

American Lutheran Church

Growing Deep & Reaching Wide

A Note from Pastor Tim

Dear Friends in Christ,

When I get up in the morning, it's no longer light like it was for so long this summer. We're going through a change of seasons. When you hear the word Fall, how do you feel? How do you react? My brother once said that the coming of Fall gives him a feeling of impending doom. He thought that feeling had more to do with being a Minnesota Vikings fan approaching the upcoming season than the increasing darkness of the natural world. How about you? What feeling do you have about the Fall?

This Fall marks my 36th year of ordained ministry. Every one of those Falls has been marked by a reenergizing, a rebooting, of mission and ministry. Yes, we worship and are engaged in ministry all summer long, but the Fall feels different: Bible studies and Sunday School classes resume, Adult Forums get going again and this year, our Confirmation students will kick off their school year with a retreat at Christikon.

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Leadership Directory

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Pastor Elizabeth Sillerud

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Vanessa Steiger

Dir. of Youth & Engagement

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Abbey Scott

Youth & Communications

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Dave Merkel

Worship Director

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Sydne Nelson

Financial Secretary

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Marianne Smith

Pre-School Director

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Office Hours

Monday- 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Tuesday- 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Wednesday- 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Thursday- 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Friday- 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

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How might you reenergize your being a disciple of Jesus this coming Fall? Maybe by joining a Bible study, or staying for Adult Forum, or doing daily devotions, or volunteering on a Sunday morning. I don't know about you, but with the heat we've had this summer, I'm more than ready for the cool breezes of Fall. May we all be enlivened by those breezes to recommit ourselves to the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Serving Christ with you,

Pastor Tim

Our website has a fresh new look! Visit us online at www.amluth.org.

We're still putting the finishing touches on a few things, but we're excited to have a refreshed, functional website up and running. Thanks for your patience as we continue to make improvements!



September Worship Notes

September Notes

September 6

With a forecast of cloudy skies and temperatures in the low 60's, the staff made the decision to move worship indoors for Sunday, September 6. On a warm, sunny Sunday, outdoor worship feels fun, but not so much when we're fighting the chill and experiencing gray skies.

After Worship Forums

Forums will return following worship beginning with Rally Day on September 13! After taking a break for the summer, we're excited to get back into our regular program year routine!



September Worship Texts

September 6

Genesis 2: 4b-25

Psalms 148

Acts 17: 22a, 24-28

John 1: 1-5

September 13

Genesis 50: 15-21

Psalms 103

Romans 14: 1-12

Matthew 18: 21-35

September 20

Jonah 3: 10-4: 11

Psalms 145: 1-8

Philippians 1: 21-30

Matthew 20: 1-16

September 27

Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32

Psalms 25: 1-9

Philippians 2: 1-13

Matthew 21: 23-32

New Church Directory

We're in the process of creating a new church directory! We have **two more opportunities** for households to have their photo taken and update their information.

Our remaining photo opportunities are:

Sunday, September 13

Sunday, October 11

No sign-up is needed. Just stop by the chapel before or after worship to have your photo taken! If you're unable to attend either date, please submit a photo by emailing Vanessa at vanessa@amluth.org.

We also ask that you update your contact information using the forms on the welcome desk or by clicking [here](#).

Here is a sneak peek of some of the photos taken so far! Families will also receive digital copies of their photos to keep.



School Year Programming is back!

Men's Bible Study

September 9 at 7:00 AM

Thursday Bible Study

September 10 at 11:00 AM

Cards and Games

Thursdays at 12:15 PM

Sunday School

September 13 (following
Worship)

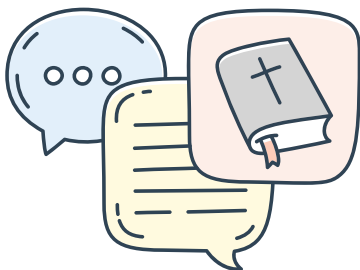
Forums

September 13 (following
Worship)

Wednesday Night Activities

September 16

After breaking for the summer, we are looking forward to our weekly activities beginning again! We hope you can find a place to join us at ALC this year!



Church Clean Up Day September 12

On Saturday, September 12 at 10:00 AM, we will have another annual church clean up day! Join us to help work on trimming the hedges, cleaning fellowship hall chairs, and more. Coffee and donuts will be provided. See you there!



Fellowship Hosts

We have a particular need for fellowship hosts in this Pentecost season. Please consider signing up for a Sunday to fellowship host. If you have never hosted before but would like to help, please email Abbey or Vanessa (abbey@amluth.org or vanessa@amluth.org) to get some information on how to start!

Worship With Us From Wherever You Are

Join Us Online Every Sunday

If you can't make it to worship in person, we'd still love to have you join us online! We livestream worship every Sunday, making it easy to worship with us wherever you are!

You can find our worship services and other videos on our YouTube channel. Search for **American Lutheran Church (Billings, MT)** or click the link [here](#).

You can also find links to our weekly livestreams right on the homepage of our website. Visit www.amluth.org to find the links to each service and learn more about what's happening at ALC.



Pastor Elizabeth on Sabbatical

Pastor Elizabeth started the second portion of her sabbatical on July 20 and will return on September 21. She took the first month of her sabbatical in January and is now completing the remaining two months.

We are grateful for this time of rest and renewal and look forward to welcoming her back this fall!



YOUTH NEWS

What a great end to our summer together! We kicked off August with our newly annual ALC at Rose Park Pool Night. While this wasn't a youth event in particular, the kids definitely showed everyone else how to have some fun. It was a great evening of fellowship and community. In the middle of August, fourteen ALC eight through fourteen-year-olds gathered for Junior Service Camp. We had the opportunity to help clear paths for the zoo, throw a four-year-old's birthday party, shop for school supplies for Family Promise, help set up for a block party at St. John's, and reorganize shelving and containers for the food pantry. What a week! Our kids took on this moment for service in ways that made us all proud. They were hard workers, compassionate friends, and probably the most fun any of our partner organizations had seen in a long time! Our youth continue to be our most active participants in cards and games this summer, but they have also joined Coffee with the Pastor this month and helped out during worship, especially in the Tech Booth. August was a wonderful chance for ALC kids to experience the church in the world and in our building!



YOUTH NEWS

And now it's time for school (and Sunday School!) to start again. Coming up in September, we begin our programming year on Sunday, September 13th with Rally Sunday. Wednesday night activities will resume for all ages following that on September 16th. Family Dinner is also back starting that night! One really exciting adventure in September will be our confirmation retreat happening September 18-20 at Christikon. Overall, we're off to a great start for the school year, and we can't wait to see what this year has in store!

Wednesday Night Meals

Thanks to our Wednesday Night Chefs!

September 16- Sandwich Bar (Laurie Sutphin)

September 23- Mashed Potato Bowls (Vanessa & Dray)

September 30- Available to Sponsor or Provide a Meal!

October 7- Taco Bar (Kristin Rapacz)

October 14- No Wednesday Night Activities (School Break)

October 21- Available to Sponsor or Provide a Meal!

October 28- Sponsored by Laurie Sutphin

Sign up by clicking here or email Vanessa at vanessa@amluth.org

september AT A GLANCE

Sept. 13- Sunday School Returns!

Sept. 16- Youth Activities & Meal

Sept. 18-20- Confirmation Retreat

Sept. 20- Sunday School with
Marianne!

Sept. 23- Youth Activities & Meal

Sept. 27- Sunday School

Sept. 30- Youth Activities & Meal

Oct. 4- Sunday School

Financial Update

Like last year, we got in to our line of credit in March. It has a balance of \$6,156. Even when you are out of town, of otherwise miss church, we encourage you to keep up to date with your giving. It allows us to keep our line of credit in check and move forward with our mission and ministry. Thank you for your generosity!

If you have not done so, please consider online giving. It allows your offerings to be regular, and if you miss a Sunday or two, you will know you are still giving to your church. For more information, please contact our Financial Secretary Sydne Nelson at sydne@amluth.org

Pastor Tim

FINANCIAL REPORT

Date	Expenses	Income	Difference
July	\$58,962	\$24,399	(\$34,563)
Year-to-Date	\$357,145	\$399,941	(\$17,204)

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Derrick Tracy, Council President

Diane Rankin, Secretary
Personnel

Kristin Rapacz, Financial Secretary
Stewardship

John Delvo
Property

Ashley Geis
Youth & Education

Trish Loken
Congregational Life

Diane Quick
Evangelism

Tom Stichman
Worship

Hello From Your **PRE-SCHOOL!**

Hello, and welcome back to preschool news! We are off to a good start downstairs. We had a great relationship with the YMCA this summer. They took good care of our space. Julia Smith had the job of leading the programing and their cleanup. It's doubly hard when you work for the Y but your mom runs the preschool. She knew to leave it better than she found it. It was great for me as the PreK person (aka basement dweller), because I trusted that the kids and the space were both in good hands. They were moving things out as I was putting us back together. Not the quality time mother/daughter were looking for, but still kind of fun for both of us. It's just nice to know that growing up here gave Julia some pride in this building and its members.

We have the smallest classes I have ever had, but that makes for great relationship building. It might sting financially, but we'll make the best of it. The school district opening a few kinder-ready classrooms put a ding in enrollment of private PreK in general. We've lost at least three students to that program. However, they will thrive there, and we are excited for them. Our younger class are almost all siblings of former students. They have been coming to drop-off for years and are excited for their turn with us. This means that we already have established relationships with most of our families going into this year. We're going to have fun! Normally, we spend September getting to know our new classmates, but all of the younger class from last year are returning as big kids. They already know us and each other. Now they get to do big kid things like science experiments and cooking together. I always joke that if I cook, that IS the science experiment (just ask Julia). We're glad to have Michelle V on kitchen duty. She is back for her third year as my sidekick, so we are in our groove. We are excited to have a great year with this small group.