



LCMC
Pastor Ethan Fearing

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320-732-2932

January 2024 Newsletter



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From the Pastor....

To you, the LORD's beloved people of American Lutheran Church,

Every January, millions of people begin their new year with a resolution. Getting organized, exercising more, eating better, and managing finances are some of the most common goals they set. Yet, we often make resolutions on January 1st, only to give them up by January 8th. Making an actual commitment isn't easy, and that seems to have always been true. In the Bible, James describes the problem like this:

"Listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.' How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog – it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, 'If the LORD wants us to, we will live and do this or that.' Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil! Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it." (James 4:13-17)

Our plans may or may not align with God's. If we want to be truly successful with any New Year's resolution, we should search for God's will – His vision – for our lives. With His help, we might actually get organized, lose weight, or become better stewards of our finances. God strengthens us whenever we're willing to follow His plan, but it will take a commitment lasting beyond January 8th. And, really, this should be second nature to us, because Christians are called to long-term commitments. The Bible encourages this, saying, "Be patient, dear brothers and sisters, as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near!" (James 5:7-8)

From the Pastor.... (Continued)

The farmer waits patiently for God to bring growth, but that doesn't mean he sits on his porch doing nothing. No! True waiting is busy, and so a farmer works hard. He'll water and weed, repair equipment, and complete his daily chores. And when a farmer does what a farmer is meant to do, the LORD is able to do the things that only He can do.

Would the LORD be honored if our bodies – the temples of His Holy Spirit – were in better shape? Could He be blessed if our financial affairs were in order? Would He use us mightily if we serve in a ministry, or shared our faith? The answer to each of these questions is the same – of course! Of course the LORD can be in these things. However, committing to lose weight does not mean sitting on the couch with a bag of chips watching TV. Like the farmer, we must do what we need to so God can do what only He can to produce results in our lives.

Something else to think about: Why is it that we only make resolutions about weight, exercise, and money? God would be honored if we also made spiritual resolutions. Let's read the Bible more, get involved in or start a ministry at church, or make a step of faith that is so big it can only happen with God's help. Resolve to represent Him no matter what the cost: "If you are suffering in a manner that leads to accomplishing the good will of God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for He will never fail you." (1 Peter 4:19)

Below are a few resolutions to consider:

1) Look for God in your life by praying like King David every morning for the next year:

"Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Renew a loyal spirit within me.

Do not banish me from Your presence,

and don't take Your Holy Spirit from me." (Psalm 51:10-11)

2) Resolve to give your attitude to the LORD. Commit to making a difference at home, in the workplace, the at the store, on the roads, and even at church. Use this passage as a guide:

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one Body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful." (Colossians 3:14-15)

3) Thomas Fuller, a well-known preacher from England, understood how to make successful resolutions. As he once said, "Seek the LORD and His wonderful plan for your life. The two of you will make a great team – united in your determination to fulfill your destiny. A strong will, a settled purpose, an invincible determination can accomplish almost anything." The two of you make a great team! What an empowering statement. So often we think we are forging our path alone. We live as though life is completely up to us. Yet, if we are "in Christ" we are part of a team:

"God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for He Himself is fair and just, and He makes sinners right in His sight when they believe in Jesus." (Romans 3:26b)

4) "And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father." (Colossians 3:17)

By grace, through faith, in Christ,

Pastor Ethan Fearing

320-874-0104

❄️ 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

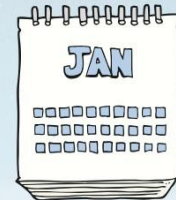
January 10 - Quest Kids @ 6:00 PM

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

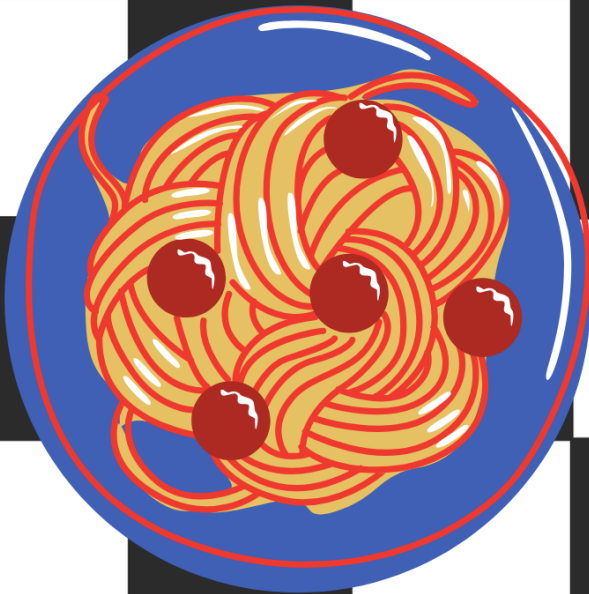
Meal Date January 7th at 11:30am

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

Sun, Feb 11, 2024

SUPER BOWL PARTY

meet at church at 5pm

watching at Sierra's parents new home located in Long Prairie

FOOTBALL, FOOD, FUN AND GAMES



Sunday Nights at the Movies

Jan. 7: "Christmas with The Chosen" (PG)

Jan. 21: "Sound of Freedom" (PG-13)

PLEASE mark your calendars for

'Sunday Nights at the Movies'!

ALC invites our congregation and the community to attend FREE movies, showing at 6:30pm (various topics/titles, Christian themes).

This is your chance to invite friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. to join you to learn more about Jesus/Christian life (or hear for the first time) via movies.

*Light refreshments will be served.

For young families: *NURSERY will be provided.

INVITE others to join you PLEASE!

American Lutheran Church
welcomes everyone for

SUNDAY NIGHTS AT THE MOVIES

6:30
PM

215 9th Street SE, Long Prairie, MN 56347

Entry is free! Nursery care and snacks will be provided.

January 7	February 4	March 3	April 14
January 21	February 18	March 17	April 28

Sarah Circle Meeting Change



Sarah Circle will meet January 22nd rather than 15th!

Shoebox Shopping Tips



SHOEBOX FRIENDS -Don't forget to watch HOLIDAY CLEARANCE SALES for bargains on great 2024 Shoebox items!

Mission Focus

Pregnancy and Life Resource Center and Medical Clinic



Pregnancy and Life Resource Center is a non-profit medical clinic which offers free, compassionate, confidential services. They are a confidential center and personal information is safe with us.

They offer a safe, caring, confidential place to talk. They are staffed by trained volunteers who offer support and resources to men and women who are facing an unplanned pregnancy, are at risk for an STD, or need resources as new parents.

Pregnancy and Life Resource Center does **not** recommend, provide, or refer clients for abortion, but are available and desire to help clients make an informed choice.

Service Group 1 – Jan - Feb

Service Group 1 – January - February

Service Group Responsibilities:

- Serve for funerals on a rotating basis every 7th Funeral.
- Serve for special events occurring during the two-month period.

Group 1 Leaders: **Doris Peterson**
 Jane Olson

Group 1 Members:

Anderson, Blair & Marchell
Baker, Misty
Chapin, Bob & Tammie
Faust, Kevin & Donna
Gustafson, Woody & Marilyn
Haugen, Bryan & Linda
Hillig, Scott & Becky
Krause, Ione
Monson, John & Helen
Olson, Kirk
Ostendorf, Jim & Patty
Parker, Chuck & Kathy
Sanvik, Lowell & Carol
Schneekloth, Gary & Pam
Schultz, Pat & Tracy
Simpson, Vicki
Tirk, Al & Blanche

January

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2nd Garrett Hasse
4th Hannah Hasse
4th Iris Wolbeck
5th Alli Rach
5th Sydney Rach
6th Scott Hillig
7th Ellie Goplen
7th Dale Peterson
12th Jessie Arenson
12th Nicholas Eldred
13th LaMoine Hatton
13th Braydon Karjala
16th Dennis Oliver
17th Delvin Durheim
17th Sam Olson
18th Ty Drum
21st Karl Lawin
22nd Gary Westerberg
25th Kristen Vanselow
26th Dannielle Berscheit
26th Brielle Bodle
26th Joan Pesta
26th John Prill
26th Addison Young
26th Ellianna Young
27th Amanda Parker
27th Wanda Thompson
28th Dale Ellingson
28th David Ruda
28th Jonathan Young
29th Olivia Browen
31st Elle Olson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

8th Frank & JoAnn Schrader
9th Dale & Connie Peterson



ALC CALENDAR JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00pm Trustee Meeting 	2 8:15am Staff Meeting	3 5:30pm Family Night Supper  6:00pm Quest Kids Family Night - The Amazing Race! 6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Deacon Meeting	4	5	6
7 9:00am Worship Service with Communion 10:15am Take Down Christmas Decorations 10:15am Sunday School 11:30am Spaghetti Lunch and Mission Trip Reveal  6:30pm Sunday Nights at the Movies - Christmas with the Chosen (PG) 	8	9 8:15am Staff Meeting	10 9:30am Esther Circle 5:30pm Family Night Supper  6:00pm Quest Kids 6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Church Council Meeting	11	12	13
14 8:00am Board of Education Meeting 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Sunday School	15	16 8:15am Staff Meeting	17 11:00am Newsletter Articles Due 5:30pm Family Night Supper  6:00pm Quest Kids 6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Choir Practice	18	19	20
21 9:00am Worship Service with Communion 10:15am Sunday School 11:30am Mission Committee Meeting 6:30pm Sunday Nights at the Movies - Sound of Freedom (PG13) 	22 6:00pm Youth & Family Committee Meeting 7:00pm Sarah Circle Bible Study	23 8:15am Staff Meeting	24 5:30pm Family Night Supper  6:00pm Quest Kids 6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Choir Practice	25 9:00am Audio-Visual Committee Meeting	26	27
28 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Prayer at Altar after Service 10:15am Sunday School 11:30am Annual Meeting 	29 6:00pm Staff Meeting	30	31 5:30pm Family Night Supper  6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:00pm Quest Kids 6:30pm Choir Practice			