

Long Lake Lutheran Church

December 2019

Country Spire

Saturday, December 7th-Live Nativity

3:00 pm-7:00 pm, performances every 1/2 hour

Grandma's Attic will be selling Christmas decorations & gifts

Chili & Chicken Wild Rice Soup Feed, free will offering

Sunday, December 8th-One Service Only

9:30 am Live Nativity Service

Grandma's Attic will be selling Christmas decorations & gifts

Monday, December 9th-Christmas Decorating

Beginning at 5:30 pm, come and deck the halls with us!

Bring a snack/treat to share!

Sunday, December 8-Wednesday, December 11th

Lifetouch directory photos, check schedule inside!

Saturday, December 14th-Sunday School Program Rehearsal

10:00 am-11:30 am

Sunday, December 15th

8:00 am Hymn Sing

9:30 am Sunday School Program

Tuesday, Christmas Eve December 24th

4:00 pm Family Friendly Service

10:30 pm Candles and Carols

Wednesday, Christmas Day, December 25th

9:30 am service



Christ Centered

Purpose Balanced

Mission Driven

3921 277th Ave NW

Isanti, MN 55040

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Longlakeluth.org





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*¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord
Luke 2:10-11*

Staff

Choir Director	Donna Larsen	763-350-8209	donna@larsengardens.com
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Wedding Coordinator	Carol Perrin	952-220-2684	carol.perrin.cp@gmail.com
Custodian	Randy Lilleboe	612-222-7024	

Council

Chairperson	Matt Lundeen	612-817-3372	bmt_cambridge@q.com
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PASTOR Sue Okson

From the desk of Pastor Sue...

What is the greatest gift you have ever received? Was it wrapped up fancy? Did it rattle when you shook it? Was it a surprise or did you expect it? Is it something you have kept for many years? Does it hold sentimental value, or it just practical? My mom could still name her wedding presents and who they were from even after 50 years of marriage! My generous parents gave me my special Ovation guitar the year I turned 40. When I turned 50, they gave me a trip to Australia and New Zealand and Rick gave me a beautiful ring in a handcrafted wooden box. When I turned 60, my mom and my husband had passed away. My dad was one year away from following them to heaven and had lost interest in the whole gift giving practice. The greatest gift I ever received, however, wasn't a thing, a trip, or a sparkly piece of jewelry.



The greatest gift ever given to me and to all of humankind came in the form of a tiny infant, not born to a king and queen, but to a simple young woman and her stunned husband. This was a gift from God, who through the Holy Spirit, sent His only Son to be born fully human, knowing that Jesus would grow up and die for our sins. This incomparable gift was given to us by our most amazing and loving Creator God.

This is a gift that keeps on giving, can't be returned, never grows too old, never loses its sheen, never breaks or falls apart. This gift, infant Jesus, was born more than 2000 years ago to save humanity from their sinful nature.

Long Lake Lutheran Church has given a gift to this community by providing a live action nativity story for the past 23 years. What a wonderful opportunity to live out our mission of serving Christ. One of the greatest ways we can serve our Lord, is to tell His story. Last year we had over 300 guests attend our performance. We won't know the impact of our presentation on our observers, but we can trust that God will open the hearts of our guests through our stories, songs, costumed actors and animals. If a live goat, donkey, alpaca, or chicken leads someone to seek Him, then we have done our job!

On Wednesdays in Advent, we will be using the Holden Evening Prayer that includes the beautiful Magnificat, the praise song of Mary. The theme this year is "Waiting for The Gift!" On two of the Wednesdays, the 4th and the 18th, we will be having "Dinner Church." At Dinner Church, we will gather around the tables in the fellowship hall for dinner and worship with Holy Communion. Dinner will be served family style and songs will be sung; I will provide table talk topics for guided discussion rather

than a sermon. We will have communion elements at each table and will serve each other once they are consecrated. It should be interesting and something special. The other two Wednesdays will be special Advent worship services with Holy Communion in our regular worship space. I hope you join us for Wednesdays in Advent.

Christmas Eve services will be at 4:00 and 10:30 pm. Join us for candles and carols. On Christmas Day, we will celebrate the day of our Lord's birth at 9:30 am with worship and the opening of the long awaited gift. Blessings to all of you as you gather with friends, family, co-workers, and your faith family this Advent and Christmas Season. On behalf of myself, and the staff, you are wished the Joy, Peace, and Love of Christmas all because of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming" and begins the new church year. It is a season of anticipation and hope. Its beginning was more focused on penitence, fasting and sin. In our culture, it has almost disappeared as Christmas decorations and sales begin even before Halloween! Advent is a faith journey to the birth of the Messiah; but, it is also where we increase in our knowledge of the Old Testament prophecy. Some people have asked me why we celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25th and that date never changes. Here's the short answer: The Roman Emperor Aurelian fixed December 25th for the winter solstice holiday in AD 274; it is thought that the early Christians adopted this day for their Christ-mass so that they would be less conspicuous in the observance of their holiday. Not very exciting, right? Whatever the date, we have been given the best gift ever! The gift of God's abounding mercy and steadfast love in the form of a baby is life-changing.

Why is the Advent wreath part of our Christmas preparations in the church?

We love the greenery and the candles, but we wonder why we include this as part of our worship service.

There is beautiful symbolism behind the lighting of the Advent wreath which points to our hope of life everlasting with the coming of the Christ child. The greenery symbolizes new life in a brown, lifeless winter season. It reminds us to pray for the restoration of all of God's creation. The five candles contrast light and darkness. The darkness of sin or life without Christ, the light of Christ lighting our way to the future where we will wait no more! We are reminded of those who waited thousands of years for the Messiah. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we light the middle Christ candle. The Christ candle is always white and is larger and taller than the others; it is placed in the center of the wreath. Jesus is the light of the world and we let it shine brightly to show the darkness cannot overcome it. The candles are often purple, the traditional color of royalty and of penitence, used in the seasons of preparation—Advent and Lent. We can also use blue candles to represent hope and expectation. There may be one pink candle, lit on the third Sunday in Advent to represent joy and to mark the breaking of the fast that was kept in early times.

Advent Sunday Themes

- 1: HOPE
- 2: PEACE
- 3: JOY
- 4: LOVE

I am looking forward to celebrating along with you, the anticipation of the coming of our LORD, Jesus Christ!



Director of Youth and Family Ministry Shawna Berg



Advent: From Darkness to Light

...the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.

Matthew 4:16 (ESV)

Advent refers to the four weeks in the liturgical calendar that lead up to Christmas. It is a time of waiting and anticipation as Christians prepare themselves for the birth of Christ.

The hustle and bustle of the Christmas season tends to overshadow the season of Advent. Advent should be a time a time to slow down, step away from the hustle and bustle of the year, and focus our hearts and minds on the true reason that we celebrate.

The Advent candles and wreath, and the movement from darkness to light is a powerful one, and one that we need to be reminded of over and over again. Turning on the nightly news can sometimes be overwhelming as some of the new stories can fill our minds with anxiety and fear.

We live in a world today where the darkness sometimes seems overwhelming. My experience with darkness tells me that sometimes the darkness gets worse before it gets better. Darkness can feel as if it is completely overpowering. However, we know the antidote to darkness. We know what can completely overcome darkness. We know how powerful the light is, and we also know it doesn't take very much light to pierce the darkness. I remember going spelunking (cave exploring) with my dad when I was a kid. The darkness in those caves was intense, and completely overpowering. A few times, when we were in the caves, and safe next to my dad, we would turn off our flashlights. You couldn't even see the hand in front of your face. I remember being completely amazed at the depth of that darkness – I didn't like the dark, but with my dad safely next to me, and knowing I had the ability to turn my flashlight on, I wasn't scared. I was then always amazed how one little flashlight could have so much power to pierce that intense darkness.

Isn't that the way it is with our faith? Sometimes in the darkness, we forget that our Heavenly Father is right next to us – and that we have Jesus, the Light of the World, to help navigate the darkness.

We are called not only to look towards God's kingdom in heaven, but to help bring about God's kingdom right here and now. That requires us to be a light, and reflect and shine God's love and light into the world.

The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

John 1:4-5 (NLT)

It isn't always easy. In fact, it can be the hardest thing we do. We always start with ourselves.

- Do our behaviors reflect God's love in the world?

Does the way we talk about others reflect God's love in the world?

How do we help our children and grandchildren do this in tangible ways?

- Teach them to stand up for the child in their class who is being bullied
- Teach them to speak kind words to the children they know who are always excluded

Teach them to reach out to others with acts of kindness.

What will you do to be a light in the darkness during this Advent season?



Women's Book Study

Join Shawna on Monday nights from 7:00-8:30 p.m. beginning on January 20th for a five week book study on the book "Of Mess and Moxie" by Jen Hatmaker. In this book New York Times bestselling author Jen Hatmaker, with playful hilarity, shameless honesty, and refreshing insight, assures readers they have all the pluck they need for vibrant, courageous, grace-filled lives. Jen gives great insight about life, balancing young families and work, faith and living in community. Let Shawna know if you are interested in this opportunity and she can order you a book (or put it on your Christmas list!).

Cost to participate is \$12 to purchase a book!

Council Minutes 11/21/2019

Attendance: Matt Lundeen, Kara Hepp, Marsha Weidner, Rachel Maguire, Tammy Dufleck & Ronda Fenlon & Pastor Sue

Absent: Kathie Schleif (Attached Report) Shawna Berg (Attached Report) Jennifer Manion (Attached Report) Paul Gruber (Reports Available upon request)

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm. The Christ Candle was lit and Marsha Weidner opened with Devotions. Played music "There was Jesus" Zach Williams and Dolly Parton, read John 15: 14-17.

Motion by Rachel M. to approve November agenda, 2nd by Kara H. all approved. Motion Passed.

Motion by Kara H. to approve October meeting minutes, 2nd by Tammy D. all approved. Motion Passed

Staff Reports: Kathie Schleif, Jennifer Manion and Shawna's reports were submitted.

We are starting something new this advent season dinner/church.

Pastor Sue

Pastor Sue shared how she has been enjoying serving God at LLLC. She also has been very blessed receiving bimonthly spiritual direction from Margaret McBride. Margaret is a wonderful asset to our congregation.

Sue shared she has been busy with 1 baptism coming up on Sunday, November 24, 2019.

She presided at the funerals of Kareen Englund and Georgene Johnson.

She also visited the sick. Worked with the Mission Investment Fund walking the grounds and building with a group of 10 people. Along with two visioning sessions and received great feedback for a future meeting with some of the original team members.

Met with Marcy Stoekel talking 4H and LLLC Community Garden and met with Master Gardeners who are enthused about the project.

She shared there is gift of financial support to send a group of 4 people to train in Stephan's Ministry this winter.

Pastor Sue shared her enthusiasm about trying a new "Dinner/Church" during Advent.

Team Reports:

Tammy D. Youth:

Tammy shared information regarding the inter-generational trip. All proceeds coming from the pie social will support the youth. Pie in the face sales, Matt, Pastor Sue or Shawna will be on the receiving end of the pie in the face. Also a Wine Pull Raffle during the pie social. Outside fundraising will also help bring in funds. There is a \$200 non-refundable deposit that will be requested. Stay tuned for more information.

Truck or Treat was well advertised with media coverage and over 300 participants!

Confirmation Sunday was nice to have the start time changed by 15 minutes. It helped with families getting to the correct area and gathering together.

Council Minutes 11/21/2019

Midnight madness was well attended with a special thank you to three chaperons Shawna Berg, Margaret Bauer and Lisa Gustafson.

Kara H. Congregational Life:

The Congregational Life team meeting with Stewardship team.

Christmas Decorating Monday December 9th at 5:30 pm "Come and Decorate our Home"

Chris Hepp and Matt Lundeen and will help cut down, transport and set up December 8th. Help will be accepted.

LifeTouch Directory December 8th, 9th, 10 and 11th. Call the office so you don't miss out having your name and picture in the new directory.

Live Nativity Saturday, December 7th, 3 pm – 7pm and Sunday, December 8th at 9:30 am

Rachel M. Worship and Music:

December 4th and 18th Advent Dinner Church

Choir attendance has been low and will be temporarily suspended. All singers please come December 10th and 17th at 6:00 pm. Choir will practice and sing at Christmas.

December 15th after 2nd service 11:30 am Caroling. Watch for upcoming information.

Marsha W. Finance: shared January 2020 audit to be scheduled.

The finance team will be finished with the final budget and sending out a preliminary report as soon as all the numbers come in from our accountant. She will be bringing a final recommendation to Council from the team. This faith budget will be submitted and presented in the annual report, with recommendations to support it.

Ronda F. Mission

Salvation Army – Sunday November 24, 2019

Discussed Visioning and Imagination Grant via the Synod

Mission team would like to do more tangible work this year. Example: feed my starving children.

Team Reports Submitted:

Kathie S. Stewardship:

- A big thank you to Julie, Jen, Krista and Pastor Sue for preparing and sending the annual stewardship letter w/commitment card.
- Please turn in commitment cards in offering plate or the office.
- Thank you Sunday will be held November 24

Thank you Lord for all who enter LLLC to worship, volunteer, donate, participate, work, clean, eat, fellowship, and drink coffee. We all have something to share which God has provided.

Jennifer M. Education:

The education team met on 11-1--Our new mission project of the Birthday Bags is starting. Here is a link

<http://www.nacefoodshelf.org/birthday-bags.html>

Birthday Bags - North Anoka County Emergency (NACE) Foodshelf

Every child deserves a Happy Birthday. NACE provides birthday bags for all children ages 2-17 whose family visits the food shelf during the month of their birthday. www.nacefoodshelf.org

--we discussed the Christmas Program. the title is "Super Christmas".

Here is a sneak peak..... *"A Super Christmas." It's about a group of famous super heroes who discover that while Baby Jesus did come to save the world, he won't be stealing their jobs*

The Christmas program will be on December 15 at the 9:30 service. Please come and support our kiddos!

We also discussed potential council members for education.

Old Business:

Outgoing council members looking for replacements.

Finance/Marsha

Youth/Tammy

Education/Jennifer

Prayerful suggestions have been made.

Support for Sue and Shawna was discussed.

New Business:

Pastor Sue discussed the Thanksgiving Eve, State of Congregation

Live Nativity schedule

Setup 12/6 and 12/7 @ 5:30 pm

Rehearsal 12/7 at 9 am

Cleanup on 12/8

"Strategic Alignment of Groups/Responsibilities- Idea Discussion" Kara Hepp

Church facilities assessment review – Pastor Sue shared a handout.

December Council meeting is scheduled for December 12th, at 6:30 PM

Ronda F. made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Tammy D. seconded.

Council meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Meeting was adjourned.

Council Reps for Dec are 8:00 AM Matt, 9:30 Matt. and Wed 6:00 PM Tammy

12/24 4:00 Marsha, 10:30 Kara 12/25 9:30 -----



COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Matt Lundeen

Then the angel told them, "Do not be afraid! I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. – Luke 2:10

As we enter the Advent Season, I am happy to say Merry Christmas to all of you, my brothers and sisters in Christ!

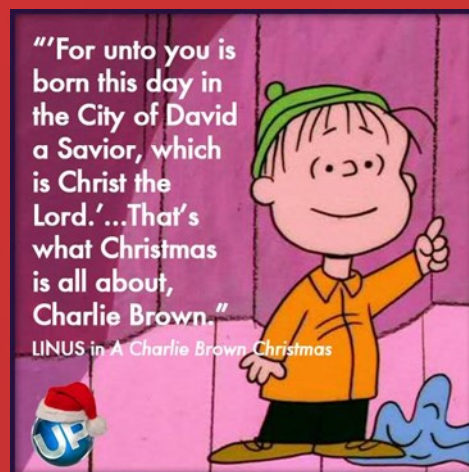
The holiday season... As many of you are reading this article you may still have Thanksgiving leftovers in the fridge and may be thinking about Christmas gatherings, shopping, cards, and all the other traditions that come with their share of added stress. I understand that the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas flies by, especially this year. Recently, I read a story about Thanksgiving being later in November than it typically has been in previous years, that retailers are "missing out" on 6 days of selling to Christmas shoppers.

My wish this Christmas for all is that we aren't "missing out" on what Christmas is all about. We all have special Christmas and Holiday traditions, and that's great. In all the busyness that will surely be around you, please take time to remember how the original Christmas tradition started; the fulfilled Promise of the birth of a baby boy, born to be our Savior. Now that is a reason to celebrate! Our church does a fantastic job of celebrating this with our presentation of the Live Nativity. I know many non-members that look forward to our Live Nativity every year. I encourage all of you to invite at least one person to come and witness our recreation of Jesus' birth.

Please take time this Advent & Christmas Season to remember how truly fortunate each and everyone of us is, and let's keep those who don't feel so fortunate in our prayers, so that they may feel Christ's love. God's heart overflowed with so much love for all of us that Jesus was born to save each and every one of us!

God's Peace and Merry Christmas,

Matt





YOUTH

Tammy Dufleck



Poinsettias are for sale for \$25 to help support our youth mission trip to the Dominican Republic! Please purchase a poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone and they will help decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve!

Our Youth and Adult Intergenerational Mission trip is to the Dominican Republic August 1st – 7th – please talk to Shawna for more information on how to sign up! The team will start meeting in January to prepare for the trip and to do more intense fundraising!

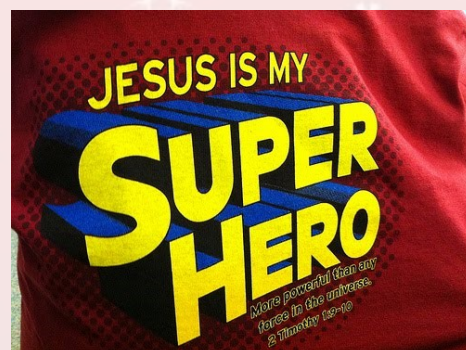


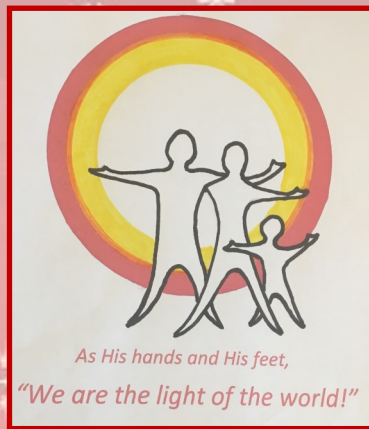
EDUCATION

Jennifer Manion



This year Superman, Wonder Woman, and many other super heroes are joining together to tell the Christmas story with our Children! Intrigued? Come to our 9:30 a.m. service on December 15th to see the fruits of their labors (and maybe find out who the BEST super hero of all is!)





Kara Hepp

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Happy Christmas Season!

It is such a busy time of year, but so incredibly wonderful!! Congregational Life has a few prominent events coming up in which we would LOVE to have you join us.

LifeTouch Directory:

- Please come and have your family picture taken by Lifetouch for our new directory. You can sign up online via our website (www.longlakeluth.org), or via a signup sheet in the Narthex. Lifetouch will be here **Sunday, December 8th – Wednesday, December 11th** with slots open from 2:00 PM – 9:00 PM on most days.
- o Remember you'll get a free 8x10 and directory just by getting your picture taken!

Christmas Decorating - Monday December 9th at 5:30 PM

- Please come and decorate our home for Christmas on Monday, December 9th starting at 5:30 PM. It is going to be a festive event where we'll be decorating the church with twinkling lights, wreaths, pine trees, and more!
- o Feel free to bring an appetizer and dessert to share if you can, however, we still want you here with or without treats!

After the Christmas Season, we'll start event/program planning for 2020!!

Prayers and Blessings,
Kara Hepp

PHOTO DIRECTORY DATES

Sunday, December 8th 2:00-9:00 pm
Monday, December 9th 2:00 pm-9:00 pm
Tuesday, December 10th 2:00 pm-9:00 pm
Wednesday, December 11th 1:00 pm-8:00 pm

Pictures will be ready before Christmas!
Sign up for a time slot at the Welcome Desk or
on the website.

Lifetouch®

CHURCH
DIRECTORIES
AND PORTRAITS

**Helpers are also needed on picture days.
Fill out a blue "Share Your Talents" form
by the Lifetouch sign up sheets!**

STEWARDSHIP

Kathie Schleif



Merry Christmas

We had a wonderful Thanksgiving Eve service. The silent auction to raise money for the youth 2020 mission trip and pie social was great.

Thank you to all who donated their time, treasures and talent for making yummy pies. We are grateful for your commitment.

Please keep LLLC in your prayers as there will be a transition of council members. Prayer is needed to fill these positions.

Philippians 4:11

I have learned how to be content in whatever state I am.

Matthew 11:28

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden overburdened, and I will cause you to rest ...

We should be peaceful, joyful, thankful, and content all year long. But, I know, I still have many moments of trying to keep the peace be patient and thankful daily. We have Jesus living in us as the Holy Spirit. We need to be reminded that we are God's children and He is always with us.

Have a joyous and peaceful Christmas season.

With joy,

Kathie



Merry Christmas



WHAT ARE THOSE KIDS UP TO NOW...



FINANCE

Marsha Weidner



If you have not listened to Chris Tomlin singer/
song writer, I encourage you to do so.

Check out this song:

Give thanks to the Lord our God and King

Here are the lyrics:

Give thanks to the Lord our God and King,
His love endures forever.

For He is good He is above all things,
His love endures forever.
Sing Praise, Sing Praise.

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm,
His love endures forever.
For the life that's been reborn,
His love endure forever.
Sing Praise, Sing Praise.

Forever God is faithful,
Forever God is strong.
Forever God is with us,
Forever

From the rising to the setting sun,
His love endures forever.
And by the grace of God we will carry on,
His love endures forever.
Sing Praise, Sing Praise

Forever You are faithful,
Forever You are strong.
Forever You are with us,
Forever and ever, forever.

His love endures forever,
His love endures forever,
His love endures forever.

I pray this holiday season you are all filled with
Gods Love! He is here!

A heart felt "thank you" to the Finance Team and
your continued support over the years! Helping
with the budgets, bills and offerings and reports
and support! You are all amazing individuals and I
thank you for all you have done and continue to
do!

Bruce Yurich, Claudia and John Hanson, Tiffanie
Niemi, and Elaine Mustari.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Marsha Weidner



WORSHIP and MUSIC

Rachel Maguire



Christmas is right around the corner! Now if we could just get some snow around here...! Christmas is a beautiful time of year with especially good music. We have a few things planned for December so please join us!

Advent dinner church will be held December 4 and December 18. This is going to be a more interactive worship on Wednesdays held in the fellowship hall while we enjoy a meal together.

December 15th we will be taking the van and going caroling! We are going to leave the church at 11:30 and plan to eat lunch in Elk River followed by caroling at Guardian Angels in Elk River. We will then stop by a few houses on our way to carol at GracePoint in Cambridge. We would love to have you join us!

Please let me know if you have any hymn or special music ideas. Our next meeting is December 3rd at 7 pm.

Merry Christmas!

We are writing to you on behalf of the few regular attending choir members. Our attendance numbers have been in decline for some time now, but we still have enough people interested in choir to justify having a choir. The problem is, a great deal of our choir members don't attend practice regularly, which makes performing even more difficult. It's easy to think of the choir as a team. A team can consist of several talented members, but if they do not practice together, they will never be a successful team.

We (the choir) understand that this is a voluntary choir and we are truly thankful for every one of you that has generously shared your talents and time with the Long Lake choir. For those of you that have been a part of the choir, please do not take offense to this letter or take it personally. We aren't looking for apologies or excuses. However, it is not fair to the regularly attending members when we only have 5 or 6 people show up for practice. It makes planning and music selection extremely difficult. With much frustration, it was regrettably decided at our last choir practice that we didn't have enough people to practice the songs we had selected for Sunday; therefore, we will not perform as a choir until December 22.

We understand that you're busy, especially during the holiday season. We are asking if you can commit to singing with us on Tuesdays, December 10 & 17, and performing with us on Sunday, December 22, and Tuesday, December 24? Whether you've been part of the choir before or simply enjoy singing along with the radio, please prayerfully consider sharing your musical gift from God with our church at Christmas time. We have many visitors that enter the doors of our church for their first or second time of the year at Christmas. If our choir helps Jesus reach the heart of just one person, then our efforts were well worth it!

Please reach out to Donna Larsen if you have any questions or interest in participating in choir.

God Bless, Long Lake Lutheran Choir

GREEN TEAM

A new report from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services finds that more than **1 million species of Earth's plants and animals are at risk of extinction** in the coming decades. Nearly 150 experts reviewed more than 15,000 scientific papers, citing multiple causes for species decline, including **habitat loss and fragmentation, overconsumption, invasive species, disease, and climate change**. Mass extinctions would be catastrophic for the **75 percent of our food crops that depend on healthy pollinator populations of bees and butterflies, as well as frogs, turtles, bats, and songbirds**. Public health would suffer as the **diseases and parasites-kept in check in healthy ecosystems-explode out of control**. **SUPPORT** the bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which would direct significant resources to the proactive, collaborative conservation of **more than 12,000 species** prioritized by states striving to restore America's **public and working lands, protecting thousands of miles of freshwater streams and major water bodies, and making America's cities more wildlife friendly**.

MISSIONS Ronda Fenlon



Mission Team Meeting

11/3/19

Attendees: Karyn H., Jim W., Gerald A.

Missions for September - December
Pregnancy Resource Center
MN Adult & Teen Challenge
Salvation Army

We are looking into Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army through Christmas.

Will needs inside help painting. A Go-Fund me page is being created to help.

Jim W. will be leaving mid-January to begin his internship with Street Life Ministries. Would like to set-up a Missionary fund (like the Seminary fund) allocated for donations to go directly to Jim. Jim will be providing ongoing Spire articles to keep the Congregation informed. Looking for Prayer Warriors to pray for Jim. Could Jim be connected to the Thursday morning Prayer Team to call in and participate with the Team?

Camp Penuel would LOVE to host a Missions trip from LLLC. There is some interest BUT we need a Leader to coordinate.

Blessings, Ronda



Our Thursday evening GriefShare program has been suspended until Spring. Please contact Pastor Sue if you are in need of any help or grief counseling.

The Friends of Ruth met on November 11 to finalize plans for the Christmas Tea. We are excited for this gathering of fun, fellowship, entertainment and goodies! Please join us on Sunday, December 1 at 1:00pm, and please bring a favorite Christmas ornament with you.



Our December 9 meeting will involve bringing treats for the Congregational Christmas Decorating event. Plan on being a part of this Long Lake Lutheran family gathering to decorate the church for the holidays - all helping hands are welcome!

We hope to see you at the Christmas Tea on December 1, and remember your ornament!



"Two can accomplish more than twice as much as one, for the results can be much better."
Ecclesiastes 4:9

We met on November 12th, with 12 ladies attending.

We sent a card around and decided to get Kareen Englund a plant from the group.

We got a gift of blankets and hand made cards for our card rack. Thank you Joleen Kriesel and her friends.

We worked on decorations to sell at Grandma's Attic. We used fabric from Judy Grell.

We had a good time of fellowship, food, and fun. We will meet again on December 11th.

Rosie Hass

Dinner & Concert!
Merry & Bright:
A Big Band Christmas Special

Friday December 13th

Join us for dinner @ 5:00 pm
 at location TBD

Followed by a 7:00 pm concert at
 Our Saviours Lutheran Church.
 Director David Mantini will lead his
 18-piece Big Band in all your favorite
 Christmas songs!

Hospitality will be provided by the
 OSLC Music Department.
 Concert Tickets are General Seating:
 Adults \$10, Youth 12 & under \$7.



MN ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE
**CHRISTMAS
 CONCERT**

with special guest
Unspoken
 &
 The Mn Adult & Teen
 Challenge Choir

Dec. 14
 3:00pm
 \$15.00

Adult & Teen Challenge
 Minnesota

Saturday, Dec 14, 2019 @ 3pm and 7pm
 Grace Church

LONG LAKE LUTHERAN MERCHANDISE
T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!

We have blue short sleeved t-shirts (\$20), blue long sleeved T-shirts (\$25), crew necks (\$30), navy hoodies (\$35), navy zip-up sweatshirts (\$40), and youth sweatshirts available too! (\$25)

Contact the office with any questions about these shirts!



The Mission Quilters met on November 13th for the final time this year. We completed 17 quilts. We want to thank all of our quilters for their dedication to this project, especially those who make the quilt tops and the "Behind the Scenes" group who make our quilt backs.

Also, a special thank you to one of our members for showing us a timesaving trimming technique, without which our day would have gone seamlessly.

The Mission Quilters will resume in March 2020.

Co-Leaders: Connie Anderson, Janelle Pelika, and Glenna Sorenson

24th ANNUAL

LIVE NATIVITY

Long Lake Lutheran Church Isanti

FREE EVENT!

Saturday, December 7th from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm



Chili and Soup Supper • Grandma's Attic Boutique

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm & 10:30 pm

Christmas Day: 9:30 am

763.444.5315 • www.longlakeluth.org
3921 - 277th Ave. NW • Isanti • 55040



Four Reasons It Is Good Your Children Are Being Too Loud in Church

By Anna Mussmann

It's the same for us all. For the Roman Catholics. For the Fundamentalists and Evangelicals. For the Methodists. For the Lutherans. In all of our churches, the babies get loud. The toddlers get grumpy. The children create an ecumenical challenge by stressing-out their parents and failing to behave with the charmingly pious decorum we would all love to see.

Fortunately, the culture in most Lutheran congregations embraces the idea that families should pray and worship together. Most Lutherans recognize that children, too, are Christians who are part of the body of Christ and need to hear God's word right along with everyone else. We are blessed with a liturgy that feeds not only multiple generations but also connects Christians across time.

Yet, right and proper as it is to see little ones kneel beside siblings, parents, and grandparents, this doesn't automatically make it easy for parents to teach their kiddos how to behave respectfully in church. Over the years I have seen stressed and frazzled parents trying all kinds of methods to wrangle their offspring. I know how they feel--my own sweet babies have been known to occasionally put their little sin natures on display in the church pew. It doesn't feel easy to receive the word of God when your kiddos make it impossible to listen for more than a few seconds at a time.

You know what? It's actually a good thing that your kids are being too loud in church. Here are four reasons why.

One: You are Here

No matter how loud and disruptive your kiddos are (and no matter the reasons--whether they are just being kids, possess challenging personalities, have special needs, or really are mismanaged and undisciplined), it is good you are here.

You are in a place where you can be fed. God's word and sacraments are powerful, and our Lord is able to work through them despite your children's behavior and your own distraction. This is good both for you and for your kids.

Of course your children should to be learning to be respectful. Of course you should be teaching them reverence and [participation](#). That cannot happen if you make church a quieter place by staying home. Church is a place for flawed, broken, sinful human beings; a place where we learn about the God who made a habit of receiving all kinds of socially inappropriate sinners. Your toddler belongs here, too.

Two: You are Communicating a Good Reminder

You are providing a witness to the people around you--that couple two pews over, the college student in front, your own kids--that going to church is *so important* that it is worth doing even when it's hard. When you sway back and forth with that teething baby, when you discipline your toddler multiple times in the narthex, when the sweat runs down your face and you want to give up--you are serving not only your children by taking up the cross of active parenthood, but also the other people around you. Thank you for that.

Three: This is an Opportunity to Teach and Train

Our modern world loves self-expression. We encourage our children to follow their hearts and we love to indulge their whims. Sometimes this is healthy. On the other hand, it is also true that human beings need to learn self-control and consideration for others. Human beings need to be able to repress their heartfelt desires even when doing so is hard. Self-control is learned through practice. If we want our adult children to be able to, say, care patiently for their own children even when they would prefer to scream, shouldn't we be asking them to practice things like remaining quiet during the words of institution even though they would prefer to make dinosaur noises?

One of the painful (yet good) realities of church is that it makes it hard for us to ignore our own parenting weaknesses. Do we struggle to get our children to obey age-appropriate, simple commands? Do our kids feel entitled to demand snacks or to pull our hair at whim? We might make excuses or "manage around" these issues at home, but the embarrassment of seeing these challenges play out in church can help us recognize areas we need to work on. This is actually a gift, both to us and to our children.

Of course the mere fact that your kiddo had to be taken out of church--again--does not in itself indicate anything wrong with your parenting. Nor do I mean that we should base decisions on the desire to look like an awesome family in front of others. Nor, of course, should we spend our time in the pew judging other people's parenting. No child will behave perfectly in church. Not all children develop maturity and self-control at the same rate. The point is that church can bless us with an opportunity to help our own families grow and learn. It's a pretty nice fringe benefit.

Four: You are Faced with a Vivid Reminder of Sin and Grace

Some of the challenges that children bring are natural and good. Babies are supposed to cry when they are hungry. Toddlers are supposed to want to explore their environment. However, if you are a parent, you have probably also seen your children display humanity's darker side.

You know. The sweet little boy who glares at you and deliberately kicks the pew in front of him after you've told him to stop. The adorable girl who pinches her sister and tries to sneak a cookie out of the diaper bag. The baby who bites you because you took the hymnal away. On any given Sunday in a congregation with children, sin is on display (the adults are just as bad, of course; but they are far more subtle). This is discouraging to parents.

Yet it reminds us--so sharply!--so vividly!--of grace. No matter what stunt your children pull, you love them wholeheartedly. If you had to you would die for them. Parental love is a breathtaking and enormous thing, and it is mind-boggling to ponder the truth that the love of God is inconceivably bigger. Our children help us realize this.

Furthermore, as we see our little ones fail to fully appreciate God's good gifts, we are reminded that we ourselves are no better. We, too, tune out the words we ought to hear. We, too, focus on our own lives instead of Christ's body and blood. We, too, are poor, miserable sinners. Seeing our children illustrate our own hearts is a humbling thing. It reminds us how badly we all need to be here. In Church. Where God comes to us.

That is why it is good you and your children are here.

PRAYGROUND



Have you noticed our new Pray Ground? Thanks to the Worship and Music team and a generous donation we now have a space in the front of the sanctuary designed for families with infants and toddlers. We recognize that small children are more engaged when they can see what is going on, which is why this is located in the front. Small tables and chairs, soft toys, crayons and coloring books help keep our littlest ones occupied. A rocking chair has been placed there for parents who might need to rock and soothe an infant. We ask parents to please sit in the rows adjacent to the pray ground to help monitor your child while using this option. We value your presence in worship with your young children, and hope this helps make attending worship with your littles easier!

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		David Rock
5	Shirley Oldenburg Everett Wachsmuth	5	Merwyn Larsen
8	Dave Brown Lisa Gustafson	6	Lisa Lynn
10	Wilder Anderson	9	Marcia Johnson Harold Merchlewitz
11	Deb Arens Dale Hechsel Mitchell Nelson	9	Brett White Larry Oliver
12	Dennis Fenlon	10	Aaliyah Monroe Nora White
15	Kendra Beckenstein Kelsey Hooker Carol Perrin	12	Linda Merchlewitz
16	Deven Magaard Sarah Titus	14	Archie Spike
17	Brooklyn Browen Jake Hennen Logan Soligny	17	Brenna Browen
18	Abigail Niemi Cole Vandenheuvel	20	Gerald Anderson Lennon Isle
21	Matt Hylan Jason Larson	21	Grayden Hepp
23	Kallie Dryden Joel Vincent	22	Kala Schleif
25	Carol Anderson	23	Cash Berven Alyvia Hepp
27	Scott Jaffe Madge Lillemoen	24	Kyle Renner
28	Elisabeth Lundeen	25	Sarah Hanson
29	Raelynn Arens Daniel Manion	26	Betty Lundeen
30	Paul Agranoff Kendall Beckenstein	28	Joan Anderson
31	Susan Olson	31	Karin Bartz
			Anniversaries
		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 Dufleck
		22	Tom & Loretta Fornberg
		30	Mark & Mikki Hanson

Birthdays, Baptism Anniversaries, Wedding Anniversaries



AA Step By Step Step Twelve

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."

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

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Dec 2019 (Central Time - Chicago)

Long Lake Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>8am - Worship 9am - Missions Team 9:30am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Education Team 1pm - Christmas Tea 3pm - Private Party-Eagle</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9am - JoAnne Eittrlein's 10am - Fellowship Cafe 6:30pm - 4-H Stoeckel</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10am - Bible Study 7pm - AA 7pm - Worship & Music</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10am - Fellowship Cafe 5pm - Dinner Church 6pm - Children's Church 6pm - Confirmation 6pm - Worship 7pm - Youth Team</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9am - Prayer Team</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>3pm - Live Nativity</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Live Nativity 9:30am - Sunday School 10:45am - Cong. Life Mtg 2pm - Lifetouch</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10am - Fellowship Cafe 2pm - Lifetouch pictures 6:30pm - Friends of Ruth 7pm - Finance Team</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10am - Bible Study 1pm - Sunshine Circle 2pm - Lifetouch pictures 6pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - AA</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10am - Fellowship Cafe 1pm - Lifetouch 5pm - Community Meal 6pm - Children's Church 6pm - Confirmation 6pm - Worship</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9am - Prayer Team 1pm - Senior Game Day 6:30pm - Council Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Sunday School Rehearsal</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8am - Hymn Sing Worship 9:30am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 10:45am - Stewardship 11:30am - Caroling</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10am - Fellowship Cafe 6:30pm - 4-H Stoeckel</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10am - Bible Study 5pm - Property 6pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - AA</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10am - Fellowship Cafe 5pm - Dinner Church 6pm - Children's Church 6pm - Confirmation 6pm - Worship</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9am - Prayer Team 1pm - Welca</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8am - Worship 9:30am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 9:30am - Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10am - Fellowship Cafe</p>	<p>24</p> <p>4pm - Christmas Eve 10:30pm - Christmas Eve</p>	<p>25</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY-OFFICE 9:30am - Worship 10am - No Fellowship Cafe</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Office Closed 9am - No Prayer Team 1pm - Senior Game Day</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8am - Worship 9:30am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 9:30am - Worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10am - Fellowship Cafe 11:30am - No Lunch Ladies</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7pm - AA</p>	<p>1</p> <p>NEW YEAR'S DAY-OFFICE 10am - No Fellowship Cafe 6pm - Worship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9am - Prayer Team</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers Schedule for December 2019

December 1, 2019

8:00 am

Greeter: Will Remus
Usher: Ronda Fenlon
Lector: Karen Baker

9:30 am

Greeter: Pat & Angie O'Keefe
Usher: Jennifer Sonterre
Lector: Kara Hepp

December 8, 2019

8:00 am

Greeter: Paul & Jackie Gruber
Usher: Wayne & Becky Olson
Lector: John Hass

9:30 am

Greeter: Lisa Gustafson
Usher: Kathie Schleif
Lector: Margaret McBride

December 15, 2019

8:00 am

Greeter: Marcy Stoeckel
Usher: Dave & Karen Baker
Lector: Kelsey Hooker

9:30 am

Greeter: Jenny Boniarczyk
Usher: McBride/Smith
Lector: Dennis Hardie

December 22, 2019

8:00 am

Greeter: Dale & Wanda Strike
Usher: Richard & Jean Hansen
Lector: Wayne Olson

9:30 am

Greeter: John & Julie Splettstoesser
Usher: Linda & Carlee Oliver
Lector: Margaret McBride

December 29, 2019

8:00 am

Greeter: Paul & Jackie Gruber
Usher: Lisa Gustafson
Lector: Karen Baker

9:30 am

Greeter: Donna Larsen
Usher: Dennis & Karen Hardie
Lector: Kathie Schleif

Council Rep

8:00 am Matt Lundeen

9:30 am Matt Lundeen

6:00 pm Tammy Dufeck

Altar Guild

December 1 & 8 Hansen/Bauer

December 15, 22, & 24 Donna Larsen

December 29 Nancy Johnson

Bread Maker

Vicki Theede

*⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6*

Merry Christmas

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