

*My new life  
I owe to Thee...*

*Jesus,*

*blessed  
Jesus*

*- H.P. Blanchard*

*American Lutheran Church (ALC)*

215 Ninth Street SE • Long Prairie, Minnesota

Pastor Ethan Fearing • 732-2932

[americanlutheranchurch.org](http://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.

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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 “Alleluia, Song of Gladness”

#654 WOV

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.**

PASTOR: The LORD be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

*A Paraphrase of Jonah 2:1-9*

**ALL: When I was in trouble, I cried out to You, oh LORD. You answered! I was drowning, the waves crashing over me. But as I sank down, down, to the very depths, You snatched me from that watery grave. Now, I will forever sing Your praises, keeping my promises to You as You have always kept Yours to me. Amen.**

First Reading

*Isaiah 43:1-3*

Psalm 124:1-6a, 7b, 8

READER: 1 What if the LORD had not been on our side?

**ALL: Let all Israel repeat:**

**2 What if the LORD had not been on our side  
when people attacked us?**

READER: 3 They would have swallowed us alive  
in their burning anger!

**ALL: 4 The waters would have engulfed us;  
a torrent would have overwhelmed us!**

READER: 5 Yes, the raging waters of their fury  
would have overwhelmed our very lives.

**ALL: 6a But praise the LORD!**

**7b The trap is broken, and we are free.**

READER: 8 Our help is from the LORD,  
the One who made Heaven and earth!

Second Reading

*Romans 6:1-11*

✦ ♪ 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 Luke, the third chapter.

**ALL: Glory to You, O LORD!**

*Luke 3:15-22*

PASTOR: The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL: Praise to You, O Christ!**

Children's Sermon

Sermon "A Watery Grave"

✦ 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 "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters" #697 WOV

✦ ♪ 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.**

**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!*

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**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 Sy & Janie Thole in honor of their children and grandchildren. 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 19, 2025**

Isaiah 62:2-4, 5b

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Psalms 128

John 2:1-11

Sermon Title: "The Merry Miracle"

### **Worship Leaders**

Pastor: Ethan Fearing

Organist: Mason Ellingson

Altar Guild: Betty Oliver

Acolyte: Kaida Menge

Deacon: Janie Thole

Reader: Ali Barthel



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Family Night Supper for Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm is a Potluck. Please bring sides to go with pulled-pork sandwiches.**

**Our Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.** There will be a “Time to Talk” at 10:15 a.m. for any questions before the annual meeting. A potblessing (potluck) dinner will follow the meeting.

**2025 offering envelopes can be picked up** on the table by the bulletin board in the narthex.

**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.

**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.

**The December - February copies of daily devotionals “Our Daily Bread” and “Guidance For the Journey Through”** are at the rear of the sanctuary and in the narthex.

### **Proposed Changes to Constitution Bylaws:**

**Proposed clarification to the Constitution Bylaws regarding council meetings.** The proposed language intends to define 'Whole Council' and 'Executive Council' as well as how often members are required to attend.



*Current Language:*

*The Church Council shall conduct meetings of the whole council at least one each quarter; as a whole or executive committee (consisting of the officers and the chairperson of each board or designee) shall meet at least monthly; at a time and place as the council itself shall decide.*

*The members of the Church Council shall be:*

- 1. Officers of the congregation;*
- 2. All members of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Deacon;*
- 3. A representative of the Board of Education, Fair Stand Board, and Memorial Board;*
- 4. Pastor(s), serving as advisory member(s) by virtue of office, but without vote;*
- 5. Immediate past-president to serve one year.*

Proposed change to language: The Church Council shall conduct meetings of the Executive Council (consisting of the officers and the chairperson of each board) at least monthly at a time and place as the council itself shall decide. The whole council shall meet 2 times a year with one being in January prior to the annual meeting and the other being in September or October.

The primary difference between the Whole Council and the Executive Council is regarding the Trustees and Deacons. The Whole Council includes all members of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Deacons while the Executive Council includes a requirement for a representative from the Board of Trustees and Board of Deacons.

According to the Constitution, bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called and conducted meeting of the congregation by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting. The proposed bylaws or amendments must be read at a public service of the congregation or mailed to the voting members, no less than ten days prior to the meeting.

# 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.

January 26th

February 23rd

March 23rd

April 13<sup>th</sup>

May 11<sup>th</sup> – Spring Program



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](mailto: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 January is the Long Prairie Pregnancy and Life Resource Center – Medical Clinic.**

### **Weekly Report:**

Worship Attendance for last week: 81

General Fund receipts for December: \$48,659.44

General Fund budgeted monthly needs: \$20,236.62

General Fund Year to Date (2024 YTD) as of 12/31/24:

Budgeted needs: \$242,839.48

Receipts: \$228,674.52

Actual expenses: \$214,732.34

As of January 5<sup>th</sup>, our 2025 YTD General Budget receipts were \$234.54 behind our YTD General Budget needs.

### **Contact Information:**

Pastor Ethan Fearing; Cell: (320) 874-0104

E-mail: [ethanfearing@yahoo.com](mailto:ethanfearing@yahoo.com)

Youth & Family Coordinator, Sierra Larson; Cell: (320) 766-4153

E-mail: [Ms.sierra.kid.youth.ALC@gmail.com](mailto:Ms.sierra.kid.youth.ALC@gmail.com)

Sacred Music Coordinator, Alyssa Fearing; Cell: (320) 874-0104

E-mail: [fearingalyssa@gmail.com](mailto:fearingalyssa@gmail.com)

Church Secretary, Lori Zellmann; Office: (320) 732-2932

Office E-mail: [americanlutheranchurchlp@gmail.com](mailto:americanlutheranchurchlp@gmail.com)

Website: [americanlutheranchurch.org](http://americanlutheranchurch.org)

Facebook Page: [American Lutheran Church](#)

Sunday Worship Livestream: [on Facebook](#)

## **PRAYER LIST**

**Our current prayer list includes** Deb Adamek, Larry Adamek, Karl Arenson, 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 15<sup>th</sup> – Team 2 – Potluck  
January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Team 3 – Spaghetti  
January 29<sup>th</sup> – Team 4 – Taco Temptations  
February 5<sup>th</sup> – Team 5 – Soupers  
February 12<sup>th</sup> – Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser  
February 19<sup>th</sup> – Team 1 – Duke’s Mixture  
February 26<sup>th</sup> – Team 2 – Potluck  
March 5<sup>th</sup> – Team 3 – Spaghetti  
March 12<sup>th</sup> – Team 4 – Taco Temptations  
March 19<sup>th</sup> – Team 5 – Soupers  
March 26<sup>th</sup> – Team 1 – Duke’s Mixture  
April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Team 2 – Potluck  
April 9<sup>th</sup> – Team 3 – Spaghetti  
April 16<sup>th</sup> – Team 4 – Taco Temptations  
April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Team 5 – Soupers  
April 30<sup>th</sup> - ALCW

## Weekly Schedule at American Lutheran Church

**Sun. Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 am Worship Service**

**10:15 am Sunday School**

**10:30 am Mission Committee Meeting**

**Tue. Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>: 8:15 am Staff Meeting**

**Wed. Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>: 11:00 pm Newsletter Articles Due**

**5:00 pm Potluck Family Night Supper**

**6:00 pm Confirmation Class**

**6:00 pm Youth Group Grades K-6**

**6:30 pm Choir Practice**

**7:00 pm Group Grades 7-12**

**Sun. Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>: Baby Bottle Campaign Kick-Off**

**8:15 am Choir Practice**

**8:30 am Youth & Family Committee Meeting**

**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.