

"Christmas ornaments from nature" © Carolyn Tomlin • Printed in USA

There shall come forth a rod
out of the stem of Jesse, and a
Branch shall grow out of his roots:

*And the Spirit of
the LORD shall
rest upon him.*

Isaiah 11:1-2a

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. WOV: *With One Voice*, the blue hymn book.
LBW: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, the green hymn book.

Prelude Music

We prepare our hearts 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

♪ Opening Hymn "Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel"

#034 LBW

✦ 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 Faith

ALL: Loving God, You once invited Mary and Joseph to follow You on a seemingly impossible journey, but You safely guided them through every obstacle. When the paths of our own lives seem difficult and dangerous, be with us in the same way. As You once brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, to that moment when they met You face-to-face, lead us now. Amen.

Special Music “We Want to Be Ready”

The Church Choir

First Reading

Ezekiel 5:1-4

Psalm 102:18-22

READER: 18 Let this be recorded for future generations,
so that a people not yet born will praise the LORD.

**ALL: 19 Tell them the LORD looked down
from His heavenly sanctuary.**

He looked down to earth from Heaven!

READER: 20 He inclined His ear to listen,

to hear the groans of the prisoners,
to plan the release of those condemned to die.

**ALL: 21 And so the LORD's fame will be celebrated
on the mountain of Zion!**

He will be praised throughout Jerusalem.

READER: 22 Multitudes will gather together,
and kingdoms will come to worship the LORD!

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:3-5, 7

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

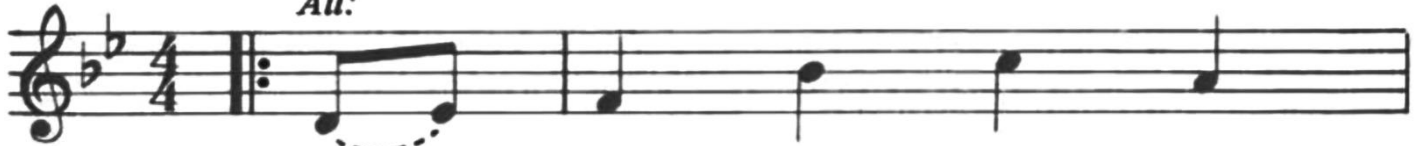
✦ ♪ The Magnificat: Our Response to God's Promise

ALL: (See the following pages for music and lyrics.)

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 Gospel, God's Good News

Page 83 LBW

PASTOR: This is the holy gospel of Luke, the twelfth chapter.

ALL: Glory to You, O LORD!

Luke 12:4-7

PASTOR: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to You, O Christ!

Children's Sermon

Sermon "A Hairy Situation"

✦ The Apostles Creed

Page 65 LBW

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

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.

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.

♪ Offering Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

#030 LBW

✦ ♪ The Offering Response

Page 86 LBW

ALL: Let the vineyards be fruitful, LORD, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be filled with the Bread of Life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with Your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come!

The Words of Institution

Page 89 LBW

Prayers of the People

PASTOR: LORD, in Your mercy...

ALL: ...hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Page 91 LBW

**ALL: 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.**

Benediction

A word of blessing.

♪ Closing Hymn "People, Look East"

#626 WOV

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, Rose Thorp, and Sharon Wiegers.

Today’s KEYL Radio Broadcast of our worship service is sponsored by Lori Zellmann in memory of her grandmother, Viola Westerberg. 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: September 13, 2020

Ezekiel 37:1-6 Hebrews 9:27-28

Psalms 119:49-50 John 11:1-23

Sermon Title: “Sticks and Stones”

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Ethan Fearing

Organist: Ruth Zinter

Pianist: Melba Granlund

Altar Guild: Betty Oliver

Acolyte: Evan Flan

Deacons: Kirk Olson & Jon Fevig

Ushers: The Ellingson Family



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: 110

General Fund receipts for last week: \$4,130.00

General Fund budgeted weekly needs: \$4,617.37

General Fund Year to Date (YTD) as of 10/31/21:

Budgeted needs: \$203,586.16

Receipts: \$188,088.54

Actual expenses: \$176,622.63

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 5th, 2021

SAVE
THE
DATE

December 8th: Quest Kids Family Night

December 15th: Quest Kids

December 19th: Sunday School Christmas Program

December 22/29: No Church Activities

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. 5th **9:00 am** **Worship Service with Communion**
10:15 am What About ?” Adult Bible Study
10:15 am – 11:30 am Sunday School

Mon. Dec. 6th **5:30 pm** Audio-Visual Committee Meeting
6:30 pm Youth Worship Team Practice

Tue. Dec. 7th **9:00 am** Staff Meeting
7:30 pm Trustee Meeting

Wed. Dec. 8th **9:30 am** Esther Circle
5:30 pm **Family Night Supper**
5:50 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Quest Kids Family Night at Baptist Church
6:30 pm Choir Practice
7:30 pm Church Council Meeting

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

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.