

American Lutheran Church

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

Interim Pastor: Bob Albing

Ministers: All the People of God

Worship for the 4th Sunday of Advent

December 21, 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 Love

Advent is a time to let go of anger and fear.
God of love, fill our hearts with true compassion.

Advent is a time to look for the best in others.

God of love, help us speak truth with kindness.

Advent is a time to share with those in need.

God of love, remind us that in giving, we receive.

Advent is a time to notice and appreciate the good around us.

God of love, help us see the world through loving eyes.

Candle Lighting

Today we light four candles - the candles of hope, peace, joy, and the candle representing love. This candle is a symbol of Christ's eternal love for us, as well as a reminder that we have been instructed to love others as we love ourselves. Because God is love, and because we were created in God's image, we ourselves are the embodiment of God's love here on earth. Love is patient and kind and powerful, and we all share the calling to go into the world and spread that love to others.

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

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Reader: Hedy Mitchell

The Lord sent another message to Ahaz: "Ask the Lord your God to give you a sign. It can be from deep in the world of the dead or from high up in heaven."

Ahaz answered, "I will not ask for a sign. I refuse to put the Lord to the test!"

To that Isaiah replied, "Listen, now, descendants of King David. It's bad enough for you to wear out the patience of people—do you have to wear out God's patience too? Well then, the Lord himself will give you a sign: a young woman who is pregnant will have a son and will name him 'Immanuel.' By the time he is old enough to make his own decisions, people will be drinking milk and eating honey. Even before that time comes, the lands of those two kings who terrify you will be deserted.

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

Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-25

This was how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married, she found out that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit. Joseph was a man who always did what was right, but he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly; so he made plans to break the engagement privately. While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. She will have a son, and you will name him Jesus—because he will save his people from their sins."

Now all this happened in order to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, "A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and he will be called Immanuel" (which means, "God is with us").

So when Joseph woke up, he married Mary, as the angel of the Lord had told him to. But he had no sexual relations with her before she gave birth to her son. And Joseph named him Jesus.

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

The Annunciation & Magnificat

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Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

#256

- 1) **Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.**
- 2) **For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.**
- 3) **Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.**

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

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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 - 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: 241, 257, 300

Closing Prayer

Final Blessing

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Go in Love. 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!

Join us after Coffee Hour for Caroling

This Week

Monday	Noon	Al-anon
Wednesday	7pm	Christmas Eve Service
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:

January Newsletter: If you have anything to include in the January newsletter, please make sure Laretta has it by Wednesday December 24. Thank you.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 7pm December 24th

Giving Update: November Actual Giving - \$ 19,283.68 November Budget - \$ 17,083.33 November Variance - \$2,200.35 YTD Variance to General Fund giving budget as of November 30, 2025 is (\$10,825.14)
Thank you for your faithful and generous gifts.

It's Annual Meeting time again:

All committee reports **must** be submitted by 12/31/2025 (alc.churchoffice@gmail.com)

The church council will be approving the budget on 1/13/26 and will be available to membership after that for review.

The annual report will need to be printed by 1/14/25. Our annual meeting is 1/25/26

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

Reminder: Please don't forget to set the alarm before leaving the church. If you do not have a code please text/call Laretta 509-447-3440