

December 2024 Newsletter

This time of year, Advent and Christmas, inside the church and in our society in general, we know what to expect. The predictable nature of the holidays is what makes them comforting. Uncertainty and change are stressful. We don't like to be in limbo, in an in-between time, in a time of transition. We like certainty, predictability, routine and comfort.

You know what it is like. You know what it means to live with uncertainty. If you have ever moved, or had children, or got married, or became ill, or lost a loved one, or lost a job, or went bankrupt, you know.

This church, American Lutheran, is in a time of uncertainty right now. You have lost your former pastors; they served you well for almost 2 decades. They helped make this church what it is today. They had a profound effect on many lives. They have been gone for over a year now. And your new pastor has not arrived yet. As a congregation we are in limbo, in an in-between time.

I happen to think that we are much more useful to God in these times, when we are a bit off balance. It is rather difficult, after all, to dance when both feet are firmly planted. God works well even in times that feel a bit chaotic to us.

And the familiar Christmas story from the gospel of Luke, chapter 2, is really a story about a couple, a family, caught in the stress of geo-political forces beyond their control, disrupted lives, rulers who killed their own people, having to flee one's home out of fear for their lives. It is a story about a chaotic time, for a family and a whole nation.

That is exactly where God chose to enter the human story in a new way. God is not afraid of chaos. We can't overwhelm God with our dilemmas. We can't even frustrate God with our stubbornness, immaturity and cruelty. God is infinitely creative and not only entered the human story long ago as a poor Jewish baby boy, but comes to us everyday in unusual disguises, to bless us, even in spite of ourselves.

Wherever rulers cause misery, wherever people are forced to flee out of fear, wherever new born babies face a fraught future, God is there. In the midst of it all. God does not promise us certainty, or predictability, but rather blessing and faith. God's promise is to be present, even in the midst of our uncertainty. This Christmas expect to be surprised by God's presence, look for it, and give thanks for it when you see it. Share it. Be it, for someone else. And then give thanks and praise to Emmanuel, God with us.

Christmas Blessings to you all!

Interim Pastor Bob

208-446-5206 pinetreepadre@gmail.com

Call, text, email, stop by and talk. I am in Newport Sunday through Tuesday.



Pastor Call Committee News

We appreciate your kind support and patience.
Please continue to reach out to any one of us with questions, concerns and comments.

Blessings;
ALC Call Committee
Annie, Larry, Kristy, David, Jason, Pat and Sandee

Thank you, all, for your input, prayers, and support as we continue our work.

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Your Call Committee



Attention Women!

Our October gathering re-worked our evening women's circle name after some contemplation and had a consensus to modify our name just a bit and now call it "Women, Wisdom and Wine!" Just a little tweak getting women at the forefront and the wisdom sandwiched between the women and the wine! We plan to meet the 3rd Tuesday each month at 5 PM at the church for sharing, caring and laughter. Bring yourself and a light snack to share if you care to. Friends are invited as well. Water and coffee will be available and wine if you bring it.



music ministry

Worship and Music

Several people have asked why we mix up and have so many liturgy services at ALC. Although I am a member of the Worship and Music Committee, I would like to address this with my own input which is not necessarily the view of the entire committee. I personally enjoy the variety of music in our services. The music from different settings and books gives me a way to listen to the melody and the words I am singing. If it were the same liturgy every week, I know rote memory would take over, and I would not pay as much

attention to the words put forth to worship my Lord. I enjoy singing the words, listening to them and putting them forth in different ways to a God I want to praise and serve.

I know it can be difficult to learn (or relearn) a liturgy setting; however, I challenge you to hear the music, listen to the words, live the faith, and worship the God we all share, praise and serve.

Thanks, Hedy



Dec. 5th 10 AM - filling Christmas bags for the food banks

Dec. 6th 10 AM - Decorate the church

Dec. 8th 11:30 AM - 2 PM - Soup and Silent Auction for Gabbie Salazar (Nikia's daughter)

Soup and Silent Auction for Gabbie

Beyond the meal and auction, we will also have music to dine by!

If you would like to help with either the meal or the auction, please see the sign up sheets in the back of the church or talk to Christian and Sarah Britton, Elaine Petersen or Hedy Mitchell.

As we continue to adjust to an upcoming new Pastor, be reminded that although the Pastor fills a leadership role, we, the Congregation, are the body of Christ in Newport. It is through the prayers and works of our members that the life of American Lutheran Church carries on. We are grateful for the many seen and unseen moments that bind us together in faith and fellowship. The Spirit flows throughout, REJOICE!

**Hedy Mitchell is looking for communion help for two weeks in August. Please contact her:
360-304-9964**



Marlene Faraca	12-01
Rebecca Morey	12-02
Holly Waterman	12-05
Keith Lyson	12-08
Imo Jones	12-11
Tom Bauer	12-14
Nakia Salazar	12-15
Shannon Radke	12-16
Janet Lambarth	12-16
Sandy Loskill	12-17
Randy Richter	12-18
Carol Rock	12-18
Neil Persyn	12-19
Scone Bender	12-21
Miller Griffith	12-22
Ed Heckman	12-24
Gae Lewis	12-25
Billie Goodno	12-27
Don Gumenberg	12-27
Norm Haikkila	12-28
Rocky Brumbaugh	12-28
Cheryl Bailey	12-29
Kathy Hansen	12-29

December 2024

1: Glen and Mary Bug Smith
8: Toby and Gail Johnson
15: Tom and Hazel Bauer
22: Tom and Hazel Bauer
24: Christian Bitton and Sarah Parlier
29: Sandy Loskill



December

1 - Robert Balow
 8 - Hedy Mitchell
 15 - Lee Shaver
 22 - Faith Hughes
 29 - Millie Brumbaugh

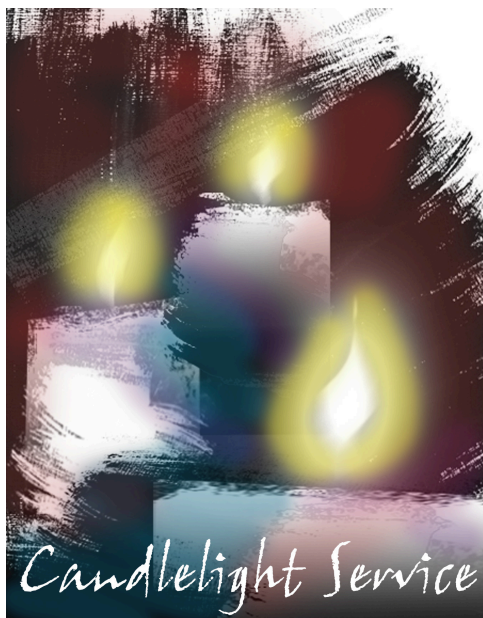


Anyone interested in sponsoring future 2nd Harvest Mobile Markets please contact Jeff Bell



Thrivent Members

We don't have a current membership list, so if you are a Thrivent member (formerly called Lutheran Brotherhood and Aid to Lutherans) please contact Hedy Mitchell, Kristi Bell or Sandy Ellersick.




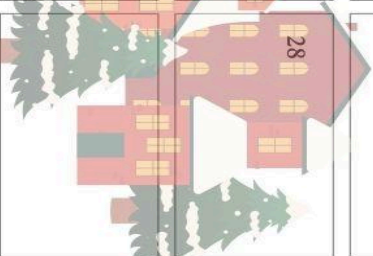


Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm

DECEMBER



2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 WORSHIP 10AM	2 10AM: BIBLE STUDY NOON: AL-ANON	3 10AM: QUILTING	4	5 10AM FILLING STOCKINGS FOR LOCAL FOOD BANKS 7PM: CHOIR	6 10AM DECORATING THE CHURCH	7
8 WORSHIP 10AM 11:30 FUNDRAISER FOR GABBY SALAZAR	9 10AM: BIBLE STUDY NOON: AL-ANON	10 10AM: ANNA CIRCLE 7PM: COUNCIL MEETING	11	12 7PM: CHOIR	13	14
15 WORSHIP 10AM	16 10AM: BIBLE STUDY NOON: AL-ANON	17 10AM: QUILTING 5PM WOMEN, WISDOM AND WINE!	18	19 7PM: CHOIR	20	21
22 WORSHIP 10AM	23 10AM: BIBLE STUDY NOON: AL-ANON	24 7PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	25 	26 	27 	28 
29 WORSHIP 10AM	30 10AM: BIBLE STUDY NOON: AL-ANON	31				

American Lutheran Church



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Church Council Members

President: Annie Frederick
Vice-President: Katie Kersting
Secretary: Pam Thompson
Treasurer: Kristi Bell

Education: Shannon Radke
Monica Jones
Terry Zakar

Evangelism: Val Samson
Sandy Loskill
Sue Scobby

Missions & Social Concerns: Mary Bug Smith
Jeff Bell
Bob Kowal

Property & Maintenance: Toby Johnson
Jason Jones
Dennis Alliger

Stewardship: Sophie Hinchcliff
Ken Brown
David Grice

Worship & Music: Nancy Sauer
Hedy Mitchell
Millie Brumbaugh

*Marked with the cross of Christ forever,
we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world.*