kids take this next step in their faith life. Confirmation families, please feel free to contact either Pastor Elizabeth or Rochelle if you have any questions or concerns.

## Special Reformation Service

Join the other ELCA congregations from Billings for a special worship service to commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reformation. The service will be right here at ALC on **Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.**

## Reformation Commemoration on October 30<sup>th</sup> at the Helena Cathedral



On October 30, 2017, at 7 PM, Lutherans and Catholics will gather for evening prayer at the Helena Cathedral, in a special service to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Based on the prayer service “From Conflict to Communion” held in Lund, Sweden a year ago, with Pope Francis and members of the Lutheran World Federation, the service will include leadership by Bishop Michael Warfel, Diocese of Great Falls/ Billings; Bishop George Thomas, Diocese of Helena; Bishop Jessica Crist, Montana Synod ELCA, and former Bishop Mark Ramseth.

Sign up at the reception desk if you are interested in riding a charter bus with a group of other Billings Lutherans.

## Safe Halloween:

Bring kids and grand-kids for our Safe Halloween at American Lutheran on

**Tuesday, October 31** from **5:00—8:00 p.m.** Clark Avenue is a beehive of activity on Halloween eve and a whole lot of fun.

Our Evangelism Committee sponsors this event in which we provide restrooms, parking, and pass out treats. Even if you don’t have trick-or-treaters in your home anymore, drop by for a treat and some good fellowship.



## All Guys Breakfast at American Lutheran Church

*for the men and boys of ALC and their buddies*

**Saturday, November 4 at 9:00 a.m.**

- Hearty, manly breakfast
- Guest Speaker, Mark Carman of Yellowstone National Park
- Doorprizes

*Tickets sold Sunday mornings during October \$5 per person*

Volunteers (ladies and girls) needed to help in the kitchen. Sign up at the reception desk.

## Financial Update

The balance on the line of credit borrowed from the bank at the end of August was \$1,313.

Year-to-date, net loss of \$(3,537) is behind budget and \$11,548 ahead of last year through August.

	Income	Expense	Net
Month of	\$	\$	\$
August 2017	34,688	46,776	(12,088)
2017 YTD	\$	\$	\$
Actual	347,257	350,794	(3,537)
2017 YTD	\$	\$	\$
Budget	371,040	371,040	-
	\$	\$	\$
Variance YTD	(23,783)	20,246	(3,537)

## Christikon Clips

**October 2017**

*Information for our Congregations*



**2018 Calendar!** The calendar and sessions listing is on our website [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org). It’s not too soon to start planning for next summer’s trip to camp! Already accepting reservations!

**Fall Retreats:** We have retreats scheduled into October with dates still available. Bring your group and enjoy fall in the mountains!

**Thank you for your prayers for Christikon** this past summer, for the summer staff, and for all who have joined in the Christikon life. We are truly blessed.

**It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ— exploring God’s creation and the adventure of life together.**

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## September Pastoral Acts

Weddings: Megan Braden & Eric Poser  
Leah Roble & Michael Kirk  
Brady Frank & Jenna Holman  
Funeral: Grace Mosdal

