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CREATE IN ME  
A CLEAN *heart,*  
O GOD.

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Psalm 51:10a

*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.

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♪ Welcoming Song

*We prepare our hearts for worship.*

Greetings and the Sharing of God's Peace

✦ Confession and Forgiveness

PASTOR: LORD God, You give us Your Word, speaking to us through the Bible. We find Your loving lessons and generous gifts on every page, but we often ignore what You say.

**ALL: We focus only on the words we want to hear.**

PASTOR: And why? You are the source of wisdom, so why do we shut out Your advice?

**ALL: Words have power, especially Yours, and power can move us. It can change us.**

PASTOR: And we need to be changed! God, we need You to rescue us from our ways, from the ways that lead to death, bringing us back to the Life You so freely offer.

**ALL: Open our eyes! Help us to read, to hear, to receive Your every word.**

PASTOR: God continues speaking life to you. That's why He came in-person as Jesus Christ, that's why He died and rose again to save us from sin and death, and it's why He is bringing you into His heavenly Kingdom. This is why we worship the LORD today!

Prayer of the Day

**ALL: Loving God, as we gather to worship You, block out every distraction. Help us to hear only You, to hear all You would say to us today. Amen.**

♪ Opening Song "Bright and Glorious is the Sky"

#075 LBW

First Reading

*1 Kings 3:5-10*

Psalm 119:97-103

READER: 97 Oh, [LORD God,] how I love Your instructions!  
I think about them all day long.

**ALL: 98 Your commands make me wiser than my enemies.  
They are my constant guide!**

READER: 99 Yes, I have more insight than my teachers,  
for I am always thinking of Your laws.

**ALL: 100 I am even wiser than my elders  
because I have kept Your commandments.**

READER: 101 I have refused to walk on any evil path,  
so that I may remain obedient to Your Word.

**ALL: 102 I haven't turned away from Your regulations,  
for You have taught me well.**

READER: 103 How sweet your words taste to me!

**ALL: They are sweeter than honey!**

Second Reading

*Ephesians 1:3-8*

✦ The Gospel, God's Good News

*Luke 2:40-47*

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 "Need Versus Want"

♪ Our Offering of Worship "As with Gladness Men of Old" #082 LBW

The Words of Institution

♪ Holy Communion

"We Three Kings of Orient Are" #646 WOV

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" #649 WOV

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 "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!" #076 LBW

Sending Song

*We go 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 Ione Krause in thankfulness for all of God's blessings. 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 12, 2025**

Isaiah 43:1-3                      Romans 6:1-11

Psalms 124:1-8                      Luke 3:15-22

Sermon Title: "A Watery Grave"

### **Worship Leaders**

Pastor: Ethan Fearing

Pianist: Alyssa Fearing

Altar Guild: Betty Oliver

Acolyte: Cade Baker

Deacon: Janie Thole



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**We need helpers for taking down the Christmas decorations today after the worship service.**

**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 Our Daily Bread** are at the rear of the sanctuary and in the narthex.

**Our church won't be participating in Camp Lebanon's Mega Fun this year,** but if you have a 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grader who would like to attend, other churches in the area may be involved.

### **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.



## **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: 82

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 11/30/24:

Budgeted needs: \$219,489.53

Receipts: \$180,015.08

Actual expenses: \$197,622.22

As of December 29<sup>th</sup>, our 2024 YTD General Budget receipts were \$10,343.96 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)

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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 8<sup>th</sup> – Team 1 – Duke’s Mixture  
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. 5<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 am Worship Service with Communion**  
**10:15 am Sunday School**  
**Church Undecorating After Worship Service**

**Mon. Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>: 6:00 pm Staff Meeting**  
**7:00 pm Trustee Meeting**

**Wed. Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 am Esther Circle**  
**5:00 pm 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**  
**7:00 pm Deacon Meeting**  
**8:00 pm Church Council Meeting**

**Sun. Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 am Worship Service**  
**10:15 am Sunday School**  
**10:30 am Mission Committee Meeting**

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.