

# WELCOME

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
ELW Holy Communion Setting Four  
Sunday, May 18, 2025

## 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

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Today we give thanks for our graduating seniors. We celebrate the hard work, growth, and perseverance that have brought them to this milestone. Thank you for guiding them through their years of study, for the friendships they've formed, and the lessons they've learned.

As they step into the next chapter of life, we ask for your continued presence. Grant them courage when the path is uncertain, wisdom in their decisions, and peace in their hearts. Surround them with love and support

wherever they go. Help them to use their gifts to serve others and glorify You.

May they always know they are cherished—by You and by their church family. Bless their journeys ahead with hope, purpose, and joy.

## Note About Music in Worship

To help conserve paper and printing supplies, we are no longer printing the music in the bulletin.

When you see **ELW** followed by a number, that refers to a hymn found in the **back of the red hymnal**. If you see a **"P"** before the number, it refers to a **page** in the **front of the hymnal**.

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding as we make this transition. We appreciate your willingness to use the hymnal more regularly!

**Welcome to worship, 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!**

**PRELUDE** by Shirley Bergman  
**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Alyssa Hoey presentation and song:** *The Gos You Are* by Patrick Mayberry  
*The assembly stands*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✙ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen..**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we**

have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**GATHERING SONG** *The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing: The Feast Is Ready*

**GREETING (ELW p. 147)**

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.

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 148)**

This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,  
and honor and blessing and glory are his.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God  
and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing and honor and glory and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.  
This is the feast of victory for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, 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: Acts 11:1-18**

*In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.*

*The reading may be announced:*

A reading from Acts.

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup> saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup> "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup> But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup> This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup> If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" <sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

The word of the Lord.

**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 I 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 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. Hallelujah! R**

**SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6**

*John’s vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.*

*The reading may be announced:*

A reading from Revelation.

<sup>1</sup> I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning

and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

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

**GOSPEL: John 13:31-35**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After washing the disciples’ feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus’ community.*

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE  
SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak (ELW 676)**

**CREED (ELW p. 152)**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,**

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*A brief silence.*

Response to petitions: God, of mercy, **Hold us in love.**

**RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES**— Graduates, please come forward to share your future plans with the congregation. After each of you has spoken, we will offer a special blessing as we celebrate this milestone in your life.

#### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

#### OFFERING HYMN Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182) *Sung*

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

#### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

#### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153) *Sung*

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

#### COMMUNION

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.**

**Amen.**

#### BLESSING

The blessing of the living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* (ELW 674)

**DISMISSAL**

**POSTLUDE** by Shirley Bergman

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Any announcements need to be placed in the file on the church office door by Wednesday evening. Articles for THE LAMP are due in the office by noon on the second Wednesday of each month.*

**Honoring Our Graduates**

Today we recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating seniors:

- Kaylie Bergman daughter of John & Heather Bergman
- Hannah Borland daughter of Jeff & Sara Borland
- Jaymn Loyd daughter of Kevin and Angie Oberbroeckling and Mike and Nicole Loyd
- Karsten Nuehring son of Keith & Cyndi Nuehring
- Katelyn Zelle daughter of Beth Stanek and Brandon Zelle

Alyssa Hoey daughter of Tom and Sue Hoey

After the service, stick around for **fellowship and cake in your honor** — we can't wait to celebrate with you!

**Starting June 1, we will have a new weekly worship time and format!**

- Every Sunday at 4pm join us for:
- A casual, uplifting, and inspiring what to worship together
- Contemporary music
- Community-focused, welcoming atmosphere

A shortened format for busy lives! No dress code, no pressure-just come as you are. Bing your family. Bring a friend, and join this exciting new way to worship!

(Traditional worship on Sunday mornings is still available also.

**Parish Ed Needs Your Help!**

We're looking for someone to assist with **Worship Wednesday** this fall. If you enjoy working with kids and want to make a difference in their faith journey, we'd love to have you on the team! Please contact the church office or Christy Phillips if you're interested.

**We are collecting items for LWR Personal Care Kits.** You may drop them off at the church. List of items needed. We have a goal of 50 and unfortunately we have a slow start. As of today we need the following: 48 Dark Bath Towels, 20x40 or 52x27, 100 Full size bars of soap, unopened, 22 Adult size Toothbrush, ,and 37 Metal Nail Clippers.

**Join Us for a Special Outdoor Worship!**

American Lutheran Church and Zion will come together for a joyful Jubilee joint service on **Sunday, June 8th at 10 a.m.** at **Zion Lutheran Church.**

Come celebrate in the beauty of God's creation—**bring your lawn chairs or a blanket**, and worship with us under the open sky! Everyone is welcome—don't miss this uplifting morning of faith, and fellowship!

## THIS WEEK AT ALC

### Sunday May 18th

8:30am

Worship & Holy Communion

Pastor Gone 22nd-26th

### Sunday May 25th

8:30am

Worship & Holy Communion

### BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance 04/30/25: **60**

Current Balance **3/30/2025**

Checking: \$2277.71

Improvement Fund: \$47,922.75

Savings: 42,334.51

Offering: **5/11/2025**

Current: \$886

Benevolence: \$60

Improvement: \$25

Youth \$100

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### Military members: 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: Pat Mohr-Kelly

Music: Shirley Bergman

Usher: Denny & Joyce Becker

Deacon: Christy Phillips

Reader: Sara Borland

Fellowship Host: Graduation Cake in Fellowship Hall in the Basement

## ELECTRONIC GIVING IT'S EASY!

**Keep ALC in Your Summer Plans – Even When You're Away!** Summer can get busy with vacations, family events, and weekends away—but your faithful support of American Lutheran Church doesn't have to take a break.

Simply Giving is an easy, no-stress way to continue your tithes and offerings, even when you're not in the pews. Whether you choose one-time or recurring donations, you can set up giving on a schedule that works for you. Scan the QR code with your smartphone or download the Vanco Mobile app to get started today.