

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS/WELCOME

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.

Congregation: 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.

Congregation: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

**LBW #30 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”
(sung to the tune of LBW #158)**

GREETING (pg. 57 LBW)

L: 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)

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mercy. L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mercy. L: 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. L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mercy. L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. C: Amen

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - LOVE

L: Let us pray: **C: Our Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus, Your only begotten Son, to live in the flesh, be tempted as we are, yet without sin, and show us in all experiences, how to live righteous lives according to your plan. Grant us Your strength to love You with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves, that the world might see Your love shining through us, in Your name we pray. AMEN**

SALUTATION (pg. 62 LBW)

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C: AMEN**

FIRST LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a

Pew Bible pg. 973

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 80:1-7

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

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

L: Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

C: O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

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

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

L: Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 10:5-10

Pew Bible pg. 1261

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 1:39-56

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 1st chapter. **Congregation sings: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Neal White

HYMN OF THE DAY

**LBW #481 "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"
(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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: 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 #25 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

DISMISSAL

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

ORGAN POSTLUDE

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*Some here are exhausted already, God, like a full-term pregnant mother.
Some — especially children — are excited for the celebration now just days away.
Enfold us all as we worship you, Lord.*

NEWEST PRAYER CONCERNS:

Dave Amborn (brother-in-law/Karen Flessner)

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

ACOLYTES

BULLETIN GREETERS

GREETERS

LECTOR

PRAYER LEADER

WORSHIP STEWARD

USHERS

Terri Kirby, Lloyd Schluter

Connor Suits, Jack Flesner

Paul & Linda Keith

Shirley Friemel, Lois Madden

Dennis Albers

Deanne Rosenbeck

Ron Howe

David Hulse, Donna Hustedt, Stan Wolken

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Like Mary and Elizabeth, we share the anticipation of what God is birthing — through Jesus, and in all our lives always.

PRESCHOOL BUTTER BRAIDS The preschool butter braid orders will be distributed after church today. Thank you for your continued support of our program.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES Christmas Eve Service will be held at 4:00 p.m. this Tuesday evening. Christmas Day Service will be held at 9:00 a.m. this Wednesday morning.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES are 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.

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed this Tuesday, December 24th, and Wednesday, December 25th.

NO BIBLE STUDIES THIS WEEK There will be NO Tuesday Night or Thursday Morning Bible Study this week.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP & PRAYER MEETING for the call of a pastor began in August 2022. Now that we have a called pastor coming soon, these meetings will no longer be occurring. Thank you to all who faithfully attended the fellowship meals and prayer service whether you were a "regular" or attended periodically. Your endurance has enabled relationships to grow as we have eaten and prayed together with faith for a common need for our congregation. We know people prayed at home in private, too. All prayers for the call of a pastor are greatly appreciated. May we all now pray for the one whom the Lord is sending to us that he would serve the Lord diligently with the passion of bond-servants who have prepared the way for him and with compassion for all the believers he serves. And, please, let us all remember to thank our Lord and Savior for answering our prayers for a called pastor.

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 29th – Terry Doyle/Pastor James
Lehmann (Communion)

January 5 – Pastor Aaron Dawson

ATTENDANCE FROM LAST WEEK:

9:00 a.m. Worship Service – 137

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 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 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:

Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15; Psalm 111; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:22-40

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 22

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

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

Monday, December 23

12:30 p.m. NO Quilting

Tuesday, December 24 OFFICE CLOSED

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

6:00 p.m. NO Bible Study

Wednesday, December 25 OFFICE CLOSED

9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service

Thursday, December 26

9:00 a.m. NO Bible Study

Sunday, December 29

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 – Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 22, 2024 – December 28, 2024

Prayer: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; who lives and reigns, now and forever. Amen

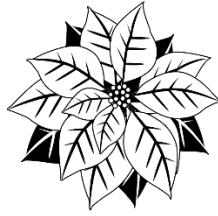
Daily Lessons:

Sunday	Nehemiah 9:5-37	Psalm 44	Romans 3:1-8
Monday	Nehemiah 10:1-40	Psalm 45	Romans 3:9-20
Tuesday	Nehemiah 11:1-36	Psalm 46	Romans 3:21-31
Wednesday	Nehemiah 12:1-37	Psalm 47	Romans 4:1-12
Thursday	Nehemiah 12:38-13:32	Psalm 48	Romans 4:13-25
Friday	Esther 1:1-22	Psalm 49	Romans 5:1-11
Saturday	Esther 2:1-23; 3:1-15	Psalm 50	Romans 5:12-21

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.

Direct Choice Dollars Online:

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:
 - 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**.

Direct Choice Dollars by Phone:

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.

***Thank you very much for
supporting the American
Lutheran Church Christian
Preschool!***