

Service of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024



Welcome to Advent Lutheran Church! Our hope today is that you will experience God's love in Word, Sacrament, and Song through the amazing grace of Jesus Christ. Everything you need for today's worship service is printed in this bulletin.

This community welcomes you – wherever you are on your spiritual journey. Are you a visitor? Come back again! Are you looking for a church home? All are invited to become part of the Advent community. If you join us in person or on our Facebook livestream; if you are here for an hour, a season, or a lifetime, you are welcome at Advent. The church may be cozy, but the table is long. There's a place for you here!

Need more information about who and what we are? Fill out a green contact/prayer card, add a comment on Facebook, email the church, or visit our website - www.adventlc.us - or make an appointment with Pastor Alex. We'd love to know how we can be in ministry together!

Advent is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



PRAYER CONCERNS

We keep the following persons in prayer



Douglas M. Bennett (brother of Shelley Bennett)

David Church (friend of Advent)

Anthony Goveia (nephew of Ismay Lovell)

Ellie Holsopple (member)

Rev. Patricia Johnson (friend of the Stalls)

Jenny Jones (friend of the Falksens)

Kathryn "Kate" Juhl (member)

Pam Juhl (mother of Peter and Kate Juhl)

Rev. Elizabeth Platz (first woman in North America ordained by a Lutheran church body)

Wayne Theye (friend of the Falksens)

Gail Wickre (mother of Sarah Wickre)

Becky Wilfinger (friend of Marilyn Falksen)

Edwina Wyatt-Knowles (friend of Nancy Jairrels)

GATHERING

PRELUDE

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

P. Fey

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Water is poured into the font as a reminder of God's ever flowing stream of grace and forgiveness.

All may make the sign of the cross (signified with this ✝), the sign marked at baptism.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

C **Amen.**

The leader addresses those who are gathered.

P Look, here is water!

C **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

The leader gives thanks, using one of the following prayers or similar words.

P Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.
Look, here is water!

C **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

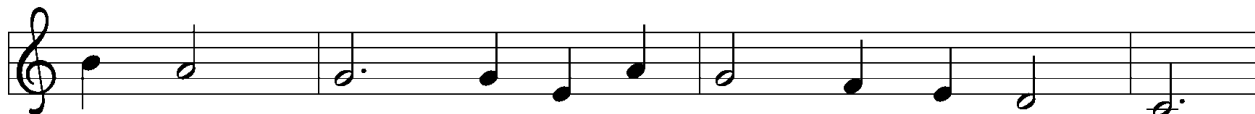
P Look, here is water!

C **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing ELW 385



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpus, 1570–1615

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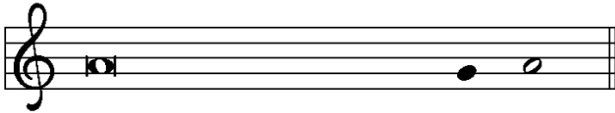
REETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

KYRIE

Setting 4



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



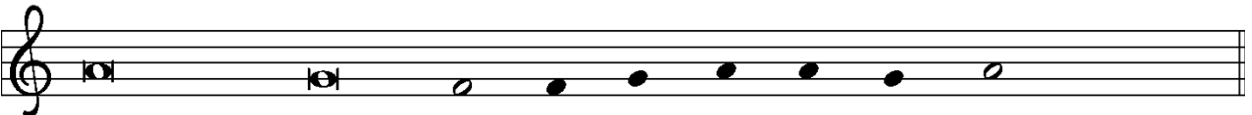
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



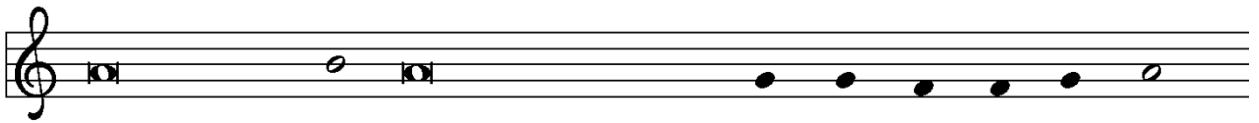
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the Feast

Setting 4

Cantor



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. (*Pause for a moment of silent prayer.*) O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

Reader A reading from Acts

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is
‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.’
¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALMS: Psalm 23

(Assisting minister reads light print; congregation reads bold.)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

Reader A reading from 1st John

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will

know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God;²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able..

THE GOSPEL HYMN

Setting 4

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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P The Holy Gospel according to John, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

[Jesus said:]¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Alex Stall, Jr.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand as you are comfortable to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
(Please see graphic next page)

ELW 502





1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877

Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish tune

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APOSTLES' CREED

Dating back as early as the 4th century CE, the creed is a confession of the faith of the assembly. It is historically ecumenical and structurally trinitarian. The Creed is a resurrection statement.

I believe in God, eternal, almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of all, the only begotten one;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, lived and loved among us,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
who descended into hell,
and on the third day rose from the dead;
Jesus, our Savior, ascended into heaven,
sits at the right hand of the loving God,
and 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 INTERCESSION

A Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence. After each petition please respond: "Hear our prayer."

A God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

Offering the peace of Christ is far more than a handshake and a greeting to someone you haven't seen since last Sunday. It is the embodiment of conflicts forgiven, wars ended, even death destroyed. Jesus's resurrection offers true peace.

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

We greet one another with a gesture of peace.

Please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Sheep May Safely Graze
(Ingrid Berdahl, piano)

J. S. Bach

The Offering represents a shift in our worship time. We change from a time of hearing and learning God's Word, to a time of action. We share of our time and resources – and our very selves. We recognize God's grace in our lives and respond with our offerings. All are invited to respond to God with joyful hearts by giving regularly or tithing (giving proportionally) by placing your gifts in the collection plate, or by making electronic donations using our website at www.adventlc.us (look for the "Giving" option on the home page). We also use Simply Giving for regular, automatic electronic donations. Please reach out to the church office for the necessary forms! In whatever way you support Advent, know that we are thankful for your faithfulness and trust in God.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

Now the Green Blade Rises
(Verses 1-3)

ELW 379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;

love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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OFFERING PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister leads the prayer.

- A Let us pray. Risen One,
 C **you call us to believe and bear fruit.**
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
 Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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P It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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He is Risen

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P O God most mighty,
O God most merciful,
O God our rock and our salvation,
hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.
When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty.
When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child;
When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom.
Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing,
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.
He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city.
With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

P Remembering Jesus's death, we cry out Amen.

C **Amen.**

P Celebrating Jesus's resurrection, we shout Amen.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting Jesus's presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

C **Amen.**

P O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.
O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.
O God most majestic, O God most motherly,
O God our strength and our song,
you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all
and leaves that heal the nations.
Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son,
the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
life in you, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as 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*

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Supper here at Advent. Wine and white grape juice are available by individual cup. Gluten-free communion hosts are also available upon request. If you do not commune, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. We ask that you please maintain a safe distance as we commune. Hand sanitizer is available at the usher's stand.

P Come now to the Lord's Table, for all is ready!

LAMB OF GOD

Setting 4



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Refrain

You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



- 1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

*Refrain*

so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - jice.
 that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav' - n - ly food.
 Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
 whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
 to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997

Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996

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Please stand as you are able.

He is Risen

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

Be Not Afraid
(Please sing twice)

ELW 388



Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!



Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

Text and music © Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us Pray. Shepherding God,

C **you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.**

**Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness**

**and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.**

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P The God of resurrection power,

the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.

C Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Build a Longer Table

ACS 1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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DISMISSAL

- P This service has ended. Our service continues!
A Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

J. Honoré

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Congregational Meeting | TODAY after worship. All voting members will consider two items: 1). Elect two Nominating Committee members; 2). Elect up to three voting members to the 2024 Synod Assembly. **Council Meeting** follows the congregational meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcomed to attend.



Host Social Hour after Worship! Coffee Hour is, in many ways, a continuation of our service. We gather to enjoy refreshments, check in with one another, and extend our hospitality to visitors. Pick a Sunday to host this after-worship tradition and sign up in the Welcome Center.

Sunday-Morning-Team Refresher! The Sunday Morning Team includes greeters, ushers, assisting ministers, cantors, altar guild, communion assistants and videographers. Our team is mighty but too small! If you are already serving in one (or more) of these positions, or would consider joining the team, PLEASE attend the Refresher session on Sunday, May 5, after the social hour. No prior experience necessary for any position -- you'll be a starter in no time!

Exploring Faith will return next Sunday, April 28, when we conclude our study of the Ten Commandments with a discussion of "coveting." That's not a word much used today. What does it really mean and why is it wrong? We live in a culture that constantly encourages us to want more, to be more. Is that wrong? Then, as a summary and review, we'll look at Luther's conclusion to his discussion of the Ten Commandments in the Large Catechism.

We give thanks for those assisting with worship today . . .

Pastor	The Rev. Alex P. Stall, Jr.	Cantor	Nancy Jairrels
Assisting Minister	Gerry Fuller	Organist	Eric Sparks
Altar Guild	Esther Day	Videographer	Shane Gainer
Greeter	Esther Day	Social Hour Hosts	Katie & Kemar Oakley
Usher	Jones Day	Counters	David Falksen and Nancy Jairrels

Learn more about us at adventlc.us or [facebook.com/adventarlington](https://www.facebook.com/adventarlington). The office is open Tuesday through Thursday from 11 am - 3 pm. Contact the office at adventlc@hotmail.com or 703-521-7010. Pastor Alex may be reached directly at Pr.Alex.advent@icloud.com.



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