

# fear not!

GOD GAVE US THE WAY IN A MANGER



## Merry Christmas

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH - L.C.M.C.

Pastor Ethan Fearing (320) 874-0104  
Kari Christians, Youth & Family / Music Ministry Coordinator

215 9th Street SE, Long Prairie, MN 56347

✦ Please stand as you are able. WOV: *With One Voice*, the blue hymn book.

LBW: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, the green hymn book.

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Prelude “The Hills Are Bare at Bethlehem”

Kirk and Jane Olson

Gathering Hymn “Oh Come, All Ye Faithful”

#045 LBW

✦ The Sharing of God’s Peace

Greeting

Page 57 LBW

PASTOR: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**ALL: And also with you.**

Christmas Day Prayer – Saint Augustine of Hippo

**ALL: Let the just rejoice,  
for their Justifier is born.**

**Let the sick and infirm rejoice,  
For their Savior is born.**

**Let the captives rejoice,  
For their Redeemer is born.**

**Let slaves rejoice,  
for their Good Master is born.**

**Let free men rejoice,  
For their Liberator is born.**

**Let All Christians rejoice,  
For Jesus Christ is born.**

First Reading

*Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

Psalm 85:7-11, 13

READER: 7 Show us Your unfailing love, O LORD;  
save us now and forever!

**ALL: 8 We listen carefully to God,  
to what the LORD is saying.**

**We know that He speaks peace to His faithful people.**

READER: But we must not return to our former ways,  
to our foolish ways.

**ALL: 9 God's salvation is near to those who respect Him.  
It's true – we will be filled with His glory!**

READER: 10 Unfailing love and truth have met together.  
Righteousness and peace have kissed!

**ALL: 11 Truth springs up from the earth,  
and righteousness smiles down from Heaven.**

READER: 13 Righteousness walks ahead of God like a herald.  
Good and right living sings,  
preparing a path for His arrival!

Second Reading

*1 John 1:5-9*

✦  Reading Response

Page 83 LBW

**ALL: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words  
of eternal life. Alleluia!**

 The Gospel, God's Good News

Page 83 LBW

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


**ALL: Glory to You, O LORD!**

*Luke 2:8-14*

PASTOR: The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL: Praise to You, O Christ!**

Children's Sermon

 Hymn of the Day "Joy to the World"

#039 LBW

Sermon "Light in the Darkness"

 Offering Hymn "Of the Father's Love" (verses 1-4)

#042 LBW

✦ Prayers

PASTOR: LORD, on this blessed Christmas day...

**ALL: ...grant us Your light.**

**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 festive blessing.*

♪ Closing Hymn "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

#070 LBW

Postlude

*We leave in peace, ready to share the good news of Jesus!*

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### **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 Wieggers, and the family of Jerry Pachan.

**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.

### **Worship Leaders**

Pastor: Ethan Fearing

Altar Guild: Betty Oliver

Deacons: Kirk Olson & Jon Fevig

Ushers: Deb Fearing & Blain Hall

Organist: Ruth Zinter

Acolyte: Hunter Katterhagen

Reader: Deb Fearing



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**All boards and committees are asked to submit their annual reports to the church office by December 31<sup>st</sup>. 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](mailto: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](mailto:americanlutheranchurchlp@gmail.com)

Website: [americanlutheranchurch.org](http://americanlutheranchurch.org)

Facebook Page: American Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship Livestream: on Facebook



# 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*



**American Lutheran Church  
20<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Day  
Meals, Mugs & Mittens**

**Dinner: Serving at 11:30**

Turkey & Dressing

Ham

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Green Beans

Sweet Potatoes

Cranberries

Dinner Rolls

Relishes

Angel Food Cake w/Strawberries  
and Whipped Cream

Coffee & Milk

**Serving at 11:00**

Hot chocolate/ Hot Apple Cider

**Christmas Day Service starting at 10:00  
215 9<sup>th</sup> St. SE Long Prairie**



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. 26<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am Worship Service**

**Mon. Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> Church Office Closed**

**Tue. Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am Staff Meeting**

**Sun. Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.