



Sunday, December 10, 2023
2nd Sunday in Advent

How Does a Weary World Rejoice? We Find Joy in Connection

8:00am Worship order is on page 2 | 10:15am Worship order is on page 4

**American Lutheran Church walks in the faith of Jesus
as we walk with others.**

All are welcome to be a part of God's Church. There is a place for you here at American Lutheran Church. Our mission is to "share the good news of what God has done for us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ!"

November/December Birthday Greetings this week . . .

- If your birthday is missing or wrong, please let Kelly in the office know or write it on the slips inserted in the Bulletin. Thanks!

12) Marlys Busse, Sheryl Hokeness

15) Marvene Barrie-Reck, Anne Hokenstad

16) Dennis Hohensee, Tara Thompson, Mary Turner

Today's Flower arrangement is given by:

*Mavis & Jerry Sandstrom
Celebrating their 61st Anniversary*

*Paulette Yates
In Memory of David Yates*

Open dates are Jan. 14, 28 – Feb. 4, 11

If you would like to sponsor altar flowers for 2023-24, contact Kelly Henkels in the office or Dee Hale at (507) 372-2786. The cost of a bouquet of flowers is \$30.00. You can keep them or donate them. Please remember to pay for your flowers in the office.

Scripture Readings for next Sunday's worship services:

Hymns, prayers, and preaching will be drawn from the themes in these stories.

Theme: *"How Does A Weary World Rejoice: We Allow Ourselves To Be Amazed"*

Psalms 126 and Luke 1:57-66

8 AM | First Word Worship Order
FM Ministry for this service is 88.3

GATHERING

Prelude with *Advent & Christmas Carol Sing-Along*

Welcome

Announcements/Community News

Beginning Words

Prayer of Confession

Words of Forgiveness

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Gathering Hymn:

Here I Am to Worship

Prayer of the Day

WORD

Old Testament Story: Isaiah 40:1-11 (read responsively)

Gospel: Luke 1: 24 -45

Message

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn:

Hope For Everyone

Advent Affirmation of Faith

The Prayers of the Church

Peace

Offering

Offering Prayer

MEAL

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Communion Instructions

Communion Song:

O Lamb of God

Music During Communion: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs. 1, 2, 6, 7, & 8)

Communion Blessing

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn:

Doxology for a Weary World

Dismissal

Postlude

8 AM | First Word Worship Leaders

Ministers: All people of the American Lutheran Church

Pastors: Anne Hokenstad and Jeremy Hallquist

Musicians: Sylvia Andersen & Ellie Hallquist

Ushers: Shauna Carroll, Laura Hoffman, Russell Obermoller, Dave Nerem

Greeters: Marv Isder

Caring News | Prayer Ministry

Health Concerns: (Short and long-term sickness and illness)

- Ruth Rusche
- Maci Their
- Gerald Fuerstenberg
- Cheryl Martinez
- Jeanene Townswick
- Dawn Bents

In Sympathy: (Grieving the death of family and losses in life).

- Family and Friends of Dorothy Koehn
- Family and Friends of Sandy Noerenberg

Praise the Lord: (Joys and Answered Prayers):

First Communion: Jack Behrends, Noah Clark, Rylan Fletcher, and Weston Hallquist

For Support: (On-going life circumstances)

- Mitchell Wagner- Grandson of Keith and Kathy Harberts
- Marvella- Mother of Sherrie and Kevin Adolph
- Montana Scholten- Granddaughter of Sherrie and Kevin Adolph
- Ruth Weiland- Granddaughter of Dee Weiland
- Patrick Weiland- Son of Dee Weiland
- Buddy and Sylvia Richter- Parents of Laura Bourquin
- Mary Hamlin-Palmer- Aunt of Jeremy Hallquist
- Makenna Johnson- Relative of Kristen Appel
- Mary Ferguson- Mother of Leslie Burnham

Our prayer list will be updated every two weeks. Please notify the office or pastors if you wish to have someone remain on the list.

GATHERING

Prelude with *Advent & Christmas Carol Sing-Along*

Welcome

Announcements/Community News

Beginning Words

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Words of Forgiveness

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Gathering Hymn:

Here I Am to Worship

Prayer of the Day

WORD

Old Testament Story: Isaiah 40:1-11 (read responsively)

Gospel: Luke 1: 24 -45

Message

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn:

Hope For Everyone

Advent Affirmation of Faith

The Prayers of the Church

Peace

Offering

Offering Prayer

MEAL

First Communion Liturgy

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Communion Instructions

Communion Song:

O Lamb of God

Music During Communion: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs. 1, 2, 6, 7, & 8)

Communion Blessing

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn:

Doxology for a Weary World

Table Prayer: *sung*

Dismissal

Postlude

10:15 AM | Journey Worship Leaders

Ministers: All people of American Lutheran Church

Pastors: Anne Hokenstad & Jeremy Hallquist

Musicians: Sylvia Andersen & Ellie Hallquist

Ushers: Randy Thompson, Mark Prunty, Kay Prunty, Darren Ponto, Nicholas Raymo

Greeter: Bill & Judi Hoevet

| This Sunday 12/10 | Next Sunday 12/17 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Fill: Sharon Johansen | Sue Rose |
| Refill: Audrey Brake | Aubrey Anderson |
| Clean up: Kieth & Marj Olson | Karen Pfeifer |
| Communion Servers: 8:00- Bob & Sandy Demuth | 8:00- Dave & Brenda Baerenwald, Karla |
| 10:15- Jay & Melissa Jensen, Mary Turner | Kirkeby 10:15- Greg & Barb Raymo, Jill |
| | Cuperus |
| Coffee Servers: Harlan & Pam Handevidt, Karen Pfeifer | Church Lock-up: Harlan Handevidt |



AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM -

Applications for the American Lutheran Church Scholarship Program are now being accepted. The application process has two phases: 1) An intent to apply must be submitted by January 31 of each year. The intent to apply is to fill out the scholarship application and submit it to the Scholarship committee.

2) The final scholarship application form with a transcript must be submitted by June 15. Application forms are available in the church office with a list of the regulations on the back side.

You may also access the application online by going to the church website, clicking on news and information, and then clicking on youth scholarship. To apply for this scholarship a student must be a member in good standing at American Lutheran Church and must be at the sophomore or higher level at any undergraduate or graduate college or university. You may only receive a scholarship for 3 years. A student cannot simultaneously receive a scholarship from both the ALC Scholarship Program and the Etta Janssen Scholarship Program.

Important Deadlines:

- Articles for *The Messenger* are due to Kelly by noon on December 15.
- Reports for the Annual Meeting are due to Kelly by noon on January 9.

Announcements | Dec 10-17, 2023

Today: Celebrations and Connections

On this 2nd Sunday of Advent, we as a congregation we are living the baptismal promises made with the young people taking their first Communion today. We also celebrate the 30th anniversary of Pr. Anne's Ordination Vows, which are grounded in her baptismal promises. The day is rich with faith-filled connections.

8:00am, First Word Worship

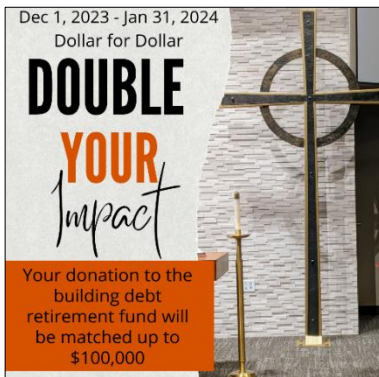
9:15am, Ordination Celebration, Fellowship Hall

9:15am, Faith Formation – All Ages

10:15am, Journey Worship

11:15am, Congregational Potluck—Fellowship Hall

A Weary World Rejoices Art Walk: In the hallway outside the conference room, the various images created by Sanctified Art for the Advent series are on display. For Adult Faith Formation this month, we will be practicing a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing called *Visio Divina* or “divine seeing. These images will be up until early January. They are located in the Gathering Space.



New Fundraiser to Reduce Our Building Debt: A group of visionaries from ALC have combined their financial assets to provide the seed money for this unique matching gift project to reduce our debt. Your gift, small and large, will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$100,000. This matching gift program runs from Dec 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024. Write “Building Match” on the memo line. If you have questions, please contact one of the pastors, Sandy, or Marv.

Looking Ahead:

December 13, Community Christmas Caroling

December 17, Advent Hymn sing happens 10-minutes before worship.

December 20, Longest Night Service at 6:30pm

December 24, 9:00am only—Advent Hymn sing 10-minutes before worship

Advent & Christmas Season

Advent Hymn Sing: We sing the songs of our faith on Dec 10, 17, and 24 for 10-minutes before each worship service. Pick an Advent or Christmas hymn to sing as we prepare for worship.

Advent Candle Lighters for Worship Services: Contact Pr. Jeremy if you would like to be one of the lighters of the Advent Candle at each worship service. Advent is celebrated on the following Sundays in December: 10, 17, and 24.

Advent Calendars: This devotional resource is available. Get your copy at the Welcome Center in the new addition.

Advent Devotional: This devotional resource is available. Get your copy at the Welcome Center in the new addition.

Longest Night Worship Service: On Wednesday night, December 20 at 6:30pm, there will be a worship service of prayer and healing as we honor the tradition of the Longest Night. All are welcome to worship and to invite those whose hearts and lives are weary.

2023 Christmas Worship Schedule:

December 24, **9am**, 4th Sunday of Advent Worship
December 24, 4pm, Family Focused Service
December 24, 6pm, Traditional Festival Worship Service
December 24, 10pm, Christmas Eve Vespers Service
December 25, No Christmas Day Worship Service
December 31, **9am** Christmas Lessons & Carols (1 worship only)

Reminder of Annual Communion Registration – The synod requests a count of American Lutheran members who commune at least once during the year. To do this, please fill out the Communication Form slip included with your bulletin with your name, date and indicate that you have received communion. This is necessary to do only once a year and can be done at any time of the year. Thank you. The Worship & Music Committee

December 10- 17 Calendar

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| <p><u>December 10</u></p> <p>8:00am First Word</p> <p>9:00am Coffee & Kinship</p> <p><i>Pastor Anne's 30th Anniversary</i></p> <p>9:15am Sunday School, Faith Formation</p> <p>10:15am Journey Worship</p> <p>Potluck to Follow Service</p> | <p><u>December 14</u></p> |
| <p><u>December 11</u></p> <p>9:30am Staff Meeting</p> <p>2:00pm Future Planning</p> | <p><u>December 15</u></p> <p>Messenger Deadline</p> |
| <p><u>December 12</u></p> <p>7:45am Men's Fellowship</p> <p>11:00am Worship Planning</p> <p>2:30pm Golden Horizon</p> <p>3:30pm Meadows and other Care Centers</p> <p>7:00pm Bell Choir</p> | <p><u>December 16</u></p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p> |
| <p><u>December 13</u></p> <p>9:00am Quilt Tying</p> <p>11:30am WACMA</p> <p>5:30pm Meal- Soup & Sliders</p> <p>To follow Meal Caroling @ Care Centers</p> <p>7:45pm Busker Band</p> | <p><u>December 17</u></p> <p>8:00am First Word Worship</p> <p>9:00am Coffee & Kinship</p> <p>Contemporary Coffee</p> <p>9:15am FF/SS</p> <p>10:15am Journey Worship</p> |
| | <p><u>Church Hours</u></p> |
| | <p><u>Office Hours</u></p> |
| | <p><u>Monday-Thursday</u></p> <p>8:00am-2:30pm</p> <p><u>Friday</u></p> <p>8:00am-12pm</p> |
| | <p><u>Monday-Friday</u></p> <p>8:00am-12pm</p> <p><u>Monday-Thursday</u></p> <p>12:30pm-2:30pm</p> |
| | <p><u>Friday</u></p> <p>Pastors' Sabbath Day</p> |