



- “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,…”
Mark 13:35

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

Shared on Augsburg Lutheran Church YouTube Channel

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist’s plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

*The mission of Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church is to glorify God
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through
worship, witness, education, service and fellowship.*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Setting Five

The paraments are blue during the season of Advent, suggesting hope.

✠ GATHERING ✠

ACCLAMATION

Words by Michael Morgan

Music by William Stevens

Into our darkness, Lord, send light, and show the world your way;
remove the shadows from our sight; make clear the path, we pray.
Transform our wand'ring ways to right, and night to brightest day!

OPENING VOLUNTARY Improvisation on CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM Timothy Olsen

We stand.

RINGING OF THE BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive 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.

In the mercy of almighty God,

Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
and by his authority,

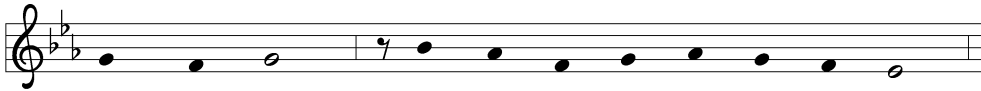
I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The assembly turns to face the cross as it enters the sanctuary, following the cross as we have followed Jesus into this holy place and time of corporate worship.



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
 3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
 4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
 splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
 hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
 ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
 Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
 of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
 like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
 Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV
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The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

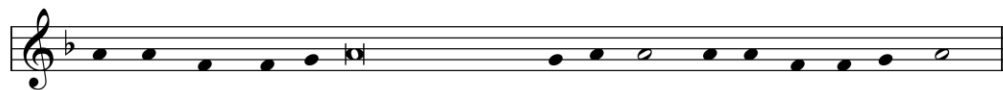
KYRIE



In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord have mer - cy.



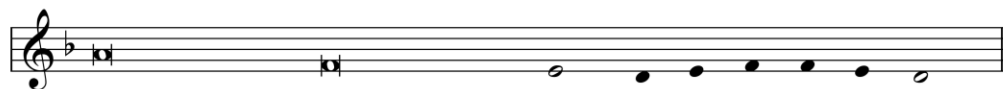
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



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 ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



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



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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

After the prayer the assembly responds: Amen.

We sit.

WELCOME

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—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! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. 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. 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. 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. 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. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 80: 1-7, 17-19

- ¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- ²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- ³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ⁴O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
- ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- ⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
- ¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- ¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Verse: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Repeat alleluia.

GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. 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. 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. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 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. 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, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

We sit.

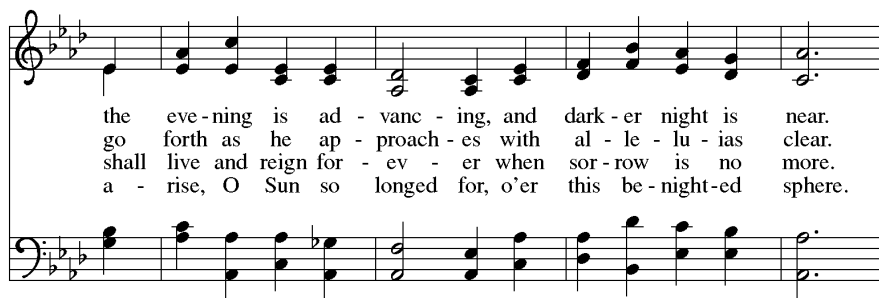
SERMON

Pastor Wollner

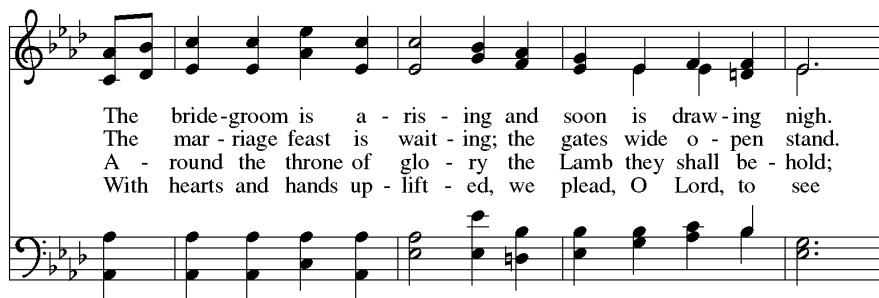
We stand.



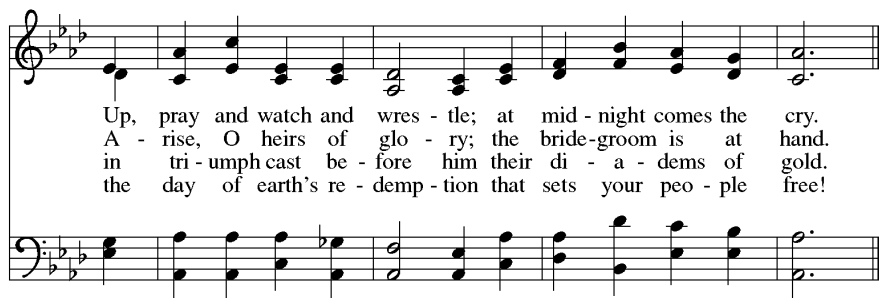
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - frings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

Each portion of the prayers conclude:

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say Peace be with you or similar words.

We sit.

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM In Night's Dim Shadows

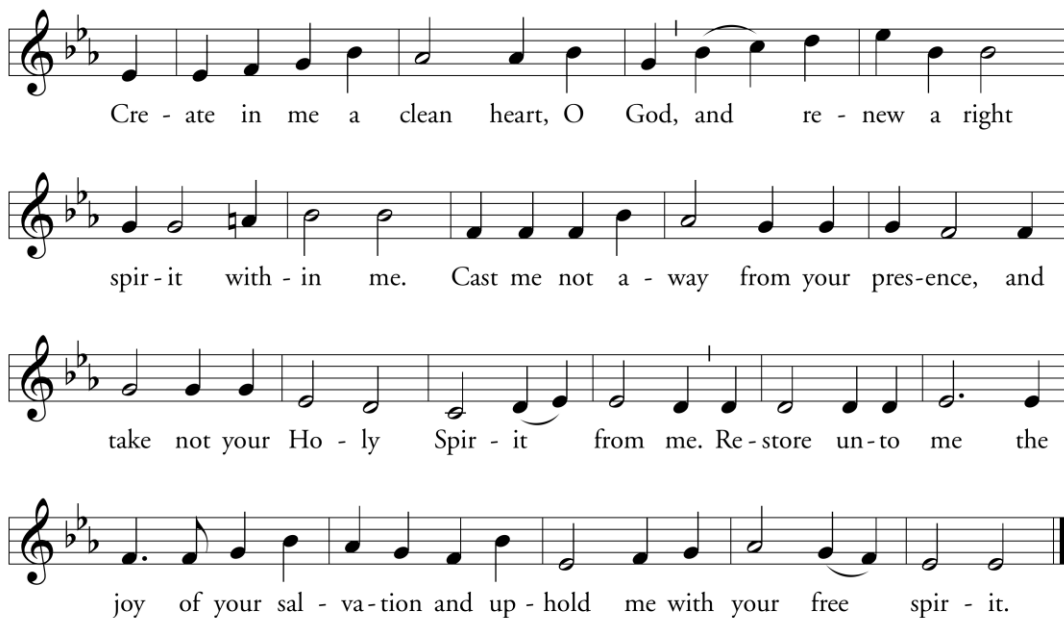
Text: Charles Coffin

Music: Robert Lehman

In night's dim shadows lying, Our limbs fast lock'd in sleep,
To thee, with faithful sighing, Our souls their vigil keep.
Desire of every nation, Hear, Lord, our piteous cry;
Thou Word, the world's salvation, Uplift us where we lie.
Lord, be thine Advent hasten'd, Lest sin thy people mar;
The gates which Adam fasten'd — The gates of heav'n, unbar.
Son, to thine endless merit, Redeemer, Saviour, Friend,
With Sire and Holy Spirit Be praises without end. Amen.

We stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion and up - hold me with your free spir - it.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

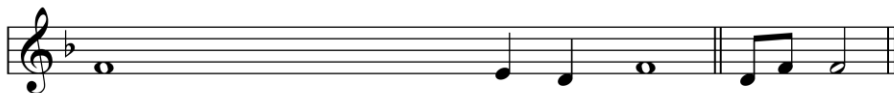
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

We sit.

We stand.

✠ SENDING ✠

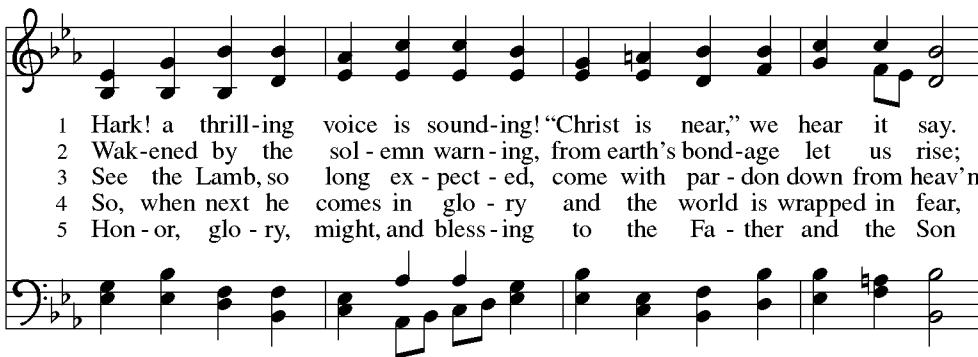
BLESSING



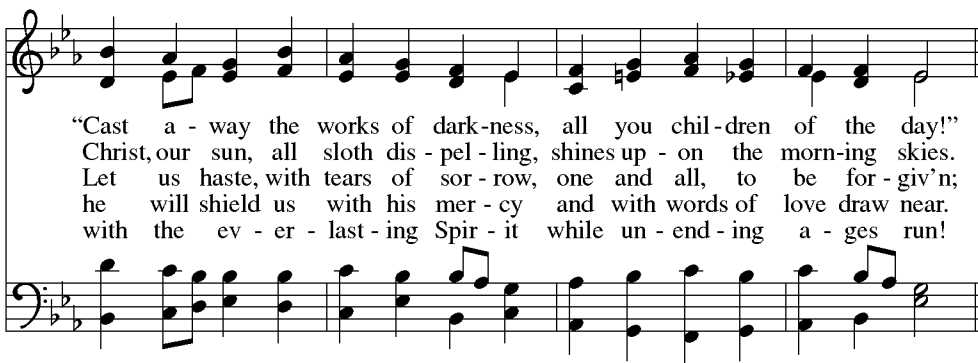
The Lord bless you ... and ✠ give you peace. A - men.

SENDING HYMN 246 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

MERTON



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa - ther and the Son



"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 599

J.S. Bach

Soli Deo Gloria

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Announcements

The altar flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the Staff and Pastors of Augsburg Lutheran Church for their many gifts and ongoing commitment even during difficult times, by Elly Burns Frye, outgoing Chair of the Personnel Ministry Team.

This week we keep in prayer Milrie Lentz, 1250 Arbor Road, Ashbury Place #173, Winston-Salem, NC 27104. Please send **Milrie** a note.

Augsburg will offer Drive-Thru Communion next Sunday, December 6, as part of our Sunday worship service. We will follow the same procedures and protocols used in the past. Pre-registration is required. A notification from Realm will be sent on Monday, November 30, with all of the details regarding safety and logistical protocols and how you can sign up for a time slot. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

Don't rush to Christmas, it's Actually Advent! Pastor Paul will host a four-week Bible study beginning Tuesday, December 1 on Zoom. He will offer the Bible Study live twice daily at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. You are invited to learn more about why Advent Scripture matters and why we should not rush to Christmas. No preparation is necessary and all are welcome. A zoom link will be sent on November 30.

The Angel Tree Program continues this Christmas season! Please see the November Beacon or the Flocknote sent on November 19 for details. Please note there is a deadline of December 9.

Shelter looks different this year! Even though we are not hosting guests on our campus, we are still providing meals throughout the season. We have committed to providing lunches and dinner every Thursday from December through March. You can sign up using this link <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/407005958080468079/true#/invitation> If you have any questions or need assistance Contact John Collins (336-408-1519; jchcollins@gmail.com) or Ann Ragan anncragan@gmail.com). John Collins will send a Shelter sign up email.

Altar Flower Dedication. There is still space for 2021 dedications. Please contact the Betty Covington at covingtonbet@gmail.com if you are interested. Cost is \$80.00.

We keep you in prayer during our time apart. Our pastors continue to be available for your pastoral care needs. If you would like to reach a pastor, please call their cell phones, send them a text, or an email. Pastor Paul is 803-331-5970 or seniorpastor@alcws.org and Pastor Lori is 336-414-2838 or pastoralassociate@alcws.org

Please keep our Financial Secretary Joyce Holton in your prayers as she recovers from a recent fall. Council has appointed Kris Andrews to serve as Acting Financial Secretary during Joyce's absence. There are many ways to make a tax deductible gift to support Augsburg's ministries before the end of 2020. Augsburg is able to accept gifts of securities, such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds. Please email financialsecretary@alcws.org or call the church office for more information.

Readings for next week: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a;
Mark 1:1-8

Worship attendance for services last week: 228 views on YouTube.

Providing Service Today

Bulletin Cover Artist

Nanette Shutt

Reader

Edith Eubanks

Preaching

Pastor Wollner

Quartet

Karen Kooken, Daniele Olsen, Timothy Olsen, Bruce Tippet

Choir

Adult Choirs I & II

Greeters

Martha Claire & Ralph Henzler

Assisting Minister

Pastor Carter

AUGSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, North Carolina Synod

Rev. Paul A. Wollner, Senior Pastor

Rev. Lori H. Carter, Pastoral Associate for Congregational Care

Dr. Timothy Olsen, Cantor

Nancy Carbone, Parish Administrator

Kathy Barnes, Executive Assistant

Leigh Anna Voigt, Dir. of Faith Formation

Bruce Tippet, Youth Music and Handbell Dir.

Robin Welch, Youth Coordinator

Paul Anders, WFU Divinity Student Intern

Hannah Norem, Communications Assistant

Reggie Jackson, Lead Sexton

Carl Davis and John Stepney, Sextons

Augsburg Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation