

The people
walking
in darkness

*have seen a
great light*

Isaiah 9:2 (NIV)

American Lutheran Church (ALC)

215 Ninth Street SE • Long Prairie, Minnesota

Pastor Ethan Fearing • 732-2932

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 for worship.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Advent is the period of four weeks that prepare us for Christmas. The word itself means 'forthcoming' in Latin, because Advent is a celebration of waiting, of anticipating Christ Jesus' arrival in our world.

There are three episodes of 'forthcoming' 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. This gives us the second 'forthcoming' – yes, it happens to us today! Jesus offers to enter into our lives, to guide us through every twist and turn. Finally, the third 'forthcoming' will happen in the future. Jesus has promised to return to us, to complete the never-ending age of God's Kingdom.

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

Greetings 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.

♪ Opening Hymn "Hark, the Glad Sound!"

#035 LBW

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.

♪ The Kyrie, a Prayer for Mercy

Page 57 LBW

PASTOR: In peace, let us pray to the LORD.

ALL: LORD, have mercy.

PASTOR: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the LORD.

ALL: LORD, have mercy.

PASTOR: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the LORD.

ALL: LORD, have mercy.

PASTOR: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the LORD.

ALL: LORD, have mercy.

PASTOR: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious LORD.

ALL: Amen!

♪ Hymn of Praise

Pages 58-59 LBW

PASTOR: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth!

ALL: LORD God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, LORD God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

♪ A Hopeful Blessing

Page 62 LBW

PASTOR: The LORD be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day – Advent of Joy

ALL: Loving God, we are like the shepherds who witnessed the very first Christmas. Often, we are in the dark, surrounded by unknown dangers, and we are easily scared. Come to us as You came to them, driving out our fears with Your great joy! Save us, giving us strength for today and excitement for tomorrow. Amen.

First Reading

Deuteronomy 20:4

Psalm 35:1-2, 3b-5, 8

READER: ¹ O LORD, oppose those who oppose me!

Fight those who fight against me.

ALL: ² Put on Your armor, and take up Your shield.

Prepare for battle, and come to my aid.

READER: ^{3b} Let me hear You say,

“I, the LORD, will give you victory!”

**ALL: 4 Shame and disgrace those who try to kill me;
turn them back,
humiliating those who want to harm me.**

READER: 5 Blow them away like chaff in the wind –
a wind sent by the angel of the LORD.

**ALL: 8 Let sudden ruin come upon them!
Let them be caught in the trap they set for me!
Let them be destroyed in the pit they dug for me.**

Special Music “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” The Church Choir

Second Reading *James 4:7-10*

✦ ♪ Reading Response Page 62 LBW

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

♪ The Gospel, God’s Good News Page 63 LBW

PASTOR: This is the holy gospel of Mark, the ninth chapter.

ALL: Glory to You, O LORD!

Mark 9:17-29

PASTOR: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to You, O Christ!

Holy Baptism – Mason Jay Bodle

Sermon “The Victory of Exorcism”

✦ 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 75 LBW

ALL: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit.

Prayers of the People

PASTOR: LORD, in Your mercy...

ALL: ...hear our prayer.

The Lord’s Prayer Page 76 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 “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” #036 LBW

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 Joe Ayers, Deb Adamek, Everett Bullert, Elaine Clementson, Bob Fox, Lisa Guse, Larry Hatton, Mike Holden, Stephanie James, Kay Larson, Joni Love, Karen Ness, Rose Thorp, and Dave Young.

Today’s KEYL Radio Broadcast of our worship service is sponsored by John & Jane Hasse in honor of old friends and family who made Christmas special for many years. 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.

Bible Readings for Next Week: December 18, 2022

Isaiah 9:1-7 Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20

Matthew 2:1-15 Revelation 12:1-6

Message: The Sunday School Christmas Program

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Ethan Fearing

Keyboard: Mason Ellingson

Altar Guild: Betty Oliver

Acolyte: Hunter Katterhagen

Deacon: Deb Fearing

Reader: Betty Oliver



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School Christmas Program

Save the date!!!! The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held Sunday, December 18th during normal worship time. Please come support our children as they celebrate the birth of Jesus. Join us in the Fellowship Hall following the program for a Christmas reception. If you are able, please bring a treat to share.

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

If you are asked by the Nominating Committee 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.

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

2023 offering envelopes can be picked up on the table by the bulletin board in the narthex.

If you have changed your address or phone number please call the church office and let us know. We are currently updating our church directory for 2023.

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!** – Board of Deacons.

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: 76

General Fund receipts for last week: \$4,673.72

General Fund budgeted weekly needs: \$4,521.21

General Fund Year to Date (YTD) as of 10/31/22:

Budgeted needs: \$198,933.24

Receipts: \$178,074.89

Actual expenses: \$170,743.95

As of December 4th, our 2022 YTD General Budget receipts were \$25,153.71 behind our YTD General Budget needs.

Contact Information:

Pastor Ethan Fearing; Cell: (320) 874-0104

E-mail: ethanfearing@yahoo.com

Youth & Family Coordinator, Sierra Larson; Cell: (320) 766-4153

E-mail: Ms.sierra.kid.youth.ALC@gmail.com

Music Coordinator, Alyssa Fearing; Cell: (320) 874-0104

E-mail: fearingalyssa@gmail.com

Church Secretary, Lori Zellmann; Office: (320) 732-2932

Office E-mail: americanlutheranchurchlp@gmail.com

Website: americanlutheranchurch.org

Facebook Page: [American Lutheran Church](#)

Sunday Worship Livestream: [on Facebook](#)



YOUTH CHRISTMAS AT ALC

- WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE
- HOT CHOCOATE
- COOKIES
- CRAFTS
- MUSIC
- AND MORE!

date: December 18th
time: sunday school- 4pm



❄️ QUEST KIDS 22-23 ❄️ WINTER CALENDAR!

DECEMBER

December 07 - Quest Kids Family Night

Christmas Caroling @ 6:00 PM

December 14 - Quest Kids @ 6:00 PM

December 21 - No Quest... Merry Christmas!

December 28 - No Quest... Happy New Year



JANUARY

January 04 - Quest Kids Family Night

The Amazing Race! @ 6:00 PM

January 6-7 - MEGA FUN @ CAMP LEBANON

January 11 - Quest Kids @ 6:00 PM

January 18 - Quest Kids @ 6:00 PM

January 25 - Quest Kids @ 6:00 PM

2023!



FEBRUARY

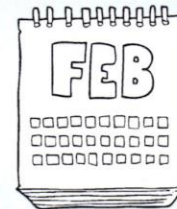
February 01 - Quest Kids Family Night

2022 Quest Kids Derby! @ 6:00 PM

February 08 - Quest Kids @ 6:00 PM

February 15 - Quest Kids @ 6:00 PM

February 22 - Quest Kids @ 6:00 PM



FBC LONG PRAIRIE
f @FirstBaptistLongPrairie
website: fbclongprairie.org
320-732-2179

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
f @alc.lp.mn
website: americanlutheranchurch.org
320-732-2932



36th ANNUAL!
Boys & Girls
Clubs
Grades 3-6
PLUS LEADERS!

MEGA FUN 2023

MEGA A January 6-7 (one night)

You bring the kids... Camp organizes the fun!

THEME: "THE B-I-B-L-E!"

FRIDAY EVENING	
8:15	Evening Chapel with Don Bursell
9:30	Free Time & Snack
10:00	Crazy Games!
10:30	To cabins (leaders set the time)
SATURDAY	
8:00	Flag Raising & Breakfast
8:45	Cabin Devotions & Skit Prep
9:45	Chapel
	Hazzard Hill Tubing Run open 11:00 – 12:20
	Broomball / Trading Post open 11:00 – 12:30
12:30	Lunch
1:15	IDITAROD Ice Games
2:00	Canteen & Trading Post
2:30	AFTERNOON RALLY (Mega A only)
3:00	Mega A Departure

SPECIAL GUEST:

DONBI!

DonB, the "Doctor of Merriment," is BACK! Get ready for perhaps the funniest comedian, juggler, unicyclist, and illusionist you will ever see! Formerly known as "Circus Unique," Don Bursell has traveled the world sharing his love for laughter and for his Lord Jesus Christ.



CHAPEL SPEAKER:

"Bobber Bill"

For the past 37 years, Bill Abeler has been Camp's Executive Director. He loves fishing, organizing fun, and bringing Scripture to life for kids and adults!



Quest Kids Parents!

We hope your 3-6 grade children can join!

To register, please email me as soon as possible at jackson@fbclongprairie.org. Once I have you on the list I will send out Camp's online registration link. The money for the trip can be brought to Quest (checks made payable to FBC Long Prairie). Registration deadline is December 21st

PARTICIPANTS: Grades 3-6 (Min. Ratio: 1 leader for every 10 kids)
 Cabins hold twelve. Smaller groups may be combined.

FREE TIME FUN: Broomball, sliding, hiking, skating, carpetball, foosball, Trading Post, canteen, & more!

Cost is \$40 per student

Weekly Schedule at American Lutheran Church

Sun. Dec. 11th 8:20 am Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary
9:00 am **Worship Service with Baptism**
10:15 am **Sunday School**
7:00 pm Bible Readers Meeting

Wed. Dec. 14th 9:00 am Staff Meeting
9:30 am Esther Circle
5:30 pm **Family Night Supper**
6:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Quest Kids
7:00 pm Choir Practice
8:00 pm Church Council Meeting

Sun. Dec. 18th 9:00 am **Children's Christmas Program Worship Service**
10:15 am Youth Christmas Party Grades 7-12
11:15 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 our website.