

American Lutheran Church

November, 2023

Welcome Statement



We at American Lutheran Church of Billings, Montana embrace the call given by Jesus to love God and one another.

Together we celebrate your race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, social/economic position, family status, background, or where you are on your faith journey. As a congregation we commit to the work of racial equity, full inclusion, and radical hospitality.

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace to join with us as through Christ we joyfully and inclusively love and serve our community.

It's Official:



On Sunday, October 29th the congregation of American Lutheran voted to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. The RIC committee is filled with

joyful hope about all of the wonderful things that this means for ALC! Not only does it mean we are explicitly open and affirming to everyone who desires to be in Christian community through

worship, fellowship, and study- this distinction will expand our footprint in our community by opening up opportunities for evangelism and outreach.

We remind you that the vote is just the beginning. We have made a safe place for learning and growth. Please join together as we work toward the Kingdom.

Molly DeBusk, Sue Johnson, Nathan Schmitz, Sydne DeBusk

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends at ALC,

Communion. When you read that word, what do you think about? I would imagine that many of you think of *holy communion*, and that's appropriate. Communion is one of our two sacraments, the other being baptism. We gather every Sunday to partake of Christ's body and blood in the bread and the wine. We are taught that in this bread and wine, we receive the assurance of the forgiveness of our sins and the hope of eternal life.

That word, *communion*, has another meaning as well. When we say the *Apostles' Creed*, we confess that we believe in the *holy catholic church, the communion of saints*. When we speak of the *catholic church*, we're not



referring to the Roman Catholic Church or to any specific denomination but to the church universal, the church that exists throughout all times and

places. That church is the *communion of saints*, or the community of faith in all times and places. This sense of the word *communion* refers not just to the church as it exists in 2023 but to all those saints who have gone before us, those who have moved to the *other side of the Lord's table*.

We celebrate All Saints' Day this coming Sunday, November 5. We will ring bells in honor of those ALC members who have died in the past year. We will also light candles in honor of our loved ones. As you come forward for communion (the sacrament), those candles lit in honor of loved ones will serve as a reminder that in the body and blood of Christ, you are communing with all the saints, those living, breathing saints walking with you up the aisle to commune, and those saints who have come to fully know life in God's kingdom.

Blessed be our memories and our experience of all the saints,

Pastor Tim

All Saints' Sunday, November 5:

On **Sunday, November 5** we will remember those friends and members of American Lutheran that we have lost in the past year by ringing a bell in their honor. Worshipers will also be invited forward to light a candle in memory of loved ones.

On this Sunday, we give thanks for all the saints, both the living and those who have died, and particularly honor those *who have gone to the other side of the Lord's table*, who from *their labors rest*, who have fought the good fight, and who have received their eternal reward.

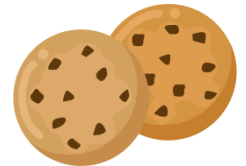


On Our Way Rejoicing- Capital Campaign

Thank you to all who attended campaign events this past month. We are so thankful for the opportunity to share our plans to meet the facility needs and how to serve our community going forward. Pledges have been coming all month long and we anticipate them continuing to come in this month. We ask for annual giving pledges and campaign commitments to be turned in by Dec 1st so that the council and the campaign committees can meet to set the 2024 budget for ALC and the campaign committee can set priorities and begin bringing the design plans to fruition. If you have not yet turned in your pledge please do so! We are so excited by the positive reception to this way of joyfully facing the future. We are on our way....

Mark your calendars - it's almost time for the annual ALC Elf Fund Bake Sale!

As they have done in the past, our confirmation and youth group students will be selling baked goods to raise money for our Elf Fund and Giving



Tree tags. **The bake sale will be held on Sunday, November 12th from 8:30 – 11:30.** This is a great event that the kids at ALC thoroughly enjoy participating in. Please show your support by purchasing some of the delicious goodies that will be available, or by donating some baked goods to



be sold. Baked goods can be brought to the church the morning of the

bake sale. Please make sure they are placed on paper plates or in containers that can be kept by the purchaser. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rochelle at rochelle@amluth.org.

Giving Tree

We will soon be kicking off the 2023 Giving Tree. We will again have a virtual tree on a website PLUS we will be offering tags to check out in-person Sunday mornings. Folks will be able to choose "tags," shop for the gifts (either online or in person), and bring them (or have shipped directly) to ALC in gift bags. We will be supporting young kids involved with Head Start and elders and vulnerable adults with the Area II Agency on Aging. Tags go "up" on November 19th. Gifts are due back to ALC by December 10th at 10:30 a.m.



Warm the Manger

This year, we will be supporting **Head Start**. We will collect **jammies** in **children's** sizes 2-T through big kids XL. Bring donations into ALC to the manger in the sanctuary. Stay tuned to your email for a complete list of items.



collect **jammies** in **children's** sizes 2-T through big kids XL. Bring donations into ALC to the

Thanksgiving Service: will be held on **Monday, November 20th at 7:00 p.m.** Note that this is a change from the usual Wednesday Thanksgiving Eve service. The service will be followed by our annual **pie social**. The **offerings** that evening will focus on the issue of **hunger**, both globally and locally.



Pies, Pies, Pies

Our "Pie Social" is BACK! Join us after the Thanksgiving service for this casual gathering in the fellowship hall of the church. Choose from a variety of pies, sip on decaf coffee, and kick off the holiday season in the

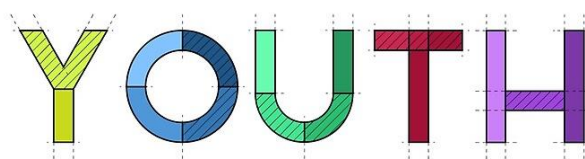


most delicious way possible. **Please bring a pie to share.**

Beer & Carols



This fun filled tradition is back. Join us on Sunday, December 3rd at 6PM location TBA and sing along to our favorite Advent and Christmas carols.



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

November 5th, 12th, 19th

Sunday School, 9:30 – 10:15

November 26th

NO Sunday school

Thanksgiving Break

November 1st, 8th, 15th, 29th

Kid's Club 5:30 – 6:30

Confirmation 7:00 – 8:00

Youth Group 7:00 – 8:00

**A Wednesday evening meal will be served on

November 15th at 6:30**

November 22nd

NO Kid's Club

Thanksgiving Break

NO Confirmation

NO Youth Group

Adult Forums

Nov 5

On this **All Saints' Sunday** on which we honor all the saints that have gone before us, Pastor Tim will lead a discussion of *end-of-life* issues. Have you thought about your funeral or memorial service? What scripture readings, hymns, or songs are meaningful to you? Who needs to be notified in case of your death? We will discuss these questions and other matters during this forum.

Nov 12

Elf Fund Bake Sale: Come and buy baked goods as we support those pre-school children enrolled in Head Start and vulnerable adults involved with the Area II Agency on Aging.

Nov 19

Coffee Fellowship

Nov 26

Coffee Fellowship

Christmas Schedule

Take note of the special Christmas worship times coming up in December.

Sunday, December 24th- Advent 4

ONE worship service at

10:00 a.m.



Sunday, December 24th- Nativity of Our Lord

3:00 p.m. Family Service

4:30 p.m. Service with Candlelight and Communion

6:00 p.m. Service with Candlelight and Communion

Sunday, December 31st- First Sunday of Christmas

ONE worship service at **10:00 a.m.**

If you know that you will be attending one of the December 24th services, please reach out to the office to volunteer. We always try our best to have a full slate of welcoming folks on dates we have a lot of visitors and guests worshipping with us.

Financial Update

	Expenses	Income	Difference
October	\$45,477	\$34,765	(\$10,712)
YTD	\$429,077	\$429,737	\$660

Our expenses outpaced income for the month of September. Our line of credit balance is \$4,956. We invite you to prayerfully consider your church with your year-end offerings, as we want to enter 2024 in strong financial shape. Thank you for your generosity!

Preschool News



Hello from your preschool. As I write this, we just are just starting the annual Halloween cold and snowy snap. It always takes us a bit to get into the coats & boots routine. You don't even want to know how many times we get them all dressed and someone has to go to the bathroom... It is the one advantage of using that big room downstairs for running play vs having an outside play space. Last month the students took time to focus on our fears. We learned that God is with us, in our hearts, through everything we experience. In November, we will learn about Jonah in the Whale. It kind of finishes out our "where is God when I'm scared" unit before we move on to Thankfulness. At the beginning of the year, we focus on all the letters with straight lines L,T,I,E,F,H,& J before we move on to any with a curve in them. There are less students in both classes this year, leading to really great one on one time to work on academics.

We look forward to giving thanks for all that God made. As always, we will host our "Charlie Brown" style Thanksgiving snack for families during class the week of Thanksgiving break. We are thankful for all of you this month and always.

Marianne