

HE DIED
FOR YOU!



Believe
...and Live!



American Lutheran Church (LEMC)

215 Ninth Street SE • Long Prairie, Minnesota

Pastor Ethan Fearing • 732-2932

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.

Tenebrae is the Latin word for “shadows”, and this type of worship has been practiced in the Christian Church since the fourth century. During the service, as thirteen candles are extinguished, our readers will recall the events that led to Jesus Christ’s suffering and death on the cross. The diminishing light symbolizes the fading devotion of Christ’s followers – the disciples – and our own sins, which add to the world’s spiritual gloom. At the end of the worship service, the sanctuary will be as dark and silent as Christ’s tomb.

The Lighting of Candles

We prepare our hearts for worship.

Prelude “Once Upon a Tree”

The Church Choir

✦ Prayer of the Day – based on John 1:4b-5, 10-13

ALL: Almighty God, when You came to us as Christ Jesus, You shown like a pure light in our dim world. You were the Light to guide us all! That Light still shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

You entered into the very world You created, but the world did not recognize You. Humanity, Your dearest creation, rejected You! But we have heard the good news: whoever does believe, whoever accepts You, will become a child of God. We were once children of the darkness, but Your life, death, and return from the grave change us into children of the Light! Amen.

WE HAVE TURNED OUR BACKS ON THE LORD

A Candle is Extinguished

Matthew 26:30-35

A Candle is Extinguished

Mark 14:32-42

♪ Opening Hymn “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

#660 WOV

WE HAVE STRAYED FROM GOD’S PATH

A Candle is Extinguished

Matthew 26:47-54

A Candle is Extinguished

Luke 22:51b-53, Matthew 26:56b-58a

♪ Hymn “Go to Dark Gethsemane” (verses 1-2)

#109 LBW

WE HAVE DESPISED AND REJECTED HIM

A Candle is Extinguished

Mark 14:55-65

A Candle is Extinguished

Luke 22:55b-62

♪ Hymn “O Sacred Head” (verses 1-2)

#117 LBW

HE WAS OPPRESSED AND AFFLICTED FOR US

A Candle is Extinguished

Matthew 27:1-5, 11-17

A Candle is Extinguished

Luke 23:18-24

♪ Hymn “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” (verses 1-3)

#098 LBW

HE WAS PIERCED FOR OUR REBELLION

A Candle is Extinguished

Matthew 27:26-31

✦ Procession and Flogging Bell

Jesus was likely whipped 39 times.

A Candle is Extinguished

Luke 23:32-35

♪ Hymn “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

#107 LBW

HE WAS CRUSHED FOR OUR SINS

Confession and Forgiveness – based on Isaiah 53:3-12

PASTOR: He was despised and rejected...

ALL: ... a man of sorrows who knew true grief.

PASTOR: We turned our backs on Him, despising and ignoring Him.

ALL: But He still carried our suffering.

PASTOR: We thought His troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for His own sins!

ALL: ...but He was pierced for our rebellion and crushed for our sins.

PASTOR: The punishment we deserved was laid on Him, and so we are healed by His bruises. His sacrifice makes us whole.

ALL: Like sheep, we have all wandered. We have strayed from God's path to follow our own...

PASTOR: ...but the LORD laid that sin on Him. He was oppressed and afflicted...

ALL: ...but He did not protest.

PASTOR: He was led to the slaughter like a lamb...

ALL: ...but He did not protest.

PASTOR: He was taken away and sentenced to death. He was unjustly condemned.

ALL: Who could have imagined His future?

PASTOR: He was cut off from the land of the living.

ALL: And laid in a grave with the wicked.

PASTOR: He was innocent, but it was the LORD's good plan to crush Him with pain.

ALL: His life was offered to defeat sin.

PASTOR: The One who is right and good, the LORD's servant, will make many people righteous by taking their sins...

ALL: ...and they will share in His victory!

PASTOR: He poured Himself out to death, dying like a sinner to carry the sins of many.

ALL: He carried our sin to forgive our sins.

A Candle is Extinguished

Luke 23:44-46

A Candle is Extinguished

John 19:38-42

Special Music "Come to the Cross / Near the Cross"

The Church Choir

Sermon “In Denial”

♪ Offering Hymn “Look, the Sight is Glorious” (verses 1, 4) #156 LBW

WE SHARE IN HIS VICTORY

✦ The Lord’s Prayer

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**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.**

♪ Closing Hymn “Were You There”

#092 LBW

The Christ Candle is Extinguished

Streptitus *The Bible is slammed shut, reminding us of Christ’s tomb.*

The Days of Darkness

We exit in silence.

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!

Bible Readings for Easter Sunday: April 20, 2025

Lamentations 3:22-26 1 Corinthians 15:1-5

Psalms 16:8-11 John 20:1-18

Sermon Title: “Love Beyond All Measure”

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Ethan Fearing

Pianist: Mary Breitenfeldt

Altar Guild: Betty Oliver

Acolyte: Makenzie Parker

Deacon & Reader: Blanche Tirk

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW2U 2025: ALC Women's project will be accepting your GIFTS, May 1 through May 7th.. [Daily 8a.m- 4pm] Closing out donations at 4pm on May 7th.. **LADIES:** your help will also be needed to sort and prep during that time. The sale is scheduled for Friday May 16 and Saturday May 17. **THANK YOU** in advance for your help and support!

Reminder: we are NOT able to accept: TVs, large appliances, books, electronics, etc. Thank you for understanding. If you have any questions or concerns: please don't hesitate to contact Deb @ 701-471-9384 or Julie S @ 320-533-1070.

You're invited! **Our Sunday School Spring Program** will be Mother's Day, May 11th at 10:30am. We're so excited for our students to showcase what they've been doing and learning this year! This is a great opportunity to invite family and friends to recognize our Sunday School students, and we'll be done in time for Mother's Day lunch. We can't wait to see you there!

Save the date: Vacation Bible School will be June 15th-19th, 2025 with supper starting at 5:30pm and VBS ending at 8pm. Mark your calendars for a fun week of worship, growth, and learning! Share your helping hands - we have jobs for all! Talk to a Board of Education member about the talents you can bring to the table.

2025 offering envelopes and 2024 annual reports can be picked up on the table by the bulletin board in the narthex.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has many shawls available. Shawls may be given to people who may be ill, in some kind of stressful situation, or who are in special need of an act of love and friendship. These shawls have been knitted or crocheted by crafters who work with a pray-ful attitude, thoughtful of the love of Jesus the shawl is intended to represent. Contact Jan Jorgenson or Lori in the office for a shawl to gift.



Our 2025 Shoebox project surges ahead! "Our Room" has already started to gather MANY gifts. We will begin organizing these "gifts" on our first 2025 Shoebox Workday on Wednesday, April 23, beginning at 10 AM! Details remain as on past Workdays:

EVERYONE is welcome! We find tasks for all abilities!

Potluck lunch is shared!

Any items you have to share are welcome! WE CANNOT SEND SOAP this year. (Any bars of soap already donated will be passed on to the Baby Care Kit ongoing project).

Come, share the fun, fellowship and Mission!

REMEMBER THIS COMING WEEK TO check clearance sales for Easter themed items that will be perfect for Shoeboxes, ie: stuffies/pencils/toys/erasers/other school supplies/clothing etc.

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 23rd — Postponed!

March 23rd

April 13th

May 11th — Spring Program



Questions?

Call Alyssa Fearing 320-304-3691

CHURCH OUTREACH

Missionaries: Dan and Nancy Butkowski; Dwight and Dorothy Hazard; Chris Mikkelsen.

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 April is the Todd County Chaplaincy, a program designed to develop trusting relationships with law enforcement, emergency personnel and provide intervention for those who are in crisis, and to offer a mentorship that will help them with accountability, making better choices, lending support, and acquiring necessary skills to be productive people. Our Todd County Chaplains act as first responders giving emotional and spiritual help to any agency or corporation where there is a critical incident or an accidental or natural fatality. The chaplains are on call for emergencies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Weekly Report:

Worship Attendance for last week: 172

General Fund receipts for March: \$17,793.36

General Fund budgeted 2025 March needs: \$23,504.75

General Fund Year to Date (YTD) as of 2/28/25:

YTD Budgeted needs: \$37,607.60

YTD Receipts: \$25,813.27

YTD Actual expenses: \$28,401.33

As of March 30th, our 2025 YTD General Budget receipts were \$17,505.72 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 Larry Adamek, Joe Ayers, Bernette Burgeson, Barb Comford, Jodi Eckel, Karin Fearing, Blain Hall, Larry Hatton, Stephanie James, Dennis Kaneski, Donna Lardy, Francie Maynard, TJ and Cassie Mead, Aubrey Olson, Joan Pesta, Eli Poegel, Tabitha Poegel, Sam Tesch, Kevin Thole, and Rose Thorp.

Our ongoing prayer list includes Philip Rawat 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, 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

April 23rd – Team 4 – Taco Temptations

April 30th – ALCW

Weekly Schedule at American Lutheran Church

Sun. Apr. 20th: 6:30 am Choir Practice
7:00 am Easter Sunrise Worship Service with Communion
9:00 am Easter Resurrection Morning Worship Service with Communion
No Sunday School

Mon. Apr. 21st: 8:15 am Staff Meeting
6:15 pm Sarah Circle Singing at Meadow Place
7:00 pm Sarah Circle Bible Study

Wed. Apr. 23rd: 10:00 am Shoebox Workday
5:15 pm Family Night Supper
6:00 pm Youth Group Grades K-6
6:30 pm Choir Practice
7:00 pm Group Grades 7 - 12

Sun. Apr. 27th: 8:30 am Youth & Family Committee meeting
9:00 am Worship Service
10:15 am Prayer at Altar after Worship Service
10:15 am Sunday School
11:30 am Missions 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.