

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH – December 17, 2023  
SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM  
DECEMBER-FEBRUARY WORSHIP 8:30AM**

## **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.

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!

### **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**

God is the source of our nourishment. Jesus' invitation to "take and eat . . . take and drink" is a repeated one. In holy communion, in the word read and proclaimed, in the assembly of the people of God, the dominion of God has come near. Rejoice! Your name is written in heaven.

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**PRELUDE BY Shirley Bergman, Charlie Stanek**

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath Third 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.

***Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*** Insert vs. 1-3

## **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.*

**O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**Opening Hymn: ELW 257 O Come O Come Emmanuel vs 1-4**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Lord of the harvest, you send your church into the world to proclaim Christ's new creation to all. Renew the church as it carries out your mission of peace and healing. We pray for missionaries who accompany your people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You guard the nations; let no leaders exalt themselves, but lift up the most vulnerable and work for the good of all. Send your Spirit to eradicate classism and inequity, violence and war, poverty and hunger. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Mothering God, you care for all people in need. Nourish those who are hungry. Restore employment to those who have lost work. Heal those who are sick, *(especially Stephanie Winkelpleck)* and comfort all who are dying or grieving. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Bestow upon the members of our congregation the wisdom to consider the needs of our church council, the compassion to serve with love, and the dedication to uphold the values that unite our community. May your spirit stir within each individual, instilling a sense of duty and a willingness to contribute their time and talents for the greater good. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

## OFFERING

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## 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.**

## DISTRIBUTION

*\*Please be seated.*

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

**Communion Hymn: ELW 286 Your Little Ones, Dear Lord**

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**Congregational Hymn: ELW 267 Joy to the World**

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

**A Christmas to Believe In**  
**Narrators:** Brinley Bergman and Keaton Lsyne  
**Mary:** Carsyn Nichel  
**Joseph:** Kash Nichel  
**Angel:** Lauryn Witt  
**Elizabeth:** Layne Witt  
**Zechariah:** Kash Nichel  
**Shepards:** Landon Bergman, Kyler Lsyne, Kyle Neuhring  
**Angles:** Neva Winkelpleck, Charlie Stanek, Ella & Nora Frush  
**King Herod:** Layne Witt  
**Wisemen:** Landon Bergman, Kyler Lsyne, Kyle Neuhring

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**We Light a Candle medley**  
We light a candle for Jesus, the Child of holy birth.  
Sing glory to God in the highest who gives us peace on earth.  
We light a candle for Jesus, the Child of holy birth.  
Sing glory to God in the highest who gives us peace on earth.  
Sing glory to God in the highest who gives us peace on earth.

Silent Night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child,  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild.  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky----- looked down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.  
We light a candle for Jesus, the Child of holy birth.

Sing glory to God in the highest who gives us peace on earth.  
We light a candle for Jesus, the Child of holy birth.

**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.**

**DISMISSAL BY THE CHILDREN**

**POSTLUDE Shirley Bergman**

**THANK YOU**

A huge THANK YOU to all the children and youth who are participating in our Christmas Program this year. Also a huge THANK YOU to Katey Niichel, Crystal Lynse, Oliva Frush and Christy Phillips who coordinated and directed the Christmas program. Your efforts have paid off!

**Announcements**

**Sunday Worship time is 8:30 AM December 5-February 27.**

**Come enjoy some caroling** with the First Presbyterian Church at 3:30 December 17, this Sunday afternoon. Please extend the invitation to any and all. We’ll meet at the FPC parking lot and enjoy fellowship after. Bring a few goodies to share. We had a great time last year. If you have someone in mind to visit, let me know. The churches will manage the outing contingent on the turnout and the potential visits. Please RSVP to me if possible, otherwise come and join us! Be prepared to sing outside. Shirley 319 239-0031

Christmas at Winding Creek: The Methodists invite ALC and friends to join them on December 24 at 9:45 AM in the common room for a Christmas carol hymn sing and Christmas scripture reading.

**Wednesday Worship will resume January 10th, 6:15pm-7pm**

**Budget Hearing will be held January 7, 2024 after worship.**

**Annual Meeting January 21st following Worship.**

**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.

**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.

**INDEPENDENCE AREA 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

**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 has returned home and is recovering. You can send cards to her at the following address: Cindy Gosse, 505 10th St., Jesup. Thank you all for your continued prayers and support.**

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

**Office Hours in Dec.: M,W,F 9am-noon, There may be some exceptions to this schedule so call the Church office to see if I am there before making a trip.**

## THIS WEEK AT ALC

**Today, Dec 17th** Caroling with the First Presbyterian Church at 3:30

**Tuesday December 19th:**

10-12pm Prayer Shawl

**Wednesday Dec. 20th:**

**6:30pm** Confirmation, at Zion

**Sunday December 24th:**

8:30am Worship and Communion

9:45 am to 10:30 am, Christmas caroling at- Winding Creek

4:30pm Christmas Eve Worship and Communion

## BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance **12/10/2023**

Current **11/21/2023**

Checking: 12,851.15

Savings: \$51,081.37

Offering: **12/10/2023**

Current: \$1050

Benevolence: \$252

Improvement: \$80

Youth: \$150

Bremwood: \$450

## PASTORS COMING TO ALC:

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Pastor Phil Borleske

Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Pastor Phil Borleske

Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> Katie Rodriguez

**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: Pastor Dan Mixdorf

Music: Shirley Bergman

Deacon: Christy Phillips

Ushers: Borland Family

## 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

