

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Aaron Dawson

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21, 2025

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS/WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Senior Choir featuring flautist Addilyn Bent-Perzee

“A Little Child Will Come to Lead Us”

(words by Don Besig & Nancy Price, music by Don Besig)

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.

P: Most merciful God, C: 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 the sins of all who trust on the merit of Jesus Christ alone. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen

P: However, to all unrepentant sinners and despisers of God, of His Words, and of His Holy Sacraments, I say from God's Word and in the name of Jesus Christ, that God has kept their sins and will certainly punish in time and eternity, so long as they, during this time of grace, refuse to turn from them and to repent. We wish them from the heart that they would repent.

C: Amen

OPENING HYMN

LBW #26 “Prepare the Royal Highway”

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

SALUTATION (pg. 62 LBW)

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - LOVE

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

HYMN OF THE DAY

LBW #39 "Joy to the World"

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth....as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 (Sung)

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. C: Amen

CLOSING HYMN

LBW #390 "I Love to Tell the Story"

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE



POINSETTIAS ARE PROVIDED BY:

Neal & Sally Bauer
The Carico Family
Terry & Denny Doyle (2) - In Memory of Our Parents
Loretta Elliott
Jim & Jamie Hamby
Jim & Sherry Johnson (4) - In Honor of our Granddaughters –
Katelyn, Lauren, Victoria & Taylor Johnson
Maggie Johnson
Kevin & DaNora Kaiser
Angela Krickovich
In Loving Memory of Bill & Betty McKaufsky
Scott & Marcie Rodgers
Gary Rosenbeck - In Memory of Rosenbeck Family
Deanne Rosenbeck - In Memory of McCarty Family
Bill & Jody Schlueter
Midge Seim
John Thomas & Kim Griffith

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
500 Church Drive, Rantoul, IL 61866
(217) 893-4550 (217) 892-8024 (fax)
amluthoffice@gmail.com www.alc-rantoul.org

*Through Scripture, John the Baptist still urges people to prepare for Jesus' coming.
O God, make today's worship and Christian fellowship part of our hearts' preparation.*

NEWEST PRAYER CONCERNS:

Kayla Pilarski Angie Trenberth Janet Johnson (Accolade on Fulton-Paxton)
Family of Steve Petmecky

CONTINUED PRAYER CONCERNS:

Sondra Sipes	Rich Friemel	Barb Corbly	Jeff Holsinger
Ethan Kempfer	Marty Mirocha	Melvina Heap	Breen Sipes
Paul Albers	Karen Bruns	Ray Hoff	Daniel Rodriquez
Kim Wyre	Annette Carlson	Marlys Morris	Wilma Suits
Brian Dietz	Karen Flessner	Roberta Arthur	Steve Schluter
Eugene Schmidt	Tracie Sisneros	Glenn Behnke	John Keith
Pen Pendleton	Denny Doyle	Pr. Barb Busboom	Rodney Larkin
Geraldine Gorecki	Lee Briggs	Carla Adkins	Jessica Hawn
Earl Smith	Gabbi Reynolds	Ben Moser	William Benton
Steve Ritchie	Sharon Lohen	Mary Mallicoat	Nick Shepherd
Michael Markarian	Joyce Keith	Merrill Wattjes	Joan Percival
Joyce Williamson	Bob & Jenny Hobby		

NURSING HOMES/ASSISTED LIVING:

Keith Dohleman	Joan Mathis	Luella Loschen	Dave Overholt
Loretta Overholt	Martha Stanfill	LouAnn Baugher	Genet Dixon

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

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

ALTAR GUILD

ACOLYTES

GREETERS

LECTOR

PRAYER LEADER

WORSHIP STEWARD

USHERS

Sue Coffin, Lloyd Schluter

Logan Suits, Jack Flesner

Tom & Mary Edwards

Lorraine McElwain

Shirley Friemel

Ron Howe

Judy Peck, Andrew Peck, Sue Coffin

WELCOME On this last Sunday of Advent we happily reach out to all who have come to approach the throne of Grace. Christmas will be truly Christmas when we center our minds on the Christ child who came to offer the world salvation and hope.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held today immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service to approve three amendments to the NALC Constitution.

FELLOWSHIP TIME Immediately following the congregational meeting today, everyone is invited to the Youth Hall for a time of cookies & fellowship.

CHRISTMAS QUILTS There are still a few Christmas quilts in the sanctuary available for sale at a cost of \$40 each.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available to pick up in the Narthex. Please DO NOT start using these envelopes until January of 2026. If you would like envelopes and none have been provided, please contact Judy Peck in the church office.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will be held at 4:00 p.m. this Wednesday, December 24th. Christmas Day Service will be held at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel on December 25th.

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed this Wednesday, December 24th, through Friday, December 26th.

NO THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY There will be NO Thursday Morning Bible Study this week or next 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 next Tuesday, December 30th. Any offerings received in the church office after this time will be credited to your 2026 Contributions.

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

ATTACHED ATTENDANCE SHEET The church office needs *all congregation members* to fill out the attached attendance sheet with your current address, phone number(s), and email address. We are looking at making an updated (non-photo) directory and also looking into some sort of communication system we can use to get information out quickly (like in case of inclement weather). But we need to make sure we have everyone's correct information on file before we can continue with these plans.

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 – 33

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.

QUILTERS will not meet for the remainder of 2025. They will resume meeting on Monday, January 5th, 2026.

VIALS OF LIFE are still available to pick-up in the Narthex on the top shelf of the bookcase. Please contact the church office with any questions.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 21

9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting
Following
Meeting: Reception in Youth Hall
 Adult Sunday School
 Women's Bible Study

Monday, December 22

12:30 p.m. NO Quilting

Wednesday, December 24 Office Closed

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25 Office Closed

9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service (Chapel)

Friday, December 26 Office Closed

Sunday, December 28

9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 NO Women's Bible Study

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