

*Your
light
has come*

©vicuschka/shutterstock • Printed in USA



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 our hearts 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!

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.

♪ 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 Prophecy

ALL: Loving God, You have promised to come to us, to be with us, and to return to us as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Give us patience as we wait for those prophecies – for Your perfect promises – to come to pass. Amen.

First Reading

Hosea 6:4, 6

Psalm 51:1, 4, 9-10

READER: ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
out of Your unfailing love.

**ALL: Out of Your great compassion,
blot out the stain of my sins.**

READER: ⁴ Against You, and You alone, have I sinned;
because I have done evil according to Your standards.

ALL: You will always be proved right in what You say,

because Your judgment against me is fair.

READER: 9 But don't keep looking at my sins!

Remove the stain of my guilt.

ALL: 10 **Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Renew a loyal spirit within me.

Special Music "Celebrate the Promise"

The Church Choir

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 4:10-13

✦  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 Matthew, the ninth chapter.

ALL: Glory to You, O LORD!

Matthew 9:9-13

PASTOR: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to You, O Christ!

Children's Sermon

Sermon "The Scum of the Earth"

✦ 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 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #034 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.

The Words of Institution Page 69 LBW

Holy Communion

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!

Today’s KEYL Radio Broadcast of our worship service is sponsored by Blaine & Bernice Petrie in honor of their children and grandchildren. 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. A sign-up sheet is on the wall in the back of the sanctuary.

Bible Readings for Next Week: December 10, 2023

Proverbs 22:29 Romans 12:1, 6-8

Psalms 25:1-5 Mark 1:14-20

Sermon Title: “That’s Catchy!”

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Ethan Fearing

Organist: Mason Ellingson

Altar Guild: Betty Oliver

Deacon: Deb Fearing

Reader: Emily Steinert

Ushers: Russ & Jean Jacobsen

Reilly Jacobsen



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School Children and Youth Christmas Program: Please join us Sunday, December 17th at 9:00am as our youth lead us in the story of the birth of Jesus. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

WE ARE IN NEED OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!

We are looking for anyone interested in helping serve one Sunday a month with our kids' Sunday school program or willing to be a substitute when needed. Lessons are planned out and easy to follow, and supplies can be provided if needed. Please talk to Sierra, Jody, or Pastor Ethan if interested!

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.

The September - November 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.

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: 115

General Fund receipts for last week: \$13,080.00

General Fund budgeted weekly needs: \$4,439.21

General Fund Year to Date (YTD) as of 10/31/23:

Budgeted needs: \$194,445.24

Receipts: \$173,550.04

Actual expenses: \$171,825.09

As of November 26th, our 2023 YTD General Budget receipts were \$14,423.46 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

Sacred 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](#)

❄️ QUEST KIDS 23-24 ❄️ WINTER CALENDAR!

DECEMBER

December 06 - Quest Kids Family Night
Christmas Caroling @ 6:00 PM

December 13 - Quest Kids @ 6:00 PM

December 20 - Quest Kids @ 6:00 PM

December 27 - No Quest... Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



JANUARY

January 03 - Quest Kids Family Night
The Amazing Race! @ 6:00 PM

January 5-6 - MEGA FUN @ CAMP LEBANON

January 10 - Quest Kids @ 6:00 PM

January 17 - Quest Kids @ 6:00 PM

January 24 - Quest Kids @ 6:00 PM

January 31 - Quest Kids @ 6:00 PM

2024!



FEBRUARY

February 07 - Quest Kids Family Night
2024 Quest Kids Derby! @ 6:00 PM


February 14 - Quest Kids @ 6:00 PM

February 21 - Quest Kids @ 6:00 PM

February 28 - Quest Kids @ 6:00 PM



FBC LONG PRAIRIE

 @FirstBaptistLongPrairie
website: fbclongprairie.org
320-732-2179

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

 @alc.lp.mn
website: americanlutheranchurch.org
320-732-2932

This game just got real.



Clues

a murder mystery dinner party

WtW
WatchWord

December 2, 2023

10:00 a.m. start time

\$10 ticket covers your lunch, dessert, and entertainment.

Enjoy an interactive parable with strategy, challenges, and puzzles!

Players ages 12+ should RSVP one week prior to Sierra Larson: 320-766-4153

American Lutheran Church 215 9th Street SE,
Long Prairie, MN 56347

PRAYER LIST

Our current prayer list includes Deb Adamek, Larry Adamek, Joe Ayers, Marjorie Berry, Kathy Chelman, Jodi Eckel, Karin Fearing, Lee Fearing, Bob Fox, Larry Hatton, Shane Hoemberg, Stephanie James, Lois Johnson, Joni Love, Karen Ness, Aubrey Olson, Roger Schultes, Sam Tesch, Rose Thorp, and Sharon Wiegers.

We are so frequently reminded of the extreme danger those involved in Law Enforcement face. Within our congregation, there are many individuals and families who have friends and loved ones serving in these roles. Therefore, several of us are requesting that we regularly include these names in our weekly congregational prayers.

Presently we are requesting prayers for:

- Nick Eldred, son of Chuck & Nancy Eldred
- Tom Haugen, son of Bryan & Linda Haugen, grandson of Ione Krause
- Tim Schroeder, son of Sue & Dennis Kaniski
- Brian Schultes, son of Dean & Julie Schultes
- Pete John, cousin to Janie Thole
- Barry Tirk, son of Allan & Blanche Tirk
- Tony Solseth, grandson of Carole Thompson
- Dave Greaver, Todd County Sheriff's Department Chaplain

We are perhaps not aware of all who should be included in this list. We have begun compiling and ask you to give the church office names of additional law enforcement personnel and their families.

Wednesday Family Night Supper 2023 – 2024 Schedule

Dec. 6th	Spaghetti – Team 3
Dec. 13th	Taco Temptations – Team 4
Dec. 20th	?
Dec. 27th	NO SUPPER (Christmas Break)
Jan. 3rd	Soupers – Team 6
Jan. 10th	Variables – Team 2
Jan. 17th	Duke’s Mixture – Team 1
Jan. 24th	?
Jan. 31st	Spaghetti – Team 3
Feb. 7th	Taco Temptations – Team 4
Feb. 14th	Soupers - Team 6
Feb. 21st	Duke’s Mixture – Team 1
Feb. 28th	Youth Missions Fund Raiser
Mar. 6th	Variables – Team 2
Mar. 13th	Spaghetti – Team 3
Mar. 20th	Taco Temptations – Team 4
Mar. 27th	NO SUPPER (Holy Week)
Apr. 3rd	Soupers - Team 6
Apr. 10th	Duke’s Mixture – Team 1
Apr. 17th	Variables – Team 2
Apr. 24th	ALCW

Weekly Schedule at American Lutheran Church

- Sun. Dec. 3rd:** **8:00 am** Board of Education Meeting
 8:15 am Choir Practice
 9:00 am **Worship Service with Communion**
10:15 am **Sunday School Practice for Christmas**
 Program
11:15 am Missions Committee Meeting
- Mon. Dec. 4th:** **7:00 pm** Trustee Meeting
- Tue. Dec. 5th:** **8:15 am** Staff Meeting
- Wed. Dec. 6th:** **5:30 pm** **Family Night Supper**
 6:00 pm Confirmation Class
 6:00 pm Quest Kids Family Night with Christmas
 Caroling
 6:30 pm Choir Practice
 8:00 pm Deacon Meeting
- Sun. Dec. 10th:** **8:15 am** Choir Practice
 9:00 am **Worship Service**
10:15 am **Sunday School Practice for Christmas**
 Program
10:15 am **ALCW 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.