



# Country Spire

www.longlakeluth.org

Volume 35, Issue 12

December 2010

## LONG LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

### Staff

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 Martin Lynn, Property 444-4345  
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Rose Hass, Council Secretary 444-5892  
 Donna Larsen, Director Adult 444-9975  
 Friends of Ruth,  
 Karen Baker 444-4383  
 & Mindy Peterson 444-8419  
 Women of the ELCA (WELCA):  
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 Serving Groups Coordinator  
 Loretta Fornberg 444-5973  
 Sunshine Circle:  
 Loretta Fornberg 444-5973  
 Becky Agranoff 444-4769  
 Lundeen Scholarship Com & Cemetery  
 Sexton: Philip Lundeen 444-5357

## Worship Schedule:

Dec. 1 7:00 pm  
 Dec. 5 9:00 am  
 Dec. 12 8 & 10:30 am  
 Dec. 15 7:00 pm  
 Dec. 19 8 & 10:30 am  
 Dec. 22 7:00 pm  
 Dec. 24 4 & 10:30 pm  
 Dec. 25 9:00 am  
 Dec. 26 9:00 am



## Preparing for the Christmas Season



May you have a safe and happy holiday season. May the New Year offer you joy and comfort. May you find peace and happiness in your life, and may God continue to bless you.

## THANK YOU!

There are a lot of people who just do things around here, without any thought to receiving a lot of recognition and/or credit. One of the things that we take for granted, and no one gets credit for it, is purchasing coffee for the fellowship hall. We have a member who purchases the coffee when needed, and just donates it. Thanks to You!!

Another item is the wine for communion. Thanks to the member who purchases the wine, and makes certain that this important sacrament can be honored.

Someone else paid the cost of having the sprinkler system drained. Thanks!

## THANK YOU!



11525 Luther Point Rd  
Grantsburg, Wisconsin 54840  
[www.LutherPoint.org](http://www.LutherPoint.org)  
(715)689-2347

Craig M. Corbin, Director

Greetings from Luther Point!

December 2010

**Advent Fellowship & Cookie Baking Retreat, Dec. 11, 9am-3pm:** Please join us for a joint program offering between Luther Point and Luther Park. This is a day of fellowship around a traditional holiday activity—Christmas cookie baking! Enjoy a day in the beautiful setting at Luther Park in Chetek, Wisconsin, make your stash of Christmas cookies for the season, and reflect on the meaning of the Advent season through devotions. Participants will take home 1-2 dozen (120 or more) of about 10 different types of Christmas cookies as well as recipes. Bring your favorite apron, a rolling pin if you have one, and containers to bring your goodies home. Cost: \$40.00

**Annual Fund Support:** We are relying heavily upon individual and congregational support this year. Congregational support is slightly ahead of last year at this time. Thank you to our congregations for their strong mission support. As an individual or family, if you are able to do so, we are asking for your gracious financial support. Camper registrations this past summer were down causing a shortfall of at least \$26,000. The health and wellness of the ministry is dependent upon its members supporting it with prayer, volunteer time and financial gifts.

**Weekend Camps Scheduled for Fall / Spring:** Plan Now for these Dates:

December 4-5, 2010: Advent Camp for Families of All Shapes and Sizes

March 18-19, 2011: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp

**Needs / Wish List:** We have some larger equipment needs and wants. Specifically, we are looking for good used vehicles, preferably Mini-vans or mid-size sedans. We have some older vehicles that are showing their wear and tear. We are also looking for a good used or new pontoon motor, preferably about 25 horsepower. Also, we have some docks in the family cabin area of camp that are seeing their last days. With this being a shallow bay, we would like to entertain the idea of having floating docks.

**Retreats, Retreats, Retreats:** To discuss possibilities for your future retreats, contact Becky at 715-689-2347 or [Becky@LutherPoint.org](mailto:Becky@LutherPoint.org) and she can assist you with available openings for facilities at Luther Point. Consider a retreat this winter or a family reunion next summer!

**Opening More Doors Together Update:** The campaign has seen renewed activity in the past couple of months. Several congregations have conducted appeals in the last two months and the results are looking very encouraging. With gifts, pledges and grants we have now exceeded \$700,000.

**Daybreak Ministry Team Still Available:** "Daybreak" is a music ministry team that provides meaningful youth ministry experiences for area congregations. Focused on building relationships, the team will engage the members of your congregation by bringing camp to you. Events are being scheduled now for the 2010-2011 school year. Events are on a contractual basis for a fee to support the Daybreak team. Contact Jesse: 715-689-2347 or [Jesse@LutherPoint.org](mailto:Jesse@LutherPoint.org).

Together in Ministry

Rev. Craig M. Corbin, Executive Director

## Friends of Ruth

***We are bound together in God's word through the book of Ruth to serve women of all ages at home and around the world.***

We met at the Cornerstone with 11 members present, we used our gathering time to introduce ourselves to Pastor Matt, who came to visit our group and discover what we were about. Some of us told him about the different projects we do, the Christmas Tea and Spring Luncheon that we have for the women of our church. All of the outreach we do in working with the Pregnancy Crisis Center and Global Missions.



Karyn lead us in a devotion titled: "Your Destiny is to Become Like Jesus." This daily message from Rick Warren was based on Ephesians 4: 23-24. It emphasized that God's plan has always been to make us just like Jesus: Genesis 1:26 "Let us make human beings in our image and likeness." What we should remember from this reading is that God's ultimate goal for your life on earth is not comfort, but character development. He wants you to grow up spiritually and become like Christ. You will never become God, or even a god, but we should strive to become godly-taking on his values, attitudes, and character. So revel in your uniqueness, and grow spiritually into a Christ-like being. We had coffee and snacks while Pastor Matt was with us.

We are going to have a bulletin announcement about the Harding Center presentation of Robert Robinson. The cost is only \$20.00 per person and held on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to look for the sign in the Narthex, register by signing up make checks payable to WELCA and have them given to Karen B. or Mindy by November 7<sup>th</sup>, so we can reserve our seats for this concert.

Besty had picked up our Treasurer's report: We have \$399.93, and June suggested that we have a \$100.00 check written out to help with the cost of the furnace repair. Everyone agreed to this, and we encourage other groups such as the Youth, Sunshine, WELCA, etc. to contribute some monies toward our furnace fund. Also some of our monies will be used for the cost of sending our Newborn Kits overseas. Thank you to all who donated monies to the Mission of the Month. Some of this money will go for batting in the quilts and also the cost to send them.

We listened to Kristy as she read: "A Memory of A Christmas Tea", our book selection by Tom Hegg. We will have this on CD at the Christmas Tea coming up November 28<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m., so mark you calendar. We finalized our details for this event and will decorate at 12:30 on that day. A small group will present some music for the Tea.

Betsy commented about this year's Trunk /Treat at church. It was a nice night with good attendance and we gave out lots of treats. Next year it will run from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Betsy brought up some ideas for helping with bags for our children after their Sunday School program on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. This will part of our agenda for the next meeting.

Next we updated the Spring Luncheon set for March 19<sup>th</sup>. More ideas for this theme: Patterns of Life were discussed. Connie shared the material that she found that will be made into placemats for this event. Then afterward, the placemats will be gathered and sewn together into a quilt. We discussed the cost of this material and will be reimbursing Connie for the cost. Karen will contact Joan for a check.

Karen said she had gotten Jeanette on the phone and asked her to be our speaker. She said she would get back to her after doing some looking into our theme. We will have the caterer's menu for our Dec. meeting and continue our preparations at that time.

**Join us for our gathering of Friends of Ruth this December 6th in the Cornerstone at 6:30 p.m.** We'll work on putting together Newborn Kits, check out the response for the concert at the Hardy Performing Arts Center for December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**\* Look for a notice of needs for the Children's Activity bags and help contribute.**



Many centuries ago Isaiah prophesied,

<sup>6</sup>For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

It's that time a year again. Every December I am amazed at how many group meetings, committee meetings, organizational functions, and school activities are not held because we are all too busy to attend. We are so busy celebrating, feasting, and worshipping we just don't have time for ordinary things. We celebrate the end of the year. We celebrate a time for family and friends. We celebrate with food, with music, with parties, and with gifts. But that is not all we are celebrating. It is time to celebrate the God who loves us so much that He would go to any length for us to be with Him. St. Paul summed it up pretty well to the Philippians,

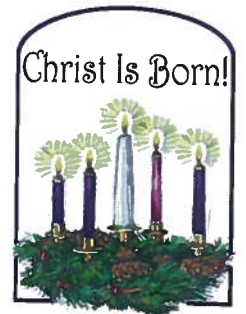
<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature<sup>[a]</sup> God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;  
<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature<sup>[b]</sup> of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.  
<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a human being,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:6-8)

Because we could never bridge the gap between us and God; Jesus came to lead the way. He did not come as a great warrior, or as a mighty king. He came a baby, in a form that all can love. No other religion that I know of has a God who humbles Himself for the sake of humanity. Everyone in America has heard about Jesus, but how many have heard how much He loves them? I would ask that as you are selecting gifts for neighbors, family, friends, and co-workers, you not forget the greatest gift that is given this season, the gift of a savior. Invite and bring someone to church or to a Christmas gathering and show them the love the Christ child brings to you.

It's time to celebrate the God of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace!

God's Peace,

Pr. Matt



## **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2010 EVENTS**

December 1 —Advent Service 7:00 pm Soup Supper starting at 5:00 pm.

December 4 — Live Nativity Presentation. 4:30—7:30 pm. Chili Supper.

December 5 —Live Nativity Service. 9:00 am. Breakfast to follow.

December 8 - Advent Service 7:00 p.m. Soup Supper starting at 5:00 p.m.

December 12—Worship at 8:00 a.m. Education Hour at 9:15 a.m. Congregational Meeting 9:15 am

December 15 - Advent Service 7:00 p.m. Soup Supper starting at 5:00 p.m.

December 19—Worship at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Education Hour—9:15 a.m. Sunday School Program at 10:30 a.m.

December 22—Country Gospel Singers lead Worship 7:00 p.m. Soup Supper starting at 5:00 pm

December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Services

4:00 p.m. Choir Cantata and

10:30 p.m. Candlelight Service

December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Service 9:00 a.m.

December 26– 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas.

Traditional Worship 9 a.m.



*The  
Greatest  
Gift*

# Missions and Evangelism Outreach

## November 15, 2010

### Missions

**Chocolate and Coffee Kiosk** - We now have **CHOCOLATE** bars (Both dark and milk chocolate). Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday we sell Coffee and now Chocolate to assist the Lutheran World Relief "Fair Trade" efforts supporting farmers and artisans (for more info see me or go to [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org)). Come and visit me at the Chocolate and Coffee kiosk in the Narthex.

### Evangelism Outreach

**Mapping Project:** Many of our members have already placed their pin in the maps located in the fellowship hall. If you have not done so yet, please stop in the fellowship hall grab your named pin and put it in the corresponding map where you live. This event is part of our Congregational In-Reach for us to get to know our Church neighbors better.

Our next Missions and Evangelism Outreach meeting is planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in November at 7 PM.

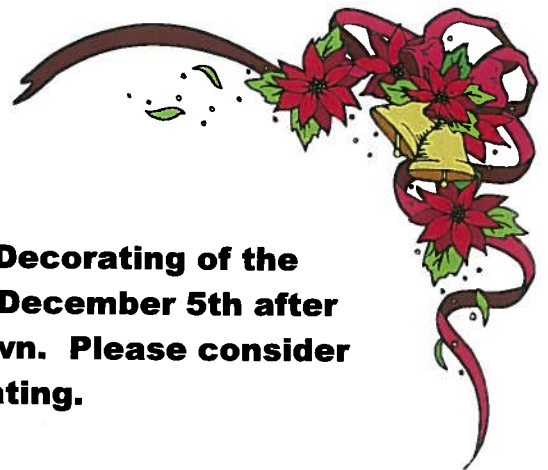
Respectfully, Jim Vincent



**The Christmas Season is upon us. Decorating of the sanctuary will take place on Sunday, December 5th after the Live Nativity Scenes are taken down. Please consider helping with the decorating.**

**Thanks,**

**Rose**



# Long Lake Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

## November 11, 2010



The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm. Present were Pastor Matt, Pastor Rhonda, Tony Steiner, Bruce Yurich, Monica Ahlman, Martin Lynn and Rose Hass.

Pastor Matt opened the meeting with prayer and read devotions.

**The master calendar was reviewed:** The Live Nativity will be held on Saturday, December 4 for the public and it will also be on Sunday, December 5 for the congregation at 9am. There will be only one service that day, followed by breakfast made by the Squares Men's group. The Sunday School Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 19 at the 10:30am service, also followed by breakfast made by the Squares Men's group.

Annual reports from the various ministry teams within the church need to be put together as well as their annual budgets. These should be ready by January 1.

The Congregational Life committee would like to do a Time and Talents sheet again to help with the scheduling of the service volunteers for services. We will include a nursery volunteer area as well.

The date for the annual meeting was set for Sunday, February 6.

We are seeking candidates for the 4 council positions that will be available.

December council reps are Jim Vincent at 10:30am and Rose Hass at 7pm on Wednesday nights. The 8:00am rep spot is being worked out.

There will be soup suppers from 5:30-6:30pm before the Wednesday night Advent services. Volunteers to make and serve the soup are being sought.

December 1 (open)

December 8 Chili (council)

December 15 Chicken Noodle Soup (confirmation/youth)

December 22 (serving any leftovers)

Spire deadline is Monday, November 15.

Monica made a motion to accept the October council meeting minutes, seconded by Rose. Motion approved.

We will be working towards having the nursery staffed at both services and between services during the Education hour. There will be a list of volunteers generated as well as using the Time and Talents sheet.

The church and trees will be decorated for Christmas following the Live Nativity takedown on Sunday, December 5.

## November Council Minutes Continued

**Education Ministry Team report:** Through the generous donations of some anonymous congregation members, we were able to order special devotionals for our families and teens for the Advent season. We finalized the order.

There will be Sunday School on the Sunday (Nov. 28) after Thanksgiving. It is the first Sunday in Advent. We will begin practicing for the Christmas program that day and will show a movie for the rest of the hour. We will use a half hour each Sunday until the Christmas program for rehearsal/practice. There will be a full dress rehearsal for the program on Saturday, December 18.

There will not be Sunday School on Sunday, December 26, but we will have it on Sunday, January 2 because it is Epiphany and we will have a special lesson that day. The teachers will not need to plan a lesson for that day.

The list of parts was started for the Christmas program and we will start recruiting Sunday School students to fill those parts. Mindy Peterson volunteered to head up the costume organization.

We looked at the options available for Vacation Bible School 2011 and chose one that was offered by Group. The starter kit will be ordered.

**The November financial report was presented.** Martin made a motion to approve the report, seconded by Rose. Motion approved. Council members were reminded to place the Sunday School/Children's offering in a special money bag so the counters can keep track of it separately. We need to encourage people to use the electronic giving.

**The heating/cooling system project was discussed.** A congregational meeting to present a plan of action was set for 9:15am (between services) on Sunday, November 28, per the Long Lake Lutheran constitution. It will be advertised on Sunday, November 14 and Sunday, November 21 (two weeks prior per the constitution). There will be a movie provided for the Sunday School students so the teachers can attend.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Ahlman, council secretary

### **REMINDER**

**THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO  
DISCUSS THE FURNACE SITUATION WAS  
TABLED TO DECEMBER 12TH  
BETWEEN SERVICES!!  
PLAN ON ATTENDING!**





## **Movie Night: Entertainment Free of Charge**

**The movie night has been taking place on the third Friday of the month. This is meant to be an enjoyable social event for many different types of audiences. The movies viewed are not necessarily religious, but many of them have a deeper meaning. The movie shown will be classics from past years.**

**These are shows from the past that are not shown in today's theaters.**

**Popcorn and a beverage will be available. During the winter months we will view the movies in the Fellowship Hall. The summer months will be enjoyed outside—much like a drive in theater. Watch the postings for the up coming movies.**

## **Tutoring= A: Learning Community**

What is it all about? It's about children and how they learn. There are a number of certified teachers and skilled/concerned adults that are interested in helping young people with their studies. I, for one, am concerned about children who, for whatever reason, are struggling with grades and learning.

Who is doing it? Several adults have come up to me and offered their support. Some of them are teachers. I myself have a degree in Early Childhood through 6th grade. I have been a K-3 tutor in reading and math, and have also taken classes in "How to Read."

Is there a fee? There is no fee. This is a service that wants to help those who want help. The student has to want the help so as to discover the joy of learning.

When and how do I go about getting help for my child? This service may not help with current homework, however, if a learning skill is missing in your child's ability, this service can fill in the gaps. Call me, Mary Johnson at 763-753-0654 or Nelda at 444-5315, and a time and place can be set up. I can meet here at church most nights.

Mary Johnson



# Youth & Family News!

YOUTH  
MISSION  
TRIP



## We're Indy Bound!

That's right! We are heading to Indianapolis Indiana July 11<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> of 2011! And plans have changed! We are NOT going with "Group" this year - we are planning our OWN Mission Trip with the help of Cross of Grace Lutheran Church in New Palestine IN (right outside of Indianapolis!) Why?

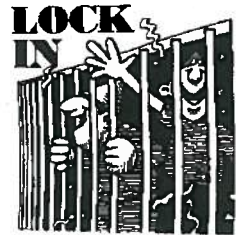
Instead of paying "Group" to design our trip - we are going to save that money and do it ourselves - bringing the cost of the trip down from around \$600 per person to hopefully around \$350 per person. (This means EVERYONE - I mean EVERYONE, with the help of fundraising will be able to afford to go!) Yeah! Also - instead of having to pay a \$60 deposit IMMEDIATELY to reserve your spot - you will only need to pay a \$25 NON-REFUNDABLE deposit by the 15<sup>th</sup> of December in order to reserve your spot in the van for next summer's adventure! Good News!

Pick up an information/Sign-up form outside Pastor Rhonda's office TODAY and get your seat in the van! You don't want to miss out on this awesome opportunity to serve, learn, and meet Christ in new and wonderful ways!

PS...The trip will include a stop in Chicago to visit the ELCA World Headquarters and hopefully a visit with Bishop Hanson! What an exciting opportunity!

NEW  
YEAR'S  
EVE

E  
V  
E



Come ring in the NEW YEAR - Well almost - at our New Year's Eve EVE Lock-In on

Thursday December 30<sup>th</sup>!

From

8pm to 6am

Join us at the Cornerstone - and bring all your friends - as we say goodbye to 2010 and celebrate what 2011 will bring. There will be plenty of fun activities planned in the open space upstairs...including games, movies, and DJ Tim will help us dance the night away! Hey - Did I mention party hats???

Who can come?

- ALL 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders AND their friends!

Admission to this fantastic event?

- \$5 without a non-perishable food item.
- \$3 WITH a non-perishable food item.



# QUAKE



# ZONE

"We put our hope in the Lord  
He is our help and our shield."  
Psalm 33:20

## It's Time! It's Time!

It's time to register for the annual trek to WI Dells for the Youth Encounter Quake/Zone at the Chula Vista Resort and Water park!

The Quake/Zone starts on Friday evening **March 4<sup>th</sup>** and ends on Sunday morning **March 6<sup>th</sup>**.

We are thinking about either leaving early Friday (like 6am) or Thursday after school - both options would mean missing school on Friday...but we will wait until everyone is registered and take a parental vote for that decision to be made. The reason behind the decision would be so that we would be able to get our "fun" done so we can take a more "active" role in the Quake/Zone itself making it a more meaningful experience for everyone. For the past several years we have missed the opening night activities due to our drive.

Cost for the Quake/Zone this year is \$180 per person with a **\$50 NON-REFUNDABLE deposit due by January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**

- Balance of \$130 can be paid in installments or all at once by the due date of **February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**
- Cost covers the Quake/Zone itself, Hotel, transportation to and from WI Dells, Chaperones, Breakfast food (i.e., pop tarts, cereal, juice, milk, etc...), Pizza one night for dinner, and Water park access while at the resort. (some extra money will be needed and will be explained in detail at a later date.)
- We will do at least one fundraiser for the Quake/Zone - AND scholarships will be available - talk to Pastor Rhonda if money is the only issue keeping you from going on this amazing adventure with us!



World Vision's



# Wanna Make A

# HOUR FAMINE

## Difference?

Hey all you 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders and Adult Volunteers!  
Mark your calendars for the weekend **BEFORE** the Quake/Zone (Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>) for a **FANTASTIC** event that might just change your life.

We will be taking part in the **NATIONAL** World Vision 30 Hour Famine Event in order to **raise money to fight hunger in the most impoverished parts of the world.**

Our efforts will include:

- **A fast** (juice only - don't worry if you have a medical concern we can accommodate....and if you think you can't - you CAN....I have done it... and if I can - you can!)
- **A Lock-In** that night in order to support each other in our fast - and to experience some great lessons and have some wonderful fun surrounding a survival game called **TRIBE** allowing us to learn and experience more about world hunger.
- **A shift at Feed My Starving Children** during our Lock-In as a servant event - along with **another servant event** during our time together.
- **A goal of raising over \$1000** to designate to World Hunger 30 Hour Famine in the weeks leading up to our Famine Event to stand in solidarity with those



who go to bed hungry every night and with those who will be taking part in the famine all over the country those two days.

So watch for our **organizational meeting to come soon**, take a look at the posters that will be sharing more information with you in the days ahead, and when you are ready - **sign up on the big board in the hall and take a stand to make a difference with this life changing event - life changing for those you will feed - and for YOU!**





Join us on Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup> at 2<sup>nd</sup> service (10:30am) for our annual Sunday School Pageant, entitled "Oh Little Lamb". Come watch as our children share the gospel of Jesus' birth in a way that is creative, fun, and full of the Holy Spirit! Come, experience the Birth of the Lamb!

Then following our worship/pageant experience, make sure to come to the fellowship hall where the Squares will treat us to a fantabulous breakfast of eggs, sausage, and pancakes! What a great ending to what will be a wonderful morning!

We look forward to seeing ALL of you there!

Thank You!  
THANK YOU!

A huge THANK YOU to all of those who donated

candy, decked out their trunks, volunteered their time, or who just came to hang out at "Trunk or Treat" this Halloween! It was a GREAT success with 214 ghosts and goblins, princesses and superheroes coming through to "get their treat on!"

Next year is already in the works with a revised time of 5-7 instead of 5-8, with food to be offered inside, and a bungee cord for Pastor Matt to help him find his way back to his car.



Thank you all for help in making this outreach event such a great success!

## Sunday School Pageant Rehearsal Schedule



- Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup> - After the 1 Live Nativity Worship we will rehearse at 10am in the cornerstone.
- Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup> - During Sunday School Hour from 9:15am - 9:45am.
- Saturday December 18<sup>th</sup> - 9am - 11am. (Dress Rehearsal)
- Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup> - **PAGEANT DAY - be at church at 9:15am.** (we will run through - then sit kids down with a movie and snack before the pageant starts.



## CONFIRMATION NEWS!

Just a couple notes to all your confirmation families to keep you up to date on what's happening.

The year has started with a bang! Sometimes we don't know what end is up things are going so fast...so here are the highlights of what's happened and what's coming up!

- ✓ We have started slowly studying the Old Testament going through the major stories and characters of the Book of Genesis - talking about some of the great patriarchs and matriarchs of our faith.
- ✓ We have already served once at Feed My Starving Children and have a date set for December 8<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-7:30pm as well. This will be our Holiday Service Project and we will need DRIVERS (Adults willing to drive AND help at the site) for that night. So if you are available to meet at the church around 5pm - please let me know asap.
- ✓ We will be having a Nativity Event on Wednesday Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>! We need time together as a class to celebrate while we do something meaningful! 6pm! Don't be late!



- ✓ NO CONFIRMATION WED. DEC. 22<sup>ND</sup>!

What a GREAT start to the year - hectic as it may sometimes have seemed...A BIG thank you to our mentors and parents for being so flexible and so awesome! We have a great group and I look forward to Wednesday nights with joy each week!



## From the

Happy Advent Everyone! As you hustle and bustle over the next few weeks – I pray you will take some time for what Advent is intended – which is **opposite of the rushing** we tend to do this time of year – and that is waiting. Take a moment to **STOP** – to **BREATH** – to **ANTICIPATE** – to **PREPARE** – and to **WAIT**....**center your hearts and minds** on this baby – the Christ Child we celebrate at Christmas. Blessings to ALL of you! (Especially my “kids”!)

## Why Jesus is Better Than Santa!

Santa lives at the North Pole.  
**JESUS is everywhere.**

Santa rides in a sleigh.  
**JESUS walks on the water.**

Santa comes but once a year.  
**JESUS is an ever present help.**

Santa fills your stockings with goodies.  
**JESUS supplies all your needs.**

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited.  
**JESUS knocks, and then enters your heart.**

You have to wait in line to see Santa.  
**JESUS is as close as the mention of His name**

Santa lets you sit on his lap.  
**JESUS lets you rest in His arms.**

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?".  
**JESUS knew our name before we did...He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.**

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly.  
**JESUS has a heart full of love.**

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO.  
**JESUS offers health, help and hope.**

While Santa says "You better not cry".  
**JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."**

Santa's little helpers make toys.  
**JESUS makes new life.**

While Santa puts gifts under your tree.  
**JESUS became our gift and died on the tree.**



It's obvious there is really no comparison.  
**Jesus is still the reason...**  
Author Unknown



## HERE'S THE SCOOP...

Wednesday nights have been exciting around the church – could have something to do with the **herd** of high schoolers hanging out each week! Here is YOUR invitation to join us if you haven't already! And here is what's comin' up...



- \* **Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>:** Let's meet at the Anderson's Christmas Tree Farm, down the road, for a field trip to pick out the sanctuary Christmas tree and for a lesson about the nativity! **7pm at the Andersons - 27727 Zuni St. NW Isanti. (Cross 47 about a mile or so)**
- \* **Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>:** I have **10 spots for high schoolers** who would like to join us to go to Feed My Starving Children. The first 10 to sign up with me will get the spots – others can sign up and be put on a waiting list and go if the first ten cancel. **The shift is from 6-7:30. We will leave at 5pm and return around 8pm.**



## \* **Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>:** It's a **WHITE ELEPHANT**

### **GIFT PARTY!**

If you've never been to one – it's hilarious!

- Everyone needs to bring a **GIFT** – it can be something you find at your house or something you buy... but if you buy it – it **cannot cost over \$5**



**(Think about the cool cheesy things you already have at your house – I bet there is something there already!)** The point of a "White Elephant" gift is to exchange something funny, tacky, or cheesy that you would **LOVE** for *someone else* to treasure forever! (Like that singing fish that goes on the wall or the Christmas sweater grandma Ethel got for you that has light-up reindeer on it!)

- Everyone needs to **bring the GIFT WRAPPED!** Make sure it's wrapped so that **NOBODY KNOWS WHAT IT IS THAT YOU BROUGHT!**
- **KEEP IT A SECRET!!!!**
- Gift Exchange – White Elephant Party – Will start **promptly at 7:15pm**....after we get the party treats and gifts all set up – **if you are not here to draw a number – you won't get to play!!!** (No present for you...)
- **Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>:** No H.S. Youth Group...**Merry Christmas** – see you at the Lock-In! (And Christmas Worship!)





# Poinsettias for Christmas!

Help us to celebrate the birth of a Savior this Christmas by purchasing a Poinsettia in Honor or in Memory of someone special in your life.

The Poinsettias will be purchased through **Nelsons Romantic Garden by Shelly Roman** and will be delivered the Sunday before Christmas to help make our worship experience even more special.

Either fill out the order form below or fill out an order form in worship and **return it with your payment to the box in the narthex marked "FLOWERS" by December 12<sup>th</sup>**. (Final orders will be placed on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup>) The names of the loved ones being honored and remembered will be listed in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Bulletins.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# of RED Poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_ x \$18 = \_\_\_\_\_

# of WHITE Poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_ x \$18 = \_\_\_\_\_

# of PINK Poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_ x \$18 = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_ in

**honor/memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_ in

**honor/memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_ in

**honor/memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make sure to put both your order form AND payment in the box marked "flowers" or return to the church office by DEC. 12<sup>th</sup>.**



# Time to Get your BINGO on!

Get your quarters ready and mark your calendars! **Bingo is back** and it just wouldn't be the same without you and your family there to enjoy dinner and several rounds of Bingo and Prizes!

**The 2011 Mission Crew** invite you to a fantastic evening of food, fun, fellowship, and prizes!

**When:** Friday January 14<sup>th</sup> – 5:30pm to 8pm

**Where:** Our very own fellowship hall

**What:** Mexican Haystack Dinner (Yum...kinda like tacos!) followed by Bingo with prizes for EVERY Bingo!

**Who: EVERYONE is welcome.** Ages 3 to 103 will find this event to be fun. There are prizes for EVERYONE! Bring your family – bring your neighbors – bring your grandkids and grandparents – and bring all your friends.

**Cost:** No cost for dinner (we will accept a free will donation). Bingo is 25¢ per card, per game.

You don't want to miss a **GREAT Friday night** out in the middle of a cold MN winter in a **nice WARM place** with **nice WARM people!** So come and let us **feed you – entertain you – and even reward you!**

**We hope to see all of you there!**



**REVEREND FUN** [WWW.REVERENDFUN.COM](http://WWW.REVERENDFUN.COM)



SEASONS GREETINGS

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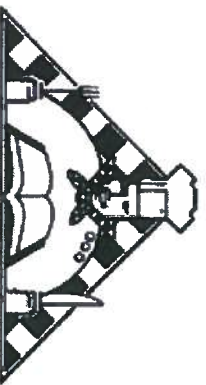
# The Long Lake Youth are Proud to Announce the 2011 Long Lake Lutheran Cookbook!



Yes – It's time to get out your favorite and your best recipes to share with the rest of us.

**We want your recipes for...**

Hot dishes, Salads, Meatballs, Beverages, Bars, Cookies, Main Dishes, and whatever else **YOU** like to whip up in the kitchen!



But **NOT** only do we want your recipes – **We want the Stories behind them!** Make sure to write down a few sentences about where

they come from, why they are important, who gave them to you, or what makes them significant! **We hope to make this NOT only a Cookbook – but a Book about us, our community and its history.**

**Submissions are open to everyone** and can be made by simply filling out the **form that is on the back of this page** and turning it into Pastor Rhonda or into the box in the Narthex marked **COOKBOOK!** For those of you who have more than one recipe (which is many of you) **more copies of this form can be found either online or in the narthex of the church.** Feel free to fill out as many as you like. (But note that duplicate recipes will NOT be printed twice...instead will simply be printed once with more than one name attached to it.)



**Submissions will be due January 15<sup>th</sup>** with the hope of a publish date by Easter! Yippeee! All proceeds will go toward the Youth of Long Lake Lutheran Church who will be working toward the publishing of the book itself. **We thank you in advance for your support and look forward to your recipes and stories!**

## INSTRUCTIONS

- **TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY IN INK, NOT PENCIL, AND PLACE ONLY ONE RECIPE PER FORM.**
- If more room is needed, use another sheet of the same size and staple together.
- List all ingredients in order of use in ingredients list and directions.
- Include container sizes, e.g., 16-oz. pkg., 24-oz. can.
- Keep directions in paragraph form \_ not in steps.
- Use names of ingredients in the directions, e.g., "Combine flour and sugar."
- **DO NOT** use statements like, "Combine first three ingredients."
- Include temperatures and cooking, chilling, baking, and/or freezing times.
- Be consistent with the spelling of your name for each recipe you contribute.
- Your recipes should fit into the following categories:

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Appetizers & Beverages   | Soups & Salads |
| Vegetables & Side Dishes | Main Dishes    |
| Breads & Rolls           | Desserts       |
| Cookies & Candy          | This & That    |



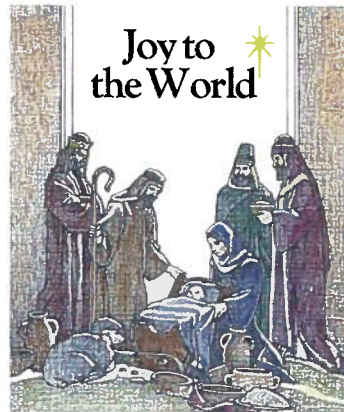


**LIVE  
NATIVITY**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE  
LIVE NATIVITY. DECEMBER 4  
4:30 PM—7:30 PM  
COME AND WATCH THE  
PERFORMANCE AND THEN  
JOIN US FOR CHILI SUPPER.  
ALSO TAKE PICTURES OF THE  
CHILDREN AND THE ANIMALS.**

**December Lessons**

| <b>Date:</b> | <b>1st</b>  | <b>2nd</b>    | <b>Gospel</b>      |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|
| December 5   | Isa 11:1-10 | Rom 15:4-13   | Matt 3:1-12        |
| December 12  | Isa 35:1-10 | James 5:7-10  | Matt 11:2-11       |
| December 19  | Isa 7:10-16 | Rom 1:1-7     | Matt 1:18-25       |
| December 24  | Isa 9:2-7   | Titus 2:11-14 | Luke 2:1-14, 15-20 |
| December 25  | Isa 62:6-12 | Titus 3:4-7   | Luke 2 1-7, 8-20   |
| December 26  | Isa 63:7-9  | Heb 2:10-18   | Matt 2:13-23       |



**Sunday School  
Christmas Program  
December 19, 2010  
10:30 am**

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

Non-Profit Organization  
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Isanti, Minnesota 55040

**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**