



*Every
good and
perfect
gift is from
above*

James 1:17 (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 “Even So Come”

We prepare for worship.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Advent is the period of four weeks before Christmas. The word itself means ‘coming’ in Latin, and so Advent is a celebration of waiting, of anticipating Christ Jesus’ arrival into our world.

There are three times of ‘coming’ that Christians observe during Advent. The first happened about 2,000 years ago when Jesus – God Himself – entered into our human existence as a baby. He then lived a wholly good life, a life He came to willingly sacrificed on the cross. Three days later, Jesus Christ rose again, promising forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who know and follow Him. The second ‘coming,’ therefore, can happen now! Jesus offers to enter into our lives, to guide us through our every day. Finally, the third ‘coming’ will happen in the future. Jesus has promised to return to us, to begin the final and never-ending age of God’s new creation.

Please join us now as we eagerly await the coming of Christ Jesus!

Welcome and the Sharing of God’s Peace

✦ Confession and Forgiveness

PASTOR: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

PASTOR: Almighty God, we have gathered today to wait. We join the people of the Bible who, from the very beginning, have waited for their reunion with You.

ALL: We wait for Heaven on earth, for Your eternal Paradise.

PASTOR: But our patience is tested. As every day passes, we discover more reasons for despair, for apathy, for depression and

restlessness. Besides You, O LORD, everything is tainted and everyone is flawed. How can we survive such a broken world?

ALL: We need a Savior! Rescue us, LORD God. Find us in the darkness and bring us into Your light!

PASTOR: In this season of Advent, we wait. Christmas is almost here, and it is then that we will celebrate what God has done. When He came to us, when God Himself was born as Jesus Christ, it was to give us what we need most: hope, love, joy, and peace. Jesus' perfectly honorable life, and His sacrificial suffering and death, save us. Our Lord and Savior rescues us, forgiving our sinful failures while keeping us from the consequence of death. Then, by His defeat of the grave, Jesus promises a new and eternal life with Him.

ALL: We wait for the perfection of that new life. Until the fullness of Heaven comes, we gladly wait! Amen.

Prayer of the Day – Advent of Joy

ALL: Loving God, Your good gifts are not only for the rich and powerful, but also for the poor and humble. When You were born into this world as Christ Jesus, both wise men and shepherds were invited to come to You, to meet You face-to-face. Help us to remember that You happily grant that same joy today, no matter who we are or how others might see us. Amen.

♪ Opening Song “Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel”

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-6

Psalm 119:49-50

READER: ⁴⁹ Remember Your promise to me, O LORD,
for it is my only hope.

**ALL: ⁵⁰ Your promise revives me;
it comforts me in all my troubles.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 9:27-28

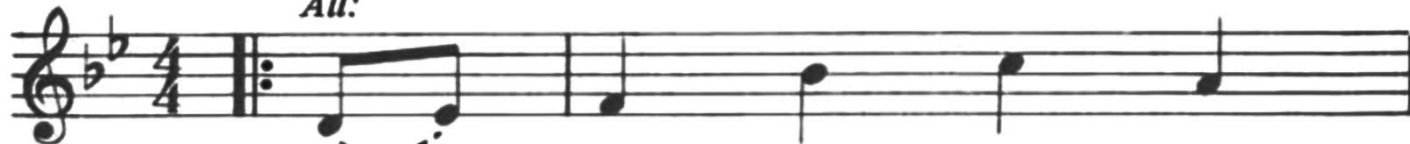
♪ The Annunciation: A Promise of the Savior's Arrival

✦ 🎵 The Magnificat: Our Response to God's Promise

The Magnificat

Luke 1: 46-55

All:



1.3. My ——— soul pro - claims your
2. You have cast the might - y



great-ness, O God, and my spir - it re-joic - es in
down from their thrones, and up lift - ed the hum - ble of



you, You have looked with love on your
heart, You have filled the hun - gry with



ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won-drous things, and left the wealth-y no part.



Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith-ful One,



strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,



How you fa - vor the weak — and low - ly one,
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah — and A - bra - ham,



hum - bling the proud of heart.
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

The Nicene Creed

ALL: 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

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. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Children's Sermon

Sermon "Sticks and Stones"

♪ Our Offering of Worship
"Hope Has a Name"

Holy Communion

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 "Joy of the Lord"

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, Brian Alnes, Marlys Arenson, Stephanie James, Kay Larson, Linda Maus, Karen Ness, JoAnn Schrader, Rose Thorp, Sharon Wiegers, and the family of Jerry Pachan.

Today's KEYL Radio Broadcast of our worship service is sponsored by JoAnn Manlove in memory of loved ones. Thank you for supporting this ministry, 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 & Teresa Pachan, Head Ushers, with any questions.

Bible Readings for Next Week: December 19, 2021

Sunday School Christmas Program

Matthew 1-2, Luke 1-2, John 1:1-18

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Ethan Fearing

Music: Worship Team

Altar Guild: Betty Oliver

Acolyte: Logan Thom

Deacons: Kirk Olson & Jon Fevig

Ushers: The Ellingson Family



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sunday school students will be presenting their Christmas program, "A Miracle in The Manager" on Sunday, December 19th at 9am. There will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the program. This is in place of the normal Sunday school class time. All are welcome to attend the program and reception. If you are able, please bring a treat to share at the reception.

From Trustees, if there are any changes in your committee's budget, please notify the trustees ASAP. We need to work on that VERY soon.

All boards and committees are asked to submit their annual reports to the church office by December 31st. Thank you!

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

REMINDER, for record keeping purposes as per our ALC constitution: Please fill out a communion card once each year. The cards are found in the racks in the pews. Filled out cards can be placed in the offering plate or given to an usher. **THANK YOU!**

From the Nominating Committee, if you are asked to serve in one of our church's elected positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Deacon, Trustee, Youth & Family committee, Board of Education, etc.) please pray about it and ask for the Lord's guidance. If you are interested in serving, please contact Blanche Tirk, Betty Oliver or Jammie Hedlund.

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 December** is.....Kidstown International.

Weekly Report:

Worship Attendance for last week: 77

General Fund receipts for last week: \$3,194.00

General Fund budgeted weekly needs: \$4,584.67

General Fund Year to Date (YTD) as of 11/30/21:

Budgeted needs: \$222,093.92

Receipts: \$203,653.54

Actual expenses: \$193,233.30

Contact Information:

Pastor Ethan Fearing (320) 874-0104

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

December 12th, 2021

SAVE
THE
DATE

December 15th: Quest Kids

December 19th: Sunday School Christmas Program

December 22/29: No Church Activities

January 7-8th: Mega Fun!

MEGA FUN!

Who: 3rd-6th graders

What: the funnest fun!

Where: Camp Lebanon

When: January 7-8, 2022

Why: to learn about "Holy Habits":
Life Practices that Help Christ
Followers Live Jesus Everyday

How: Cost is \$39 which covers one
night stay at camp and meals

Sign up on Y&F board and/or talk
to Kari Christians for more details!

How's life? Want to talk about it?

Feel free to contact me.

Kari Christians (320)533-3021

karichristians@yahoo.com

ALC MISSION TRIP SUMMER 2022

Plans are underway for mission trip
planning for next summer. Here is
what we know so far:

Destination: Pine Ridge
Reservation, South Dakota

Dates of Trip: July 29-Aug 7

This trip is open to current 6th-12th
graders. The cost is currently being
formulated, but will be able to be
covered by fundraisers, including the
Todd County Fair Stand.

More materials will be sent out about
the trip as soon as they become
available. The registration deadline
will be January 30th, 2022. A deposit
of \$50 will be required at that time.

Contact Kari with any questions!



CHRISTMAS

CELEBRATIONS AT AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

CAROLING WORSHIP SERVICE

December 24 • 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate by sipping cocoa and requesting your favorite Christmas carols!

Hear about the birth of Jesus Christ from a surprising source.

CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

December 24 • 6:00 p.m.

Sing treasured Advent and Christmas hymns after the sun sets.

Find comfort in a common phrase from the very first Christmas: "Fear not."

CLASSIC WORSHIP SERVICE

December 25 • 10:00 a.m.

Join us for traditional holiday hymns and a message about God's Light.

Stay and enjoy dinner! 2021 marks two decades of Meals, Mugs, & Mittens.



215 9th Street S.E. Long Prairie, MN 56347



Are you looking for a fun way for your child to learn about Jesus?

Join us on Sundays starting January 9th, 2022 from 10:15 am - 11:15am for an all new Sunday school program!

How is this different from Sunday school now? We will have all new:

GAMES

Crafts

Music

Bible Lessons

All while we grow our relationship with Jesus!!!!

Come see what all the excitement is about... and bring a friend!

Weekly Schedule at American Lutheran Church

Sun. Dec. 12th **9:00 am** **Worship Service with Communion**
10:15 am What About ?” Adult Bible Study
10:15 am – 11:30 am Sunday School
7:00 pm Bible Readers Meeting

Tue. Dec. 14th **9:00 am** Staff Meeting

Wed. Dec. 15th **11:00 am** Newsletter Articles Due
5:30 pm **Family Night Supper**
5:50 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Quest Kids at Baptist Church
6:30 pm Choir Practice

Sun. Dec. 9th **9:00 am** **Christmas Program Worship Service**
10:15 am **Reception after Christmas Program**
10:15 am What About ?” Adult Bible Study
11:30 am Missions Committee Meeting

Sunday worship services are radio broadcast on KEYL 1400 AM and 103.1 FM, live-streamed on Facebook, and posted with video recordings of services later on website.