



DECEMBER 2025 LLLC CORNERSTONE CONNECTION

Worship Schedule

Sundays

9:00 Worship

10:00 Sunday School

10:10 Breakfast Club

Wednesdays

December 3rd, 10th, & 17th

5:00 Meal

Advent Worship

Confirmation

Holy Communion in December:

Sunday, 7th

Sunday, 21st

Wednesday, 24th

Thursday, 25th

From the desk of Pastor Sue...

December 2025



December, Advent, and Winter are upon us. I say “bring it on!” We might as well embrace what we can’t run from. But, look on the bright side: no mosquitoes! The thing that bothers me about this season is the darkness. Well, that and the beaches are frozen! But, the darkness! Drive to church in the dark and leave in the dark. The view out my window at home that faces the river is one of my favorites. Especially now that the trees have snow on them. But, it is too dark to see when I get up and when I get home. The darkness of the winter season is the roughest for me.

That’s why I love this: John 1: 1- 18

1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I

said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, **grace upon grace**. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known."

We have the light of the world within us! I can battle any darkness with that good news. May you and your families enjoy a blessed Christmas filled with the love and grace that comes from Jesus Christ. May your hearts be filled with joy. Even through the darkest days and nights, we have a Savior, to whom we owe everything. That Savior is the light of the world. Let His light shine in you and outside of you. Demonstrate the love of Christ through your words, actions, and positivity. Don't let the darkness overcome. Let Christ's light shine brightly.



**Our Advent Theme song: Light of the World
Song by Lauren Daigle • 2016**

The world waits for a miracle

The heart longs for a little bit of hope
Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel
A child prays for peace on Earth
And she's calling out from a sea of hurt
Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel

**And can you hear the angels
singing**

Glory to the light of the world

Glory, the light of the world is
here

**The drought breaks with the
tears of a mother**

A baby's cry is the sound of
love

Come down, come down,
Emmanuel

He is the song for the suffering

He is Messiah, the Prince of

Peace has come

He has come, Emmanuel

Glory to the light of the world

Glory to the light of the world

Glory to the light of the world

Glory to the light of the world

For all who wait

For all who hunger

For all who've prayed

For all who wonder

Behold your King

Behold Messiah

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

**Glo-glory to the light of the
world**

Glory to the light of the world

Glory to the light of the world

Behold your King

Behold Messiah

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

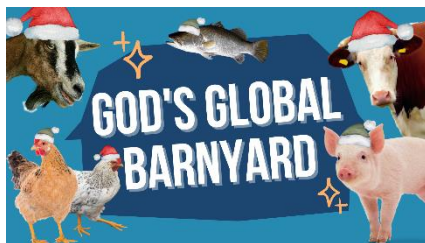
**The world waits for the
miracle**

The heart longs for a little bit
of hope

Oh come, oh come Emmanuel

GODS GLOBAL BARNYARD

Long Lake and LLLC Sunday School invite you to join us in supporting God's Global Barnyard. Your gifts help provide animals and resources to families in need across the globe. Let's make a difference together!





From the desk of Pastor Becca...

December 2025

Then the LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD. Behold, the LORD is about to pass by.” And a great and mighty wind tore into the mountains and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a still, small voice. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” [1 Kings 19:11-13]

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As I was working my way through the call process—discerning, writing, networking, stressing, and interviewing at various congregations—my repetitive prayer was this:

Gracious God, I'm trusting that you've got this because that's what You've promised. Guide me to wherever You are calling me to be. And, Lord? Please, if at all possible, do NOT be coy or nuanced about it! In fact, how about this—just send Your Holy Spirit to knock me over the head with a giant hammer of obviousness lest I'm too dense to pick up on any spiritual subtlety and completely mess it all up? K, thanks. Amen. p.s. seriously though, please speak loud and clear. Amen (again).

I was trusting God in the process, but at the same time I was so worried that I'd somehow miss out or mess it up due to my own faulty wiring that I absolutely felt the need to articulate and clearly specify how I wanted God to call me.

Have you ever wondered how God speaks to You?

I am curious if we all—in one way or another—crave to hear God's voice, God's calling of us to be “loud and clear, good buddy!”—so

that we can quickly and confidently take charge and map out this new trajectory in life.

But, when we are only listening for God's voice to speak in resounding grandiosity, then we miss out on God speaking into the stillness and sonorous silences surrounding us. The quiet whispers, the songs of the Spirit received not only through your ears but also through the shivers down your spine. Can we, like Elijah, listen for the still, small voice that draws us out of our caves, draws us out of the chaotic rigmarole constantly circling in our brains, and draws us to God the Speaker, and to Christ—God's spoken Word?

I am immensely grateful that God called me to serve the faithful congregation of Long Lake Lutheran Church. And I am grateful, as someone who's had multiple concussions, that this calling was not voiced through a hammer-whack to the head. I heard God's voice through the stories shared by members of the call committee, I heard God's voice when I stepped into my van after the first interview was done and began weeping uncontrollably as God whispered in assurance, "Here. This is the place and these are the people. I brought you together all in my timing. God continued to speak in the quiet commutes from Eau Claire to Isanti. And God is still speaking, reassuring me that "all will be well" and to have patience and trust as the remaining dominoes fall into place. Psalm 46, "Be still and know that I am God," echoes in my ears as I rhythmically breathe this promise—in and out, in and out.

Dear siblings, I invite you to take time away from the clatter of day-to-day life and be present in the stillness. I invite you to listen for how God speaks to you in the silences, in the quiet places of your heart. Listen for the Voice that spoke you and all of creation into being and calls you beloved. And don't forget to breathe—in and out, in and out, in and out.

Love, Your Sister in Christ,
Pastor Becca

Listen, Listen God is Calling [ELW 513]

Bethlehem Dinner
Wednesday, December 3rd
5:00 pm



Grandma's Attic

LONG LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS:
A LIVE NATIVITY
"One Night in Bethlehem"
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
3:00PM - 6:30PM
A SPECIAL 2:00-3:00 SHOWING FOR THOSE WITH WHEEL CHAIRS, SPECIAL NEEDS, OR OTHERS THAT NEED ASSISTANCE.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
9:00 AM
LONG LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3921 277TH AVE NW
ISANTI, MN 55040
CHILI & CHICKEN
WILD RICE SOUP
WILL BE OFFERED
FREE EVENT



Grandma's Attic will be selling Christmas items during the Live Nativity.

Please share any extra Christmas related knick knacks, etc. with them. AND, please shop this great fundraiser!

Sunday School Program

Sunday, December 14th
9:00 am



Decorate the Church

Wednesday, December 10
5:00 pm Meal
6:00 pm Worship
6:30pm Decorate the church



Longest Night:
A Service of
Comfort and Hope
Sunday, December 21st
2:00 pm





Christmas Worship Schedule

Wednesday, December 24th

4:00 & 10:00 pm

Thursday, December 25th

9:00 am

You are invited to a Capital Fundraising Event!

Friday, January 16th, 2026

Long Lake Lutheran's 1st World Tasting
Event

Bring your appetite to taste many delicious
small plates and beverages from
Scandinavia, Mexico, Italy, France, and
Germany!

Advance tickets are required. Open to anyone; invite your
friends.

\$25 per person.



BIRTHDAYS

December

1 Therese Cathers
1 Dana Riebe
2 John Maguire
3 Melissa Browen
4 Reed Jensen
4 Amanda Koester
5 Shirley Oldenburg
8 Lisa Gustafson
10 Wilder Anderson
11 Dale Hechsel

12 Dennis Fenlon
13 Bonnie Hanson
15 Kelsey Hooker
16 Deven Magaard
17 Brooklyn Browen
18 Cole VandenHeuvel
20 Allie Endicott
21 Matt Hylan
25 Elizabeth Pipp
27 Madge Lillemoen

30 Paul Agranoff
31 Pastor Sue



ANNIVERSARIES

December

6 Larry & Joanna Puck
7 Bill & Sharon Sudeith
10 Josh & Tessa Budnick



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

December 2025

Council Rep. Morgan Engren

December 7, 2025

Greeter: Marcy Stoeckel
Usher: Lorretta Fornberg &
Paula Scheller
Lector: Wayne Olson
Kitchen: Judy Carolan
Donut Pick-up: Jenny Boniarczyk

December 14, 2025

Greeter: Dave & Mel Ringstad
Usher: Mike & Karen Schlegel
Lector: Karen Baker
Kitchen: Jenny Boniarczyk
Donut Pick-up: Margaret Bauer

December 21, 2025

Greeter: Richard & Jessica Larsen
Usher: Larsen Girls
Lector: Mackenzie Larsen
Kitchen: Margaret Bauer
Donut Pick-up: Therese Cathers

December 28, 2025

Greeter:
Usher: Wanda Strike &
Betty Grotte
Lector: Karyn Hansen
Kitchen: Lisa Gustafson
Donut Pick-up: Joanne Eittreim

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	1 1:00 Staff Mtg. 6:00 Western Heritage 6:00 Choir Practice	2 9:30 Fellowship Café 7:00 AA
7 9:00 Worship */Live Nativity 10:00 Sunday School 10:10 Breakfast Club	8 1:00 Staff Mtg. 1:00 Friends of Ruth 6:00 Choir Practice 6:30 4H Lakeside Victory Club Mtg.	9 10:00 Ted Erickson Visitation 11:00 Ted Erickson Funeral 4:00 Finance Mtg. 7:00 AA
14 9:00 Worship /Sunday School Christmas Program 10:10 Breakfast Club 10:10 Property Mtg. 10:10 Stewardship Mtg. 10:10 Education Mtg.	15 1:00 Staff Mtg. 6:00 Choir Practice 6:30 Executive Mtg.	16 9:30 Fellowship Café 7:00 AA
21 9:00 Worship * 10:00 Sunday School 10:10 Breakfast Club 10:10 Mission Team Mtg. 10:10 Cong. Life Mtg. 2:00 The Longest Night 6:00 4H Long Lake Leaders	22 1:00 Staff Mtg. 6:00 Choir Practice	23 9:30 Fellowship Café 7:00 AA
28 9:00 Worship 10:10 Breakfast Club 10:30 Capital Campaign Mtg.	29 1:00 Staff Mtg. 6:00 Choir Practice	30 9:00 Misson Quilting 9:30 Fellowship Café 7:00 AA

*Holy Communion on the First and Third Sunday

2025

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 5:00 Bethlehem Dinner 6:00 Confirmation	4 9:00 Prayer Group 1:00 Worship & Music Mtg. 6:00 Live Nativity Set-up	5 6:30 Live Nativity Dress Rehearsal 7:00 AA	6 2:00 Live Nativity
10 12:00 Senior Cards 5:00 Meal 6:00 Worship 6:30 Decorate the church	11 9:00 Prayer Group	12 10:00 Linda Merchlewitz Visitation 11:00 Linda Merchlewitz Funeral 7:00 AA	13
17 12:00 Senior Cards 5:00 Dinner 6:00 Confirmation 7:30 Youth Mtg.	18 9:00 Prayer Group 1:00 WELCA	19 6:30 Council 7:00 AA	20
24 4:00 Christmas Eve Worship 10:00 Christmas Eve Worship Christmas Eve	25 9:00 Christmas Day Worship Christmas Day	26 7:00 AA	27
31 New Years Eve			

STAFF

If you have specific questions or needs, please feel free to contact any of the church staff.

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CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

President:

Margaret Bauer

Vice President:

Josh Budnick

Secretary:

Michelle Yurich

Aaron Anderson: Finance

Dave Baker: Property

Josh Budnick: Youth

Mary Curie: Missions

Morgan Engren: Education

Julie Nielsen: Worship & Music

Denise Sunderland: Congregational

Life

Michelle Yurich: Stewardship

CHURCH OFFICE

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