

American Lutheran Church

June/July/August, 2023

Pastor's Letter

Dear ALC members,

Yesterday, I attended a wonderful lecture at the Western Heritage Center in downtown Billings. The topic was the role of community cookbooks in telling the story of women in Billings history. It was fascinating to see how church cookbooks play a big role in the telling of women's history and because of that in telling the history of the whole community. Being published and printed is a real sign of privilege in any society, being published and printed in a small frontier community is a real rarity. We learned about a church cookbook from the early 1900's and what it told about people with power and people pushed aside in our community. There were great stories of how meals and menus could lead to radical inclusion in places that polite society might blush about. *"Those people at that table?!"*



I'm still thinking today about the power and privilege we have at American Lutheran Church now to day. With our history, steady presence, influence, and large sturdy stature at the corner of Division and Lewis, we have a role to play in the

community of Billings. We are thankful for the work of the On Our Way committee for the ways they are tending to our physical presence and our financial benevolence that can impact so many. We are grateful for the work of the RIC committee that is helping us use our privilege as a means of welcome and invitation instead of exclusion.

These stories are happening now. They are an engrained part of Billings history. They are the very stories that God told for us and recorded in Holy Scripture. How do we be God's people, doing God's work of loving all, in a broken and beautiful world? As we have celebrated Pentecost this spring, the birthday of the church, we give thanks that the Spirit calls us into this holy work that started so long ago and that will long out live all of us. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Elizabeth

Music, Music, Music

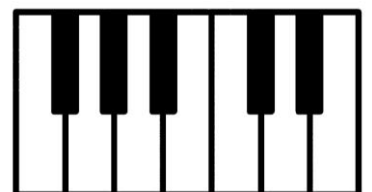
Igor Stravinsky is quoted to have said: "The church knew what the psalmist knew: Music praises God. Music is well or better able to praise [God] than the building of the church and all its decoration; it is the church's greatest ornament."

Because music praises God, and because worship is a participation sport, we want everyone that desires to help make music to do so:

- Be watching for the return of music activities for kids this fall.
- The ALC Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals this fall; be watching for announcements.
- We are always on the lookout for those who want to help provide special music this summer and throughout the year. If interested contact dave@amluth.org

Other Music News

What does one do during the summer months with two keyboard players and only one



worship service? Share! Dave M will play for outdoor worship, Mike E will play for one entire service a month, and for all other summer worship it will be a mash-up of Mike and Dave. We don't know what you'll get, but you'll get it and it should be good! You'll have to attend to see what each Sunday offers on the menu for music.

Pentecost Thank You!

Thank you to all who made our Pentecost worship and celebration so memorable. We are grateful for the gifts of our musicians: Mike Everson, Dave Merkel, the song leaders and choirs, and all who picked up a shaker or tambourine to add to the work of the Spirit. Thank you to the kids of ALC who participated in the baptism either as confirmation speakers or welcome committee. Thank you also to all who brought goodies for the potluck following. It was a hearty feast and a great chance for fellowship before summer. We are so thankful as we welcomed Greta Thiesse to the family of God through baptism that it was a great family celebration of what the Spirit does at American Lutheran.



On our Way...

Thank you to the people of ALC who voted resoundingly to move ahead with a Capital Campaign to update and refurbish our building so that it best serves us and our neighbors for years to come. The On Our Way committee met this past week to begin planning for summer conversation opportunities. Be sure to watch your weekly e-mail for notices about On Our Way gatherings that will tell folks about different aspects of the project: Nuts and Bolts, Design, Sound and Sight, Benevolence, and History and Mission. We are excited to share with you all the ways this project will enhance our life together.

Rejoice!

Reconciling in Christ



The RIC committee of American Lutheran Church continues their work of sharing with the congregation the need for learning true welcome. We are thankful for our two forums this spring that covered the use of pronouns as a way of honoring our siblings in Christ and hearing from Pastor Tyler Amundson about how we read Scripture in a way that centers loving God and loving neighbor. This summer we hope to have more speakers to teach about being an ally community and will also offer a summer book club for folks who want to learn more about the experience of being marginalized in American society. Please watch the weekly e-mail for updates and offerings.

Outdoor Worship takes place on the patio by the front doors of the church. There is some bench seating available, but you can also bring lawn chairs.



YOUTH

OUR YOUTH AND SUMMER EVENTS AT ALC: We have a lot of exciting stuff happening at ALC this summer. Below is a schedule of what is coming up. Please watch your email and the church web site for more information on these events as they get closer, and make sure to mark your calendars accordingly! Feel free to contact Rochelle at rochelle@amluth.org if you have any questions.

June, July, and August



ALC's 4th – 8th graders (entering, fall of 2023) will have the opportunity to serve their church community and the Billings community by participating in some service

project days during the summer months. We plan to have a day in June, a day in July and another day in August for our kids to serve. Each day will begin with a morning of service, and will be followed by lunch and afternoon of fun! Please stay tuned for dates and locations!

June 25th – July 1st

CONFIRMATION CAMP AT CHIRSTIKON: Please keep our confirmation students in your prayers as they embark on a weeklong retreat at Christikon. ALC will have 5 kids and 1 adult leader at camp during the week. This camp serves as a preview of the upcoming confirmation year. It's a wonderful way for the kids to get to know each other better, and they always have a fun time.



July 23rd – July 28th



HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP: Pray for our high school students and chaperones as they embark

on another summer adventure. We will be sticking a little closer to home this year, focusing our efforts in Bozeman, Cody, WY, and Red Lodge. We will be completing some service projects and taking in some sights. It will be a fun week, and we are looking forward to traveling with our high schoolers again!

August 7th – August 10th

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – GOD'S GREAT BIG

PROMISES: Why does God make promises? What promises does God keep? Who can trust God's promises? These are just some of the questions we'll explore during a fun week at VBS! VBS is open to all children, 3 years of age through those entering 5th grade, and will be held on Monday, August 7th through Thursday, August 10th from 9:00 am to Noon. Please watch your email, the church web site and Facebook page for further information as this event draws closer.



August 20th



BACKPACK BLESSING: Wow, I can't believe that I am doing my summer newsletter entries, and I'm already talking about the Backpack Blessing! It will be held on Sunday, August 20th at the 9:00 am outdoor church service, and who knows... Maybe we'll even get a visit from the ice cream truck again??



Financial Update

	Expenses	Income	Difference
April	\$46,910	\$44,452	\$(2,458)
YTD	\$193,708	\$191,202	\$(2,506)

April offerings were down a little from the previous year's offering. Year to date we have a small net loss. At this point our line of credit has a \$720 balance. Thank you for your continued support in 2023.

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CO-ED SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

2023 SEASON

All games are played at Stewart Park, behind Rimrock Mall.

>>>	May 8 7:45PM Field 4 Billings Church of Christ	
>>>	May 15 6:30PM Field 3 St. Pius	
>>>	May 22 7:45PM Field 1 Grace Bible Church	
>>>	May 29 SAVED FOR RAINOUTS
>>>	June 5 6:30PM Field 5 Cornerstone	
>>>	June 12 6:30PM Field 4 Valley Christian	
>>>	June 19 9:30PM Field 4 St. Pats	
>>>	June 26 7:45PM Field 3 New Life

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Fall Programming

We will be sending along schedules for bible studies and youth activities to resume in September through our weekly emails. If you are not currently receiving the emails, contact the church office and we'll get you connected.



KICKOFF SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

8:30AM WORSHIP

9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30 AM FORUM

10:30 WORSHIP

Christikon Clips

June, 2023

Information for our Congregations



We're excited to welcome our first fulltime Assistant Director, Taryn Hauglie, to the leadership team. She starts June 1, and summer staff report the next day for the start of Staff Training. Our first campers arrive on the 19th.

Family Adult Camps: We welcome Dr. Eric Meyer who is an Associate Professor of the Theology Department at Carroll College to the Continuing Ed Retreat along with Pr. Kent Claussen Gubrud of Christus Victor Lutheran Church in Apple Valley, MN and Paul Waldum instructor at MSU Bozeman and professional artist from Livingston, MT. Watch for more details coming on our website. Mountain Weekend – watch for more information on our website.

Register at www.christikon.org.

Campers! There is still room in our on-site sessions. Please visit our website to register. www.christikon.org We have a few trails spots available – call the office for availability. 406-656-1969.

Remember to pray for your congregation's ministry through Christikon this summer, for the summer staff, and for all who join in the Christikon life.

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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