

American Lutheran Church

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

Substitute Pastor Brendan Wiechert

Ministers: All the People of God

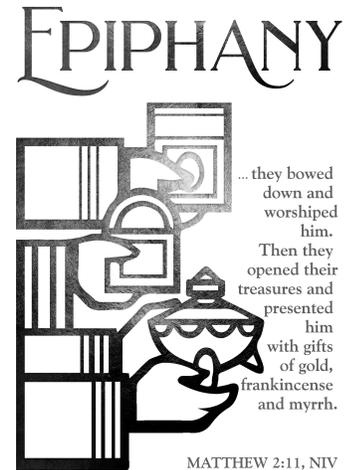
Epiphany Sunday

January 4, 2026

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

It is good to be together. Your presence here is a gift to God and to others 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.



Prelude

Welcome

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness (to the tune of "Of the Father's Love Begotten" #295)

Presider: Most merciful God,

Congregation: (sung): **We confess we're trapped in our sin, a-and cannot free ourselves.**

We have sinned by thought, word, and deed, by what we've done and not.

We've not loved you with our whole hearts, we've not loved our neighbors well.

Evermore and evermore.

For the sake of Jesus our Lord, have mercy on us.

Forgive, renew, and lead us. Help us to delight in your will.

Help us walk in your ways to the glory of your name.

Evermore and evermore.

Prayer of the Day

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Special Music

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Reader: Sandee Meade

Arise, Jerusalem, and shine like the sun; The glory of the Lord is shining on you! Other nations will be covered by darkness, But on you the light of the Lord will shine; The brightness of his presence will be with you. Nations will be drawn to your light, And kings to the dawning of your new day.

Look around you and see what is happening: Your people are gathering to come home! Your sons will come from far away; Your daughters will be carried like children. You will see this and be filled with joy; You will tremble with excitement. The wealth of the nations will be brought to you; From across the sea their riches will come. Great caravans of camels will come, from Midian and Ephah. They will come from Sheba, bringing gold and incense. People will tell the good news of what the Lord has done!

Psalms 72: 1-11

Teach the king to judge with your righteousness, O God; share with him your own justice, so that he will rule over your people with justice and govern the oppressed with righteousness.

May the land enjoy prosperity; may it experience righteousness.

May the king judge the poor fairly; may he help the needy and defeat their oppressors.

May your people worship you as long as the sun shines, as long as the moon gives light, for ages to come.
May the king be like rain on the fields, like showers falling on the land.
May righteousness flourish in his lifetime, and may prosperity last as long as the moon gives light.
His kingdom will reach from sea to sea, from the Euphrates to the ends of the earth.
The peoples of the desert will bow down before him; his enemies will throw themselves to the ground.
The kings of Spain and of the islands will offer him gifts; the kings of Sheba and Seba will bring him offerings. All kings will bow down before him; all nations will serve him.

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

Children's Sermon

Gospel Announcement: The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 2 verses 1-12 **Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterward, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?"

"In the town of Bethlehem in Judea," they answered. "For this is what the prophet wrote: 'Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah; for from you will come a leader who will guide my people Israel.'"

So Herod called the visitors from the East to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: "Go and make a careful search for the child; and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him."

And so they left, and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the East. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.

Then they returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

#302

- 1) As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by thee.
- 2) As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.
- 3) As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.
- 4) Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.
- 5) In the heav'nly county bright need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing alleluias to our king.

Apostle's Creed

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.

Prayers of Intercession Each petition will end with "Lord, in your mercy;"
the congregation responds with "hear our prayer."

Offering *You may put your offerings in the basket on the table in the back of the sanctuary -
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*

The Meal

The Preface (to the Tune of "O Come All Ye Faithful" # 283)

Presider: The Lord be-e with you,
Congregation: **And with you, His servant.**
Presider: O come, let us lift our hearts unto-o the Lord.
Congregation: **With hearts up lifted, thanks to Him we render;
With joy we come before Him, in gratefulness implore Him
With thankful hearts adore Hi-im, e-evermore**

Great Thanksgiving

Presider: Thanks the praise be to You, heavenly Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment. Of old your faithful people waited for the day of your visitation, manifest at last when the time had fully come and you sent Jesus Christ, your Son. Having seen His glory, now we wait for the day of consummation, when He will come again as Judge and King. And so with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

The Sanctus (to the tune of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" #270)

Congregation: **Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the glory of your name!
Hail, hosanna, God most high; blest is he who now draws nigh.
In the name of God the King; hallelujahs glad we sing;
Hail, hosanna praises due; be forever, Lord, to you.**

The Words of Institution

Presider: On the night in which he was betrayed our Lord took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." etc...

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer (to the time of "It Came upon a Midnight Clear" #282)

**Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne, most holy be Your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth - in heav'n the same.
Give us this day the food we need; forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do not lead; from evil set us free.
Yours is the kingdom; unto You in grateful love we bow;
And Your's the pow'r; Lord, let us view Your mighty presence now.
The glory Your's; Your praise be sung by angel hosts and men
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue forevermore! Amen.**

Invitation to Communion – Presider: This is the Lord's table, so all are welcome!

Grape juice and gluten, soy, dairy and corn-free wafers are available. If you need communion brought to you at your seat, please let the usher know.

Lamb of God (to the tune of From Heaven Above #268)

O Lamb of God, You take away The sin of all; now hear us pray.
And grant us from our sin release; Have mercy on us! Grant us peace!

Communion Hymns: 269, 279, 283

Post Communion Blessing

Thanksgiving (to the tune of God Rest You Merry Gentlemen)

O, thank the Lord and sing his praise, What he hath done proclaim!
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice And proudly bear his name
Who leads his thankful people forth His promises to claim.
O, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy O, tidings of comfort and joy!

Lord, let Your servants go in peace, Your word has been fulfilled.
My eyes have seen the saving work Which for the world You willed;
The glory of your chosen ones As light for all revealed.
O, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy O, tidings of comfort and joy!

O, praise to God the Father And praise to God the Son.
And praise to God the Spir-ir-it Most bless-ed Three in One.
As 'twas is now, and e'er shall be While endless ages run!
O, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy O, tidings of comfort and joy!

Prayer

Benediction (to the tune of Angels We Have Heard on High # 289)

Presider: May the good Lord bless and keep Cause his face on you to shine Look on you with favor deep
Granting you His peace divine.

Congregation: **Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Gloria in Excelsis Deo!**

Sending Hymn

“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”

#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!

Go in Peace. 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
	12pm	Al-Anon
Tuesday	10am	Quilting
Wednesday	7pm	Choir
Sunday	10 am	Worship

Remember in Prayer: Lucy Anderson (at the request of Mary Bug Smith), Anita (at the request of Terry Zakar), 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, Lizzy March (at the request of Hedy Mitchell), Carl Pitts (at the request of Hedy Mitchell), 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), Sara Rogers (at the request of Christian Britton), Chris Vullo (at the request of Judy Bell), Wayland VanZant, Audrey Wilbur (Marva's great niece)

Announcements:

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:

There are still outstanding committee reports. Please submit ASAP (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

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

Pastor Bob Albing can be reached at (208)446-5206 and pinetreepadre@gmail.com

If it is an emergency and you cannot contact Pastor Bob, Pastor Tom Inch, Zion-Deer Park interim is available He can be reached at 509-398-0258 and inchworm57@live.com.

Also, Annie Frederick is available to answer any questions you may have about the transition: 509-270-0496 and afrederick2018@outlook.com

