

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



## Long Lake Lutheran Church

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# **AGENDA**

## **2019 Annual Meeting**

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**Call to Order**

***Congregational President, Dave Eberhardt***

**Declaration of Quorum**

**Appointment of Annual Meeting Minutes Recorder**

**Devotions**

**Approval of Agenda**

**Approval of the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Report of the Nominating Committee**

**Motion to Approve Nominations**

**Invitation for nominations from the floor**

**Closing of nominations**

**Election**

**Presentation of 2020 Nominating Committee**

**Synod Assembly Voting Members**

**Appointment of Counters**

***Wayne Olson and Ted Erickson***

***Sue Eberhardt and Madge Lillimoen and Pat Tewalt***

***Monica Ahlman and Margaret Bauer***

***Becky Olson and Marcy Stoeckel***

***Glenna Sorenson and Vicki Theede***

**Motion to Approve 2019 Proposed Budget**

**Annual Report of Staff and Ministry Teams**

**Other Business**

**Closing prayer**

**Benediction**

**Adjournment**

## **Report of the Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee, made up of Stephanie Matson, Margaret McBride and Dave Eberhardt, is pleased to report that two members have agreed to be nominated to serve on the LLLC Council. They are Kara Hepp and Rod Stanley. If the remaining position needing to be filled remains open after the Annual Meeting the Church Council will appoint someone to this position.

## **Synod Assembly Voting Members**

The Nominating Committee is also pleased to report that two members have agreed to serve as Synod Assembly Voting Members for 2019. The members names are Stephanie Matson and Marsha Weidner. If a third person cannot be identified by the end of the Annual Meeting the Church Council will appoint someone to this position.

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Deceased	-3
New Members Received by Affirmation of Faith	4
New Members by Transfer	3
Members transferred to other congregations	-4
New Members Received by Baptism	14
Adjustment	-112
Total Membership on 12/31/2018	721
Confirmed	8
Weddings Performed	2
Funerals, Committals and Memorial Services	
Members	3
Non-Members	3

# MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

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February 4, 2018

Dave Eberhardt, Council President, called the meeting to order at 10:52 AM.

Pastor Matt opened with Devotions and prayers based on Matthew 28.

Jen Sonterre made a motion to approve the agenda with the second by Joanne Eittreim. Approved.

The 2017 minutes were approved by a motion by Dale Lundeen and second by Dennis Hardie.

## **Report of Nominating Committee**

The nominating committee was comprised of Matt Lundeen, Claudia Hanson, Jim Werronen, and Jennifer Manion with four positions available. There are four individuals agreeing to serve on the Council. Richard Hansen made a motion which was seconded by Betty Nechanicky to accept Matt Lundeen, Tammy Dufeck, Kathie Schleif, and Ronda Fenlon to fill the four vacancies. Approved. The nominating committee for next year will be Dave Eberhardt, Stephanie Matson, Margaret McBride.

## **Synod Assembly Delegates**

The Synod Assembly is scheduled for May 4-5, 2018. Dave and Sue Eberhardt have agreed to be the synod delegates. This was approved with a motion by Matt Lundeen seconded Sharon Johnson.

## **Appointment of Offering Counters**

Bob Johnson, Sandie Johnson and Carole Larson will no longer be counters. Margaret Bauer and Monica Ahlman have agreed to be counters. The new counters were accepted.

## **Pastor Matt's report**

Pastor Matt thanked the congregation for their support and prayers. It was a good year with the ability for Pastor Mary able to stay during her senior year until her call. The summer was busy with visits to families with children. He plans to begin visiting with other families in the spring. With change of the Wednesday service from 7:17PM to 6:00PM, he reported close to a 10% increase in attendance with all three services now about the same size. The coming year will see changes as Eric begins his internship and it is unclear how long Pastor Sue can stay with us. Our emphasis will be on discipleship; the root of the church is faith and discipleship.

## **Student Pastor Sue's report**

She remarked that she is already at her 25<sup>th</sup> week which is the mid-point of her internship. She thanked the congregation for the support and feels fortunate to be mentored by Pastor Matt. Her internship project is to develop with the help of a committee and anyone else interested, a three-year plan of stewardship. It is more than paying bills and takes creativity to look at all that stewardship can be.

## **Council President report by Dave Eberhardt**

Dave challenges the congregation to be followers of Christ who are changed by Christ through getting to know the Bible and connecting and loving others. He pointed out the difference between activity and movement. In what ways can I be more like Christ, and how did I get there?

# MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING (Continued)

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## **Director of Youth and Family Services report by Eric Nelson**

Eric indicated it is a healthy time for change. He has been working with the Sunday school and Children's Church kids 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger as well as the confirmation kids and a small youth group. They did a local mission last summer in St. Paul knowing they would be planning for the big Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas this summer with Faith Lutheran and St. Andrews Lutheran churches. He thanked the congregation for the support of his attendance at seminary and the ability to continue to grow. Eric was thanked for all he does here.

## **Congregational Life Team report by Margaret McBride**

Margaret reminded the group that we are God's team on earth and we need all the congregation's time, talent and treasures. She suggested all to find something to contribute for at least one hour a month.

## **Property Team report by Matt Lundeen**

Matt thanked those that have helped in any capacity in the last year. He invited people to come to the property meetings as all the decisions are important and the team needs input

**Finance Team report by Marsha Weidner.** Marcia pointed out that we have paid off our second mortgage. The budget is set to pay off the bills and also allow a reserve fund. The budget for 2018 is less than the 2017 budget, but we did not get the flooring done last year as planned. She wants people to start thinking about a capital campaign as we go forward as the church of Jesus Christ. Ronda Fenlon asked if it is thought that there would be a need this summer to reduce staff hours. It is planned for the Youth Director to be at  $\frac{3}{4}$  time. Lisa Lynn stated she voluntarily reduced her hours to help out last year, and was not asked to do so. Both Marsha Weidner and Matt Lundeen asked the congregation to step up their giving and they came through so reductions were not needed. A motion to accept the budget as presented with by Martin Lynn seconded by Bob Johnson was approved.

Lisa Lynn gave thanks to WELCA. WELCA made the new appliances, cabinets and counters possible. The kitchen is well used during the many events each year.

Marsha Weidner pointed out there was an error in the WELCA budget in the annual report. It should indicate a total of \$26,333.91.

The congregation was asked to continue to remember Pastor Matt, Nora and Jon in their prayers. Dealing with loss gets easier, but never gets easy.

## **Closing**

Pastor Sue led the closing devotion and prayers based on Ephesians reminding all that we are the family of the heavenly Father and such a healthy church is able to accomplish much. She said to get excited and involved in our faith.

The closing hymn #58 was sung.

Jennifer Sonterre made the motion to adjourn and Karen Baker seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 AM.

**Respectfully submitted by Karyn Hansen**





Minneapolis  
Area Synod

Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

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Minneapolis, MN 55404-2474

Your congregation matters! It matters because the *gospel* matters. The Good News of Jesus Christ proclaims that, in God's eyes, you are enough. The world is great at telling us we're not enough. "Do more. Be better." But God's *grace in Jesus Christ* says something else. Not only are you enough, you *belong*; you are welcome into beloved community. In that community, God provides food for the journey, friends in faith, and power to live out the presence of Christ in our daily lives.

The church matters because of the *gospel*, because of the *community* it forms, and also because the *world* needs the church's voice. Our communities need us to speak of God's love for all people, no exception; to advocate for the care of creation; and to build cities and neighborhoods where justice is the standard for all our work.

The church matters. *Everything we do in the synod office is poured into this conviction.*

Because the church matters, **congregations** matter:

In 2018, the synod walked with 58 congregations in call processes and assisted 52 congregations in work such as stewardship growth, conflict resolution, vision discernment, and anniversaries. Through the new Resurrection Fund Imagination Grants, we made legacy awards totaling \$270,230 to 40 congregations and ministries to further the mission of the gospel. And, in addition to our 145 congregations, the synod has five new mission starts: Tapestry, Intertwine, Tree of Life, Amazing Grace, Southwest Latino Ministry.

Because the church matters, **leaders** matter:

With nearly 700 rostered leaders, our synod has 313 in active calls, 31 on leave, and 347 retired. We work hard so the church receives the mature, faithful and theologically well-formed ministers it needs. In the years ahead, we will focus even more on raising the next generation of gifted and diverse leaders who will carry a message of God's love to a multiracial world.

Our Tool Kit gathering is a favorite for elected congregational leaders, and we invite you to consider bringing your church council to the 2019 Tool Kit at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Bloomington, on Saturday, February 23, 2019.



In 2018, we supported 69 persons in the candidacy process as they prepare to become deacons or pastors. We ordained 11 pastors and installed 25; we had a combined attendance of 463 pastors and deacons at our Ministeriums, Bishop's Theological Conference, and the Lunch and Learn gatherings; and we have 250 leaders meeting in peer groups. We also gave scholarships to 38 pastors to attend a conference on supervision and building healthy teams.

Because God's **world** matters, the **church's voice** matters.

Together, the congregations of the synod are working to foster racial, environmental, and economic justice. With grants from InFaith Community Foundation, the Bush Foundation, area Watershed Districts, and local congregations, we have called three synod staff members to lead congregations in this work. We also trained 65 leaders in faith-based community organizing.

It is the generosity of congregations like yours that make the synod's work possible. Thank you! We seek to be careful stewards of every gift. For the fifth straight year, we've been given a clean audit. For our fiscal stewardship as well as for the synod's excellent governance, I give thanks to our synod council and to Vice President Felicia Boone. Our synod is also blessed with an extraordinary staff who work with humility, tenacious commitment, wisdom, creativity, and hope. We also rejoice in the two full-time Lutheran Volunteer Corps Members on our staff and the age and ethnic diversity our growing staff brings.

I conclude this annual report with a word of deep gratitude for the privilege of serving as your bishop. Especially, I thank you for calling me to serve a second six-year term. I praise God for our shared mission and our vital partnership. Please let us know how we can serve one another better—working together so all experience **gracious invitation** into **life-giving Christian community** and live in **just and healthy**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ann Sorenson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## Robert Rusert

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In her letter to congregations in transition **Bishop Svennungsen** shares from **Ecclesiastes 3:1** declaring, “there is a time for every season/matter under heaven.” This is true in our individual lives and in the life of congregations. You now begin a new season of pastoral transition in your congregation's life. This **“In Between Time”** is time for discernment. What is God calling you to do and be in this time and place? It's a time of deep listening – to God, through scripture and prayer; to one another in your household of faith; and in the community in which you are planted. We pray for bold faithfulness to follow the Spirit's leading. In this time of transitions, we pray that you will take the time necessary to remember and celebrate your congregation's past, to look out and study the community you are called to serve, to identify your strengths in ministry, and to examine areas for growth. It is the time to follow the call of the Holy Spirit as you look to the future in the calling of a new pastor.

I arrived at LLLC Oct 2, 2018 ready to journey with you to discover the answers to critical questions like: **Who we are? What is God calling us to do forward? Who are our neighbors and how can we serve them and with them?** In October and November, I shared one on one conversations with 11 key leaders including all 9 Council Members. I will be meeting one on one with all the new Transition Team members in January/February 2019. I assisted the Council in identifying Dave Eberhardt and Tony Nechanicky as Transition Team Co-chairs and Marsha Weidner as Team Council Rep. By mid-December, Dave, Tony and I had conversations with 14 members interested in serving on the Team and eleven were selected to serve {See President Dave Eberhardt's report for a listing}. Our first Transition Team meeting is scheduled for Jan 15, 2019. In the first quarter of 2019 we will schedule groups and at least 3 congregational events to examine the **heritage of LLLC**; what it was that shaped and formed you as a living congregation. We'll **assess the leadership** of the church, where it has been and is strong and where it can be strengthened to meet our shared ministry mission and needs. We'll name and claim **LLLC's relationships with and callings beyond our walls** and membership family, looking to the Spirit to help us discern those that need to be added, strengthened, and allowed to pass.

My **contract with you and calling** among you commissions me to assist with:

1. Development and Implementation of Discipleship Ministry
2. Support Stewardship Ministry
3. Assist with and update Employee Handbook
4. Assist with 2019 and 2020 Ministry and Mission Budget plans
5. Supervise Current Staff
6. Assist with Staffing Plan, assessing needs and strategizing toward excellent and affordable staffing for growth
7. Lead Transition Team in development of Ministry Site Profile
8. Assist with exploration of Campus Planning for facilities to match God's vision for LLLC's future ministry

## Robert Rusert

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We have already made meaningful progress on some of these and have begun shaping plans for all of them.

While together we will also **seek out and secure all the best resources and partners** with wisdom, expertise, and knowledge of “best practices” to complete this transition process. Synod leadership, consultants, key literature, and whatever blessings toward excellence that our Lord will provide.

While we’re together I will assist with establishing a strong Transition Team, a faithful Call Committee, and **cultivating a spirit of cooperation and unity** between LLLC’s Congregation, Council, Transition and Call Committees as well as the Synod and the ELCA. We will...

1. **Look Up...** in prayer together for LLLC
2. **Look Back...** assessing and processing, taking stock of LLLC’s past... confessing brokenness, celebrating strengths, delighting in accomplishments and honoring past faithful and generous servants.
3. **Look In...** searching for and finding strength, faith, and obedience... to commit to rejecting and refusing to harbor harmful and disabling old hurts, struggles, and dysfunctional practices/ behaviors/choices.
4. **Look Around and Out...** searching out the needs of our context, our neighborhood... where God has called and planted us to care and serve and proclaim God’s love
5. **Look Beyond...** the “In Between Time” to the time when LLLC’s next settled pastor arrives to partner with you in ministry and mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I have been blessed and welcomed by **great staff partners** Pastor Sue, Jen, Shawna, and Gene along with gifted music staff and leaders. I assisted **Personnel** with assessing salaries and potential raises for staff and with interviewing and securing new Office Asst. Krista Mason. I have been assisting the **Nomination Team** with potential new Council members. It was a privilege, challenge and joy to assist Marsha Weidner and **Finance** with 2019 Budget planning.

I **partnered with Pastor Sue** with Worship planning and leadership, Sermon planning and prep, implementation of the fall Stewardship drive, and pastoral care for members.

**Blessings and prayers forward...**

Respectfully Submitted with confidence in Christ Jesus and the power of the Spirit,

**Interim Lead Pastor Bob Rusert**

**Sue Olson**

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To say that the past year has been a challenging year filled with losses and heartaches, would be an understatement. But, to say that, would miss the wonderful ministry excellence, caring, fellowship and growth we have seen. We have wonderful programming here, and ministry opportunities are plentiful. We said goodbye to too many people and that was hard, but God never left us, has walked right along side us, and has brought new people into our congregation and into our hearts. We have studied scripture together in our bible studies and worship times; we have prayed, sung, lit candles, and celebrated events. We wrote down our burdens for our Lenten Tree; we wrote on leaves of gratitude, offered our time, talents and treasures together, and we have provided outreach to the needy with our food pantry and benevolence gas and grocery cards; we have held community events such as the variety show, open house and BBQ, Live Nativity, Spaghetti Dinner, and Sweetheart Dinner. Looking back through my 2018 calendar, I am amazed at how much we accomplished together for the work of God's Kingdom.

I finished my coursework in the Master of Divinity Program at Luther Seminary in December 2018 and have been approved for First Call by the North East MN Synod. I await assignment to a region, a synod, then a call from a congregation in order to become ordained. I am extremely grateful for the part that Long Lake Lutheran had in my education serving as my internship site, providing financial support, and providing such great mentorship.

Last year, we held a successful stewardship appeal. With 25% of the 230 giving units turning in intent to give cards in support of approximately 50% of the budget, you have shown a true commitment to the ministries of this congregation, the area and the larger church.

In addition to my daily church work for you, such as pastoral care, worship planning and leadership, leading bible and book studies, leading prayer group, socializing, singing in the choir, driving the van for lunch ladies and other events, I attended team and council meetings, and brought in a speaker on Dementia. I also serve in the greater community. I attended text studies with other local ELCA pastors, attended the Cambridge-Isanti Area Ministerium and serve as treasurer. I attended the Care Coordinators meetings for Isanti County and surrounding area, led a worship service at GracePoint in Cambridge, performed funerals both for members and non-members and provided pulpit supply for area churches.

Strike Funeral Home has called me over a dozen times in the past year to do funerals for grieving families without a church or pastor. It has been a privilege to share the Gospel of Jesus' saving grace and love with hundreds of people. I feel privileged to be asked to share words of comfort, but more importantly, I see it as a great opportunity to show God at work through our suffering. I represent Long Lake Lutheran Church, but I see the greater service to God's universal church through this form of ministry.

I believe my gifts include planning and implementing worship services, preaching, pastoral care and teaching. I have developed these gifts through my experiences here and hope to continue growing. I thank God and you all for the privilege of serving you here at Long Lake Lutheran Church in rural Isanti County. It is true, ministry can be done in a cornfield and a cemetery, in a place that isn't a town, that has no hotel and no coffee shop! Thanks be to God!

### *Shawna Berg*

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I was delighted to begin my ministry with Long Lake Lutheran in August of 2018, when Eric Nelson left for his Pastoral Internship. During the last five months I've been impressed with the people, the amazing sense of community and the really good ministry that is happening. The people of Long Lake have handled lots of change with grace, humor and kindness and I feel blessed to be a part of this community!

We wrapped up our summer ministry with Summer Stretch, which is a combination of service and fellowship events (both on and off-site). Plans are beginning for next summer's activities already! Last Summer our youth traveled to the National Youth Gathering in Houston – which was a highlight for many of our high school kids. This summer, we are planning a mission trip with YouthWorks to Denver, Colorado.

Fundraising is always a big part of the youth ministry programs. In August we had a very successful garage sale, exceeding last year's sale totals and allowing people to find lots of treasures! In November we had the Silent Auction and Pie Social and in December the Poinsettia sales – both of which also were great successes. We are very fortunate to have such strong support of fundraisers from the congregation.

Our Sunday School and Children's Church continues to run with the "Spark" Lectionary Curriculum, which means it matches the readings we use in worship. We have a very dedicated group of volunteers. Both groups worked together on the Christmas program in December which was a lot of fun.

Our Confirmation program uses "Here We Stand" Curriculum and we are currently in our New Testament Year with the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The 9<sup>th</sup> graders went through *Life Keys* with Ronda Fenlon before they were confirmed (8 of them) this fall in a beautiful service. We all attended a very nice retreat together (6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders) at Camp Onamia around the theme "I Believe" this fall. There is a very dedicated group of volunteers that works with our Confirmation students.

We had a few special events this fall, beginning with our Trunk or Treat in October which was a fabulous time! This event is an amazing outreach to our community and was a lot of fun to be a part of. In November, we took 30 middle school students and some high school students to Moonlight Madness – an all-night lock-out with several other Twin Cities Churches. All together there were about 300 kids and we travelled from location to location through the metro.

Figuring out High School Youth Group has been the biggest challenge – we have had a very small group that met Wednesdays after confirmation, but that time has not proven to be the best. We are brainstorming different times and ways to get involved. Many of our high school youth have been involved helping in the nursery, helping in Sunday school and in other ways in the church – and at the youths request we have started an Instagram page [longlakeyouthmin](#) to help stay connected.

**Gods Blessings, Shawna Berg, Interim Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry**



**Dave Eberhardt**

## “The In-Between Time”

*For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1

As we are aware, we have had major changes to the staff at Long Lake Lutheran Church in the past six months. We said tearful good byes to Pastor Matt Flom, Eric Nelson, Director of Youth and Family Ministries, and Lisa Lynn, our administrative assistant, all who had been with us for many years. At the same time, we were able to welcome Pastor Bob Rusert as our Interim Pastor, Pastor Sue Olson as our Lay Associate Pastor, and Krista Mason as our new administrative assistant. We are fortunate to have all three serving here at LLLC.

Now we must begin the preparatory work that needs to be completed prior to calling a new permanent pastor. Bishop Ann M. Svennungsen, of the Minneapolis Area Synod, refers to this stage of our life at LLLC as the “In-Between Time” as we begin a new season of pastoral transition in our congregation’s life. This “In-Between Time” is a time for reflection and discernment as we prayerfully consider what God is calling us to do and be in this time and place. Bishop Ann refers to this as a time of deep listening to God, through scripture and prayer, to one another in our household of faith, and in the community in which we are planted.

Bishop Ann further states, that we should pray for bold faithfulness to follow the Spirit’s leading. In order to do this, we need to take the time necessary to remember and celebrate our congregation’s past, to look at and study the community we are called to serve, to identify and acknowledge the strengths in our ministry, and to examine areas for growth as well.

Our first step, in this likely year long journey leading to a Call of a new Pastor, is the formation of a Transition Team (Team). This has now been accomplished and the following are the people who will be serving on the Team:

Co-Chair Dave Eberhardt	Co-Chair Tony Nechanicky
Karen Baker	Karyn Hansen
Julie Nielsen	Rick Larsen
Abby Fournier	Marsha Weidner
Lisa Gustafson	Chris Hepp
Bob Johnson	Pastor Bob Rusert

**Dave Eberhardt**

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The primary task of this Team will be the development of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The MSP is designed to simulate reflection in our church, to be a summary of the characteristics and ministry at LLLC and to serve as the first impression that we wish to give to a prospective pastoral candidate.

The process for developing the MSP will be accomplished via two different methods. The first will be through twice monthly meetings starting in January during which the Team will engage in thoughtful and prayerful discussions necessary to develop the MSP. The second will be through three congregational events during which the Team members will seek input from members of the congregation in a group setting to ensure that the MSP will represent the thoughts of the congregation as a whole.

In this regard, we are very fortunate to have Pastor Bob serve as our guide as we develop our MSP. Pastor Bob just finished serving as an Interim Pastor. He is well versed in what needs to be done to help the Team develop an MSP that represents the thoughts of the congregation while at the same time ensuring that our work together is guided by prayer and the Holy Spirit.

The congregation will be made aware of the Team's work throughout the process of developing the MSP. This will be accomplished via Team updates at church services, monthly updates in the Spire and information provided on our website and Facebook.

Finally, speaking on behalf of all of us serving on the Team, we would like for those who attend LLLC to continually pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and bless our work together.

**Your Brother in Christ,**

**Dave Eberhardt**



## *Dave Eberhardt*

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With the departure of Pastor Matt Flom to St. Phillip's, we at Long Lake Lutheran Church (LLLC) find ourselves in the **In-Between Time** as we begin our search for a new permanent pastor. The first step in this journey has been the development of the Transition Team. The names of Team's members are: Karen Baker, Julie Nielsen, Karyn Hansen, Rich Larson, Lisa Gustafson, Chris Hepp, Bob Johnson, Abbey Fournier, Marsha Weidner, Tony Nechanicky, Dave Eberhardt and Pastor Bob Rusert, who will serve as the Team's guide throughout the process.

The primary task of the Team will be the development of a Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The MSP is designed to stimulate reflection in our church, to be a summary of the characteristics and ministry at LLLC, and to serve as the first impression that we wish to give to a prospective pastoral candidate. The Team will meet twice a month until the MSP is completed. In addition, there will be three congregational events during which the congregation as a whole can provide input relating to the development of the MSP. During this process we will...

1. **Look Up...** in prayer together for LLLC
2. **Look Back...** assessing and processing, taking stock of LLLC's past... confessing brokenness, celebrating strengths, delighting in accomplishments and honoring past faithful and generous servants.
3. **Look In...** searching for and finding strength, faith, and obedience... to commit to rejecting and refusing to harbor harmful and disabling old hurts, struggles, and dysfunctional practices/behaviors/choices.
4. **Look Around and Out...** searching out the needs of our context, our neighborhood... where God has called and planted us to care and serve and proclaim God's love
5. **Look Beyond...** the "In Between Time" to the time when LLLC's next settled pastor arrives to partner with you in ministry and mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The congregation will be made aware of the Team's work throughout the process via short updates during church services, monthly updates in the Spire and information found on our website and Facebook.

## *Congregational Life*

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Another year comes to an end, during which Long Lake experienced some dramatic changes and is now getting to know a dynamic new interim pastor, youth director, and administrative assistant all the while never missing a beat as it carried out its mission of inspiring, educating and enriching its congregation.

During the year, small groups continued to flourish: Senior Game days saw folks gather twice monthly for friendly games and a potluck lunch; quilters turned out dozens of beautiful quilts to donate to Lutheran World Relief; circles met monthly to be inspired by the Word, outreach projects, good food, and fellowship, with one making quilts for shut-ins, newly baptized babies, and graduates. The Lunch Ladies enjoyed lunch at some of the best restaurants each month; families shivered at the annual Ice Fishing contest on Long Lake; the softball team enjoyed a fun season and won its division; a Fall Clean-up day brought us together to spruce up the ground as well as the Church's interior; a musical variety show filled the church and grounds with great music and song the day before Father's Day which was then celebrated with an inspiring service. Rally Sunday kicked off fall opportunities as everyone had a chance to sign up for areas where they would like to share their time and talent. There were garage sales, the annual Pie Social, the Spring and Christmas Teas, and raffles to raise money for the kitchen and youth. The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Artisan Fair hosted 36 artisans, 42 volunteers, and 197 guests; the Fall Bonfire warmed to hearts of many families, and the Live Nativity on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> again captivated hundreds of guests with music, scripture and live animals. A week later, families gathered to decorate the Church for Christmas and share good food. Name tags became a useful tool to help us get to know visitors as well as each other's names; a Photo Shop allowed us to gather more photos for our already out-of-date directory; a new Pop Stop in the Fellowship Hall made it possible for us to get a soda at any time and provide some extra dollars for the Youth while a new coffee station made a good cup of coffee as available as in a coffee shop. Faithful volunteers continued to serve as greeters, ushers and lectors for our services, and the Congregational Life Committee itself worked tirelessly to keep Long Lake's scene active and vibrant.

Activities at Long Lake throughout 2018 brought joy, enrichment, and a sense of belonging to so many in our congregation. Our faith and trust in our Lord continued to grow as we worked together to serve and care for each other. We invite any of you who want to share in this exciting ministry to join us on the Congregational Life team or step up and "Adopt a Project" that you really enjoy. You don't have to sign your soul away! We just hope you'll join us in any way you can. Check the volunteer calendar for meeting times and opportunities. We can hardly wait to see you!

Many thanks to this year's Congregational Life Committee: Will Remus, John and Claudia Hanson, Joanne Eittreim, Sarah Hanson, Tony and Betty Nechanicky, Barry Smith, and staff members Jennifer Sonterre, Julie Nielsen, Karen Hardie and Pastor Sue.

**Blessings and peace, Margaret McBride**

## Education

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What a great year for our education team! As a new council person this last year I was unsure on what to expect. The guidance of God, Eric, Shawna, and the education team we have numerous successes to celebrate.

We celebrate the learning and questioning of the children, “Did Jesus really die for ALL of us?” “God really loves us, doesn’t he?”, “That’s a lot of people to love!” Children have the wonderfully unique way of telling us the best news. We learned about who Jesus really is. We made a poster in the basement of the cornerstone with our ideas. I love the fact there are children here every Sunday and Wednesday to teach, and learn from.

We celebrate the teachers! Thank you to all who have taught Sunday School and Children’s Church this past year without you this ministry would never happen. Thank you to: Kara Hepp, Beaner Bell, Charlotte Sonterre, Kathie Schleif, Larissa Schulze, Abbey Fournier, Mo Spike, Chris Hepp, Jennifer Sonterre, Mia Sonterre, Shawna Berg, and Eric Nelson. Thank you to all of you who have donated your time, talents, and treasure to this ministry. I know there are people I forgot who have helped, please know you are blessed and celebrated!

We celebrate the parents! Without you bringing your children every week, we wouldn’t be here. Thank you for supporting us through your prayers! Learning about our loving God starts at a young age, even in the nursery, and we love serving your children!

We had a successful VBS program with the “Shipwrecked” theme this past summer. There were a lot of “Jesus Rescues” moments to remember. We are planning to for a “ROAR!”ing time this summer with our “ROAR” program this summer—remember: God is Good!

This year the education team donated our time and treasures to Safe Haven Foster Shoppe. There were numerous bags packed and over \$500 was raised through Sunday school donations.

We ended the year with a wonderful Christmas program. Thank you to LeAnn Snidarich for your leadership. I believe she has been doing this for many, many years! There were too many shepherds! Let’s all remember to be shepherds. What a wonderful celebration of Jesus’ birthday.

Our team has also moved forward with the planning of the playground. We are excited to begin this adventure. We are on the lookout for a playground task force leader.

As look forward to another wonderful year with new celebrations to be had, I can’t wait to see what God has planned for the education team for the coming year. Please prayerfully consider joining us; we are in need of some substitute teachers.

**Jennifer Manion, Education Chair**

## Finance

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### Happy New Year!

I would like to take this time to thank all the counting teams at Long Lake Lutheran. Each team counts at least 8 times per year. The teams are as follows:

Wayne Olson and Ted Erickson

Sue Eberhardt and Madge Lillimoen and Pat Tewalt

Monica Ahlman and Margaret Bauer

Becky Olson and Marcy Stoeckel

Glenna Sorenson and Vicki Theede

All teams are willing to continue in 2019.

The 2018 Budget was approved at the annual meeting in the amount of \$404,378.00. This year the Finance Committee and Church Council are recommending a budget of \$415,464.00. This budget is a 4.5% increase.

Some line items were reduced and some were increased. I would like to touch on a few of the increases:

\$2000 in Youth Ministry Program. Council would like to support our youth with a new line item within the budget. This will support classroom curriculums.

\$5000 in Security and Training. This is a new line item that will prepare us if a threat to the church was to happen. It will be discussed and shared as training becomes available. Pastor Sue is available for further discussion.

\$1200.00 Cell Phone Reimbursement. This is a new line item to subsidize both Pastors for use of their personal cell phones on a monthly stipend.

\$21604.23 Staff Benefits and Salaries. This is due to rate increases among staff and a temporary youth director. Salaries will change when a Pastor is hired. This will be addressed in the future and will also need congregation approval. Addition of a part time Maintenance Position.

\$4270 Worship expenses which includes music. This is primarily due to bringing current our licensing and subscriptions. It also includes a fee to bring in musicians to play for special music, along with digital and sound equipment, i.e., pastor's headsets.

The Finance team held an Audit on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019. All balanced and recommendations were minimal.

I would also like to thank the Finance Team:

Bruce Yurich, John and Claudia Hanson, Tiffanie Niemi and Bruce Riebe and our Accountant Elaine Mustari. Thank you for giving your time each month to go over the finance reports, make recommendations, and audits to Long Lake Lutheran. 2019 will be my final year of Finance Rep. Please prayerfully consider joining this team and maybe taking the reins.

**God's Blessing, Marsha Weidner**

### **Missions**

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Meeting 1.6.19 Between Services in the Conference Room

Attendees: Jim W., Jim & Betsy V., Gerald & Connie A., Karyn H. and Ronda F.

Quilters completed and shipped 111 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. Friends of Ruth provided 30 baby kits also delivered to Lutheran World Relief. Thanks to generous financial donations and purchases of 5 quilts we were able to pay shipping costs of \$427.25. The Quilters are always open to fabric donations, sheets for quilt backs and batting. If you have questions please contact Connie Anderson.

Mission Giving:

November \$490 to Live Nativity + and additional \$565 to Lutheran Disaster

December \$920 to Safe Haven Foster Shoppe (We will be giving a check of approximately \$1,900 based on Mission giving, Live Nativity giving and Sunday School Program giving).

Live Nativity Meal Donations - \$1,414.60

A \$1,000 check to Luther Seminary for Eric Nelson.

Jim & Betsy Vincent will be taking over management of Joseph's Granary. Keeping a good mix of available groceries and an eye to expiration dates. Overflow will be donated to the local food shelf. Donations are ALWAYS welcome and important to keep a variety of groceries on hand. A big thank you to Joe Buck for his leadership of this mission.

Karyn will be researching a potential Habitat for Humanity site for Summer 2019.

If interested in a Mission Trip to Camp Penuel, Costa Rica in 2020 please reach out to Ronda Fenlon. We are looking for someone to provide leadership to that effort.

January - April Global Missions will be focused on Street Life Ministries and Camp Penuel. Representatives from Camp Penuel will be joining us in March. Jim W. will be sharing with us more on Street Life Ministries and his upcoming trip in February.

A bulletin Insert will be available once a month January - April outlining material needs for both organizations.

**Many Blessings, Ronda Fenlon**

### Property

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Where did the time go? Seriously, where does it go? I took over the property committee in February of 2014. I can remember sitting in the October 2013 council meeting. Brian Manion was the property chair at that time, but I knew that his term would be over in February. I remember it like it was yesterday: looking around the table at the other council members and thinking to myself, “they aren’t going to run property, they have this or that committee to run.” I also remember thinking to myself what I had told Pastor Matt when he asked me to run for church council just 9 months earlier, I specifically told him that “I will do it, but I will not chair the property or finance committee!”

Well, I guess I lied, and in church of all places! For some reason, the property chair is one that some people think of as a chair that requires a lot of work. Heading the property committee does require some time, but so does every other council seat.

When I was in that October 2013 council meeting, I remember leaving the meeting thinking that I needed to run property. In the November meeting, the council members started discussing people to nominate for the 2014 council. I asked myself, “if not me, then who?” I announced that I was interested in the property position and I wasn’t met with any opposition.

Since 2014, the property committee has grown in members. We have about 6 regular attending members, and close to 10 people who can’t make the meetings but are eager to help when projects come up.

I sincerely feel that the property team accomplished a lot of tasks while I served as the chair. Some of those tasks were small and mundane, some were accomplished without much effort, and some tasks were large projects that required many hands and hours.

I would really like to thank all of you who stepped up and helped LLLC with maintaining the grounds and structure, whether if it was with a donation, repair, or both. The property committee is fortunate to have such devoted members as Dave Baker, Don Hansen, Harlan Lillemoen, Paul Gruber, Will Remus, and Tony Nechanicky.

As I look around, I am truly grateful for our members and for what they have accomplished here at Long Lake. The most labor-intensive project that comes to my mind is building the storage building. We had so many gracious volunteers such as Aaron Gustafson, Pat O’Keefe and sons, Jamie Schurbon, Derek Johnson, Aaron Anderson, Dave Baker, Korbin Lynn, Phil McClain, Gerald Anderson, John Bartz, Bob Johnson, and Dennis Belsheim. This crew of guys were able to not only build something of value for our church, but we were all able to enjoy each other’s fellowship together.

Wayne Olson and Dale Lundeen also deserve a thank you from all of us for keeping the grass trimmed. If you haven’t noticed, we have a lot of grass to mow here, and these two gentlemen have donated many, many hours to keeping LLLC’s lawn appealing to our visitors and members.

On the other side of the year, Bob Johnson, Don Hansen, and Dave Baker deserve a big thank you from all of us for keeping the sidewalks clear of snow and ice. A big thank you to Jim and Roxanne Peterson for plowing the lot. Nobody likes to work in the cold, but all of you are willing to do so for LLLC and it is greatly appreciated.



### *Property (page 2)*

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Another project that was completed this year was replacing the carpet in the narthex, nursery, sound room, hallway, and offices. As a church, we had to raise money to pay for the carpet, which was \$9,000. So many of you generously gave to this project. In a matter of five months, we had raised enough money to pay for the new carpet! After the funds were raised, we called for volunteers to help remove the carpet, and our call was answered! So, so many people came to remove the carpet: Paul and Jackie Gruber, Barry Smith, Gene West, Dave Baker, Harlan Lillemoen, and many others stepped up at one or multiple times to move furniture and remove carpeting.

I understand that I am forgetting to mention many names of volunteers for various projects, and I apologize. The main reason I forget to mention any names is because we have had so many volunteers for multiple projects, that it is hard for me to keep them straight.

Serving as the property chair has been so rewarding in so many ways. I would like to thank all our members for their input, patience, and assistance with me as we worked on projects. I was able to meet so many people and have meaningful conversations (some of praise, and some of dissatisfaction) with so many of you. It is very clear to me that everyone here cares a great deal about our church!

As I leave the property committee, I would like to thank all of you for your generosity of time, talents and treasure. I'd also like to thank all of you for your understanding, not many things move too fast in a church.

I'd especially like to thank our staff. You've relayed messages, checked on things, dealt with contractors, and been so helpful with me over the phone during times I wasn't available to be at church.

I invite all of you to consider investing some additional time at Long Lake. Whether it involves serving on the property committee, or a committee of any kind, we really can use your help. If you're not sure how you'd like to help, talk to the council members and find out what they're working on. I know that many of you give so much of your time already, and I am thankful for everything you do for Long Lake.

**God's Peace, Matt Lundeen**



## Stewardship

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Stewardship is everything I do after I say I believe !

***1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.***

In 2018, Pastor Sue led a book study. The book is called “Embracing Stewardship” by Charles R. Lane & Grace Duddy Pomroy. This gave the team inspiration for connecting our spiritual life with our finances. Time, talent and treasure are gifts from God. Other congregations have added (trees) stewardship of the earth, and (tissues) stewardship of the body.

The stewardship team meets @once a month and time to be determined. Please consider coming to one meeting. We need all varieties of individuals to provide input to what God is guiding Long Lake Lutheran to do.

Long Lake Lutheran Church signed up from 2018-2019 with a consulting firm Gronlund, Sayther, and Brunkow. “Stewardship for all Seasons” is the name of the handbook. We meet with Richard Sayther throughout the year for guidance on year round stewardship in congregations.

This has helped the stewardship team brainstorm with new ideas throughout the year. Thank you Holy Spirit for giving us our ideas .

We handed out a leaf to each person at worship. They could write down on the leaf their talent, another week would be their time to donate to LLL. The leaves were placed on a display by Julie for all to see. It was very colorful and vibrant. Thank you Julie! Pastor Sue drafted inspirational letters about their giving of time, talent, and treasure and a colorful brochure to send out to congregation members preparing them spiritually for commitment Sunday, November 18. Margaret created the beautiful logo. Connie & Gerald donated the pine tree center pieces in the fellowship hall. Claudia wrote the inserts for each Sunday. Julie faithfully stuffed both mailings and Kathie delivered @10% to save on postage. Commitment cards filled out was around 25%. Based on that we need to lower our goal of certain ministries at LLL. Wrapped up stewardship drive on Sunday, November 25 with a Thank You to all by serving sundaes. Thank you to all who participated in any meetings during the past year and contributed their time and creativity. All input is appreciated from the stewardship team.

If you get envelopes you have a number assigned to you still. You will receive them in the mail quarterly. You may also contribute electronically through the LLLC website.

Please pray for all who worship, volunteer, work, and minister to us at Long Lake Lutheran. Consider joining a team, being a council rep, teaching our youth, ushering, reading, or greeting. This list goes on of what areas you can help in at your church. Joy is contagious please share it with others.

***Psalms 24:1 The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.***

**THANK YOU LORD !**

**Kathie Schleif – Stewardship Chair**

### *Worship and Music*

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Long Lake Church has arrived in 2019! What an eventful and somewhat tearful time we had in 2018. Reflecting back on 2018 there were many new changes for us, which have only brought us closer and more resilient.

2018 started off with the loss of Erik Flom, Pastor Matt's son. This was a tragic event that not only affected Pastor Matt and his family, but the entire Long Lake Family. With tragedy comes wisdom and strength. Long Lake came together like never before. We knew then that things wouldn't stay the same as the ripple slowly spread throughout the church. Pastor Matt was called to St. Phillip's Church in Fridley in August. We knew that God was not through with us. Although it was expected, it was not easy to say goodbye to Youth Director Eric Larsen who left on his intern journey for seminary. Soon thereafter, our beloved office administrator, Lisa Lynn left. I cannot do justice as to what these three individuals meant to myself and Long Lake. It impacted the church in many ways, but we are resilient! The church did not fall and we did not stop. These three individuals made us stronger and allowed us to help ourselves to volunteer in ways we never knew the Lord was pulling us to do. I saw more people than ever coming into the church to volunteer in many different aspects to keep the faith flowing.

Behind us through it all was Pastor Sue. Pastor Sue has been a rock. She had the weight of the church on her, but kept smiling, preaching and spreading the Love of God. We grew to love Pastor Sue more than ever. She didn't need to wait long until help arrived. We were blessed with Shawna Berg who took the reins where Eric left off. Shawna jumped right in and led the youth garage sale, children's sermons and even braved the youth with Moonlight Madness. In the fall, we welcomed Pastor Bob and his past experiences of leading a church. He has been a tremendous help working with the council in providing us with his knowledge on how to move into the transition of calling a new Pastor. Also, just in the nick of time before the holiday season was among us, we welcomed our new assistant administrator, Krista Mason. She has taken a burden off of Jennifer's shoulders and her experience and professionalism has been most welcome.

We have now had a full year of 6:00 pm Wednesday service time and it has been a hit. Attendance has stayed fairly steady right around 70 congregants each week which is a far cry from previous years when 20 was considered to be a full house. The kids look like they enjoy their time in worship prior to heading off to church school and confirmation. It has been a joy to see families getting to know one another during community dinner and after worship with the new time slot. The gospel band has continued to bless us with their wonderful music and dedication each week; I even saw some toe tapping and possible clapping in the pews! Gospel Group meets on Wednesday nights prior to service at 5:30 pm and anyone who wants to join can just show up.

Many individuals within the church have provided countless hours of their time to bring in our new sound system. We have had new speakers installed, a new tablet to help us regulate the microphones and we have been working on a new sound board. This all takes time and there were some kinks, but we are slowly starting to progress into the age of technology in 2018.

### *Worship and Music*

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Our Choir led by Donna Larsen and accompaniment from Kristy Andersen continued to be such a blessing to us throughout the year. Towards the end of the year we even found a home for the choir with their own risers on the west side of the sanctuary closer to the piano. There is always more room for more choir members, young and old who love to sing. Choir continues to meet each Tuesday night from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

In revamping the gospel group and sound room, many individuals took part in cleaning out the instrument and storage room. In there, we were able to find many banners for the Altar Guild to decorate the sanctuary with. It has been great to see all those forgotten banners come out. Karen Baker and her team have done a wonderful job of changing the colors of our church seasons, communion supplies and baked breads. There is always room for more individuals who are interested in helping out with Altar Guild. Please see Karen Baker if interested.

Spoke Folk was here again and we were their first stop on their summer tour. It is always so fantastic to see their smiling faces through their music ministry and testimonials. In going with the theme of trying something new, I was able to arrange MN Adult and Teen Challenge (MNATC) to come to LLLC for a Wednesday service, as well as coming to both services on Mother's Day for music ministry and testimonials. It was great to get a group of individuals in here that came from the lowest points in their life to see the light in their hearts, eyes and souls with the new found love of God. We are working on getting both Spoke Folk and MNATC back for 2019.

Ending 2018, our Live Nativity brought the Word of God into the hearts of over 300 people. This year, we had the pleasure of new scenery to bring the re-creation of Jesus' birth to new heights. There were new volunteers this year, as well as our veteran volunteers. It was amazing as always to witness how it all comes together with many hands helping in many ways.

Wrapping up the final chapters of 2018, the council was hard at work all year working with the Synod to help show us the path in this time of transition at Long Lake. Many meetings have been held and many prayers were said. We were fortunate to end the year by building the transition team so as we roll into 2019, we will be on our way to call the new Pastor. In regards to the council, I would like to mention that I am ending my three year term as the Worship and Music Representative. These last three years have been just amazing. I can honestly say that this past year has been the most fulfilling of all. I have so enjoyed seeing what we are all capable of in times of need. I truly cherish all of my time with all of the past and current council members. I know that I would not have known any of these individuals had it not been for the bond and friendship of the council. I want to thank everyone on the council as well as Pastor Sue, Pastor Bob, Shawna, Jennifer, Donna, Karen, Kristy and everyone else who has touched my life these past three years.

In 2019, I look forward to doing all I can to continue my discipleship and spiritual growth along with continued and new friendships here at Long Lake.

**Gods blessings, Stephanie Matson**

### Youth

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The youth have had a year filled with many activities; time experiencing God's unconditional love for them, getting to know one another and other members of our congregation all while having fun and growing and sharing their faith with the community.

Thank you to our amazing and dedicated Confirmation teachers, our youth chaperones and the many adult volunteers who have shared their time and talents with our kids. Your investment of time and sharing of your faith with our kids is an investment in the future of our congregation and of God's kingdom.

Easter Breakfast was a great success again this year with many youth and adult volunteers helping serve food, pouring coffee and cleaning up the sticky syrupy mess! Thank you to our dedicated Men's Group and the youth who volunteered to serve over 200 people and raise funds for our youth.

As Confirmation ended at the end of the school year, Summer Stretch was in full swing with the warmer weather. Several events were held over the summer months to help combat the "I'm bored" syndrome that crops up this time of year: Feed My Starving Children, a trip to the Mall of America and movie nights. A special thanks to Eric Nelson and Jen Sonterre and the other adult volunteers for being excellent role models and supporters of our youth.

The Youth Mission trip was June 26 - July 2 in Texas. Our kids were able to praise God and worship with kids from all over the country. This 2019 Youth Mission trip will take our youth to Denver, CO.

August brought many changes to our church, one of which was Eric leaving Long Lake Lutheran as our Youth Pastor to his internship year with another congregation. His dedication to our youth has been superb and a true gift to our youth. With that change we welcomed Shawna Berg as our Interim Youth Pastor- and she jumped right in with both feet to the start of Confirmation and regular youth activities. We are grateful for her guidance and ministry.

The Annual Garage Sale kicked off fall activities to support our youth. The Garage Sale brought in so many donated items and all proceeds went to the youth fund- thank you for your generosity!

The Spaghetti Dinner was held October 5<sup>th</sup> and mounds of spaghetti were served and consumed. Many thanks to Renae and Kelsey Hooker for stepping forward and volunteering to continue this important community outreach event.

### Youth (page 2)

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The youth had a wonderful retreat over MEA weekend in October to Camp Onomia- thank you Shawna, Margaret, Marcy and all of our adult volunteers for connecting with our kids. On Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> eight students were confirmed in their faith and encouraged by Shawna to be a Fresnel light to shine God's love.

Trunk-n-Treat was held at Long Lake Lutheran on October 27<sup>th</sup> with over 100 attendees. Over 120 hot dogs were served and candy was generously donated and handed out to cute little trick-or-treaters. This event has become an important community outreach in which young families can share in fellowship with other kids and families. A lovely article was written up in The Courier and the ever-popular bouncy house was donated by Isanti Rental.

Moonlight Madness gave our youth another opportunity to meet, worship and play with kids from different congregations in the greater Twin Cities area. They were up ALL NIGHT- watching movies, playing games, worshipping and praying, swimming and socializing. It was a huge success!

The Pie Social and Silent Auction was held Thanksgiving Eve. Special thanks to Matt Lundeen, our pie auctioneer! There were some fun and creative items donated for the silent auction- thanks to all who donated services, gift baskets and other items. Your generosity helped raise valuable funds for our youth. Pies of many varieties were served by our youth and other volunteers and an enjoyable evening of fellowship was had by all.

Special thanks to all who have supported our youth whether it was a gift of time, a financial donation, chaperoning, mentoring, or just a conversation with a kid, thank you. You are making important contributions toward the future of our church and God's kingdom.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Youth Council representative- it's been an amazing blessing for me. I am looking forward to another year of growing God's kingdom with our Youth!

**Tammy Dufeck, Youth Committee Chair**

### *Friends of Ruth*

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The Friends of Ruth holds their meeting on Monday evenings at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall, we welcome new members (come join us!), hold devotions, and our evenings always include treats and fellowship!

During our year we host special events like the Christmas Tea, which has typically been the Sunday afternoon of Thanksgiving weekend. It is a festive, yet relaxing, way to start the advent season with friends. Enjoy a cup of Christmas tea, coffee or cocoa served with a selection of delicious Christmas treats.

In the spring we host our annual spring luncheon at the end of March or beginning of April on a Saturday morning. We have a few hours of lunch, fun and fellowship with each other and a guest speaker.

Our projects include gathering items for our baby care kits and assembly of those kits to bring to Lutheran World Relief where they will be packaged and sent overseas.

We also periodically change out the toys, books and activities that are in the kids' sanctuary bags.

Friends of Ruth meets on the second Monday of each month, September through May, at 6:30 pm in either the Fellowship Hall or the Cornerstone. Each month members are contacted via email or phone with information about the upcoming meeting. We take turns leading devotions and bringing treats.

We thank you, Ann Merkouris, for your years as leader of Friends of Ruth. Your dedication, love and care for this group have been amazing and we appreciate all that you have done. Joanne Eittreim has agreed to be the leader now and looks forward to a fun and fulfilling year with these wonderful Friends of Ruth!

You are cordially invited to join us for fun and fellowship. We look forward to welcoming you to our circle!

**Sincerely,  
The Friends of Ruth**



### WELCA

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All Long Lake Lutheran Church women members are considered members of the WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), though not everyone is able or interested in attending the meetings. Our main business meeting is held at 1:00 on the third Thursday of every month. The purpose of our group is to provide fellowship and service to our church and community in a variety of ways. WELCA serves as a kind of umbrella, and we gather and report information from the circles and the funeral serving group.

We would like to thank everyone who donated supplies for the kitchen, brought food items for the Harvest Table, donated items for our garage sale in May, donated hats and mittens for the Christmas Hat and Mitten Tree or donated items to be sold at the Granny's Attic on the Live Nativity night. The mittens and hats from the tree will be donated to The Refuge for folks in need.

This year \$22,222.83 was spent from the Kitchen Fund for updates:

WELCA purchased silverware trays, an electric can opener for \$57.67, two white plastic tables for \$74.79, and donated \$500 for the carpet square drive.

We donated the Artisan Fair food proceeds of \$303.01 to the Kitchen Fund.

We had labor expenses for HVAC and electrical work, plus plumbing expenses.

Other purchases were a new water heater and faucets, stainless steel counters, new sinks, a new larger Formica serving counter, and dish cart.

We bought a coffee credenza, coffee brewer and coffee servers.

We paid for a freezer repair, but the freezer was not repairable, so we had to purchase a new freezer also from the Kitchen Fund.

And we purchased a new commercial refrigerator toward the end of the year to replace one that had stopped working.

Every month we plan a restaurant destination for our church's Lunch Ladies group to meet the last Monday in each month (except December). We do this to promote fellowship with other church women who might not be active in WELCA. This has been very well received, and we have had many enjoyable monthly lunches. You are welcome to join us on the last Monday of every month. The location is usually printed in the Sunday bulletin the day before the event.

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in supporting us with your time and/or donations. I would like to invite anyone who might be interested to join us and see what we are all about. Currently I am serving as President, Madge Lillemoen as Secretary, and Joan Anderson as the Treasurer. We plan to have an election of officers at the January WELCA meeting.

**Blessings to all in 2019,  
Lillian Reetz**



### *Sunshine Circle/Spaghetti Dinner/Grandma's Attic/Funeral Report*

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Sunshine Circle is a group of ladies who get together and work on projects and have fun and fellowship. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. We invite any one who would like to join us.

This year we made and distributed 14 baptismal blankets, 17 blankets for the ill or patients in hospital and made 10 graduation blankets.

In October we had our Spaghetti Dinner and it was a huge success. We have been doing this for many years under the leadership of Lorretta Fornberg. Thank you Loretta. For 2019 the spaghetti dinner will be under the leadership of the Hooker Family. Thank you for taking on this endeavor. We always have a large group of help for the dinners. Donations of time and making bars or cookies, cookers, servers, and dishwashers. We thank anyone who help out in any way.

In December we had Grandma's Attic in conjunction with the Live Nativity. It was a huge success. Thank you to all who donated and worked at the tables.

We did some donations this year. We donated \$600.00 in County Market cards out of the Spaghetti Dinner fund towards the Benevolence Fund here at Long Lake.

We also donated \$100 from the Sunshine Fund to the Minneapolis Area Synod.

Thank you to anyone who helped out in any way this year.

God Bless

**Judy Grell, Loretta Fornberg Co-leaders**

#### ***FUNERAL REPORT***

We served at five funerals in 2018, one event.

Thank you to the serving groups, the helpers, and ones who generously donated bars.

Time is golden and if need be these volunteers rearrange their time. This is so much appreciated.

Thank you everyone,

Sincerely,

**Loretta Fornberg**  
**Funeral Coordinator**

***Annual Meeting Minutes 2018***

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The annual meeting of the Long Lake Cemetery Council was called to order by Chairman/Secretary, Greg Anderson at 7:02 PM, Thursday, December 27, 2018 at the home of Philip and Betty Lundeen, Stanford Township, MN. Cemetery Council members present were Greg Anderson, Philip Lundeen and Jimmy Peterson.

Tom Anderson who serves as the current grave preparer/grounds keeper was also present. There were no revisions to the Revised 2018 Long Lake Cemetery Council Annual Meeting Agenda.

The December 17, 2017 Long Lake Cemetery Council annual meeting minutes were presented by Greg Anderson as an attachment to the Revised 2018 Long Lake Cemetery Annual Meeting Agenda. Those December 17, 2017 minutes were approved as written during the annual 2018 congregational meeting.

As Sexton Phil Lundeen reported Long Lake Cemetery records for 2018 reflect there were five grave sites sold, four burials and 154 grave sites remaining to be sold which include some alley ways.

The following financial report as of November 30, 2018 was presented by Jimmy Peterson and approved:

## Checking Account:

Beginning Balance	2,493.52
Care of Cemetery debit	3,200.00
Safety Deposit Box debit	35.00
Gravesite sale deposits	2,400.00
Earned Interest deposit	<u>22.65</u>
Ending Balance	\$1681.17

## Certificates (there are now 6):

Beginning Balance	50,980.47
Estimated Interest	<u>899.63</u>
Estimated ending balance	\$51,880.10

## Total Assets as of November 30, 2018:

Checking	1681.17
Certificates	<u>51,880.10</u>
Total of Assets	\$53,561.27

***Annual Meeting Minutes 2018 (page 2)***

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In addition there was discussion about the need for the Cemetery Council to issue a \$50.00 disbursement to Long Lake Church to balance out the total amount of funds needed for the 2018 maintenance expense disbursed by Long Lake Church. As a result Jimmy Peterson wrote out a check for \$50.00 to Long Lake Church which Greg Anderson will pass on to Marsha Weidner-Long Lake Lutheran Church Council Finance Committee for deposit into the Long Lake Church account. In addition it was noted there is currently not enough funds in the checking account to cover the entire 2019 cemetery maintenance expense. Therefore, the Cemetery Council agreed proceeds from the certificate that expires on April 27, 2019 will be deposited into the checking account to cover the 2019 maintenance expense. It was also noted there is one more certificate that will expire in 2019, three in 2020 and one in 2022.

As Grounds Keeper, Tom Anderson agreed to continue to maintain (mow, trim, weed whip, etc.) the cemetery grounds in 2019. The Long Lake Cemetery Council agreed to set the 2019 maintenance reimbursement at \$3250. Jimmy Peterson will provide Long Lake Church enough advance funds in order that the Church can make six monthly disbursements of \$500 and one \$250 disbursement to Tom for the 2019 maintenance of the cemetery. As Grave Preparer, Tom Anderson agreed to continue with the grave preparations. Tom reported no real issues in 2018 with the cemetery maintenance or grave preparations.

Phil Lundeen was nominated and elected for a three year (2019-2021) term and will continue as Sexton for 2019. Jimmy Peterson, whose term runs through 2019, will continue to serve as Treasurer for 2019. Greg Anderson, whose term runs through 2020, will continue to serve as Chairman/Secretary for 2019.

The cemetery council discussed the on-line Long Lake Cemetery Directory as well as the need and possibility for Long Lake Church to construct a Columbarium which purpose would be to have an above ground structure to accommodate Cremation type burials. Greg will continue to pursue the on-line directory project and discuss the Columbarium status with Pastors Sue Olson and Bob Ruser in regards to the status of the Church's "best use of grounds" project.

The Long Lake Cemetery Council reviewed and discussed current cemetery fees and policies which are as follows:

The initial cost of a gravesite is \$400 and:

- One gravesite can contain one vault and one additional cremation
- Two cremations are allowed when there is no vault

**Annual Meeting Minutes 2018 (page 3)**

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***Note: More than two cremations (up to a total of six) may be allowed within one gravesite under the coordination, review and supervision of the Sexton/Grave Preparer. However, the Council agreed there would be no more than a total of two grave stones allowed. For example: one head stone and one foot stone and if there are multiple cremations the head stone would contain all the names of those buried within the grave site. The Council agreed up to an additional \$125.00 for each cremation may be assessed.***

Also, additional fees are charged beyond the initial cost of the \$400 gravesite fee/\$125.00 cremation fee for the various expenses associated with preparing (which can include such activities as locating, marking, snowplowing, thawing, digging and covering, etc.) the gravesite. There was also discussion for the need for some additional headstones may need to be lifted. The Cemetery Council agreed to make no changes with either the cemetery fees or policies for 2019.

Other items discussed were a mini-columbarium, wooden casket, removal of decor, January 8, 2019 financial audit and financial donations. Phil explained the current policy is that after September 1<sup>st</sup> decor should be removed using discretion as to the condition of the decor. It was agreed that Greg Anderson will attend the January 8, 2019 financial audit. There were no financial donations received in 2018. No action taken after discussion of a mini-columbarium and wooden casket.

The 2019 Long Lake Cemetery Council annual meeting will be scheduled for a date, time and location at the end of 2019. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

**Respectively submitted,**

**Greg Anderson, Secretary/Chairman**

## Long Lake Lutheran Church Audit Report

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2018 Audit Committee

January 8, 2019

Note: The Finance Team held a meeting for the year-end audit of 2018 on January 8, 2019. The Audit Team consisted of Bruce Riebe, Tiffany Niemi, John Hanson, and Bruce Yurich. In attendance for document and information and support were Marsha Weidner, Finance Team council representative, Elaine Mustari C.P.A. and Jennifer Sonterre, Business Administrator.

The team reviewed the following items:

LLLC Checking – Randomly selected 6 transactions from the Detailed General Ledger. We tied the check copy, green sheet, related invoices/receipts and sign offs without exception.

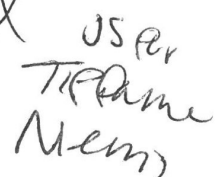
LLLC Contributions. – Counter Sheets – The months of July 2018, September 2018, and December 2018 counter sheets were selected and reviewed. The totals were recalculated by fund and tied to the Count Summary Sheet. Tied special funds to submitted cash envelopes. We then tied the Count Sheet total to the deposit on the bank statement.

Contribution envelope processing procedures were discussed. It was concluded that we should continue using partial recommendations as stated in the January 8, 2013 audit as follows:

1. To improve the processing of amounts received in contribution envelopes, the following should be done
  - a. If the amount written on the contribution envelope is different than the actual amount included in the envelope, the counter should cross out the incorrect amount, write the correct amount on the envelope, date and initial the change, and make a photocopy of the check to be included in the file as back up.
  - b. If no amount is written on the contribution envelope, the counter should make a photocopy of the check and include it in the file as back up.
2. Finance Team should review the counter worksheet and reconfigure to enhance and improve accuracy of the counting process.

WELCA – Randomly selected 3 checks. The checks were tied to the check register, treasurers report and bank statement without exception. 2 deposits were randomly selected and tied to the bank statements.

Benevolence – Entire checkbook was reviewed for 2018. All checks and deposits were tied to the check register and bank statements with exception to November where the bank statement was missing. The Audit team asks for some additional documentation to be included on checks to help with future audit questions. Finance Team is asked to develop a Benevolence Fund policy and procedure document.



JS Per  
Tiffany  
Niemi

**2018 WELCA ANNUAL REPORT**

**WELCA TREASURY**

<b>BALANCE ON HAND - JANUARY 1, 2018</b>	<b>\$26,333.91</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$8,437.76</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$25,900.41</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE - DECEMBER 31, 2018</b>	<b>\$8,871.26</b>

**YEAR-END BALANCES FOR THE CIRCLES AND WELCA FUND**

<b>FRIENDS OF RUTH</b>	<b>\$702.56</b>
<b>SUNSHINE CIRCLE</b>	<b>\$1,494.48</b>
<b>SPAGHETTI DINNER FUND</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>WELCA</b>	<b>\$312.34</b>

<b>CHECKING TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,509.38</b>
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<b>KITCHEN FUND (MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT)</b>	<b>\$5,374.35</b>
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<b>FUND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$7,883.73</b>
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**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Joan Anderson, WELCA Treasurer**



# FINANCIAL REPORTS

2019

## Change in Net Assets for Period 01/01/2018 to 12/31/2018

Fund	Starting Balance	Receipts	Disburse- ments	Transfers	Ending Balance
Capital Fund (U)	13,937.29	2,007.00	1,284.72	0.00	14,659.57
Cornerstone Upgrade Fund (U)	239.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	239.96
Dedicated Giving Fund (U)	142.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	142.81
Festival/Auction Fund (U)	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
General Fund (U)	30,373.50	364,914.96	379,836.70	0.00	15,451.76
General Fund Reserve Fund (U)	39,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	39,000.00
LLL Founders Fund (U)	28,482.90	0.00	500.00	0.00	27,982.90
Memorial Fund (U)	631.35	3,235.00	0.00	0.00	3,866.35
Mission Fund (U)	9,107.97	14,032.95	13,723.34	0.00	9,417.58
Rally Sunday Fund (U)	238.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	238.20
Squares Mens Group Fund (U)	14.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.80
Youth Fund (U)	17,214.34	16,067.91	9,256.07	-6,356.00	17,670.18
Youth Mission/Gathering Fund (U)	350.30	10,889.86	16,775.79	6,356.00	820.37
Youth Quake Trip Fund (U)	140.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	140.00
Youth Reserve Fund (U)	5,363.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,363.13
Total	145,436.55	411,147.68	421,376.62	0.00	135,207.61
Total Receipts	411,147.68				
Total Disbursements	421,376.62				
Net Increase(Decrease)	-10,228.94				

## Proposed Budget

	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	2019 Proposed
<b>Expenditures</b>			
<b>Activity expenses</b>			
Artisan Fair	\$ 201	\$ -	\$ 200
Fellowship expense	2,929	1,325	2,400
Misc. Expense	298	-	400
Softball expense	1,120	625	625
Youth Activities		100	-
<b>Sub Total Activity expenses</b>	<b>4,548</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>3,625</b>
<b>Church/Grounds Maintenance Expense</b>			
General Building Maintenance	9,852	5,000	6,500
General Grounds Maintenance	1,031	1,500	3,350
Improvements	7,088	25,000	15,000
<b>Sub Total Church/Grounds Maintenance Expense</b>	<b>17,971</b>	<b>31,500</b>	<b>24,850</b>
<b>Education Expense</b>			
Adult Faith Enrichment Supplies	308	400	800
Confirmation expense	2,881	4,000	600
Nursery Expense		100	100
Rally Sunday Fund expense	23	100	100
Sedar Supper Expense	10	200	200
Sunday School Expense	1,329	1,000	1,250
Vacation Bible School Expense	424	700	700
<b>Sub Total Education Expense</b>	<b>4,975</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>3,750</b>
<b>Insurance</b>			
Building & Liability Insurance	8,700	8,400	8,736
Van Insurance	713	750	716
Work Comp Insurance	1,009	1,400	910
<b>Sub Total Insurance</b>	<b>10,422</b>	<b>10,550</b>	<b>10,362</b>
<b>Ministries</b>			
Grief Group	-	200	200
Youth Ministry Program	-	-	2,000
<b>Sub Total Ministries</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>2,200</b>
<b>Mission Expense</b>			
Parish nurse expense	185	200	100
Seminarian	1,494	2,000	2,000
Squares Mens Expense		100	100
Stewardship expenses	471	-	100
Synod Benevolence	5,004	5,000	6,000
<b>Sub Total Mission Expense</b>	<b>7,154</b>	<b>7,300</b>	<b>8,300</b>
<b>Mortgage Expense 1st</b>	<b>89,844</b>	<b>89,844</b>	<b>89,844</b>

## Proposed Budget (Page 2)

	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	2019 Proposed
<b>Office Expenses</b>			
Computer Equipment	75	1,000	1,250
Computer Fees/Internet/Phone	5,990	6,180	6,200
Office Equipment Expense	7,226	7,250	7,300
Office Supplies	2,186	2,000	2,000
<b>Sub Total Office Expenses</b>	<b>15,477</b>	<b>16,430</b>	<b>16,750</b>
<b>Postage/Mailing Expense</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Professional Fees</b>			
Accounting Firm incl payroll service	8,020	8,020	8,020
Guest Clergy/Speaker Fees		-	300
Misc services	150	-	300
Security and Training		-	5,000
<b>Sub Total Professional Fees</b>	<b>8,170</b>	<b>8,020</b>	<b>13,620</b>
<b>Publicity/Bulletin Expense</b>	<b>2,629</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>
<b>Staff Benefits</b>			
<i>Cell Phone Reimb</i>			
Interim Pastor	150	-	600
Lay Pastor	175	-	600
<i>Continuing Education</i>			
Interim Pastor		-	300
Lay Pastor	50	-	300
Other employees	204	300	300
Sr Pastor	125	300	-
Student Pastor	280	300	-
Youth Director		300	300
<i>Employers FICA Contribution</i>	8,755	10,911	9,183
<i>Hiring Fees</i>			
Student Pastor		1,500	-
<b>Sub Total Staff Benefits</b>	<b>9,739</b>	<b>13,611</b>	<b>11,583</b>

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

2019

## Proposed Budget (Page 3)

	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	2019 Proposed
<b>Staff Salaries</b>			
Administration	37,111	44,554	34,320
Choir Director	849	600	800
Custodial	5,785	5,500	6,500
Interim Sr. Pastor	11,250	-	45,000
InterServe Temp Youth Director	20,700	-	55,800
Lay Pastor	16,299	-	45,000
Maintenance	-	-	1,560
Pastor Substitute	770		
Sr. Pastor	46,800	73,760	-
Student Pastor	12,000	19,200	-
Worship & Music	7,418	7,000	7,900
Youth Director	18,140	30,400	-
<b>Sub Total Staff Salaries</b>	<b>177,122</b>	<b>181,014</b>	<b>196,880</b>
<b>Travel Expense</b>			
Conference	250	400	400
Mileage/Fuel	459	800	500
Van Gas	162	100	200
Van Repairs and Maintenance	396	500	500
<b>Sub Total Travel Expense</b>	<b>1,267</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,600</b>
<b>Utilities</b>			
Electricity	12,228	13,000	12,500
Gas	4,047	2,750	4,000
Trash removal	41	-	280
<b>Sub Total Utilities</b>	<b>16,316</b>	<b>15,750</b>	<b>16,780</b>
<b>Worship Expenses</b>			
Digital/Sound Equipment	-	100	2,600
Hymnals	-	-	500
Musicians Expense	454	400	1,000
Music Licenses & Subscriptions	97	600	1,100
Organ/Piano Expense	200	300	400
Worship supplies	2,720	2,650	2,720
<b>Sub Total Worship Expenses</b>	<b>3,471</b>	<b>4,050</b>	<b>8,320</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 369,977</b>	<b>\$ 395,119</b>	<b>\$ 415,464</b>

## **Long Lake Lutheran Church**

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