



We're glad you're here!
If you do not have a church home,
please know that you are welcome to
make this your church home.

God's blessings to you!

We are glad you are worshiping with us today. If you are visiting, we invite you to sign our guest book at the usher stand. If you have any questions or need assistance, an usher will be happy to help.

All who are baptized are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward with your hands folded.

Whether you are visiting or searching for a church home, know that you are always welcome here.



Introduction to the day

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/alczesup/>

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**19th Sunday after Pentecost
ELW Holy Communion Setting Three
Sunday, October 4, 2026**

Prelude: Brooklyn Pint

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome & Worship Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness (ELW p. 94)

Gathering Song: *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord* (ELW 580)

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 (ELW p. 184)

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Kids' Time

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ² He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me

and my vineyard. ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes? ⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶ I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷ For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God

PSALM: Psalm 80:7-15

7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.**

9 You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

**10 The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

11 You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

**12 Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

14 Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;

15 behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

A reading from Philippians.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of

Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” ⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this ⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Take time for reflection following the sermon.

Hymn of the Day: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (ELW 733)

Apostles’ Creed (in the back cover of your hymnal or on pg 105)

Prayers of Intercession

At the end of each petition will be, “Hear us, O God,” and you may respond,
“Your mercy is great.”

Closing petition:

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus’ name. **Amen**

Peace

Offering: *Let the Vineyards be Fruitful* (ELW 182)

Blessing of School kits

Leader: Almighty and gracious God,

Assembly: **You have so richly blessed us, but we pray for more, much more.**

L: We pray for grateful hearts and a humble awareness of our abundance amid all the world’s poverty and pain.

A: Lord, we pray for more.

L: We pray for the courage to give generously of our resources — our imaginations, our time and abilities, and our money.

A: We pray yet for more, Lord.

L: We pray for the strength to reject all excuses which lead to indifference and silence in this climate of entitlement and always wanting more things.

A: Lord, for much more we pray.

L: We pray for confident hope, in the presence of such overwhelming needs, to ask your blessing on these school kits, knowing that each of them will make a welcome difference to others... and to you.

A: For still more, Lord, we pray.

L: We pray for lifestyles of justice and mercy, living more simply, speaking up for those more needful than we, and being compassionate in our role as citizens.

A: Lord, yet again we pray for more.

L: We pray for your promised forgiveness for the fears, selfishness, thoughtlessness, suspicions, and self-righteousness which hinder our loving service. Give us grateful hearts and greater obedience to mark our thanksgiving.

A: Yet for one more thing we pray.

L: We pray you would bless those who labor on our behalf through all the work of Lutheran World Relief and its partners. We offer our encouragement, our gifts, and our willingness to learn and to invite the support of others.

A: In the name of our Lord who encouraged us to ask boldly when we pray, Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving at the Table (ACS p. 37)

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath. **We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future. **We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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 his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **AMEN**

Lord's Prayer (ELW p. 134)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
Our Father (p134)

Invitation to Communion

Communion Distribution

Communion Song: *Lamb of God* (ELW p. 146)

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion
Sending Announcements

Blessing

Sending Song: *Remember and Rejoice* (ELW 454)

Dismissal

Postlude: Brooklyn Pint

**Join us for fellowship in the Fireside Room
Treats provided by Connie Hamilton**

Remember our members in your prayers: Wendell, Shirley, Bill, Sharon, Jeanne, Emelia, Lori, Marie, Kaye, & Christy, Kevin, Friends and Family of Randy Frush

Prayer Chain: Contact Kaye Jones kayejns@gmail.com or the office (secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org) with any prayer concerns.

Fellowship Moves Downstairs October 1

Beginning October 1, fellowship after worship will be held in the basement fellowship hall. We've outgrown the upstairs room and want everyone to have space to gather and feel welcome.

There will be a place for children to play, a corner for teens, and room for everyone to visit. The fellowship hall is handicap accessible. We hope you'll join us!

Communion Class—All Ages Welcome!

Join us for a Communion class from 9–11 a.m. on October 24th. Everyone is welcome, whether you currently receive Communion or are preparing to begin. Parents are encouraged to attend, too! Come learn more about this gift of God's grace.

Pre-registration is requested - leave message for the Secretary or Pastor
Secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org

Fall Quilting Begins

Come enjoy a morning of quilting and fellowship on Tuesday, **October 6, at 9:00 a.m.** Whether you're an experienced quilter or simply want to lend a hand, we'd love to have you join us!

All Saints Day – Remembering the Saints

As we prepare to observe All Saints Day, we will remember with gratitude the members of American Lutheran Church who have died during the past year. We also invite you to remember other loved ones who have died and remain close to your heart. A Book of Remembrance is available at on the table by secretary office beginning this today. Please write the names of family members, friends, or others you would like to have remembered in prayer during our All Saints Day worship.

Together, we give thanks for all the saints who have gone before us and for the ways their lives continue to touch ours.

Independence Area Women's Connection

Join us Wednesday, October 14, at 9:30 a.m. at the Independence Senior Center, 400 5th Avenue NE. Enjoy Michael Maas from Fontana Nature Center and music and speaker Pam McDonald presenting "Someday My Prince Will Come." Cost is \$15 for brunch and the event.

For reservations or cancellations, contact Sue Doan at (319) 361-9445 or doansr@hotmail.com by 10 a.m. Wednesday, October 7. Reservations not honored require payment.

Disaster Response Volunteer Training

Pastors and lay leaders are invited to a training on October 6, 2026, from 2–6 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls. Hosted by the Northeastern Iowa Synod and Lutheran Disaster Response, the session will cover volunteer opportunities, disaster preparedness, and emotional and spiritual care during community crises.

To register—or express interest in future training—contact Rev. Jen Thomas at thomasj@neiasynod.org.

THIS WEEK AT ALC

Sunday, October 4th

9am Worship with Communion

Tuesday, October 6th

9am Quilters

Wednesday, October 7th

2:20pm Confirmation to prepare meal
for House of Hope

4:15PM Deliver food to House of Hope

6pm Worship Wednesday

Sunday, October 11th

9am Worship with Communion

BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance Sept 27th 27

OFFERING 9/27

Current: \$1803

Benevolence: \$75

Improvement: \$25

Memorial: \$540

Lutheran Disaster: \$550

Funds For Leaders: 100

Youth: \$50

Current Balance as of Aug 31, 2026

Checking: \$1,760.42

Savings: \$22,519.44

Improvement \$44,851.32

ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY:

Reverend Susan Friedrich

Music: Brooklyn Pint

Usher: Tom & Sue Hoey

Deacon: Mike Waring

Reader: Jaidyn Wright

Fellowship: Connie Hamilton

Videographer: Mike Waring

Stay Connected with ALC This Fall

As fall brings new routines and activities, make time to connect with your church family at ALC. Your presence, prayers, and financial support help our ministry grow and serve our community. When you cannot attend in person, stay connected through online worship and giving.

Electronic giving is available through Simply Giving. Scan the QR code below or download the Give+ App to make a one-time or recurring gift. Thank you for your faithful support of ALC's ministry!



Military Address: Christa Leach, 387
AEW (CSS), OPC 1201 Box 72
APO AE 09309 As of now, this will be
through the end of Sept.

Military members: Christa Leach has been called to active duty with the 434th Air Force Reserve Unit in Grissom, Indiana. Jordan and Justin are still members of the 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City. Jeryn Loyd is stationed at Fort Knox and in the Army Reserves Cassidee is stationed in Iowa City and Cole is currently home. Cody Clayton is back from Fort Benning, Georgia Basic Training and will report to Dubuque. Karsten Nuehring is back from training and is drilling with the Aviation Unit in Waterloo.

*Please contact the church office to add other
names who serve.*

We remember them in our prayers.