

# Long Lake Lutheran Church

August 2020

## Country Spire

### CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LEADERSHIP

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### DRIVE-UP SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 am and 10:00 am

### STREAMING SERVICES ON FACEBOOK

8:00 am Sundays

6:00 pm Wednesdays

<sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5-6

Long Lake Lutheran Church  
3921-277th Avenue NW  
Isanti, MN 55040

Long Lake continues to follow recommendations made by the CDC and Minnesota Department of Health in regards to places of worship. Following directions from the Minnesota Department of Health we ask that you wear a mask if you are entering the building. Due to COVID-19, LLLC buildings will remain closed until further notice.

Watch Facebook & emails as more information is available.



As you know, we are members of Camp Onomia, a fantastic camp that provides retreats for kids, youth, and adults. Our confirma-

tion kids have had some wonderful experiences at this camp. Camp Onomia is struggling right now in the chaos of COVID. They are asking members congregations and camp families to prayerfully consider making a gift, as you are able, to support Camp Onomia during this financial dry period. There are several gift levels that will help to support their staff and expenses. Check the website for more information about how to support Camp Onomia and all of their wonderful camp counselors.

Camp Onomia is also sponsoring a Golf Outing (Pandemic Style). Gather a foursome for 18 holes of golf, regular or mini, wherever you play golf and have someone at the course sign your card and mail it to Camp Onomia to be put into a drawing for prizes! They just ask that you go to their donation portal, which is listed on the website, and donate \$50 or more to support Camp Onomia! This sounds like a fun opportunity to do something outside with a couple friends!

Check our website [longlakeluth.org](http://longlakeluth.org) for more information about Camp Onomia and the work they have been doing to keep the camp going!



## Drive-In Worship Rain or Shine

Pastor Sue, just wanted to take a moment to thank Long Lake Lutheran for the three boxes of clothing donations and the deodorant that was sent last week! It will be hitting the streets starting next week. I'm so happy that my church family back home is so willing to do something tangible to reach the lost and forgotten.

I truly love you guys!

Be blessed.

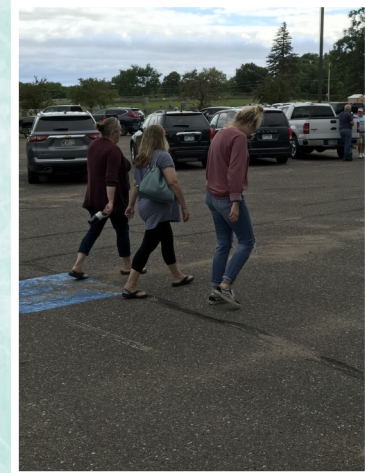
*Jim*







Thank you to all who came out for Food Truck Fellowship! It was a very well attended event! A special thanks goes out to our food truck vendors, Center City Swine Circus, Bradford Roadhouse, Snowie Ice, and Apple Cider Donuts by North Star Donuts. The Congregational Life team was blown away by the number of people that events with food trucks draw – even in rural Minnesota! We have some takeaways that we'll be talking through during our next meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup> after second service. We invite all who would like to attend to do so! We appreciate all the effort and support for this event and truly believe that if it brought just one more person to become curious about Jesus or our church then it was a success!



# PRAYERS

## PRAYER CONCERNS:

(Please let us know how we can pray for you your loved ones)

**Pray for healing for:** Dave Johnson, Renae Hooker, Dale Strike, Larry Oliver, Claudia Hanson, Diane Englund, Jim Johnson, Sharon Johnson, Donnie Weidner, Will's sister Grace; Jean Hansen's brother Jim; Connie Engren's Brother-in-law Terry, Marcy Stoeckel's niece Erin, Loretta's sister Darlene, Karen's mom Floy, Connie Anderson, Pastor's friend Mary, and all who are struggling with health issues.

**Pray for strength and comfort for** all caregivers.

**Pray for strength, comfort, wisdom, and safety of** Chad Larsen as he enters the police academy in Alaska!

**Pray for strength and consolation for:** the grieving families and friends of Dale Lundeen, Colleen Johnson, Judy Olsen, Carrie Callin, Terry McClain and Dennis Stanius.

**Pray for:** all people struggling with mental illness.

**Pray for:** Our country, our state, our legislature, and our leaders, Street Life Ministries and our missionary Jim Werronen, all medical professionals, military and their families, law enforcement, people with addictions, all inflicted with COVID, and those who live in fear and isolation due to COVID. Pray for our school leaders who will make the decision this week on school opening.

**We all pray: Most Gracious God,** we give you thanks and praise for all you have done for us. Thank you for your guidance through your Word. Help us when we stumble; lift us when we fall. In the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord. Amen.

# FOOD TRUCK FELLOWSHIP



### From the desk of Pastor Sue...

Grace and peace to you from God, our Father, and from our Lord, and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

I don't know how it got to be August already! In the midst of a very challenging summer, many of us have returned to some very good spiritual practices. Since I am up so early in the morning with no place to go, I have been spending more time with God's Word. My daily blog posts on Facebook [please follow] and our Website [check it out] have moved me to work through some of the less often read books in the New Testament. We have made our way through James, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter, and 1<sup>st</sup> John. Additionally, I returned to the beginning of Genesis and am now nearing the end of Exodus, refreshing my memory of those wonderful biblical stories. If you recall, I took a course in January, "Genesis to Revelation" in 5 days with Dr. Craig Koester! It's fun reading the notes I wrote in my bible during that course. It is on "Great Courses" if you would be interested in a whirlwind overview of the Bible.

One of my professors reminded us that the Bible is not a book, but rather a library of 66 books with so many different genres. There is adventure, mystery, poetry, prose, violence and war, genealogy, letters, revelation of dreams, praises, lament, prophecy, record keeping, censuses, and so much more. There are many ways to study the Bible, and different lenses with which to really dig in. You could look at it from a purely historical viewpoint and be dismayed because many of the stories do not match up with other ancient writings or anthropological findings, although many stories have backgrounds of myths and fables from even older cultures. You could read it with the lens of sociology where the stories are true indications of life in ancient Mesopotamia and you would be dismayed at the male dominated perspective. You could look at the Bible solely from a literary perspective and you would find all of the genres I mentioned previously. My favorite way to read the Bible is to hear the living voice of God. Each time I read a passage, I



I learned something from these young people today. These young people who came into an experience that was unknown, and different. These young people that never complained about needing to follow all the extra rules to make this experience happen – rules like wearing a mask, and taking a temperature. Rules that I was unsure about, and rules I was kind of crabby about. They might have been a little unsure at first, but then, they jumped right in, and after no time at all, the only thing they knew is for this time, this was camp, and they were having a great time. They didn't focus on the experience they could have been having, or should have been having, they didn't complain about all the rules they had to follow – they just jumped in, made the best of it and had a great time. I pray that I can continue to take each day in the coming of weeks like that, making the best of the circumstances I have been given, enjoying each experience, even if it is different than what I had expected, or different than what it normally is. Wouldn't that be something?



## Shawna Berg, Director of Youth & Family Ministries



We enjoyed a great day of camp, brought to us at Long Lake Lutheran, by the staff from Camp Onomia. It was a big disappointment to many of our young people, and to the camp staff when the normal programming at Camp Onomia (our partner camp) had to be cancelled for this summer. For many people, going to camp is the highlight of the summer – a place to connect with

God, and nature and meet new friends. Since camp do camp in the same way, they decided to bring camp to churches – allowing campers to come together in smaller groups to worship, play games, do crafts, explore the bible stories and meet the camp staff. It was a way to put many of the best parts of camp into a one day experience.

Some generous donors helped allow some students attend this day, that otherwise wouldn't have been able to go. Some students had been to camp before, several never had. When the day began, several of the students were unsure, and timid. Some of them had signed up without the safety net of a buddy, and now were second guessing that choice. One of the counselors grabbed her guitar, and we kicked off the day with worship. After some songs, and skits and prayers (with lots of silly actions) you could see everyone loosening up a little bit. They headed into their small group where you could hear laughter and chatter as they moved through crafts, games and bible studies. Before we knew it, it was time for lunch and everyone was having a great time.

The afternoon passed quickly as well, with many of the youth now counting down the months until next summer when they can go to Camp Onomia and participate in camp again. It was a different kind of camp experience but it was good.

think, “what was God up to here?” and “What does God want me to learn from this passage or story?” and “How does this speak to modern humans?” I don't always get an answer, but there are revelations in every passage. It is also true that reading the same passage on a different day will affect you differently due to your life experiences.

My recommendations are to pick a book in the Bible. Read it slowly, intentionally, and out loud. Stop to reflect on the passages and ask yourself the same questions I do. You might like to begin with the book of Ruth or Esther rather than beginning from Genesis and plowing your way through. The genealogy loses me in most books, so sometimes, I skim through those passages. A good study bible has notes concerning each passage that can help you cross reference or understand terminology. I use an NRSV New Oxford Annotated Bible at home and The Living Bible, Women's Bible, African Bible and more at the office. It's fun to look up different translations using [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com).

What was God up to in those ancient texts? What is God up to in our modern world? How does the Bible help me to make sense of my own life? Where have you seen God at work in your own community? What is God saying to you today? I invite you to share with me what you are reading and how it is speaking to you today. You can write to me by e-mail, snail mail, Facebook private message or text 218-324-0196. I look forward to hearing from you!

### **Psalm 118:24**

**This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**



## **Matt Lundeen, Council President**

We have made it to August! For those of you with gardens, I hope you are starting to enjoy the fruits of your labor! I hope all of you reading this are in good health and spirit. I can't believe that it's been 5 months since we've worshiped inside our church together. Time continues to move on. Our online and parking lot services have been wonderful ways to worship together. God has certainly blessed us with resources and resilience!



As we enter the back half of summer, I want all of you to know how important you are to Long Lake. These past few months have certainly presented plenty of challenging opportunities, and our resourceful congregation has proven to use the many gifts that God has given us to overcome these challenges and find new ways to gather and share The Good News!

Many of us care so much for our church that we think many of the things we do are no big deal. But they are! We all have obligations that pull us in many different directions. Our time, talents, and treasure are in high demand and limited supply.

Your staff and council realize this and wants you to know how grateful we are that you continue to share them with Long Lake. No matter what you do or give to Long Lake, it certainly isn't unnoticed.

Even though we aren't worshipping inside yet, we continue to have expenses. Dennis, our finance chairman has been combing through financial information and moni-

toring giving trends. We are thankful for any contribution that you are able to share with Long Lake. We are on the back half of the summer and are praying that your generous giving continues. Even if you are only able to give \$5/week, please understand how important that is! We hope that our \$5 gift is consistent. A \$5 offering each week will be an annual gift of \$260. If three other people are able to do the same, that's over \$1,000 for the church to use for a variety of ministries. **YOUR GIFTS TO THE CHURCH ARE IMPORTANT AND VALUABLE!!!**

I hope that all of you understand how important you are to Long Lake. God has blessed us with so many talented and generous members. From keeping the piano watered, to ringing the church bell, and making coffee to cutting grass, there are so many opportunities to serve and give. Please remember, whether you give \$5, \$50 or more, your generous gifts are truly appreciated. God loves a cheerful giver!

God's Peace,

Matt

