

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS/WELCOME

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Congregation: Amen

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (pg. 56 LBW)

P: 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.

Congregation: Amen.

P: 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.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

Congregation: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

WOV #697 "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"

GREETING (pg. 57 LBW)

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.

BAPTISM (pgs. 121-125)

Philip James Lehmann
John William Lehmann

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - PEACE

L: Let us pray: C: O Lord God, You sent us the Prince of Peace as a Babe in a manger. Grant us peace that passes our understanding as we await His coming again. Help us to proclaim your peace this Advent season, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

KYRIE (pgs. 57-58 LBW)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mercy. P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mercy. P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mercy. P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mercy. P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. C: Amen

SALUTATION (pg. 62 LBW)

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you. P: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C: AMEN

FIRST LESSON: Malachi 3:1-7b

Pew Bible pg. 1001

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 66:1-12

L: Be joyful in God, all you lands; sing the glory of his name; sing the glory of his praise.

C: Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you.

L: All the earth bows down before you, sings to you, sings out your name."

C: Come now and see the works of God, how wonderful he is in his doing toward all people.

L: He turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the water on foot, and there we rejoiced in him.

C: In his might he rules forever; his eyes keep watch over the nations; let no rebel rise up against him.

L: Bless our God, you peoples; make the voice of his praise to be heard,

C: who holds our souls in life, and will not allow our feet to slip.

L: For you, O God, have proved us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

C: You brought us into the snare; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

L: You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

C: I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows, which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 1:2-11

Pew Bible pg. 1229

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 3:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd chapter. Congregation sings: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. Congregation sings: Praise to you, O Christ. (Please be seated)

SERMON

Rev. James T. Lehmann, STS

HYMN OF THE DAY

LBW #36 "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"
(Please rise as you are able)

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. C: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (pg. 66 LBW) (Please rise) Congregation Sings: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (pg. 67 LBW) *P: Merciful Father, C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

GREAT THANKSGIVING (pgs. 68-69 LBW)

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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P: Blessed are you, O Adonai, Most High and Holy God....Together let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

C: O Christ, you are the splendor of life everlasting: We laud your death and resurrection, and await your return in glory.

P: Blessed are you, O Adonai, Lord of might....With all the people of your promises, we await our Lord's final coming when we will share in that feast which shall never end.

C: Amen. Come, O precious Ransom, come!

P: With boldness and confidence, we pray as Christ taught us:

C: 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

P: God is with us, our Emmanuel.

C: Let us go to the Table to meet the Messiah.

LAMB OF GOD (pg. 72 LBW) **Congregation Sings: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION BLESSING, CANTICLE & PRAYER (pgs. 72 LBW) **(Please rise as you are able) Congregation sings: Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

LBW #26 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

DISMISSAL

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

ORGAN POSTLUDE

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“St. Paul writes: “Every time I think of you, I thank my God” (Philippians 1:3, CEV).

NEWEST PRAYER CONCERNS:

Family of Ted Valentine

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	Cindy Williams	Gabbi Reynolds	Ben Moser
William Benton	Steve Ritchie	Sharon Lohen	Mary Mallicoat
Bob & Jenny Hobby	Nick Shepherd	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	Daphnie Albers, Kali Schluter
BULLETIN GREETERS	Emily & Katie Holland
GREETERS	Jackie Roelfs, Marcie Rodgers
LECTOR	Sheila Sherman
PRAYER LEADER	Pam Cheek
WORSHIP STEWARD	Sheila Sherman
USHERS	Marvin Ideus, Jack & Brenda Spitz

WELCOME TO WORSHIP at American Lutheran Church as we continue to prepare our hearts for the coming Messiah.

ROSES TODAY are in celebration of the Baptisms of *Philip James & John William Lehmann*, twin sons of Matthew & Heather Lehmann. They were born on October 15th. Their sponsors are Benjamin Lehmann and Justin Lehmann.

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

MIDWEEK ADVENT BIBLE STUDY continues this Wednesday, December 11th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Hall. Prior to the study, a light meal is served beginning at 5:15 p.m.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be held next Sunday, December 15th, during the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES will be available to pick-up in the Narthex starting next Sunday, December 15th. 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.

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

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will be held on Tuesday, December 24th, at 4:00 p.m.

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.

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.

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION If you are a baptized believer, trusting that the life giving and sustaining power and presence of Christ is truly present in bread and wine, we welcome you to the Lord's table. Children who commune in their home congregations are welcome to commune; those who are not currently communing at the Lord's table are invited to come forward for a blessing keeping their hands to their sides. The center of each tray holds light colored, non-alcoholic juice for those with special circumstances. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request for those with allergies.

UPCOMING PULPIT SCHEDULE:

December 15th – Children's Program

December 22nd – Neal White

ATTENDANCE FROM LAST WEEK:

9:00 a.m. Worship Service – 154

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 appropriate chart outside the Narthex then notify the church office the details to print in the bulletin prior to that date.

NEXT WEEK’S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 85; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 7:18-35

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 8

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Sunday School & Women’s Bible Study

Monday, December 9

12:30 p.m. NO Quilting

Tuesday, December 10

6:00 p.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, December 11

5:15 p.m. Fellowship Meal

5:30 p.m. Confirmation

6:00 p.m. Advent Bible Study

Thursday, December 12

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, December 15

9:00 a.m. Worship Service - Children’s Christmas Program

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 – Second Sunday in Advent

December 8, 2024 – December 14, 2024

Prayer: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only-begotten Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; 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

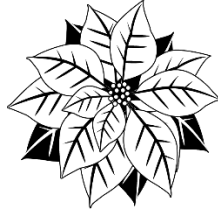
Daily Lessons:

Sunday	Ezra 3:1-13, 4:1-24	Psalm 30	Acts 26:1-11
Monday	Ezra 5:1-17	Psalm 31	Acts 26:12-23
Tuesday	Ezra 6:1-7:10	Psalm 32	Acts 26:24-32
Wednesday	Ezra 7:11-28; 8:1-20	Psalm 33	Acts 27:1-12
Thursday	Ezra 8:21-9:15	Psalm 34	Acts 27:13-26
Friday	Ezra 10:1-44	Psalm 35	Acts 27:27-38
Saturday	Nehemiah 1:1-2:20	Psalm 36	Acts 27:39-44

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