



Thou shalt...
bring forth a son...

Jesus

Luke 1:31

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American Lutheran Church (ALC)

215 Ninth Street SE • Long Prairie, Minnesota

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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.

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 Hymn "Hark, the Glad Sound!"

#035 LBW

Greeting

Page 57 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

Page 57 LBW

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

Pages 58-59 LBW

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

Page 62 LBW

PASTOR: The LORD be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day – Advent of Peace

ALL: Loving God, You have promised to be with us in good times and in bad. When we face danger or trouble, give us reminders of Your perfect love. Then guide us! Show us where to go and what to do, and how to live for Heaven, blessing us with Your peace every step of the way. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1a, 2, 6-7a

Psalms 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

Philippians 4:6-7

✦  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, 10-13

PASTOR: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to You, O Christ!

Children's Sermon

Sermon "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

✦ 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 “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

**I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.**

**I thought, how as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th’unbroken song
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.**

**And in despair I bowed my head:
“There is no peace on earth,” I said,
“For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.”**

**Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep!
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, goodwill to men!”**

**Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day!
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.**

✦ ♪ 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 "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry" #036 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 Stephanie Wehrenberg in memory of her late husband, Ralph's birthday. 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: December 15, 2024

Luke 1:1-2:20

Message: Sunday School Christmas Program

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Ethan Fearing

Altar Guild: Betty Oliver

Deacon: Jammie Hedlund

Organist: Mason Ellingson

Acolyte: Makenzie Parker

Reader: Deb Adamek



ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be no Choir Practice until December 18th at 6:30 pm.

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

Sarah Circle WILL bring treats and sing carols at Meadow Place on December 16 at 6:15pm.

However, we will NOT be having "study" at church that night! This will allow for a longer time to sing and 'visit' with the residents. Thank you for understanding! See you at Meadow Place on the 16th Sarah Circle!

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





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.

Thanksgiving Singing

November 24th

9am Worship Service

Christmas Program Practice

December 1st

10:15am Sunday School

December 8th

10:15am Sunday School

Christmas Program Service

December 15th

9am Worship Service



Questions?

Call Alyssa Fearing 320-304-3691

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: 116

General Fund receipts for October: \$17,325.72

General Fund budgeted monthly needs: \$20,236.62

As of November 10th, our 2024 YTD General Budget receipts were \$33,763.26 behind our YTD General Budget needs.

Contact Information:

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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, Mark Pachan, 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 11th – Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser
December 18th – Team 5 – Soupers
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. 8th: **8:00 am** Board of Education Meeting in Library
 9:00 am **Worship Service**
 10:15 am Sunday School Christmas Program
 Practice

Mon. Dec. 9th: **6:00 pm** Staff Meeting

Wed. Dec. 11th: **9:30 am** Esther Circle
 5:00 pm **Family Night Supper**
 6:00 pm Youth Group Grades K-6
 6:00 pm Confirmation Class
 7:00 pm Group Grades 7 – 12
 7:00 pm Deacon Meeting
 8:00 pm Church Council Meeting

Sun. Dec. 15th: **8:15 am** Children's Choir Practice
 9:00 am **Children's Christmas Program**
 Worship Service "A Night Like No
 Other"

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.