

# WELCOME



## AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Second Sunday of Christmas  
ELW Holy Communion Setting Three  
Sunday, January 4, 2026

### 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

Church office: 319-827-6626

Church website: [www.americanlutheranjesup.org](http://www.americanlutheranjesup.org)

Pastor's email: [patmohrkelly@gmail.com](mailto:patmohrkelly@gmail.com)

Secretary's email: [secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org](mailto:secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org)

### WELCOME VISITORS!

We are so happy you've joined us today. If you have any questions about our service or facilities, please reach out to an usher. If you are a guest please fill out the yellow slip and place it in the offering plate.

All who are baptized are welcome to receive communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing only, come with your hands folded.

If you are looking for a church home, know you are always welcome here.

Please note: In order to conserve paper we are eliminating printing the whole service.

You can use the RED HYMNAL for the following  
(ELW p. #) = Page number      (ELW #) = Hymn number

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### PRELUDE

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

#### GATHERING SONG *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* (ELW 282)

#### GREETING

#### CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 140) *THIS IS THE FEAST*

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

#### FIRST READING: SIRACH 24:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Wisdom praises herself and tells of her glory in the midst of her people. <sup>2</sup> In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory: <sup>3</sup> "I came forth from the mouth of the Most High and covered the earth like a mist. <sup>4</sup> I encamped in the heights, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. <sup>5</sup> Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss. <sup>6</sup> Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway. <sup>7</sup> Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose inheritance should I abide? <sup>8</sup> "Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator pitched my tent. He said, 'Encamp in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.' <sup>9</sup> Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be. <sup>10</sup> In the holy

tent I ministered before him, and so I was established in Zion.<sup>11</sup> Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place, and in Jerusalem was my domain.<sup>12</sup> I took root in an honored people; in the portion of the Lord is my inheritance. The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 147:12-20**

<sup>12</sup> Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

<sup>13</sup> **who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.**

<sup>14</sup> God has established peace on your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

<sup>15</sup> **God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly. R**

<sup>16</sup> God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup> **God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup> **God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup> The LORD has not done so to any other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah! R

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14**

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Ephesians

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,<sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.<sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will,<sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace<sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight<sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,<sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heav-

en and things on earth.<sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,<sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.<sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;<sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)**

**GOSPEL: John 1:[1-9]**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being<sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

The assembly is seated.

**HYMN OF THE DAY Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW 289)**

**NICENE CREED**—In the back cover of your hymnal or on page 104

**Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (ELW 752)**

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

<sup>4</sup> Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

## PEACE (ELW p143)

### THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED (ELW #186) Create in Me

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (ELW P.144)

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. 144)

### THE LORDS PRAYER (ELW P.145)

## COMMUNION

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION=

Let us pray.

**Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\pm$  give you peace.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG Go Tell It on the Mountain (ELW 290)

**Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

## 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 2nd Wednesday of each month.

**FOR OUR LITTLE ONES:** Busy bags are available. Please feel free to borrow them each Sunday.

**Noisy Offering** in December will go towards ELCA Good Gifts and the Independence Food Pantry.

**Remember our members in your prayers:** Bob, Wendell, Gene, Shirley, Bill , Sharon, Jeanne, Debbie and Marie

**Poinsettia's in memory of:** Erpelding Family, Bill Adams, Loyd & Frances Putnam, Martin & Margaret Becker, Melvin & Eva Miller, and Sheri Waring. Please take yours home today! We have extra so please help yourself!

## Annual Reports due to the secretary no later than Jan 12th

**BIBLE RECAP – JOIN US!** We're reading the entire Bible together using **The Bible Recap!** Daily readings, brief summaries, and short videos are available through the free **YouVersion Bible App.**

We'll meet on Sundays **during or after fellowship** to recap the week's readings and share reflections and insights together. Interested in joining? Please email **Pastor Pat** at [patmohrkelly@gmail.com](mailto:patmohrkelly@gmail.com). Let's try this journey together!

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & MEAL

**January 18 | Worship at 9:00 a.m.** (No 4:00 p.m. service) Following worship, we'll meet to vote on the 2026 budget, elect council and nominating committee

members, and discuss the future of pastoral leadership. Your presence and vote matter.

**Meal help needed:** one casserole, juice/milk, syrup, and butter. Please notify the office or Pastor Pat if you can help.

Backup date: January 25 (weather permitting). Butter Let the office or Pastor Pat know what you can contribute

\*January 25 backup date if bad weather on 18th \*

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

## THIS WEEK AT ALC

### Sunday, January 4th

9am Worship with Communion

3pm Confirmation

4pm Contemporary Worship

### Wednesday, January 7th

6pm Worship Wednesday

### Sunday, January 11th

9am Worship with Communion

3pm Confirmation

4pm Contemporary Worship

## BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance December 28th

10am 17

**Offering: 12/28/2025**

**Benevolence: \$609**

**Improvement: \$25**

**Good Gifts \$ \$14**

**Poinsettias \$12**

**Food Pantry \$14**

**LDR \$50**

**Fund for Leaders \$\$100**

**Youth \$50**

## Current Balance as of 11/30/2025

Checking: \$11,881.71

Savings: \$55,256.46

Improvement \$27,621.49

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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 stationed at Fort Knox and in the Army Reserves 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: Karent Weltzin

Usher: Randy Frush

Deacon: Mike Waring

Reader: Jaidyn Wright

Fellowship:

## ELECTRONIC GIVING IT'S EASY!

Simply Giving is a stress-free, no hassle way to set up automatic giving to ALC. You have the ability to set up one-time or regular giving at a frequency that works best for you. Use your smartphone to scan the QR code below or **download the Give+ App to get started**. Feel free to reach out to Mike Waring.

