

The American Lutheran Church of Windom

Living God's grace, we cultivate community to love and serve.



— THIRD SUNDAY OF —
ADVENT

December 13, 2020 9:00 AM
Third Sunday of Advent

906 Prospect Ave, PO Box 188
Windom MN 56101; Phone: 507-831-1794
E-Mail: winalc@windomnet.com
Website: www.alcofwindom.com

Sundays 9:00 am Worship & 10:30 am Virtual BAM-S
Wednesdays 5:30 pm WOW & 6:30 pm Virtual BAM-W

Pastors Sarah Tadé and Adam Roberts
Ministers: Everyone

WELCOME!

WE ARE HAPPY YOU ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US TODAY

If you are new to us or visiting from another church, please email our ALC office if you would like more information on our Church or would like to know how to join. We'd love to be in touch with you.

AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING may be in progress during church services /events. Audio, video, and/or photos of the services/events may be posted or aired online for public viewing.

The American Lutheran Church of Windom has moved all worship services and activities online until further notice. Please check out our ALC website, www.alcofwindom.com, YouTube Channel, and our Facebook page to view online services, events, and stay up-to-date on the latest information.

GATHERING MUSIC

Kari Scheitel, Pianist

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOISY OFFERING

Helping Hands

GATHERING:

P: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

THE PEACE CANDLE: ADVENT 3

P: Lord, here is the hope! You have sent us to proclaim the good news to the oppressed,

C: We are all called to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives

P: Let us proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

C: You comfort all who mourn, and give us the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

P: You promise to repair the ruins! Let us live into peace.

C: We live into Peace, Loving God!

Light the Promise Candle

(Congregation can sing as the light is brought forward and lit)

Family/Individual: John and Melanie Shamp family

As we light the Advent candle

with the light of hope burning bright,

faithfully we wait for his coming;

faithfully it shines through the night.

In our humble hearts a fire burns as well;

hear the prayer these flames would tell.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, (ELW p. 257)

and ransom captive Israel.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, wherever we see fighting, lies, and hatred show us peace, not as a passive thing, but as the power to acknowledge each and every creature's mutual worth. Help us to live into Peace every time we wait for Jesus, we pray. Amen

OPENING HYMN “*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*” ELW#256

Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way. Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People” Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Public Domain.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Renewing God,

C: You have come into our world to live among us, yet we often lose sight of this and seek to manufacture our own truth. We are afraid to share your word lest others judge or mock us. We ignore your wisdom because it isn't convenient. We allow ourselves to be defeated by despair. Forgive our negligence and breathe new life into our heavy hearts.

P: God knows our every weakness and still loves us and upholds our life. **“Your present and past sins are forgiven and may your hope be restored** in the name of our incarnate savior, Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “*He Came Down*” (v 1) ELW #253

He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love, he came down that we many have love; hallelujah forevermore.

“He Came Down” Text: Cameroon traditional Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense #A-718031.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Faithful God, You restore to your people all that has been lost. Renew our hopes for the future and our zeal for serving you as chosen and beloved children, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61:1-11 Reader: Danni Vagle

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁵Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; ⁶but you shall be called priests of the Lord, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. ⁷Because their shame was double, and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs. ⁸For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord/ **Thanks be to God.**

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CHILDREN'S SERMON

Melanie Shamp, *Christian Ed Coor.*

MESSAGE

Pastor Sarah

SONG OF THE DAY ***“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”*** ELW #254

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art, dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king; born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense #A-718031

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

“Please share a greeting with those around you with a wave of your hand.”

OFFERING

We give, because God gives to us! Our ministries share God's love. Offerings may be dropped off in the offering box located in the entryway of the church parking lot doors or mailed to PO Box 188, Windom. You may also visit our website www.alcofwindom.com and check out

electronic/on-line giving by clicking on our GIVE TAB found in the top menu bar. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

OFFERING PRAYER

You love justice, O Lord, and long to see all your people live life abundant. Bless these gifts and make them work towards your vision of plenty for all, in the power of your Spirit. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

*“Get out your blessing hands, face the center, and repeat after me: **May the peace of God enfold us. The love of God uphold us And the grace of God remold us. Amen.***

CLOSING HYMN *“Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn”*

ELW #242

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together, he opens
wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing, his humble
song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing; music to heal
the broken soul and hymns of lovingkindness, the thunder of his anthems
roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.

In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing, as
morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring. Then
shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder, the
weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and
cheerless, the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving
and fearless. Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless
story; may God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.

“Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn” Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense #A-718031

DISMISSAL Go in Peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!
We will! Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

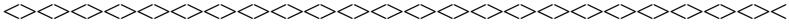
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WELCOME to worship at American Lutheran Church. In the scripture reading, although Israel had sinned and was exiled, God still promised a

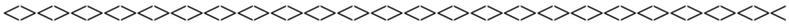
better future. One day God would adorn the people with salvation and righteousness.

JOIN US NEXT WEEK as we continue to wait for the joy that the Advent season will bring: Jesus's Birth Announced, Luke 1:26-45 [46-56]

RADIO SPONSORSHIP is in memory of Gloria Anderson given by Jim Anderson.



Attendance: None, Online format.
Offering \$11,321; Borrowed \$25,000



WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES IN THE TIME OF COVID 19: Due to the current rise in Covid cases in the community and the entire Windom School District moving to Distance Learning, **The American Lutheran Church of Windom has moved all worship services and activities online until further notice.** Please stay tuned in to our Facebook page or on our website to view these online services, events, and stay up-to-date on the latest information. Sorry for any inconvenience!

If you have any donations, volunteer opportunity forms, pledge cards, offering, or anything else you need to drop off at the church. You may do that in the entryway of the parking lot doors. Thank you!

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS & FAMILIES: Please go to the ALC website www.alcofwindom.com, click on the Youth Ministries tab, and then click on Confirmation to complete your weekly lesson.

SHARING CENTER UPDATES: ALC provided 200 pounds of food for the Sharing Center and \$130 in cash and checks! Thank you for your contributions!

The Sharing Center could use personal health care products. If you're out shopping and have a couple extra bucks and would like to buy them shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, etc., they would really appreciate it.

NOISY OFFERING FOR DECEMBER is being collected for the ALC Helping Hands fund. An offering can be placed in the parking lot entry. Please bring in your donations to ALC.

UPDATE: LIVING NATIVITY!! Thursday, December 17th. 5:00-7:00 PM not just a youth event this year! A drive by collection for the Food Shelf and Bible characters will be in the stable. This would be a great family activity! Contact the church office (phone or email) or Melanie Shamp if you would be willing to take a half hour shift portraying Mary, Joseph, an Angel or one of the 3 wisemen.

REMINDER TO GET YOUR ORDERS IN FOR DR. MARY'S GOODIES BY FRIDAY AT THE END OF THE WORK DAY! You can find the link for the order from on the homepage of the church website in the "December Events" section, and on the church FB page. There are also paper copies available at the church in the lobby of the parking lot doors.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: Our Christmas Eve worship, "A Musical Journey to Bethlehem" featuring many ALC musicians, will be available online by noon Christmas Eve. This is a candlelight service. You may use your own candles or there are some available in the entryway at church. Online locations include American Lutheran Church Facebook page, alcofwindom website, and American Lutheran Windom, MN youtube page. You may also listen to the service on KDOM 103.1 FM at 7:00 PM.

FEELING ALONE? You are not the only one!! Quarantine is not fun and isolation doesn't help anybody's spirits. It is just the time we are in. Call a friend, reach out to others, and pray for God is near. Your church staff is also here for you. Don't hesitate to call or reach out!

SMART PHONE SMALL GROUPS: We're looking to start small groups via the free app called Groupme. It's basically a group chat where there will be devotions posted and also a confidential place to share with a small group of fellow siblings in Christ our joys to thank God for and our struggles that we need prayers to help with. We'd like to test it for the month of January so that if people don't like it they don't have to feel guilty about quitting. If people like it we'll start it up continuously. Let Pastor Adam or the office know if you're interested.

HELP WANTED: The American Lutheran Church of Windom is seeking a part-time youth coordinator and Christian education coordinator to help with our Bible And Me (BAM) Sunday school program and also our teenage youth groups. Both positions are for 10 hours a week. Apply for one or both. An application form is available in the church office or visit: www.alcofwindom.com.

GLOW BIBLE STUDY: Even though we can't meet in person doesn't mean we can't still study scripture together. GLOW will be doing the Bible study titled "Journeys With Angels" on the 17th at 2pm and we'd love for you to join us. Go to zoom.com, click "join a meeting" at the top right. The room code is 835 3924 2345 and the password is WELCA.

HELP WANTED: The American Lutheran Church of Windom is seeking a part-time youth coordinator and Christian education coordinator to help with our Bible And Me (BAM) Sunday school program and also our teenage youth groups. The youth coordinator is for 8 hours a week and the Christian ed coordinator is for 10 hours a week. Apply for one or both. An application form is available in the church office or visit: www.alcofwindom.com.