

Long Lake Lutheran Church

December 2018

Country Spire

Live Nativity

Saturday, December 8 4:30—7:30 p.m.

Here at LLLC Chili and soup supper will be served

Presented at 9:30 am service on December 9th, Breakfast will be served after service.

Live Nativity Worship Service

Sunday, December 9 One service only at 9:30 a.m.

Here at LLLC Breakfast will be served after the service

Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 16 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

4:00 p.m. Candles and Carols

10:30 p.m. Candles and Carols

Christmas Day Worship Service

9:30 a.m. One Service Only



Christ Centered

Purpose Balanced

Mission Driven

3921 277th Ave NW

Isanti, MN 55040

p 763-444-5315

f 763-444-5549

longlakeluth.org



Interim Pastor Bob Rusert 612-803-0516
bobrusert@longlakeluth.org

Lay Associate Pastor Sue Olson 218-324-0196
susanolson@longlakeluth.org

Director Youth & Family Ministries
Shawna Berg 612-619-6444
shawnaberg@longlakeluth.org.

Administrative Asst.
Jen Sonterre 763-354-9574
jensonterre@longlakeluth.org

Administrative Asst.
Krista Mason 763-213-4470
kristamason@longlakeluth.org

*“Let us go now to **Bethlehem** and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.*

Luke 2:15

Staff

Choir Director	Donna Larsen	763-350-8209	donna@larsengardens.com
Organist	Kristy Anderson	763-300-0167	kristy.anderson@co.isanti.mn.us
Wedding Coordinator	Carol Perrin	952-220-2684	carol.perrin.cp@gmail.com

Council

Chairperson	Dave Eberhardt	763-444-3690	deberhardt@aol.com
Congregational Life	Margaret McBride	763-413-1531	rodgmargmc@aol.com
Education	Jennifer Manion	763-302-9646	jmanion002@gmail.com
Finance	Marsha Weidner	763-753-8844	mmweidner60@msn.com
Missions	Ronda Fenlon	763-221-0725	ronda.fenlon@yahoo.com
Property	Matt Lundeen	612-817-3372	bmt_cambridge@q.com
Stewardship	Kathie Schleif	763-444-5246	born2farm4now@yahoo.com
Worship & Music	Stephanie Matson	970-691-7493	parkersteph@hotmail.com
Youth	Tammy Dufeck	651-442-0588	fancywaitress@yahoo.com

Fall Reflections -

Changes are in the Air for LLLC

Change.? The leaves have changed and gone, the green and fertile fields are gone to dirt brown, and the temperatures have changed dramatically! LLLC was surrounded by crops when I came Oct 2nd. Now on my commute over, I can see for miles. Even more than the change of outside scenery for fall there has been so much change and transition for LLLC on the inside. A peek inside the heart and soul of LLLC reveals a "new look" congregation emerging, reforming, growing and transforming. While God works the miraculous with Mother Nature around us and our facilities, our Lord is also working the miraculous with the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit within and through us.



When I arrived, I think it is fair to say LLLC was reeling from the changes. Most notably, four dramatic staff changes had just occurred, all over the summer. Beloved Business Administrator Lisa had departed. Beloved Youth and Family Worker Eric headed off for his Seminary Internship. Beloved Pastor Matt had taken a new Call to a new church for him. Finally, beloved Intern, Pastor Sue had transitioned from a completed Seminary Internship to be hired as a full-time lay pastor. WhoaH! Even while LLLC was saying goodbye and celebrating their ministries and the blessings these loved staff had brought to the life of this church, it is clear that not a little bit of shock and no little grieving was taking place. And then... beside all that, a new Lead Interim half-time Pastor arrived on the scene with all sorts of unknowns and potential for disruptive change! Wowah! How much change can a church family endure?

Good News for rough and tough times: WE can handle the change... a lot of it... all of it. Not without some heartache... Not without some time... Not without the Spirit of God... Not without each other, but together, and not without some healing words, actions, and events. We'll LOOK UP... to God, together. Psalm 121:1 comes to heart and mind, "I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth!" We'll pray through this together at every turn. We'll... together. Whenever and wherever 2 or 3 or however many more of us gather we will start and end everything we do with unceasing prayer. There is hope and healing in prayer together. God has got us... and we have got this!

Good News... we will not only be LOOKING UP together, we will LOOK IN together. The first congregational event for all members to participate in and have opportunity to speak and contribute to the progress of the Transition/Call process will take place after the first of the year. As much as it is tempting to press forward and try to get a congregational event going before Christmas, the Transition Team needs to be built by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The team needs time and experience to connect and gain identity and be Installed with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. And, the Transition Team and the Council

need to share in a unity building experience/event before the team proceeds with the task of leading the congregation in building an excellent Congregational Ministry Profile. When the time is right, LOOKING IN will have us celebrating the Heritage of LLLC with a special event naming and claiming the strengths and victories of LLLC's honorable past. We will also include a fearless confessing and releasing of our trials and heartaches, troubles, disappointments and shortfalls. Be confident this will be a wonderful healing experience.

Good News... our wonderful and faithful "Thank You Lord" Stewardship experience added to our upcoming Advent/Christmas worship life, our gathering life will also carry us forward in unity on a wave of the Spirit. From the "Meet and Greet" gathering Sunday Nov 18 to the Thanksgiving Eve worship and pie with silent auction, to the December Live Nativity and the SS Christmas program and the finishing of the year with a positive and joyful celebration of the coming of our Lord will also be a healing time for us.

Good News... More change is coming... Changes in mutual trust, changes in more effective communication, changes in attitude and passion and hopefulness will be coming more and more common daily. What wonderful and meaningful work the leaders and participants in these activities will do in the coming months TOGETHER! Preparing to Call and receive your next settled pastor is a very important calling. Please join in a faithful "Looking Up" to our Lord in prayer efforts? Let's all make a life-transforming, LLLC transforming change in our prayer lives by making a commitment to 3 Prayer Squares-a-day! Start each day before we get out of bed or before we take the first sip of breakfast beverage with a bow-our-heads-and-hearts prayer for the Spirit to guide our day and our Transition Team. At 12 O'clock High, pray for the Spirit to prepare the heart and mind of our future pastor and household for Call readiness. At 6, 9, or before pulling the bedtime covers on, pray for the Spirit to bless us with confident, hopeful, restful sleep knowing God is watching over each of us and the future of LLLC.

As for Lori and me, well... we are blessed and excited to be a part of LLLC and share the holidays with you. A blessed Christmas to you and yours.

Praying us forward in Christ Jesus, Pastor Bob Rusert

23rd Annual Live Nativity

Saturday, December 9th 4:30-730pm With Chili and Chicken Wild Rice Soup supper
- and -

Sunday, December 10th 9:30am One service followed by breakfast





Council Minutes

11.27.18 Church Council Meeting Notes

Attendees: Margaret M., Tammi D., Jennifer M., Dave E., Pastor Sue, Marsha W., Pastor Bob, Matt L., Ronda F. and Stephanie M.

Dave E. called the meeting to order 6:33PM

Dave E. lit the Christ candle.

Pastor Sue opened with devotions John 1. Thanksgiving has passed, and the new liturgical year has started with Advent. What is the true meaning of Advent? Peace, caring for one another, loving? What makes you passionate for the Advent story? How do we live the story? How do we celebrate the story with our families? How do we keep the story alive? How do we share the story? Invite somebody to share the story.

Approval of the Agenda – Jennifer made a motion, Margaret 2nd. Motion passed.

Update on the Transition Team – have met with 6 individuals at large with-in the congregation. Will be meeting with 4 more. Reviewed commitments associated with serving on the Transition Team. Transition Team will provide updates of the process at worship services and thru multiple media sources.

Personnel Committee Update – reviewed employee compensation and have made changes. Staffing reviews will take place after the first of the year.

Hired an Administrative Assistant starting 11.28.18, comes highly recommended (20 hours weekly).

Review of Commitment Sunday – over 40 commitment envelopes have come in. A follow-up letter will go out to those who have not committed and a letter Thanking those who have committed.

MN Teen Challenge – All in agreement that we should invite them back. Stephanie will look at dates for the Fall of 2019.

Initial Budget was presented and discussed. Final budget will be presented at the December Council Meeting scheduled for 12.13.18 6:30PM.

Pastor Reports and Committee Reports were submitted and reviewed prior to the Council Meeting.

Marsha made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03PM, Ronda 2nd.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Blessings, Ronda Fenlon



FROM SHAWNA'S DESK



I love this time of year. Christmas carols, twinkling lights on trees, sipping hot chocolate, decadent treats, time with family and friends, incessant ads and commercials about all the things you and your children absolutely have to have – oh wait... maybe I don't love *that* part.

I love to give gifts. One of my favorite things about gift-giving is thinking about the person I am giving a gift to and trying hard to come up with “*the perfect gift*.” I love knowing that I have succeeded in my quest when I see someone delight in a gift I have given.

When I had children, I knew that my delight in gift-giving could end up being a recipe for disaster. I mean really, the toys all looked so fun, the clothes were absolutely *ADORABLE*, and who doesn't love to see their children's eyes light up with joy! However, that's not really what Christmas is all about, is it?

So we had to come up with a plan. We decided that we would do three gifts in our family. I always tell my kids, “Jesus only got three gifts from the wisemen, and no one deserves more gifts than Jesus got!”


We always give them a “gold” gift – which is something they want. This gift is something on their Christmas list that they are really hoping for. Then for frankincense and myrrh gifts we do something they need (usually clothes or pajamas) and something we can do together as a family. For that last one, we really try to focus on a “memory making” activity. Some years this is a board game that we can all play together as a family. Some years this has been tickets to a show or a game that we think that child will really like. As our kids have gotten older this has focused on experiences.

We have always explained to the kids why we do this and it helps us keep the focus on what Christmas really should be about, and helps cut the focus on materialism out. It helps me focus in, and still allows me to give meaningful gifts (my favorite is coming up with our “memory making” gift), but keeps me from going overboard. It helps make the gift-giving portion of the holiday a little more meaningful for us.

Long Lake Lutheran has some pretty incredible traditions that I can't wait to be a part of this year. I am very excited for the live Nativity, and the children are already anxiously preparing for the Christmas program. These are great ways for you and your family to help make sure you are focusing on the right things this Christmas season! Hopefully, you also picked up a copy of our Advent/Christmas daily devotions and will take some time each day to share a devotion and prayer throughout the season. Are you looking for some other ideas?

HERE ARE SOME OTHER IDEAS TO MAKE YOUR HOLIDAYS MEANINGFUL:

1. **Set up a Nativity Scene** – Several years ago I learned of a family that waited to put Jesus into their Nativity scene until Christmas morning. I thought that would be a great idea, until one year I hid Jesus “somewhere I wouldn't forget” when I took out the Christmas decorations and then couldn't find him on Christmas morning. I'm pretty sure weeping and gnashing of teeth ensued. Nonetheless, it is a great tradition. I know of a family who intentionally “hides” Jesus and has a game of seeing who can find Jesus first. Great fun.



2. Volunteer as family – Consider serving a meal somewhere, adopting a family who needs some help, baking cookies for a neighbor, or even Christmas caroling at a nursing home. Finding ways to give puts the focus on the right things at Christmas.

3. Create A Random Acts of Kindness Creche – Set up a cradle in your house. Instead of a traditional “Advent Calendar” (or in addition to one) have members of your family perform acts of kindness for each other (or others). They could make someone's bed, set the table, etc. Have them do these acts “secretly” and each time they do they get to put a piece of straw (or strips of paper if you don't want straw in your house) into the creche. The goal is to have the softest possible place to lay Jesus on Christmas morning. On Christmas morning, place a “Jesus” doll in your cradle and read the Christmas story. Then talk about the acts of kindness your performed and how it made you feel.

4. Create Christmas Ornament Blessings – Buy clear ornaments from a craft store. Write each family member's name on the ornament. Cut out strips of green and red paper and place them in the basket. All through advent, have family members write nice things about that person on the strips of paper and put them into the ornaments. On Christmas morning everyone can read all of their papers and delight in the gift of affirmation.

Merry Christmas!

Stewardship

It is hard to believe here we are in December 2018.

A big thank you to all who attended the Thanksgiving Eve silent auction, who donated the wonderful pies and items to support the youth at Long Lake Lutheran. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Shawna, Pastor Sue, and Pastor Bob for leading us spiritually. Thanks to Jim for sharing his story of amazing healing and message to others around the world through Jesus' name.

CONGRATULATIONS !! to our recent confirmands and families. From the wonderful message Shawna gave, to each student who spoke their bible verse and confirmed their faith promises, it was a joyous day to celebrate. Please continue to keep studying the word of God to stand firm on when life doesn't go the way we plan. We all need to keep studying and not just reading the bible.

Our stewardship team has completed our campaign with sundaes on Sunday, November 25. Thank you Lord ! Thank you all who turned in your commitment cards and talent sheets. If you didn't get them in please turn them into the office. It is much appreciated to find more talents to share at LLL Church. Romans 12:6 "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us." **Be yourself and trust that God has a plan just for you and the gifts He has given you.** God wants us to pray daily for whatever provision we need for that day. God will give you all the grace you need for today, and He will also give you grace for tomorrow. **Matthew 6:11 "Give us this day our daily bread. "**

Thank you Lord for sending your son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins. **Luke 2:12** "This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Dear friends and families in Christ:

EDUCATION TEAM

Thanks be to God for all the blessings he has bestowed upon us. I am thankful for all the families and individuals who have donated to Safe Haven Foster Shoppe. We will be having a bag packing party on December 2 during Sunday school and December 5 during Children's Church. Thank you for your generosity. I will have a total for bags packed and monies collected next month.

The children present "Too Many Shepherds" on Sunday, December 16 at 9:30. Please join us celebrating the holiday season with this adorable program. Won't you be a shepherd, too?

The playground committee made a decision to build a new playground using multiple types of low maintenance materials. We are looking at pricing of different companies. We will be having another playground meeting on January 6th to vote on the company and budget needed. All are welcome to hear the proposals and help in the decision making process.

Confirmation students packed numerous care packages for those who need an extra blessing. Please see Shawna for a package.

Blessings to all,
Jennifer Manion



YOUTH



The youth of our congregation have had a busy month! The Spaghetti Dinner was held on October 5th with mounds of spaghetti for all! Our confirmation students went on a retreat at Camp Onamia over MEA, October 17-19. It was a successful time away from busy schedules and chaos, just connecting with nature, one another, and God. Thank you to Shawna and chaperones for helping lead our youth in their faith walk!

Trunk-n-Treat was held on Saturday, October 27th from 2-4 p.m. in the LLLC parking lot and Fellowship Hall with over 100 people attending – Woohoo! We have found that this time frame allows for little ones to be out with family during daylight hours in a safe, welcoming environment. As a council, we noted that several families with children with special needs attended. What a wonderful way to reach out and welcome families to share in our faith community. Over 120 hotdogs were served (I *may* have had 2 hotdogs ☹.) One family came simply because it was a free event and had not eaten much that weekend. The photo booth, craft station, and bouncy house were a big hit. A special thanks to Isanti Rental for their continued support of our annual event! The Isanti Courier Newspaper had a photographer come to the event with her kids and took lots of great pictures and a wonderful article was published about the event.

Our congregation confirmed the faith of eight students on Sunday, October 28th with a wonderful message from Shawna. There were family members, friends, and neighbors all there to support and affirm the faith of these amazing young people of our congregation. A special thanks to our confirmation leaders for supporting, encouraging, and modeling what it means to be a faithful servant of God. *Be a Fresnel lens to shine God's light!* Just in case they didn't get enough time with their peers at Camp Onamia, our youth were chaperoned by some of the bravest souls I know at the Moonlight Madness Lock-Out on Friday, November 9th. They spent the entire night bowling, swimming, watching movies, praising God, socializing, and playing games with youth from other Twin Cities churches! We have just finished with the Pie Social and Silent Auction – details to come in next month's report!

Peace and Joy,
Tammy Dufeck
Youth



I can do it, so I did it.

NOTE FROM MATT LUNDEEN

I'm not sure if everyone has had an opportunity to notice how busy Long Lake has been lately? Many people seem surprised when I tell them how busy we are. All this activity is presenting different opportunities for all of us to get involved.

Recently, I was talking with Pastor Bob and I said that **"this is the busiest the church has been in quite some time."**

I've asked a few other members if they felt that we have been busier than normal, and they have said that we definitely have been.

As we enter the Advent season, please notice all the opportunities that there are to get involved and participate in. Long Lake does a fantastic job of sharing the Good News of Jesus' birth! Even former Pastor Matt said that "Long Lake shares the nativity story better than one of his former churches, Nativity."

I understand that we are entering the busiest time of year for many of us, the holidays... Please keep the "Holy" in holidays. There is no better place to do so than right here at our church. I hope that we all have holiday parties and gatherings to attend. But don't let that prevent you from getting involved here at Long Lake!

Just the other day, I was helping Aaron Anderson, Aaron Gustafson, Pat O'Keefe, and Dave Baker put some office furniture back after the new carpeting was installed. It took us 10 minutes. This was a prime example of many hands making light work! That same night, I noticed that a chair had been repaired and I asked Barry Smith if he did the repair? He said, yes, and I thanked him. His response to me inspired me to write to all of you. His response was, **"I can do it, so I did it."**

What a fantastic outlook! Just 8 words; I can do it, so I did it. I challenge each of you to consider this statement when you have an idea or see an opportunity to become more involved here at Long Lake. I'm not asking any of you to drop everything and spend every waking moment here (although my Dad often says, "where would there be a better place to be than at church?") but consider investing some additional time here at Long Lake.

I am fully aware that I have stood before you and asked for help numerous times with various projects. And I am always amazed at the generous support that our congregation provides! I'm not writing this asking for help in a specific area. I'm writing this to inform you of how I hear God calling to every one of us here.

Whether it is as simple as restocking the soda machine, joining a committee, or you feel a calling to join the church council, God is presenting opportunity after opportunity for all of us to become more involved at Long Lake.

I am asking you and God is challenging all of us with this question, can you do it?
God Bless and Merry Christmas, Matt Lundeen



property

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

The month of November has been an extremely busy one for the property committee and myself. The property committee met on Tuesday, November 20. I am blessed to have another new person join the property committee! In October, we had (2) new members. The property team is growing, and I hope to continue to add to the numbers in December.

Some of you may know that I plan to hold a different position on the church council. However, I continue to struggle finding a replacement for the property chair. I have two people left to ask, but if anyone has a person that they think would be interested in the position, PLEASE let me know. The property chair position is a very important position, but it doesn't have to be overwhelming. As the number of team members grow, I am able to better delegate tasks. I'm always inviting additional people to join the property team. If you've been thinking of joining the team, please feel free to come to our meetings, the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5 pm. Also, if you're interested in running for church council, please let me or any of the council members know.

Serving on the church council is an extremely rewarding task! You will learn so much about the church, and your faith will grow as well. Another advantage of serving on the church council is meeting new people and forming new friendships. I am completely serious when I say that serving on the council is much more rewarding than you could expect, and I recommend it to every member of the church.

As the property team continues to grow, and with the hopeful addition of a maintenance person, repairs and maintenance should become more streamlined and efficient.

Snow Removal

Jim and Roxanne Peterson have agreed to plow the parking lot again this year. I am still waiting to hear from Bradford Township if they will salt/sand and possibly plow for us as well.

Bob Johnson, Don Hansen, and Dave Baker have agreed to keep the sidewalks free of snow this winter season.

Storage Building

Barry Smith has graciously donated several shelving units for the new storage building. Barry, Paul Gruber, and some other generous volunteers set up the shelves and put them in place. Some Live Nativity items have trickled over there, but they will all be placed in there after Live Nativity.

This building will be a closer and more efficient use of storage space than the maintenance building.

Carpet

The carpet is 99% finished! Only a couple transition strips need to be put in. Thank you for all your patience and help with this project. We were able to save a substantial amount of money by moving furniture and removing the old carpet.

Maintenance Building

Aaron Gustafson helped me for an afternoon cleaning the maintenance building. We made quite a dent, but a lot of things need to be transferred to the storage building, which will happen after the Live Nativity. The van will be put in the maintenance building after Live Nativity.

Other Items

New keypad seems to be well received on the West door

Derek Johnson scaled the roof like Spiderman and replaced the steeple lights on the church

Snowblower has been installed with the tractor

New speakers have been installed on the North wall of the sanctuary. A big thanks to Alex Hylen, Justin Hooker, Marsha Weidner, and Brian Manion for donating a large portion of their Saturday to complete this project.

I wish all of you a very happy Advent season and Merry Christmas! We will have many visitors over the next month and I encourage all of you to welcome them and make them feel like they are at their own church! Who knows, that could be all it takes to make Long Lake someone's new home church.

God Bless and thank you for all of your help,
Matt

A 1952 Memory-by Dale Lundeen

In 1929, my grandpa, my mom's dad, owned and farmed 2 sections of land with two of his brothers and his father. They each had over \$10,000 in cash in the bank until the banks closed during the crash of 1929. They could not get at their money to pay their taxes and they lost it all. The brothers split up and the oldest brother left, never coming home.

My dad was reading the Minneapolis Sunday paper when he happened upon an article about a man named Fred Varve, which was mom's maiden name that she had often mentioned during my childhood. Thanks to the article, they knew Fred was in General Hospital. My dad asked my mom if she thought it could be her uncle and would she like to go and visit him? After dinner, they went to see him, discovering that indeed it WAS her long-lost uncle. Before they left the hospital that night, my dad asked if he would like to stay with them after he was released from the hospital. Fred did not want to be a burden, but he agreed. Mom and dad picked him up on Christmas Eve and brought him home, where my mom fixed his favorite dinner. After dinner, Fred led everyone in prayer and Viola suggested that they sing O Tannenbaum in German. Tears were rolling down everyone's face. Uncle Fred told Vi that this was the best Christmas he had every had, Danke Schö'n.





MISSION QUILTERS

The Mission Quilters finished up our year on November 14. In 2018 we made 108 quilts! We had good turnouts and welcomed several new and returning quilters. Mission Quilting was the Mission of the Month in November. We placed 125 quilts on the pews, around the altar and in the narthex. We sold five quilts to members of the congregation!

On November 21, we transported 120 quilts and 26 baby kits to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in South St. Paul. Thank you to those who helped fold and load them into the church van and those who delivered them to the warehouse.

We would like to thank all those who contribute to this mission by sewing quilt tops and bottoms, tying, sewing the bindings, cutting batting and all who work “behind the scene” to contribute their talents and time to this mission. We also thank all those who contribute financially and to those who bought quilts.

We continue to accept contributions of fabric, blankets and top sheets suitable for quilt bottoms and batting. Please remember that blankets should be standard size or larger and not loose weave. Contributions can be taken to the church office or contact one of the co-leaders listed below.

We will take a break from quilting in the winter and begin again in March 2019. Watch for bulletin announcements.

Mission quilting is a great place to make new friends, learn a new skill and help those in need in our own country or throughout the world. You do not need any special skills or knowledge of quilting. We are happy to teach you.

Thanks again.

Connie Anderson 764-444-4118 Janelle Pelika 763-760-0102 Glenna Sorenson 763-444-5291



GriefShare has been suspended until the spring. If you are in need of help, please contact Sharon Sudeith at 763-444-4483.



sunshine circle



Sunshine Circle Report

The group was of seven. We sorted cards, gathered our Christmas items together for the up coming of Grandma's Attic.

There is a Christmas blanket out for a drawing to be held December 20, and tickets are \$2 each. Funds raised will go toward getting cotton material for baby blankets, flannel, and filler. This Christmas blanket would make a great gift for someone you love and that could include yourself.

Good Luck!!!!

WELCA

Thank you to all who have donated food items that you placed on the Harvest Table in the narthex. They will be appreciated especially at this time of the year.

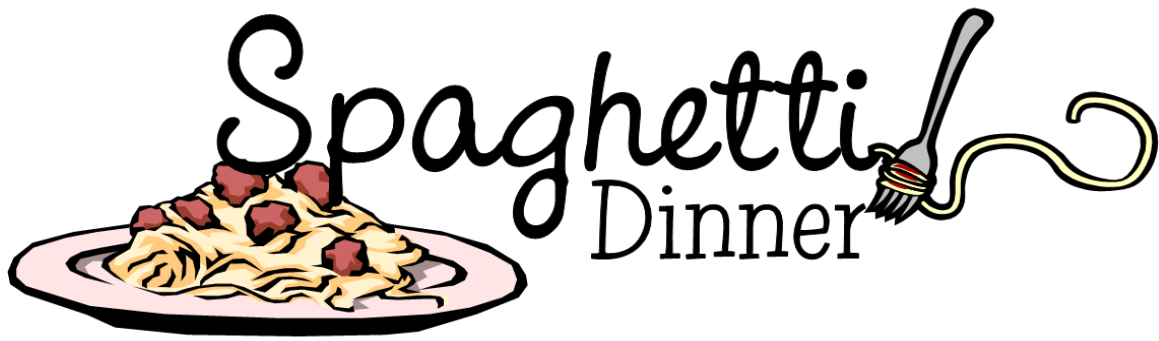
At our November meetings we decide every year what charities we will donate to. This year we decided to give \$600 to our church's benevolent fund (gift cards), \$300 to buy items to help supply our own food shelf, and \$100 annual dues for the WELCA synod fund.

Lunch Ladies will not have a gathering in December, since the last Monday is New Years' Eve.

Our December meeting will take place at Becky's home, and we will all bring an item to pass.

Blessings for this Christmas season,
Lillian Reetz





BIG SPAGHETTI DINNER NEWS! Annual Spaghetti Dinners will continue thanks to Renae and Kelsey Hooker! We so appreciate you stepping up, so we can continue with this wonderful community outreach!

Friends of Ruth

Friends of Ruth met on November 12 and began with devotions led by Nancy S. which focused on the importance of giving thanks in all circumstances. The Christmas Tea will be on Sunday, December 2 at 2:00 and we look forward to another fun and festive event.

The baby kits were blessed on November 18 along with all the beautiful quilts and were brought to Lutheran World Relief to be distributed around the world to people in need. We are always accepting supplies for these kits (see the “baby kits” basket in the kiosk). Thank you!

Our next meeting will be in conjunction with the Decking the Halls event on Monday, December 10 at 6:00pm. All are welcome to join in this annual gathering to decorate the church for Christmas, and the Friends of Ruth will bring goodies to go along with all the other treats that evening.

A.A. Step By Step

The results of a spiritual awakening are dramatic, although they may take place over a long period of time. They indicate changed perception, attitudes and behaviors. There are many definitions of a spiritual awakening. With each person the important meaning of it is that he has now become able to do, feel and believe that which he could not do before on his own strength. He finds himself in possession of a degree of peace of mind, honesty, tolerance and love he felt incapable of before. What he has received is a free gift. This gift lies in the practice of "ALL" the Twelve Steps in the program.

In the beginning of AA, Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob felt the only way they would stay "safe" was to "get active" and work with other alcoholics. They felt they must carry AA's message. That was the main reason the fellowship existed. AA is more than a set of principles; it is a society of recovered alcoholics in action. Twelfth Step work is one of the actions we take to stay in recovery. Our own faith is strengthened when we help another. Our message is one of hope, love, comfort, health. A better way of life. How can anyone argue with that? It works! How do we carry it out? In subtle, but powerful ways. We do our own recovery work and become living demonstrations of hope, self-love, comfort and health. These quiet behaviors send a powerful message. Our Higher Power will guide our actions to where we need to be to spread the message. If another person is helped, it is by the grace of God and not by what we say or do. And finally we strengthen our own faith and sobriety by doing Twelve Step work.

Action is the key word. We experience a kind of giving that asks no rewards. We begin to practice all Twelve Steps of the program in our daily lives to find emotional sobriety. This offers us a kind of love that has no price tag. Working with other alcoholics will insure immunity from drinking. This is what Bill Wilson realized when he founded AA; that nothing kept alcoholics sober better than another alcoholic. That is Twelve Step Work! Twelve Step Work is essential to keeping the AA Fellowship going. Twelve Step Work means to carry the message to those that still suffer.

Am I carrying the message by example or just giving advice?
Have I experienced a spiritual awakening?
How can I carry the message to my family members?

How it Works, Paths to Recovery,
Touchstone, Hazelden Foundation Series

Step 12

"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."



Date	Birthdays	Date	Baptism Anniversaries
1	Therese Cathers Dana Riebe	1	Karen Lundeen Shirley Oldenburg
2	Tiffanie Niemi		Rebecca Olson
3	Melissa Browen		Joette Hennen
4	Reed Jensen Amanda Koester	5	Merwyn Larsen
5	Shirley Oldenburg Everett Wachsmuth	6	Lisa Lynn
8	Dave Brown Lisa Gustafson	9	Marcia Johnson Harold Merchlewitz Brett White
10	Wilder Anderson	9	Larry Oliver
11	Deb Arens Dale Hechsel Mitchell Nelson	10	Nora White
12	Dennis Fenlon	12	Linda Merchlewitz
15	Kendra Beckenstein Carol Perrin	14	Archie Spike
16	Deven Magaard Sarah Titus	17	Brenna Browen
17	Brooklyn Browen Jake Hennen Logan Soligny	20	Gerald Anderson Lennon Isle
18	Abigail Niemi Cole Vandenheuvel	21	Grayden Hepp
21	Matt Hylan Jason Larson	22	Kala Schleif
23	Kallie Dryden Joel Vincent	23	Alyvia Hepp
25	Carol Anderson	24	Kyle Renner
27	Scott Jaffe Madge Lillemoen	25	Sarah Hanson
28	Elisabeth Lundeen	26	Betty Lundeen
29	Raelynn Arens Daniel Manion	28	Joan Anderson
30	Paul Agranoff Kendall Beckenstein	31	Karin Bartz
31	Susan Olson		
			Anniversaries
		3	Marv & Colleen Evenson
		6	Larry & Joanna Puck
		7	Bill & Sharon Sudeith
		8	Curtie & Carol Strand Mark & Karen Anderson
		10	Joshua & Tessa Budnick
		12	Jay & Kelly Anderson
		14	Nate & Tammy Dufeck
		22	Tom & Loretta Fornberg
		30	Mark & Mikki Hanson

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018 CONFIRMAND CLASS



Catherine Dufeck

Grace Fournier

Reed Jensen

Tucker Kolb

Lydia Lund

Daniel Manion

Katelyn Schleif

BAPTISMS



Brooklyn Joy Mehle



Waylon Christian Schulze



Colette Ann McGovern

We welcome all
these new babies as
members in the
Church of Christ.

ADVENT/Christmas 2018 THEME: Great Expectations for Advent & Christmas!
Unexpected... Hope; Joy; Love; Grace; Peace; Good News; & Wisdom

Advent 1 6pm Weds Nov. 28 and 8 & 9:30am Sun Dec 2: HOPEfully Lost

Texts: Psalm 25:1-10 and Luke 21:25-36

This world is a mess, our country is divided, dignity... civility... priorities... morals are compromised... truth is relativized or even optional.!. The signs of disaster are behind us and the consequences upon us. ALL IS LOST! Though we may feel lost, God has NOT lost us! **There is unexpected HOPE for all the Lost.**

Advent 2 6pm Weds Dec 5

Aging JOYfully: Joy to the World for Old and Young

Texts: Philippians 1:3-11 and Luke 1:68-79

Age takes its toll on all of us. Maybe we feel too young to make a difference or too old to be useful. Yet God chose to work through an old couple and the unexpected gift of their infant son to proclaim the most JOYful message ever: that the Messiah was coming. **We ALL have unexpected parts to play in sharing God's JOY!**

Sat Dec 8 from 4-7pm & Sun Dec 9 at 9:30 am: "Live Nativity: One Night in Bethlehem"
{NO 8am Service}

Advent 3 6pm Weds Dec 12 and 8am Sunday Dec 16: LOVE Unexpectedly

Texts: Isaiah 12:2-6 & Luke 3:7-18

God broke into the lives of the people through the voice of an eccentric prophet calling them to let go of a sense of entitlement and special status because of their ties to the past and live into the callings to compassion God had for them in the present. Real life doesn't come from feeling special by having things your way, real living comes from real loving, loving those in need. Being special isn't a privilege, it is a calling to faithful living that fills our lives with love. **God's LOVE finds us in the most unexpected ways.**

9:30am Sun Dec 16 (SS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: "Too Many Shepherds")

Advent 4 6pm Weds Dec 19 and 8 & 9:30am Sun Dec 23: Backwards GRACE

Texts: Psalm 80:1-7 and Luke 1:39-55

Those of us who have, seem to always want more, while those of us who lack seem to always be in need. Through Jesus Christ, God turns our priorities upside down and right side wrong. The lowly are given backstage passes while the powerful are crammed into the nose bleed section. This is liberating for those of us at the bottom of the food chain and scary for those of us towards the top. But the simple truth is this: God's love equalizes the playing field; **unexpectedly, there is GRACE enough for all!**

Christmas Eve 4 & 10:30pm Mon Dec 24: Astounding PEACE

Texts: Isaiah 9:2-7 & Luke 2:1-20

We spend countless hours preparing for holiday events. But how many hours do we spend preparing for Christmas? At the end of a long mental and physical journey, Mary gives birth to a beautiful baby boy and lays him in a manger. She has been through a lot, but in one instant her journey is a mere after-thought in comparison. Imagine the surprising PEACE that overtook her as she looked lovingly down at her child. **Such unexpected PEACE belongs to us too.**

Christmas Day 9:30am Tues Dec 25: GOOD NEWS Out of Left Field

Texts: Psalm 97 & Luke 2:8-20

What comes to mind when you picture a great preacher or successful evangelist? Probably not a rag tag team of dirty, smelly social outcasts. Yet it is such people- shepherds- that God first equips and sends to spread the great word of Christ's arrival. **ALL of us are worthy and ready to share the GOOD NEWS of God's great and unexpected love with this hurting world!**

Christmas 1 6pm Weds Dec 26 and 8 & 9:30am Sun Dec 30: Tweenage WISDOM... huh?

Text: Luke 2:41-52

The only story we have between Christ's infant dedication and his adult baptism is of him both learning and teaching in the temple as a tweenage boy. How could such a young person manage to have WISDOM worthy of sharing with his elders? We could jump to the conclusion that it is because he was Jesus, the son of God, duh! But that would be short changing ourselves. **ALL of us have Godly WISDOM worth sharing, even when it feels as though others aren't expecting or ready for it.**



We remembered these souls on All Saints Day this year

All Saints Day

November 17, 2017 Charles (Charlie) Brown

November 30, 2017 Kevin Chinnock

January 12, 2018 Erik Flom

January 20, 2018 Karen Meissner

February 19, 2018 Dean Jerome Englund

February 27, 2018 Lorraine Helen Carter

March 17, 2018 Kimberly O'Donnell

July 28, 2018 Ralph Johnson

Long Lake Lutheran
Church

December Worship Services

Advent	Wednesdays	6pm
Christmas Eve	9:30 am	Traditional
	4:00 pm	Candles & Carols
	10:30 pm	Candles & Carols
Christmas Day	9:30 am	



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