



*Unto him
be glory in
the church*

Ephesians 3:21

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 Song

We prepare our hearts for worship.

Welcome and the Sharing of God's Peace

✦ Confession and Forgiveness

PASTOR: LORD God, what are Your plans for us?

ALL: Where do You want us to go? What do You want us to do?

PASTOR: And if You have already told us, help us to be honest in asking ourselves...

ALL: Have we been following Your perfect plans?

PASTOR: We haven't. We have failed You, O LORD, but we also know You are a God of forgiveness, of second and third – and endless – chances. That is why You came to us as Jesus Christ, why You died to miraculously forgive our faults and failures, and why You returned to life to win us the gift of eternal life in Your heavenly Kingdom. Today is a new day, a new opportunity to follow Your lead. That is why we worship You!

Prayer of the Day

ALL: Loving God, thank You for always having our best interests at heart. Help us treasure the life You have given us, and as the new year begins, give us the focus needed to follow You. Amen.

♪ Opening Song "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

#055 LBW

First Reading

Isaiah 65:17-19

Psalm 16:1-2, 9-11

READER: 1 Keep me safe, oh God!

I have come to You for refuge.

ALL: 2 I told the LORD, “You are my Master!

Every good thing I have comes from You.”

READER: 9 No wonder my heart is glad!

I rejoice because my body rests in safety.

ALL: 10 You will not leave my soul among the dead.

or allow Your holy one to rot in the grave.

READER: 11 No! You will show me the way of life,
granting me the joy of Your presence...

ALL: ...and the pleasures of living with You forever!

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:1-5

✦ The Gospel, God’s Good News

Luke 2:25-35

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 "New Year, New You"

♪ Our Offering of Worship "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" #054 LBW

The Words of Institution

♪ Holy Communion

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

#060 LBW

"The First Noel (verses 1-3)"

#056 LBW

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 "For All That You Have Done"

Sending Song

We go in peace, ready to serve the LORD!

Individual prayer at the altar is offered after the worship service today.



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 Kaneski in honor of their children and grandchildren and their first great granddaughter Lorelai. 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: January 5, 2025

1 Kings 3:5-10 Ephesians 1:3-8

Psalms 119:97-103 Luke 2:40-47

Sermon Title: “God’s Wisdom”

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Ethan Fearing

Pianist: Alyssa Fearing

Altar Guild: Betty Oliver

Acolyte: Dawson Hasse

Deacon: Jammie Hedlund

Reader: Joanne Hillman

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.



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.

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: 344

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

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. 29th: 9:00 am Worship Service with Communion
10:00 am Prayer at Altar after Service

Tue. Dec. 31st: 8:15 am Staff Meeting

Wed. Jan. 1st: Office Closed for New Year's Day Holiday

Sun. Jan. 8th: 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.