



**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.

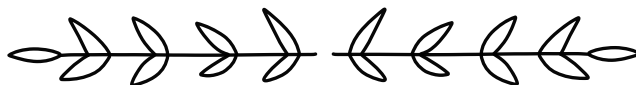
All who are baptized are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward with your hands folded.

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



Introduction to the day

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy 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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**18th Sunday after Pentecost
ELW Holy Communion Setting Three
Sunday, September 27, 2026**

Prelude: Cala Andreassen

Welcome & Worship Announcements

Thanksgiving at the Font

Gathering Song: *God, We Gather as Your People: For All the Children* (ASC 1038)

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, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy.

Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Installation of Christian Educator Teachers

Kids' Time

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Ezekiel

¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die. ²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of

Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Philippians.

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’

²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* (ELW 712)

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

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song: *Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing* (ELW 544)

Dismissal

Postlude: Cala Andreassen

**Join us for fellowship in the Fireside Room
Treats provided by Chris Waring**

Remember our members in your prayers: Wendell, Shirley, Bill, Sharon, Jeanne, Emelia, Lori, Marie, Kaye, & Christy, Friends and Family of Randy Frush
Prayer Chain: Contact Kaye Jones kayejns@gmail.com or the office (secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org) with any prayer concerns.

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

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

Our Hands. service project.

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

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

We need volunteers at House of Hope to help set up, serve the baked potato bar, and clean up 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!

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

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.

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!

THIS WEEK AT ALC

Sunday, September 27th

9am Worship with Communion

Wednesday, September 30th

6 pm Worship Wednesday

6pm Confirmation Class

Sunday, October 4th

9am Worship with Communion

BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance Sept 13th 30

OFFERING 9/20

Current: \$1954

Benevolence: \$295

Improvement: \$25

Memorial: \$100

ALC Women: \$200

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: Cala Andreassen

**Usher: Wayne Schneider/
Angie Oberbrockling**

Deacon: Maureen Even

Reader: Maureen Even

Fellowship: Chris Waring

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.