**Sunday, December 24, 2023**

**4th Sunday in Advent**

 ***How Does a Weary World Rejoice? We Allow Ourselves To Be Amazed”***

**9:00am Worship Order is on page 2**

**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!*

*25)* Jim Christensen, Gary Boltjes

26) Steph Fletcher, Dean Selberg

28) Arnie Fischer, Russell Obermoller, Barb Raymo

29) Dalen Schultz

31) Lawson Cuperus

 **Today’s Flower arrangement is given by:**

CHRISTMAS

***Open dates are Jan. 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.

**9AM | First Word Worship Order**

**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**

New Testament Psalm: Luke 1: 46-55 (Mary’s Song)

Advent Song: *Praise God Who Lives Within You*

Gospel: Luke 1: 67 – 80 (Zechariah’s Song)

Message

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Hymn: *People Look East* **ELW 248**

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: *Doxology for a Weary World*

Dismissal

Postlude

**9 AM | First Word Worship Leaders**

**Ministers:**All people of the American Lutheran Church

**Pastors:** Anne Hokenstad and Jeremy Hallquist
**Musicians:** Sylvia Anderson and Rich & Kris Besel
**Ushers:** Shauna Carroll, Laura Hoffman, Russell Obermoller, Dave Nerem
**Greeters:** Kieth & Marj Olson

**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
* Frank Hanbury- Father of Paul Hanbury

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| **This Sunday 12/24 Christmas Eve** | **Next Sunday 12/31 New Year’s Eve** |
| **9:00 Fill**- Paul & Karen Hanbury | 9:00 Fill- Verne & Val Correll |
| **4:00 Refill-** Harlan & Pam Handevidt | Cleanup- Marlyn & Corrine Mammen |
| **6:00 Refill-** Lori Heitkamp |  |
| **10:00 Refill**- Sharon Johansen**Clean up** Karen Pfeifer**Servers: 9:00am**- Gordy & Lori Heitkamp, Mark Shepherd**4:00pm**- Steve & Lori Dudley, Karen Pfeifer**6:00pm**- Bruce & Karen Juber**10:00pm**- Jay & Melissa Jensen, Diana Kvilhaug**Coffee Servers: No coffee Christmas Eve** | **Communion Servers: 9:00-** Aubrey Anderson, Mike & Lisa Petersen, Connie Voss**New Year’s Eve****Coffee Servers- Marchelle Jorgensen, Gary & Mary Brandt****Church Lock-up:** Harlan Handevidt |

**Announcements | Dec 25, 2023 – Jan 1, 2024**

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

**Sunday, Dec 31, 2023**

**9:00am Worship**

**Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion**

**Can you help?** – Today, after worship, the Worship & Music Team will be putting batteries in the candles for use this evening during our Christmas Eve worship services. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall if you are able to help. Many hands make light work! Thanks!