



Long Lake Lutheran Church

April Newsletter

APRIL:

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|-------|--|------|---|
| 3rd | 9:00 Worship/ Holy Communion
10:15 Youth and Education Meeting,
Property Team Meeting | 15th | 1:00 Good Friday Worship
6:00 Good Friday Worship |
| 4th | 1:00 Friends of Ruth
6:00 Emotions Anonymous | 17th | 6:30 Sunrise Easter Worship
7:00-10:30 Easter Breakfast
9:00 & 11:00 Easter Worship |
| 5th | 9:30-noon Fellowship Café
7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous | 18th | 6:00 Emotions Anonymous
6:30 4H |
| 6th | 5:15 Weds. Dinner-Lenten Soup
6:00 Worship Confirmation/
Children's Church
7:00-7:45 Church Choir | 19th | 9:30-noon Fellowship Café
7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous |
| 7th | 9:00 Prayer Group
10:30 Bible Study
1:00 Worship & Music Meeting | 20th | 5:15 Weds. Dinner-
6:00 Worship/Communion/
Children's Church |
| 9th | 11:00 Friends of Ruth Spring
Luncheon "Let's Flamingo!"
1:00 Choir Practice | 21st | 9:00 Prayer Group
10:30 Bible Study
1:00 WELCA
6:00 Council Meeting |
| 10th | 9:00 Palm Sunday Worship
10:15 Cong. Life & Mission Team
Meeting | 24th | 9:00 Worship |
| 11th: | 6:00 Emotions Anonymous | 25th | 12:00 Lunch Ladies
6:00 Emotions Anonymous |
| 12th: | 9:30-noon Fellowship Café
1:00 Sunshine Circle
7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous | 26th | 9:00 Mission Quilting
9:30 Fellowship Café
7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous |
| 13th | 5:15 No Dinner
6:00 Worship | 27th | 5:15 Weds. Dinner
6:00 Worship/Communion/
Children's Church |
| 14th | 9:00 Prayer Group
10:30 Bible Study
6:00 Maundy Thursday Worship | 28th | 9:00 Prayer Group
10:30 Bible Study |

From the desk of Pastor Sue:



Welcome to the middle of the Lenten Season. I have heard a couple of questions pertaining to this season before Easter that I believe would be good for all of us to review. Lent is the 40 day period (excluding Sundays which are “little resurrection celebrations”) of preparation leading up to the Triduum, or three days and Easter. The preparation is intended for us to make our hearts ready, to repent, or “turn around”, change our sinful ways. The term “Lent” originally comes from the Anglo-Saxon word “*lencten*” which means “spring.” This is the time, in the Northern Hemisphere, when the days are lengthening.

Although it was originally only a two-day period of preparation, Lent became a three-week preparatory period in the middle of the fourth century and then this was further expanded into six-weeks, or forty days. By the end of the fifth century, there was a desire to exclude Sundays from Lent since Sundays are always celebrated as feasts of the Resurrection. Thus, Lent begins not on Sunday, but on Ash Wednesday.

The current practice of forty days of Lent recall Jesus’ forty-day fast in the wilderness after his Baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) as well as Moses’ forty-day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28).

You may have noticed we don’t say or sing “Alleluia” during Lent. Based on the Hebrew word, *hallelu yah*, meaning “Praise the Lord,” alleluia has been a word of great praise to God in the life of the church and was prominent in early Christian liturgies. Due to the penitential nature of Lent, with individual and congregational reflection on the quality of our baptismal faith and life suggests that “alleluia” be saved for the joyous celebration of Easter morning. The omission of alleluia during Lent goes back at least to the fifth century.

However, with that being said, at funerals during Lent, it is appropriate to proclaim alleluia to the risen Christ, pointing us toward the promise of eternal life with God!

The appointed liturgical color for Lent is purple because purple has long been associated with royalty. In this case, Christ reigns from a cross.

We have been using the material from “A Sanctified Art” with the theme “Full to the Brim.” It has provided us with a great new song, words of prayer, confession and illumination, along with some amazing artwork. I hope you have noticed!

It won’t be long before we will celebrate First Communion with our students on Maundy Thursday at our 6:00 pm worship service. Maundy Thursday is the first of the “Triduum, or Three Days”. This is the night that Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples; he shared bread and wine with them and told them to do this again to remember him. He sealed the new covenant with them at that meal. This is why it is called the Last Supper; Jesus did not get to eat with his disciples again until he broke bread after his death and resurrection. Remember, the title, “Maundy” comes from the word “command.” And what was that command? “Love one another!” Our service ends with a “stripping of the altar”, a poignant action as if the altar itself was the body of Jesus being stripped just before his crucifixion. Psalm 88 says, “*You have laid me in the depths of the pit, and darkness is my only companion.*” It is a very somber ending to a celebration of First communion, but it is meant to prepare us for Good Friday.

On Good Friday, we will provide worship services at 1:00 and 6:00 pm. Good Friday is a paradox wrapped in an enigma. What’s “good” about Good Friday?, we might ask. Are we commemorating the execution of our messiah? No. We are still gathering as resurrection people, because we know how this story goes. Rather than mournful and painful lamenting, we worship quietly and with devotion. We acknowledge the cross as God’s gift of life.



From the desk of Shawna Berg:



Last month we had the opportunity to take our middle school confirmation students away on a retreat to Camp Onomia for our annual confirmation retreat, a retreat that we weren't able to do last year due to COVID. As I write this, we are preparing to go on an overnight retreat with the council to do some teambuilding and planning for the congregation. I am a big believer in retreats, as I have seen amazing things happen when we take intentional time away from our normal routine to be intentional about building community and faith. Something incredible happens when we get rid of the distractions, and you have a solid block of uninterrupted time. Retreats remove ourselves from the familiarity of our usual patterns and surroundings and help us set aside time to get away with God in the beauty of God's amazing creation. Retreats give us opportunities to build relationships in an unhurried, unstructured way around a shared experience.

There is no secret either, that in the craziness of our lives, we all need to find time to unplug and refocus. Retreats can be a great time to do just that! We can often be tethered to our calendars, and phones and technology. All of these things can be useful tools, and sometimes some of these things can even be used for spiritual growth (like devotion apps, podcasts etc.) there is no substitute for face to face time and undistracted time to stop and hear God's voice, when all of the distractions of daily life aren't getting in the way.

Jesus gives us an example for this. In Luke 5:16 "Jesus often withdrew himself into the wilderness to pray". The Greek word for this means to "retire" to go back or to "retreat". Jesus calls his disciples to retreat at volatile and overwhelming points at the beginning of their journeys in Luke 9:10 "When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida..." Just before being whisked away to "retreat" the disciples told Jesus about the beheading of John and shortly after this retreat, Jesus feeds the 5000. It isn't a coincidence that Jesus calls his followers to rest after such difficult and devastating news, and that the rest gave them emerging for the hard but rewarding work of 5000 people that were searching for answers. I wonder if they would have had the energy for that work, had they not first retreated.

Rest, retreat, sabbath – it isn't something we are always good at it for a host of reasons. We feel guilty, we have other demands and we don't have great examples of it! I encourage you however to figure out how to build more rest, sabbath and retreat into your lives. If you can't take a retreat, figure out how to take an hour. You will be better for it, and your faith will be better for it too.

What's Happening at LLLC?

2022 Adult COED softball season is starting to ramp up!

If you are 16 and over, please think of coming out and playing!

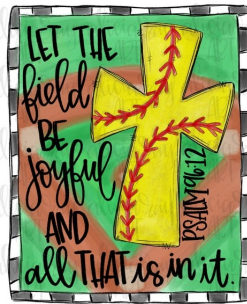
We offer fun, christian camaraderie and a good time enjoying the gifts that the Lord has endowed upon us to play ball!

Games are normally Tuesdays 6:30- 8:30pm and more than half are at our home field.

For more information please Contact: Bruce Riebe bruce.riebe@gmail.com or

612-384-9109

Sign up sheet is in the narthex.



SPRING CLEANING with PURPOSE!

Exciting news! On Thursday, May 5th WELCA will once again hold their Community Garage Sale! Please remember to save your spring cleaning discards. The proceeds from the sale allow for WELCA to continue its funding of many LLLC projects!

****We do not accept computers, electronics, baby equipment and large furniture/mattresses etc.**

Drop off starts May 1st after service.

Mission Quilting:

It's been a very long time since we had quilts on the pews, but we have been busy working on quilts each month and soon we will display them. Long Lake Mission Quilter have given 5 quilts out in the community, so even though you can't see what we do you can know that we are doing good. If anyone would like to sew a quilt there are quilt kits in the wicker basket in the kiosk take one home, sew it up and bring it back. We will be finish them at church. Also, if you have fabric and want to sew your own the top it needs to be 60"x80". Thanks for all your help.

If you'd like to help with mission quilting, we meet at the cornerstone the last Tuesday of each month 9:00-4:00. Coffee and Tea are always on at and at this time bring your own bag lunch.

Question give a call to Connie Anderson (612)669-2280.

Help our youth go to camp:

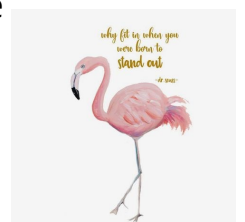
Consider making a donation to help our kids go to Camp Onomia this summer! It costs almost \$500 for kids to go to summer camp, and as a congregation we would like to offset those costs for as many kids as possible! To make a donation you can write a check to Long Lake Lutheran with Camp Onomia Campership in the memo. Camp experiences are life-changing!

"Take The Lead Pet Rescue" is looking for fosters for animals. Contact Leanna Wallin if you are interested.

763-438-9239

Friends of Ruth presents: "Let's Flamingo" Spring Luncheon

Friends of Ruth is inviting all women of the church to mark your calendar for April 9th. This invitation is for a special Spring Luncheon : "Let's Flamingo" We are having a guest speaker: Kris Bjorke. We will have a program at 11:00 and don't be surprised to see a lot of **PINK**. The cost is \$10.00/ person. We'll have a nice selection of salads and finger-sandwiches. Please bring your friends and come for a wonderful afternoon.



April Worship Helpers are:

April 3rd

Greeter: Barb Talbot

Ushers: Kathy Schleif

Lector: Marcia Johnson

Kitchen: Ernie & Nancy Sandahl

April 10th

Greeter: Wanda Strike

Usher: Mike & Karen Schlegel

Lector: Melissa Sorenson

Kitchen: Dylan Monroe

April 17th

Greeter: Linda Oliver

Ushers: Dave & Ali Rock

Lector: Margaret McBride

Kitchen: Rose Hass

April 24th

Greeter: Angie Spartz

Ushers: Dave & Melanie Ringstad

Lector: Julie Nielsen

Kitchen: Lisa Gustafson

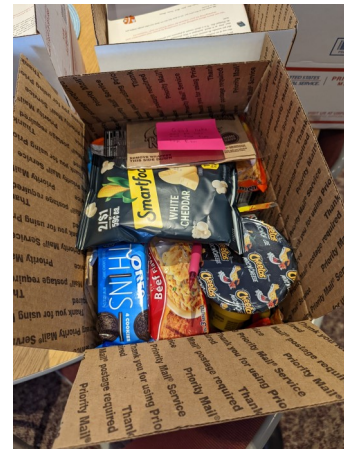
Check Out Our Prayground

We love our kids at Long Lake Lutheran and want them to start coming as early in their lives as possible. To make this more comfortable for families with “littles” we offer a “pray ground” in our sanctuary. We provide soft toys and quiet activities along with a rocking chair. It is a great way to say to our families that we want them to join us in worship. Sitting in a nursery watching your children play during a church service is not welcoming; it is easier for young families to just stay home. But, being able to watch your kids and participate in the worship service, is much more enjoyable and makes our young families feel like they are wanted in our church. This is how we do “Welcome”! Praise God!



Care Packages

Look what our confirmation students did! They packed 21 boxes of surprise and joy for our college students and military. The younger students colored pictures for each box. Shawna blessed the boxes and the people receiving them. The prayer team prayed for each person receiving a box and put in an encouraging letter. What a great multi-generational project. Praise God!



Council Retreat

Caption: Who knew? David Rock, our Congregational Life Team Leader, entertained us at the council retreat held at Camp Onomia. This is the only picture from the retreat. Praise God!



March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

04/02	Ashlund	Anderson
	Lucas	Gustafson
	Lori	Koester
	Doug	Orr
	Alex	Overby
04/03	Madelyn	Anderson
	David	Baker
	Lisa	Lynn
04/04	Daniel	Niemi
04/05	Kristy	Anderson
	James	O'Keefe
	Melanie	Ringstad
	Kimberly	Schmidt
04/06	Amanda	Saelens
	Lucas	Sand
	James	Werronen
04/07	Sophia	Lund
04/08	Layton	Gilbert
04/10	Travis	Gustafson
	Kevin	Kriesel
	Trevor	Thompson
04/12	Colleen	Evenson
04/13	Heather	Townswick
04/16	John	Bartz
	Emily	White
04/17	Gregory	Anderson
	Shelby	Orr
04/18	Karter	Hass
04/19	Shelby	Niemi
04/21	Zeke	Clausen
	Lennon	Isle
	Mo	Spike
04/22	David	Snidarich
04/23	Mitch	Bell
04/24	Monica	Ahlman
	Stephanie	Matson
04/25	Joanna	Wachsmuth
04/26	Phillip	Nestrud
04/27	Shelby	Snidarich
04/28	Maynard	Folstrom
	Bruce	Jernell
	Melissa	Sorenson
04/29	Cody	Gustafson
	Cora	Maguire

Wedding Anniversaries:

04/03	Gerry & Warren Stock
04/04	Claudette & Duane Oberg
04/18	Odin & Beverly Olson
04/22	Melanie & David Ringstad
04/22	Leslie & David Jaques
04/23	Karen & Dave Baker
04/26	Sarah & Cory Greene

Baptism Anniversaries:

04	Jeannine	Anderson
	Claudia	Hanson
	Tina	Anderson
04/01	Mark	Hanson
	Emily	Hennen
	Samantha	Capra
04/02	Dale	Strike
04/07	Dylan	Hemsworth
04/08	David	Jaques
04/09	Pat	Meyer
	Susan	Olson
	Jake	Hennen
04/10	Nicole	Nelson
04/11	Sophia	Magaard
04/12	Charlene	Jacobson
	Cheryl	Knapp
	Christy	Strand
04/13	Deven	Magaard
04/14	Riley	Puck
	Emily	Pipp
04/15	Carole	Larson
04/16	Jack	Bauer
	Kaitlyn	Bauer
	Samantha	Bauer
04/19	James	O'Keefe
04/22	Wyatt	Wald
04/24	Antonio	Rouen
	Cristel	Rouen
04/25	Carol	Strand
	Carter	Fournier
	Grace	Fournier
04/27	Cole	Vandenheuvel
	Morgan	Hemsworth
04/28	Kent	Eittreim
04/29	Richard	Larsen
	Colleen	Bell
04/30	Bexley	Budnick