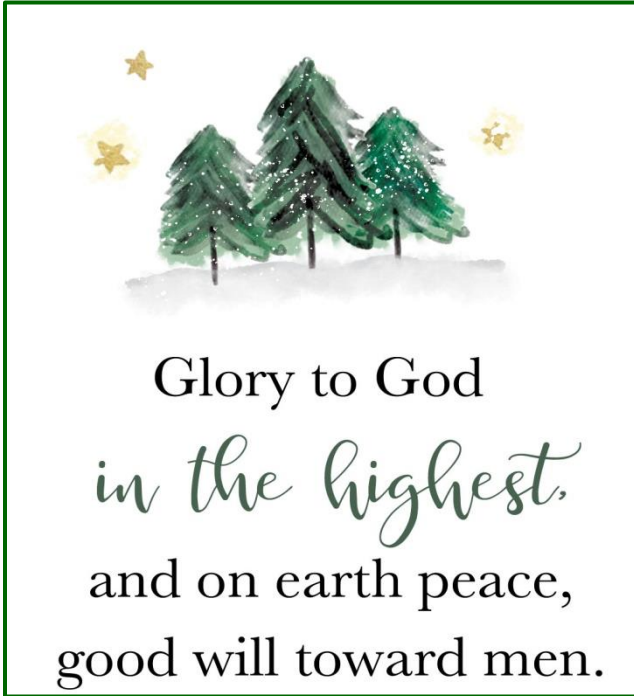


The American Lutheran Church of Windom

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



Sunday, December 27, 2020 9:00 AM
First Sunday of Christmas

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 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, YouTube Channel, and our Facebook page to view online services, events, and stay up-to-date on the latest information.

ASSISTING MINISTER

Kim Armstrong

GATHERING MUSIC

Angie Erickson, Organist/Pianist

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recognition of Melanie Shamp, Christian Ed and Youth & Family Coord

GATHERING:

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

C: **Amen**

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Rejoice! Our eyes have seen God's salvation!

C: It has been revealed to all people:

L: Gentiles and Jews,

C: Female and male,

L: Bound and free.

C: Rejoice! Our eyes have seen God's Salvation!

OPENING HYMN

"The Bells of Christmas"

ELW #298

- 1 The bells of Christmas chime once more; the heav'nly guest is at the door. He comes to earthly dwellings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.
- 2 This world, though wide and far outspread, could scarcely find for you a bed. Your cradle was a manger stall, no pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.

4 Oh, join with me, in gladness sing, to keep our Christmas with our king, until our song, from loving souls, like rushing mighty water rolls!

6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest, and keep your Christmas in our breast; then David's harpstrings, hushed so long, shall swell our jubilee of song.

“The Bells of Christmas” Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823-1883, 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. May your sins be forgiven, your past forgotten, and your hope restored in the name of our incarnate savior, Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

KYRIE

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE *“Love Has Come”* ELW #292

Love has come—a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love Has Come” Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950 Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc., Reprinted under CCLI License # 836709. “Love Has Come” Arrangement, Text © 1996 Living the Natural Way, admin. Music Services, Brentwood, TN. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-718031

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all ages, Your servants Anna and Simeon recognized your salvation in the face of the infant Jesus. May we also see in him the pathway to forgiveness and the fulfillment of all your promises. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:21-38

Pew Bible p. 832

Reader: Amanda Wilson

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.

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CHILDREN’S SERMON

Melanie Shamp, *Christian Ed Coor.*

MESSAGE

Pastor Adam

SONG OF THE DAY *“Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak”*

ELW #676

Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in living echoes of your tone; as you have sought, so let us seek your straying children, lost and lone.

Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the wand'ring and the wav'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed your hung'ring ones with manna sweet.

Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the precious truths which you impart; and wing our words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.

Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord, until our very hearts o'erflow in kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

“Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak” Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt. Public Domain

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 see the innermost thoughts of our hearts, O God, and know our every motive. Bless these gifts and purify our spirits so that we continue to offer ourselves and our lives to your service, for the sake of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

***“Almighty God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.” Amen.***

CLOSING HYMN “*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*” ELW #288

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866 Public Domain

DISMISSAL

Go in Peace. Serve the Lord! / We will! Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

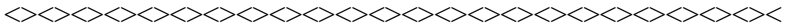
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WELCOME to worship at American Lutheran Church! In the scripture reading, the righteous man, Simeon, and the prophet, Anna, both recognized the fulfillment of God’s promises in the baby, Jesus, when he was presented before the temple for circumcision on his eighth day after birth.

JOIN US NEXT WEEK for Boy in the Temple, Luke 2:41-52

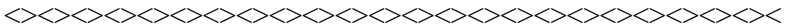
RADIO SPONSORSHIP for today’s worship service is in loving memory of Margaret Larsen, who passed away on December 12th and would have been 89 years old on December 22nd given by Gina Hauge and family.

A **RADIO GIFT** was also given in loving memory of Bob Boomgarden, whose birthday is today, December 27th given by Carolyn Boomgarden and family.



Attendance: None, Online format.

Offering \$9,409; needed to meet commitments \$10,000



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!

Card Shower in Celebration of **AVIS FETT’S 90TH BIRTHDAY** on December 30th. Please send cards and or greetings to Avis Fett at 705 6th St. Room 413 Windom, MN 56101 to help her celebrate!

MELANIE’S LAST SUNDAY, TODAY: 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!!

WELCOME TO DON CROWELL! ALC's new custodian! On Wednesday, Dec. 30th Don will be installed.

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. 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.

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.

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!