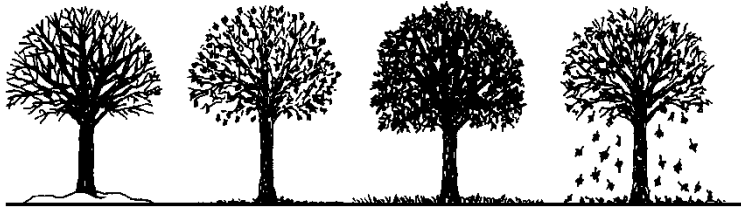

COUNTRY SPIRE

Volume 35 issue 1

January, 2010



As We Start the New Year

SPECIAL WORDS OF THANKS AND APPRECIATION

This Advent Season has been a special time for Long Lake Lutheran Congregation. This congregation is blessed with a membership with abundant gifts and a willingness to share those gifts. Special Thanks goes to:

- The director, actors and helpers who made this year's LIVE NATIVITY such a special success including those who made and served the chili;
- Pastor Rhonda and her friend Chris Dahlberg for designing the children's Christmas Pageant;
- All those who worked to make that pageant a great success, including the Sunday School Teachers, the Parents and the Kids themselves;
- The Squares who put together three breakfasts for these special events;
- Betsy Vincent who made the cinnamon rolls for the breakfast after the Christmas Pageant, who organized a cookie donation and a caroling party to shut-ins in our Congregation;

- Colleen Evenson who made and had us sign cards, then sent care boxes to those serving our country in the military;
- Those who put up the Mitten Tree and those who donated
- To all those who made soup for the soup suppers; those who served and those who cleaned up;
- The Country Gospel group who lead two worship services on November 29 and December 23;
- The Long Lake Lutheran Choir who provided **RICH** music in the worship services including the Cantata on Christmas Eve;
- To Candy McColley and Steve Vigstol who provided **special** music for the 10:30 Candle Light Service on Christmas Eve.
- All those who decorated the Sanctuary; including Gerald and Connie Anderson for donating the trees.
- All the members of the Congregation who gave generously to Christmas food baskets for the community and for members and friends of the congregation: all who greeted, ushered, read scripture, and helped with communion;
- All who prayed for the congregation, the community and the Nation during this time
- All members and friends of the congregation who worshipped together to

***PREPARE THE WAY OF
THE LORD***



THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION WILL BE ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7th @ 11:45 AM, FOLLOWED BY A POTLUCK DINNER. ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

FROM PASTOR DAVE:

Isaiah 43: 19

**I am about to do a new thing;
Now it springs forth,
Do you not perceive it?"**

Such was the Word of the Lord to the People of Judah as they returned to their homeland from Babylon and began to rebuild their temple in Jerusalem.

Perhaps this could also be a Word of the Lord to the community of Christians at Long Lake Lutheran Congregation in rural Isanti County. We are at the beginning of a new year, the tenth year of a new century. Long Lake Lutheran Congregation is in a time of transition. What does God have to say to us?

**"I am about to do a new thing;
Now it springs forth
Do you not perceive it?"**

What new things does God have in store for Long Lake Lutheran? A transition team has been meeting for the past several months – from September through December. First, the transition team re-affirmed the congregation's MISSION STATEMENT; then they adopted six values which along with the mission statement are to guide all members of the congregation in ministry and mission into the future.

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

VALUES
WELCOMING
RESPECTING EACH OTHER
FORGIVENESS
MINISTRY
COMMUNITY
COMPASSION

In the light of this Mission and Values the transition team have considered the past and the present; they have looked at the demographics of the area and have suggested a vision for the future. All this is being written in a congregation profile that gets sent to the Minneapolis Synod and shared with a call committee in preparation for calling a new Senior Pastor. During the month of January the transition team will be presenting its findings and conclusions to the Congregation for all the member's reflection, consideration and suggestions. There will be two meetings in January. One will be on January 17, 2010 there will be an OPEN FORUM in the sanctuary during the regular education hour for the first presentation. The other will be on January 24, 2010 after the second service.

The transition team hopes that as many members as possible will be able to attend one or the other of these meetings. The team members are: Karen Baker, Wayne Olson, Richard Hansen, Laura Schmidt



**LONG LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
12/3/2009 and 12/10/2009**

December 3, 2009

Long Lake Lutheran Church Council met at 7:00 p.m. to begin working on the 2010 budget. Attending were: John Bartz, President, Pastor Dave, Matt Hylan, Tony Steiner, Candy McColley, Rose Hass, Dale Findell. Also attending were Dale and Phillip Lundeen There were some general discussions but no formal action was taken on the 2010 budget.

**Long Lake Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
Dec. 10, 2009**

Meeting called to order at 7:01 by John Bartz.
Devotion by Pastor Dave.
Financial update by Matt and Elaine. There was a transfer of funds from the festival and auction fund to the general fund of 11,000. That money had been set for the general fund. .
We will have Missions recap each month what they are going for and how much was donated. The new software is here and Elaine is working with it. Nelda is looking at the membership list. The account listed as other gift funds of \$500 is for the bell fund. A motion was made and seconded to move that to the Cornerstone Upgrade fund. This was passed. Fellowship funds are the Sunday morning coffee and donut funds. A motion was made and seconded to move this to the general fund. This was passed. Everyone that buys something for the church and needs to be reimbursed, needs to turn in a receipt.
Matt has the old computer ready for the Cornerstone.

The electronic Simple Giving Program will start Jan.1st for those that want to use it. Motion was made and second to except the report. Motion carried.
Master calendar reviewed. The Sunday School program is this Sunday at the 10:30.
Annual reports are due to the office by Jan.10, 2010. Annual meeting will be Feb. 7th, 2010. Nominating committee has some candidates to run for council.

January council reps are 8:00 Dale and 10:30 John.

Approval of November minutes with one note. Faith Accounting made a 3rd offer of \$200 a wk and 6 month with less services. Motion made and seconded to except the minutes.
Pastor Dave : He was able to take a \$300 donation and 200 pounds of food to Family Pathways from our congregation. They were very grateful. Pastor is looking for names of members that may be in need of a holiday meal. And any donations that we may have. We need to have the food shelf come and pick up the food we have here.

Pastor Dave met with the transition team. Pastor Dave had a meeting with other Pastors and the topic was: What to do when the attorneys call. We need to get clear job descriptions.

Property Steve: We're still are having trouble with the furnace. The repair men was here today. We may need to have somebody else look at the system. Cornerstone cleaning: more people are need to help out with this. We may see if the 4-H groups would be interested in helping. Also it was brought up, if the confirmation youth need service projects. Steve will do the annual review on Lynn.

Stewardship- Tony: He has been working with Donna on the email system. This will be good to have set up.

The men are looking at building a ramp for a gentleman in Bradford, this is turning out to be more than they thought it would be. They are looking to see if any other group would be willing to help.

Tony has been checking out different copy machines and companies. The one we have has been giving a lot of trouble.

Worship and Music- Candy: She has gotten a bid for a new style microphone for the Pastors. A rental unit purchase would run \$239.95 and a new unit about \$339.95.

Need to do reviews on Kristy, Donna, and Pastor Rhonda. Council and Pastor Dave will work on this.

Congregational Life- Rose: We are having Soup suppers before the Advent services.

We are going to serve soup before the Dec. 23rd service.

Education- Monica: Christmas Program is Dec.13th at 10:30 with breakfast served by the Squares after.

Matt Lundeen is going to team teach 5th and 6th grade with Lori Koester.

Old Business: 2010 Budget. we are looking at less this coming yr. A possible cut of \$1,200 a wk. We are looking at possibly about \$5,000 a wk.

The council discussed the office position. We will discuss a job description with Nelda and with the accountant. The description will be updated and then the position will be posted. Council is looking at a timeline to fill this position.

Next meeting Jan.7th at 7:00 and regular meeting Jan. 14th at 7:00

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Rose Hass

COMMITTEE CORNER

YOUTH: Will meet Jan. 3rd after Worship.

EDUCATION: Will meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm. In January this will be the 14th.

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Will meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30 beginning. In January this will be the 14th. 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.



LLLC Happenings:

Jan. 4: Friends of Ruth

Jan. 5: Deadline for Annual Report.

Jan. 10-17: IHN Guests are here.

Jan. 11: Quilting Day- Cornerstone
9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Jan. 15: Deadline for February Spire.

Jan. 17 & 24: Transition Sessions
With potluck on the 17th.

Jan. 19~Live Nativity Recap 6:30 pm.

Start Thinking Valentines

Say "I Love You" with a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend. Get away from the everyday demands of the world so the two of you can really focus on each other. You'll spend two nights in a comfortable hotel and enjoy five delicious meals from Friday at 7:00 pm to Sunday at 5:00 pm. Four presenting couples, including a Lutheran clergy couple, give a series of presentations followed by questions the couples discuss in the privacy of their hotel room. There is no counseling and no group sharing. No one tries to change who you are. It's great for couples who already have a good marriage and want to enrich their relationship, but it also does wonders for those marriages that have lost their luster through years of child rearing and work obligations.

The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends in Minnesota are February 12-14 & March 19-21 in Brooklyn Center; April 16-18 in Duluth or April 30 – May 2 in Alexandria. Please register a month in advance. For more information, contact Dick & Judy Dehnel at 952-432-3105, Pete & Phyllis McMahon at 763-561-1575 or visit www.godlovesmarriage.org.

Mission Quilts

Sewers are needed for tops and bottoms of the quilts. See the directions for their size on the Mission Cards in the Narthex of the Church. We were able to do 25 more quilts and have a total since last September of 50 quilts. Thanks so much to all those who have helped with this mission project. We will be working on quilts January 11, 2010 9 am to 9 pm. Questions- call Connie Anderson 444-4118; Glenna Sorenson 444-5291 or Jan Leppla 389-5476.

To the Congregation:

I have just witnessed a remarkable event called the Live Nativity at Long Lake Lutheran Church. First of all, let me thank the people who organize it. Carol Perrin and Ronda Fenlon had the faith that the Live Nativity would be better if we moved it inside. They went to the church council and were allowed to give it a try. Thanks be to God! Donna Larsen did most of the scenery along with lots of volunteers. Thanks to all the people who brought in animals. They made a lasting impression especially with the children. The whole Live Nativity was awesome from start to finish. All of the actors were great, putting their heart and faith into it. The chili supper was well attended. Thanks to Nancy Johnson who headed up the kitchen help. Sunday Service was very moving. There were 235 in attendance. We have heard many great comments about it. Thanks to the Square's for putting on the breakfast after the service. One of the most gratifying things was all the people who pitched in to help clean up. In just a couple of hours, the church was cleaned up and ready for the next service. Surely God was looking down on Long Lake Lutheran Church saying well done My Good and Faithful Servants.



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 Cell Phone	218-410-0204
Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka	763-783-3625
E-mail Address	pastorette01@msn.com
Pastor Rhonda Cell Phone	763-229-4459
Church Office	444-5315

Church Office

Nelda Remus, Secretary	444-9156
Lynn Perrin, Custodian	444-5607
Kristy Anderson, Organist	444-4561
Sherryl Mahrar, Parish Nurse	763-691-1733

Council Members

John Bartz, Chairperson	444-9731
Steve Vigstol, Property	753-0177
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 & Mindy Peterson	444-4383 444-8419
Women of the ELCA (WELCA): Jean Hansen	444-5447
Serving Groups Coordinator Loretta Fornberg	444-5973
Sunshine Circle: Loretta Fornberg	444-5973
Becky Agranoff	444-4769
Lundeen Scholarship Committee & Cemetery Sexton: Philip Lundeen	444-5357



Sunshine Circle's Big Thank You!

Thanks to all who purchased items at our Christmas Craft Sale. Because of your generosity, Sunshine Circle made \$407 to use to purchase materials for our projects and make donations to missions here at home.

Thanks Again!

If you would like to join us, we meet at 1:00 PM on the second Tuesday of the month at the church. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 12th.

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

Thank you,
Sunshine Circle

CIRCLES, GROUPS & SQUARES



FRIENDS OF RUTH

Friends of Ruth January

On December 7th we had our meeting at the Fellowship Hall, because the 4-H group was having a special gathering in the Cornerstone.

Janelle Pelika lead us in a story about the how the song: "Silent Night" came about, then shared a Christmas Poem with us, and Connie A. ended with a prayer for our devotions.

We did our cookies exchange, had our delicious cake from Janelle, then watched the DVD that Connie had brought about Global Ministries.

Friends of Ruth women talked about the successful Tea Party with 42 women in attendance, and planned to have a similar one again in 2010. We had discussion about further ideas for the new year: providing some kind of treat for after SS program, going caroling, taking a trip to the Plymouth Playhouse, and talked about an outing to Global Missions with the mid-wife kits.

Thursday, Dec. 10th, Mindy and Karen took the blessed kits down to the mission warehouse in Fridley. Now we're ready to put more together, but will need to replenish some supplies.

We are in need of these **Mid-wife kit supplies:**

2 gallon size plastic bags, t-shirts or onesies(birth to 3 mo.) and snack bags. Thanks for your support!

*Plans to see *How to Talk Minnesotan* are in the works for January. Our next meeting will be January 4th at 6:30 in the Cornerstone. See you there!



WELCA

All the church women are invited to join us at our WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) monthly meeting on January 21st at 1:00 pm.

The Squares

Anyone who is interested in joining can call Tony Steiner at 763-444-6768.



LIVE NATIVITY UPDATE

A big Thank you to all the many hands that support Long Lake Lutheran's Live Nativity. It takes a small village (100+ of you) to make this a success from costumes to food to characters to scenes to PR. The list of those who support this effort is very long. Without each of you we **COULD NOT** make this happen. Long Lake Lutheran shared the story of our Lord's birth and a chili dinner with many members of our community. Many of our visitors were **NOT** members of Long Lake.

There will be a meeting on January 19, 2010 at 6:30 PM in the Cornerstone. I would encourage all coordinators to attend and invite all who are interested as we review the 2009 Live Nativity and start planning for 2010.

SAVE the date: 12-4-2010 will be the date of the 2010 Live Nativity



INTERGENERATIONAL POT LUCK

Several people from the congregation (including the Transition Team) are planning an intergenerational potluck at 11:30 A.M. following the second service on January 17, 2010. This is to be a time of fellowship for all ages. During the potluck, we will be signing Valentine Cards for our troops overseas. Donations for supplies to make the cards are welcome. We will also be playing board games for kids and all of us. We hope as many as possible can come.



11525 Luther
Point Rd
Grantsburg,
Wisconsin
54840

Greetings from Luther Point!
January 2010

Craig M. Corbin,

Opening More Doors Together (OMDT) Capital Campaign Update: It is important that the momentum of the campaign be maintained so that we can reach our goal of building a storm shelter for the youth and families that come to camp. Congregational leader training will be held January 9th and 10th. The training will take place at two different sites each day

Saturday, January 9:

10:00 a.m. Gethsemane Lutheran, Baldwin, WI

2:00 p.m. Luther Point Bible Camp, Grantsburg WI

Sunday, January 10 - 2:00 pm Mt. Zion Lutheran, Hudson, WI

6:00 pm First Lutheran, Taylors Falls, MN

Encourage your congregation to pick a congregational leader or volunteer for the position. The major gift portion of the campaign continues and over \$540,000 has been raised in pledges and gifts. Thanks to all the volunteers and donors who have participated so far.

Summer 2010—Put Us on Your Calendar Moms: This is a special word to our moms who are beginning to look ahead to the summer of 2010. The camp schedule is on the Luther Point website: LutherPoint.org. Online registration is available now so register early, especially for the specialty camps, like horse camp, guitar, drama, etc. those programs fill up early. Once again there will be a number of incentives and discounts, so take advantage! **Camperships will also be available.** Look for Campership request form on the webpage: LutherPoint.org. Summer Brochures will be coming out in mid January.

RETREAT OFFERINGS: Check our website for more details regarding upcoming retreat events scheduled for the winter months ahead, some of the offerings include:

3rd-5th Grade Weekend Camp: March 20-21, 2010

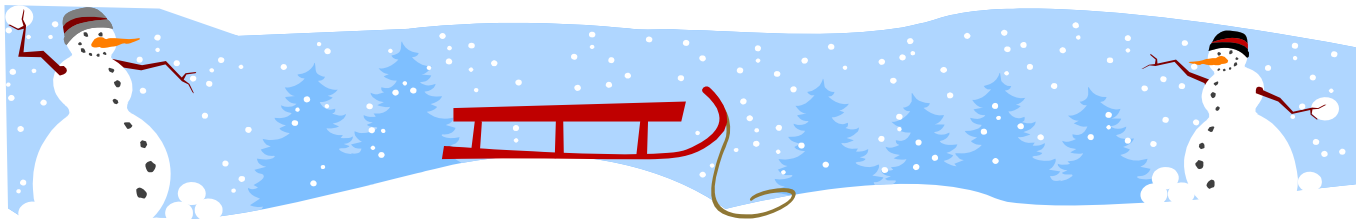
Prayer Shawl Retreat: April 22, 2010, 9 am-3pm

Register online or call and talk with Becky or Lisa. 715-689-2347

Luther Point Ambassador Retreats: These retreats are a time to come together, get some fun, new ideas and receive information to promote Summer Camp and Retreats. The Retreats will be held February 6 and 27 from 9 a.m. until after lunch. If your church does not have an Ambassador, please come to one and share in the fun!

Encourage Your College Students to Apply: During Christmas break from college encourage those young college students to consider summer employment at Luther Point Bible Camp. Applications for summer employment will be available on our website: LutherPoint.org. Scroll down to the employment section on the left hand tool bar.

Thank you for your partnership!
Craig M. Corbin, Director



JANUARY



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Isanti, MN 55040
Phone 763-444-5315

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