

# American Lutheran Church

Newport, Washington - (509) 447-4338 americanlutheranchurch.net

Interim Pastor: Bob Albing

Ministers: All the People of God

**Worship for the 3rd Sunday of Advent**

**December 14, 2025**

*Thank you for being the Body of Christ  
gathered here this morning.*

*We have committed as a church to pray for all those in our community who are living in the darkness of addiction. We have lit a candle in the front of the sanctuary as we pray for the light of Christ to break into their lives. Before worship begins, you are invited to light a candle for a friend or family member for whom you are praying.*

*During our Advent Season, we will be using Holden Evening Prayer as our liturgy. As the days get darker, we sing together in anticipation of the Light of Christ which no darkness can overcome.*



Welcome

Announcements

## Advent Candle Lighting

Light of Light

Choir

Congregation join chorus (see music below):

Voi - ces cry out from a world in grief:  
prayers of those who seek re - lief.  
End their dark - ness, hear their call for  
peace on earth, good will for all.

## Light of Joy

Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of living.

**Lord of light, we thank you for the gift of life.**

Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of relationships.

**Lord of light, we thank you for our friends and family.**

Advent is a time to celebrate the earth we all share.

**Lord of light, we thank you for providing for our needs.**

Advent is a time to celebrate eternal life.

**Lord of light, we thank you for sending a Savior.**

## Candle Lighting

Today we light three candles - the candle of hope, of peace and the candle of joy. This third candle reminds us that because of our Lord, we have reasons to be truly joyful. The world around us is filled with surprise and beauty. Our cups overflow with goodness and grace, and we rejoice in the promise of eternal life.

**Congregation: Voices cry out from a world in grief: prayers of those who seek relief. End their darkness, hear their call for peace on earth, good will for all.**

**Advent Prayer**

**Choir**

**Service of Light (Holden Evening Prayer - blue pages)**

**p. 2-8**

**Isaiah 35: 1 -10**

**Reader: Kristi Bell**

The desert will rejoice, and flowers will bloom in the wastelands. The desert will sing and shout for joy; it will be as beautiful as the Lebanon Mountains and as fertile as the fields of Carmel and Sharon. Everyone will see the Lord's splendor, see his greatness and power.

Give strength to hands that are tired and to knees that tremble with weakness. Tell everyone who is discouraged, "Be strong and don't be afraid! God is coming to your rescue, coming to punish your enemies."

The blind will be able to see, and the deaf will hear. The lame will leap and dance, and those who cannot speak will shout for joy. Streams of water will flow through the desert; the burning sand will become a lake, and dry land will be filled with springs.

Where jackals used to live, marsh grass and reeds will grow. There will be a highway there, called "The Road of Holiness." No sinner will ever travel that road; no fools will mislead those who follow it. No lions will be there; no fierce animals will pass that way. Those whom the Lord has rescued will travel home by that road. They will reach Jerusalem with gladness, singing and shouting for joy. They will be happy forever, forever free from sorrow and grief.

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

**Gospel: Matthew 11: 2 - 11**

When John the Baptist heard in prison about the things that Christ was doing, he sent some of his disciples to him.

"Tell us," they asked Jesus, "are you the one John said was going to come, or should we expect someone else?"

Jesus answered, "Go back and tell John what you are hearing and seeing: the blind can see, the lame can walk, those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases are made clean, the deaf hear, the dead are brought back to life, and the Good News is preached to the poor. How happy are those who have no doubts about me!"

While John's disciples were leaving, Jesus spoke about him to the crowds: "When you went out to John in the desert, what did you expect to see? A blade of grass bending in the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in fancy clothes? People who dress like that live in palaces! Tell me, what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes indeed, but you saw much more than a prophet. For John is the one of whom the scripture says: 'God said, I will send my messenger ahead of you to open the way for you.' I assure you that John the Baptist is greater than anyone who has ever lived. But the one who is least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than John.

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

**The Annunciation & Magnificat**

**p. 8,9**

**Sermon**

- 1) 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,  
to open wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever.
- 2) 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 loving kindness,  
the thunder of the anthems roll to shatter all hate and blindness.
- 3) 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, a lame shall leap in wonder,  
the weak are raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.
- 4) 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 every day we share, and bring us at last into glory.

#### Confession of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,  
our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the  
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### Litany & Prayers

p. 10, 11

#### Offering

*You may put your offerings in the basket on the table at the back of the church - or you are invited to make your offerings online on our website - [americanlutheranchurch.net](http://americanlutheranchurch.net) - or mail them to American Lutheran Church at PO Box 653- Newport, WA 99156*

#### Meal

##### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the Lord of Advent be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, lift up your waiting hearts.

**We lift them to the One whose heart longs for us.**

People of God, give thanks to the One who draws near to us.

As we gather at God's Table, we offer our thanks and praise.

#### Words of Institution

The mystery of faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

#### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.  
Amen.

## Invitation to Communion

*Jesus welcomes ALL to his table to receive his love and forgiveness -- his life given for you.  
Grape juice and gluten/soy/corn free wafers are available.*

Communion Hymns: 244, 253, 269

## Closing Prayer

### Final Blessing

p. 12

**Go in Joy. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

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*Masks are optional, but we recognize that COVID is still a reality and a concern for many who are vulnerable. Please wear a mask if you are feeling under the weather at all. Thank you so much!*

### **This Week**

Monday	10am	Bible Study
	Noon	Al-anon
Tuesday	10am	Quilting
Wednesday	7pm	Choir
Sunday	10 am	Worship

**Remember in Prayer:** Lucy Anderson (at the request of Mary Bug Smith), Cyndy Akre Grady, Scone Bender, Rudy Bergen, Annika Britton, Julie Brown and family, Barbara Campbell, Justin Carnie (Ruth and Mitch Carnie), Carlton Christy (at the request of the Graffs). Ellie, Bobbie Joe (at the request of Carlene Connelly), Shae Courtney (son-in-law of the Lewis'), Susan Fox, Dorothy Funden, Gladys Gerow, Ed and Lynda Heckman, Gary Heckathorn, Marva Heckathorn, Annika Hughes, Kurt Johnson, Imo Jones, Kapple family, Jeanette Reiter, Paul (Julie Brown's brother), Joel Robertson, Carol Rock, Sandy Rock (Joy Peralta's sister-in-law), Val Samson, Cheryl Schoesler, Judy Schoesler, Robin Smith (Graff's niece), Pamela Thompson's brother David, Chris Vullo (at the request of Judy Bell), Wayland VanZant, Audrey Wilbur (Marva's great niece), Josh Zakar and family, Terry Zakar

### Announcements:

**WWW will NOT be meeting Saturday Dec. 20th.**

**Christmas Eve Service:** December 24th, 7pm

**Giving Update:** November Actual Giving - \$19,284.00, November Budget - \$17,083.33, November Variance - +\$2200.67 YTD Variance to General Fund giving budget as of November 30, 2025 is (\$9,682.00)

The church is selling the organ. It is an Allen organ model no. MDS16. We are asking \$300.

**Second Harvest Mobile Market:** Dates for 2026  
Thurs. March 19  
Thurs May 7  
Thurs June 11  
Thurs September 10  
Thurs November 12

Pastor Bob Albing can be reached at (208)446-5206 and [pinetreepadre@gmail.com](mailto:pinetreepadre@gmail.com) In an emergency, if you are unable to reach Pastor Bob, Pastor Chris Hill is available: [pastorchrishill@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorchrishill@yahoo.com) 320-279-2374  
Also, Annie Frederick is available to answer any questions you may have about the transition: 509-270-0496 and [afrederick2018@outlook.com](mailto:afrederick2018@outlook.com)

If you would like to be on our email list, please send your information to [alc.churchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:alc.churchoffice@gmail.com)

