

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Mandy France 651-800-6672

Visitation Deacon Lyla Klee (h) 507-439-6940 - (c) 507-227-9250

Augustana office 375-4792 website: www.aeslutheran.org

Pianist: *Alison Kulseth* **Lector:** *Lisa Carlson* **Greeter:** *Lisa Carlson*

Missionary Sponsors for the month of December: *Eugene & Carol Zarn*

Lighting the Advent Candle: *The Spang Family*

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21, 2025, 9:00 AM

"Congregations joined in faith and fellowship to spread God's love."

- AES Ministries mission statement

Welcome to all who worship with us today!

PRELUDE, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

"He Came Down"

Vs. 4 ELW #253

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing harmonic support. There are several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracket) in both staves. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, corresponding to the four verses of the hymn. The final line of the score includes the phrase 'hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.'.

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Amen.

The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.

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.

One of the following or another confession is prayed.

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

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

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

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray....

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 7:10-16

¹⁰ The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴ **O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷ **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹ **Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel

concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L: Word of God, Word of Life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Blessed Be Your Name"

vs. 1 and Refrain

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:18-25

P: The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the 1st Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

APOSTLE'S CREED

ELW p. 217

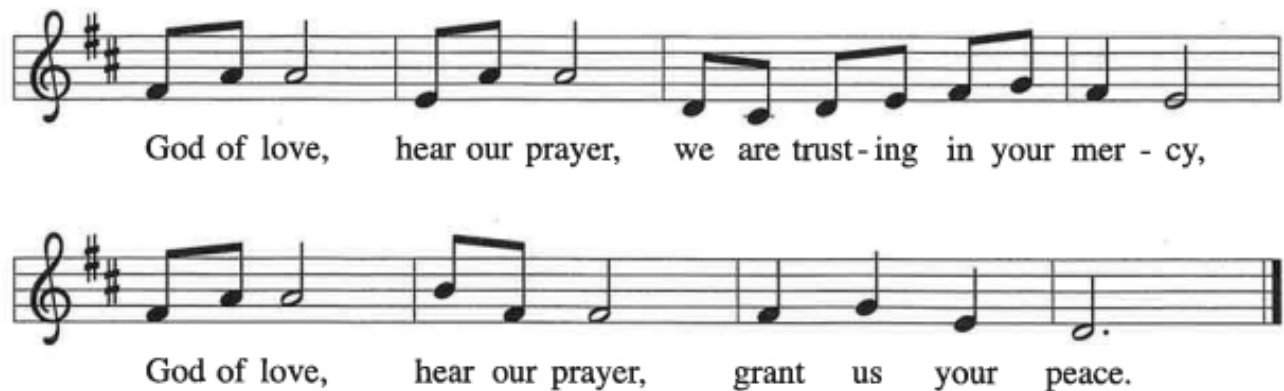
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER'S OF INTERCESSION



SHARING GOD'S PEACE

OFFERING

Offertory Hymn

"Away in a Manger"

Jena Knaack

Offertory Prayer


THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 221

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father,  Son, and Holy Spirit, bless
you now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

DISMISSAL **P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God.**

Prayer Concerns: *Jesse Berg, Debbie McGuire, Roger Hagen, Nolan O'Connor, Judy Berg, Terry “Cub” Watson, Darrell Ask, Dennis Johnson, Mike Larson, Jamie (Noren) Seiner, Marie Christenson, Darryl Jensen, Phyllis Jurgens, Dave Finnegan, Suzann Olson, Tim Knaak, Don Flater, Bruce Ohland, Sam Christenson, Melissa Anderson, Steven Olson, Tom Anderson, Chloe Anderson, Orval Larson, Dennis Madison, Linda Madison, and Emma Overson*

<p>General Offering: \$ 442.80 Vanco/Online Offering: <u>\$1,632.00</u> Total Offering for December 7th: \$2,074.80 Noisy Offering to Sharing Tree: \$ 96.43 Amount needed each week is \$3,553.69 to make budget.</p>
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Activities this week: December 22 – December 28

Monday 3:00 pm – (E) Study Group
7:00 pm – Brewed Theology @ VFW
Tuesday 10:30 am – Devotions at Brandt Ridge
11:00 am – Devotions at Pleasant View
2:15 pm – Augustana worship on cable tv
Wednesday **Christmas Eve**
4:00 pm – (E) Communion Worship
6:00 pm – (A) Communion Worship
Thursday **Christmas Day – Office Closed**
Sunday **FINANCIAL BOOKS CLOSE**
9:00 am – (A) Worship
10:00 am – (A) Coffee Hour
10:30 am – (E) Communion Worship
11:30 am – Radio Broadcast on 1370 AM

Church Announcements

- † **Brewed Theology** is 7:00 pm on Monday, December 22nd at the VFW
- † Ecumenical **Blue Christmas** at Sturm Funeral Home is TONIGHT at 4:00 pm.
- † The **Christmas Eve Services** will be 4:00 pm at East Sveadahl and 6:00 pm at Augustana.
- † **Noisy Offering is Sunday, December 28th**. Donations go to Lutheran World Relief.
- † **The church office is closed Thursday, December 25th and January 1st for the Holiday.**
- † **Pr. Mandy is out of the office December 29th – 31st**. Deacon Lyla is on call.
- † **Lauren will be out of the office from January 5th – 12th**. Sue will be in the office 9 am until around 11 am Monday, January 5th through Thursday, January 8th. Susan Anderson is available by email or phone as well.
- † **Annual Reports are due Wednesday, January 14th**. Please get your report in by that date!
- † **Month of December is Worship/Music Committee** to fill our Food Pantry.