

American Lutheran Church

November, 2016

From Pastor Elizabeth

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, I commend to you a practice a great preacher just shared with me last week. As my former homiletics (preaching) professor spoke on encouraging practices of gratitude through our sermons, he had everyone in the room find their pulse. Once we all had, he had us say out loud, "thank you, thank you, thank you" with each beat of the pulse. It was a noisy activity. Some voices getting bolder with each beat, some more quiet, and some struck by thanksgiving that they words could hardly come from their lips. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for each beat of our hearts. A simple practice but a great place to start a season of gratitude.

As we give beat of our gift of life, we this month to whom we love died in the congregation



thanks for the hearts and the also take time recognize those whom have past year. Our was shaken by

tragic death of Natalie Dietrich and by the death of many who were beloved by this church family and by the families that surrounded them. On Sunday November 6th, All Saints Sunday, we will read the names of those who have died and will ring a bell in their memory. With each ring, with each beat that the bell tolls, again we will say, "thank you, thank you, thank you" for the lives that were lived with faith, courage, and love. We will say thank you for the love that these people have brought to our lives. Through our grief, we will have gratitude of the gifts of these beautiful children of God.

When looked at with this lens- thankfulness for our own pulse and for the heart that beat in those whom we loved and lost, we are humbled into gratitude to a God that loves us all and who hold us in eternal love long after our heartbeats stop- an ongoing season of thanks.

Pastor Elizabeth

Book of Remembrance

The Book of Remembrance will be available in the narthex during the Sundays of November. You are welcome to record the names of departed loved ones in this book who will be remembered in the prayers of the church at worship services.

November Special Offering

benefits the Billings Food Bank and the ELCA's World Hunger program.

Mom's Night Out

Looking for a chance to connect with other ALC moms? To share your stories that make you laugh and make you cry about work, kids, life? Join us Tuesday November 1st for Mom's Night Out. We'll meet at MacKenzie River in the Heights at 7pm for appetizers and conversation.



High School Parents. It's time for "the talk".

You're kids have heard it from me a number of times- we've talked sex, love, and drugs. But they want to hear these things from you. You're the voice that matters most to them. I'm proposing we meet on two nights this month to participate in guided talked with parents and kids about the issues that weigh heavy on their hearts and the ethics we want to make sure they practice. We will meet at 7pm on Wednesday Nov 16th. Please rsvp to pastorelizab@amluth.org so we can plan our conversation.

All Guys Breakfast

Saturday, November 5th at 10:00 a.m. This hearty breakfast is for all men and boys of ALC. Special guests are Mark & Alec Donald. Tickets are \$5 each. Call the church office at 252-4171 to reserve your ticket.

Attention 6th Graders and Junior High Confirmation Students!!

On Sunday, November 6th from 4-6pm there will be a City-Wide Dodgeball tournament hosted at Billings First United Methodist Church. ALL 6th through 8th graders at ALC have been invited to attend this fun event, along with junior high students from King of Glory, Peace and Atonement. In addition to dodgeball, we will all meet for pizza afterwards at American Lutheran. This should be a great time, and if your child would like to come and participate, please let me know right away. First United Methodist would like to know how many kids will be playing dodgeball, and I will also need a count to make sure that we have enough food. PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO rochelle@amluth.org, AND LET ME KNOW IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE ATTENDING!



Calling All Bakers, ...and those who like to eat baked goods!

Sunday, November 6, is our annual Dress-a-Child bake sale. Would you like to contribute baked goods for this worthy cause? All items are sold based on a free-will donation, and the proceeds are used to clothe less fortunate children in the Billings area. Please support this ministry by providing and purchasing baked goods for this fun event!



Youth Schedule

The Sunday and Wednesday night schedules for November are listed below. Please feel free to contact me at rochelle@amluth.org if you have any questions.

November 6, 13, 20**

Sunday School : 9:45 – 10:45 (Meet in chapel for opening) ** Join us on November 20th for 'Family Sunday School'. We will learn all about Advent, and ALL family members are welcome. Please come and see what Sunday school is all about! **

November 27

NO Sunday school: Thanksgiving Break
November 2, 9, 16, 30

Kid's Club: 4:30 – 6:00, Meal: 6:00 – 7:00,
Child Care: 6:30 – 7:00, Youth Group: 7:00 – 8:30

November 23

NO Kid's Club: Thanksgiving Break- NO Meal,
NO Confirmation, NO Youth Group

Adult Forums

November 6, 13, 20

On Being Lutheran:

November is the birth month of Martin Luther. In 2017, we will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation of the church. In occasional adult forums throughout this year, we are going to take some time to discuss what it means to be a Lutheran in an age where there are many different denominations and experiences of what it means to be the church. These classes will be an opportunity to dust off what you learned in Confirmation or learn some basic Lutheran beliefs for the first time.



November 27

Coffee Fellowship:

On this Sunday of the Thanksgiving Holiday, we will not hold an Adult Forum but instead take time to catch up with fellow American Lutherans and those who are home for the holidays.

Outreach

Are you looking to get involved in a committee at ALC? If so, here is your chance to be part of something special. The Outreach Committee has been inactive for a few years and we would like to bring it back to life. Our goal is to reestablish and rebrand the Outreach Committee. We would like to give our members opportunities to not only give back to our church, but also our community. We need your help to develop a strategy on how to do that. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please call Shawnee Krauszer at 698-2688. We will have a



brainstorming session on November 13 at 9:30 in the Shepherd Lounge. Hope to see you there.

Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social

Wednesday, November 23, after the 7:00 p.m. worship service. No need to wait until Thanksgiving Day to enjoy a piece of pie. Sign up on the sheet at the reception desk if you can bring a pie or two. Also sign up if you can volunteer to help in the kitchen.



Come and give thanks!

A service of praise and thanksgiving at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 23, Thanksgiving eve. The service will be followed by our annual pie social. The offerings will focus on the issue of hunger, both globally and locally. The financial offering will be given to Lutheran World Hunger. You are also asked to bring non-perishable food items for the Billings Food Bank.

Dinner is Served

Bill and Carmen Galt will again be hosting Thanksgiving dinner here at ALC on Thursday, November 24. Join us for this day of fun, food, and thanksgiving. We'll cook, watch football, play board games, roll a little lefse, and have good conversation. Please sign up at the reception desk for this planned potluck. Carmen will contact you to let you know what is needed for the potluck. The doors open at 10:30, all gather by 1:30, and we eat at 2:00 p.m. You even get to take leftovers home. Questions? Call 245-5367. We look forward to seeing you! Bill and Carmen have been doing this for many years. If you get a chance, please thank them for this wonderful ministry.



It's Not Just You

Seriously. If your house is overrun with kids and mess or your relationships take work. It's not just you. Ladies- join Pastor Elizabeth in a two part book study about how hectic is it not losing yourself in working, parenting, adulting. We'll read Glennon

Doyle Melton's new book Love Warrior and discuss it November 29th at 5:30pm at ALC.

Deck the Halls...

Want to help our church get "dressed" for the Advent and Christmas seasons? Teams of volunteers are needed to help decorate the sanctuary Christmas tree and/or to put up lights outdoors on the railings and shrubs. Sign up at the reception desk (or contact Kristin in the office) if you're interested. The tree decorating will take place on the evening of December 7th, and the outdoor decorating can be done any time around Thanksgiving.



Warm the Manger

It's our annual opportunity to prepare not only our hearts but also our community for the arrival of a savior, a baby who would be Christ the King. This year on the four Sundays of Advent, beginning November 27th, we'll be collecting in our manger socks of all sizes and diapers of all sizes to be distributed to those in need in our community. The diapers will go to Family Promise to meet a need for so many families who live on a tight budget and the sock to Riverstone Health who touch the lives on many living without financial stability. As you are out and about doing your shopping this month- pick up a pack of diapers and a package of socks to help your neighbor know that God is love.



Giving Tree

One of ALC's most meaningful Christmas traditions continues this year with our congregation's Giving Tree. Look for it set up in the lobby area at Thanksgiving time. Take an ornament(s) off the tree, purchase and wrap the gifts, and bring them back to church by Sunday, December 11. The gifts often the only ones these kids and adults receive. This year, the clients of several organizations will benefit from your kindness: Adult Protective Service, Young Families Early Head Start, and Billings' High School Pantries, . Thank you for



sharing the true spirit of Christmas with those in need!

Christmas Schedule

Mark your calendars as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child:



Sunday, December 11

Sunday School Christmas Program at both services

Sunday, December 18

Service of Advent Lessons and Carols at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m.: Family Service
6:00 & 9:00 p.m.: Services of Carols, Candlelight, and Communion

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m.: Service of Carols and Communion

New Year's Day

10:00 a.m.: 2nd Sunday of the Christmas Season

(This year, both Christmas and New Year's Day are on a Sunday. Please note there will be one service on both those days.)

Support the Ministry of ALC

Excited about our life together? Want to give an offering but can't think of the last time you've seen a checkbook or had cash on hand? Visit amluth.org and set up "simply giving" by clicking the "Giving" button. You will then be able to customize your giving with a few easy clicks. Choose amount, frequency and start date and form of payment. Thank you for your generosity in helping us serve God and neighbor.



October Pastoral Acts
Funerals: Loren Downs 9/22 and
Jim Hedegaard 10/20

Christikon Clips

November 2016

Information for our Congregations

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday November 13th at Big Timber Lutheran Church beginning at 3:30pm.



Your appointed Delegates and Pastors will be hearing about this past summer and the plans for the 2017 season, cabin renovation, and much more.

Thank you to Big Timber Lutheran Church for hosting!

We look forward to seeing you all there!

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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Advent Recital Series

American Lutheran

Church continues its strong mission of music with the Advent Recital Series. This outreach is to our members and the whole community. Invite a friend! The three recitals are held on **Fridays in December** at 12:05 p.m. in the sanctuary. The recitals are followed by a soup luncheon with a free will offering.

Mark your calendars! Performances are by very talented and professional community musicians.

December 2 Con Spirito- Women's Vocal

December 9 Ali Levesque- violin

Sarah Schultz- violin & viola

December 16 Lynell Kruckeberry, soprano

Amy Letson, viola

This ministry also requires soup makers and kitchen help. Contact Carmen Galt at 259-3476, if this ministry fits your schedule.

