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# THE COUNTRY SPIRE

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Volume 34 issue 11

November, 2009

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To Everyone at Long Lake Lutheran Church,

I am writing this letter to thank all of you for your support and friendship throughout my nearly 6 years as your Accountant/Office Manager/Secretary. As you all know, in this time of economic stress, the church was forced to cut staff wages. I am sorry to say, that my family could not sustain the cut I had to take; and after going to the food shelf, I realized I needed to do something.

As many of you recall, I was originally hired as an Accountant for Long Lake. When Betty Lundeen resigned, I then became the Office Manager/Secretary also. Since all my college training and skills are in accounting, I decided my skills would be best served in a Business Management/Accounting position. Therefore, I have taken a job as the Church Business Administrator and Accountant for a Presbyterian Church. I will be starting my new job on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be working 30-32 hours per week. I also have an accounting business called "Faith Accounting Services", in which I gave a proposal and two counter proposals to the council to continue doing the accounting work for Long Lake Lutheran as a contractor through my business. I am sorry to say, the council declined all of my offers.

Godspeed to you all, I am going to miss you!

Geri Fournier



The Gospel Team will tentatively be singing at the 10:30 am service, once a month.



We are in need of Nursery Volunteers for the 9:15 am Sunday school hour and the 10:30 am Worship Service hour. If you are interested, please call the church office or speak to one of the pastors or Candy McColley.



**Join us for the Thanksgiving Eve Service on**

**Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

**Following Worship join us in the Fellowship Hall for a**

**pie social and silent auction to benefit the youth**

**program.**

**opportunities for mission and ministry** for the future of Long Lake Lutheran Congregation? The transition team will be meeting often in October and November to consider these questions. The answers to these questions will guide the congregation and its call committee as to the characteristics and skill of the kind of pastor the congregation will need. As you go through the next months of this transition time, I encourage all of you, members and friends of Long Lake Lutheran Congregation to consider these questions as well. The transition team will be meeting October 7 and November 2, 16, and 30. Their goal is to have the congregation ministry profile completed by the congregation annual meeting in February so that a call committee can be elected at that time. The members of the transition team are: Karen Baker, Richard Hansen, Wayne Olson, Karen Nelson and Laura Schmidt. Please share your concerns and suggestions with them, or one of the council members and/or one of the pastors.

Inside This Issue	
F.Cover	Letter, Gospel Team, Thanksgiving Service
2	Pastor Dave's Column
2-4	Council Report
4	Financials, Mitten Tree, Catch-Up Dinner
5	LLC Directory and Adult Ed.
6	Circles, Groups & Squares
7-8	Youth & Family Ministry News
9	Birth, Bapt & Ann in Nov./Pastoral Acts Oct.
10	Volunteers for November
11	November Calendar
BCover	It's November!

Long Lake Lutheran Council Meeting  
October 8, 2009

Meeting called to order by John Bartz, Council President at 6:56 p.m.

Pastor Dave read devotions from 1 Corinthians.

Guests in attendance were, Tim Newton from Newton Financial Services, Karen Baker, Philip Lundeen, Dale Lundeen and Lynn and Carol Perrin.

Mr. Newton came to our meeting to let us know that a member had donated shares of stock to the church to be used for Youth and Education. We have 812 shares and the approximate value is \$10,000. He said we now have an account with them so anyone wishing to set up this kind of gift can do so by calling Newton Financial at 763-552-8888. The Church Council president and the financial chair will conduct any transactions on this account at the time. Because the people will change from year to year, we felt it would be better to do it this way.

Lynn wanted to see if we could put up a sign by the alarm system reminding people to be sure all the lights are off. He also brought up a request to see if we could get a wedding coordinator to be paid by the wedding party so that they would be in charge of being with the wedding party while they were in the church. We discussed in



**A REFLECTION FROM PASTOR DAVE**

How are you thinking about Long Lake Lutheran Congregation? Are you upset by the way the church is running? Are you complaining about the slow process of calling the next pastor? That is one way to think about Long Lake Lutheran Congregation?

There is also another way. It is the way that your transition team is thinking about the congregation. The question they first asked as they gathered to consider this transition time was: What has provided the spiritual energy for mission to Long Lake Lutheran Congregation over the years? Their decisive answer was, **THE MISSION STATEMENT!**

**“FOLLOWING CHRIST’S EXAMPLE  
OF LOVE AND FORGIVENESS  
WE OPEN OUR HEARTS AND OUR DOORS  
TO ALL PEOPLE  
AS WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL  
AND GROW IN CHRIST’S LOVE**

The next questions which they will be considering are: What are the **values** that inform the mission of this congregation? AND, what are the

length about how long we would allow the wedding party to be in the church before the wedding, it was decided that 3 hours before the wedding would be time enough, anything over the 3 hours before or 1 hour after would be charged an extra fee. We talked about a possible damage deposit to be reimbursed if we did not have a lot of extra clean up. Lynn stated sometimes there is a lot of mess in the sanctuary (flower pedals) to clean up and it takes extra time. We will advertise for a wedding coordinator and we will accept resumes' for this position. We are working on redoing the wedding book that prospective couples get when they book the wedding. We will revise this book and any new bookings will follow this new format. The new guidelines would not take effect until at least December. A motion to advertise for a wedding coordinator was made by Monica, seconded by Steve, passed by voice vote. Please submit your resume to the church office or one of the council members or the Pastors.

Secretary Report: Read, motion to accept seconded and passed to accept as written.

Treasurer's Report: Matt Hylan. Report read by John Bartz.

We have not paid our Benevolence to the Synod, and have not paid Luther Point dues, and have only been paying interest on the mortgage. We will now have to start paying the full payment to the mortgage company and will not be allowed to use the option of paying interest only again. We are working on updating the active member list, which in turn, determines how much our church pays to the Synod and to Luther Point. Pastor Dave is working on this. We will have a better idea about the finances of the church in November at which time we will start to work on the budget for 2010. Motion made to accept the treasures report, seconded and passed by verbal vote.

Pastor Dave: He has been doing home visits and is meeting with the transition team. He also started a Bible study on Wednesday nights on Corinthians.

Pastor Rhonda: No report, she was ill

Congregational Life: Rose was not present but we spoke about a Pie Social after the Thanksgiving service and about advent soup suppers again during advent.

Property: Steve Vigstol. He will be putting a light above the alarm pad in the cornerstone so we can see when we go in to turn the alarm off and on. He wants to remind people to please

leave the thermostats alone, the system works as a unit and if one of the thermostats is turned up or down, the whole system reads it and we get more or less heat.

Worship and Music: Candy McColley. Due to the possibility of the flu, we will not be sharing the peace by shaking hands and the pastors will not be shaking hands after the service. We will be conducting communion as we always have. The person who does the wafer or bread will wash with a disinfectant before touching the wafer or bread. Reformation Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> service will be the confirmation service. The choir will sing at both services that Sunday. Thanksgiving eve service is at 7 p.m. with a pie social after service. We will be passing out more time and talent sheets. We need more response for this important part of our ministry. Advent services again this year at 7 p.m. The gospel group will be doing the 2<sup>nd</sup> service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, this month they will not be doing that due to the confirmation service, they will do the 2<sup>nd</sup> service on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. We still need help in the nursery, if you can help in there please let the church office know or contact Candy McColley.

Missions: Dale Findell. We received a generous gift of \$1,000 to be used for IHN. The November Mission of the month will be the Benevolence Fund. This is a fund for our church to use, at the discretion of the pastors, for people who are in need of groceries, etc. December's mission of the month will go towards the building maintenance fund.

Education: Monica, no meeting due to illness. Sunday school is going well and the confirmation service will be October 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30.

Stewardship: Tony. We will have a Catch-up dinner on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Serving hamburgers, hotdogs, chips. We did this last year and had a good turn out and it was a good fellowship time. Stewardship has started the stewardship drive for our church this fall. Last Sunday Glendy Osie came up from the Synod and preached at both services and led our adult education. This was well received and a great start. Our focus will not be so much money talks but speaking about mission and what our giving does for our ministries at LLLC. Pastor Dave will preach this Sunday and I will do a temple talk. We will also have a Squares breakfast. The plan is to have an open forum as well. This will hopefully open the door for any and all communication for our congregation. Council who can help between services would be greatly appreciated. On the 18<sup>th</sup> Pastor Rhonda will preach and Ronda Fenlon

will give a temple talk and hopefully another open forum. Our conclusion will be November 1<sup>st</sup> with the turning in of our pledge cards and our second annual Catch-up Dinner. We will also have the opportunity to talk about new projects such as electronic giving, the updating of the church website and our new e-mail system. Giving has been up the last 2 weeks and mission giving has been generous. Thanks to our congregation and our gracious God. Stay strong in prayer and attitude.

Tony has been working hard on the stewardship and has been a vital part of our council by attending the staff meetings here at church on Wednesdays. **THANK YOU TONY**, for all your hard work for the good of this church family.

The new email system and web work have been worked on by Donna and Larry Larsen along with Bruce Riebe, we thank you for all your time and talent to get us on track and help us communicate better. This will be a secure website for communication between members and committees and also be web friendly for people looking for a church family. Bruce Riebe has worked hard on the web page and it looks great. Please take a look if you haven't already at [longlakeluth.org](http://longlakeluth.org).

Youth: No report.

We will more than likely have an extra council meeting in November to discuss the budget only. Please have all your recommendations ready by this meeting, TBA.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:35 p.m.

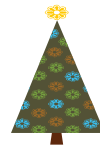
Respectfully Submitted,  
Candy McColley, Acting Secretary

## COMMITTEE CORNER

**YOUTH:** Will meet November 1<sup>st</sup> after Worship.

**EDUCATION:** Will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm. In November, this will be the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**WORSHIP & MUSIC:** Will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. If you would like to join our committee, please come to our next meeting, we would love to have you join us, or if you have any questions or concerns please let me know.



### **The hat & mitten tree is up.**

Please decorate the tree with hats and mittens before November 19<sup>th</sup>. The donated hats and mittens will go to needy children through the Refuge in Cambridge.



### **Catch UP Sunday**

Make one of your exciting boxes announcing the "Ketchup "Catch Up" dinner." This will be on 11/01/09 after both services. Part of our pledge Sunday program.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEMBER & VISITOR GIVING REPORT

<b><u>WEEKLY GIVING NEEDED EACH WEEK:</u></b>	\$ 6,436.36
Contributions given last week-Oct.18	<u>\$ 5,422.46</u>
Net gain (deficit)	\$(1,013.90)
<b><u>MONTHLY:</u></b>	\$19,309.08
<b><u>GIVEN SO FAR:</u></b>	<u>\$15,655.27</u>
<b><u>STILL NEEDED:</u></b>	\$ (3,653.81)
<b><u>COUNTY MRKT. CARD PROCEEDS-Oct.</u></b>	\$ 57.50
<b><u>RECYCLING DRIVE TO DATE</u></b>	<u>\$ 9,009.87</u>

Fellow Members of the Church:

We would like to talk to each and everyone who uses the kitchen. We want to remind you of the organization process that we would like to see carried on. Organization is something we have to maintain when we have so many people using the kitchen. All drawers and cabinets are marked so you know where each item goes after you use it. This cuts down on time and effort for everyone. We would hope to see the kitchen kept even cleaner than you found it. All food except for condiments should always be marked (such as spaghetti dinner 8-4-09) then it would be up to that group to keep or dispose of the items. If there are items left that are

not dated, they will be tossed. Please understand that we are just asking for a clean and efficient kitchen for all to enjoy.

Thank You,  
The Kitchen Committee



"We have had a huge response from the congregation to have a garden on our property next year. Planning and preparation is under way for this idea. We would like to do some ground work yet this fall. We need all those interested in this initial planning to contact Pastor Dave so we can set up a meeting. We appreciate your response and look forward to this great project!"



## LONG LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

3921 277<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW – Isanti, MN 55040

Website: [www.longlakeluth.org](http://www.longlakeluth.org)

### Staff

Pastor Dave Solberg	763-479-3059
E-mail address	cjnrev@frontier.com
Pastor Dave's Cell Phone	218-410-0204
Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka	763-783-3625
E-mail Address	<a href="mailto:rhondah@longlakeluth.org">rhondah@longlakeluth.org</a>
Pastor Rhonda's Cell Phone	763-229-4459
Church Office	444-5315

### Church Office

FAX Machine	444-8066
Nelda Remus, Secretary	444-9156
Lynn Perrin, Custodian	444-5607
Kristy Anderson, Organist	
Sherryl Mahrer, Parish Nurse	691-1733

### Council Members

John Bartz, Chairperson	444-9731
Steve Vigstol, Property	360-1798
Matt Hylan, Finance	753-2149
Rose Hass, Congregational Life	444-5892
Monica Ahlman, Education	444-6462
Tony Steiner, Stewardship	444-6768
Candy McColley, Worship & Music	753-5187
Tina Anderson, Youth	612-747-6871
Dale Findell, Missions	689-2219

### Church Organizations

Rose Hass, Council Secretary	444-5892
Donna Larsen, Director Adult Choir	444-9975
Friends of Ruth: Karen Baker & Mindy Peterson	444-4383 444-8419
Women of the ELCA (WELCA): Betty Lundeen	444-5357
Serving Groups Coordinator: Loretta Fornberg	444-5973
Sunshine Circle: Loretta Fornberg	444-5973
Betty Stanius	689-5405
Lundeen Scholarship Committee & Cemetery Sexton: Philip Lundeen	444-5357

One more for the Cornerstone cleaning; "With the changes we have made to staff due to our budget we are going to need help cleaning our beautiful Cornerstone building. As you know this building is used for Sunday School, IHN and many other activities. Council has handled responsibilities and are looking for more help. We have a sign up sheet in both buildings to volunteer for this once a week cleaning. You may also contact the church or Steve Vigstol. Responsibilities will be listed and will not take too much time if we work together and stay on top of it. This is a great family project and a nice way to give back to our church and God. Thanks for your help."

**Adult Forum @ 9:15 AM:** All are invited! Join us in the Conference Room.

### Purpose Driven Church

If you want to have a healthy physical body, you don't have to guess about how to get in shape – you can follow guidelines or models that include a well-balanced diet and exercise. To grow a healthy church, you don't have to guess either. The Purpose Driven Church is a church health model to help our church get in shape to live out its God-given purposes. Purpose Driven is a biblically-based church health model. The foundation for the Purpose Driven model is the Bible – with an intentional emphasis on the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). Jesus gave the Great Commandment when he was asked to identify the most important of God's commands. To paraphrase his response, he said, "Here is the entire Old Testament in a nutshell. I'm going to give you a simple summary of God's commands: 'All the Law and all the Prophets can be condensed into two tasks: Love God with all

your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself.” Later, as Jesus said goodbye to his disciples, he gave them a Great Commission that included three more tasks: go make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to obey everything Jesus taught. These two passages, the Great Commandment and the Great Commission,

combine to create the essential elements of a healthy, growing, biblically-based church: worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and missions. How balanced is our church related to these purposes? Purpose Driven provides a simple, effective strategy and the necessary tools to bring these biblical purposes into balance.

# CIRCLES, GROUPS & SQUARES

## Sunshine Circle

Note to all Shawl Makers: If you can knit or crochet we have the yarn for you. Just call or ask on Sunday morning and we can get some yarn for you. Our drop is in the west entrance hallway. Your help is greatly appreciated. Pastor Dave has already given six shawls to cancer patients.

If anyone has unused Christmas Cards that they don't want, we will gladly accept them for our group.

Thank you,  
Sunshine Circle

**"Two can accomplish more than twice as much as one, for the results can be much better."**  
**Ecclesiastes 4:9**

## FRIENDS OF RUTH

On October 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m., in the Cornerstone, we had a wonderful turn out! Welcome to our new members!

Ronda Fenlon lead us in a Bible reading from Mark 1:14-20 for our devotions. Then Pastor Dave lead us in prayer. We were pleased to have Pastor Dave come over for a visit and find out about our group.

Friends of Ruth women talked about our plans for the Tea coming up in November. Remember to set the Sunday after Thanksgiving aside for a special gathering of women at our church to listen to the reading of the famous book: A Cup of Christmas Tea by poet Tom Hegg. It will be from 1-3 p.m. on November 29<sup>th</sup>. We will have some finger licking goodies with our tea.

If you have a favorite teacup with a story that you might want to share about it; bring it with you to the gathering.

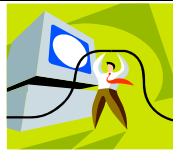
We had plenty of Mid-wife kit materials and put together a total of 54 kits in one session. We'll keep you posted on what other things are needed to be able to continue putting more kits together. One thing we'll need for sure is 2 gallon size plastic bags.

Our next meeting will be the first Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Come and Join us!



## WELCA

All the church women are invited to join us at our WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) monthly meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.



## The Squares

Our group is up and running again! We will meet in November on Tuesday, the 17th at 6:30 p.m., with dinner being served. Anyone who is interested in joining can call Will Remus at 763-444-9156.

# T-Shirt Design! Show Your Pride!



That's right! It's time for us to show our community who we are as a congregation – again! It's been 2 years since we had a congregational design and it's time to get your new t-shirts and sweatshirts to show your discipleship to those around you. Not only is it a great evangelism tool – it's a really awesome way to show your pride in Long Lake.

Proceeds from the sale of the shirts will go toward the youth program and mission trip for 2010.

T-Shirts and Sweatshirts will be available to order throughout November in the narthex – watch for samples to come your way soon! Don't miss out on a great opportunity for a really cool Christmas gift opportunity!

Just a reminder – ALL SOFTBALL PLAYERS (YOUTH AND ADULT!) This will be the uniform for next summer – so make sure to place an order for your t-shirt now!



# Silent Auction

## Step 1: Donate to a Great Cause!

The Youth will be sponsoring the annual Thanksgiving Even Silent Auction following the Thanksgiving Eve Service once again this year. As they did last year they are looking for “gift baskets” or stand alone items that can be auctioned off as part of this years fundraiser. All funds raised will go towards the youth program and the mission trip next summer. Please direct all donations to Pastor Rhonda's office.

## Step2: Join us for Auction Night!

Join us on Thanksgiving Even after worship for the annual pie social and Silent Auction. Bidding will open prior to worship and close approximately 45 minutes after worship ends. You need not be present at the end of bidding to win...so come and make a bid and join the fun! Help make this a fun and

# Going, Going, Gone!

# Youth and Family Ministry News

*Let's Buy a Llama, A Goat, and Some Ducks!*

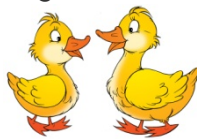
During the months of November and December the Children's offering will be designated towards **Heifer International** where we will, as the Children of Long Lake Lutheran, be purchasing a Llama, a Goat, some Ducks, and other livestock as our offering allows. Let's see how many animals we can purchase for communities in need.

What is this all about???? What do you mean we are buying a Llama????

"Heifer International is a non-profit organization with a proven solution to ending hunger and poverty in a sustainable way. Heifer empowers millions of families to lift themselves from hunger to self-reliance through the gifts of cows, goats and other livestock and extensive training, which provide a multiplying source of food and income." – heifer.com

By providing animals to individuals and communities we allow them the ability to become self-reliant and self sustainable. We can help put an end to poverty and hunger!

So remember to bring your offering to church and bring it up during the offering to the BRAND NEW CHILDRENS OFFERING BUCKET and help buy our animals!



## Mission

## South Dakota

By the time this is published I hope we have everyone registered....meaning that the next step is our first fundraising meeting. It will be Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> after second service. (11:30am)

## Baptism Class Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>!

Our next baptism class will be November 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am for anyone interested in seeking baptism here at Long Lake. The class is designed for both those who already have had their children and those who are expecting. Come and join us as we talk about the new



journey that God starts with us as water and word come together in the promises of Baptism.  
The next baptism class will be offered on Saturday February 6<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 9:30am.



Long Lake Lutheran Church  
Non-Profit Organization  
3921 277<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
Isanti, MN 55040  
Phone 763-444-5315

U.S. Postage  
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MISSION STATEMENT:  
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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
DATED MATERIAL –  
PLEASE EXPEDITE**