

# WELCOME

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH – Sunday, Sunday, December 31, 2023**  
**BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**  
**DECEMBER-APRIL WORSHIP 8:30 AM**

## 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

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

## 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 10

### Prelude by Shirley Bergman

## GATHERING

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

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The assembly stands.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

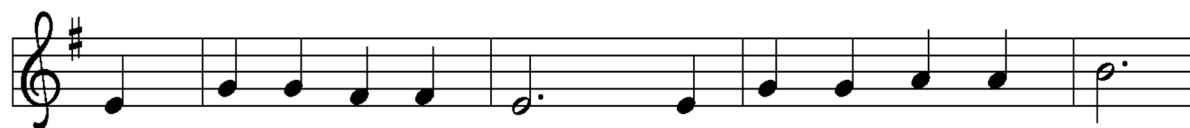
Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### OPENING HYMN: *What Child Is This* ELW 296

#### 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:



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

### CANTICLE OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.  
*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

**Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**  
**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10—62:3

*To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

<sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication,

and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.  
<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

PSALM: Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.  
<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**  
<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.  
<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**  
<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,  
<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away. R**  
<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;  
<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**  
<sup>9</sup>mountains I and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**  
<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup>**young men and maidens,  
old and young together. R**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and  
heaven.

<sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all  
faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelu-  
jah! R**

**Tone**

## **SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7**

*Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.*

A reading from Galatians.

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



## **GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40**

The holy gospel according to Luke the Second Chapter, VS 22-40  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.*

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;

this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."  
<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.  
The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDRENS SERMON**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* ELW 276**

**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:**

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

*A brief silence.*

You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole

selves at the salvation you bring. Make our churches places of belonging for all people in the fullness of their being. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are neurodivergent, living with disability, or bearing invisible illness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in harmony with all the earth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma, and to rescue from trafficking.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sustain all people who, like Simeon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness. We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, especially *Stephanie Winkelpleck* and those we name silently in our hearts. All people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord, you know the desires of our hearts and the needs of our community. We lift up our congregation to you, asking that you inspire and call forth individuals to prayerfully consider serving on the church council. May your Spirit move among us, stirring a sense of

purpose and a willingness to contribute to the well-being of our church family. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all the beloved who lived with expectation and departed this life in peace especially MaryLou Hoppe. Sustain us in joy until we join them around your throne. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

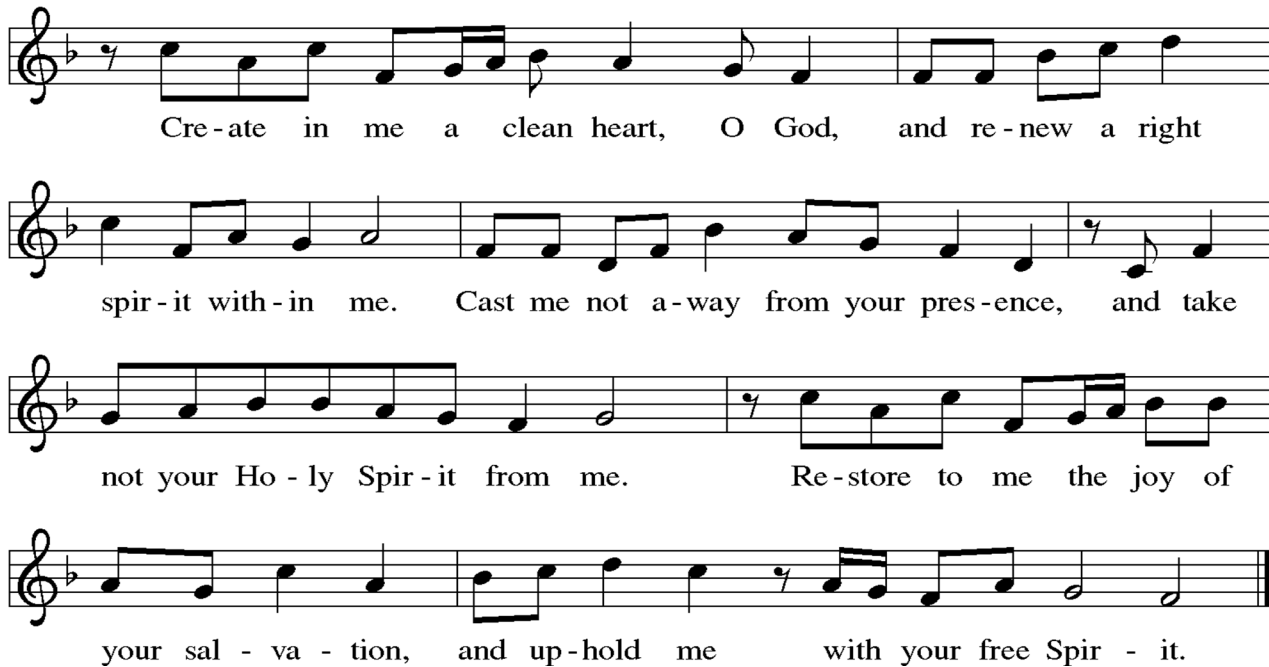
**Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**



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.

**Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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.

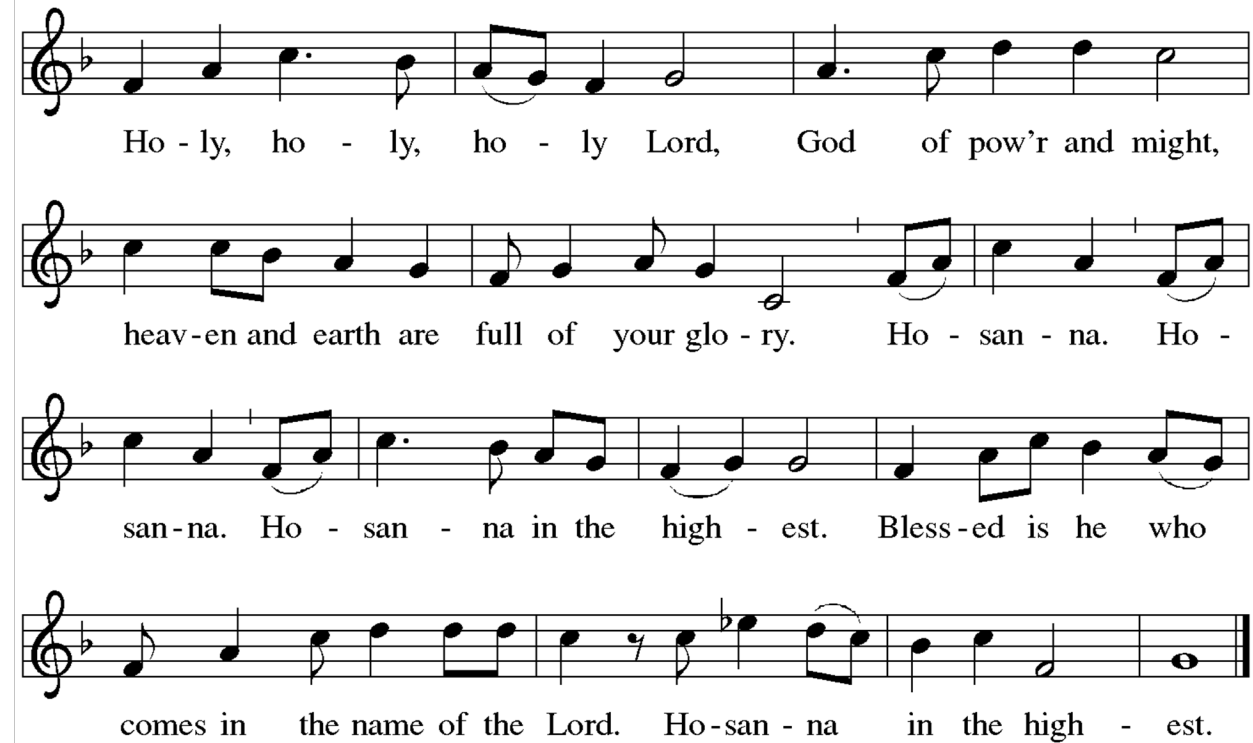
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### PREFACE

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.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.  
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the  
wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of  
Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be  
all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

### 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 king-  
dom 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 for-  
give those who trespass against us; and lead us not into tempta-  
tion, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the  
power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready

### COMMUNION

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Please stand if you are able*

Let us pray.

**Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in  
this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take  
flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glo-  
ry made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### BLESSING

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

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### SENDING SONG *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* ELW 288

### 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** will be held January 7, 2024 after worship.

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

*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.

**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

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 or leaving a message at 319-827-6626.

**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. Please send your reports to Chris at secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org no later than Monday, January 8th so she has time to compile and print the reports for the meeting.

**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

**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 will continue her weekly checkups in Iowa City You can send cards to her at the following address: 554 4th St., Jesup. Thank you all for your continued prayers and support.*

**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.

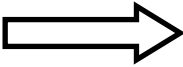
**MaryLou Hoppe**, former member of ALC passed away on Dec.26th at Seasons Hospice House in Rochester. Graveside services were held Dec 29th at Zion Lutheran-Jubilee Cemetary

**The Call Committee:** The Ministry Site Profile for our congregation received approval from the ELCA Synod during the spring. Subsequently, a collaborative meeting occurred, involving Pastor Liz Albertson Bell and Zion. Currently, we eagerly await a potential referral from the Synod to initiate the interview process. Unfortunately, the exact timeline for receiving these referrals cannot be determined at this moment.

**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.

Lay Ministry Support

You can give through our congregation, or mail your check directly to: *Northeastern Iowa Synod, 201 20th St. SW, P.O. Box 804, Waverly, IA*



50677-0804. Please indicate “Lay Ministry” on the check’s memo line.



Northeastern Iowa Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**DONATE  
ONLINE!**  
Use the QR code



Support Lay Ministry Training with a Gift Today!

*The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Matthew 9:37*



**PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING  
A GIFT TODAY!**  
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.

With your help, the new Lay Ministry Training Program will ensure that lay leaders are:  
Equipped with the skills to preach and lead worship.  
Surrounded with the support of teachers mentors and classmates.  
Affirmed through a vetting process.  
Your financial gift will keep the costs low for congregations and students while providing a quality and comprehensive program.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**YES! Make a one-time tax-deductible gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support Lay Ministry Training in the Northeastern Iowa Synod.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS WEEK AT ALC**

**Tuesday, Jan. 2:**

9am Quilting

**Thursday Jan. 4th:**

9am Women's Bible Study

**Sunday January 7th: 8:30AM**

Worship and Communion with Annual Meeting to follow

**BY THE NUMBERS**

Attendance **12/24**

**AM 35 PM 53**

FB Views: 163 combined total

Current **11/21/2023**

Checking: 12,851.15

Savings: \$51,081.37

Offering: **12/25/2023**

Current: \$3585

Benevolence: \$112

Improvement: \$145

Youth Ministry: \$527.09

Good Gifts \$554

PASTORS COMING TO ALC:

Dec.31st<sup>th</sup> **Pastor Katie Rodriguez**

Jan. 7 th Pastor Urlaub

Jan. 14th Pastor Dan Mixdorf

Jan. 21st. Karen Weltzin

Jan.28th. Pastor Dennis Hanson

**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 Katie Rodriguez

Music: Shirley Bergman

Usher: Borland Family

Deacon: 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.

