

THE COUNTRY SPIRE

Volume 34 issue 8

August, 2009



2009 Summer Festival

As most of you already know, Sunday, August 16th marks the date for this year's celebration. Our day begins at 9:00 am with Fellowship hour. Coffee and donuts will be served and during that time the Bake Sale and Farmer's Market will be going as well. At 10:00 am the Outdoor Service (weather permitting) with Everblest, a fantastic local group of young people who have dedicated their time and talents to serve God through music and witness. At 11:00 am our meal will be served. On the menu is deep fried turkey, potato salad, corn on the cob and pie for dessert. The Auction will begin promptly at 12:30pm, leaving 1 ½ hours for everyone to enjoy their meal and still make it to the Auction.

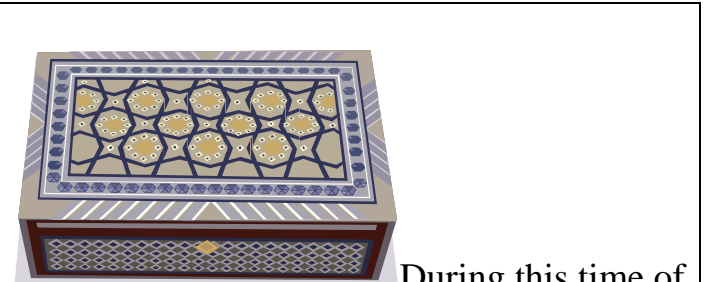
As always we will be accepting donated items basically right up to the start of the auction. If anyone needs to drop off items before the day of the auction I will be at the Church Saturday the 15th in the morning. If that doesn't work contact me (Steve Vigstol) and I will be available to take your items whenever we can make it work.

In a previous article I announced that this year's proceeds were earmarked for parking lot repair. Given our current financial situation that project will have to wait. This summer has brought on a triple whammy of budget woes, Pastor Howard's retirement, a bad economy and the typical lighter summer attendance. Most churches are struggling right now but the fact that we are in transition has amplified things for us.

I am confident, however, that God's blessings and grace will lead us through these tough times. He has a habit of doing that, you know.

Please support this year's event however you can. Words cannot adequately express the appreciation the entire church council and I have for all of you!

God's Blessings to All,
Steve Vigstol,
Property Chair



During this time of transition, we will have our oak box set up in the Narthex to collect all comments, suggestions and/or concerns you may have.

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BCover	It's August!	the ingredients of "Spiritual Well-Being"? Come
		and consider!



August, 2009

Over this summer we have been having Holy Conversations. Some have been attended more than others – but then the summer is a busy time for all of us. The themes of these Holy Conversations will be with us throughout this interim period. These themes present **perspectives** that Long Lake Lutheran Congregation will use to envision its future and inform the calling of its next senior pastor. I share these themes again with you and these themes will circle around throughout this interim process.

On May 31, we considered the **Interim Process itself** – a time of discernment for the congregation. Where have we been? What is God's mission for Long Lake Lutheran Church into the future?

On June 21 we considered the "**Characteristics of Growing Churches**". Since this will be a topic of future article in the Spire, I will only mention one of those characteristics here. "Growing congregations are willing to change to meet new challenges".

On July 12, we considered the subject of **Stewardship and Finance**. Stewardship is the way we participate and support God's mission at Long Lake Lutheran Church. As you determine God's CALLING and VISION for Long Lake congregation you need to consider how you all will participate in that CALLING and support that VISION.

On August 2 we will consider how "**Lutherans Interpret the Scriptures**".

The next step in this interim process is the appointment of a "Transition Team". This is **NOT** the call committee. The transition team is charged with guiding the congregation through the interim process. Its tasks are:

- A. To help the congregation gain perspectives on its past (self-assessment);
- B. To establish effective lines of communication between the team, the council and the congregation members;
- C. To gather information from the congregation needed to create a vision for the future;
- D. To establish goals, and define activities for the future ministry of the church;
- E. Finally to complete a mission profile that is sent to the Synod, and that informs a call committee as it considers candidates for Senior Pastor.

The Transition Team has been appointed and will begin its work sometime in August. The members of the team are: Karen Baker, phone, 444-4383; Richard Hansen, phone, 444-5447; Karen Nelson, phone, 607-4850; Wayne Olson, phone, 444-4884; Laura Schmidt, phone, 389-2057. I will serve as the team coordinator. Please give suggestions and comments to me or any of the team members as we move forward. I hope to share e-mails of the team members as I learn them so members and friends of the congregation can communicate with us in that way also. Remember: my e-mail address is <cjnrev@frontier.com>

Let us all keep Long Lake Lutheran Church in our prayers and concerns in this challenging time.

Yours Truly, In Christ,

Pastor Dave



Long Lake Lutheran Council Meeting
July 16th 2009

The meeting was called to order by John Bartz at 7:03 pm.

Warren Stock came to the meeting with a report on the hail damage to both churches, after an independent adjuster looked at the churches. Now we need to go back to the insurance company with this report.

Devotions by Pastor Dave. He read from Mark chapter 2 verse 13. The master calendar was reviewed. Sunday School is being worked on. The outdoor service is under way. The Spire deadline July 20th. Aug. council reps. Are Tony S. & Tina A. June meeting minutes approved.

Treasurer's report~Matt H.: We are about \$9,500 short in June. We have not been able to pay all the bills in July. We need to look at where we can cut. We need to cut back on everything. We had to look at sending out another letter to members again. We need to let everybody know about the bills and what cuts are going to made.

Pastor Dave's report: He continues to make call to members.

Pastor Rhonda's report: The youth raised about \$800 on the last car wash. They are just about at their goal. June and July have been very busy months again for ministry at Long Lake. She has spent three days at Luther Point with our Confirmation kids experiencing God through a ministry that is full of excitement and fun. Nine of our kids from Long Lake attended camp this summer and had a wonderful time. Clark and Pastor Rhonda were honored to be guests with

them. We had a successful VBS program on Wednesday nights in June. And I have spent many hours getting ready for our Day Camp program which will happen this coming week at Long Lake with the help of the counselors of Luther Point. We have 23 of our kids registered for Day Camp, which is a great number for us and we are looking forward to a successful week. In addition I have prepared to preach 4 out of 5 weeks which is approximately 40 hours of sermon preparation. Worship continues to be a focus of my time here at Long Lake. Finally, I have put in countless hours towards the trip to New Orleans. We leave this coming Tuesday and we have successfully raised all the funds~\$6,800 to send all 7 of us on our trip. It will be a life changing trip and it has taken a lot of hard work by all of us to get us there.

Youth: Tina A: Things are going great. They have a Valley Fair trip planned for August 12th. Softball has been going good. They would like to see more people come and watch the games.

Property: Steve V: We are getting ready to turn the alarm system on. That will be done on July 27th. The sprinkler system has not been working. There has been a recall on a part so it is covered.

Stewardship: Tony S: The Squares are having a breakfast on Sunday July 19th. Movie night will be July 24th. This will hopefully be outside. They are planning for popcorn and other things to eat. Bruce Riebe has been working on the church website. They are going to work on the ballfield Sat. at 8:00.

Missions: Dale F: We need to get missions lined up for this fall. We are looking at doing more in house missions. The ladies that do the mission quilts are in need of a new table. IHN will be our September mission. St. Francis is doing a Habitat for Humanity house and they are looking for man power help.

Worship and Music: Candy M: Our Fall Worship schedule will be 8:00 am, 9:15 am for education and 10:30 am. Pastor has given the group a worship guide line to look over.

Finance: Matt H: Things are not looking good. We have not been able to pay all the bills this month.

Congregational Life: Rose H: We had the Chicken and Fish Fry. We raised about \$540 for the general fund. We are looking at doing another one in the future. We are scheduled to have Dad's Belgian Waffles on Sept. 13th.

Education: Monica A: They are looking at Sunday

School material for the upcoming year.

Old Business: Flower beds; Steve is looking at this. We are working on the Summer Festival. We need to get ads made up and out.

Next meeting will be Aug. 13th.

Respectfully,

Rose Hass Secretary

LLLC Happenings:

August 2nd-Squares are serving breakfast, before and after service.

August 2nd-Holy Conversations, before & after service, "Lutheran Understanding of the Scriptures",

August 5th & 12th- Bible Study with Pastor Dave on the Book of Mark at 7:00 pm.

August 9th-Softball field dedication after worship.

August 15th-Baptismal Class at 9:30 am.

August 16th- Mid-Summer Festival~9:00 am Social Hour, 10:00 am Outdoor Worship Service, 11:00 am Deep Fried Turkey Dinner and 12:30 pm Auction.

August 28th-Family Outdoor Movie Night.

August 30th-Holy Conversations, before & after service, "Spiritual Well Being".

August 30th-Prayer Share Holder Dinner.

September 9th-Back to School BBQ for 6th-12th grades. Join us from 6:00-8:00 pm.

September 11th-Spaghetti Dinner from 4:30 am-7:30 pm.

September 13th-Rally Day, First Day of Sunday School at 9:15 am. Worship times changed to 8:00 and 10:30 am. Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast too!



Our Spaghetti Dinner is Friday, September 11th, from 4:30-7:30. WELCA is requesting that members donate bars and cookies. Please bring them to the church kitchen.



We Need You!

It's that time again! That's right - time to think about teaching and mentoring! It's time to think about where God is tapping you on the shoulder and asking you to serve.

We are in the midst of recruiting teachers for Sunday School and Mentors for Confirmation and if you have heard a faint or even loud tapping on your shoulder to work with the kids of our congregation - please talk to Pr. Rhonda or Monica Ahlman about where a good fit for your gifts would be!

For those of you who have already been teachers and mentors - we ask you to pray about returning again this year to a job well done. You can expect a call from your friendly neighborhood Pastor or Education committee mentor soon.

We will be having Sunday School
Teacher training on Wednesday
August 26th at 6pm.

And

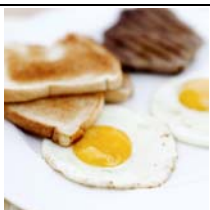
We will be having Confirmation
Mentor training on Wednesday
September 2nd at 6pm.

**Have You Checked
out the Website
Lately?**



longlakeluth.org

If you haven't navigated to your churches website as of late – you haven't seen the really cool changes that have been happening. Updates are being made all the time by our new website administrator Bruce Riebe and you can check out everything from calendar events to pictures of ministry that our church has been involved with. Most recently Pastor Rhonda did daily updates from the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans for the congregation. So check it out and watch for the exciting changes as they come and see the great ministry happening here at Long Lake.



BREAKFAST IS SERVED....

Our Squares Men's Group will be serving breakfast on Sunday morning, August 2nd both before and after service. Come and join us for a hearty breakfast and great fellowship.



FAMILY OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

Come join us for a fun filled, family movie night, on Friday, August 28th. (time TBD so watch the bulletins!) We will be showing a family movie outdoors, and will have a concession stand with popcorn, pop, hotdogs, and chips.

COMMITTEE CORNER

YOUTH: Will meet August 2nd after Worship.

EDUCATION: Will meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm. In August, this will be the 13th.

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Will meet on the 2nd Thursday, August 13th at 6:30 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.

When you make a

VOW

to

GOD,

do not delay
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FULL
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what you

VOW

ECCLESIASTES 5:4

Bible Verse for August:

Mark 3:34

³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!"
³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."



Summertime Singers

As you all know, the choir at LLC takes a well deserved break during the summer. Since I've been in choir, I've heard from a lot of people how much they miss the choir or at least music on a regular basis. So I came up with this big idea. With the summer worship schedule going to one service at 9:00 am, maybe we could assemble a little early, pick out an old favorite and sing it during the offering! This wouldn't require anymore time commitment other than to get up a little earlier on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of June, July and August.

Also this would be open to anyone young and old. I'm in the choir because I enjoy it! A choir is a blend of voices. You don't need to be a candidate for American Idol!

I would encourage our youth and our newer younger families to give this a try (especially guys). I'm going to try to keep the songs simple and upbeat. This will be an informal, nonjudgmental and fun thing to do!

And, I might add a great place to learn and get acquainted, so come and sing with the Summertime Singers at 8:15 am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of June, July and August.

Steve Vigstol
Yodeler in Charge
763-360-1798

CONGREGATIONAL MEMBER & VISITOR GIVING REPORT

WEEKLY GIVING NEEDED EACH WEEK: \$ 6,497.89
Contributions given last week-July 19 \$ 4,736.85

Net gain (deficit) \$(1,761.04)

COUNTY MRKT. CARD PROCEEDS-July \$ 45.00

RECYCLING DRIVE TO DATE \$ 7,324.87

ATTENDANCE: Sunday: 140



LONG LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

3921 277th Ave. NW – Isanti, MN 55040

Website: 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 rhondah@longlakeluth.org
Pastor Rhonda's Cell Phone 763-229-4459
Church Office 444-5315

Church Office

FAX Machine 444-8066
Geri Fournier,
Financial Coordinator & Secretary 444-0279
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 Hylen, 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 & 444-4383
Mindy Peterson 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



Sunday School

How would your kids, ages 3-8th grade like a fun learning experience full of Christ centered faith formation, songs, bible lessons, experiential learning, crafts, games, and lots of new friends? That's what this year's Sunday School program is guaranteed to be – as Pastor Rhonda, Monica Ahlman, and the rest of our Education Team focus on youth and family as a cornerstone of the congregation.

And since it's that time of year when we start to think about fall programming it's time to register. This year, though, we need to have an exact count of our children for our Sunday School planning and curriculum purchasing. If you and your kids want to be part of this year's awesome programming, make sure to fill out the registration form at the bottom of this page and **return it to the church by August 23rd**.

In order to bring quality faith formation and educational curriculum to our children we are asking for a donation of \$15 per child or \$25 per family for Sunday School (with scholarships always available – simply check the box on the registration form).

Sunday School Registration Form 2009-2010

Parents name: _____

Child: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ Baptismal Anniversary: _____

Child: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ Baptismal Anniversary: _____

Child: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ Baptismal Anniversary: _____

Child: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ Baptismal Anniversary: _____

Child: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ Baptismal Anniversary: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Any Allergies or special needs we should know about? _____

- Paid: check # _____/cash
- Scholarship Requested

REFLECTIONS

While in church on Sunday, listening to Pastor Rhonda's sermon, I began to think about what she was saying. How we need to look to God for guidance and how we sometimes forget to do that. Then as we were going through the liturgy these words spoke to me..." We offer with joy and thanksgiving ALL that you have FIRST given us." Sometimes I wander what I have to give, sometimes I feel I have nothing to give, sometimes I feel that I don't have the skill or knowledge to give or that I don't have enough to give. But trust me, God doesn't care, he just wants you to give what you have, I'm not talking money here, I'm talking about giving yourself, your time, and your talents to the body of Christ. The liturgy goes on to say..."Help us to be good stewards of your various gifts of grace." Grace is hard, you have to sometimes swallow your pride and admit you are wrong about something or admit you don't do enough. I don't mean that you have to admit it openly, but admitting to yourself is hard also. You have to ask yourself, "Am I doing enough?" Sit down and think about it. Karen, Dave, Jerry and I have been the set up captains for interfaith hospitality for over 3 years; this task was originally a 2 year commitment. We tried to get someone to take our spots, but no one came forward. This saddens me greatly. It's not a huge task, but it is very important to the people we serve as our guests 3 to 4 times a year. Anyone of us could be a guest in this program, yet we are not willing to take on the responsibility to help with this program. The volunteer board comes up short every time we put it up. It only takes about an hour of your time on Sunday morning. Is this too much to ask? If we continue to struggle with getting people to help with this program we may have to stop helping these people, who for the most part are the poor working class who can't afford housing. The final words of the liturgy are" In all of life, may you be glorified through Jesus Christ. Amen." To me this means being glorified through Jesus Christ, it means giving of ourselves to others less fortunate.

I pray we will all be good stewards of the gifts Jesus Christ has given us.

In Christ,
Candy McColley

WELCA NEEDS YOU!!

All women members of Long Lake Lutheran Church are members of WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), though not all choose to attend the meetings. Our purpose is to serve our Church in a variety of ways and provide fellowship to our members.

We really would like to see more women attending our monthly meetings. We know that a lot of people work and cannot go to daytime meetings, and if that is a problem we would like to hear from you. If enough people request an evening meeting we would consider holding both day and evening meetings or else change to evenings.

We meet the third Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We start with a half hour (sometimes longer) Bible study followed by a business meeting and then coffee and dessert. This year we have tried having different opportunities to get to know one another better by having social outings once a month, or so, and these have been well received.

We have also tried to have more fund raising projects to fund various charities and help the church finances. These have included spaghetti dinners, craft and bake sales, farmers market and helping with quilts for the auction and Lutheran World Relief. During the Christmas season, we sponsor collections and shoeboxes for the Marie Sandvik Center (a Christian based charity in Mpls.) and a hat and mitten tree for the Refuge in Cambridge. At our November meeting we will look at our financial situation and vote on our charitable contributions for this year. Last year WELCA contributed to the following: Our Building Fund \$500, our General Fund \$500, Lion's Club Christmas Project \$100, Isanti Food Shelf \$150, Luther Point Bible Camp \$100 and LAMP \$100.

If you have any comments or suggestions please talk to one of our officers, Geri Fournier, Jean Hansen or Loretta Fornberg. Or better yet, come to our next meeting and join the discussions.

This year our officers are:

President	Betty Lundeen
Treasurer	Joan Anderson
Secretary	Lillian Reetz



Sunshine Circle's Project of Interest:

We are giving prayer shawls to members who have lost a spouse or child. Also to the Cambridge Hospital. If anyone would like to help by making a shawl at home and bringing it to church, we have a Sunshine box in the West hallway. We welcome help from all women of the church.

We had a couple of fun outings this summer. So we now will be back to making our Baptismal blankets.

Have a senior this year, please let us know so we can have a little idea of how many Quillows we need to plan for. Maybe we can get a head start on them!!

If you would like to join us, we meet a 1:00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month at the church. Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, August 11th**.

"Two can accomplish more than twice as much as one, for the results can be much better."

Ecclesiastes 4:9

Thank you Sunshine Circle

All the church women are invited to join us at our WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) monthly meeting on August 20th at 1:00 pm.

CIRCLES, GROUPS & SQUARES



FRIENDS OF RUTH

As co- leaders, Mindy Peterson and Karen Baker, met in June to discuss the way we were going to handle our duties as leaders for the group. We want to emphasize that this Fellowship of Friends of Ruth are for the working and nonworking women who need to come together with other women of the church for fellowship. It's a time to work on projects, talk about our faith, and strengthen our Christian beliefs by sharing and caring for each other. So come and join our group evenings this Fall on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Friends of Ruth will meet throughout the summer months of June-August for Walking in Fellowship. We will meet the first Thursday each month at 6:30 p.m. to walk and talk about what we have found at garage sales or ideas we have for our first event coming up this Fall. Be sure to join us and wear your tennis shoes. We will start out slow and go as far as is comfortable with our goal to complete the whole block, which is approximately 3.8 miles by the August meeting.

Our official meetings will begin on September 3rd at 7:00 p.m. Karen will have devotions and snack for that meeting. We will be working on assembling mid-wife kits and chatting about the ideas we have for our Fall event which is titled: "A Cup of Christmas Tea" . It will be on the last Sunday in November from 1-3 p.m. with us serving a light dessert and tea. We'll have some other things as well, so mark your calendar for November 29th.

Come and Join us!
Friends of Ruth



WELCA



The Squares

Our group is up and running again! We will meet in August on Wednesday, the 19th at 6:30 p.m., with dinner being served. Anyone who is interested in joining can call Will Remus at 763-444-9156.

Why Go To Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

All right, now that you're done reading, send it on! I think everyone should read this! "When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say, "Jesus, could you get that for me?"



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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.”

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL –
PLEASE EXPEDITE