

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Second Sunday after Christmas
January 5, 2025

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: 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.

Congregation: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

LBW #56 "The First Noel"

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.

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

HYMN OF PRAISE (pgs. 58-59 LBW)

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

C: Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. 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: Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; 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: 1 Kings 3:4-15

Pew Bible pg. 351

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 119:97-104

L: Oh, how I love your law! All the day long it is in my mind.

C: Your commandment has made me wiser than my enemies, and it is always with me.

L: I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your decrees are my study.

C: I am wiser than the elders, because I observe your commandments.

L: I restrain my feet from every evil way that I may keep your word.

C: I do not shrink from your judgments, because you yourself have taught me.

L: How sweet are your words to my taste! They are sweeter than honey to my mouth.

C: Through your commandments I gain understanding; therefore I hate every lying way.

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 1:3-14

Pew Bible pg. 1224

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 2:40-52

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 2nd chapter. Congregation sings: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

LBW #231 "O Word of God Incarnate"
(Please rise as you are able)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (pg. 75 LBW) **(Please rise) Congregation Sings: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

LBW #526 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

DISMISSAL

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

ORGAN POSTLUDE

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*Dear God, at the start of this new year, and the Epiphany season,
shine your light on my path. Amen.*

NEWEST PRAYER CONCERNS:

John Keith

CONTINUED PRAYER CONCERNS:

Dave Amborn	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	Sally Bauer, Midge Seim
ACOLYTES	Daphnie Albers, Kali Schluter
BULLETIN GREETERS	Jackie Roelfs, Linda Kirk
GREETERS	Lois Madden, June Luna
LECTOR	Kyndall Cox
PRAYER LEADER	Terry Doyle
WORSHIP STEWARD	Midge Seim
USHERS	Travis, Nikky & Jack Flesner

WELCOME TO WORSHIP The Magi followed a star to worship Jesus and present him gifts. We too have been guided here by God's light, to worship Jesus and offer him our gifts of love. Welcome.

FLOWERS TODAY are provided by *Jim & Sherry Johnson* in memory of their son, James (Jimmy) Johnson's, 48th Birthday on December 29th.

UNDECORATING OF THE CHURCH will take place immediately following the Worship Service today.

QUILTERS will resume meeting this Monday, January 6th, at 12:30 p.m. in the Sewing Room. Please join them if you are able.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available to pick-up in the Narthex until next Sunday, January 12th. After this date, they will be available to pick-up in the church office. If you would like envelopes and none have been provided, please contact Judy Peck in the church office.

SUNDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – HEAVEN Who goes there? Where is it? What will we do there? Questions like these arise when we consider an eternal future beyond this physical life. How can we know the truth about what comes next? With the Heaven Bible Study, you'll discover answers to some of your deepest and most pressing questions about heaven and realize how your hope for tomorrow should shape how you live today. The Sunday morning women's Bible study class invites you to join us for this study of Heaven starting next Sunday, January 12th, in the Bible study room directly after the church service. Hope to see you there. Blessings.

BLOOD DRIVE The Rantoul Community Blood Drive will be held at American Lutheran Church next Wednesday, January 15th, from 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. in the Youth Hall. Please note the new time.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, February 9th, immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service. The Nominating Committee will present the following nominees for office on the Church Council:

Elder: Terry Doyle Trustees: Justin Kaiser, Deanne Rosenbeck, Midge Seim

Our Constitution allows for additional members to be nominated if submitted by a "Voting Member" of the congregation. Request is to be received by the Pastor ten days prior to the date of the election (January 30th). All such requests to be in writing and signed by three members. Members so nominated will be included on the ballot along with those nominated by the Nominating Committee.

ATTENDANCE FROM LAST WEEK:

9:00 a.m. Worship Service – 83

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2024 are due to the church office by next Friday, January 17th.

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

BROADCAST/FLOWER CHART The cost to sponsor the broadcast on WPXN is \$50. The cost to provide flowers for Sunday is \$25. Please sign up on the chart outside the Narthex and call the office with the details to print in the bulletin.

STUDENT CLOTHING DONATIONS We are continuing to partner 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:

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Romans 6:1-11; Luke 3:15-22

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 5

9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Sunday School, Women's Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Undecorating the Church

Monday, January 6

12:30 p.m. Quilting

Tuesday, January 7

6:00 p.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, January 8

5:30 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, January 9

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, January 12

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



I would like to invite the women of our church to join me in a 7-Session Bible Study by Jennifer Rothschild, entitled Heaven: When Faith Becomes Sight. In this 7-session video-based study, you'll explore the subject of Heaven from a biblical perspective. Jennifer will help you separate what's true about Heaven from what's based on legend, media depictions, and hopeful guesses.

As you walk through the study, you'll not only gain a deeper understanding of what God has prepared for His children, but also learn how to live with confidence today as you look forward to the glorious unending that awaits. Don't just wonder about Heaven—embrace it with a faith that turns anticipation into excitement and peace.

Starting on Wednesday, January 22nd, we will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the Bible Study Room and begin our exploration of the subject of Heaven. Please contact Deanne Rosenbeck by January 6th, so that your study book of Heaven can be ordered. The cost will be \$19. You can call the office, text Deanne Rosenbeck at 217-621-8816 or by email at [dwattjes@hotmail.com](mailto:d wattjes@hotmail.com) to register for class.

1/5/25

Dear members and friends,

We would like to thank everyone for the help, prayers, and support surrounding our move here to Rantoul. We feel incredibly blessed that the Lord has given us the opportunity to be here with you. We deeply appreciate everything, from the prayers, help moving boxes, to preparing food. We look forward to getting to know you all! Thank you!

God's richest blessings,
Pastor Aaron, Kristin, & Asher Dawson