American Lutheran Church

Growing Deep & Reaching Wide

A Note from Pastor Tim

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have a confession to make — I'm not that wild about eating turkey, but I do want it for Thanksgiving Dinner, along with the stuffing (my favorite), the mashed potatoes, the green bean casserole, and the pecan or pumpkin pie (some of each preferably). Thanksgiving is the one holiday that centers on a meal. Yes, we might remember significant Christmas or Easter dinners, but those holidays also have a lot to do with Jesus and what's happening in his life.

Besides being the month of Thanksgiving, November tends to be the month that the church focuses on the issue of hunger. This coming month is no exception. Like we did last year, ALC will be helping stock Peace Lutheran's food pantry. During the 5 Sundays of November, we are asked to bring a different non-perishable food item each Sunday. Those items consist of cereal, peanut butter and jelly, canned meals, and pasta and sauce.

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Leadership Directory

Pastor Tim Tostengard
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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
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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The Wednesday morning men's Bible study group has agreed to transport these items to Peace Lutheran each week. As we remember Christ's call to serve the hungry, thanks to all of you for your contributions to this effort, and thanks to Peace Lutheran for continuing to be a vital resource for our neighbors in need.

This November, we will also focus on another meal — the Crowded Table Meal of Sunday, November 8. We will gather at 4:00 PM in the homes of 8 different households throughout Billings for food, fellowship, and conversation. Thanks to all of those members for hosting! We will then meet back at the church at 6:00 PM for dessert and a short Stewardship presentation. This meal will not only jump-start our Fall Stewardship program, it will offer the fine fellowship of gathering in members' home and then all of us coming together at the end of the evening.

Looking forward to a month full of food and fellowship,
Pastor Tim



November Worship Notes

November Forums

November 8
Elf Fund Bake Sale
Come and buy baked goods as we support those in need in our community!

November 15
NAMI
A representative of NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, will be with us to speak on their work in our community.

November 22
Author Kathy Borges
ALC member Kathy Borges will be with us to speak on her newly published book, *Murder on Flesher Pass*. *This House of Books* will also be with us with copies of the book, which will be available for purchase.

November 29
Coffee Fellowship

November Worship Texts

November 8
Exodus 16:2-4,9-15
Psalm 145: 3a, 13b-21
Philippians 4:10-14
Matthew 15:21-28

November 15
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 25:1-9
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

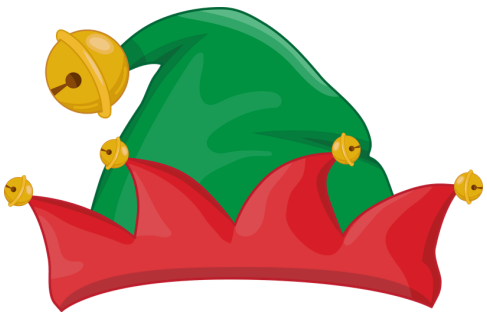
November 22
Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 104: 10-24
1 John 3:14-24
Matthew 14:13-21

November 23
Deuteronomy 26: 1-11
Psalm 100
John 6: 25-35

November 29
Isaiah 64: 1-9
Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
Mark 13: 24-37

Elf Fund Bake Sale
November 8

It's almost time for our annual Elf Fund Bake Sale! On Sunday, November 8th, both before and after worship, our youth will be hosting a bake sale to raise money for the Elf Fund. The Elf Fund gives us the ability to shop for children and elders in our community at Christmastime. As always, we rely on the congregation to bring in bake sale items to help the kids supplement what they are able to bake. If you would like to donate some goodies, please bring them by the church by 9:00 AM on November 8th at the latest. Thank you for your support and your generostiy, ALC!



New Member Class
November 22

A New Member Class will be held following worship on November 22 in the Shepherds Lounge. Meet with the Pastors and learn how to get connected at ALC. New members will be recieved on Sunday, December 6 during worship with a reception to follow. Contact Pastor Tim or Elizabeth for more information!

Thanksgiving Worship and Pie Social
Novmber 23

Join us for our annual Thanksgiving Worship on November 23 beginning at 7:00 PM. Then, it's time for our Pie Social! Following Worship, enjoy a slice (or two!) from a variety of pies. Help us kick off the holiday season in the sweetest way possible. Please bring a pie to share!



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 hompage of our website. Visit www.amluth.org to find the links to each service and learn more about what's happening at ALC.



Giving Tree November 22

Happy Giving Tree Season! To choose a tag, you can collect a card from the physical tree in the entryway of the church or you can sign up electronically claim a tag.

Once chosen, we ask that you shop either in person or online for the items outlined on the tag. Please do not choose a tag you don't think you can fulfill.

We ask that all gifts come back to the church in gift bags (not wrapped) by the morning of December 7th. Thank you for your generosity!



EVENTS IN ADVENT

DECEMBER	2026
DEC. 2	YOUTH ELF FUND SHOPPING
DEC. 4	ADVENT RECITAL
DEC. 6	BEER & CAROLS
DEC. 9	KIDS' NIGHT IN
DEC. 11	ADVENT RECITAL
DEC. 16	DRIVE THRU NATIVITY
DEC. 18	ADVENT RECITAL
DEC. 20	YOUTH ORNAMENT MAKING
DEC. 24	WORSHIP AT 4:00 & 5:30 PM

Financial Update

September was not a strong month financially, to say the least. Monthly giving is not as consistent as in the past due to members giving annually or quarterly, instead of weekly or monthly. We are still hopeful for strong year-end giving, as we work to pay off our line of credit heading into 2027. That balance is now $29,384. Historically, that is not a large amount for this time of the year, so I have confidence that we can do it!

Also, please sign up for the *Crowded Table Meal* on Sunday, November 8 that will kick off our Stewardship campaign. And, as always, thank you for your generosity!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Date	Expenses	Income	Difference
September	$53,054	$24,677	($28,377)
Year-to-Date	$455,345	$397,832	($57,513)

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Derrick Tracy, Council President
Stewardship

John Delvo, Vice President
Property

Alan Bruinsma, Treasurer

Ashley Geis, Secretary
Youth & Education

Robin Smith
Personnel

Trish Loken
Congregational Life

Diane Quick
Outreach & Evangelism

Tom Stichman
Worship

YOUTH NEWS

October had many more treats than tricks! We began the month of fun with our tradition of taking confirmation and youth group students to the corn maze. For the first time since I've been here, some of us actually made it out of the first half of the maze successfully! We also partnered with the YMCA for their Trunk or Treat for the first time. Four staff members brought decorated trunks, treats, and Halloween excitement, and we even saw some ALC members there! We wrapped up our month of festivities with our big Halloween party for the whole congregation. Kids' Club played games, made fortune tellers, and raced to collect spiders from their webs. After that, the whole church gathered together to listen to Mike play us some spooky tunes on the organ. During dinner, the party kept rolling with costumes, games, and vampire shirley temples! To top it all off, throughout October, Kids' Choir has been busy practicing both the camp song they sang for us this month and a new tune we'll hear from them later in November. We've sure been busy!



YOUTH NEWS

November does not slow down! We start off right away with one of our favorite November activities: Lefse Making Day! Youth in grades 6 - 12 are invited to join us after the education hour on Sunday, November 1st to make lefse for the Elf Fund Bake Sale. That Wednesday, during Kids' Club and Youth Group we will be baking even more treats for the sale. Speaking of the bake sale, that will take place the following Sunday on November 8th before and after worship. Watching the kids take ownership and really become leaders in the congregation throughout the Christmas giving season is always so inspiring. This month for a special day out, we will be taking the confirmation students to the Art House to watch a movie that they will be able to relate back to what they are learning in class. Throughout the month, our kids of all ages will continue to learn from each other and their congregation and to grow together. We'll take a break from youth activities during the Thanksgiving Break (November 25th - November 29th) and resume all of our fun just in time for Advent!



YOUTH NEWS

November brings us close to many of our favorite holiday traditions, including the Elf Fund Bake Sale, Giving Tree, caroling, Kid's Night In, and the Drive Thru Nativity. Our Wednesday night dinners continue to be a wonderful time for food and fellowship. We are so thankful for all the chefs who have signed up to provide meals in 2026, and we are beginning to look for volunteers for 2027! These meals are such an important part to our Wednesday evenings, and we hope you'll consider sharing a meal with us in the new year!

Wednesday Night Meals

Thanks to our Wednesday Night Chefs!

November 4- Sandwiches (Susan Frew)

November 11- Pizza (Sue DeVries)

November 18- Breakfast Burritos (Schmitz Family)

November 25- No Wednesday Night Activities

December 2- Lasagna (Geis Family)

December 9- Hot Dogs (Pastor Tim)

December 16- Pizza (Looking for a Sponsor)

December 23 & 30- No Wednesday Night Activities

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

november AT A GLANCE

Nov. 1- Sunday School

Nov. 4- Youth Activities & Meal

Nov. 8- Sunday School

Nov. 11- Youth Activities & Meal

Nov. 15- Youth Choir & Sunday School

Nov. 18- Youth Activities & Meal

Nov. 22- Sunday School

Nov. 25- No Youth Activities or Meal

Nov. 29- No Sunday School

Dec. 2- Youth Activities & Meal

Hello From Your PRE-SCHOOL!

Hello from your preschool! We've been having so much fun downstairs this fall. Smaller classes means more one-on-one time. The younger class would love to spend the entire first hour of free choice centers reading all the books on the shelf. I don't think I've EVER taught a whole class that would rather read than play! I used to read a story to my own kids about how there is always room on Mother's lap. It was a favorite and my 6'9" son still quotes it as he jokingly tries to sit on me as an adult. Thankfully we've got two teachers, because I can't fit every student on my lap – even though they try. I might have to get Pam Lowe back in here for story time, so we have three laps. What a treat to read all morning, but we've got to work on other skills that peer interactions provide.

Thank you for the Halloween help from the staff and Thursday's bible study. The students enjoy parading around the building in their costumes. Now we head into thankful season! I love this time of year! We will be hosting our annual Charlie Brown style feast for our families at the end of the month. The older class has fun with the cooking we do on Fridays together. The Thanksgiving feast is always ambitious (don't burn the popcorn or overcook the cornbread), but they love preparing things for their parents to enjoy at school with us.

As always, we are thankful for all of you and your love of your preschool!