

Long Lake Lutheran Church

December 2021 Country Spire

Wednesday, December 1st

5:15 Pulled Pork Sandwich and Cole Slaw Dinner

6:00 Worship/Confirmation/Children's Church

7:00 Worship Team Meeting

Saturday, December 4th

4:00-7:00 Live Nativity Performances every 30 mins.

Sunday, December 5th

9:00 am Worship with Live Nativity and breakfast

10:15 Youth and Education Meetings

Monday, December 6th

5:30 Church Decorating-bring a snack to share

Wednesday, December 8th

5:15 Sloppy Joes and Mac and Cheese Dinner

6:00 Worship/Confirmation/Children's Church

Sunday, December 12th

9:00 am Worship

10:15 Con. Life Meeting/ Mission Team Meeting

Monday, December 13th

6:30 Friends of Ruth

Tuesday, December 14th

1:00 pm Sunshine Circle

Wednesday, December 15th

5:15 Pizza Dinner

6:00 Worship/Confirmation/Children's Church

Thursday, December 16th

1:00 WELCA

6:30 Property Team Meeting

7:00 Finance Team Meeting

Sunday, December 19th

9:00 Worship

10:15 Stewardship Meeting

Wednesday, December 22nd

5:15 No Dinner

6:00 Worship/Confirmation/Children's Church

Friday, December 24th

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

Saturday, December 25th

9:00am Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 26th

9:00 Worship

Wednesday, December 29th

5:15 No Dinner

6:00 Worship/Confirmation/ Children's Church

Christ Centered

Purpose

Balanced

Mission Driven

3921 277th Ave NW

Isanti, MN 55040

p 763-444-5315

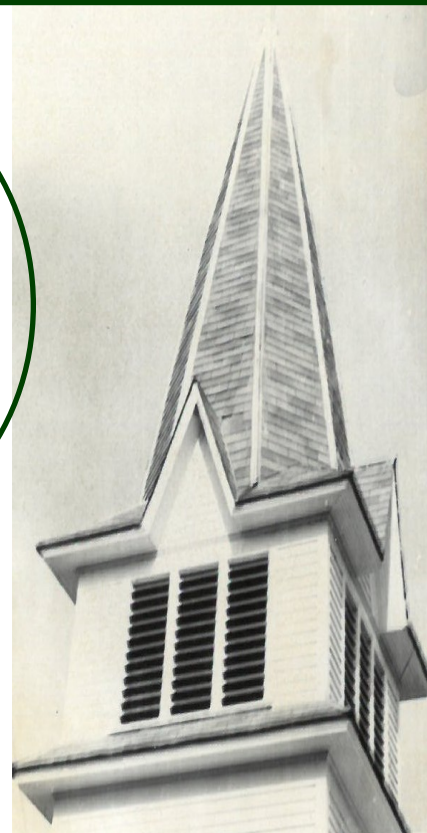
longlakeluth.org

Don't Forget!

Adult Forum
Sundays at 8:15 am

Prayer Team
Thursdays 9:00 am

Bible Study
Thursdays 10:30 am



Pastoral and Office Staff



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

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

Office Administrator
Rachel Hemsworth 763-222-7285
rachelhemsworth@longlakeluth.org

*"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his
name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21*

Other Staff

Organist	Kristy Anderson	763-300-0167	cookiesue2020@gmail.com
Wedding Coordinator	Carol Perrin	952-220-2684	carol.perrin.cp@gmail.com
Custodian	Mary Johnson		

Council

Chairperson	Kara Hepp	763-350-0250	kara@larsengardens.com
Congregational Life	Open		
Education	Amanda Saelens	763-227-6545	a.hansen4721@gmail.com
Finance	Dennis Wanless	612-802-2735	dennisatthelake@yahoo.com
Missions	Ronda Fenlon	763-221-0725	ronda.fenlon@yahoo.com
Property acting chair	John Hass	612-919-2428	john-jhpumping@hotmail.com
Stewardship	Julie Nielsen	612-269-0489	jknielsen44@gmail.com
Worship & Music	Rachel Maguire	701-330-3434	rachelmariemaguire@gmail.com
Youth	Margaret Bauer	612-221-5922	jjtbmab@aol.com



From the desk of Pastor Sue

Luke 2:1-20

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be

registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,[a] the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, [b] praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"[c]

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But

Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

My wish for you is that you spend time this Advent in anticipation of the coming Messiah, that you don't rush through the season. Enjoy the time of waiting by attending Advent services, reading the Christmas story as reported by Matthew and Luke. Dwell in the words of John as they describe the Word who was with God and was God. And pray. Pray for your faith family, for Long Lake Lutheran Church and our brothers and sisters in our sister synod in Nigeria. Think before you buy. Remember the hard working folks who make those products and only buy from sources you know are fair to their employees and that employees are safe from harm. Be kind to the service workers and cashiers as their lives are not always as comfortable as yours. Remember the 8000 homeless men and women in our state. Contribute extra out of your abundance if you are able to our mission requests.

If you are able to share out of your abundance this Christmas, I would like to recommend the ministries that Long Lake Lutheran and your Missions Team, along with the ELCA and the Minneapolis Area Synod, support. Please make your checks out to Long Lake Lutheran and put your desired mission in the memo; we will send consolidated checks out from LLLC. The following are the missions we support: Our missionary Jim Werronen, Camp Onamia, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran University in Nigeria, Camp Penuel, ELCA World Hunger and our own Benevolence Fund that goes to help local families with monthly bills, groceries, and gas. Thank you to all who have already contributed so generously when we ask.

(Cont. from the desk of Pastor Sue)

THANK YOU JEN!

I want to take this opportunity to thank Jen Sonterre for all of her work as our Business Office Administrator. She provided stable leadership through our transition time and did so with passion for Christ and His church, for her job, and for you, her congregation. She will be missed, but is on to a new journey with our greatest wishes for success and prayers for God's blessing.



Shawna Berg

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Thank you to WELCA, the Stewardship team and ALL of you for the generosity you have shown to me. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the benefit. After Sam's surgery this year, my earlier hospitalization and this surgery we had staggering hospital bills, and this helps so much. I am looking forward to being back with you again soon!

Amount Raised: \$5,433

Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, November 28th we welcomed new members to our congregation. Be sure to welcome The Pipp Family, The Hemsworth Family and Judy Carolan.

Ben, Elizabeth, Emily and Katherine Pipp

Nick, Rachel, Dylan, Morgan, and Logan Hemsworth



Long Lake Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2021

Attendees: Kara Hepp, Pastor Sue Olson, Ronda Fenlon, Amanda Saelens, Dennis Wanless, , Rachel Maguire, John Hass, and Margaret Bauer

Guest: Bruce Yurich

Meeting called to order by Kara at 6:32pm, Christ candle lit by Pastor Sue

Devotions: Rachel – Shared a wonderful Veterans Day music program--a connection with our Stewardship theme of our land and people-Being thankful and caring for each other.

Approval of October Meeting Minutes-this was done via email by attendees

Approval of November Agenda, 1st motion made by Rachel Maguire, 2nd motion made by Ronda Fenlon

Discussion-Updated December devotions to Amanda and updated Christmas day service time to 9am, added Loffler proposal and mortgage burning to New Business

Motion passed

Technology Update -Bruce Yurich

Bruce shared an inventory spreadsheet with the team to determine needs, prioritizing, plan, and budget. He had a quote from TCNet for \$1620 for placing in ground cable needed to connect Wi-Fi in the cornerstone. We asked if technology team would submit a RFP to council. Bruce will send the inventory spreadsheet to staff for updating. Much discussion on understanding phase 1, phase 2 etc., and time frames and financial support. Pastor Sue's computer is in need to be replaced. This was budgeted for 2021-recommendation and quotes will be obtained. Pastor Sue will ask for a quote/bid to have someone local to review computers for any immediate improvements. This may be a bridge until we receive technology recommendations.

Approval for TCNet to place needed cable for connectivity

1st motion made by Amanda Saelens, 2nd motion made by Ronda Fenlon

Discussion-Team asked for a new bid (old bid expired October 31) with clarity if this included connectivity, not to exceed \$2000 and to include an installation date-Bruce will contact Tony

Approved

Approval to add a 2022 budget for Technology for \$10,000

1st motion made by Margaret Bauer

2nd motion made by Ronda Fenlon

Discussion-to have a separate line item for service-Approved

Staff Reports and Team Reports-

Thanks to the teams who were able to send reports prior to meeting. Recommended to bypass discussion due to time with technology and remaining agenda items.

ONGOING (recurring items)

Discuss COVID variant – Current numbers were shared with team. There is an increase of positive COVID in surrounding areas. We will continue to be aware and use CDC/MDH for guidance of exposures. Pastor Sue will be meeting with Isanti County for planning a day to use our site for vaccination.

Personnel-Office Admin Update-Rachel began November 1st and has been a great addition to our office staff. Personnel team completed annual reviews with staff. Personnel team will be reviewing handbook and preparing recommendations for 2022 budget.

Visioning- Pastor Sue shared notes/data collected during meetings. She will share this with the planning team. Team discussed a "value audit" and felt this would be beneficial for a separate meeting or possibly for a retreat. It was shared that at the beginning of 2020, council team participated in an all-day session of reviewing the roles and needs of the church.

HOUSEKEEPING (PROCEDURAL ITEMS)



Mom's Cows Cleaning- Mary's surgery was cancelled. Therefore, no interruption with cleaning services.

OLD BUSINESS

Reps needed for next year- We will be looking for 4 council reps for next year. Three chairs are for 3 year commitments and 1 chair is for a 2 year commitment.

New Council Meeting Time- Finance and Property were not able to discuss this last month. They will discuss later this month at the Property/finance meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Celebration for Jen-Personnel team will be doing an exit interview with Jen. We will celebrate Jen on Sunday 11/28 with cake.

Budget- Discussion of "who" oversees empty chair budgets. This falls under the Finance team due to their overall view of the budget. A reminder to the team, please be mindful with line item documentation on green slips. Dennis will connect with Rachel to review processes. Finance team will do a RFP for church accounting firms.

Loffler proposal- Staff received a letter stating the new copier was "back ordered". A new proposal was made to replace with a Canon copier for same price. Finance team will review new proposal and give feedback to Pastor Sue and staff.

Mortgage Celebration-It was felt that paying off our mortgage is definitely a blessing and something to be thankful for! We will have a "mortgage burning" celebration on Thanksgiving eve.

Review of Master Calendar

Confirmation of Next Month's Responsibilities

December devotions-Amanda Saelens

December Council Reps- 9 am –Amanda Saelens

6 pm –Margaret Bauer

4p Christmas Eve – Ronda Fenlon

10p Christmas Eve - Kara Hepp

9a Christmas Day- Amanda Saelens

Spire articles due 11/27/21 – If you have anything, please submit.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm

1st motion made by John Hass

2nd motion made by Dennis Wanless

Discussion none, Motion passed

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Bauer

Merry Christmas Long Lake Lutheran!

What a wonderful season! In our church, there are so many exciting opportunities to engage in the celebration of the birth of Jesus! I hope you take advantage of the 25th anniversary of the Live Nativity, decorating our Church home and/or simply coming together to sing those traditional Christmas songs. I am wishing you and your families all the best during this joyous time!

Prayers and blessings,
Kara Hepp

A Message from Kara Hepp
Council President



An Audacious Endeavor

Archbishop Musa Filibus and the leadership of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN) have long recognized a critical need for a Lutheran university in Nigeria. It is crucial, they believe, to educate a new generation of leaders who are prepared for the complexities of the emerging interfaith society within Africa's most populous country.

The urgency of raising this \$500,000 before December 31 is a reality because as governments change, so can processes for approval. Right now, the leaders in the Nigerian government are positive and amenable to the creating of this university. Having \$500,000 in the bank is a requirement to show fiscal stability. As siblings in Christ, we commit to accompanying our companion synod in bringing this dream into reality! Will you share if you are able this Christmas?

ADVENT 2021 with Lutheran World Relief

We will be using the Lutheran World Relief "Seasons of Hope" worship resources for our Advent worship and education. Our Missions Team will ask if you can share out of your abundance for our neighbors suffering from hurricanes in Honduras, Covid Relief and food security in Nepal, economic growth for Lebanon, and improving crop productivity in Uganda. Please make checks out to Long Lake Lutheran Church/Missions as our Missions Team will be collecting funds for this important opportunity to help educate and provide for our neighbors for a better life. There is a matching gift challenge up to \$215,000! Check out www.lwr.org

Our Mortgage Burning was a success. It was an exciting time getting to celebrate the paying off of our mortgage!



JOHN HASS

The mowing season has come to an end. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped with keeping the grass mowed and the shrubs trimmed. The snowblower has been installed on the John Deere, we are looking at options for the flooring in the kitchen area. The heat system is getting its fall check up. The wiring for the roof vents is being worked on to help stop the ice dams. The property committee meets the third Thursday of the month.

PROPERTY

EDUCATION

As we continue to hold onto Fall as long as we can, we are also looking ahead to what's coming. Hope the students are enjoying being back in person for Sunday School. We sure do like having a full classroom of busy children learning about God. In addition to the typical lesson, we will be slowly gathering material for the Christmas program. We look forward to creating a presentation that is fun, entertaining and showcases the story we know so well.



AMANDA SAELENS

On a side note, I would encourage you to find a group in our church to join. The youth and education teams gather on the first Sunday of the month after service. During our meetings, it is a brainstorming session to better the education of all and provide a safe haven for our youth. They only last about an hour, but I would like to think we accomplish a lot. I hope you will consider joining us.

Amanda

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 5:15 pm for food and fellowship! Each Wednesday we have a community meal before our Wednesday evening service. Suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$20 per family for meals. The food is good and the company is even better! Join us!



I would like to say thank you, thank you to all for the wonderful, fun, evening during the Pie social/Silent auction! It was great to have pie and all the buzz in the fellowship hall. So again, thank you to all for your donations and participation! We raised approximately a little over \$2200 to support our youth!

We are missing our leader Shawna and continue to pray for her healing and her family (especially her Dad).

You will see several youth participating in the Live Nativity! Please watch for our poinsettia plant sale that will be happening this month. Our next youth/education meeting is December 5th following service. Please come and join us!

Merry Christmas,
Margaret

MARGARET BAUER



YOUTH

LADIES GROUPS

Sunshine circle met on Nov. 8th. It's nice to be able to meet again, We checked out the quilts that we have on hand. We were able to decorate the tables in the fellowship hall. Remember that we have Greeting Cards for sale in the narthex. if you're in need of a card. We set up the shelf with plenty to pick from in the narthex. Please share what you can this holiday season with the less fortunate. Our next meeting will be Dec. 14th at 1:00. Please come and join us. Coffee and treats for all.

Mission Quilting is always on the last Tuesday of the month. This month it is on December 28th from 9am-4pm. We will be tying the quilts that everyone so graciously made at home. Please come join in on the fun and friendship. One hour or the full day, all is appreciated! Potluck lunch and coffee is always on!

THANK YOU COUNCIL

Thank you to our current council members who have given so generously of their time this past year. Angie Spartz, Amanda Saelens, Dennis Wanless, Ronda Fenlon, John Hass, Julie Nielsen, Rachel Maguire, Margaret Bauer and President Kara Hepp. It has been a wonderful, but taxing year for council members. We ask a lot of our council. Not only do they attend one meeting a month, but they hold a team meeting monthly; some serve on the Executive and Personnel teams; they write articles for the Spire; they write council reports, do devotions at meetings, show up on Sunday mornings to oversee a successful worship experience and plan and execute all of the things that have to be done in order to keep this church running efficiently and effectively. We can't thank them enough. They all do it for God's glory, not their own, but they deserve our appreciation.

Each year at our annual meeting, we usually have 3 council positions open as 3- year terms expire. Some will choose to remain for an additional term, but some are ready to be done. In your first year as a council member, you are a bit overwhelmed and aren't sure what all has to be done. By the second year, you have gotten your feet wet and pretty much know what to expect, while still figuring things out. By year three, you are an old pro and are either exhausted and want your term to be done, or you are energized and can't wait to begin a new term with all of your experience.

The model that we currently use for our council is ministry team based, meaning that each council member is responsible for one ministry team: Congregational Life, Education, Youth & Family, Finance, Missions, Property, Stewardship, Worship & Music plus one President. Each team leader is directed to chair their team and build it up so that a future council member will be well versed on the team's expectations. All of these teams require a large amount of work and time commitment. Serving on council is a privilege, but it is also a heavy responsibility. Not everyone is ready to take on a leadership role knowing what is involved.

This year, at our annual meeting, we will be electing 3 or 4 new council members. Please consider rising to the challenge and the calling to serve your church in a leadership role. Please contact me if you are interested in running for council. Please ask a current or former council chair about their roles and responsibilities. Every church member should take their turn on the church council; it is a shared responsibility, and you learn so much about the church. A church does not run itself!

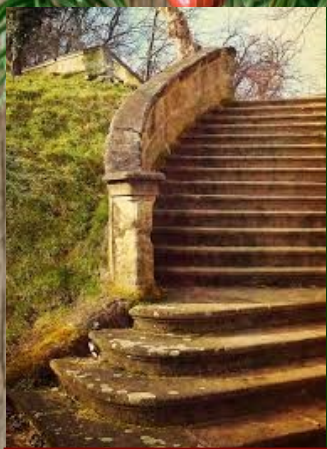
BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARIES, AND BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

Date	Birthdays
1	Therese Cathers Dana Riebe
2	Tiffanie Niemi
3	Melissa Browen
4	Reed Jensen Amanda Koester
5	Shirley Oldenburg Everett Wachsmuth
8	Dave Brown Lisa Gustafson
10	Wilder Anderson
11	Deb Arens Dale Hechsel Mitchell Nelson
12	Dennis Fenlon
15	Kendra Beckensten Kelsey Hooker Carol Perrin
16	Deven Magaard Sarah Titus
17	Cash Berven Brooklyn Browen Jake Hennen Logan Soligny
18	Abigail Niemi Cole Vandenheuvel
21	Matt Hylen Henry Larsen Jason Larson
23	Joel Vincent
25	Carol Anderson Elizabeth Pipp
27	Madge Lillemoen
28	Elisabeth Lundeen
29	Raelynn Arens Carrie Englund Daniel Manion
30	Paul Agranoff Kendall Beckenstein Andrew Overby
31	Pastor Susan Olson

Date	Baptism Anniversary
1	Karen Lundeen Shirley Oldenburg Rebecca Olson Joette Hennen David Rock
5	Merwyn Larsen
6	Lisa Lynn
9	Marcia Johnson Harold Merchlewitz Brett White Larry Oliver Aaliyah Monroe
10	Nora White
12	Linda Merchlewitz
14	Archie Spike
17	Brenna Browen
20	Gerald Anderson Leonnon Isle
21	Grayden Hepp
22	Henry Larsen
23	Alyvia Hepp Cash Berven
24	Kyle Renner
25	Sarah Hanson
26	Betty Lundeen
28	Joan Anderson

Date	Anniversary
6	Joanna & Larry Puck
7	Sharon & Bill Sudeith
8	Carol & Curtis Strand Karen & Mark Anderson
10	Tessa and Joshua Budnick
12	Kelly & Jay Ansderson
14	Tammy & Nate Dufeck
22	Loretta & Tom Fornberg
30	Mikki & Mark Hanson

December 12 is Carol Perrin's 80th birthday party in the followship hall at 1:00. ALL ARE WELCOME!



A.A. Step By Step

Step Twelve

"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

Long Lake
Lutheran
Church

*For God loved the world
so much that he gave his
only Son, so that every-
one who believes in him
may not die but have
eternal life.
John 3:16*

Advent Schedule:

Advent 1- Nov. 28th "Waiting in Hope"

Recovering from Hurricanes Eta and Iota-- Luke 21: 25-36 Be Alert

Advent 2- Dec. 5th "Singing in Hope"

Covid Relief in Nepal—Luke 1: 68-79 The Tender Mercy of God

Advent 3- Dec. 12th "Sharing in Hope"

How cooking in hope helps refugees in Lebanon—Luke 3:7-18

Whoever Has, Must Share

Advent 4- Dec. 19th "Running to Hope"

A Mother's song in Uganda—Luke 1:39-55

The Magnificat

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