

American Lutheran Church

Growing Deep & Reaching Wide

A Note from Pastor Elizabeth

Each year at the start of their preschool time together, Ms. Smith takes a picture of her students lined up by height. She repeats the picture in the same place at the end of their time together. It's a treasure each year and amazing to see how much they grow right before our eyes. But the truth is, we don't actually notice the growth day by day, inch by inch. This quiet growth can sneak up on us in pictures like this or with kids we haven't seen for a bit.

I give thanks that, in the same way, the church lives in a pattern of quiet growth, day by day, inch by inch. In the month ahead, there are so many growing moments for ALC – a new member class, a student being confirmed, and more faces and families added to our picture directory. There are moments for growing in faith with Bible studies, forums, and Sunday School. Plus, soon we will be talking about growing in generosity as we focus on stewardship to continue to pay down our capital campaign loan and meet our general fund goals.

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Leadership Directory

Pastor Tim Tostengard

pastortim@amluth.org

Pastor Elizabeth Sillerud

pastorelizabeta@amluth.org

Vanessa Steiger

Dir. of Youth & Engagement

vanessa@amluth.org

Abbey Scott

Youth & Communications

abbey@amluth.org

Dave Merkel

Worship Director

dave@amluth.org

Sydne Nelson

Financial Secretary

sydne@amluth.org

Marianne Smith

Pre-School Director

marianne@amluth.org

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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Any one of these areas of growth can happen in leaps and bounds or over steady quiet gains.

We invite you to join us in the process, in the joy, and in the service to God and neighbor that fuels our ministry as a congregation. Check out this newsletter and calendar and note dates when you can plug in to what is happening in our church family as we grow deep in faith and reach wide with the love of Christ.

Pastor Elizabeth

A thanks from me and from Erik, Marit, Soren, and Bill the cat:

We're so appreciative of the sabbatical this summer that allowed us time together at home and with family in Minnesota. It was a blessing to be able to say yes to fun with friends, supporting kids, and new adventures near and far. The best part of sabbatical was that I return to my work with excitement for what God is calling us to together in the months to come. Thanks again.



October Worship Notes

October Forums

October 4

Dyann Romeijn from Montana Rescue Mission will be with us to give an update on what's happening at MRM and the work they're doing in our community.

October 18

Coffee Fellowship
No Sunday School

October 25

Reformation Sunday

Join us worship and stay afterward for a catered brunch. We'll celebrate Reformation, a Confirmation, and kickoff our stewardship campaign.



October Worship Texts

October 4

Psalm 95: 1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Mark 1: 1-20

October 11

Isaiah 25: 1-9

Psalm 23

Philippians 4: 1-9

Matthew 22: 1-14

October 18

Isaiah 45: 1-7

Psalm 96: 1-13

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Matthew 22: 15-22

October 25

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18

Psalm 1

1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

Matthew 22: 34-46

New Church Directory

We're in the process of creating a new church directory! We have **one more opportunity** for households to have their photo taken and update their information which will happen on **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 church that day, 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

Resumes October 7

Thursday Bible Study

Resumes October 8

Cards and Games

Thursdays at 12:15 PM

Sunday School & Youth Group Bible Study

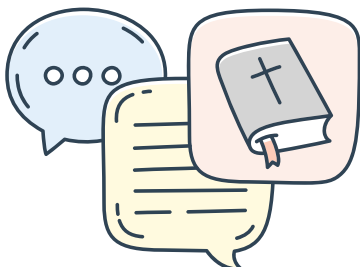
Every Sunday following
Worship

Forums

Every Sunday following
Worship

Wednesday Night Activities

Every Wednesday
Confirmation- 3:00 PM
Kid's Choir- 5:00 PM
Kid's Club- 5:30 PM
Adult Choir- 5:45 PM
Dinner for All- 6:30 PM
Youth Group- 7:00 PM



New Member Class October 7 5:30 PM

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming a member of American Lutheran Church? Now is the time!

On Wednesday, October 7th at 5:30 PM, we will be hosting a new member class to share more information on what life looks like at ALC.

You can email Pastor Elizabeth at pastorelizabeth@amluth.org or Pastor Tim at pastortim@amluth.org to learn more!



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.



YMCA Trunk or Treat at ALC

October 16 from
4:00-6:00 PM

We are excited to announce that we are partnering with the YMCA for a Trunk or Treat in our parking lot on October 16 from 4:00-6:00 PM!

We are looking for 10-15 ALC families or members to decorate their trunks and hand out candy. If you're unfamiliar with Trunk or Treat, it's basically trick or treating in a parking lot! Instead of going door to door, kids walk from car to car collecting candy from decorated trunks.

If you're interested in being a trunk or donating candy, please contact Vanessa at vanessa@amluth.org or call the church office.



Crowded Table Meal

November 8

Our theme for Stewardship month this year is The Crowded Table, and one of the ways we are gathering is with a special event called The Crowded Table Meal!

Eight different households are opening their homes to host groups of eight for a meal together. Each group will gather for dinner, conversation, and fellowship before coming back to ALC to enjoy dessert altogether and hear a short stewardship presentation.

We hope that members of all ages will join us for this evening together. Kids can be dropped off at ALC for babysitting before the meals begin. And if you're uncomfortable driving at night, we'll make sure you're paired with someone who can provide transportation.

To sign up for the meal or ask questions, email Vanessa at vanessa@amluth.org or call the church office! Please sign up by October 27. You will find out where you are going to dinner by Wednesday, November 4.



YOUTH NEWS

We started this school year off with a bang! The program year took off with the Rally Sunday Cup where four teams of all ages competed in races and challenges to see who would emerge as the winner. Wednesday night activities are also back in full swing, and we have already been off to a great start of learning, fellowship, and fun. This year, confirmation students are taking on the book of Mark, Sunday Schoolers are learning the books of the New Testament, and Youth Group Bible Study just tackled the question of God's presence in their day-to-day lives. One of our most exciting times in September was the confirmation retreat. We had a chance to take four kids and their parents up to Christikon for a great weekend of bonding with each other and with God's beautiful creation. The kids learned about their spiritual gifts and how they can use those gifts as full members of their congregation and citizens of their communities and their world. September was full of new beginnings for our groups, and all of our kids are off to an amazing start!



YOUTH NEWS

October brings with it the beginning of our liveliest season as a youth program. We'll start with some spooky fun on Wednesday, October 7th at 7:00 PM when we take the confirmation and youth group kids to the corn maze for our annual tradition! The next date to make sure you have on your calendars is Sunday, October 11th because the Kid's Choir will be singing in church. Our elementary and middle schoolers will be showing off a song they learned at camp this summer, and you won't want to miss it! Youth activities will take a pause from Wednesday, October 14th through Sunday, October 18th in recognition of School District 2's fall break. We also have an exciting partnership with the YMCA coming up in celebration of Halloween. On Friday, October 16th, ALC is hosting the YMCA's Trunk or Treat from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM! The last of our October fun wraps up on Wednesday, October 28th with our Halloween parties for each of our Wednesday night programming groups. It's sure getting to be a busy time here at church! Happy Fall, ALC!



YOUTH NEWS

The program year is in full swing! October kicks off the first of many holiday traditions, starting with the Corn Maze on October 7. Before we know it, it will be time to make lefse, bake for the Elf Fund Bake Sale, shop for the Giving Tree, and enjoy nights full of puppy chow, caroling, and the Drive Thru Nativity. There's a lot happening over the next few months, and we're looking forward to all the familiar traditions that come with this time of year. We hope you'll join us for as many of them as you can!

Wednesday Night Meals

Thanks to our Wednesday Night Chefs!

September 30- *Panda Express (Trish & Duane Loken)*

October 7- Taco Bar (Kristin Rapacz)

October 14- No Wednesday Night Activities (School Break)

October 21- Sponsored by Laurie Sutphin

October 28- Available to Sponsor or Provide a Meal!

November 4- Breakfast Burritos (Schmitz Family)

November 11- Pizza (Sue DeVries)

November 18- Sponsored by Susan Frew

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

october AT A GLANCE

Oct. 4- Sunday School

Oct. 18- Sunday School

Oct. 7- Youth Activities, Meal, and
Corn Maze (6th-12th Grade)

Oct. 21- Youth Activities & Meal

Oct. 25- No Sunday School (Brunch)

Oct. 11- Sunday School

Oct. 28- Halloween Youth Activities &
Wednesday Night Meal

Oct. 14- No Youth Activities

Financial Update

August was a very average giving month for a summer month. Thank you for your offerings that sustain our ministry during a quieter time in the life of the church. As we head into the Fall, our line of credit balance is \$3,505.

Stay tuned for news of what is coming this Fall for our Stewardship program. The committee met recently and is excited about what is in store.

Pastor Tim

FINANCIAL REPORT

Date	Expenses	Income	Difference
August	\$44,462	\$33,203	(\$11,259)
Year-to-Date	\$401,795	\$373,144	(\$28,651)

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 from your preschool! Welcome to germ season. October is the time for picture day. We always line the students up shortest to tallest when we are talking about the “wee little man” Zacchaeus. Then we do it again at the end of the year with Goliath to see how much they’ve grown. Well, October comes and the germs say, “No full house today.” Catching us all at school together is a challenge. We always do an experiment with water, pepper, and soap to show them how pepper/germs cling to us, but soap repels the pepper. We teach them how to sing a handwashing song while they scrub in the soap to let it do its job. We do everything we can to repel the germs from ourselves and our toys, but illness is inevitable in preschool.

October is also professional photo time with Miranda Murdock (a former preschool parent). Let’s hope that all the students are healthy enough to make it for that day. She is so good at capturing their personalities in a photo.

It is also fire safety month with a visit from Patrick the firefighter. Thank you to the property committee for the fire alarm covers last year. We haven’t had any surprise pulls so far. Then, we tackle all the scary stories like Daniel in the Lion’s Den and Jonah in the Whale with a “where is God when I am scared” unit leading into all the spooky things they might see at Halloween. Trick or Treating around the building will be on a Thursday and Friday this year. Thursday we will get to parade around the Bible study group. ALC is awfully quiet on Fridays, so I may have parent volunteers come to assist us that day. It’s always a fun day. With such small classes this year, everything goes faster. We are able to really build relationships with these classes. We are having a great year in your preschool!