

Stairs in Acropolis, Athens ©scaliger, courtesy iStock · Printed in USA

Praise be to the
God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ

Ephesians 1:3 (NIV)

American Lutheran Church (ALC)

215 Ninth Street SE • Long Prairie, Minnesota

Pastor Ethan Fearing • Phone 732-2932

Kari Christians, Youth & Family/Music Ministry Coordinator

americanlutheranchurch.org

✦ Please stand as you are able.

♪ Prelude “Graves Into Gardens”

We prepare for worship.

Welcome and the Sharing of God’s Peace

✦ Confession and Forgiveness

PASTOR: LORD God, we need Your help in understanding love.

ALL: Over the years, love has been redefined again and again. Some believe it is a fading feeling, others settle for saying “love is love,” and most of us don’t really know what it is.

PASTOR: But the Bible tells us that “God is love.” You, O LORD, are the source of love, and You have defined it plainly: “There is no greater love than laying down one’s life for others.”

ALL: Help us to learn, to practice this generous and sacrificial love. Teach us through Your ultimate example, through Your cross and empty grave.

PASTOR: God so loved the world that He came, He lived, He suffered and died, and He was raised again for you. As Jesus Christ, He loved us deeply, giving His life so you may live, forgiven of every failure to love, now and forever. That is why worship the LORD today!

Prayer of the Day

ALL: Heavenly Father, give us the strength to love. Embolden us by Your Holy Spirit, that our every action would give love to others, following the example set in the life of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

♪ Opening Song “I Love You Lord”

**I love You Lord
And I lift my voice
To worship You**

**O my soul rejoice
Take joy my King
In what You hear
May it be a sweet, sweet sound
In Your ear**

**I love You Lord
And I lift my voice
To worship You
O my soul rejoice
Take joy my King
In what You hear
May it be a sweet sweet sound
In Your ear**

First Reading

Song of Songs 2:10-13; 8:7

Psalm 143:7-8

READER: 7 Come quickly, LORD, and answer me...

ALL: ...for my depression deepens.

READER: Don't turn away from me...

ALL: ...or I will die.

READER: 8 Let me hear Your unfailing love each morning...

ALL: ...because I am trusting You.

READER: Show me where to walk...

ALL: ...as I give myself to You.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:21-26, 31-32

✦ The Gospel, God's Good News

Matthew 25:1-13

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

PASTOR: Do you believe in God the Father?

ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and earth.

PASTOR: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God the Son?

ALL: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of 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.

PASTOR: Do you believe in God's Holy Spirit?

ALL: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon "A Thirst for Love"

♪ Our Offering of Worship "Reckless Love"

**Before I spoke a word You were singing over me
You have been so so good to me
Before I took a breath You breathed Your life in me
You have been so so kind to me**

**Oh the overwhelming never-ending
reckless love of God
Oh it chases me down
fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it
I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away
Oh the overwhelming never-ending
reckless love of God**

**When I was Your foe still Your love fought for me
You have been so so good to me
When I felt no worth You paid it all for me
You have been so so kind to me**

**Oh the overwhelming never-ending
reckless love of God
Oh it chases me down fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it
I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away
Oh the overwhelming never-ending
reckless love of God, yeah**

**There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me**

**There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me**

**Oh the overwhelming never-ending
reckless love of God
Oh it chases me down fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it
I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away
Oh the overwhelming never-ending
reckless love of God**

Blessing of the Mission Trip Team

Prayers of the People

PASTOR: LORD, in Your mercy...

ALL: ...hear our prayer.

♪ The Lord's Prayer

**ALL: Our Father, which 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 debts
as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil; For Thine is the Kingdom,
and the power, and the glory forever! Amen.**

Benediction

A word of blessing.

♪ Closing "God So Loved"

**Come all you weary
Come all you thirsty
Come to the well that never runs dry
Drink of the water
Come and thirst no more**

**Come all you sinners
Come find His mercy
Come to the table He will satisfy
Taste of His goodness
Find what you're looking for**

**For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever**

**Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting there
With open arms**

**For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever
The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved God so loved the world**

**Praise God praise God
From whom all blessings flow
Praise Him praise Him
For the wonders of His love**

**Praise God praise God
From whom all blessings flow
Praise Him praise Him
For the wonders of His love**

**For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save**

**For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever
The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved God so loved the world**

**Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting
God so loved the world**

Postlude

We depart in peace, ready to serve the LORD!

The Mission Statement of American Lutheran Church

Led by the Holy Spirit and strengthened by the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
we seek to make the Kingdom of God real and present in our
world through ongoing worship, witness, and service.



WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Visitors are welcome to sign our guest book in the narthex gathering area. If you are looking for a church home, please contact Pastor Ethan or talk to one of the ushers about our American Lutheran Church family!

Our current prayer list includes Deb Adamek, Marlys Arenson, Olivia Beekman, Lee Fearing, John Hasse, Seth Hibbs, Rich Hillman, Lyndy Holmquist, Kay Larson, Lyle Lubbers, Linda Maus, Rose Thorp, Blanche Tirk, Teresa Wieggers, and the family of Laurie Poegel.

Today’s KEYL Radio Broadcast of our worship service is sponsored by the Hasse family in honor of John’s birthday Thank you for ensuring God’s Word can reach people over the airwaves!

If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. The cost is \$75. Thank you!

Please consider signing up to serve as an usher or greeter. Sign-up sheets are on the wall in the back of the sanctuary. See Mark and Teresa Pachan, Head Ushers, with any questions.

Bible Readings for Next Week: August 15, 2021

Proverbs 12:1-3, 13:1-6 Hebrews 12:3-13

Psalms 94:12-15 Matthew 23:9

Sermon Title: “Challenge Course”

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Ethan Fearing

Altar Guild: Betty Oliver

Deacon: Larry Adamek

Music: Worship Team

Acolyte: Connor Flan

Ushers: Larry & Deb Adamek



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The August issue of The Daily Walk and copies of Our Daily Bread are on the small table at the rear of the sanctuary.

Help! We need people to help usher on Sunday mornings. Please sign up on the sheet at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you!

Teachers for Sunday School

Do you enjoy spending time with children? Are you looking for an impactful way to share the love of Jesus with others? If so, American Lutheran Church is looking for Sunday School teachers for the following age groups:

2 years old - kindergarten

1st grade - 3rd grade

4th grade - 6th grade

If God has put it on your heart to teach, please reach out to a Board of Ed member (Jody Ellingson, Julie Atkinson, Laurie Barthel, Alyssa Fearing) or contact the Church office.

Live music, an honest message, and good fellowship!
BRING A CHAIR & WE'LL SEE YOU THERE



OUTDOOR WORSHIP

August 29, 2021 • 9:00 a.m. • potluck after
American Lutheran Church: 215 9th Street SE

CHURCH OUTREACH

Missionaries: Dan and Nancy Butkowski; Dwight and Dorothy Hazard; Chris Mikkelson.

Prayer Partners is our confidential chain of prayer. To request a prayer, send an e-mail to prayer@americanlutheranchurch.org. If you would like your name added or removed from the Prayer Partners' e-mail list, contact Patty Ostendorf or Becky Hillig.

Our Mission Focus for the month of August is our radio broadcast ministry through KEYL. We are thankful for all of you who are willing to support this with your donations.

Weekly Report:

Worship Attendance for last week: 84

General Fund budgeted weekly needs: \$4,617.37

General Fund Year to Date (YTD) as of 6/30/21:

Budgeted needs: \$120,300.84

Receipts: \$101,116.61

Actual expenses: \$108,493.44

Contact Information:

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Youth & Family/Music Coordinator Kari Christians (320) 533-3021

Church Secretary Lori Zellmann (320) 732-2932

General E-mail: americanlutheranchurchlp@gmail.com

Website: americanlutheranchurch.org

Facebook Page: American Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship Livestream: on Facebook

YOUTH & FAMILY

August 8th, 2021

SAVE
THE
DATE

August 8-13th: Youth Mission Trip
August 11th: Long Prairie Kids Camp
August 25th: Church Night at the Drive In
September 12th: First Day of Sunday School

Long Prairie Area Churches Present

LONG PRAIRIE
Kids
camp

1-3:30 PM

1st-6th Grade

July 14th, July 28th,
and August 11th

At Harmony Park

Games, Music, Crafts, Snacks, Bible Lessons, and MORE!

MORE INFO @

 @LongPrairieCamps

FREE!

Mark your calendars!

Our annual church night at the drive in has been set for

AUGUST 25th at 7pm

Price: \$4 per person

Age 5 and under free!

Includes hot dog, chips & water served from 7-8; small pop and popcorn, too!

Games & worship before the movie!



How's life? Want to talk about it? Feel free to contact me.
Kari Christians (320)533-3021 karichristians@yahoo.com

