



**LCMC**  
**Pastor Ethan Fearing**

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# March 2025 Newsletter



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## From the Pastor....

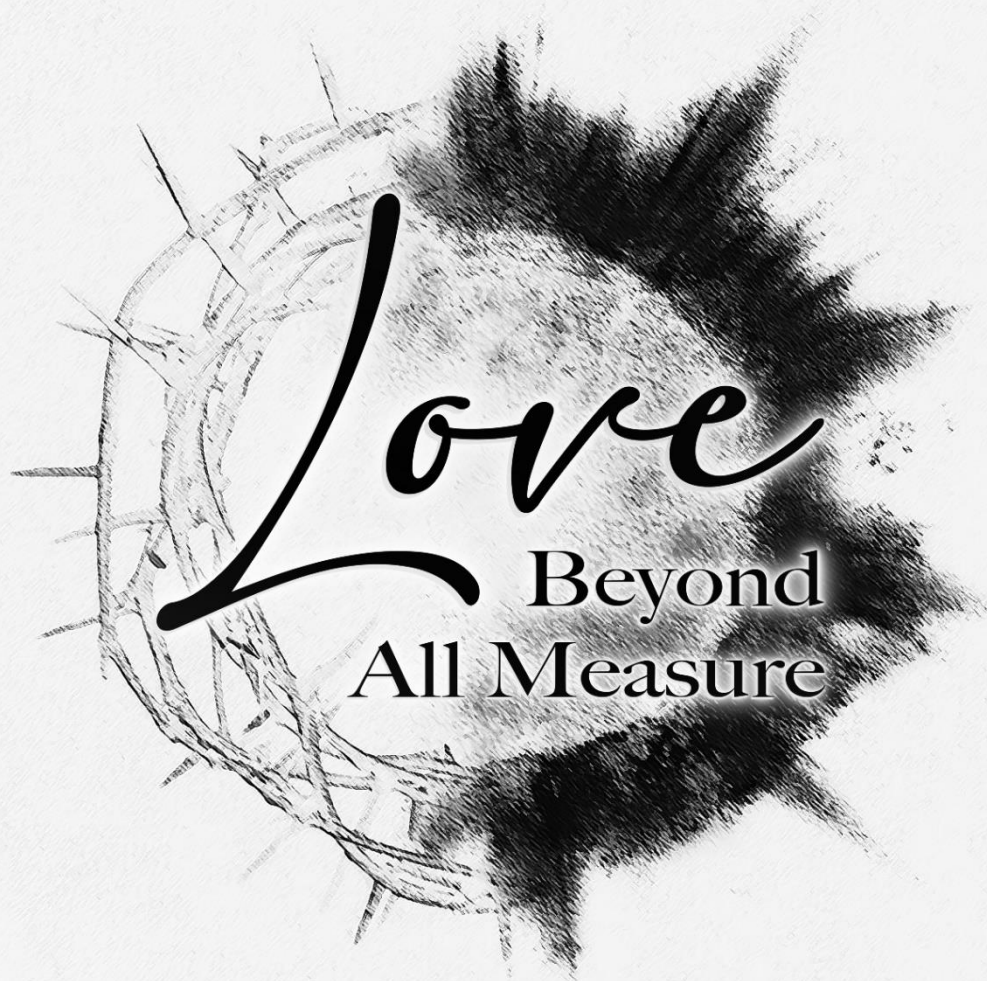
To you, the LORD's beloved people of American Lutheran Church,

"We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in His love. God is love, and everyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in them." (1 John 4:16)

Lent is here! This season of the church year builds toward Easter, inviting us to anticipate the Sunday of Jesus' resurrection. It's nearly two months of reflection, of remembering God coming to suffer and die on the cross in our place, and of setting aside extra time for that meditation. This is why we welcome you, starting Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, to take a break from the busyness each week as we celebrate God's sacrificial love. He came, lived, died, and returned to life for you, for the great changing of your destiny, and that is why this Lent's theme is "LOVE BEYOND ALL MEASURE". Our worship services will be led by different musicians – like a concert series – and we'll be reflecting on the Bible in some new and exciting ways! For more details on this year's Lenten series, please find the LOVE BEYOND ALL MEASURE poster in this newsletter.

God bless you all!

By grace, through faith, in Christ,  
Pastor Ethan Fearing  
320-874-0104



🕒 5:15 p.m. MEAL    ▶ 6:00 p.m. MUSIC & MESSAGE

- |                         |   |   |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| 🕒 ▶ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5  | ASH WEDNESDAY   | Message: "The Wrestler"                 |
| 🕒 ▶ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12 | The Anderson Family Band                              | Message: "Just What the Doctor Ordered" |
| 🕒 ▶ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 | The Prairie Doves                                     | Message: "Breaking the Fourth Wall"     |
| 🕒 ▶ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26 | Alyssa & Ethan  | Message: "Hidden in My Heart"           |
| 🕒 ▶ WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2  | FLBC Gospel Band                                      | Message: "Graveyard Man"                |
| 🕒 ▶ WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9  | Lori & Sue  | Message: "The Return of Lazy Russ"      |
| SUNDAY, APRIL 13        | 9:00 a.m. PALM SUNDAY                                 |   |
| 🕒 THURSDAY, APRIL 17    | MAUNDY THURSDAY Passover Seder Meal                   |   |
| ▶ FRIDAY, APRIL 18      | GOOD FRIDAY   | Message: "In Denial"                    |
| SUNDAY, APRIL 20        | 7:00 a.m. EASTER Sunrise Worship Service              |   |
| SUNDAY, APRIL 20        | 9:00 a.m. EASTER Resurrection Morning Worship Service |   |

# Sunday School Singers

## 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.

February 23<sup>rd</sup> — Postponed!

March 23<sup>rd</sup>

April 13<sup>th</sup>

May 11<sup>th</sup> — Spring Program



Questions?

Call Alyssa Fearing 320-304-3691

# Pregnancy and Life Resource Center



**"EVERY child deserves a birthday"** Baby Bottle Campaign 2025 raised \$1,571.57 total gifts. THANK YOU, American Lutheran Church! However, if you still have a bottle, it's not too late. Please return it to the church office or directly to the Pregnancy Recourse Center. God bless your generosity!

# Board of Education Update

## Greetings from the Board of Education!

Our Sunday School year is going quickly! Students in the birth through 6th grade classes are spending four weeks on the story of Joseph in the Old Testament before jumping into the story of Moses. Middle and high school students are discussing the Armor of God.

You're invited! Our Sunday School Spring Program will be Sunday May 11th at 10:30am. We can't wait for our students to showcase what they've been doing and learning this year!

Save the date: Vacation Bible School will be June 15th-19th, 2025! More information to come, but mark your calendars for a fun week of worship, growth, and learning!

Have a heart for children? We're looking to expand our list of teachers, classroom helpers, and substitutes! Lessons and supplies are provided and prepared for the teachers. Classroom helpers serve as an extra set of hands and listening ears, especially with our younger students. We'd love to have you view a class and see how you can be part of growing the faith and community of our youngest congregation members!



**Valentine's Greetings  
from our Listeners  
students (Age 3 to  
Grade 1)**



**Sunday School students singing at  
church led by Alyssa Fearing**

# STRETCH YOUR DONATION

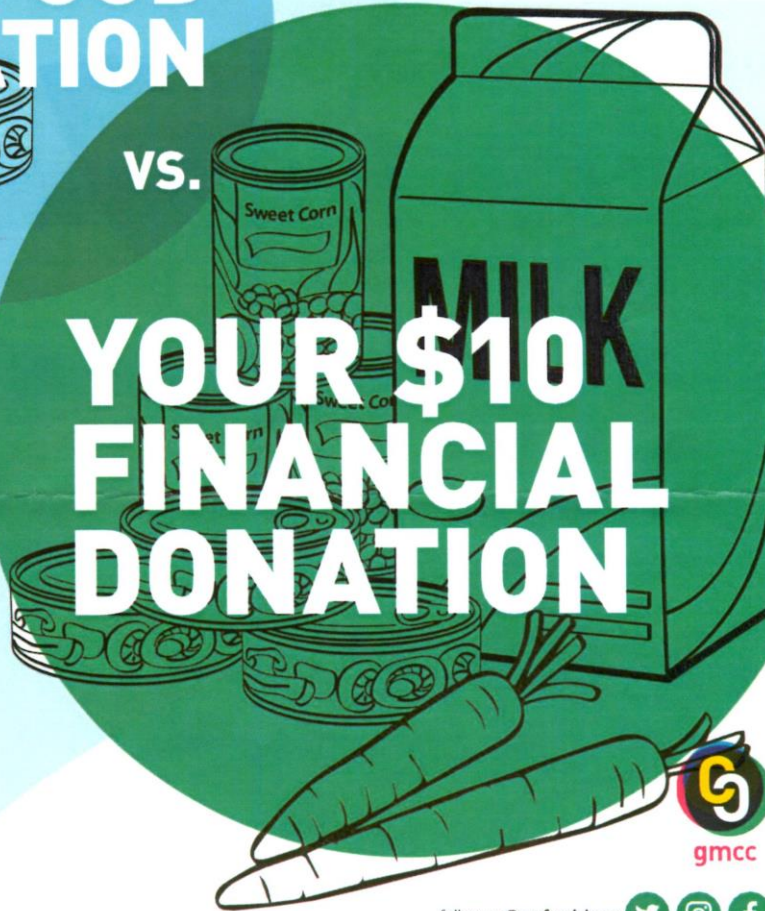
**Food shelves** can stretch cash donations further than donations of food because of their access to discount products and programs. Help us feed more Minnesota families by donating cash to your local food shelf today.

**YOUR \$10 FOOD DONATION**



vs.

**YOUR \$10 FINANCIAL DONATION**



follow us @mnfoodshare



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# Mission Focus – Page 2

## **LONG PRAIRIE EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY**

Our “Mission Focus” for March is the Long Prairie Emergency Food Pantry. The Food Pantry was started in the mid-‘80s as an outreach of the Long Prairie churches, and continued to be operated by a board of representatives from each church for many years. However, last year we recognized that several Long Prairie churches were no longer sending representatives, and several people with no church affiliation were working hard to keep it going. Therefore, the constitution was changed to more accurately reflect the Food Pantry as a community organization.

The Food Pantry, located on the north side of the Bargain Barn block in downtown Long Prairie, is open 9 AM to 11:30 AM, Wednesdays and Fridays, and also other times for emergency needs. The term “emergency” in our name has never been strictly defined – we prefer to leave the decision of what is an “emergency” between each person and God. However, since we receive support from the United States Department of Agriculture through The Emergency Food Assistance Program, we are required to have each person who comes for food “self-declare” that their annual household income is at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (we do not verify anyone’s income).

In 2024, we served about 2,400 families, and each family received approximately 70 pounds of food. We have very generous support from community groups and individuals, and we also received about 73,000 pounds of “rescue food” (surplus or “near expiration”) from Walmart in Sauk Centre and Coborn’s in Long Prairie. However, due to greatly increased demand and costs last year, we had a net loss of \$29,000 for the year.

## Mission Focus – Page 3

The Food Pantry is **NOT** in the budget of American Lutheran Church, except that the Local Mission Fund has purchased many Spanish Bibles which have been gratefully received by people at the Food Pantry. However, many individuals in this church are generous financial supporters, and I believe we provide more volunteer hours than any other church – **THANK YOU!** Approximately 50 people have volunteered in the last year, including the following from American Lutheran: Bonnie Alsleben, Blair Anderson, Karl Arenson, Bill and Karen Bakewicz, Ione Krause (Board secretary), Gary Martin, Kirk and Jane Olson, Julie Schultes (Board treasurer), Emily Steinert, and Stephanie Wehrenberg. (Please forgive me if I accidentally left off someone's name!) However, it takes a crew of about 12 volunteers per week to make it all work, so **we need MORE VOLUNTEERS!** Volunteering involves working about 3 hours on Wednesday or Friday morning, doing one of 4 jobs: “Door” (greeting people and doing necessary paperwork), “Rescue” (distributing the “rescue” and frozen food), “Boxer” (boxing up the regular foods), and “Floater” (re-stocking shelves and helping wherever needed). For all the jobs except “Door”, it is necessary to be able to lift up to 20 pounds repeatedly. Each job has its own rewards and challenges!

You perhaps have noticed that I've used the word however several times in this report - the Food Pantry obviously has ups and downs! **However**, one thing is certain – we are always obeying the command of our Lord to feed the hungry! Matthew 25:31, 34-35 :

When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.... Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.

Jane Olson



# Service Group 2 – Mar - Apr

## Service Group 2 – March – April

### Service Group Responsibilities:

- Serve for funerals on a rotating basis every 7<sup>th</sup> Funeral.
- Serve for special events occurring during the two-month period.
- Call for Ushers during the two-month period.

**Group 2 Leader:**                    **Teresa Pachan**

### Group 2 Members:

Barthel, Jene & Laurie  
Eckel, Larry & Jodi  
Fuchs, Cindy  
Guthrie, Kathy  
Katterhagen, Brian & Janet  
Katterhagen, Cassie  
Kortuem, Peggy  
Leagjeld, Dianne  
Lubbers, Ryan & Jillene  
Meyer, Betty  
Miller, Celeste  
Miller, Dan & Jan  
Pachan, Mark  
Paulson, Justen & Marsha  
Petrie, Blaine & Bernice  
Schrader, Frank & JoAnn  
Steinert, Dick & Emily  
Thompson, Wanda  
Westerberg, Sandy  
Zimmerman, Myke & Amy

# March

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3<sup>rd</sup> Cindy Fuchs  
3<sup>rd</sup> Allison Winge  
4<sup>th</sup> Faye Arntson  
5<sup>th</sup> Russ Jacobsen  
5<sup>th</sup> Al Priebe  
7<sup>th</sup> Jess Reining  
9<sup>th</sup> Bill Blair  
9<sup>th</sup> Kim Kuhlman  
9<sup>th</sup> Janie Thole  
10<sup>th</sup> William Young  
11<sup>th</sup> Tammie Chapin  
11<sup>th</sup> Jen Meagher  
12<sup>th</sup> Averie Cavallero  
12<sup>th</sup> Al Tirk  
13<sup>th</sup> Bryon Karjala  
13<sup>th</sup> Nathan Ruda  
14<sup>th</sup> Mike Winge  
15<sup>th</sup> Beth Arenson  
15<sup>th</sup> Sherri Evenson  
17<sup>th</sup> Scott Marcyes  
17<sup>th</sup> Steph Wehrenberg  
20<sup>th</sup> Mark Berscheit  
20<sup>th</sup> Sandy Flan  
20<sup>th</sup> Pat Schultz  
21<sup>st</sup> Karl Arenson  
22<sup>nd</sup> Linda Guse  
22<sup>nd</sup> Madison Parker  
22<sup>nd</sup> Makenzie Parker  
22<sup>nd</sup> Tami Priebe  
23<sup>rd</sup> Thomas Haugen  
24<sup>th</sup> Lexi Berscheit  
24<sup>th</sup> JoAnn Schrader  
25<sup>th</sup> Jace Browen  
26<sup>th</sup> Houston Berscheit  
26<sup>th</sup> Gary Martin  
28<sup>th</sup> Jillene Lubbers  
30<sup>th</sup> Carlie Eichens

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

17<sup>th</sup> Dale & Sue Ellingson  
18<sup>th</sup> Mark & Mary Hasse



# ALC CALENDAR MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> <b>10:00am</b> Gather 25 Women's Event at First Baptist Church 
<b>2</b> <b>9:00am</b> Worship Service with Communion  <b>10:15am</b> Sunday School	<b>3</b> <b>6:00pm</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00pm</b> Trustee Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>5:15pm</b> Family Night Supper <b>5:30pm</b> Choir Practice <b>6:00pm</b> Ash Wednesday Worship Service with Message "The Wrestler" <b>7:00pm</b> Deacon Meeting 	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <b>8:30am</b> Youth & Family Committee Meeting <b>9:00am</b> Worship Service with Baptism  <b>10:15am</b> Sunday School <b>6:00pm</b> Board of Education Meeting	<b>10</b> <b>8:15am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>9:30am</b> Esther Circle <b>5:15pm</b> Family Night Supper <b>6:00pm</b> Lenten Worship Service with Music from the Anderson Family Band and Message "Just What the Doctor Ordered" <b>7:00pm</b> Church Council Meeting 	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>9:00am</b> Worship Service with Communion  <b>10:15am</b> Sunday School <b>11:30 am</b> Missions Committee Meeting	<b>17</b> <b>8:15am</b> Staff Meeting <b>6:15pm</b> Sarah Circle Singing at Meadow Place <b>7:00pm</b> Sarah Circle Bible Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>11:00am</b> Newsletter Articles Due <b>5:15pm</b> Family Night Supper <b>6:00pm</b> Lenten Worship Service with music from The Prairie Doves and Message "Breaking the Fourth Wall" 	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <b>9:00am</b> Worship Service <b>10:15am</b> Sunday School	<b>24</b> <b>8:15am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>5:15pm</b> Family Night Supper <b>6:00pm</b> Lenten Worship Service with Music from Alyssa & Ethan and Message "Hidden in My Heart" <b>7:15pm</b> Choir Practice 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <b>9:00am</b> Worship Service with Communion  <b>10:00am</b> Prayer at Altar after Service  <b>10:15am</b> Sunday School	<b>31</b> <b>8:15am</b> Staff Meeting					