



Grapevine

June 2011

American Lutheran



Worship Schedule

ALC Staff

Henry Thorberg - Pastor
Jane Plettner-Nielson -
Director of Music
Clarice Riege Secretary

ALC Council

Executive Committee

President - Keith Spilker
Vice-President - Michael Welsh
Secretary - Joel Bacon
Treasurer - Char Rohl

Committee Chairs

Finance-Dustin Lottman
Outreach-Dave Dermann
Parish Education- Wendy Hirsch
Property-Mike Wheeler
Social Concerns-Liz Cooper
Stewardship-Trevor Hanson
Worship-Mavis Seelmeyer
Youth- Doug Dexter/
Brenda Spilker



June 5



**Seventh Sunday of Easter
Special Music**

8:15 am Traditional Worship
9:15 am Adult Forum
10:30 am Praise Worship/St. Thomas

June 12



**Day of Pentecost
PRAISE IN THE PARK
Special Music**

10:00 AM Combined Service/Communion/St. Peter
Potluck Dinner following service

June 19



**The Holy Trinity
Special Music**

8:15 am Traditional Worship/Communion
9:15 am Adult Forum
10:30 am Praise Worship/Communion/St. James

June 26



**Second Sunday after Pentecost
Special Music**

8:15 am Traditional Worship
9:15 am Adult Forum
10:30 am Praise Worship/ St. Paul

AWARDED A/O REWARDED

I have been amazed again by the ministry of American Lutheran Church; so please, even if you usually don't pay much attention to this article take note of it for the next little while. Those of you who worshipped with us on Easter will quickly relate to what I am about to say. In the cycle of life as a church, we experience our time together in a wide range of human emotions. There are times of incredible highs, and times when the lows are pretty deep for us!



Easter morning was a time of great celebration not just of the resurrection of our Lord; but a day of renaissance for our church, too. Until that day, I think it would have been difficult to describe our recent experience as anything other than a transitional time. The life and mission of the church was ok; but commitment seemed to be a bit shallow for many as we faithfully went through the motions. Easter worship with its fantastic message of resurrection and beautiful music was a reawakening for many who were here; because it demonstrated what we can do when we pull together as GOD's people in this place.

As I write this article for the newsletter, we are preparing for another marvelous Sunday as we celebrate music and the education arms of our congregation. I hope you get this newsletter before May 22 because I do not think you will want to miss our worship on that day. Our teachers have done a marvelous job educating the faith again! Our musicians are busy rehearsing many numbers to share as we head into the summer season where things usually slow down somewhat. There is a pervading excitement as each musical group prepares their varied versions of praise to GOD for the blessings of talent!

On the 22nd, many will gather in an attitude of joy and thankfulness to express our love to GOD in multiple musical formats in both services! There will be praise in the multitude of music that will

come from our musicians of all ages! (By the way, I have not promised not to preach even though much of the preaching that day will be in musical form.)

As I was thinking about the desire all of these people shared, it struck me that this was another good opportunity to point out the difference between reward and award; because it is tricky for us to keep them separated, and it is important that we know the difference in matters of faith.

To be rewarded is to be paid back for something you have done! The one who does the rewarding has somehow been benefited by the one who is getting rewarded! Something has had to have happened before a reward can be given. The reward is a response!

To be awarded something does not depend on an action having happened previously; but does depend on the one who is giving out the award. Though it is possible for a reward and an award to be very similar and sometimes they can be used interchangeably. There is a possibility for an award to be something that a reward could not be and that difference makes a lot of difference! An award has the ability to equip us to do something we would not have been able to do without the gift! An award has the ability to endow us with the power to do something, and when we think of the award as coming from GOD, it yields talents in us to do things. The academy awards would be better thought of as rewards for using the talents for acting; because they certainly do not bestow the ability to act. But the music we are going to be experiencing will reflect that talents GOD has so lavishly provided.

Thank GOD for the awarding of so much talent, and may the joy of music and worship be our reward for using the talents GOD has given us so much of. AMEN!

Pastor Henry

From the Music Director:

Thank you to everyone for your cooperation in sharing your gifts on May 22nd. It has been a wonderful choir year. Enjoy the summer break!

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR SUMMER

Summer provides a time for individuals and groups to share their musical gifts through special music. There is a sign-up sheet on the table for people to indicate which Sunday(s) they would like to share their gifts. If you need help finding music, please let me know. If you have a friend or relative that would like to share their gifts, they would be most welcome to share their gifts and join us in worship, too.

Praise Team rehearsals will continue to be on Tuesday, at 6:30 p.m., starting May 31st, until choir rehearsals start.

The schedule for sharing our musical gifts during worship (for the next two months) is as follows:

June 5 – Special Music and St. Thomas Praise Team (singers Keith, Jana, Michelle, Beth)
June 12 – PRAISE IN THE PARK! (combined service at Bethany Park starting at 10:00 a.m.)
Special Music and St. Peter Praise Team (singers Travis, Brenda, Laura, Kelli, Natalie, Sherri)
June 19 – Special Music and St. James Praise Team (singers Bruce, Kim, Morgan, Claire, & Marcia)
June 26 – Special Music and St. Paul Praise Team (singers Jim, Mavis, Angie, Vanessa, Pastor)

July 3 – Special Music and St. Thomas Praise Team (singers Keith, Jana, Michelle, Beth)
July 10 - Special Music and St. Peter Praise Team (singers Travis, Brenda, Laura, Kelli, Natalie, Sherri)
July 17 - Special Music and St. James Praise Team (singers Bruce, Kim, Morgan, Claire, Marcia)
July 24 - Special Music and St. Paul Praise Team (singers Jim, Mavis, Angie, Vanessa, Pastor)
July 31 - Special Music and St. Peter Praise Team (singers Travis, Brenda, Laura, Kelli, Natalie, Sherri)

OFFICE HOURS of the Music Director (Note, the Church Office hours will remain the same.)
The Legislature will finish their work soon for this session and once done, I will be able to resume Monday office hours from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. I am changing my office hours on Saturday to 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. (instead of the current 10:00 -12:00 a.m.), beginning on June 4th.

Thank you for your continued support of the music ministry.

Jane Plettner-Nielson

Attendance and Stewardship

	Worship		General Offering	Phase III Offering	Other Offering
	8:15 am	10:30 am			
May 1	59	78	\$5393.20	\$1705.00	\$ 80.00
May 8	70	102	\$1597.66	\$ 90.00	\$108.50
May 15	64	108	\$4748.25	\$ 240.00	\$185.00
May 22	100	107	\$1462.99	\$ 30.00	\$866.00

Financial Statement

Financial Results through 4/30/2011

	April	YTD
Budget Income		
Pro-rata needs	\$ 13,910.00	\$59,117.00
Offerings	\$ 15,614.00	\$61,294.00
Difference	\$ 1,704.00	\$ 2,177.00
Budget Expenses	\$ 12,229.00	\$62,565.00
Phase III:		
Debt Obligation	\$ 2,976.00	\$11,904.00
Budgeted (mortgage)	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 6,248.00
Building Fund	\$ 726.00	\$ 726.00
Phase III Offerings	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,930.00
Total Paid	\$ 2,976.00	\$11,904.00
Additional Principal	\$ 340.00	\$ 340.00
Cause of the Month:	\$185.00	

God



Lincoln Cluster Food Pantry

In June the pantry needs: Veggies, Fruit, Beans and Tomato Products.

Cash donations are used for immediate needs. To donate cash, place it in the collection plate, clearly marked "Food Pantry"

Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Camp Scholarship Guidelines

Any youth member of American Lutheran Church, who is of camping age to attend church camp at Carol Joy Holling at Ashland, NE or senior high backpacking and rafting in the Colorado, Boulder Mountains are eligible to receive a scholarship from American Lutheran.

Family Discounts are offered by CJH, when more than one child of the same family attends a full-week or mini-session, they each are eligible to receive a \$25.00 discount. Sorry, no discounts for Taste of Camp. Discounts are applied to the final balance.

No child is turned away from CJH. If you need assistance to send your child to camp, please call Mary Bower @ 1-888-656-6254.

Congratulations to Erin Sharpe who graduated May 7 from UNMC in Omaha. She received her Masters Degree in Nursing with certification in Family Nurse Practitioner.

ALC May Statistics:

Change of Address:

Kristina Vasquez - 1120 Salisbury Ct. Apt. 20
Lincoln, NE 68505-1781

Luke Worth—7001 Helen Witt Dr. Apt. 706
Lincoln, NE 68512-3620

Transfer Out:

Kathryn, Benjamin & Makayla Gustafson
To: Messiah Lutheran - Ralston, NE

Executive Committee and Church Council will meet Thursday evening, June 9th, at 6:15 pm and 7:00 pm respectively.



It's Almost Here! - -

Our annual Praise in the Park combined service will be held on June 12 at 10 a.m.

The service will be held at the Bethany Park Shelter at 66th and Vine St.

A potluck will follow, so please mark your calendars now and make plans to join us for this special occasion!



Thank You!

Dear Friends;

It is a pleasure to offer sincere thanks to all our friends at American Lutheran Church for your gift to our ministry in the amount of \$185.00. You are truly partners with us in ministry and we do appreciate that. Your gift will help young people grow in Christ as they come to Carol Joy Holling for summer camp.

We pray that our partnership together will be blessed to continue for many more years to come. Certainly, you are blessings from God to us!

In Christ's Service

Jason Gerdes, CFRE

Director/Development

American Lutheran Church,

The Star City Chapter of the Bettys of Nebraska want to "Thank you" for the use of the Parish hall the past few months.

Enclosed you will find a \$100.00 donation.

Again, Thank you for the use of the Parish Hall.

BettyLou Lang, Treasurer
Star City Chapter of
The Bettys of Nebraska

The church has a portable basketball hoop we no longer need.

Highest offer with funds to go to Camp Scholarships.

Contact: Keith Spilker at (402) 476-9347.

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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US POSTAGE PAID
Lincoln, Nebraska
Permit No. 201

Henry Thorberg, Pastor
Sunday Worship 8:15 am
Praise Worship 10:30 am
Christian Education 9:15 am

Address Service Requested

*I am the vine, you are the
branches.*

*He who abides in me, and I in
him, bears much fruit.*

John 15:5



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|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 06/02 Gary Meeske | 06/12 Cambry Everett | 06/19 Tyson Do |
| 06/02 Mike Wheeler | 06/13 June Loveless | 06/20 Kaelyn Lottman |
| 06/02 Emily Foley | 06/13 Wayne Schauer | 06/22 Bev Mertes |
| 06/04 Heidi Allen | 06/14 Gladys Pieper | 06/24 Troy Schachterle |
| 06/04 Heather Vanis | 06/14 Rosemary Neemann | 06/24 Austin Rohl |
| 06/04 Drew Hofferber | 06/14 Patrick Wadkins | 06/26 Raquel Schachterle |
| 06/07 Timothy Hofferber | 06/15 Lois Curren | 06/27 Ben Pederson |
| 06/07 Dan Foote | 06/16 Arlene Buresh | 06/27 Isabella Stege |
| 06/08 Irene Kruse | 06/17 Ruth Vinson | 06/28 Steven Westerholt |
| 06/09 LaVonne Johns | 06/19 Linda Lowe | 06/28 Neriah Aden |
| 6/12 Jerad Janssen | | 06/29 Connie McDowell |