

WELCOME TO ALEXANDRIA PRESBYTERIAN

We are glad you’re here!
APC is a church of sinners. It’s that simple. But we are bound together by the Gospel that saves us and transforms us — UNCHANGING TRUTH, CHANGING LIVES. The transformation is, however, a process. God isn’t through with us yet. Everyone in this church is struggling with something. If you are currently struggling with greed, gossip, drugs, alcohol, sexual brokenness, eating disorders, anger, pride, complacency, etc — you are not alone. More importantly, God does not intend for you to struggle alone. That’s why He made the Church. **If you would like to learn how your brothers and sisters at APC might be able to encourage you, pray with you, and struggle alongside you, we encourage you to visit our blue welcome desk, scan our “Connect with APC” QR code, and/or contact one of our pastors, officers, or staff.**

- To assist you as part of our church family gathering today, we want you to know that we offer:
- Prayer after the worship service.** For personal prayer, come to the front of the sanctuary where at least one elder is available to pray with you. Please don’t continue struggling alone!
 - Worship for children.** Our Nursery is downstairs, available for newborn to age 4. Ages 5 through 2nd grade are welcome to attend Children’s Church following the offertory.
 - Simulcasts of the worship service in the Main Level Adult Education Room (Room 112) and Nursing Mothers Room downstairs (Room 009, near the Fellowship Hall).** As you or your family have the need, please feel free to use these areas to continue your worship!
 - Large-Print Bulletins.** For assistance, see one of our greeters.
 - Assistive Listening Devices.** For assistance, see one of our audio technicians.
 - Se ofrece traducción al español cada domingo durante el servicio de la 9am.** Para más detalles acercarse a alguno de los ujieres.
Spanish translation is available every Sunday during the 9am service. For more details, see one of our ushers.
 - Ministry Information.** Please visit our ‘information’ table in the lobby for more info.

As you are able, please help us to serve people arriving after you by sitting toward the front of the sanctuary, moving to the middle of your row, and closing empty chairs between you and those next to you.

To help focus our attention on Jesus during worship, please silence all electronic devices.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

APC Deaconess Suggestions. In April 2023, Session decided to begin a new Deaconess ministry at APC, appointing Godly women of the congregation to assist the Deacons in their ministry of mercy and administration. At this time, Session welcomes suggestions of female members who discern a call to such service. It is a prerequisite that any woman suggested have completed APC’s Spiritual Leadership class this year or last year. Suggestions will be received through December 14. Please confirm with the woman that she welcomes the suggestion, before submitting it to Session. Those women that Session appoints as Deaconess will be commissioned at the January 18 worship services. The form to suggest a deaconess can be found at “APC Sign-Ups”.

Lessons and Carols at APC. Join us on the evening of December 14th for a special service of song and scripture, as we celebrate the fulfillment of God’s promises through His Son, Jesus (2 Corinthians 1:20). The prelude will begin at 4:45pm. Nursery is available for ages 0-4. After the service, please bring cookies to share for a time of fellowship.

Christmas Eve at APC. In anticipation of the Lord bringing many to this service as He has in the past few years, we are having two family-friendly Christmas Eve services at 4:30 and 6:30pm! We hope you and your family join us at either service as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. This service will include candle lighting, with battery operated candles for young children. No childcare will be offered during these services.

December 28th Worship Service. Please know that we will only offer one service at 10am on Sunday, December 28th. The pre-service prayer meeting will be at 9:15am. Nursery will be offered, but there will be no children’s church. The service time of 10am only applies to December 28th, 2025.

Call to Prayer— January 2026. As we embark on a New Year, the elders invite you to join them in APC-wide prayer opportunities: Sunday, January 4 at 5pm; Wednesday, January 7 at 7:30pm; and Saturday, January 10 at 9am. All ages are welcome! Nursery is only provided on Sunday, January 4th.

Communicants Class for Children and Teens: The class will be held on Thursdays from 5:00-6:00pm at APC and run for eight weeks starting January 15th. Parents, please talk with your child/teen and prayerfully consider whether or not they are ready to join the church as a communicant member. To find out more information or preview the workbook, please contact Elder Mark Adams at mark.philip.adams@gmail.com. Sign-up in “APC Sign-Ups.”

Seeking Donations of Cars. The Deacons and Deaconesses are assisting several individuals in the APC congregation who would greatly benefit from receiving a donated car for their use. If you have a used vehicle in good working condition with a few years of life left on it that you are willing to donate, please contact apcdeaconsanddeaconesses@alexandriapres.org. Your donation will be tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. Thank you.

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY WORKERS

Hospitality	<i>This Week:</i> Christine Brittle
Nursery	<i>This Week (9am):</i> Leslie Bridge, Adam and Hannah Davis, Kirsten Etherton, Evelyn Heil, Andrew Hobold, Kendra Howard, Matti Jamison, Nate and Maria Myers, Evan Root <i>This Week (11am):</i> Catherine Chae, Laura Erickson, Andrew Hobold, Drew and Sally Linday, Gina Mitchell, Margaret Veenstra <i>Next Week (9am):</i> Leslie Bridge, Adam and Hannah Davis, Kirsten Etherton, Evelyn Heil, Andrew Hobold, Kendra Howard, Matti Jamison, Nate and Maria Myers, Evan Root <i>Next Week (11am):</i> Catherine Chae, Laura Erickson, Andrew Hobold, Drew and Sally Linday, Gina Mitchell, Margaret Veenstra
Children’s Church	<i>9am:</i> Owen and Lina Gentry; Tom and Amanda Petelik <i>11am:</i> Phoebe Drybola and Erin Furgerson
Tech Team	Chris Blackburn, Bailey Rolland, Keith Zimmerman
Greeters	<i>9am:</i> Mike and Vicki Gutshall, Lindsay Hutter, Patricia Kodjo, Lynn Streett, Clayton Thompson <i>11am:</i> Didier Balagizi, Maggie Cho, Chris Nelms, Clayton Thompson

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Year-End Gifts. As you plan a year-end gift to APC, keep in mind that the church office will be closed December 25-January 1, and the last worship service of the year is December 28. Gifts received in the mail the first week of January—if dated and postmarked in 2025—will be included in your 2025 year-end giving statement. You may also make your year-end gifts through APC’s online giving portal thru December 31, 2025. In addition, if you would like to donate securities or stocks to APC’s general fund, please contact Kathy Sens at kathy.sens@alexandriapres.org and she can give you the information needed to make a transfer. If you would like to donate a special year end gift, simply indicate this on your check and mail it to the APC office or put it in the offering box. You may also make your donation online. Thank you for considering APC in your year-end planning.

If you are age 70½ or older and have an IRA, federal law permits you to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your retirement account up to \$108,000. This allows individuals aged 70½ and older to donate directly to a public charity and exclude the distribution from their gross income. Married couples where both spouses are eligible can each contribute up to the \$108,000 limit from their own IRAs, for a combined total of \$216,000. A QCD does not constitute income to you and does not count as a charitable tax deduction. However, a QCD does constitute a distribution for purposes of making a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Particularly for taxpayers who must take RMDs beginning at age 73, making a QCD can have tax benefits. Please consult with your tax advisor or retirement account institution to see if this makes sense for you.

For Lincolnian seniors and Missions giving opportunities, please see the flyers on the info table.

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

Walking in the Spirit (WiTS) begins January 11 from 5-7pm. APC is offering a discipleship ministry called Walking in the Spirit (WiTS), which will be led by Pastor Tom and Sharon Holliday. This is a 10 week in-depth study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit, which begins Sunday, January 11 and runs through March 22, with a break on February 15. Each class will consist of an hour of teaching followed by an hour of small group interaction, as well as reflection and homework during the week. Since each week builds upon the previous week, we ask that you commit to being present in at least 8 of the 10 weeks. Participants are also invited to a banquet to celebrate and share testimonies of what God has done in our midst on March 29. More details will be forthcoming on the banquet. Space is limited. Sign up in “APC Sign-Ups”.

Connect with APC	APC Sign-Ups	Give to APC	Vision 2026 Webpage
			

Sign-ups for all events can be found in the QR Code above titled, “APC Sign-Ups.”
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Holy Worship Service

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

prelude
We encourage you to find a seat to prepare your heart and mind for worship.

call to worship | Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor
Colossians 3:15
15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

song of praise
Of the Father’s Love Begotten (#162, vv. 1-2, 4-5)
Words by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413, trans. by John Mason Neale (1854) and Henry W. Baker (1859); Music DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, 12th cent. plainsong, arr. by Charles Winfred Douglas, 1916; © Public Domain; CCLI License #858976, Song #4780029

prayer of adoration

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

lighting the advent candle of peace

scripture reading | Chris and Lisa Popadich (9am); Mark and Peggy Locher (11am)

Micah 5:2-5a (pg. 730)
2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.
3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.
4 And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.
5 And he shall be their peace.

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

song of praise
Father, How Sweet
Father, how sweet must be the pleasure You find in Your eternal Son; for long before You made the heavens, both You and He rejoiced as one; and long before You formed the angels, before You made the day and night, Jesus exulted in Your presence, and He was all of Your delight.

Father, what love You’ve shown to rebels, that You would send Your Son so dear into this world of grief and trouble to bring unworthy sinners near. We’ll never fathom how it pained You when You supplied the offering, to rescue those who had disdained You, to watch Your dear Son suffering.

Jesus, it fills our hearts with wonder, that You would leave Your heav’nly place to take on flesh, to thirst and hunger, to save the ones who spurned Your grace. You came to forfeit every mercy, to die, that mercy we would find; and then You hung alone in darkness, so in our hearts Your grace would shine.

Jesus, in glory You’ve ascended, never again to leave Your throne; because of You, we are befriended, received and welcomed as God’s own. Father, how sweet now is Your pleasure in us, Your daughters and Your sons. We will delight in You forever; in Jesus, You have made us one.

Words and music by Mark Altrogge; © 2012 Sovereign Grace Praise (Admin. by Integrity Music); CCLI License #858976, Song #6271756

farewell | the Novak family and the Lynch family (9am)

congregational prayer

offertory prayer | Jeff Fearon (9am); Maggie Cho (11am)

presentation of tithes and offerings

offertory | Adult Choir (9am)
Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

Words from 15th cent. German carol, st. 3 by Friedrich Layriz, 1844, trans. by Theodore Baker, 1894; Music from Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599, harm. by Michael Praetorius, 1609; © Public Domain.

Children ages 5 through 2nd grade are now invited to continue worship in Children’s Church. Children should exit the Sanctuary using the door to the left of the stage. Parents: to pick up your children, go down the main stairwell and turn right into the nursery. Follow the signs to Children’s Church.

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

sermon scripture reading
Genesis 3:1-15 (pg. 2)
The Fall
1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”
2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,
3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”
4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.
5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.
7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.
9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”
10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”
11 He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”
12 The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”
13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

14 The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.
15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

prayer for illumination

sermon | Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor

“And I Was Afraid”
Series: Where Are You?

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS TABLE

sacrament of the lord’s supper

Explanation, Invitation, Participation
All baptized Christians who are members in good standing of a church that proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ are invited to participate. Children who have been admitted into the church as communicant members are invited to participate as well. If you have any questions, please ask one of our pastors or elders.

Members will be invited to come forward to receive the bread and the cup. You will receive the elements from the pastors and elders standing up front in your section of the Sanctuary, and then take the bread and cup back to your seat. If you are unable to come forward, raise your hand and a server will bring the elements to your seat. We will take the elements together as prompted by the pastor.

During the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, you are invited to sing or meditate on the following song (lyrics on screen):

O Come, All You Unfaithful
O come, all you unfaithful, come, weak and unstable, come, know you are not alone.

O come, barren and waiting ones, weary of praying, come— see what your God has done.

Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you.

O come, bitter and broken, come with fears unspoken, come, taste of His perfect love.

O come, guilty and hiding ones, there is no need to run— see what your God has done.

He’s the Lamb who was given, slain for our pardon; His promise is peace for those who believe.
He’s the Lamb who was given, slain for our pardon; His promise is peace for those who believe.

So come, though you have nothing, come, He is the offering, come— see what your God has done.

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GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

song of response
King of Kings
In the darkness we were waiting without hope, without light, till from Heaven You came running; there was mercy in Your eyes. To fulfill the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word from a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt.

Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit, Three in One God of glory, majesty, praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming, and to reconcile the lost, to redeem the whole creation, You did not despise the cross; for even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side; knowing this was our salvation, Jesus, for our sake You died.

And the morning that You rose, all of heaven held its breath till that stone was moved for good, for the Lamb had conquered death. And the dead rose from their tombs, and the angels stood in awe, for the souls of all who’d come to the Father are restored. And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame; now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint. By His blood and in His name, in His freedom I am free for the love of Jesus Christ, who has resurrected me.

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dismissal
Leader: Let us go forth and serve our city and our world as those who love the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
All: We will go forth and serve our city and our world in the name of Christ.

benediction