

ORDER OF WORSHIP

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH – November 28th, 2021
PENTECOST– NEW MEMBER SUNDAY
OCTOBER-NOVEMBER WORSHIP 10AM

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WREATH LIGHTING LITANY

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.

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The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

Instill in us a yearning to seek your presence in each other.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

Quicken us to help all people feel welcomed and supported.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

Rouse us to care for one another, friend and stranger alike.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

Inspire us to be your handiwork in the world.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

Fill us with a holy hunger for a just world where all are fed.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

Stir up in our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your Son.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come!

We Light a Candle, by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan vs.1 (*music is on bulletin insert*)

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Litany for the Blessing of the Greens

L: How shall we prepare God's house for the coming of God's Royal Son?

C: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

L: How shall we prepare God's house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

C: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, evergreen.

L: How shall we prepare God's house for the coming of our Savior?

C: With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection.

L: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

C: By hearing again the words of the prophets who foretold the saving work of God.

L: God's love for the world is so great God sent Jesus into the world that we might be saved through him.

C: Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth!

A Reading from Jeremiah 33:14-16

14The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

L: People of God, we stand at the entrance of the sanctuary and at the doorway to the Christian year on this *first Sunday of Advent*.

C: Holy God, bless the entrance to the worship space and our hearts and minds as portals for Christ to enter. Amen.

Hymn: ELW 257 O Come O Come Emmanuel (vs 1 & 2)

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. Refrain**

A Reading from Isaiah 61:1-4

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,

the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of

ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

4 They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

L: People of God, let us bless the evergreen garlands that decorate our windows.

C: Loving Creator, bless the greenery that brightens our worship space. May it be for us a reminder of the eternal hope and gladness that come from you. Amen.

Hymn: ELW 257 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs 3 & 4)

**3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. Refrain**

**4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain**

A reading from Isaiah 41:17-20

When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none,
and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the LORD will answer them,
I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the bare heights,
and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water,
and the dry land springs of water. I will put in the wilderness the cedar,
the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive; I will set in the desert the cypress,
the plane and the pine together, so that all may see and know,
all may consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this,
the Holy One of Israel has created it.

L: People of God, let us bless the Christmas trees, reminders of God's light and life.

C: Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world, and we remember that light as we see these trees that you have provided from your creation. When we see these trees, remind us that we are all part of your family, and that even though we are all different, you love each of us as a precious child. Amen.

Hymn: ELW 257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 5 & 6)

**5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;**

**make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. Refrain**

**6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. Refrain**

A Reading from Micah 5:2-5

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me, one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

5 and he shall be the one of peace.

L: Here in this place we prepare for the coming of the Lord. Here we will remember his Advent,

his birth in Bethlehem, weak and helpless as an infant. And here we rekindle our prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus" as we await his coming as the bright and morning star.

C: Jesus, we await your coming again. We take this moment in our daily lives to stop and think about how your birth as a little baby changed our lives. Because of your love for us, we know your Father. Thank you for this season to wait and watch with hope, as we learn and live your story. Amen.

Hymn: ELW 257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs 7 & 8)

**7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. Refrain**

**8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. Refrain**

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] 25 "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

29 Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. 31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, 35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

L: We use the Advent wreath to mark time as the season of Advent passes. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. The wreath is a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us into everlasting life.

C: Without the darkness of the womb, the baby never grows. Without the dark nurturing soil, the plants never sprout. Without the deepening dark of Advent, we never reach the nativity. As the days darken, we light these candles to mark the passage of time and to be symbols of hope. Even when it feels like the end of time, may we remember and trust that our redemption is drawing near.

Opening Hymn-- ELW 436 Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

- 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.

Prayers of Intercession

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind. Comfort all who mourn the loss of loved ones, and bring healing to all who are ill, especially....Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from

destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.**

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

**We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.**

Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

† your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,

inheritors of the eternal promise,

and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

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.

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.

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

Friends of Jesus, receive nourishment for your journey. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Distribution-- Lamb of God

Prayer after Communion

Most High God,

you have come among us at this table.

**By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.**

Amen.

Blessing

The God of hope

fill us with all joy and peace in believing,

so that we may abound in hope

by the power of the Holy Spirit,

through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: ELW 244 Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.

- 2 The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.

- 3 The saints, who here in patience
their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him

their diadems of gold.

- 4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship time change: December 5-February 27 worship will be at **8:30 AM**.

ALC Thanksgiving offering designation: All ALC Thanksgiving envelopes and offerings will go towards Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI).

Christmas gifts for Bremwood Residential Treatment Center: The staff and residents at Waverly appreciate ALC's continued support. Bremwood counselors will again do the shopping this year using our donations of **Walmart gift cards. Donated board games and PG rated DVDs (teen level)** are also welcome gifts, as they provide needed entertainment during the winter months. Donations may be placed by the small Christmas tree in the narthex until December 12. (Money donations through the church designated for Bremwood will be used to buy gift cards.) Call Mary Adams at 827-3365 or (319) 269-3478 with questions. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Advent services at Jubilee: Zion Jubilee Lutheran Church will be holding Wednesday evening Advent services at **5:30pm on Dec 1, 8, 15, and 22**. Folks from ALC are invited to attend.

Advent resources from ELCA World Hunger: The season of Advent begins on November 28. Advent calendars and study guides from ELCA World Hunger are available in the narthex.

ALC Committees: Council will be looking to fill committee openings for 2022. Please consider sharing your time and talents as we try to establish a three-year rotation. We currently have openings on Property and Hospitality.

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief: Will be taking the month of December off. Join us every second and fourth Monday to help cut, pin, sew, iron, or tie quilts. If you are interested in this ministry, please talk to Sharon McAtee, Kaye Jones, or Mary Adams. Our next work day is January 10, 2022 at 1:00 PM. We welcome all eager helpers!

Sheets for Quilting needed: We have a good start on quilts to be sent in the spring but we are in need of sheets or large pieces of material for quilt backs. You may put them in the back pew. Thanks for your help.

Thank you from the NE IA Synodical Women's Organization: Thank you, I am sending you all an awesome thank you! Each year you bless thousands of families with quilts and kids and here are your totals for the Northeast IA Synod. Quilts- **4536**, Baby-**893**, School- **4399**, Personal- **1976**, Fabric- **105**, blankets-**65**. Thank you and all your awesome gals, Jesus loves you! *Lea Norlinger, Mason City, IA (NE IA SWO board & LWR Contact)*

ALC Bible study: Join us at 9:30 on December 2 for our final study of Anna, Mary, and Elizabeth in The Women of Christmas, by Liz Curtis Higgs. Please come with ideas to discuss after the new year.

Welcome to Bishop Kevin: Our newly installed bishop of the NE Iowa Synod will preach on Sunday, **Dec 5**. Please join us!

Noisy Offering for ELCA World Hunger: Start saving up your change! We will be doing a Noisy Offering for ELCA World Hunger on **Sunday, Dec 5**, when Bishop Kevin joins us for worship!

The 7th Annual Community Christmas: will be hosted by the Dunkerton Community Hall Board Members on Sunday, December 5th. Soup & Santa from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Fun activities will be provided for the children. At 6:00 join us for the Christmas Tree Lighting and caroling at the Gazebo. A free will donation will be taken. We will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items, as well a toilet paper and laundry soap, for the local Dunkerton Food Bank at the Baptist Church.

Advent Retreat: "The Patience of Mary - Letting go of what is, To welcome what is to come", December 10-12, 2021, at the Shalom Spirituality Center in Dubuque. You are invited to this opportunity sponsored by Contemplative Outreach Northeast Iowa. For further information contact CONElowa@gmail.com.

Caring Bridge posts for Stephanie Witt Winkelpleck can be accessed from this link <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/stephaniewittwinkelpleck>. Steph has been diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Thanks for your continued prayers and support.

Mobile Giving App If you give your regular contributions using Give Plus App, we have been notified that they will stop supporting the Give Plus app as of January 31, 2022. You should download the new app called Vanco Mobile to continue using. Note: your username and password will remain the same, and any recurring payments you have scheduled will continue in the new app. **If you do not currently have anything setup, now is a great time to download the Vanco Mobile app and start your recurring giving today.**

ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY:

Pastor: Pastor Kristen Rod

Music: Shirley Bergman

Usher: Merritt and Connie Jones

Reader: Maureen Even

THIS WEEK AT ALC

Sunday November 28th:

10am Worship and communion with Intergenerational Sunday School and Fellowship to follow

Tuesday November 30th:

10am -12pm Prayer Shawl

Wednesday December 1st: 5:30pm Advent Service at Jubilee

7:00pm Confirmation class

Thursday December 2nd: 9:30am Women's Bible Study

Sunday December 5th:

8:30am Worship and communion with Bishop Kevin Jones
Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal to follow

BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance 11/21/21: 45

11/27/21

Current: \$12,950.90

Bank Loan: \$0.00 Balance :)

Offering: 11/21/21

Current: \$4,275

Benevolence: \$307

Improvement: \$335

Non Synod Benevolence: \$50

Lutheran Services of Iowa: \$55