

WELCOME

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH – Sunday, November 27, 2022

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

AUGUST-NOVEMBER WORSHIP 8:30 AM

CONTACT US

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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.

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!

Introduction to the day

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

ORDER OF WORSHIP- Setting Three

Prelude by Shirley Bergman

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

First Sunday of Advent

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.
You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.
You show up in our lives at unexpected times.
Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.
We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,
you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

Amen.

We Light a Candle (vs. 1)

**We Light a Candle for hope and our world that's longing for hope
We light a candle for hope and our world that's longing for hope
Holy One, shine with the fire of our lives, Oh
We light a candle for Hope and our world that's longing for hope.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM(ELW p. 97)

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

In the name of the Father,
and of the $\text{\textt{T}}$ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.
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: 242 Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn

**1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.**

**Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.**

**Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever.**

**2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of lovingkindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll
to shatter all hatred and blindness.**

**3 In darkest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
the lame shall leap in wonder,**

**the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons be broken asunder.**

**4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.**

**Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.**

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM:: Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”(Ps.:1)

¹I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

²**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.**

⁷Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

⁸**For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good."

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Romans.

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two

women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.
⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

The Assembly is seated

SERMON: Read by Maureen Even

HYMN OF THE DAY: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.
Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne. Amen.**

APOSTLES' 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:

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth (other places of conflict may be named). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care especially Dennis Bushkofsky, Renee McAtee, Stephanie Winkelpleck, and Danny Kopplin. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict (especially). Give wisdom to

congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of Guidance, We pray for a new pastor. For the pastor being called to our congregation to find the Spirit of the Lord Guiding them to us. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

(PLEASE GREET EACH OTHER WITH A WAVE)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

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.

Blessing

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The Assembly is seated

SENDING SONG Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying(ELW 436)

**1 Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying;**

**awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The bridegroom comes! Awake;
your lamps with gladness take!"
Alleluia!
Rise and prepare the feast to share;
go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.**

**2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and all her heart with joy is springing.
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
Her dear friend comes down, all glorious,
the strong in grace, in truth victorious:
her star is ris'n; her light is come.
Now come, O Blessed One,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son.
Sing hosanna!
Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
and follow to the banquet hall.**

**3 Gloria! Let heav'n adore you!
Let saints and angels sing before you,
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming,
lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming,
with angel choirs around your throne.
No eye has caught the light,
no ear the thund'ring might
of such glory.**

**There we will go: what joy we'll know!
There sweet delight will ever flow.**

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

10:00 worship at ALC begins in December.

Peanut Butter Donations for Jesup School: 45 food bags are packed weekly to supplement food for 26 school families. We have been very appreciative of the food bank peanut butter but it is no longer available and so we are asking if the congregation would donate peanut butter as the families will greatly benefit and be so appreciative. Dorthea Bovy, Jesup Schools Guidance Counselor **Please leave donations in the box at the back of the church.**

Bremwood Christmas gifts: LSI says they most appreciate **Walmart gift cards** so counselors can shop for their 30 residents, ages 13-17. Please note "Bremwood" on your donation and place in the ALC offering by **December 11**. Questions? Call Mary Adams 319) 269-3478. Thank you for your continued generosity. Here is a list of gift ideas:

- Gift cards – Walmart; McDonalds, Pizza Ranch, Applebees
- Mosaic/adult color books, colored pencils; Craft kits and art supplies
- MP3 players; Small speakers for MP3 players
- Small boomboxes/CD player; DVD s rated G PG or PG13
- Walkman with headphones
- Leather footballs, basketballs, volleyballs, soccer/kick balls; air pumps
- Board games and card games
- Hoodie Sweatshirts – Adult large-2X
- College Logo T-Shirts, long sleeved shirts or sweatshirts – Large – 2X

Christmas Program practice is during our Worship Wednesday schedule. We do need a few **adults** to join in singing Christmas Carols. Please contact Katey.

November 30 from 6:15-7

December 7 from 6:15-7

December 14 from 6:15-7

Friday, December 16th-TBD

Christmas Program-Sunday, December 18th 10 AM

Holy Communion: At American Lutheran we rejoice with each person that joins us for worship in person or online. We do need to keep records of members that are partaking in the sacrament of Holy Communion because the NEIA Synod

requests it and because our constitution requires it. If you have communed with us from a distance any time in 2022, we request that you send an email to the church secretary; secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org by Dec 31st to help us update our records. We will then ask for communication in the form of an email to the church secretary once per year for those communing online moving forward.

Lutheran Social Services thanks ALC for inviting them to share their program and services. The partnership of individuals, the churches, and the Synods allows LSI to bring critical human services to Iowa's children, families, and individuals. For more information contact LSI's Deb Whitford at 563-676-2065 or deborah.whitford@lsiowa.org.

Please keep in your prayers: Stephanie Winkelpleck, Dennis Bushkofsky (cancer), Renee McAtee, and Danny Koplin.

Prayer Chain: Contact Kaye (tomjones@indytel.com) or Jessica (secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org) to get added to the ALC prayer chain. When called, you would be given the next name to contact in the chain.

Contemplative Outreach of Northeast Iowa: presents an in-person Advent Retreat, "Mary: Awareness and Anticipation" December 2-4. To register or for information email CONEIowa@gmail.com or visit "Contemplative Outreach of Northeast Iowa" on Facebook. The event will be hosted at New Melleray Guest House, Peosta, Iowa.

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Military members: Jordan and Justin are home safe and sound. They are still in and attached to the 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City where they are doing their normal monthly drills. Jeryn Loyd is in the Army Reserves and is a student at Iowa State. Please contact the church office to add other names who serve. We'd like to remember them in our prayers.

ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY:

Lay Leaders: Mary Adams & Maureen Even
Music: Shirley Bergman
Usher: Jim and Cindy Gosse
Reader: Cindy Gosse

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.

THIS WEEK AT ALC

Sunday Nov. 27th (ADVENT): 8:30am Worship

Wednesday Nov. 30th:

6pm Confirmation
6:15 Worship Wednesdays

Thursday Dec. 1st:

9am Women's Bible Study

Sunday Dec. 4th(ADVENT): 10:00AM Worship and Communion.

BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance **11/20/22: 23**

Current **11/13/22**

: 14,386.53

Savings: \$22,382.45

Offering: **11/13/22**

Current: \$1,345

Benevolence: \$175

Improvement: \$135

NSB: \$30

PASTORS COMING TO ALC:

Nov 27 Mary Adams, lay leader

Dec 4 Rev. Phil Borleske

Dec 11 Rev. Dan Mixdorf

Dec 18 Sunday School program, Sue Hoey lay leader

Dec 24th 4:30 ALC Rev. Dan Mixdorf/
7:00 Zion Jubilee Rev Dan Mixdorf

Dec 25th Rev Phil Borleske