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

We are glad you are worshiping with us today. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, all are welcome at American Lutheran—with no exceptions. We delight in the energy, clamor, and activity of children. You are welcome to sit anywhere you are comfortable with them.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. We offer gluten-free wafers at your request, and you may choose between red wine or grape juice. If you would prefer a blessing, just cross your arms over your heart when you come forward.

If you haven't signed the list or guest book in the back, you are invited to do so before you leave. If you have any furhter questions or need assistance, an usher will be happy to help you.

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.



CONTACT US

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**Sunday bulletins and link to recorded worhsip services can be found here.*
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Sunday, October 18, 2026
Pentecost 21
ELW Service of the Word, Setting 3

Prelude: Karen Weltzin

Welcome & Worship Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness (ELW p.211-212)

Gathering Song: *God of Grace and God of Glory (ELW 705)*

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.

Canticle of Praise: *Let the Whole Creation Cry (ELW 876) vs. 1 & 2*

Prayer of the Day:.
Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7
The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

A reading from Isaiah.
[1] Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors
before him— and the gates shall not be closed: [2] I will go before you and level the
mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of
iron; [3] I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your
name. [4] For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your
name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. [6] so that they may know,
from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am
the Lord, and there is no other.

. [7] I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

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

Psalm: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
[1] Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
[2] Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.
[3] Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
[4] For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.
[5] As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.
[6] Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.
[7] Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
[8] Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.
[9] Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.
A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

[1] Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

[2] We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] because our

message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. [6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, [7] so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8] For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. [9] For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God [10] and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.
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 22:15-22
After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.
The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.
[15] The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. [16] So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. [17] Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" [18] But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? [19] Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. [20] Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" [21] They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the
The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *Commonwealth is God's Commandments* (ACS 1036)

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:
Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Peace

Offering: God, *Whose Giving Knows No Ending* (ELW 678) vs. 3

Offering Prayer

Canticle of Thanksgiving: *Now Thank We All Our God (ELW 840)*

Thanksgiving for the Word
Holy God,
mighty Fortress, loving Redeemer, steadfast Comforter, as vegetation matures in forests and fields, your living Word undergirds all that lives. We praise your eternal Word. **We praise your eternal Word.**

In the words of the scriptures you offer us Christ: our refuge, our savior, our friend, accompanying us throughout our years and renewing us in love. We praise Jesus, your Word. **We praise Jesus, your Word.**

We pray for power from your abiding Spirit. Strengthen us to stand firm in faith, in devotion to your Word, and in service to others.
We pray for the Spirit of your Word. **We pray for the Spirit of your Word.**

To you be honor and praise and glory, today and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer (ELW p. 134)
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Blessing

Sending Song: ***We Give Thee but Thine Own (ELW 686)***

Dismissal

Postlude: Karen Weltzin

Join us for fellowship in the Fireside Room
Treats supplied by Sheila Collins

Thank you Maureen for leading worship today!

Remember our members in your prayers: Wendell, Shirley, Bill, Sharon, Jeanne, Emelia, Lori, Marie, Kaye, & Christy, Kevin, Wendy Frush and family in the loss of her mother Kay Pint

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

Wear Red for Reformation Sunday — October 25
Join us in wearing red to worship on Sunday, October 25, as we celebrate Reformation Sunday! Red symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit. Together, we give thanks for God's grace and the gift of faith in Jesus Christ.

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.

Fall Quilting
Come enjoy a morning of quilting and fellowship on Tuesday, October 20, 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!

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.

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

Independence Area Food Pantry Newsletter: When asked what they need most, they always respond that monetary donations are very welcome. They can buy food for pennies on the dollar form the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, rather than you paying retail. Other needs include hygiene items like shampoo and body wash, laundry soap, feminine supplies, toothpaste, and cleaning supplies.



A Harvest of Blessings
We pray for a safe harvest for all who work in the fields. May God protect them, give them strength, and bless their labors. As we enjoy autumn's beauty and the bounty of the land, may we thank God for abundant blessings and share them with grateful hearts.

THIS WEEK AT ALC

Sunday, October 18th
9am Worship with Communion
Tuesday, October 20th
9am Quilting
Wednesday, October 21
6pm Worship Wednesday
Sunday, October 25th
9am Worship with Communion

BY THE NUMBERS
Attendance October 11th 20
OFFERING
Current $1070
Benevolence: $71
Improvement: $25
Memorial: $40
Youth: $50

Current Balance as of Sept 31st
Checking: $1,299.52
Savings: $19,523.13
Improvement $
36,621.62

ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY:
Worship Leader: Maureen Even
Music: Karen Weltzin
Usher: Tom & Sue Hoey
Deacon: Connie Hamilton
Reader:Connie Hamilton
Fellowship: Mary Adams
Videographer: Jaidyn Wright

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!