



**LCMC**  
**Pastor Ethan Fearing**

215 9<sup>TH</sup> St SE  
Long Prairie, MN 56347  
320-732-2932

# October 2024 Newsletter



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## From the Pastor....

### THE HARVEST

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

*Jesus told His disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few." (Matthew 9:37)*

I am two generations removed from true dependence on the family garden for food. That's just close enough to remember picking an armful of vegetables from my grandmother's miniature farm, but far enough away that my wife's garden is something we only started in the last few years, and that was mainly for the purpose of relieving some cost of our groceries.

We had a fairly large garden in the backyard of my childhood home. I remember watching sprouts grow into plants, and blooms turn to vegetables. Crouching, I would pull carrots. Then there was picking peas, which always led to more work since we had to snap them later. And not so far away, just on the edge of the woods, were wild grape and strawberry patches. Harvesting them was a real chore, given they were guarded by prickly ash and cockleburs. I can still feel the scratches and tickles!

I didn't much care for collecting carrots. Eating them? Sure, I've always done that hand-over-fist, but they're not my favorite to pick. The peas didn't really thrill me, either. Tomatoes were fine, and squash was easy enough, but gathering grapes and strawberries was never a problem! Nobody even had to ask me.

Who could care about the danger? Yes, the thorns really make me bleed sometimes, and the burs would get stuck to

# From the Pastor (Continued)

the most unexpected places on my clothes, but nothing beat the taste of a wild berry straight from the bush. And harvesting grapes for juice? Forget it! The taste was unmatched, well worth the pain and trouble.

Jesus once talked about a harvest with His disciples. It was His way of saying He'd be sending them ahead to Jerusalem, having them go to prepare the way for His arrival. But there was also a warning that went like this: "As you move from town to town, you might receive no welcome. In fact, some people might be hostile toward you!" The hardship of following Jesus was starting to become a reality. He even compared His disciples to "lambs among wolves". (Matthew 10:16) Even so, the work was necessary! As Jesus said, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. This is why you should pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask Him to send more workers into His fields." (Luke 10:2).

What would give these disciples the courage to start this mission? Jesus was saying their lives might be in danger – and they eventually were – just for sharing the Good News of God's love with strangers. But the same thing motivated them that made me walk through prickly ash and cockleburs: the love of fruit.

Jesus wants us to bring His message to everyone, to prepare them for the arrival of the eternal life of Heaven. That's the harvest, but it's not something that's safe or easy. Telling people God came in-person as Jesus Christ to suffer the cost of their faults and failures, to die on a cross to take their place in a sinner's death, is risky Good News! Most of us don't like to admit that we need to be rescued from our sins. But who could care about the danger? Not when Jesus returned to life after three days, promising that same new and never-ending life to everyone who knows and follows Him. That's Heaven, the sweetest fruit of all, and we have been invited to participate in the harvest.

By grace, through faith, in Christ,

Pastor Ethan Fearing

## WEDNESDAYS AT AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

# W@LC

## LET'S GO!

time with God and friends  
a break from busyness  
exciting opportunities

5:00 - 6:00 PM

### SUPPER

a weekly and welcoming community meal | all ages

6:00 - 6:20 PM

### REAL WORSHIP

songs for K-8 graders

6:20 - 7:00 PM

### YOUTH GROUP

K-6 Bible fun and games led by awesome 9-12 graders

### CONFIRMATION

next-level lessons on living for Jesus | 7-8 graders

7:00 - 8:00 PM

### GROUP

a time for Christians to hang out and unwind | 9-12 graders

## STARTS SEPT. 11, 2024

### AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

215 9th Street SE, Long Prairie, MN 56347

320-732-2932

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

@ ALC

COME LEARN THROUGH SONG, GAMES, AND STORIES!  
CONTENT IS TAILORED TO FIT EACH AGE GROUP!



FIT FOR INFANTS TO 12TH GRADERS  
10:15AM EVERY\* SUNDAY MORNING  
BEGINS **SEPTEMBER 15TH**

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?  
[americanlutheranchurchlp@gmail.com](mailto:americanlutheranchurchlp@gmail.com)  
or call (320) 732-2932

\* PLEASE VIEW OUR CALENDAR TO  
SEE ALL DATES





# Children's Choir

## SAVE THE DATE

We love to sing at American Lutheran Church!

Sunday School children are invited to sing songs during the 9:00am service. We will practice at 8:15am in the choir room.

September 29<sup>th</sup>

October 20<sup>th</sup>

November 24<sup>th</sup>

December 15<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Program



# Choir Invitation

# CALLING ALL SINGERS!

**FLEXIBLE PRACTICE  
SINGABLE MUSIC  
PRAISING GOD!**

**FIRST CHOIR REHEARSAL  
SEPT 11TH  
6:30PM**

**FIRST SUNDAY SINGING  
OCT 6TH  
8:00AM**

**QUESTIONS?  
CALL EMILY STEINERT  
320-808-7347**



## Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes



### 2024 SHOEBOX COUNTDOWN

From now until Thanksgiving our Shoebox activities will be at full steam!

We earnestly invite you to be at our **Sarah S'ircle Sizzling Super Spud Supper *with Slatherings***

this coming Wednesday evening beginning at 5 PM & to be as generous as you are able with your donations. Checks should be made out to ALCW or Samaritan's Purse & footnoted for Shoeboxes. We thank those of you who have already made fantastic donations. Other dates to put on your calendars:

**PLEASE NOTE that scheduling is different from previous years for some activities!**

**Tuesday, October 1, 1PM** Begin Spud Supper prep

**Wednesday, Oct 2: 10 AM Sarah Circle** Prepare spuds/ Decorate fellowship hall, tables/workday/serve supper / clean up (we welcome any help!)

**Wednesday, Oct 23: 10 AM Workday – ALL HELP, all ages welcome, sort, assemble, fold boxes, wrap boxes, tasks for all ages & skill levels**

**Saturday, Nov. 2: 10 AM** Prepare for Sunday School Packing Party- Snacks/tables/boxes/

**Sunday, Nov 3:** **The Board of Ed has approved this to be Sunday School Shoebox Packing Party day!** In doing this, we are hoping to avoid some conflicts always faced with Shoebox Packing & the opening of MN Deer hunting season! Hopefully, this will make it possible for some of our Sunday School FAMILIES to be part of the Packing Party! Plan to be there – **10:15 SS classes, families, friends, neighbors** Includes snacks, "Lets Be Friends" inserts, packing

**Wednesday, Nov 6: 10 AM** Prepare Packing tables for *after* Quest Supper / **5PM Quest Thanksgiving supper / 6:15 Quest Packing** (*leave tables set up for ALL Packing following worship Nov 10*)

**Saturday, Nov 9: 9:30** Check/rearrange/ organize for **SUNDAY ALL PACK**

# Mission Focus – Page 2

## Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

**Sunday, Nov 10, 10:15 EVERYONE invited to PACK SHOEBOXES following worship! (A new day/time from other years!)**

**Sunday, Nov 17: Sunday Worship/PRAYER & DEDICATION of Shoeboxes before Delivery to Drop Off**

If you want to help with ANY of these activities, please contact Blanche

**CONTINUING NEEDS: It is strongly asked that we send ONLY NEW items.**

Always needed are large pencil sharpeners / scissors / notebooks or tablets / markers / colored pencils / clothing / soap

**Older boys suggestions :** fishing tackle, small tools, clothes

**Older girls suggestions:** craft kits, sewing supplies, clothes, jewelry, hair accessories

**More great gifts:** yoyos / harmonicas / jump ropes / any balls / dolls / puzzles / Frisbees that will fit in a Shoebox / flipflops / sunglasses / hats / rain gear

~~ **\$\$ donations for “Greatest Journey” booklets, teachers, box**

**transportation & distribution may be given to Blanche Tirk, placed in collection boxes at Spud Supper, or in offering plates. Be sure to earmark gifts for Shoeboxes. Checks may be written to Samaritan’s Purse or ALCW.**

We also greatly donations we have once again received from Thrivent for our Spud supper / Shoebox Project.

***Let’s review! What happens when we pack a Shoebox? The Samaritan’s Purse project Operation Christmas Child collects shoebox gifts—filled with fun toys, school supplies, clothing and hygiene items—and delivers them to children in need around the world to demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received & MOST important, maybe the FIRST TIME they have been told of Jesus Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, has collected and delivered over 200 MILLION Shoeboxes in more than 160 countries and territories. The MOST important reminder – pray for the Mission, pray for the part ALC plays in this Mission and especially pray for each child who receives a box plus their families & friends who may be impacted by the gift!***





**Please Come to My Favorite Supper!**

**SARAH S'IRCLE SUPER SPUD SUPPER  
WITH SLATHERINGS!**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 5:00 PM**

**Sarah Circle Fundraising Supper  
For Operation Christmas Child  
Shoebbox Project**

**Give Generously!**

**If you have already purchased some items for the Shoebboxes,  
please bring them with you to the supper!  
Collection is ongoing**



# Service Group 5 – September - October

## **Service Group Responsibilities:**

- Serve for funerals on a rotating basis every 7<sup>th</sup> Funeral.
- Serve for special events occurring during the two-month period.
- Call for Ushers during the two-month period.

**Group 5 Leaders:**                    **Janie Thole**  
    **Gloria Larsen**

## **Group 5 Members:**

Adamek, Larry & Deb  
Berscheit, Mark & Jessie  
Evenson, Brad & Sherri  
Fearing, Deb  
Flan, Jamie & Andrea  
Flan, Jim & Sandy  
Flaten, Dianne  
Goblirsch, Sheila  
Hasse, Mark & Mary  
Hatton, LaMoine & Linda  
Holman, Nic & Katrina  
Kaneski, Dennis & Sue  
Larsen, Gary  
Merritt, Glenn & Joan  
Roering, Dennis & Carrie  
St. Germain, Glen & Karen  
Simon, Matt & Coyer, Allison  
Wehrenberg, Steph

# October

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY










## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

5<sup>th</sup> Dave Atkinson  
6<sup>th</sup> Russ Olson  
7<sup>th</sup> Jan Miller  
7<sup>th</sup> Abby Simon  
7<sup>th</sup> Larry Hatton  
8<sup>th</sup> Braxton Berscheit  
8<sup>th</sup> Toni Drum  
10<sup>th</sup> Tom Mead  
12<sup>th</sup> Chuck Eldred  
12<sup>th</sup> Bob Zinter  
13<sup>th</sup> Teresa Pachan  
16<sup>th</sup> Evan Flan  
16<sup>th</sup> Joanne Hillman  
17<sup>th</sup> Ben Hatton  
17<sup>th</sup> Addison Miller  
18<sup>th</sup> Melinda Bruder  
18<sup>th</sup> Nathaniel Flan  
18<sup>th</sup> Brian Katterhagen  
19<sup>th</sup> Brynlee Gebhardt  
19<sup>th</sup> Beth Jacobsen  
20<sup>th</sup> Brantley Eichens  
22<sup>nd</sup> Grayson Hukriede  
24<sup>th</sup> Nova Monti  
25<sup>th</sup> Fred Berscheit  
26<sup>th</sup> Janet Katterhagen  
29<sup>th</sup> Bill Bakewicz  
29<sup>th</sup> Hope Baum  
30<sup>th</sup> Jane Olson  
31<sup>st</sup> Kevin Dahl  
31<sup>st</sup> Ryan Marcyes

15<sup>th</sup> Houston & Jenna Berscheit  
21<sup>st</sup> Stan & Joanne Hillman  
27<sup>th</sup> Frank & Nancy Ademite



# ALC CALENDAR OCTOBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> Spud Supper Setup	<b>2</b> <b>10:00am</b> Shoebox Workday Preparing for Spuds Supper <b>5:00pm Family Night Supper</b>  <b>6:00pm</b> Confirmation Class <b>6:00pm</b> Youth Group Grades K-6 <b>6:30pm</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>7:00pm</b> Group Grades 9-12 <b>7:00pm</b> Audio-Visual Committee Meeting <b>8:00pm</b> Deacon Meeting 	<b>3</b> <b>8:15am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>8:15 am</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>9:00am</b> Worship Service with Communion  <b>10:15am</b> Sunday School	<b>7</b> <b>6:00pm</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00pm</b> Trustee Meeting	<b>8</b> <b>8:15am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>9</b> <b>9:30am</b> Esther Circle <b>5:00pm Family Night Supper</b>  <b>6:00pm</b> Youth Group Grades K-6 <b>6:00pm</b> Confirmation Class <b>7:00pm</b> Group Grades 9-12 <b>8:00pm</b> Church Council Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>8:30am</b> Youth & Family Committee Meeting <b>9:00am</b> Worship Service <b>10:15am</b> Sunday School <b>11:30am</b> Missions Committee Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>8:15am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>16</b> <b>11:00am</b> Newsletter Articles Due <b>5:00pm Family Night Supper</b>  <b>6:00pm</b> Youth Group Grades K-6 <b>6:00pm</b> Confirmation Class <b>6:30pm</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>7:00pm</b> Group Grades 9-12	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>9:00am</b> Worship Service with Communion  <b>10:15am</b> Sunday School	<b>21</b> <b>6:15pm</b> Sarah Circle Singing at Meadow Place <b>7:00pm</b> Sarah Circle Bible Study	<b>22</b> <b>8:15am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>23</b> <b>10:00am</b> Shoebox Workday <b>5:00pm Family Night Supper</b>  <b>6:00pm</b> Confirmation Class <b>6:00pm</b> Youth Group Grades K-6 <b>6:30pm</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>7:00pm</b> Group Grades 9-12	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>8:15 am</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>9:00am</b> Confirmation Sunday Worship Service <b>10:00am</b> Prayer at Altar after Service  <b>10:15am</b> Sunday School	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>8:15am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>30</b> <b>5:00pm Family Night Supper</b>  <b>6:00pm</b> Confirmation Class <b>6:00pm</b> Youth Group Grades K-6 <b>7:00pm</b> Group Grades 9-12	<b>31</b>		