
THE COUNTRY SPIRE

Volume 34 issue 7

July, 2009

Bible Verse for July:

Mark 1:14b

Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming
the good news of God.



All Key Holders!

If you have a key to the church - you need to give us a call! That's right - if you have a key to the church - we need you to call the church office by July 10th, and get on the list so we can get you a code for the new alarm system that will soon be set and active. The alarm system will be activated on the 11th and if you haven't called the church office to let us know that you have a key, you won't have a code to disarm the alarm once you enter the church building. This will set off an alarm that will bring police with sirens blazing to our front door. Yikes! We don't want you in the middle of a false alarm - so make sure to give us a ring before the 10th!

Once you call the church and get on the list - someone will contact you with information regarding how to disarm the alarm and the code to do so. If you have questions, contact Steve Vigstol.



SPECIAL SERVICE

On Wednesday, July 1st, we are having a Worship service for those who will be out of town over the 4th of July weekend. The service will be with communion & begin at begin at 7:00 pm.



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 July!

We will be having at least three more Holy Conversations this summer. The dates

for them are: June 21, "Healthy Growing Congregations", July 12, "Stewardship and Finances", August 2, "Lutheran Understanding of the Scriptures", August 30, "Spiritual Well Being". I hope as many of you as possible can come and participate. Again we will be offering these conversations at 8:00 AM before the 9:00 AM worship service and again at 10:15 AM after the service.

A final note: I will be conducting a worship service at the church on Wednesday, July 1, 2009 at 7 PM for anyone who wants to come and those who may want to worship, but who will be gone over July 4. The following Wednesdays in July and perhaps a couple in August as well I will be offering a Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark. The Gospel lessons for each Sunday this Pentecost Season come from the Gospel of Mark, and I thought we could spend a bit more time considering that foundational Gospel of the New Testament and what it can mean for our lives in the 21st Century. You are all invited to come. Finally, I am enjoying my ministry among you. I am slowly learning your names and it will take some time so I hope you will be patient with me. I have even been known to forget the words of the Lord's Prayer now and then if it is not written in front of me.

I wish us all God's richest blessings in our ministry together,

Interim Pastor Dave Solberg

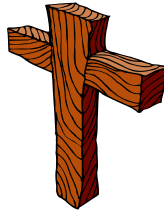


FROM THE PASTOR

July, 2009

In June I moved from quarter time to half time among you. Even though I am half time, I can be reached by phone and will be available for pastoral concerns and needs. I can be reached by cell phone 218-410-0204; my other phone number for the summer is 218-666-2269.

On May 31 we had our first Holy Conversation focusing on the Interim Process. The conversations were good. Three questions were addressed: 1. Where have we been, what has God (the Holy Spirit) been doing among you in the past – history? 2. What is our current Mission, what is God (the Holy Spirit) doing among you today? What are the essential ingredients on your current mission and ministry? 3. What is our vision of mission in the future, what might God (the Holy Spirit) have in mind for us as we move forward? These questions will be before us all during this Interim Process. Please continue to think about these questions and put your answers and suggestions in the "Suggestion Box" (keep that suggestion box hot) or share your thoughts and concerns with council members or with one of us pastors. This process will be a good one if everyone participates and contributes. **A very short summary of your responses to the questions from May 31 are found elsewhere in the Spire.**



challenge people to grow in faith, expanded music program, involve youth in worship, involve new people.

LONG LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES~MAY 28TH 2009

SUMMARY OF THE HOLY CONVERSATIONS
MAY 31ST, 2009.

Worship and Music- Candy M. The Chinnock's have memorial funds that they want to use for hearing devices. They are looking at 6 ear pieces.

Property- Steve V. The security system is on order. The new lawn mower is coming. The ball field fence is coming next week. Work day on the field is June 6th.

Congregational Life- Rose H. The FRY AND CHICKEN FRY is June 26th.

Pastor Rhonda- There were some people that came to church for the 10:15 service on May 24th. The voice mail has been changed and the paper has been changed. Baptismal classes are being offered; there are 3 couples that will be taking the class. The youth has done well on the plant sales. They have raised about \$1,100. They are having a car wash and sweet roll on May 31st.

Old Business: Building usage: We need to get the forms ready.
New Member committee: Pastor Dave will help with this committee.

Heating System: Steve is going to talk to the repairman.

Looking at doing a short service on July 1st.

New Business: Summer hours for the office. The office will be open 4 days a week from 7:30-3:30 on Tuesday - Friday. The motion was made and seconded to have these hours, motion carried. We all need to communicate with Geri on what is going on. We all need to help out if Geri is busy.

Transition team: These people have been asked~Richard Hanson, Karen Baker, Wayne Olson, Laura Schmidt and Karen Nelson. Holy Conversation will be been for church at 8:00 and after church at 10:00.

Respectfully,
Rose Hass

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Three questions;

1. Where have we been –What has God (the Holy Spirit) been doing among you in the past –history?

A long history, the movement from a small rural congregation to a newer, larger community oriented congregation.

Increased membership by expanding church facilities, community outreach, auction, live nativity, IHN, soup suppers, Fish Fries, Joseph Granary, youth program growing , hospitality, friendliness quilting, fun, "God among the people", visitation and examples of caring.

2. What is our current mission? What are the essential ingredients?

"Proclaim the Gospel of Christ", meaningful and inspirational **Worship, Study, Share, Serve**, the above list seemed to be answers here as well.

3. What is the vision of mission for this congregation?

Outreach, more information for visitors and new members, more community involvement, Expanded youth program, communication groups, cottage groups, out of old ruts and comfort zones,

LONG LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING~JUNE 11TH ,2009

The meeting was called to order by John Bartz at 7:05 pm. We had a guest

speaker, Helen Clark, from Luther Point, to talk about their campaign. Opening More Doors TOGETHER. We went over the master calendar. Send off service is being planned for the youth that are going to the youth conference on July 20th. They are working on the Sunday school program for next year. Talk about adult forum and the outdoor service. Spire deadline is June 15th. July council reps are John and Tina. May minutes were approved with one change.

The staff has been working very hard on the worship service. We are going back to last years' Worship booklet. This is okay with Pastor Dave and Pastor Rhonda. A motion was made to use the summer booklet we have used in the past and to continue using With one Voice for the songs. It was seconded and was carried.

Finance Report: We started the month with \$15,000 and we are down to \$9,000 today. We need to get a group together to look at this and see what we can do.

Pastor Dave: Pastor Dave read the mission of the church. And then passed out a summary of the Holy conversation from May 31st.

Three questions:

1. Where have we been-What has God(the Holy Spirit) been doing among you in the past?

A long history, the movement from a small rural congregation to a newer, larger community oriented congregation. Increased membership by expanding church facilities, community outreach, auction, live nativity, IHN, soup suppers, fish fries, Joseph Granary, youth program growing, hospitality, friendliness, quilting, fun, "God among the people", visitation, and examples of caring.

2. What is our current mission? What are the essential ingredients? "Proclaim the Gospel of Christ", meaningful and inspirational Worship, Study, Share, Serve, the above list seemed to be answers here as well.

3. What is the vision of mission for this congregation?

Outreach, more information for visitors and new members, more community involvement, expanded youth program, communication groups, cottage groups, out

of old ruts and comfort zones, challenge people to grow in faith, expanded music program, involve youth in worship, involve new people.

There will be a worship serves on July 1st with communion.

Pastor Rhonda: The youth are closing in on their trip to New Orleans. They are about \$1,000 short of their goal. The past month has been full of exciting ministry! She has been working hard with Pastor Dave to get him acclimated to Long Lake and it's daily routine in the way of staff meetings and regular office communication. She has prepared 4 families for baptism in the way of our first Baptism class here at Long Lake, a class that will take place every three months for all those anticipating baptism. She has been working with Monica Ahlman on Crocodile Dock-Our Wednesday night VBS program that is well under way. She has been getting ready to spend time with our confirmation students at Luther Point the third week of June as they go to confirmation camp. She has been preparing to take our group of five excited young people to New Orleans in just over 6 weeks. All this in addition to the added duties of leading worship preaching, working with Pastor Dave in his transition, and working with the council in the transition period on all the things that need to be done.

Youth: The youth made about \$500 at the car wash and rolls. Thank you to everybody.

Property: The alarm system is in. We will set July 6th as setup date. We are waiting to hear from Matt on the bid for the parking lot.

Stewardship: The ball field is coming along good. They had 7 adults and 2 kids there on June 6th. Bruce Riebe is working on the website. He has put new pictures on the web page. Squares are going to start up again. They are going to meet on Wed. June 17th at 6:30. They are planning a breakfast as a fund raiser. Tony has been going to the staff meeting.

Congregational Life: The fish and chicken fry is scheduled for June 26th.

Education: VBS is going good. Day camp is set for July 20th - 24th. They are looking for a host family.

Old business: We need to get things going

on the flower beds.
 We closed with prayer and will meet again in
 2 weeks, June 25th.
 Respectfully, Rose Hass, Council Secretary



LONG LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

3921 277th Ave. NW – Isanti, MN 55040

Website: www.longlakeluth.org

Staff

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 E-mail address cjnrev@frontier.com
 Pastor Dave’s Cell Phone 218-410-0204
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 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 753-0177
 Matt Hylan, Finance 753-2149
 Rose Hass, Congregational Life 444-5892
 Monica Ahlman, Education 444-6462
 Tony Steiner, Stewardship 444-6768
 Candy McColley, Worship & Music 753-5187
 Tina Anderson, Youth 612-747-6871
 Dale Findell, Missions 689-2219

Church Organizations

Rose Hass, Council Secretary 444-5892
 Donna Larsen, Director Adult Choir 444-9975
 Friends of Ruth: Karen Baker & Mindy Peterson 444-4383
 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

COMMITTEE CORNER

YOUTH: Will meet July 5th after Worship.
EDUCATION: Will meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm. In July, this will be the 9th.
WORSHIP & MUSIC: Will meet on the 2nd Thursday, July 9th 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. There will be some changes in the worship which we hope will heighten your worship experience and help you grow in your spiritual journey. 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.

Worship and Music

The worship and music committee met on Thursday, June 11th at 6:30. We discussed the worship service and the confusion we had on the previous Sunday. The original purpose of using the Hymnals was to try to eliminate the use of so much paper, but it didn't work out that way. After some discussion we decided to go with the original plan and use the Summer Worship service that we have used in the past summers. We hope this is satisfactory and that worship can be a time of joy and renewal for all who worship with us. We ask for your continued patience and understanding during this time of transition and uncertainty. We encourage your comments. The comment and suggestion box is in the Narthex.

LLLC Happenings:



July 1st-Worship service with communion, on Wednesday night at 7:00 pm.

July 8th-Festival/Auction meeting 7:00 pm

July 12th-Youth Perennial Plant Sale 8:00-Noon.

July 12th-Holy Conversations~ "Stewardship & Finances".

July 12th-19th-We are hosting IHN.

July 19th-Squares will be serving breakfast from 7:30-8:45 a.m.

July 20th-25th-Daycamp, 9 am-3 pm M-TH, F 9 am-11:30 am.

July 8, 15, 22 & 29th- Bible Study with Pastor Dave on the Book of Mark at 7:00 pm.

July (exact date TBD)-Family Outdoor Movie Night. Watch bulletins for more information.



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-Outdoor Service & Festival/Auction, (see schedule at right.)



Youth Perennial Plant Sale for New Orleans on July 12th from 8:00 a.m. to Noon, at Church. Questions to Betsy Vincent, elizabeth_vincent@q.com or home at 763-444-3909.



2009 Summer Festival

Yes, it's time once again to start thinking about and planning for this Summer's Festivities. 2008 was a huge success and could prove to be a tough act to follow.

We are coming off our best year to date. Everything seemed to click. Participation, format and weather all seemed to come together perfectly, so for this year we're planning on keeping things much the same. There have been a few suggestions however that may make things slightly better.

First of all we are planning on moving the Service and the Auction into the SHADE! Something that was in short supply last year. Also we're adding another ½ hour between the meal and the start of the auction. This will give us more time to serve, enjoy and clean up after the meal. This way maybe some of the many great volunteers that help out will also have time to take in the Auction.

This year's tentative schedule is as follows:

9:00am Gathering Hour, coffee and donuts will be served as well as a Bake sale & possible craft sale.

10:00am Outdoor Service (weather permitting) with Everblest.

11:00am Meal / Deep Fried Turkey

12:30pm Auction

The date is August 16th so mark your calendars. As always we would prefer you bring your donated items the morning of the Auction. That's part of the reason for the gathering hour. Plus then you'll have your pickup and something to haul everything you bought home! However, if that's not possible contact Steve Vigstol and we'll find a spot to put it prior to Auction day.

Auction donation sheets are in the Narthex. We can use all the help we can get. This year's proceeds are already earmarked for parking lot repair and resurfacing which is something that is badly needed.

Our Festival/Auction meeting is on July 8, 2009 at 7:00 pm. July is the month we really start ramping up for this year's big event. If you are involved in the planning and organization for this important day please plan to attend.

Steve Vigstol, Property Chair, 763-360-1798



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 serve 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

<u>WEEKLY GIVING NEEDED EACH WEEK:</u>	\$ 6,497.89
Contributions given last week-June 21	\$ 3,425.65
Net gain (deficit)	\$(3,072.24)

COUNTY MRKT. CARD PROCEEDS-APRIL \$ 62.50

RECYCLING DRIVE TO DATE \$ 6,629.87

ATTENDANCE: Sunday: 145



Anyone interested in baptism for themselves or a child is invited to join us on Saturday August 15th at 9:30 for our next Baptism Class. All those seeking baptism at Long Lake are required to attend a Baptism class and they are offered four times per year. The next one will be offered in November. Anyone can attend this class – even if you are just thinking about having a baby. If you are expecting, if you have a child, if you are an adult, all are welcome. We will provide childcare if needed, just check with Pastor Rhonda to arrange this ahead of the class. Come, join us for a time of leaning, fellowship, and preparation for this exciting time of blessing!

We would LOVE to have you!

If you have questions or want to register for the class, please contact Pastor Rhonda at the church, at 763-229-4449 or via e-mail at pastorette01@msn.com.



BREAKFAST IS SERVED....

Our Squares Men's Group will be serving breakfast on Sunday morning, July 19th from 7:30-8:45 am. Come and join us for a hearty breakfast and great fellowship before our Sunday Worship service.



FAMILY OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

Come join us for a fun filled, family movie night, one evening in July. (Date 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.

JOYFUL GIVER

I am like all of us in our daily walks of life. I feel and am affected by the many issues of this world as well. The economy is scary, money is tight, schedules are hard, family commitments, health issues, change at church and the list goes on and on. It is so very easy to be stressed, worn out and not happy in general. I am aware of one solution; Do as our God commands us to do in the words he gave us in the Bible. He really does ask us to be in fellowship with him by reading daily with him. Let those words pour out to you and have some conversation with your God. This quiet time is good for you and the response on the other end will be perfect advice and patience with us. Spend some time in devotion. There are also some actions you can do because we should not have faith without works.

First, we must always be joyful! Philippians 4:4 says: "Always be joyful in the Lord! I'll say it again: Be Joyful!" I encourage you to read this entire chapter of advice from Paul. He goes on further to say things like; not to worry and give thanks to our God. He also tells us to keep our thoughts on what deserves praise. Friends in Christ, we come to church on Sunday to receive forgiveness for our sin and to praise our God for everything. Be joyful on Sunday, we are there to worship our God and to be joyful for everything he has done for us.

Secondly we need to give. I realize that times are tough and schedules hard, but giving makes things that much better. A great stewardship moment shared with me one time really pointed that out to me. There was a man that came to his pastor and had a list a mile long of struggles and issues. Work, family, money all things were not good. A list that I know all of us can identify with. The Pastor looked at him and asked him if he had a few minutes,

could he take a ride with him. The man did and rode with Pastor to an elderly parish member's house. The pastor told him she needed some work done today. Her mail box had been knocked down and some things in the house were broken and needed repair to help her deal with the day better. The woman was so thankful for their help and effort. On the ride back to the church the man was thankful to his Pastor. He forgot all his problems and was joyful to have helped someone. He realized others had problems, but was thankful that he helped someone with their issues. My friends in Christ, this is what we are called to do. We need to give of our time. We need to give of our resources. We are given everything by our God. Just like our faith, it is not what we have done but what our God did for us through his son. Romans 8:32 says: "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"

In closing I would like to share with you an important word from Paul in Philippians 8:7 "But just as you excel in everything-in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us (the church)-see that you excel in this grace of giving." It is so easy to get taken down by the issues of this world. Do not get taken down in your faith or the acts of your faith. There are some important things we can do each day; be in conversation with our God, be joyful for all his done for us and continues to do for us, and give of ourselves. We are called to be excellent givers and we are called to be joyful people of our God.

In Christ,
Tony Steiner





Sunshine Circle's Project of Interest:

We are still giving prayer shawls to members of our congregation who have lost a spouse or child. If anyone would like to help, by making a shawl at home and then bringing it to church, we have a Sunshine box in the entry way. We gladly accept help from all women of the church.

As well, we are still making Baptismal blankets.

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, July 14th.

"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

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.

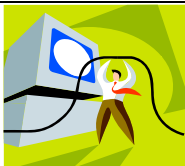
Our official meetings will begin on September 3rd at 7:00 p.m. Karen will have devotions and snack for that meeting. We will be working on assembling mid-wife kits and chatting about the ideas we have for our Fall event which is titled: "A Cup of Christmas Tea". It will be on the last Sunday in November 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

All the church women are invited to join us at our WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) monthly meeting on July 16th at 1:00 pm.



The Squares

Our group is up and running again! We will meet in July on Wednesday, the 15th at 6:30 p.m., with dinner being served. Anyone who is interested in joining can call Will Remus at 763-444-9156.



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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

