

WELCOME

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH – Sunday, December, 4th 2022

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER-MARCH 10:00AM

CONTACT US

Church office: 319-827-6626

Church website: www.americanlutheranjesup.org

Secretary's email: secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org

Pastor's email*: pastor@americanlutheranjesup.org

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

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

ORDER OF WORSHIP- Setting Three

Prelude by Shirley Bergman

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Second Sunday of Advent

Use this blessing when lighting two candles.

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.

You fasten righteousness around your waist
and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.

Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames,
and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.

We ask that peace abound,
until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

Amen.

We Light a Candle (vs. 1-2)

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.

We Light a Candle for Love and our world that's longing for love

We light a candle for love and our world that's longing for love

Holy One, shine with the fire of our lives, Oh

We light a candle for Love and our world that's longing for Love.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever.

Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins,

and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.
We have strayed from your paths.
We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation.
Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us.

People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch,
a living sign.
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
You have put on Christ,
and your sins have been washed away.
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN: ELW 248 People Look East

**1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.**

**Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.**

**People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

**2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way.**

**3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way.**

**4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

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:

Stir up our hearts, **Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming
nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through 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: FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM:: Psalm 122:1-7, 18-19

May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace.(Ps.:7)

¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

²**that he may rule your righteously
and the with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall no more.

¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD, the God of Israel;
you alone do deeds!**

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 15:4-13

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Romans.

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

¹⁰and again he says,

"Rejoice, O, with his people";

¹¹and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

¹²and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May 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.

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 3:1-12

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan,⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance.⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than

I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

The Assembly is seated

SERMON: Pastor Phil Borleske

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 264 Prepare the Royal Highway

1 prepare the royal highway;
the king of kings is near!
let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
then greet the king of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain

hosanna to the lord,
for he fulfills god's word!

2 god's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
palm branches strew before him!
spread garments! Shout and sing!
god's promise will not fail you!
no more shall doubt assail you! Refrain

3 then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
all lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: refrain

4 his is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
his rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
so let your praise be sounding

for kindness so abounding: refrain

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, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians (*especially John of Damascus, whom we commemorate today*).

Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders

who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation (*local examples may be named*). We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones (*especially Dennis Bushkofsky, Renee McAtee, Stephanie Winkelpleck, and Danny Kopplin*). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You guide us as 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.

You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. 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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING (Page 144 in Hymnal)

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and Might,
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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.

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

Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God, who has come to save you.

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.**

The Assembly is seated

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God, **in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.**

**As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.**

**Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

SENDING SONG ELW 259 Fling Wide the Door

- 1 Fling wide the door, unbar the gate;
the King of glory comes in state;
the Lord of lords and King of kings,
the Savior of the world who brings
his great salvation to the earth.
So raise a shout of holy mirth
and praise our God and Lord,
Creator, Spirit, Word.**

- 2 He is the rock of our belief,
the heart of mercy's gentle self.
His kingly crown is holiness;
his scepter is his loveliness;
he brings our sorrows to an end.
Now gladly praise our king and friend,
and worship him with song**

for saving us from wrong.

**3 Oh, happy towns and blessed lands
that live by their true king's commands.
And blessed be the hearts he rules,
the humble places where he dwells.
He is the rightful Son of bliss
who fills our lives and makes us his,
creator of the world,
our only strength for good.**

**4 Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ;
our hearts are open wide in trust.
Oh, show us now your lovely grace,
upon our sorrows shine your face,
and let your Holy Spirit guide
our journey in your grace so wide.
We praise your holy name,
from age to age the same!**

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 December-March. When provided, treats will be in the Fireside Room at the rear of the sanctuary.

Youth Holiday Gathering

Youth ages 5th grade & up are invited to join us for a holiday gathering on **Sunday, Dec. 4 from 3-5 pm in the Fireside Room.** We'll play some games, have some hot cocoa and cookies and put together some surprises. A prize will be awarded for best (worst) ugly Christmas sweater/outfit.

December 18 at 4 PM: Jesup churches are going **caroling!** We will start at Winding Creek, sing at a few homes, and enjoy treats afterwards. Contact Shirley if interested.

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, 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/sweatshirts Large – 2X

Peanut Butter Donations for Jesup School: 45 foodbags 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, JesupSchools Guidance Counselor ***Please leave donations in the box at the back of the church.***

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

December 14 from 6:15-7

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, Danny Koplín, and the family of Elwood Sapp. Elwood's Celebration of Life service is Sunday, December 11, 2-4:00 at the Jesup Country Club.

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.

Food Drive: The Knights of Columbus Council #8227 are once again sponsoring the annual Care and Share Food Drive. Boxes for donations of non-perishable food and personal hygiene items are located at St. Athanasius Church, Jesup Public Library and the Jesup Post Office through December 9th. Food boxes will be distributed to families on December 10th. The Knights of Columbus are thankful to the Jesup Community for its continued support and generosity. If you have any questions, please call/text Larry Corkery at 319-939-2700

The **8th Annual Community Christmas:** will be hosted by the Dunkerton Community Hall Board Members on Sunday, December 4th. Soup & Santa from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Fun activities will be provided for the children. Christmas Tree Lighting and caroling will take place at 6:00 p.m. in the gazebo. A free will donation will be taken. We will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items, as well as toilet paper and laundry soap, for the local Dunkerton Food Bank at the Baptist Church.

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:

Pastor: Phil Borleske

Music: Shirley Bergman

Usher: Randy and Iva Ruehs and Borland Family

Reader: Sue Hoey

THIS WEEK AT ALC

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

Monday December 5th: 1pm LWR Quilting in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday December 7th:

4pm Confirmation

Thursday Dec. 8th:

9am Women's Bible Study

Sunday Dec. 11th(ADVENT): 10:00AM Worship and Communion.

6pm Council Meeting

BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance **11/27/22: 13**

Current **11/13/22**

: 14,386.53

Savings: \$22,382.45

Offering: **11/27/22**

Current: \$920

Benevolence: \$397

Improvement: \$85

NSB: \$10

World Hunger NSB: \$225

PASTORS COMING TO ALC:

Dec 4 Rev. Phil Borleske

Dec 11 Rev. Tom Jones

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