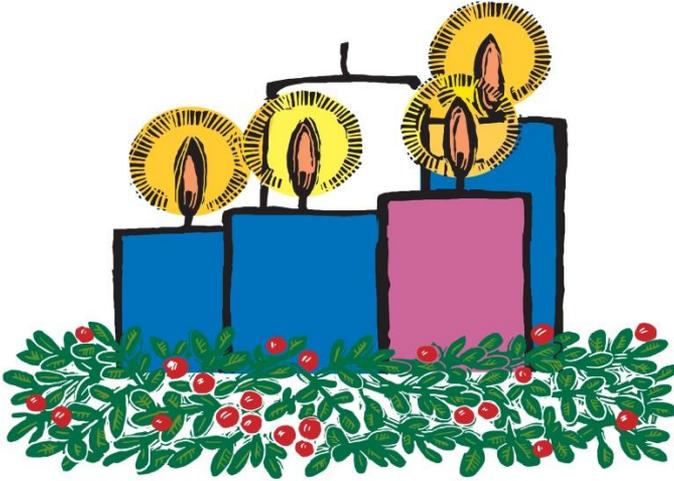


# The American Lutheran Church of Windom

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



— FOURTH SUNDAY OF —  
**ADVENT**

**December 16, 2020 5:30 PM &  
December 20, 2020 9:00 AM  
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

906 Prospect Ave, PO Box 188  
Windom MN 56101; Phone: 507-831-1794  
E-Mail: [winalc@windomnet.com](mailto:winalc@windomnet.com)  
Website: [www.alcofwindom.com](http://www.alcofwindom.com)

Sundays 9:00 am Digital Worship & 10:30 am Virtual BAM-S  
Wednesdays 5:30 pm Digital 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](http://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

Sarah Tailowright, Pianist

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING:

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

C: **Amen**

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

THE JOY CANDLE: ADVENT 4

P: Lord God, this is the time to magnify You!

**C: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant**

P: We are called to see how God has brought down the powerful from their thrones

**C: We look and acknowledge and proclaim with joy that it is God who lifts up the lowly**

P: God's promises are forever! This is the day that the Lord has made!  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

**C: Loving God, we live into Joy.**

**Light the Joy Candle**

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

*Family/Individual: Tom and Sue Jensen*

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

**Holy Spirit, as we feel the stirrings of Joy that Jesus Christ is a part of our lives, remind us that Jesus came to help all people from generation to generation. When the hungry are filled with good things, there is joy. Help us to live into Joy every time we wait for Jesus, Amen.**

*"Light the Advent Candle" by Ruth Elaine Schram. www.liturgylink.net. Reprinted under OneLicenses: #96277  
Lighting the Advent Candle Liturgy. Katy Stenta.katyandtheword. 2020*

## OPENING HYMN **"O Lord How Shall I Meet Thee"** ELW #241

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright? Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight! Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

I lay in fetters, groaning; you came to set me free. I stood, my shame bemoaning; you came to honor me. A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high that will not fail or leave me as earthly riches fly.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me. Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty. Oh, love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.

Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, who sit in deepest gloom, who mourn your joys departed and tremble at your doom. All hail the Lord's appearing! O glorious Sun, now come, send forth your beams so cheering and guide us safely home.

*"O Lord How Shall I Meet Thee" Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite 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

**God of surprises, You blessed Mary and Elizabeth with the gift of holy children, and they faithfully embraced your calling. Give us peace and joy as we await your coming among us, in the form of a humble baby—our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING      Luke 1:26-45 [46-56]      Pew Bible p.

Reader: Carolyn Torkelson

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God."

<sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

[<sup>46</sup>And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his

servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” <sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

### 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 **“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”** ELW #251

- 1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I sing my Savior's praise!  
You looked upon my lowliness, and I am full of grace. Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age this blessing shall proclaim— great wonders you have done for me, and holy is your name.
- 2 To all who live in holy fear your mercy ever flows. With mighty arm you dash the proud, their scheming hearts expose. The ruthless you have cast aside, the lowly throned instead; the hungry filled with all good things, the rich sent off unfed.
- 3 To Israel, your servant blest, your help is ever sure; the promise to our parents made their children will secure. Sing glory to the Holy One, give honor to the Word, and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all adored.

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness” Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-718031 All Rights Reserved.

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](http://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 long to see your people treated fairly, and for all to have their needs provided. Bless and use these gifts for the work of your just kingdom throughout the world, that all might see and know your love and mercy. 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

**“Hark the Glad Sound”**

ELW #239

\*\*\*Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long; let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held. The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

\*\*\*\*He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure, and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim, and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

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

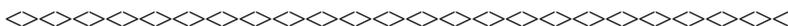
POSTLUDE

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**WELCOME** to worship at American Lutheran Church. In the scripture reading, without fanfare, an angel announced the coming of a baby to Mary. While she waited, she took the opportunity to seek out her support community and prepare for the child's arrival.

**JOIN US NEXT WEEK** as we celebrate the Birth of Jesus!  
Luke 2: 1-14 [15-20]

**RADIO SPONSORSHIP** for today's worship service is in memory of Richard "Dick" Severson given by Grace Severson.



Attendance: None, Online format.  
Offering \$7,329; 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. 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! Sorry for any inconvenience!

**REMINDER: Living Nativity** will be held Thursday, Dec. 17th between 5:00-7:00PM. This is a drive by event. There will also be a collection for the Sharing Center.

**THANK YOU** to the GLOW ladies who remembered us at hillside manner again. It's a great day brightener in this age we're living in because some days get long for us. Thanks again from your friends at Hillside and Merry Christmas!

**MELANIE'S LAST SUNDAY 12/27:** We have been blessed to have Melanie Shamp serving this congregation as Christian Education Coordinator since November, 2018 and Youth and Family Coordinator since April, 2019. Sadly, she will be leaving these positions at the end of 2020 to take a position

somewhere else. She will continue on with Christian Education as a Long-term Substitute until the position is filled. Thank you, Melanie for all that you've done for our children, youth and us all!!

**CONFIRMATION STUDENTS & FAMILIES:** Please go to the ALC website [www.alcofwindom.com](http://www.alcofwindom.com), click on the Youth Ministries tab, and then click on Confirmation to complete your weekly lesson. There will be no confirmation on Dec 23rd or Dec 30th.

**SHARING CENTER UPDATES:** 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.

**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](http://www.alcofwindom.com) website, and American Lutheran Windom, MN YouTube page. You may also listen to the service on KDOM 103.1 FM at 7:00 PM.

**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](http://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 our ALC Facebook page or our website and click on the zoom link. 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](http://www.alcofwindom.com).