



The Lord, the King of glory

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American Lutheran Church (ALC)

215 Ninth Street SE • Long Prairie, Minnesota

Pastor Ethan Fearing • 732-2932

americanlutheranchurch.org

✦ Please stand as you are able.

♪ Welcoming Chorale “Come Along Expected Jesus”

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Advent is the period of four weeks that prepares us for Christmas. The word itself means ‘forthcoming’ in Latin, because Advent is a season of waiting, of anticipating Jesus Christ’s arrival in our world.

There are three episodes of ‘forthcoming’ that Christians celebrate during Advent. The first happened a little over 2,000 years ago when God entered into human existence as the baby Jesus. He then lived a wholly good life, a life He later willingly sacrificed on a cross. Three days passed, and Jesus Christ rose again, winning and promising the forgiveness of sins and a new, eternal life to all who know and follow Him. This gives us our second ‘forthcoming’ – yes, it happens today! God offers to stay with us, to guide us through every twist and turn of this bent and broken world. Finally, the third ‘forthcoming’ will happen in the future. Jesus has promised to return, to complete the never-ending age of God’s Kingdom, to bring us into His heavenly Paradise forever.

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 hopeless 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. When Christmas does come, we will celebrate what God has done. He came to us! God Himself was born as Jesus Christ 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 faults and 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 Song "For unto Us/Open the Eyes of My Heart"

First Reading

Isaiah 54:10

Psalm 96:1-3, 6, 11, 12b-13

READER: 1 Sing a new song to the LORD!

Let the whole earth sing to the LORD!

ALL: 2 Sing to the LORD, praising His name.

Share the good news that He saves each and every day.

READER: 3 Publish His glorious deeds among the nations.

Tell everyone about the amazing things He does.

ALL: 6 Honor and majesty surround Him;

strength and beauty fill His sanctuary.

READER: 11 Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice!

ALL: Let the sea and everything in it shout His praise!

READER: 12b Let the trees of the forest sing for joy

13 before the LORD, for He is coming!

ALL: He is coming to bring us justice... and truth!

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-11

Special Music “What Child Shall Come”

The Church Choir

✦ The Gospel, God’s Good News

John 3:16-17

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 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

♪ Our Offering of Worship “How Great is Our God (Christmas Version)”

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

We go 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 Larry & Deb Adamek in honor of their 48th anniversary. 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 Our Next Worship Service: December 24, 2024

Isaiah 11:1-4

Luke 1:26-2:20

Matthew 2:1-18

Sermon Title: "A Wise Man's Carol"

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Ethan Fearing

Altar Guild: Betty Oliver

Deacon: Jammie Hedlund

Organist: Mason Ellingson

Acolyte: Brannon Karjala

Reader: Marvin Poegel



ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are in need of sponsors for our 2025 Radio Broadcasts. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

If you have brought food to the church, please check the kitchen for your pans and bowls.

Dear Congregation, “For God is working in you, giving you the DESIRE and the POWER to DO what pleases Him.” *Philippians 2:13* Please, personally, consider this promise from God's Word, if you are contacted by a member of the nominating committee for serving on a board or committee in 2025. **THANK YOU!**

The December - February copies of Our Daily Bread are at the rear of the sanctuary and in the narthex.

All boards and committees are asked to submit their annual reports to the church office by December 31st. Thank you!

If you have changed your address or phone number please call the church office and let us know. We are currently updating our church directory for 2025.



T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER

RAISING MONEY FOR THE MISSION TRIP VAN

T-shirts will only be available for order for
2 weeks

December 15th-28th

\$20 T-SHIRTS

only 6 designs





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: 95

General Fund receipts for November: \$14,413.63

General Fund budgeted monthly needs: \$20,236.62

General Fund Year to Date (2024 YTD) as of 11/30/24:

Budgeted needs: \$219,489.53

Receipts: \$180,015.08

Actual expenses: \$197,622.22

As of December 8th, our 2024 YTD General Budget receipts were \$38,084.98 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, Blain Hall, Larry Hatton, Stephanie James, Donna Lardy, Joni Love, Aubrey Olson, Joan Pesta, Roger Schultes, Sam Tesch, Kevin Thole, and Rose Thorp.

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
- Colton Larson, deputy sheriff in Waseca County, MN, grandson of Sue & Dennis Kaneski
- 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
- Kristi Ruess & Tim Huston, Todd County Sheriff's Department Assistant Chaplains

2024-25 Wednesday Night Family Supper Schedule

December 25th – **No Supper** – Christmas Break
January 1st – **No Supper** – New Year's Break
January 8th – Team 1 – Duke's Mixture
January 15th – Team 2 – Potluck
January 22nd – Team 3 – Spaghetti
January 29th – Team 4 – Taco Temptations
February 5th – Team 5 – Soupers
February 12th – Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser
February 19th – Team 1 – Duke's Mixture
February 26th – Team 2 – Potluck
March 5th – Team 3 – Spaghetti
March 12th – Team 4 – Taco Temptations
March 19th – Team 5 – Soupers
March 26th – Team 1 – Duke's Mixture
April 2nd – Team 2 – Potluck
April 9th – Team 3 – Spaghetti
April 16th – Team 4 – Taco Temptations
April 23rd – Team 5 – Soupers
April 30th - ALCW

Weekly Schedule at American Lutheran Church

- Sun. Dec. 22nd:** **8:15 am** Choir Practice
 9:00 am **Worship Service**
 10:15 am **“Journey to Bethlehem” after Worship Service**
- Tue. Dec. 24th:** **4:00 pm** **Christmas Eve Worship Service**
 “Hymns of Hope” with Communion
 6:00 pm **Christmas Eve Worship Service**
 “Carols by Candlelight” with Communion
- Wed. Dec. 25th:** **Office Closed for Christmas Day Holiday**
 10:00 am **Christmas Morning Worship Service**
 “Merry Melodies”
 11:30 am **Free Community Christmas Dinner**
- Sun. Dec. 29th:** **9:00 am** **Worship Service with Communion**
 10:00 am **Prayer at Altar after Service**

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.