

# WELCOME

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH – January 5, 2024  
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD  
DECEMBER-MARCH 8:30AM

## OUR MISSION

Jesus Christ calls American Lutheran Church to nourish the world by faithfully sharing His gifts.

Praise God that we can worship together! We pray you will be enlightened by the Holy Spirit and strengthened in the faith that trusts in our Lord Jesus Christ and praises him for the gift of our salvation. Peace be with you!

## CONTACT US

Church office: 319-827-6626  
Church website: [www.americanlutheranjesup.org](http://www.americanlutheranjesup.org)  
Secretary's email: [secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org](mailto:secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org)



### Introduction to the day

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

## WELCOME VISITORS!

We are so happy you've joined us today. If you have any questions about our service or facilities, please reach out to an usher. If you are a guest please fill out the yellow slip and place it in the offering plate.

The children will be invited up front during the children's message – please feel free to join us!

All who are baptized are welcome to receive communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing only, come with your hands folded.

If you are looking for a church home, know you are always welcome here.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP- Setting Three

### Prelude by Shirley Bergman

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*  
Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.  
*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.


To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN: Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters (ELW 445)**

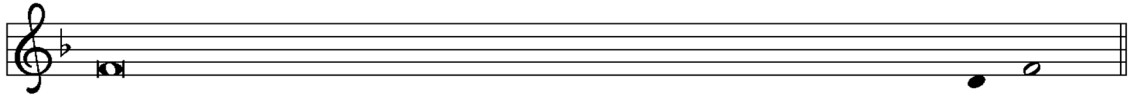
**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**


**KYRIE:**



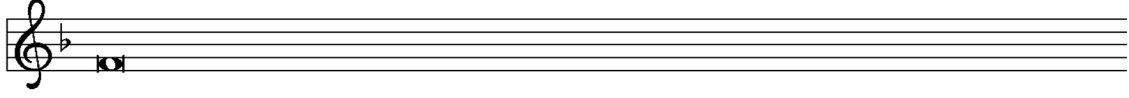
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



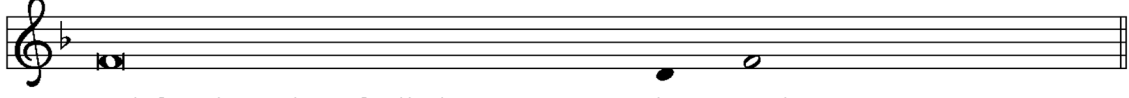
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.




**Lord, have mer - cy.**



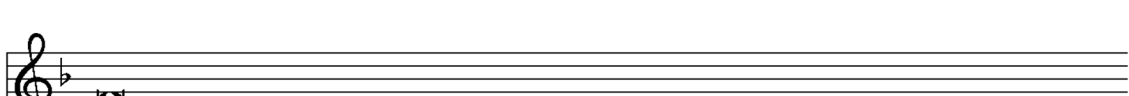
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



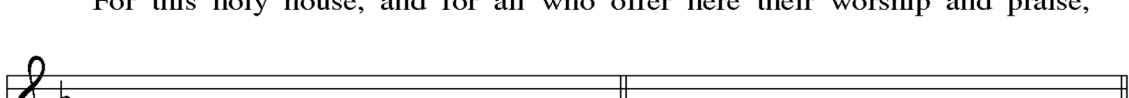
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.




**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

**Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5**

*Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.*

*The reading may be announced:*

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,  
<sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.  
<sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 29**

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God’s name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;

the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. R**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. R**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. **R**

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13**

*Paul closes a challenging letter to the Corinthians with an appeal to Christian fellowship grounded in the triune harmony of Christ’s grace, God’s love, and the Spirit’s partnership.*

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

[Paul writes:] <sup>11</sup>Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup>Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.  
<sup>13</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Word of God, Word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11**

*The gospel is announced.*  
The holy gospel according to Mark the First Chapter  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**  
*Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."  
*The gospel concludes:*  
The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY *Baptized and Set Free (ELW 453)***

**CREED**

*Please stand if you are able*  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering (*especially Stephanie Winklepleck*). God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Bestow upon us the virtue of patience as we journey through this season of uncertainty, placing our trust in the precision of your timing. May your divine will unfold seamlessly in the calling process, and may the path chosen guide us to the Pastor whom you have ordained for our congregation. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of compassion, bring forth the soothing balm of peace upon the nations. Illuminate the hearts of leaders and unite humanity in harmony. In your grace, let the world find serenity and coexistence. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

*(Please greet each other as you feel comfortable)*  
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**  
*The assembly is seated*

OFFERTORY



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

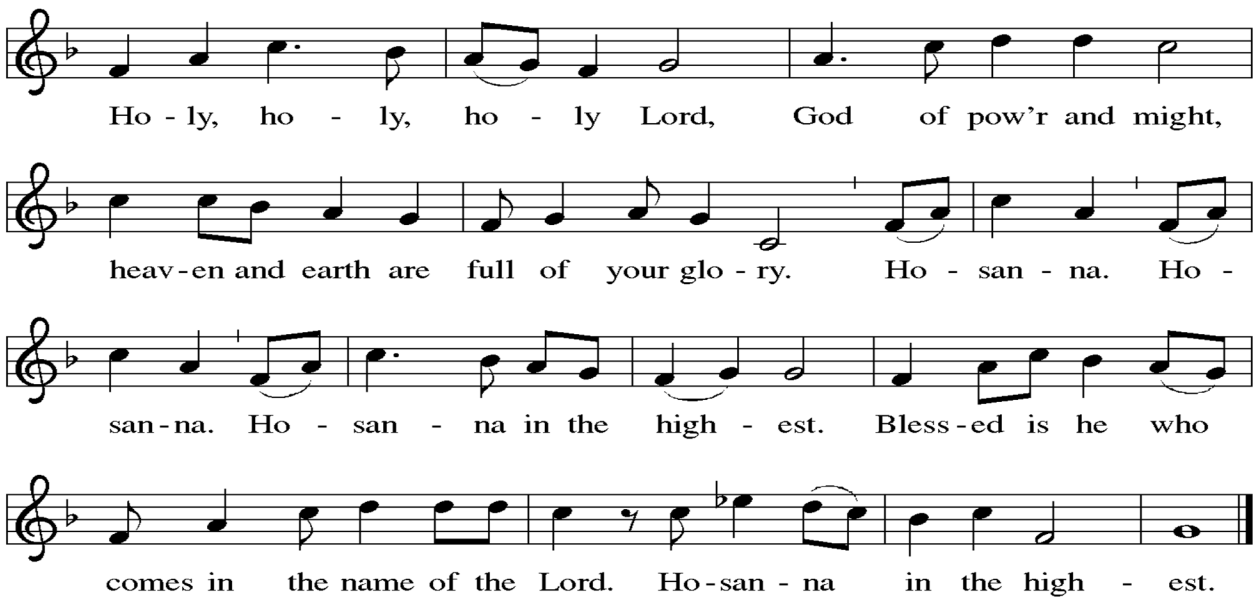
Let us pray.  
**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.  
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## COMMUNION

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

*Please stand if you are able*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and give you peace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

**O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**BLESSING** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** *God, Whose Almighty Word ( ELW 673)*

## DISMISSAL BY CHILDREN

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

And have fun doing it.

**We will! Amen!**

**Postlude by Shirley Bergman**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Budget Hearing is scheduled for today following the Worship service. The budget will be finalized Monday, January 8th. This meeting is providing an opportunity to address any concerns. Please note that the Annual Meeting is not the appropriate time for raising such concerns.**

**Annual Meeting January 21st following Worship.** Please attend if you are a voting member of the congregation. There needs to be a quorum of 25 voting members in order to conduct business. Voting members are Confirmed members 18 years of age or older, have received communion and made a contribution on record one time in the last two years.

**Worship Wednesday** will resume this week at 6:15pm

**Portals of Prayers** and **Christ in Our Home** for Jan.-March 2024 are available by the Fireside Room and on the table by the front door.

**Scholarship Program:** ALC is once again participating in the Educational Partners in Covenant (EPIC) Scholarship Program for the 2023-2024 school year. Through this program ELCA colleges; Grand View, Luther, and Wartburg, match grants from churches, dollar for dollar. ALC has allocated funds for this scholarship in their annual budget. Scholarship applications are available on the bulletin board by the secretary's office. They must be completed and returned by March 1st, 2024 to the secretary's office to the attention of Pat Winblade, Scholarship Chairperson. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Winblade, 319-290-9281 or 319-827-6788.

**Annual Reports:** Each committee of the church needs to submit a year-end report for the Annual Report/Meeting which will be held

on January 21, 2024. This report should be a brief recount of activities and participation throughout 2023. If you haven't already done so please send your reports to Chris at [secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org](mailto:secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org) as soon as possible.

**Everyone is invited to participate** – individuals of all ages are welcome to read the Lessons and Psalm during Sunday mornings. If you're interested, please reach out to the church by emailing [secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org](mailto:secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org) or leaving a message at 319-827-6626.

**ELCA National Youth Gathering:** We have six high school members (along with 3 adult leaders) who are excited to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next July! We appreciate your prayers and contributions as we prepare for our journey.

**Please keep in your prayers:** *Emelia Dahl Jacobson* - Send cards to Emelia at Hiawatha Care Center, Room 53, 405 North 15th Avenue, Hiawatha, IA 52233.

*Stephanie Winkelpleck is back home. She will continue to go to Iowa City weekly for checkups.*

**Prayer Shawl:** Meet every third Wednesday of the month at 10 am, Fireside Room. Please contact Sharon McAtee at 319-827-6154 if you are in need of a shawl.

**The Call Committee:** Our congregation's Ministry Site Profile obtained approval from the ELCA Synod in the spring. Following this, a collaborative meeting took place with Pastor Liz Albertson Bell and Zion. We are now eagerly anticipating a potential referral from the Synod to kickstart the interview process. Regrettably, the precise

timeline for receiving these referrals cannot be determined at this moment.

**Independence Food Pantry**– Will be relocating to 1413 1st St. W, Independence (formally Buchanan county Public Health) They will be closed January 10-12th, 2024. Will reopen on January 15th,2024 Questions? Please call 319-334-2451

**2024 Council Nominations Open:** The nominating committee is seeking to fill two council seats (3 year term each) and the council secretary (2 year term) and 2-3 new members of the nominating committee, terms starting in January 2024. This is an important time in our congregation. Please prayerfully consider this call for yourself, or someone you'd like to nominate and send nominations to Sara Borland or Dorothy Thompson who will reach out to the nominee

**Support Lay Ministry Training:** Help create a Lay Ministry Training Program that gives congregation leaders the tools and support they need when congregations are without a pastor or deacon. At any given time, 30 congregations in the Northeastern Iowa Synod have no pastoral leadership. These congregations are being led by dedicated volunteers, many of whom feel like they are left on their own to figure things out without training or support.

You can give through our congregation. Please indicate "Lay Ministry" on the check's memo line.

**Office Hours:** M,W,F 9am-noon, There may be some exceptions to this schedule please call the Church office to see if Chris is available before making a trip.

**THIS WEEK AT ALC**

**Sunday January 7**

**8:30am** Worship and Communion Budget Hearing following worship

**Monday Jan. 8th**

**6:30pm** Council Meeting

**Wednesday Jan. 10th**

**6:15pm** Wednesday Worship  
**6:30pm** Confirmation at ALC

**Sunday Jan. 14th**

**8:30am** Worship and Communion / First Communion

**BY THE NUMBERS**

Attendance **12/30/2023: 25**

FB Views: 111

Current **11/21/2023**

Checking: 12,851.15

Savings: \$51,081.37

Offering: **12/31/2023**

Current: \$685

Benevolence: \$267

Improvement: \$145

Youth Ministry: \$18.07

Lay Ministry: \$295.52

Improvement Windows: \$275

PASTORS COMING TO ALC:

Jan. 7 th Pastor Urlaub

Jan. 14th Pastor Dan Mixdorf

Jan. 21st. Karen Weltzin

Jan.28th. Pastor Dennis Hanson

**Military members: Military members:**

Christa Leach has returned from deployment and is still with the 434th Air Force Reserve Unit in Grissom, Indiana. Jordan and Justin continue their monthly drills with the 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City. Jeryn Loyd is a student at Iowa State and currently home from Arkansas in the Army Reserves as Cassidee and Cole. Please contact the church office to add other names who serve. We remember them in our prayers.

**ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY:**

Pastor: Mark Urlaub

Music: Shirley Bergman

Usher: Wayne Schneider

Deacon: Christy Phillips



**ELECTRONIC  
GIVING  
IT'S EASY!**

Simply Giving is a stress-free, no hassle way to set up automatic giving to ALC. You have the ability to set up one-time or regular giving at a

frequency that works best for you. Use your smartphone to scan the QR code below or download the Give+ App to get started. Feel free to reach out to Mike Waring or Sara Borland for more info.