



**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 Service

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.



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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**15th Sunday after Pentecost
ELW Holy Communion
Sunday, September 13, 2026**

Prelude:

Welcome & Worship Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Gathering Song: *I Come with Joy (ELW 482)*

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

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Kids' Time

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰

¹ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 103:8-13

⁸ **Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹ you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹² **As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

A reading from Romans

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’

³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death (ELW 452)*

FAITH MILESTONE FOR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

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: We Are An Offering(ELW 692)

Offering Prayer

Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue (ELW p. 144)

Holy, Holy, Holy (ELW p. 144)

Thanksgiving at the Table (ELW p. 145)

Lord's Prayer(ELW pg134)

Invitation to Communion

Communion Distribution

Communion Song Lamb of God (ELW p. 146)

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Sending Announcements

Blessing

Sending Song God's Work, Our Hands (ACS 1000)

Dismissal

Postlude:

Join us for fellowship in the Fireside Room

Remember our members in your prayers: Wendell, Shirley, Bill, Sharon, Jeanne, Emelia, Lori, Marie, Kaye, & Christy

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

Sharing God's Love—One Drop at a Time

You may have noticed the donation pail near the entrance to the sanctuary. Our Jesup Ministerial Association VBS funds are depleted, and we are also helping raise funds to provide a community well in Africa, continuing the mission our children supported during VBS. Every gift—large or small—can make a difference. Together, we can help provide clean water while showing God's love to others, one drop at a time.

Donations may be placed in the pail or in the collection plate.

LWR School Kit Collection: Thank you for your generous donations! We are still in need of blue or black ballpoint pens to complete our Lutheran World Relief School Kits. Please place donations on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for your support!

Worship Wednesday Volunteers Needed

Do you enjoy working with children? American Lutheran Church is looking for volunteers to help with Worship Wednesday from September through April. Whether you can help every week or occasionally, your time and talents can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our young people. If you are interested in serving or would like more information, please contact the church office.

Noisy Offering – Through September 15

Our Noisy Offering will support the final phase of the Cedar Lodge renovations at Camp Ewalu. Through September 15, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids will match every dollar donated (up to \$50,000), doubling the impact of your gift. Bring your coins, cash, or a special donation, and help Camp Ewalu complete this important project debt-free. Thank you for your generous support!

God's Work. Our Hands. - House of Hope

Join us Wednesday, October 7 as we prepare and serve dinner for moms and kids at House of Hope, 845 W. 4th Street in Waterloo. Dinner will be served at 5:15 PM.

We need volunteers for two teams:

Meal Prep & Loading Team - 2:30–4:30 PM

Help prepare our baked potato bar, pack everything up, and load the serving team's vehicles.

Transport, Serve & Clean Up Team - 4:15–approximately 7:00 PM

Meet at church to load up, transport the meal to House of Hope, set up and serve dinner at 5:15, clean up, and return church supplies afterward.

October 7 is an early-out day from school, and volunteers of ALL AGES are welcome! Bring the kids or grandkids and serve together.

Sign up at the back of the sanctuary at church to be part of our God's Work. Our Hands. service project.

Learn more about House of Hope or support their mission at houseofhopeccd.org.

Today we mark the faith milestone for four students and their parents as they begin a year of confirmation instruction.

We celebrate with:

Layne Witt Daughter of Shane & Brea Witt

Danni Kopplin Daughter of Danny & Erin Koplin

Landon Bergman Son of John & Heather Bergman

Kash Niichel Son of Jeff & Katey Niichel

Jaycie Zieser Daughter of Victoria Graham & Tyler Zieser

Please keep them in your prayers at this milestone in their faith journey.

THIS WEEK AT ALC

Sunday, September 13th

9am Worship with Communion

Monday, September 14th

6:30 pm council meeting

Wednesday, September 16th

6 pm Worship Wednesday

Sunday, September 20th

9am Worship with Communion

BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance Sept 6th 26

OFFERING

Offering Total: \$1080

Noisy offering: \$45.01

Current Balance as of July 31, 2026

Checking: \$3,493.83

Savings: \$22,515.04

Improvement \$44,624.42

ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY:

Reverend Susan Friedrich

Music: Micala Andreassen

Usher: Wayne Schneider/Angie Loyd

Deacon: Maureen Even

Reader: Maureen Even

Fellowship:

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!



Fellowship Volunteers needed!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050448A5A628AAF94-61890755-alc-fellowship#/>



Scan QR code, use the link or
leave message for
Chris 319-827-6626