

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS/WELCOME

TEMPLE TALK

Aubrie Albers & Kyndall Cox

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (pg. 56 LBW)

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Most merciful God,

ALL: We confess that we are in bondage 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.

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

LBW #518 “Beautiful Savior”

ADVENT RESPONSIVE READING (pg. 127 LBW)

L: Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

L: I will hear what the Lord God has to say—

C: a voice that speaks for peace.

L: Peace for all people and for his friends

C: and those who turn to him in their hearts.

L: His help is near for those who fear him,

C: and his glory will live in our land.

L: Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

L: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – JOY

L: Let us pray: C: Lord of All, we thank you that You came in the flesh, born of Mary, to bring light and joy to the world. We pray that we would spread the good news of Your arrival and Your joy to those whom we meet this Advent as we await your coming again. In the Holy name of Jesus we pray. AMEN

FIRST LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Pew Bible pg. 987

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 85

L: You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

C: You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.

L: You have withdrawn all your fury and turned yourself from your wrathful indignation.

C: Restore us then, O God our Savior; let your anger depart from us.

L: Will you be displeased with us forever? Will you prolong your anger from age to age?

C: Will you not give us life again, that your people may rejoice in you?

L: Show us your mercy, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

C: I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.

L: Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

C: Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

L: Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

C: The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

L: Righteousness shall go before him, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 4:4-7

Pew Bible pg. 1232

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (pg. 62 LBW)

Congregation Sings: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 7:18-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 7th chapter. Congregation sings: Glory to you, O Lord.
P: The Gospel of the Lord. Congregation sings: Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

LBW #35 "Hark, the Glad Sound!"

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"The Christmas Nativity"

"The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"

Please follow us to the Youth Hall for refreshments as

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas" is sung.

Offering plates are located in the back of the sanctuary to collect today's offering.

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*Paul says: "Rejoice in the Lord always," but what if I don't feel joyful today?
I will "present [my] requests to God" and wait for God's peace beyond understanding.
(Philippians 4:4-7, NIV)*

CONTINUED PRAYER CONCERNS:

Dave Howe	Pen Pendleton	Denny Doyle	Pr. Barb Busboom
Rodney Larkin	Rich Friemel	Geraldine Gorecki	Lee Briggs
Debbi Dietz	Carla Adkins	Kim Wyre	Jessica Hawn
Earl Smith	Gabbi Reynolds	Ben Moser	William Benton
Steve Ritchie	Sharon Lohen	Mary Mallicoat	Nick Shepherd
Bob & Jenny Hobby	Michael Markarian	Joyce Keith	Merrill Wattjes
Joan Percival	Joyce Williamson		

NURSING HOMES/ASSISTED LIVING:

Keith Dohleman	Rita Buenting	Ruth Lutz	Joan Mathis
Genet Dixon	Dave Overholt	Loretta Overholt	Joyce Higgins

MILITARY (Bolded names are known to be in an area of higher danger):

Jon Stiebner	Alex Short	Brandon Elrod	Kasey Fenimore
Brian Griswold	Levi Loschen	Ryan Falletti	Riley Falletti
Eli Baker			

TABLE GUILD	Terri Kirby, Lloyd Schluter
ACOLYTES	Carson McClain, Liam Hall
BULLETIN GREETERS	Shirley Friemel, Anita Pilarski
GREETERS	Jack & Brenda Spitz
LECTOR	Neal White
PRAYER LEADER	Neal White
WORSHIP STEWARD	Deanne Rosenbeck
USHERS	Judy Peck, Rod & Sandy Heiser

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Isaiah declares: “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation” (12:3). May we be nourished by God’s gift of salvation as we worship.

REFRESHMENTS IN YOUTH HALL Immediately following the service today, refreshments will be served in the youth hall. Please follow the children out as they sing their last song.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS are available in the Narthex.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available to pick-up in the Narthex. Please **DO NOT** start using these envelopes until January of 2025. If you would like envelopes and none have been provided, please contact Judy Peck in the office.

CHRISTMAS QUILTS continue to be on sale today in the Narthex at a cost of \$40.

PRESCHOOL BUTTER BRAIDS The preschool butter braid (cookie dough, pizza) order is being delivered tomorrow afternoon, Monday, December 16th. **THANKS SO MUCH TO ALL THOSE WHO ORDERED AND THOSE WHO MADE DONATIONS**—we are very appreciative of your support! We will be distributing the orders after church next Sunday, December 22nd. If you would like to pick up your order before that, please stop by the preschool between the hours of 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday this week. Again, thanks for your continued support of our program.

MIDWEEK ADVENT BIBLE STUDY concludes this Wednesday, December 18th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Hall. Prior to the study, a light meal is served beginning at 5:15 p.m.

PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be held this Thursday, December 19th, at 6:00 p.m. in the main Sanctuary. The congregation is invited and encouraged to attend.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES Christmas Eve Service will be held at 4:00 p.m. next Tuesday, December 24th. Christmas Day Service will be held at 9:00 a.m. next Wednesday morning.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS If you wish to make a year-end contribution in the church office, it must be received no later than noon on Monday, December 30th. Any offerings received in the church office after this time will be credited to your 2025 Contributions.

QUILTERS will not meet for the remainder of 2024. They will resume meeting on Monday, January 6th, 2025.

PORTALS OF PRAYER The first quarter Portals of Prayer (January-March) are available to pick up in the Narthex and outside the church office.

UPCOMING PULPIT SCHEDULE:

December 22nd – Neal White

December 29th – TBA

ATTENDANCE FROM LAST WEEK:

9:00 a.m. Worship Service – 132

THE CHRISMON TREE which started as a Lutheran tradition in the 1950s, is set up during Advent--a time when Christian churches prepare to celebrate Jesus Christ's birth. Unlike traditional Christmas trees, Chrismon trees are decorated only with clear lights and centuries-old symbols--decorations made from white and gold material. "Chrismon" is a combination of the words "Christ" and "monogram," and means "symbols of Christ." The gold and white Chrismons represent majesty and purity.

BROADCAST/FLOWER CHART If you would like to sponsor the weekly radio broadcast on WPXN, the cost is \$50. To provide flowers for Sunday, the cost is \$25. Please sign up on the chart outside the Narthex then call the office with the details to print in the bulletin prior to that date.

STUDENT CLOTHING DONATIONS We are still partnering with Northview Grade School collecting gently used clothing, and new socks, underwear and shoes for children ages K - 5th Grade (size 5T to Men's & Women's size small). A donation tub is in the Narthex.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Micah 5:2-5a, Psalm 80:1-7, Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-56

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 15

- 9:00 a.m. Worship Service - Children's Christmas Program followed by refreshments in the Youth Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School & Women's Bible Study

Monday, December 16

- 12:30 p.m. NO Quilting

Tuesday, December 17

- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 18

- 5:15 p.m. Fellowship Meal
- 5:30 p.m. Confirmation
- 6:00 p.m. Advent Bible Study

Thursday, December 19

- 9:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Preschool Christmas Program

Sunday, December 22

- 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School & Women's Bible Study

Radio Broadcast Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m. on WPXN 104.9FM

Daily Prayers & Lessons – Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024 – December 21, 2024

Prayer: Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

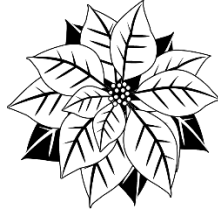
Daily Lessons:

Sunday	Nehemiah 3:1-38	Psalms 37	Acts 28:1-10
Monday	Nehemiah 4:1-17	Psalms 38	Acts 28:11-22
Tuesday	Nehemiah 5:1-19	Psalms 39	Acts 28:23-31
Wednesday	Nehemiah 6:1-7:7	Psalms 40	Romans 1:1-15
Thursday	Nehemiah 7:8-42	Psalms 41	Romans 1:16-31
Friday	Nehemiah 7:43-72	Psalms 42	Romans 2:1-11
Saturday	Nehemiah 8:1-9:4	Psalms 43	Romans 2:12-29

Morning Prayer We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all danger and harm. We ask you to preserve and keep us, this day also, from all sin and evil, that in all our thoughts, words, and deeds we may serve and please you. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one have no power over us. Amen

Mid-Day Prayer Gracious Jesus, our Lord and our God, at this hour you bore our sins in your own body on the tree so that we, being dead to sin, might live unto righteousness. Have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our death, and grant to us, your servants, with all others who devoutly remember your blessed Passion, a holy and peaceful life in this world and, through your grace, eternal glory in the life to come; where, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, God forever. Amen

Evening Prayer We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have this day so graciously protected us. We beg you to forgive us all our sins and the wrong which we have done. By your great mercy defend us from all the perils and dangers of this night. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one have no power over us. Amen



POINSETTIAS ARE PROVIDED BY:

Neal & Sally Bauer (2)
The Carico Family
Phillip Griswold & Family-In Memory of Betty Griswold
Ed & Lois Hesterberg
Sam & Joyce Holland
Jim & Sherry Johnson (4)-In Honor of our Granddaughters –
Katelyn, Lauren, Victoria & Taylor Johnson
Maggie Johnson
Kevin & DaNora Kaiser
John & Rhonda Keith
In Loving Memory of Bill & Betty McKaufsky
Marlys Morris
Scott & Marcie Rodgers
Gary & Deanne Rosenbeck-In Memory of
Frank & Erna Rosenbeck and Warren & Vera McCarty
Bill & Jody Schlueter
John & Sheila Sherman
Earl Smith-In Memory of Bert Smith
Tangela & Rob-In Memory of Gary Rahe



Thrivent Direct Choice Dollars Program

If you have a Thrivent policy, you are eligible to donate your Direct Choice Dollars once each year to support our ALC Christian Preschool. It is Thrivent's way of giving back to the community it represents.

<p>Direct Choice Dollars Online:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice.2. Select Direct Choice Dollars.3. Log in by entering your User ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered on thrivent.com, click Register now)4. Choose the organization (American Lutheran Church Christian Preschool, Rantoul) to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you haven't chosen an organization, click on Find an organization, enter American Lutheran Church Christian Preschool Rantoul and click Search button. Click the preschool and then select.5. Enter a specific number and click Review, then Confirm.	<p>Direct Choice Dollars by Phone:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice".2. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or 2 to hear Thrivent Choice Dollars Program Terms and Conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth).3. A client service professional will work with you to direct Choice Dollars. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank you very much for supporting the American Lutheran Church Christian Preschool!</i></p>
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