American Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Our Mission:*Jesus Christ calls American Lutheran Church
to nourish the world by faithfully sharing His gifts.



All are welcome at American Lutheran

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.



CONTACT US

552 Purdy St., PO Box 286, Jesup, Ia. 50648
Church office: 319-827-6626
Church website: www.americanlutheranjesup.org
**Sunday bulletins and link to recorded worhsip services can be found here.*
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/alcjesup/
Pastor Susan Friedrich email:friedrichsusan@gmail.com
Secretary's email: secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org

Sunday, November 15, 2026
Pentacost 25

Prelude: Brooklyn Pint

Welcome & Worship Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism (see insert)

Gathering Song: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* (ELW 632)

Kyrie (ELW p. 184)

Greeting (ELW p. 138)
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.
Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Kids' Time

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

A reading from Zephaniah
7 Be silent before the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is at hand! The Lord has
prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who
settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm." 13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid
waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant
vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

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who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, “The Lord will not do
good, nor will he do harm.” 13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses
laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they
plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day
of the Lord is bitter; the warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will be a day of
wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of
darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast
and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like
dust and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to
save them on the day of the Lord’s wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole
earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the
inhabitants of the earth.
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 90:1-8, 12
1 Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
**2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**
3 You turn us back to the dust and say, “Turn back, O children of earth.”
**4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;**
5 you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:
**6 in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
7 For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.
**8 Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance**.
12 So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ’s return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.
[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

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

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30
Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.
The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.
[Jesus said to the disciples:] [14] “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once [16] the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’

[21] His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into
the joy of your master.’ [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward,
saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more
talents.’ [23] His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you
have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things;
enter into the joy of your master.’ [24] Then the one who had received the one
talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man,
reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I
was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is
yours.’ [26] But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you,
that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you
ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would
have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him,
and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will
be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing,
even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him
into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *Lord of Light (ELW 688)*

Apostles’ Creed (pg. 105 or in the back cover of the Red Hymnal)

Prayers of Intercession
At the end of each petition will be, “God, in your mercy” and you may respond,
“Hear our prayer.”

Closing petition:
Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the
name of Jesus, your beloved**. Amen.**

Peace

Offering: Noisy offering God’s Good Gifts

Praise and Thanksgiving (ELW 689) vs. 3
Father, providing food for your children, by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share one with another, so that, rejoicing with us, all others may know your care.

Offering Prayer

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Dialogue (ELW p. 144)

Thanksgiving at the Table (ELW p. 145)

Lord's Prayer (ELW p. 134)

Communion Distribution

Commmunion Song Lamb of God (ELW p. 135)
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace

Prayer after Communion

Sending Announcements

Blessing
God of every generation, whose love never fails, deliver you from despair, ☩ bless you with hope, and turn your grief into joy**. Amen.**

Sending Song: *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* (ELW 674)

Dismissal
Go in peace. Serve the Lord**. Thanks be to God.**
And have fun doing it! **We will! Amen.**

Prelude: Brooklyn Pint

Join us for Fellowship following worship in the basement;
Joyce Becker providing treats

Announcements

Remember our members in your prayers: Wendel Erpelding, Shirley Bergman, Bill Schneider, Sharon McAtee, Jeanne Thompson, Emelia Dahl, Lori Even, Marie Bushkofsky, Kaye Jones, Christy Phillips, Kevin Oberbrockling, & Eleanor Fratzke
Prayer Chain: Contact Kaye Jones kayejns@gmail.com or the office (secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org) with any prayer concerns.

Thanksgiving Service Zion Lutheran will have a service at 9am on the 26th, Thanksgiving Day

Backpack Program
ALC will provide **49 small jars** of peanut butter each month in January and June 2027. Optional donations of individual mac and cheese cups are also welcome. Donations are being accepted now in the shopping cart by the front doors. Thank you for helping feed local children!

Thanksgiving Offering to Support the Food Pantry
This year, gifts received in our Thanksgiving envelopes will support the Independence Area Food Pantry, helping provide food for our neighbors in need.

Our Noisy Offering throughout November and December will support ELCA Good Gifts!
This program provides gifts such as farm animals, seeds, tools, and access to clean water to help families meet daily needs and build lasting sources of food and income.
Our Worship Wednesday kids are joining in by collecting offerings for this mission project, too! Bring your coins and help us make a joyful noise as we share God's love with our neighbors around the world!

Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service- A quiet serv ice of comfort and hope. Come as you are. All Are Welcome. Monday, Dec. 21st, 7pm.
Immanual Lutheran Church, Independence

Advent calendars and devotionals are available on the table by the secretary's office. Pick some up for your family and prepare your hearts for Christmas!

THIS WEEK AT ALC
Sunday, November 15th
9am Worship with Communion
Wednesday, November 18th
6pm Worship Wednesday
6pm Confirmation
Sunday, November 22nd
Christ the King Sunday
9am Worship with Communion

BY THE NUMBERS
Attendance November 8th 27
OFFERING
Current $1458
Benevolence: $70
Improvement: $125
Good Gifts: $277
LDR: $300
Youth: $50

Current Balance as of October 31st
Checking: $7,914.16
Savings: $17,026.68
Improvement $37,233.20

ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY:
Pastor: Susan Friedrich
Music: Brooklyn Pint
Usher: Jim & Cindy Gosse
Deacon: Sheila Collins
Reader:Sheila Collins
Fellowship: Maureen Even
Videographer: Keaton Lysne



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.

Stay Connected with ALC
As summer winds down and fall activities begin, we encourage you to stay connected with your church family at ALC. Your presence, prayers, and financial support help sustain our ministry throughout the year. When you are unable to attend in person, you can still join us through online worship and online 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!