

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**305 Livingston St, Filley, NE**  
**Pastor LuRae Hallstrom**

**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
**November 29, 2020**

**PLEASE MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING.**

Radio frequency will be announced. Facebook @ American Lutheran Church - Filley, NE  
Financial contributions can be brought to Sunday morning worship or can be forwarded to American Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 66, Filley, NE 68357. You may also do on-line giving at [www.filleylutheranchurch.com](http://www.filleylutheranchurch.com).

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

We gather together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 80)

P: Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel

**C: You lead your people gently and kindly. You sent us your light and your salvation.**

P: Hear us and restore us, Lord God Almighty

**C: Help us to hear you and know you are here**

P: Jesus Christ is our Lord, our light and our salvation.

**C: Let us praise and worship him together.**

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING LITANY – THE CANDLE OF HOPE

P: As we light our advent candle, we thank you for the hope you give.

**C: As we prepare for Christmas time, light of the world, shine on us.**

P: In this world of pain and darkness, bring hope to our hearts and to all the people who don't know you,

**C: Light of the world, shine through us.**

*(the first Advent candle is lit)*

P: Jesus, you are coming again. Help us to live in the hope you bring.

**C: In our service here today, light of the world, light the way.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(silence for reflection and self-examination)*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C: Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

**C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*(Children are excused to go downstairs for Sunday School.)*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. <sup>8</sup>Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>"In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the

house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

## MESSAGE

Pastor Arden Dorn

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

*(Words printed for meditation/reflection only - no singing.)*

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel. That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
5. O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 THE PEOPLE

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need. We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, and addiction. We pray for those who suffer illness, especially.... Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you with grace and mercy. May He look upon you with favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

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**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** It's wonderful to gather as the body of Christ to worship and give thanks to God! Thanks be to God for all of you here in person, in the parking lot and on-line!

**OUR THANKS** to Pastor Arden Dorn for being our worship leader this morning.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Elva Parde, Ervin Huls, Mindy Jurgens, Betty Leners, Henry & Ann Leners, Delores Baehr, Dustin Fritch, our shut-ins.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Lisa Sanders, Michelle Scott, Dana Steinacher (Nov. 29), Bob Hallstrom, Trenton Schmidt, Destiny Wilgers (Dec. 2), Jeff Garrels, Danelle Leners (Dec. 3), Dean Baker, Wayne Robinson (Dec. 4), Sawyer Wilgers (Dec. 5).

**GIVE THANKS AND GIVE BACK** congratulates the congregation of American Lutheran in Filley on the successful food drive with the Give Thanks and Give Back November Food Shelf Challenge. 1357 individual food items for Beatrice Community Food Pantry is an outstanding collection! We at Thrivent are excited to direct a donation in the amount of \$500 to Beatrice Community Food Pantry as a generosity multiplier for your work. Thank you for encouraging the congregation to #LiveGenerously this holiday season!

**OUR SYMPATHY** to the family of Ervin Parde who passed away Friday, Nov. 20. Ervin's funeral was a Private Graveside Service on Nov. 25 at the Filley Cemetery with Pastor Arden Dorn officiating. We commend Ervin to God's care and ask His blessings on his family and friends.

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH** has a brand new "Chromebook" for sale, purchased in September. Paid \$299 and would sell for \$275. Contact a council member if interested.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday School begins each Sunday after the Children's Sermon and is held from approximately 9:45-10:30 a.m. Classes will be divided between Preschool-1st grade and Second-Fifth grade. We are looking for two teachers for each Sunday and would prefer to have parents of students. **Please sign the sheet in the narthex for the Sundays that you are willing to help.**

**CONFIRMATION STUDENTS** - Please send your weekly November sermon notes either to: [norton\\_dan@yahoo.com](mailto:norton_dan@yahoo.com) or American Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 66, Filley, NE 68357.

**HELP NEEDED:** We have quilt blocks downstairs on the table in the Fellowship for people who are willing to sew them together. Thank you for your ministry!

**CHRISTIAN BOOKS** can be found downstairs on tables in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to borrow one or more - there is no rush to return them.

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE:** You can find our church website at [www.filleylutheranchurch.com](http://www.filleylutheranchurch.com) or by scanning this QR code:



**BULLETIN ITEMS** are due by Tuesday evenings. Please call Sandy or email her at [smahleris@gmail.com](mailto:smahleris@gmail.com).

**BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND** on Facebook and on our website, [filleylutheranchurch.com](http://filleylutheranchurch.com). Bulletins are also being sent out by email to everyone that we have an email address for. If you are not receiving the bulletin by email and would like it, please email Sandy at [smahleris@gmail.com](mailto:smahleris@gmail.com) with your email address.

**WORSHIP HELPERS:**

**Council** - Norm Flesner, Tanner Schmidt, Carol Frerichs, Dave Norton, Linda Searcey

**PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter** – Brenda Hippen

**Audio/Video** – Brad Frerichs

**Accompanist** – Carlyne Wolken