

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

First Sunday after Christmas
December 29, 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.

C: 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.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

LBW #60 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

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. 60-61 LBW)

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. Refrain.
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. Refrain.
Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. Refrain.
For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Refrain.

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 wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C: Amen

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

Pew Bible pg. 71

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 111

L: Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

C: Great are the deeds of the LORD! They are studied by all who delight in them.

L: His work is full of majesty and splendor, and his righteousness endures forever.

C: He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

L: He gives food to those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

C: He has shown his people the power of his works in giving them the lands of the nations.

L: The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; all his commandments are sure.

C: They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.

L: He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant forever; holy and awesome is his name.

C: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; those who act accordingly have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

SECOND LESSON: Colossians 3:12-17

Pew Bible pg. 1235

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 2:22-40

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

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Terry Doyle

HYMN OF THE DAY

LBW #55 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

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

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 CANON

(Reprinted by permission from **A Little Book of Canons** by Rod L. Ronneberg, STS, © 1997 and © 2010)

P: Glory to you, Lord God, heavenly King: In the beginning you created the world. Through him who is the Word-made-flesh.....Do this for the remembrance of me. We join our voices with the angels and all the heavenly choir:

C: Glory to God in the highest.

P: Glory to you, Lord God, heavenly King: In this holy Child all lives are renewed, And all sins forgiven by His life and holy Passion.....We may be filled with your forgiving love, and the promise of new life through this holy Child.

C: Glory to you, Lord God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Glory to you, and praise forever more.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.

C: One is holy, One is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father.

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 #259 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

DISMISSAL

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

ORGAN POSTLUDE

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*As Mary "treasured ... in her heart" all that had happened around Jesus' birth
and childhood (Luke 2:19, 51), help me, God,
to treasure your gifts and teachings in my heart always.*

NEWEST PRAYER CONCERNS:

Dave Amborn

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

Peyton Cox, Aubrie Albers

BULLETIN GREETERS

TBA

GREETERS

Char Sons, Linda Kirk

LECTOR

Jim Cheek

PRAYER LEADER

Justin Kaiser

WORSHIP STEWARD

Lloyd Schluter

USHERS

Emily Deal, John Lux, Brenda Spitz

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Merry Christmas — yes, still! As the church continues to celebrate Christ's birth, we invite you to bask in the goodness of God. Welcome!

BROADCAST OF THE SERVICE TODAY is provided by *Gene & Loretta Elliott* in celebration of their 28th Wedding Anniversary on December 28th.

PASTOR AARON DAWSON will be starting this week. Next Sunday, January 5th, will be his first official Sunday as pastor of the American Lutheran Church.

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

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed this Tuesday, December 31st, and Wednesday, January 1st. Happy New Year!

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

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

UNDECORATING OF THE CHURCH will take place next Sunday, January 5th, immediately following the Worship Service.

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

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.

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.

ATTENDANCE FROM LAST WEEK:

9:00 a.m. Worship Service – 101

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:

1 Kings 3:4-15; Psalm 119:97-104; Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 29

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

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

Monday, December 30

12:30 p.m. NO Quilting

Tuesday, December 31 OFFICE CLOSED

6:00 p.m. NO Bible Study

Wednesday, January 1 OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, January 2

9:00 a.m. NO Bible Study

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

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



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
Preschooll***