

The American Lutheran Church of Windom

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



Sunday, March 7, 2021 9:00 AM
Third Sunday in Lent

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
5:45 pm Lenten Worship

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 fill out a yellow postcard for us or email our ALC office winalc@windomnet.com 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.

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

Rozanne Gronseth, Pianist

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING:

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

C: **Amen**

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We have all gone astray like sheep,

C: Yet God has called us back.

L: We long for your salvation, Lord.

C: Your law is our delight.

L: Let us sing of God's promises,

C: For we live to praise our creator!

OPENING HYMN *"Softly & Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"* ELW #608

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me. See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Refrain

"Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!) You who are weary, come home." Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me? Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*

3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

"Softly & Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909 Public Domain

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: God of mercy,

C: Jesus was faithful even in the face of death, yet we so often fail you in day to day living. Our commitment is shaky, our promises are unreliable, and our actions are questionable. We quit when discipleship becomes difficult and complain that we don't get enough credit. Forgive us our neglect of your mission and our lukewarm devotion and wake us up to the urgency of your gospel.

P: God is gracious and pardons all our shortcomings. The giver of life forgives your sins. May God restore to you the joy of discipleship and service, for the sake of Jesus our faithful Lord.

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.

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

LENTEN RESPONSE *“May the God of All Healing”* ELW #220

May the God of all healing enfold us in love, fill us with peace, and lead us to wholeness and strength. *(Repeat)*

“May the God of All Healing” Text: Life Passages, Renewing Worship 4 Text © 2002 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Forgiving God, You long for your lost children to return to you. Lead us homeward on the path of repentance, that we might be restored to you and to your community in Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION..... ELW Pg. 142
“Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful; slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.”

READING Luke 15: 1-32 Reader: Sam Doorenbos
Reader: The holy gospel according to Saint Luke, Chapter 15/
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³So he told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

¹¹Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’ ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it

on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. / **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Narrative Lectionary Program | 2020-21 | Worship Resources Copyright ©2020 Clergy Stuff. Reprinted with permission under
Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-718031. All Rights Reserved.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Pastor Sarah

MESSAGE

Pastor Sarah

SONG OF THE DAY

“Amazing Grace”

ELW #779

- 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

“Amazing Grace” Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5 Public Domain

APOSTLE’S CREED

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.
As you leave the sanctuary, there will be an opportunity to place your offering in the offering plates located at the back of the church.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Before your altar we bring these offerings, asking you to bless them and us. We give thanks for your mercy which allows us to serve another day in your kingdom and be instruments of your grace and peace. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

PIANO MEDITATION

Communion Song (if needed), "For the Bread which You Have Broken" ELW 494 "For the Bread which You Have Broken" Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855-1930, alt. Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr. Podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-718031.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG *"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"* ELW #324

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy, never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way, from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified; peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

In the Cross of Christ I Glory" Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872 Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, remember the poor! / **We will! Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

+++++

WELCOME to worship at American Lutheran Church! In the scripture reading, Through the parable of the lost sheep and coin, and the parable of the lost son, Jesus showed how repentance is about returning what was lost and repairing damaged relationships.

JOIN US NEXT WEEK for Rich Man and Lazarus, Luke 16:19-31

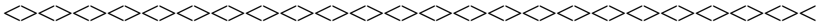
YOUTH PARTICIPANTS:

Acolytes: Tia Obondo, Olivia Hoffman
Ushers: Charlie Erickson, Adam Dahna

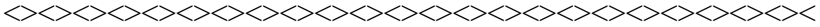
Scripture Reader: Sam Doorenbos

RADIO SPONSORSHIP for today's worship service is in honor of Jim & Elaine Nelson's 45th Wedding Anniversary on Friday, March 5th.

A **RADIO GIFT** was also given in honor of LeRoy & Elaine Larson's 58th Wedding Anniversary.



Attendance: Wednesday, 119; Sunday, 47;
Offering: \$5,623



NEXT WEEK'S NOISY OFFERING is designated to The Windom Area Sharing Center. Please bring your spare change!

EASTER FLOWER order forms were sent out in the messenger and are located in the Narthex on the back table for those who are interested in ordering. The deadline to order Easter Flowers is **March 8th at 12 noon**.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ruby Baloun, who won the free full week Shetek campership and congratulations to Adeline Mickelson, who won the free mini Shetek campership! Thank you to all who participated! Reminder ALC will provide \$200 towards a full week campership and \$100 towards the mini campership for all members who attend camp.

Remember to set your clocks ahead! Sunday, March 14th begins **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**. Please be aware of the time change so you are not late for worship on Sunday morning.

HOLY COMMUNION for those worshipping at home: we want everyone to receive Holy Communion who wants to receive it. Please call the church to arrange for one of the pastors to bring you Communion at home, or if you prefer to come in during the week or even drive by, that can be arranged too.

Lenten Worship Themes

Jesus: Our Hope for Healing and New Life

Lent 1: Jesus, God's Fragrant Offering

Lent 2: Eighth Commandment Way of Life

Lent 3: Forgiveness

Lent 4: Community Building

Lent 5: Fasting/Taking On

LENTEN WORSHIP FOR ALC & BETHANY

When: 5:45 PM Wednesdays 02/24, 03/03, 03/10, 03/17, 03/24. Due to covid there will be no Lenten suppers this year.

Theme: *Jesus: Our Hope for Healing and New Life*

This past year has been hard. COVID has separated us physically. Current events have pitted people against each other. The book of Ephesians has a lot to teach us about unity in the Body of Christ and the new life which is possible in Him! Come join the 40 day journey as we do the hard work of examining our hearts and mending our relationships to be more like Jesus.

FORTY DAY CHALLENGE! Church and Society is challenging EVERYONE to give \$1 a day for forty days during lent. The money collected will be



given to the **Southwest Minnesota Crisis Center**. Donations help provide a safe place, food, and clothing for men, women, or children escaping domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, or sex trafficking. Please join us in supporting this important ministry.

Mid-week Ecumenical Lenten Services at the Presbyterian Church

Where? First United Presbyterian Church, 336 11th St.

What? 30 minute Lenten Worship (in-person and through Facebook live).

When? 12:00 noon: February 24th, March 3rd, March 10th (ALC Hosts), March 17th (ALC Hosts), and March 24th. *Please note: due to covid there will be no noon meal following the service.

ONDINI PARTNERSHIP: At their February meeting our church council made a donation to the Shetek Conference/Ondini circuit partnership account. They also encouraged the congregation to add to the partnership account to help the Ondini churches in their time of need. The COVID virus has been hard on the people of the Ondini Circuit. To control the spread of the virus churches have been shut down. Pastors, who depend on the weekly donations of their parish, are going without pay. None of the earlier vaccines have been effective against the South African Strain of COVID. Funerals, which are traditionally held on Saturday have had to be done on other days of the week because so many are dying. Five pastors and the bishop of the circuit have died of the virus. If it is possible we ask you to help out our partners in South Africa. Donations earmarked for the Shetek/Ondini Partnership may be left in the office at any time. Thank you.

“ASSURANCE,” A CD OF FAITH-BASED HARP MUSIC RECORDED BY KAREN WOJAHN, is available in the church office. A minimum donation of \$10 per CD is requested, payable to American Lutheran Church, which will be forwarded to the SW MN Synod’s Gifts of Grace Fund.

COVID ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING WORSHIP: On the first Wednesday of Lent we were blessed to have a lot of people worshipping! The downside is that we are nearing maximum capacity with Covid restrictions. As we’re allowed to sing now, our leadership is a bit anxious, although joyful, that we may have more worshippers in our sanctuary than we have room for. Therefore, to make the most space available, our ushers will assign you a seat from the front to the back. Once we reach 50% capacity, worshippers will then be seated in the Skylight Court or in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue to have online worship available. Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to do our best with this virus.

TEEN BIBLE STUDY “*You were Made to Make a Difference*” by Max Lucado & his daughter Jenna Lucado Bishop every other Sunday, March 7th and March 21st being the next sessions at 4:30pm in the Youth room. Snacks will be provided and FUN will be had!



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. Christian Ed is 10 hours a week and Youth & Family is 8 hours a week. Apply for one or both. An application form is available in the church office or visit: www.alcofwindom.com.