

LONG LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

December Newsletter

12-1-2022

Our mission: Called by God to love and serve our neighbors, Long Lake Lutheran Church will proclaim the joy of salvation by teaching, preaching, and providing sacraments to our congregation and to our neighbors.

We are Christ Centered, Purpose Driven & Mission Focused!



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December

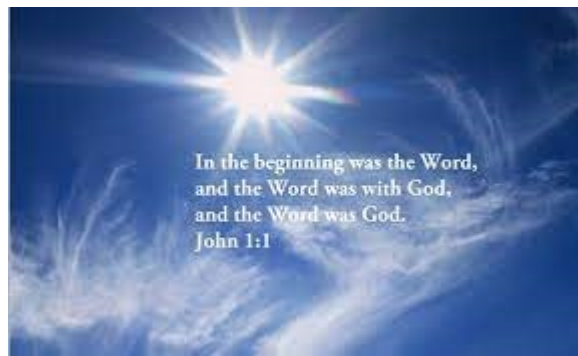
1st	9:00 Prayer Group 10:30 Bible/Book Study	15th	9:00 Prayer Group 10:30 Bible/Book Study 1:00 WELCA 6:00 Council Meeting
3rd	3:00 LIVE NATIVITY		
4th	9:00 Worship w/Holy Communion Breakfast LIVE NATIVITY PERFORMANCE 10:15 Meeting– Youth & Education 10:15 Meeting– Property	18th	9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:00 Christmas Program Sunday School
5th	6:00 Decorate the Church	19th	6:00 4-H Long Lake Leaders Meeting
6th	9:30 Fellowship Café 7:00 AA	20th	9:30 Fellowship Café 7:00 AA
7th	1:00 Grief Share– Christmas Movies 5:30 Dinner– Sloppy Joes, Mac & Cheese 6:00 Worship w/Holy Communion 7:00 Choir Practice	21st	1:00 Grief Share– Christmas Movie 5:30 Dinner– Fried Chicken, Potatoes, Corn 6:00 Worship 7:00 Choir Practice
8th	9:30 Prayer Group 10:30 Bible/Book Study 1:00 Worship and Music Meeting	22nd	9:00 Prayer Group 10:30 Bible/Book Study 1:00 Blue Christmas 6:00 Blue Christmas
11th	9:00 Worship 10:15 Meetings– Cong. Life & Stewardship	24th	4:00 Christmas Eve Services 10:00 Candles and Carols
12th	1:00 Friends of Ruth	25th	9:00 Christmas Day Worship Service
13th	9:30 Fellowship Cafe 1:00 Sunshine Circle 5:00 Finance Meeting 7:00 AA	27th	9:00 Mission Quilting 9:30 Fellowship Café 7:00 AA
14th	1:00 Grief Share– Christmas Movies 5:30 Dinner– Pizza and Fruit or Veggie 6:00 Worship w/Holy Communion 7:00 Choir Practice	28th	1:00 Grief Share– Movie 6:00 Worship
		29th	9:00 Prayer Group



From the desk of Pastor Sue:

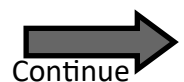


1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.



I love how John begins his Gospel. The Word. No baby in a manger in a stable, but **The WORD!** The one who was to show us who God was, is, and ever will be. John wanted the world to know that Jesus was there in the beginning. John shows us that Jesus is not a mythological god, but is ever so different, and ever so much more. Jesus is the light of the world. When you know Jesus and have Jesus in your heart, you can handle the world much better. There is no darkness dark enough to hide Jesus from you.

You may have wonderings of the birth story. Was Mary really a young girl? How young? Was she a virgin? How did God cause her to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit? Why did God choose an insignificant poor girl from Nazareth to carry and deliver God's only Son into the world? Guess what? We don't know and we will have to wait to find out! We have stories, art, music, tradition that have all shaped our beliefs. But, most importantly, we have the WORD. The WORD who was with God and who was God, and who was with God in the beginning. Because, according to Luke 1: 38, Mary said "Yes!" to God. ³⁸ *Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."* Your WORD! Such obedience, such faith! ¹⁴ *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*



We are so thankful to God for sending Jesus to us as fully human. Jesus came to save us! Without God's word (scripture) and without God's WORD (Jesus) we would be lost to Satan and his dark, evil forces. I am so thankful for the faithful people that brought me to church and Sunday School, baptism and confirmation, youth groups, choir, camp, and Campus Crusade for Christ as I was taught about Jesus, His love for me, grace, mercy, forgiveness, heaven, eternal life, and the WORD. I admit, I am a certifiable church nerd and always have been, but guess what? I belong to the Lord; I love the Lord and the Lord loves me! With God nothing is impossible! I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. That's why I celebrate Christmas.



Thank you to our current council members who have given so generously of their time this past year. President Ronda Fenlon, Vice President Amanda Saelens (Education), Secretary Margaret Bauer (Youth), Finance Chair Bruce Yurich, John Hass (Property), Julie Nielsen (Worship & Music), Mike Schlegel (Missions), Monica Peterson (Stewardship), Denise Sunderland (Congregational Life). 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 monthly council reports and occasional newsletter reports, lead devotions at meetings, show up on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings 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. Serving on council is a privilege, but it is also a heavy responsibility. Thank you for saying, "Yes!"

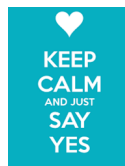
An additional shout out to David Rock who began as Congregational Life Team leader and did an amazing job at leading our successful Food Truck Fellowship event.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Joanna Gerszewski for all of her work as our Business Office Administrator. She has stepped into a demanding position and has performed her job with passion for Christ and His church, for her job, and for you. She said, "Yes!"

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 Christ. 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: ELCA Global Barnyard, Camp Onamia, Lutheran World Relief, 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.

We are entering a time of transition with our youth and family and education ministries. I am confident that God will provide. Trust. Pray that someone feels called to serve our youth here at LLLC. Offer to help. Say, "Yes!" when asked.



From the desk of Shawna Berg:

To my Long Lake Family –



Thank you for the past four years of ministry together. It has been a joy to be in ministry for and with the people of Long Lake Lutheran church. I will hold you close in my prayers as you determine the next faithful steps to take, and as you continue to support the young people and families of this congregation. Thank you for the cake, and gifts and many kind words you have shared with me over the last few weeks. Saying goodbye isn't easy, when you have been surrounded by so many amazing people along the way.

God's Blessings,
Shawna



A Christmas Poem

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, make
thee a bed, soft, undefiled, within my
heart, that it may be a quiet chamber
kept for Thee.

My heart for very joy doth leap, my lips
no more can silence keep, I too must
sing, with joyful tongue,
that sweetest ancient song.

Glory to God in highest heaven, who
unto man His Son hath given, while
angels sing with pious mirth, a glad
new year to all the earth! Amen.

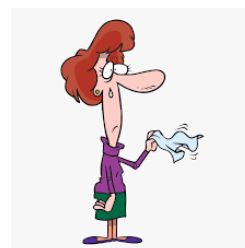
~Martin Luther



Good luck Shawna!



We will miss you!





thank
=YOU=



Council Meeting on November 17, 2022

Those in attendance: Pastor Sue, John, Julie, Denise, Mike, Margaret, Monica, Bruce, Ronda, and Amanda

Call to Order: 6:10 PM

Christ Candle lit by Monica

Devotions were done by Amanda through Matthew 28:16-20 about the 'Heart of Faith'

Pastor Sue opened us with Prayer.

Verification was made that virtual votes for last month's minutes were completed.

Amanda motioned to approve November's agenda. Mike seconded it. There was no discussion and it was approved.

Reports were shared via email.

- Property shared that there is a compressor out. It would be approximately \$5000 to fix but has been down for about the last eight years. It is not a huge concern, but the problem is there. When looking at the equipment, a wire was moved and now there will be better air flow into the sanctuary. Weather stripping was applied to several doors, so people should verify that doors are closed firmly. The Cornerstone looked good upon inspection and should be good for the winter.
 - Worship and Music is planning a Blue service on December 22nd including another all-day prayer day.
 - Finance shared their reports. We are now caught up on our payments to the Synod. Elaine has transferred \$15,000 for money flow purposes from one account to another. Bruce again confirmed that the reports are meeting the needs of the council. The audit is scheduled for January 10th at 5:00 PM. Angie Spartz has agreed to replace Bruce on that team.
 - Bruce will go back to the finance team to discuss a good percentage of the reserve fund and how much of it to invest in a safe investment
 - Discussion was had again on investing the remaining insurance money in a six-month CD. Bruce made the motion to invest remaining \$65,000 insurance money into a CD to gain money on it until spring when we need the balance. John seconded it. There was no discussion, so the motion carried.
 - Bruce made a motion to invest a TBD amount of the reserve fund of \$100,000 to cover our summer shortage. Julie seconded it. Discussion was that this was smart to do it this way, so we didn't have to wait another month to fulfill this act. It is a great opportunity to make money off of ourselves. Motion carried.
- Education, Congregational Life, Administration, and Missions made live adjustments to next year's budget. After this, it sits at \$374,170.92. More adjustments will be made during next month's council meeting as more teams have their monthly meetings.

Welca is donating \$100 towards the gift for Shawna.

There was a recommendation made to contact Interserve to find an intern/ replacement to handle education and youth obligations until we determine what the long-term goals are regarding the position. What does the Synod recommend? What do we think our needs will be in the upcoming years?

For those whose council term is ending, need to know by next month what their course of action will be so the council can start planning for new members. Mitch met with the Executive team and will be including John on what will be fixed. There is still a vacancy for the custodial position. VRS decided we were not a good fit for them. Joanna and Pastor Sue will be looking into other businesses who can do the job.

The Executive team will be meeting November 29th to continue the review of the constitution.

If a member of the council has something that needs to be done, please reach out to Joanna to assist you. She is eager.

The master calendar was reviewed, and adjustments were made.

Christmas Day service will be at the normal 9:00 time.
John made a motion to adjourn. Bruce seconded. There was no discussion.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 8:00 PM.

November attendance:

November 6th– 91

November 13th– 75

November 20th– 109

November 27th– 103

Long Lake Lutheran Mission Team

Over the past year the Mission Team continued to work towards the mission of reaching out to help others in need. Our focus has been internal to the church, the local area, nationally, and globally. By directing the contributions of the congregation towards specific purposes we have helped to impact and improve the lives of many people.

Early this year we concentrated on helping our far-reaching quilting effort. As we move away from the Covid era we have more people coming back to the church to help with the preparation of quilts. These quilts help local families in need and are shipped around the world to help many in need. In the spring we blessed the quilts in the church and thanked all those who could help. If anyone wants to help in the quilting ministry, you can take a quilt package home and sew the squares together or you can join the quilt team every month and assemble the quilts. It is a fun day for everyone.

For the summer, the mission team participated in the Life Rice food packaging event. We designated \$1100 to help purchase supplies for the food packages. Watching the tables master the process of creating meals ensured we met our goals for the day.

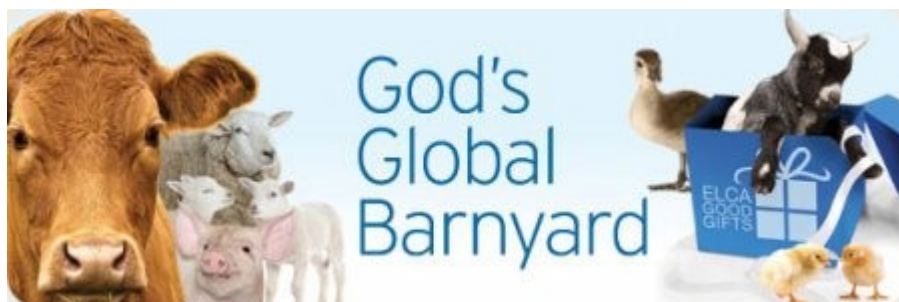
For the winter we are participating in the ELCA Global Barnyard process. This is our chance to pool our money and purchase animals and other products to help people in other countries. This is your opportunity to buy a goat, pig, chickens, or other animals that will change lives for less fortunate people. Look for tables after church where you can purchase these items through the Mission Team.

Anytime you make an offering, whether on line or with your envelope, you can designate money to go directly to the mission goals of the church. Any amount is always welcome and it adds up when the congregation participates together. We thank you for all of your help during the year.

Remember, our motto this month is - I want to buy a goat!

If you want to help with anything related to missions, please let me know and we will find a role for you.

Mike Schlegel, LLLC Missions Team



December Worship Helpers are:

December 4th

Greeters: Pat & Pat Weiss-Meyer

Usher: Wanda Strike

Lector: Monica Ahlman

Kitchen: Gerald & Connie Anderson

December 11th

Greeter: Yvonne Miller

Usher: Marcy Stoeckel

Lector: Margaret McBride

Kitchen: Jenny Boniarczyk

December 18th

Greeter: Lillian Reetz

Ushers: Dave & Melanie Ringstad

Lector: Chris Hepp

Kitchen: Ernie & Nancy Sandahl

December 24th

4:00pm– The Bell Family

10:00pm– Need Volunteers

December 25th

Greeters: Colleen Evenson & Connie Engren

Ushers: Dale & Kathy Findell

Lector: David Rock



December Birthdays

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

December Anniversaries

12/06 Larry & Joanna Puck

12/07 Bill & Sharon Sudeith

12/08 Curt & Carol Strand

12/08 Mark & Karen Anderson

12/10 Joshua & Tessa Budnick

12/12 Jay & Kelly Anderson

12/14 Nate & Tammy Dufleck

12/30 Mark & Mikki Hanson



Christmas Decorating

December 5th at 6:00pm

Join us for Fabulous Family Fun, and help us decorate our church! Bring appetizers, treats, or cookies to share

A fun way to help while you shop!

Long Lake Lutheran Church is signed up with Amazon Smile to receive charitable donations.

What is AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is **a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you.** AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones.

Here is how you can help our church:

Visit smile.amazon.com

sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com

Select Long Lake Lutheran Church

and start shopping!



Christmas in our Jammies

December 18th

Children's program at 9:00 am

We invite everyone to wear their jammies and bring some pajamas to be donated to local Charites.

Photo Directory Update:

Photo retakes will be taken on Dec. 15th from 2:00pm to 8:30pm.

Blue Christmas

December 22nd 1:00 & 6:00pm

We understand that not everyone experiences the joy that is common or somewhat expected during the Christmas Season. Some have experienced the loss of a loved one, a recent divorce, or other difficult times in their lives. Pastor Sue will be offering an opportunity to process any grief or sadness that you might be carrying. On Thursday, December 22nd at 1:00 and 6:00 pm, we will hold services taking you from darkness to light with scripture, songs, and a time to express our burdens. We hope you will join us in this special time in the life of this congregation as we prepare for the longest night.

Upcoming Events:

December 3rd- Live Nativity- 3pm

December 5th- Decorate the Church- 6pm

December 22nd- Blue Christmas- 1pm & 6pm

December 24th- Christmas Eve Services 4pm

December 24th- Candles and Carols- 10pm

December 25th- Christmas

PRAYER CONCERNS (Let us know how we can pray for you.)

Pray for healing for: Margaret McBride, Dennis Wanless, Barry Smith, Colleen Evenson, Aaron Gustafson, Linda Rouen, Sharon Johnson, Wanda Strike's cousin Marie and friend Gene, Diane Englund, Marcy Stoeckel's niece Erin, Karen Baker's mom Floy, Dave and Mel Ringstad's friend Sue, Kent and Joanne Eittrheim's friends Scott and Katie, Karen Baker's niece Angie Bentley, Sharon Stanis' sister-in-law Jackie Englund, Lisa Gustafson's brother Eric and Lisa's friend Brenda, John Hass' nephew Kevin Bagne, Therese Cather's brother Jim, Lisa and Martin Lynn's daughter Kelsey, Linda Rouen's aunt Evelyn Patterson, Carol Perrin's brother Bob, Matt (Angie) Hysten's dad Mike, Tina Engren's friend's son Oliver Schiffer (4 yrs old with cancer), Gina Myer's dad Sid, Tessa Budnick's grandpa Mike.

Long Lake Lutheran Church Presents: A Live Nativity



“One Night in Bethlehem”

December 3rd Performances each half hour from 4:00-7:00 pm

****December 3rd will feature a special showing from 3:00-4:00 pm for those with special needs and mobility issues. ****

December 4th Performance during Sunday Worship 9:00

On Saturday, December 3rd and Sunday, December 4th Long Lake Lutheran Church will be transformed into the town of Bethlehem. You can meet the angel Gabriel, who saw it all.

Meet Mary & Joseph who heard and believed.

Meet the innkeeper's wife, the shepherds, and the wise men.

You can smell the straw and you can see the live animals.

See the beautiful baby Jesus and come away with the true meaning
of Christmas in your heart.

Bring your camera for picture opportunities. After your visit to Bethlehem join us in the fellowship hall for a **chili and chicken wild rice soup supper**. Free will offering donated to local charities. Special funding from THRIVENT.

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