

Whatsoever ye do
in word or deed,
do all in the name
of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God and
the Father by him.

Colossians 3:17

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 “Christmas Day”

We prepare for worship.

Welcome and the Sharing of God’s Peace

✦ Confession and Forgiveness

PASTOR: LORD God, You created humankind in Your image. We are meant to be Your representatives, to be caretakers of this world.

ALL: But at our worst, we run from those duties. We flee like scared animals!

PASTOR: And without Your good plans for us, we become little better than beasts. Our instincts turn selfish and even hostile.

ALL: Only You can tame us, LORD. Only You can restore our true nature.

PASTOR: God came as Christ Jesus to embody the good and right version of humanity He gave us at Creation. He lived the best possible example of life, but also sacrificed that life to restore what we lost. Because of this, Christ’s death on the cross forgives our failures, and His return to life grants you a new and eternal life in His Paradise. That is why we worship the LORD today!

Prayer of the Day

ALL: Loving God, we are Your creatures, the crown of Your creative work. Help us to own that status, to live as more than simple beasts. Guide us by Your Holy Spirit to thrive, now and forever, as re-created heirs of Your heavenly Kingdom! Amen.

♪ Opening Song “O Come All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)”

First Reading

Daniel 4:19, 24-27

Psalm 49:10-12

READER: ¹⁰ Those who are wise will eventually die.

**ALL: Just like the foolish and senseless,
they will leave all their wealth behind.**

READER: ¹¹ The grave is their eternal home,
where they will stay forever.

**ALL: They may build massive estates
and name them after themselves,
¹² but their fame will not last.**

READER: They will die, not unlike the beasts.

Second Reading

Revelation 13:1-2a, 5, 10b-11

✦ The Gospel, God's Good News

Mark 1:12-13

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 "Nature of the Beast"

♪ Our Offering of Worship
"What Child is This"

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 "This is Amazing Grace/Go Tell it on the Mountain"

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The January 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: 122

General Fund receipts for last week: \$4,966.00

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 26th, 2021

SAVE
THE
DATE

December 29th: No Church Activities
January 5th: Quest Kids Family Night
January 7-8th: Mega Fun!
January 9th: Sunday School resumes

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!



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. 26th 9:00 am Worship Service

Mon. Dec. 27th Church Office Closed

Tue. Dec. 28th 9:00 am Staff Meeting

Sun. Jan. 2nd 9:00 am Worship Service with Communion
10:15 am What About ?” Adult Bible Study

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.