



Sunday, December 17, 2023
3rd Sunday in Advent

How Does a Weary World Rejoice? “We Allow Ourselves to Be Amazed”

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!”

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!

18) Harold Nelsen

19) Aubrey Anderson

21) Bella Fletcher, Kieth Olson

22) Daniel Quintanilla

23) Andi Bullerman, Sara Ponto, Kourtney Smith

Today’s Flower arrangement is given by:

Gordy & Lori Heitkamp

Celebrating Joe & Sarah Anderson 15th Anniversary

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 Sing Stories of Hope”*

Luke 1: 46-55 and Luke 1: 67-80

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

Anthem: *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"*

Bell Choir

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

Psalm 126 (prayed responsively by half verse)

Video: *Oh, Holy Night* from CRU

Gospel: Luke 1: 57-66

Advent Song: *He Came Down*

ELW 253

Message

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn: *Awake, Awake, To Greet the New Dawn*

ELW 242

Advent Affirmation of Faith

The Prayers of the Church

Peace

Offering: *Instrumental*

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: *Instrumental*

Communion Blessing

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn:
Dismissal
Postlude

Doxology for a Weary World

8 AM | First Word Worship Leaders

Ministers: All people of the American Lutheran Church

Pastors: Anne Hokenstad and Jeremy Hallquist

Musicians: Sherri Isder and Rich & Kris Besel

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

Greeters: Harlan & Pam Handevidt

Caring News | Prayer Ministry

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

- Ruth & John Rusche
- Maci Their
- Gerald Fuerstenberg
- Cheryl Martinez
- Jeanene Townswick

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):

- Healing that comes after illness
- Joyous sounds of Christmas

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

Anthem: *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

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Beginning Words

Prayer of Confession

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Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Words of Institution

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Communion Instructions

Communion Song: *O Lamb of God*

Music During Communion: *Instrumental*

Communion Blessing

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn: *Doxology for a Weary World*

Dismissal
Postlude

10:15 AM | Journey Worship Leaders

Ministers: All people of American Lutheran Church

Pastors: Anne Hokenstad & Jeremy Hallquist

Musicians: Sherri Isder and Rich & Kris Besel

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

Greeter: Greg & Barb Raymo

This Sunday 12/17	Next Sunday 12/24 Christmas Eve
Fill: Sue Rose	9:00 Fill- Paul & Karen Hanbury
Refill: Aubrey Anderson	4:00 Refill- Harlan & Pam Handevidt
Clean up: Karen Pfeifer	6:00 Refill- Lori Heitkamp
Communion Servers: 8:00- Dave & Brenda	10:00 Refill- Pam & Harlan Handevidt
Baerenwald, Karla Kirkeby	Clean up Karen Pfeifer
10:15- Greg & Barb Raymo, Jill Cuperus	Servers: 9:00am- Gordy & Lori Heitkamp, Mark Shepherd
Coffee Servers: Karen & Craig Pfeifer	4:00pm- Steve & Lori Dudley, Karen Pfeifer
Church Lock-up: Harlan Handevidt	6:00pm- Bruce & Karen Juber, Harlan Handevidt
	10:00pm- Jay & Melissa Jensen, Diana Kvilhaug



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.

Announcements | Dec 17-24, 2023

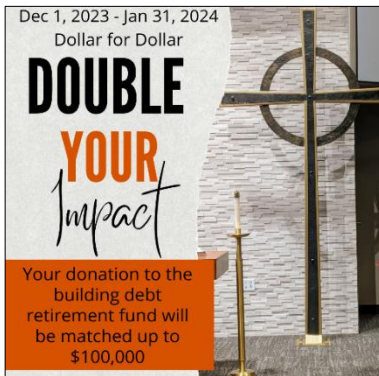
Important Deadline:

*****Reports for the Annual Meeting are due to Kelly by noon on January 9.



Can you help? – Next Sunday, December 24th after the 9:00 worship service, the Worship & Music Team will be putting batteries in the candles that are used for the Christmas Eve services. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall if you can help with this. Thanks!

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 \$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 20, Longest Night Service at 6:30pm

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

Christmas Worship Schedules are on page 7.

Advent & Christmas Season

Advent Hymn Sing: We sing the songs of our faith on Dec 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: 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 17-24 Calendar

The building will be closed Dec 25-29, 2023 and Jan 1, 2024

<u>December 17</u> 8:00am First Word 9:00am Coffee & Kinship Contemporary Coffee 9:15am Sunday School, Faith Formation 10:15am Journey Worship	<u>December 21</u> 9:00am – 1:00pm 6:30pm <u>December 22</u> <u>December 23</u> <u>December 24</u> 9:00am Advent Worship 4:00pm Family Service 6:00pm Traditional Worship 10:00pm Christmas Eve Vespers <u>Church Hours</u> <u>Office Hours</u>	Shetek Pastors Conference Church Council <i>Office Closed</i> Advent 4 Advent Worship Family Service Traditional Worship Christmas Eve Vespers <u>Monday-Thursday</u> 8:00am-2:30pm <u>Friday</u> 8:00am-12pm <u>Monday-Friday</u> 8:00am-12pm <u>Monday-Thursday</u> 12:30pm-2:30pm <u>Friday</u> Pastors' Sabbath Day
<u>December 18</u> 9:30am Staff Meeting		
<u>December 19</u> 7:45am Men's Fellowship 11:00am Worship Planning 6:30pm No Prayer Shawl 7:00pm No Bell Choir		
<u>December 20</u> 9:00am Quilt Tying 1:00pm No Prayer Shawl 6:30pm Longest Night Service 7:00pm Voices of Praise Practice		