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# THE COUNTRY SPIRE

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Volume 35 issue 2

February, 2010

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## FROM PASTOR DAVE

**Light and peace are yours through Jesus Christ.**

“Let you light so shine before others  
That they may see your good works  
And glorify your Father in heaven”.

The time from the end of the Christmas Season till Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten Season is the time of Epiphany. **It is the time for us to focus on the manifestation of Christ, of Christ’s light between and among us.** There are several ways that Christ will be manifest among us during this time.

**First**, the Squares and others in the community are busy constructing a ramp for a person in the community with ALS – Lou Gehrig disease.

**Second**, the Transition Team is presenting its report to the congregation prior to electing a call committee to call a new pastor.

**Third**, February 7 will be the annual meeting of the congregation. This is a time when you as a congregation review the mission and ministry of the previous year – 2009 and adopt a budget for the coming year. The budget is a manifestation of Christ among us. It symbolizes the way that Long Lake Lutheran Congregation will minister here in this place in 2010. **IT IS A MISSION BUDGET!** Not a maintenance budget.

In addition to adopting a budget, you as a congregation will be electing three persons to the church council each for a three year term.

**AND!** You will be electing a six member call committee to lead you in calling a new senior pastor. Your constitution states: “When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a Call Committee of six voting members shall be elected by this congregation. Term of office will terminate at the installation of the newly called pastor.

If you wish to serve on the call committee, please have someone nominate you at the annual meeting. **When you nominate and when you vote**, keep in mind that the call committee needs to be representative of the whole congregation and, at least one of the members of the call committee needs to be a youth representative. Two alternates also need to be elected.

This is an exciting and challenging time for Long Lake Lutheran Congregation as it moves forward to **MANIFEST CHRIST** in ministry and mission in this place.

February 17, 2010 is Ash Wednesday. Pastor Rhonda and I have decided that the theme for this Lenten Season will be **SOURCES OF SPIRITUAL STRENGTH**. In the latest issue of the Lutheran Magazine, John M. Mann wrote: “A tsunami of anxiety has washed across our Lutheran communities since last August’s Churchwide Assembly. In systems theory, the issues most powerful in creating anxiety in churches are sexuality, finance and change. We’re awash in all three.” There is much anxiety in our nation and world as well. War, change, earthquakes, tsunamis, global warming and financial crises have brought about a great deal of anxiety among us all. In these times we need to renew and revitalize our sources of spiritual strength. On each Wednesday in Lent we will be considering specific sources of Spiritual Strength for our lives.

**Come** share a soup supper, 5:30

**Come** worship with us, 7:00

**Come** share with one another **SOURCES OF SPIRITUAL STRENGTH**



THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION WILL BE ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7th, 2010 @ 11:45 AM, FOLLOWED BY A POTLUCK DINNER. ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

**Long Lake Lutheran Council meeting  
January 14<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**Feb. 5-6**~Scrapbooking, 5<sup>th</sup>) from 5:00 pm-11:00 pm and 6<sup>th</sup>) from 9:00am-???

**Feb. 7**~Annual Meeting---11:45 a.m.

**Feb. 11**~Education meeting 6:00 pm, Worship & Music meeting 6:30 pm, Council meeting 7:00 pm.

**Feb. 13**~Sweetheart Dinner 6:00 pm.

**Feb. 17**~Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm.



**COMMITTEE CORNER**

**YOUTH:** Will meet Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> after Worship.

**EDUCATION:** Will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm. In February this will be the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**WORSHIP & MUSIC:** Will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 6:30. In February this will be the 11<sup>th</sup>. 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. Feed back is greatly appreciated, we don't know how we are doing if we don't hear from you, so please let us know how we are doing and what you would like to see as part of your worship experience.

**PALM SUNDAY:** There will be one service that Sunday at 9am, which will include a cantata from the choir and also songs from the Sunday school children with participation from confirmation students and high school students. Please plan to attend this inspiring service.

**EASTER SUNDAY:** 2 Services of communion at 7am and 9:30am.

The meeting was called to order by John at 7:02pm. Pastor Dave lead us in devotions.

Spire deadline is Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>.

Master Calendar was reviewed.

Council reps for February are 8:00 Rose 10:30 Tina Anderson and Wed. night Steve.

December minutes approved.

Loretta Fornberg was at the meeting with a request for the kitchen. They would like to put some cabinets where the coffee pots are and different one in the hallway. This was approved. Steve will work with the ladies on this project.

Elaine was there and has the new financial program is up and running. Payroll can be direct deposit now.

Pastor Dave report: He has been meeting with the Transition team. They will give a report Sunday Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> between service and Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> after the second service. The team has put in a lot of hours and hard work on this.

Pastor Rhonda report: She has had another baptism class and there is a baptism on Sunday and there will be another one next Sunday. She has been busy with confirmation and youth programs. They had a lock in over Christmas holiday and there were 50 youth there.

Financial report: Electronic can start anytime now. The total expenses for 2009 were 332,158.57. We reviewed the proposed budget for 2010 and looked to see where we needed to add or where we could cut.

A motion was made and seconded to restore the pastors wages as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>.

Steve has talked with Lynn and he could use more time on cleaning the church. As thing go now he is here Monday and Thursdays. Steve will talk with Lynn about adding 4 to 5 hrs. We would look into getting somebody to clean the cornerstone church for 4 to 5 hrs a week at \$10. An hour. This would add \$2,600 a yr to the budget.

A motion was made to add \$1500 over the yr. to Rhonda housing as she is still at the same wages as when she started. A motion was made and seconded to do this. Motion passed.

A motion made and seconded to extend the job for 60 days for both Nelda and Elaine. We are working on job descriptions.

The council has been working on a fiscally

responsible budget for the year. We agreed on a budget for 2010 at \$308,455. This reflects some cuts from our total expenses of \$332,158.57 in 2009. This motion was made and seconded. Old Business: And audit committee is still needed. Matt will work on this, so the audit can be done. We need to get the reviews done for the year. Steve has done Lynn's. Pastor Rhonda's will be done on Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00. Tony has been doing some checking on a new copier. The present one has given us a lot of trouble. A motion was made and seconded to replace the copier with one that will meet our needs. The motion passed. We have not decided on a mission of the month for Feb. It was decided to have youth scholarship for the mission. Carol Perrin has been working on a wedding list for the church. We looked over the list. A motion was made to except the wedding fee's as presented. This seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:07. Pastor Rhonda lead us in prayer. Respectfully submitted  
Rose Hass

Calling all Scrapbookers, Card Makers, Knitters and any other Crafters. Please join us for an hour or the entire time for crafting and fellowship. Doors will open on Friday night at 5:00pm and close around 11:00pm Friday night and open again at 9:00 Sat morning. Potluck snack table Friday night and Sat morning, bring your own beverage. We will have the option of ordering pizza Friday night. Questions, please feel free to call Laura Schmidt 763-389-2057 or email at [Schmidtfarm@q.com](mailto:Schmidtfarm@q.com).

Feb 5, 6

March 5, 6

April 16, 17

May 7, 8

Why do we have communion cards? What are the pew envelopes used for?

The communion cards are used to register you into the active member list of this congregation. Once you are registered the cards are thrown away. Our constitution states that to be an active member you must communion at least once and contribute at least once a year. So this is just a tool to keep our records up to date. The communion card only needs to be filled out once a year. We will have those available soon.

The pew envelopes are used for visitors, members who forgot their envelope at home or special offerings. We will also have scratch paper in the pews for you to write on. You can use these to write down a thought or prayer concern to give to the pastor or to use if you like to doodle.

### **ALTAR GUILD:**

What is the Altar guild and what do they do? The altar guild prepares the altar and sanctuary for worship each Sunday. We change the paraments with the seasons of the church year; we set up for communion and clean up after the service. We make sure the altar area is set up for a baptism when one is scheduled. We also change the banners with the season of the church as well as putting up the hymn numbers on the number board in front of the church. We make sure the candles all have oil and the eternal candle is lit. We also make sure the acolyte robes are clean and in good repair. Along with the altar guild are volunteers who make communion bread. Karen Baker has a great recipe for this.

Both of these services are easy to do and a fun and wonderful service to the church. If you would like more information about the altar guild, please talk to one of the worship and music team members, Karen Baker, Candy McColley, Donna Larsen, Carol Perrin, Madge Lillemoen, Becky Agranoff or Kristy Anderson.

*This and That!!*

**Just a note about service to the church.**

After 6 years on the church council I have grown tremendously in my faith. While some of the experiences I had were not too much fun, I grew from them all. Being on the church council is an honor and is an experience all church members should experience at some time. You learn a lot about the business of the church and see first hand a lot of the miracles that happen in the life of this church and the people we serve. I fee I'm a better person because of what I have been through while on the council. It's a humbling experience and I thank God I was able to contribute. While we have many people who are willing and excited to help in any way they can, we also have to ask several times for help with volunteering for service to this church, there are many opportunities to share your gifts with all of us. Don't have any? BAH!! Everyone has something to contribute to the body of Christ. There are so many wonderful things going on in the church that we can all be a part of in some way. Sunday school, Worship and Music, Property, Stewardship, Missions, Congregational Like and Youth. Just think of the infinite possibilities. Sharing your time and talents in the life of this church is a privilege and an honor. I love helping in any way I can, sometimes I can't and it is hard for me to say no. I would like to challenge you all to help in some way or another in any one of the service groups that make up our church. Let's build up this church to be what I know it can be a welcoming, sharing and loving community. Thanks be to God.

Candy McColley

### The Squares

We are a busy group! The deck is complete, and we are ready for the next project. If you would like to join us for fun and fellowship, please call Tony Steiner at 763-444-6768.



## **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	**new** 612-859-4119
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

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	753-0177
Matt Hysten, 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

## LUTHER POINT NEWS



11525 Luther  
Point Rd  
Grantsburg,  
Wisconsin  
54840

Greetings from Luther Point!  
February 2010

**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](http://lutherpoint.org). Summer Brochures will be in congregations and homes by early February.

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

- **Ambassador Retreats:** February 6 or February 27, 9 am
- **3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Weekend Camp:** March 20-21, 2010
- **Prayer Shawl Retreat:** April 22, 2010, 9 am-3pm

Register online or call and talk with 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 am until after lunch. If your church does not have an Ambassador, please come to one and share in the fun!

**Looking for Summer Ministry Team Applicants:** Do you know of someone from your congregation who enjoys working with youth? Do they have a desire to share their life and faith with people? Please encourage those young college students to consider summer employment at Luther Point Bible Camp. Applications for summer employment are available on our website. Scroll down to the employment section on the left hand tool bar. Plant a seed in the life of a college student. Also, Jesse Weiss, Program Coordinator is looking for high school students who are interested in spending two weeks at camp in the **BUDDIES Program** (Building Up Dedicated Disciples Into Experienced Servants)

**Congregations Set A Goal to Increase Camper Participation:** I am asking each congregation to challenge themselves to set a specific goal for camper participation for this coming summer. I also ask that the goal be challenging. For the past two years the camp has seen a dramatic decline in the number campers coming to Bible Camp. **This trend simply cannot continue to happen.** If camper participation remains as it has been for the past two years, more pressure is put on congregational support, donor gifts and retreat source revenues.

**Opening More Doors Together (OMDT) Capital Campaign Update:** Congregational Leader training sessions were held January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. About 18 churches have leaders who have been trained on how to conduct a pledge drive in their congregations. Please consider being on a Congregational Task Force to conduct a campaign on behalf of Luther Point.

Thank you for your partnership!

Craig M. Corbin, Director

**Summer Registrations Now Available Online:** Visit our website [www.Lutherpoint.org](http://www.Lutherpoint.org) and check out all the Christian camping opportunities for 2009. "Love to Serve" is our summer theme. Jesus Christ came to serve not to be served. **New offering for 2009 is Horse Camp.** Check it out! Camperships will be available. Request forms for camperships are on the website as well. Brochures will be in your congregation by February.

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

- **Senior High Weekend Camp:** March 14-15, 2009
- **3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Weekend Camp:** March 21-22, 2009
- **Culture and Companionship:** March 26, 10 am-4pm
- **Scrapbooking Retreat:** April 3-5, 2009
- **Prayer Shawl Retreat:** April 21, 2009, 9 am-3pm

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

**Luther Point Ambassador Retreats:** This is a time to come together, get some fun new ideas and receive information to promote Summer Camp and Retreats. It will be held February 7 and again February 21, from 9 am until after lunch. If your church does not have an Ambassador, please come to one and share in the fun!

**Culture & Companionship Day Retreat:** Mar. 26, 10am-4pm Building relationships across cultural lines is essential for participating in God's mission in the world. Together at this retreat, we will spend the day exploring the Biblical foundations for companionship, as well as discussing how we as Lutherans study the Bible and how we can learn and communicate Biblical understandings from afar, especially across cultures. Lunch included, \$25, The retreat will be held in the Gary Loktu Center (Dining Hall) Guests include: Diane and Greg Kaufmann; Joseph Mbele, Prof. at St. Olaf College; and one more Biblical Professor to be determined. Registration and information available on our website: [LutherPoint.org](http://LutherPoint.org).

**Updates by Email:** Sign up to get updates by email at the website. Make sure you have [info@lutherpoint.org](mailto:info@lutherpoint.org) as a "safe sender" to receive the emails that are sent out.

**Congregations Set A Goal:** I am asking each congregation to challenge themselves to set a specific goal for camper participation for this coming summer. I also ask that the goal be challenging. I especially want to encourage each church to cultivate enthusiasm among the elementary grade youth. One of the trends we have noticed in the last couple of years is that the younger campers have been dropping off. We want to see a resurgence in the youth in elementary grades and plant the Bible camping seed at a younger age.



## Sunshine Circle's Project of Interest:

### **Prayer Shawls, Quillows, Baby Quilts**

Come and join us for Food, Fun, Fellowship, and the opportunity to be part of the greater mission of this congregation.

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, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

Thank you, Sunshine Circle



## WELCA

All the church women are invited to join us at our WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) monthly meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.



## FRIENDS OF RUTH

On the cold evening of January 4<sup>th</sup>, we had our meeting at the Cornerstone with nine members who braved the weather.

Mindy Peterson lead us in a reading from Ruth: 1-2 and a prayer for our devotions. We had our snack while we started discussion of the mission statement. Everyone brainstormed ideas for what our statement should say. Finally we came to this as our mission statement: *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.*

Friends of Ruth women talked about plans for our Luncheon in 2010. We set the date for March 20<sup>th</sup>. We have a theme idea: Paradise. Now we are in the process of finding a speaker for this event. The cost will be the same as last year and a delicious lunch will be served so mark your calendar for that date.

Next we put more kits together (15 bags), before we ran out of some of the supplies. We need to replenish these

### **Mid-wife kit supplies:**

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

Look for the poster about--How to Talk Minnesotan--coming up in February. It is set for February 28<sup>th</sup> in Plymouth Playhouse at 2:00 p.m.

Our next meeting will be February 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Cornerstone. See you there!

## **MISSION QUILTS**

We were very busy again at our last mission quilting session and made 25 more quilts, making a total of 75 made since September. Five of these quilts have been given away, with 2 going to needy families in our community, 2 going to Afghanistan and one donated to the auction in November for the youth in our church.

We could use some help in making tops for these quilts and have kits available if you would like to share your talents and made one or more. We will be putting together more quilts on March 8, 2010, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and would love to see you there.

Remember, you do not need to know how to sew -- we can always use your help and will find something for you to do. Thanks so much to all who have helped in the past. If you would like a kit to sew or have any questions, please do not hesitate to call - Connie Anderson 444-4118; Glenna Sorenson 444-5291 or Jan Leppla 389-5476.



Long Lake Lutheran Church  
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Isanti, MN 55040  
Phone 763-444-5315

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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.”

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