

THE LIGHT  
OF THE WORLD IS

JESUS



©3572etundin/shutterstock • Printed in USA

American Lutheran Church (ALC) 

215 Ninth Street SE • Long Prairie, Minnesota

Pastor Ethan Fearing • 732-2932

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

✦ Please stand as you are able.

---

♪ Welcoming Song

*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!*

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.**

Prayer of the Day – Advent of Love

**ALL: LORD God, You came to us give us life! You brought it from Heaven to earth, a loving gift, a present won through Your cross and empty grave, and it all started with a young family and a manger. Your love came to us at Christmas, and for that we give You praise! Amen.**

♪ Opening Song “Unto Us a Child is Born/Open the Eyes of My Heart”

First Reading

*Isaiah 9:1a, 2, 6-7a*

Psalm 143:6-8

READER: <sup>6</sup> LORD God, I lift my hands to You in prayer.

I thirst for You as parched land thirsts for rain.

**ALL: <sup>7</sup> Come quickly, O LORD, and answer me, because my depression is deepening!**

READER: Don't turn away from me,  
or I will die.

**ALL: <sup>8</sup> Every morning, I want to be awakened**

**by a reminder of Your unfailing love.**

**I am trusting You to bring me light in this darkness!**

READER: Show me where to walk!

**ALL: Show me where to go and what to do  
as I entrust myself to You!**

Second Reading

*2 Corinthians 4:5-7*

✦ The Gospel, God's Good News

*John 1:1-5, 10-14a*

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 “Baby Jesus: Dragonslayer”

♪ Our Offering of Worship “How Great Is Our God”

✦ Prayers of the People

PASTOR: LORD, in Your mercy...

ALL: ...hear our prayer.

The Lord’s Prayer

**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 Song “Joy to the World/Joyful, Joyful”

Sending Song “Oh, What a Glorious Night”

Postlude Music

*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 Sue & Dennis Kanaski 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 Tonight: December 24, 2023**

Isaiah 11:1-4

Luke 1:26-2:20

Matthew 2:1-15

Sermon Title: "The Shepherd's Carol"

### **Worship Leaders**

Pastor: Ethan Fearing

Music: Alyssa Fearing and Heather Marcyes

Altar Guild: Betty Oliver

Acolyte: Gracie Hukriede

Deacon: Deb Fearing

Reader: Heather Marcyes

Ushers: Russ & Jean Jacobsen

Reilly Jacobsen



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Please join us for a Free Community Christmas Dinner** on Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. here at the American Lutheran Church.

### **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 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.

## **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: 84

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 December 10<sup>th</sup>, our 2023 YTD General Budget receipts were \$2,020.71 behind our YTD General Budget needs.

### **Contact Information:**

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

E-mail: [ethanfearing@yahoo.com](mailto:ethanfearing@yahoo.com)

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

E-mail: [Ms.sierra.kid.youth.ALC@gmail.com](mailto:Ms.sierra.kid.youth.ALC@gmail.com)

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

E-mail: [fearingalyssa@gmail.com](mailto:fearingalyssa@gmail.com)

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

Office 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](#)

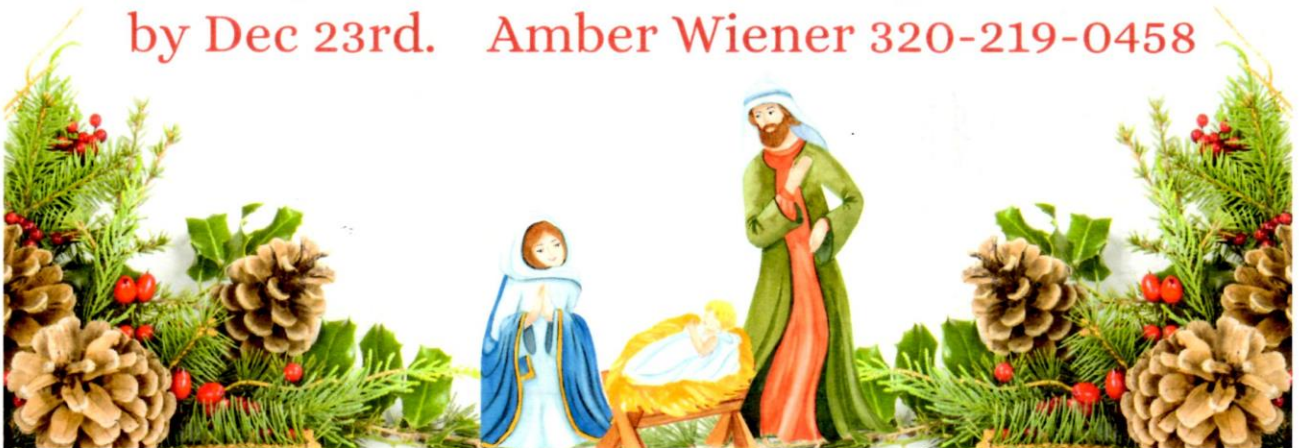


# FREE COMMUNITY Christmas Dinner

*American Lutheran Church  
219 9th St. SE  
Long Prairie, MN 56347*

*Dinner will be served  
Dec 25th @ 11:30 am*

If delivery is needed for shut-ins please contact  
by Dec 23rd. Amber Wiener 320-219-0458



# NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

END 2023 WITH WORSHIP

START 2024 WITH PRAYER

December 31 | 7PM-12AM | FBC Long Prairie

All are welcome to this family friendly event, but children grade 6 and under need to be accompanied by an adult

Indoor & Outdoor Activities, so dress accordingly!

Bring a snack to share

# ❄️ 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

# Mission Trip Reveal

Come join us for a spaghetti lunch as we reveal where we are going for our missions trip

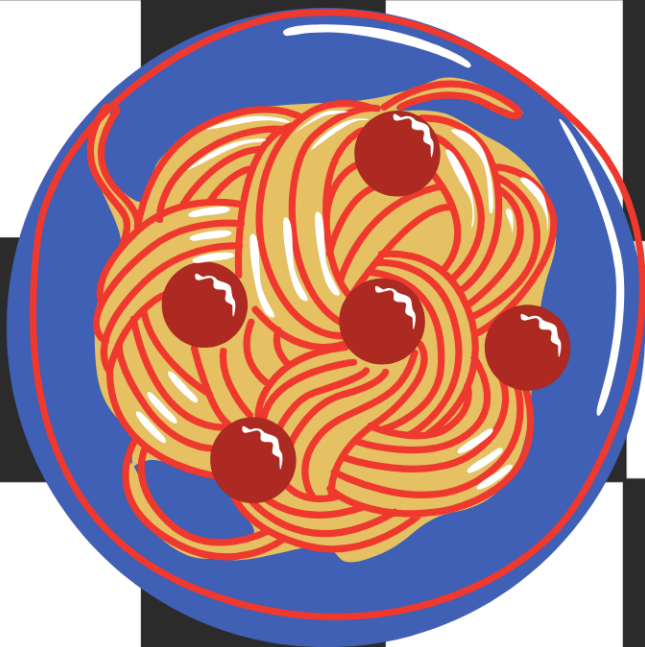
**Meal Date January 7th at 11:30am**

**ALL WELCOMED, free will donations**

**MARK  
YOUR  
CALENDAR!**



**Mission Trip  
Dates: July  
14th-20th  
2024**



**HINTS:**

- 6 hours away
- We are Driving
- Not in MN

## **PRAYER LIST**

**Our current prayer list includes** Deb Adamek, Larry Adamek, Joe Ayers, Kathy Chelman, Jodi Eckel, Karin Fearing, Lee Fearing, Bob Fox, Blain Hall, Larry Hatton, Stephanie James, Lois Johnson, Joni Love, Karen Ness, Aubrey Olson, Roger Schultes, Sam Tesch, Rose Thorp, Sharon Wiegers, and the family of Ginny Bruder.

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:**

- Kyle Drum, husband of Toni Drum
- Nick Eldred, son of Chuck & Nancy Eldred
- Tom Haugen, son of Bryan & Linda Haugen, grandson of Ione Krause
- Tim Schroeder, son of Sue & Dennis Kaneski
- 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

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

## Weekly Schedule at American Lutheran Church

**Sun. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 am Advent Worship Service**  
**3:30 pm Viewing of “Chosen” Christmas Episode**  
**3:30 pm Choir Practice**  
**4:00 pm Evening Christmas Eve Worship Service with Communion**  
**5:30 pm Viewing of “Chosen” Christmas Episode**  
**6:00 pm Evening Christmas Eve Worship Service with Communion**

**Mon. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am Christmas Morning Worship Service**  
**11:30 am Free Community Christmas Dinner**

**Tue. Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>: 6:00 pm Staff Meeting**

**Thu. Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 am Audio-Visual Committee Meeting**

**Sun. Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>: 9:00 am Worship Service with Communion**  
**10:00 am Prayer in the Library after Service**  
**7:00 pm Family New Year’s Eve Party for all ages at First Baptist Church**

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.