

*Evening,
and morning,
and at noon,
will I pray*

Psalm 55:17



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.

Welcome and the Sharing of God's Peace

✦ Confession and Forgiveness

Page 56 LBW

PASTOR: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

PASTOR: Almighty God, to Whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

PASTOR: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for personal reflection.

PASTOR: Most merciful God...

ALL: ...we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart: we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy Name. Amen.

Announcement of forgiveness.

♪ Opening Hymn "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

#230 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

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

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

PASTOR: The LORD be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

ALL: Heavenly Father, You designed us to speak. Unlike any other creature, You gave us words, but what we say isn't always good. We know the terrible power of our tongues. Sometimes, like You, we speak love, truth, and life. But unlike You, we can also speak hate, lies, and destruction. Forgive us, Lord Jesus! Fix our tongues, Holy Spirit, then speak through us. Give us the words needed each day to live as Your new creations. Amen.

First Reading

Proverbs 12:1-3, 13:1-3

Psalm 145:1, 3-7

READER: ¹ I will raise You up, my God and King,
and praise Your name forever and ever.

ALL: ³ The LORD is great!

More than anyone, He deserves praise!

No one can measure God's greatness.

READER: ⁴ May every generation tell their children
about Your mighty acts!

ALL: We'll tell them about Your power!

READER: ⁵ I will ponder Your majesty,
Your glorious splendor,
Your wonderful miracles!

**ALL: ⁶ And every tongue will buzz with news
of Your awe-inspiring deeds!**

We will proclaim Your greatness.

READER: ⁷ Everyone will share the story
of your wonderful goodness!

ALL: We will joyfully sing about Your righteousness!

Second Reading

James 3:1-2, 5b-10

Special Music "We Give You Praise"

The Church Choir

✦ **♫ 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 John, the first chapter.

ALL: Glory to You, O LORD!

John 1:1-5, 10-14a

PASTOR: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to You, O Christ!

Children's Sermon

Sermon "Words"

✦ **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 Word of God Incarnate"

#231 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 "God's Word is Our Great Heritage"

#239 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 the Variables Supper Team in honor of church leaders. 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!

Bible Readings for Next Week: May 5, 2024

Proverbs 1:7, 2:6

James 3:13-18

Psalms 111:1-10

Matthew 7:24-29

Sermon Title: "Wisdom"

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Ethan Fearing

Organist: Mason Ellingson

Altar Guild: Betty Oliver

Acolyte: Kylie Goff

Deacon: Betty Oliver

Reader: Julie Schultes



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPRING CLEANING: please consider donating your "cast-offs" to NEW 2 U sale. ALCW will be accepting your **GIFTS** from APRIL 25 through May 1. Ladies: your help will also be needed to sort and prep during that time. The sale is scheduled for Friday, May 10th and Saturday, May 11th. **THANK YOU** in advance for your help and support!

REMINDER; we are NOT able to accept: TVs, large appliances, books, electronics. Thank you for understanding. If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Deb 320 732-4184 or Julie at 320 533- 1070.

Our ALCW annual New 2 U sale is coming up soon. If you'd like to share your Talents by **baking** something [rolls, cookies, bars] to serve with coffee or to sell....please have those items in the church kitchen by 7:30 a.m on Friday May 10th. In the past, sometimes folks have donated jam, jelly, home canned goods, etc as well. These are a nice addition too. 😊 Thank you so much!

Youth/Sunday School Program will be May 12th. Practice for the program will take place after the church service on May 5th. Please contact Sierra, our Youth and Family Coordinator, along with your Sunday School teachers for details.

VBS dates are June 9th – 13th. There are volunteer sign-up sheets and family registration forms in the narthex.

The March - May copies of Our Daily Bread are on the small table at the rear of the sanctuary.

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 Larson, Kirk Olson, Pat Schultz, or Pastor Ethan if interested!

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 April is the Todd County Chaplaincy, a program designed to develop trusting relationships with law enforcement, emergency personnel and provide intervention for those who are in crisis, and to offer a mentorship that will help them with accountability, making better choices, lending support, and acquiring necessary skills to be productive people. Our Todd County Chaplains act as first responders giving emotional and spiritual help to any agency or corporation where there is a critical incident or an accidental or natural fatality. The chaplains are on call for emergencies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Weekly Report:

Worship Attendance for last week: 159

General Fund budgeted weekly needs: \$4,631.53

General Fund Year to Date as of 1/31/24:

Budgeted needs: \$18,679.96

Receipts: \$13,347.70

Actual expenses: \$15,006.14

As of March 31st, our 2024 YTD General Budget receipts were \$8,407.62 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](#)

PRAYER LIST

Our current prayer list includes Deb Adamek, Larry Adamek, Joe Ayers, Bernette Burgeson, Jodi Eckel, Karin Fearing, Lee Fearing, Blain Hall, Larry Hatton, Stephanie James, Lois Johnson, Donna Lardy, Joni Love, Jason Manlove, Karen Ness, Aubrey Olson, Roger Schultes, Matt Stacey, Sam Tesch, Kevin Thole, Rose Thorp, Sharon Wieggers, and the family of Jerry Pederson.

Our ongoing prayer list includes Pratik Biswakarma and Chintapalli Divya, ALCW's Kidstown International sponsorship children.

If you would like someone added to these lists for special prayer or know of someone who would like a pastoral visit, please contact Pastor Ethan and let him know of your request.

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 our law enforcement officers:

- 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.

Weekly Schedule at American Lutheran Church

Sun. Apr. 28th: 9:00 am Worship Service
10:00 am Prayer at Altar after Service
10:15 am Sunday School
11:30 am Missions Committee Meeting
6:30 pm Sunday Nights at the Movies – “I Can Only Imagine” (PG)

Sun. Apr. 28th – Wed. May 1st: New 2 U Ingathering in Fellowship Hall

Tue. Apr. 30th: 8:15 pm Staff Meeting

Wed. May 1st: 6:00 pm Quest Kids
6:30 pm Choir Practice
8:00 pm Deacon Meeting

Thu. May 2nd – Thu. May 9th: New 2 U Setup/Prep

Sun. May 5th: 9:00 am Worship Service with Communion
10:15 am Sunday School

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.