

Long Lake Lutheran Church
February 2021

Country Spire

Drive Through Sweetheart Dinner
Saturday, February 13th

Ash Wednesday Worship
Wednesday, February 17th 6:00 pm

Sunday School Resumes!
Sunday, February 21st

In-Person Confirmation Resumes
Wednesday, February 24th

First Communion Class
Sunday, February 28th 10am-12 pm

Christ Centered
Purpose Balanced
Mission Driven

3921 277th Ave NW
Isanti, MN 55040
763-444-5315

longlakeluth.org



Pastoral and Office Staff



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

Director Youth & Family Ministries
Shawna Berg 612-619-6444
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Business Administrator
Jen Sonterre 763-354-9574
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Administrative Assistant
Joanne Eittreim 612-386-7480
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Let all that you do be done with love

1 Corinthians 16:14

Other Staff

Custodian	Randy Lilleboe	612-222-7024	
Wedding Coordinator	Carol Perrin	952-220-2684	carol.perrin.cp@gmail.com

Council

Chairperson	Kara Hepp	763-350-0250	kara@larsengardens.com
Congregational Life	Angie Spartz	952-240-7948	spartz.angie@gmail.com
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	Dan Peterson	651-308-1224	danwp46@gmail.com
Stewardship	Julie Nielsen	612-269-0489	jknielsen@gmail.com
Worship & Music	Rachel Maguire	651-307-2490	rachelmariemaguire@gmail.com
Youth	Margaret Bauer	612-221-5922	jjtbmab@aol.com

From the desk of Pastor Sue...



I am so grateful for the reports, discussion and action taken at our annual meeting. I believe we are all working toward the same mission of bringing the Gospel to our community and beyond. Thank you to outgoing President Matt Lundeen and Stewardship Team Leader Kathy Schleif. Your service is greatly appreciated. Congratulations to our new council members who have agreed to take on team leadership positions: Julie Nielsen-Stewardship, Dan Peterson-Property, and Angie Spartz-Congregational Life. We have a great working council that does so much for our church. Please remember to pray for our council and thank them when you see them.



Please consider joining one of our teams and supporting our council leadership; find one that suits your interests and passions and attend a meeting. We have Stewardship, Property, Congregational Life, Education, Children Youth and Family, Missions, Worship & Music, and Finance teams with council leadership.

There is something for everyone. Even if you couldn't attend their meetings, you could be on their e-mail lists to be informed of what they are doing. Then, you could add your thoughts, ideas, comments, or willingness to help for an individual project.



Successful , growing, alive churches look outward to see how they can fulfill God's work in their communities and globally. Unsuccessful, dying churches are focused inward to see how they can best entertain their current members. We are growing and alive. Won't you join us in God's work?

Pastor Sue

Shawna Berg, Director of Youth and Family Ministries



It is Lent, for many years I engaged in the practice of giving up something for Lent. This seemed like the “thing” to do, but then I realized it wasn’t really doing a lot for my faith journey.

When thinking about a Lenten discipline, I think it is important to consider things that will help you focus on what Lent is really about. I think it is helpful to possibly add a discipline like prayer, daily devotions, or intentional ways of serving or giving to others.

*Maybe what we should be giving up during Lent is **time and things** that are getting in the way of our relationship with God?*

Here are some thing I have tried that have been helpful over the years:

1. **Pray your way through Lent** – For a few years I prayed through my Facebook Friend list for Lent. This was a powerful experience for me. I divided my list into 40 days and before each day I sent a personal message to each person asking for their prayer requests. If they sent me a personal request, I prayed for that. If they didn't, I lifted up general prayers for that person. This opened up some amazing conversations with people.
2. **Write 40 letters** – Write a letter to 40 people who have made a significant influence on you (one a day for each day in Lent). If 40 is overwhelming to you or to young children, write 6 – one each week during Lent.
3. **Read through one of the Gospels in 40 days**
4. **Attend a weekly Lenten worship service**
5. **Drink only water through Lent** – Figure out how much money you would have spent on other beverages (coffee, soda, etc.) and donate that money to a charity that provides clean water to a place that needs it.

Share your ideas with us!

Liturgy? Why Do We Need That?

Again, Liturgy is “the work of the people.” Every word of it comes from scripture. It has roots in tradition, history, and culture. We are called to live our Christian life in community with other believers, not in isolation. There are many kinds of worship practiced these days. I will summarize some of them briefly.

Emotion-Driven: Worship serves to provide an experience. The emphasis is on the individual’s relationship to God rather than participation in an experience with others. Songs are not chosen for theological content, but rather to set a mood and tone for experiencing the presence of God. Emphasis is on the heart rather than the mind. Outward signs of this emotion driven worship are: crying, raising of hands, falling to one’s knees, crying out words. People “give their lives to Christ” and the emphasis is on conversion. There is often a stage, lighting, and performers. The congregation is the audience.

Morally-Driven: “Deeds, not creeds.” The message of Jesus is reduced to moralistic instruction on how to live, with an emphasis on love. It focuses more on societal change. Jesus is the new Moses, the new law giver. The type of worship means that the service is not centered on what God does for sinners, but instead is centered on what people do for God and the world around them.

Seeker-Driven: This is a fairly new approach to worship aimed primarily at non-believers. It is an attractional model; it aims to make the worship space attractive to unbelievers. There is more entertainment and less participation involved. The present big productions, loud music, videos, sermons about movies. They are hoping that an unbeliever will be attracted to this style and desire to attend, making an eventual decision about becoming a Christian. Sermons are not theological, but more basic and entertaining.

Roman Catholic: At the heart of the Roman Catholic tradition is the sacrifice of the Mass. The central act of worship is the Holy Eucharist, or Com-

munion. The Eucharist is to be sacrificed on the altar where the bread and wine are “transubstantiated” or changed into the true body and blood of Christ. The priest functions before God on behalf of the church. Roman Catholicism does not affirm the “priesthood” of all believers that we do. The worship service is centered on the acts of the priests.

Reformed: This would be Presbyterian, Dutch Reformed, and other Calvinist churches. They emphasize the glory of God in worship. Christians are to do in worship only those things which God has commanded in the New Testament. The service is very plain. “Four bare walls and a sermon.” No artwork, no pictures of Jesus. They are pretty strict about work or amusement on the Sabbath.

LUTHERAN WORSHIP: It’s what we do! Our worship is a back and forth dialog between God and us! We confess our unworthiness; God shows us grace and mercy and forgives us. Then we respond with thanksgiving and praise. Worship isn’t about us, but about God. We are in need of the words of grace. At the center of our worship is the grace which God gives us unconditionally. Emotion does not drive our service, nor does entertainment. It is ok to give way to some of those elements on occasion, but it is not the driving force of our worship. The center of our worship is God’s gifts to sinners. We do not believe the Eucharist is a sacrifice on the altar, but rather Christ died once for all. Christ died once for all! I can’t say it enough! The Lord’s Supper is God’s gift to us, not our offering to God.

In conclusion, there are many, many ways to worship. They are not wrong, just different. I love being a Lutheran; I love the traditions, the liturgy, and the songs. But, most of all, I love the message. God’s grace is sufficient. I am enough! God loves and forgives us and accepts us just as we are.

Pastor Sue

A Message from Kara Hepp-Annual Meeting Wrap Up

Our 2021 Annual Meeting was held Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 10:00 am. The meeting began with devotions from Pastor Sue and was led by our Council President, Matt Lundeen. We thanked our outgoing council members; Kathie Schleif and Matt Lundeen for their years of service and devotion to our church. We discussed nominations for the vacant council seats and had four candidates who were willing to step up and serve as church council members. Julie Nielsen, Dan Peterson, John Hass, and Angie Spartz all graciously accepted the nomination to council and their names were placed on the ballot. There were two, three-year terms and one, one-year term available. After the voting was completed, Dan Peterson, Julie Nielsen, and Angie Spartz were elected. A big thank you to all who were willing to serve our church as council members.

After the Annual Meeting, the new council met to welcome our new members and vote to confirm a new executive committee who will serve as officers of the congregation. I am beyond grateful to serve as the new Council President alongside such a great team. I have been a member of this church since I was in grade school. I was confirmed and have had each of my children baptized here. Growing up within this church has allowed me to see the various seasons a church can go through. From great and successful times to the valleys along the way, the one thing it has never lacked: strong volunteers. I grew up in a household where I got to see that commitment firsthand from my mom and it showed me how important it was. To volunteer, not just in the fruitful seasons, but in those valleys, too! When the new council met as a team, Dan Peterson mentioned how wonderful and unique it was that we were saying goodbye to a President that has served us for EIGHT years!! Matt was gracious with his time, steadfast in his commitment and so loyal and willing to volunteer his gifts to this church. He brought humor, respect, and above all integrity to each situation. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to serve in this way and continue the momentum we have gained over the last eight years. Thank you so very much, Matt, for setting a great example!

Kara Hepp

CARE CONCERNS AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

Pray for healing for: Dale Strike, Larry Oliver, Diane Englund, Jim Johnson, Sharon Johnson, Marsha Weidner, Donnie Weidner, Donnie's sister Kay and her husband Dave, Jean Hansen's brother Jim; Marcy Stoeckel's niece Erin, Karen Baker's mom Floy, Dave Ringstad's cousin Brad, Ron Selix's sister Donna, Becky Agronoff's uncle Del, Pat O'Keefe's sister Carrie, Shawna's dad Mike, Claudia Hanson's friend Beth, Julie Nielsen's sister Elsie, Gary Grell's brother Dave, Kent and Joanne Eittreim's friend Scott, Carol Vogtlin's husband, Jim, Lynn Perrin, Kate Allison, Angie Hylen, Steve and Joan Anderson, Colleen Evenson, Kent Eittreim, Lisa Gustafson, Margaret McBride, Shawna's Aunt Sandee.

Pray for health, comfort and strength for
Monica Ahlman in the wake of her sister's death and
Vicki Theede for the loss of her mother.

PRAYER
REQUEST

Program Staff



PASTOR SUE OLSON

I was born and raised in International Falls, MN. I taught elementary school in Int'l Falls, Amherst, WI, and Litchfield, MN. Then, I met my husband, Rick, who was a chef at his family's restaurant, The Spot Supper Club in Int'l Falls. After 27 years of working together, we sold the restaurant due to my husband's failing health. I went back into teaching, this time at our Community College. I switched to Northland Counseling Center as a mental health practitioner and retired from there after 5 years. Rick and I had two daughters, Sara and Rachel; Sara has my only grandchild, Beatrix Evelyn who is 8. Rick passed away in 2013 and I looked at my future as a blank slate. I had thought about seminary all of my life, but life as a wife, mother, restaurateur, teacher, daughter, all prevented me from going into public ministry. Also, the ELCA did not ordain women! I served my home church, Zion Lutheran in many capacities. On Feb. 4, 2016, I began my journey to becoming an ordained minister at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Four years later, after taking Greek, Hebrew, Lutheran Confessions, and 30 other courses, I graduated with a Master of Divinity Degree. I was ordained and installed at Long Lake Lutheran Church in Isanti County on August 14th, 2019.

I live in a Townhouse on the Rum River in St. Francis. My hobbies include reading, fishing, cooking, traveling, and all things Disney! I even have a black and white cat named Mickey Mouser.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

My name is Shawna Berg and I am the Director of Youth and Family Ministries. I live in Brooklyn Park with my husband, Brian, and our two children Sam, 18 and Kylie, 16. I am in my third year at Long Lake Lutheran church, and have worked in Children, Youth and Family Ministry in churches in the Twin Cities area for twenty five years.

I love connecting faith and life for youth and adults, and it is one of the things that I am passionate about. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family, cheering my kids on in their sports (my son plays baseball and my daughter cheers) and creative endeavors (my daughter is involved in music and theater) and finding time to connect with new and old friends – I also always love time to curl up with a good book!



BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

I have been a member of Long Lake for 13 years, am a former Council member, and have now worked in the office about four years. My husband Jason and I have three kids, Charlotte, 20; Mia, 19; and John, 13. I am also a student, working on my Master's, so when I am not here I am usually working on schoolwork. I love the work that I do here at Long Lake and the people that I am lucky enough to work with. I love the community here at Long Lake and have made many wonderful friends along the way!



JENNIFER SONTERRE

jensonterre@longlakeluth.org

763-354-9574

The staff in the office are knowledgeable, courteous, and always ready to help members with whatever they need. Give them a call or stop by during our regular business hours!

Monday-Fridays 9:00 am-12:00 pm

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Joanne is glad to be joining the LLC staff and brings with her several years of experience working as an ELCA church admin.

She is married to Kent, has three kids, two kids-in-law, five granddaughters and, of course, Finley her dog. She loves to paint in watercolor, too. Joanne looks forward to helping out in the office and furthering the ministry of Long Lake Lutheran Church to members and nonmembers alike. Let's all be inviting folks to check out this amazing church family!



JOANNE EITREIM

josnneittreim@longlakeluth.org

612-386-7480

Our Church Council is the backbone of our church community. These church leaders help to run the different groups of the church. They help to plan events, run our education hours, keep the church up and running, plan our worship services, understand our finances, and plan our Mission outreaches. They are happy to answer questions about what their groups responsibilities are, just stop them when you see them and ask!

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I feel very blessed to be the new president of the council and have thoroughly enjoyed being part of council for the past year. It is such a great way to truly get to know the inner workings of the church that I have been part of since elementary school.

I am so proud to be able to watch my family grow up here. Outside of church I enjoy spending time with my family, running, reading and other outdoor activities.

"Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen." - Philippians 4:20



KARA HEPP

PROPERTY

Dan Peterson is one of our new members who has graciously agreed to lead our property team for the next year. Make sure to take a minute and introduce yourself and thank him for taking on our property team! There is much to learn and much to be done to ensure that our campus stays clean and up-to-date. Stop by a property team meeting and see how you can help!

DAN PETERSON

MISSIONS

My name is Ronda Fenlon and I am facilitating the Missions Team.

This my fourth year on the Church Council. This is my 3rd time on a council (2nd with LLC). I'm proud to do my small part in supporting those in need.

If you have a Mission important to you PLEASE reach out and I will bring it to the team.

Jim W. has answered a call and is in New York working as a missionary to Street Life Ministries.



RONDA FENLON

RACHEL MAGUIRE

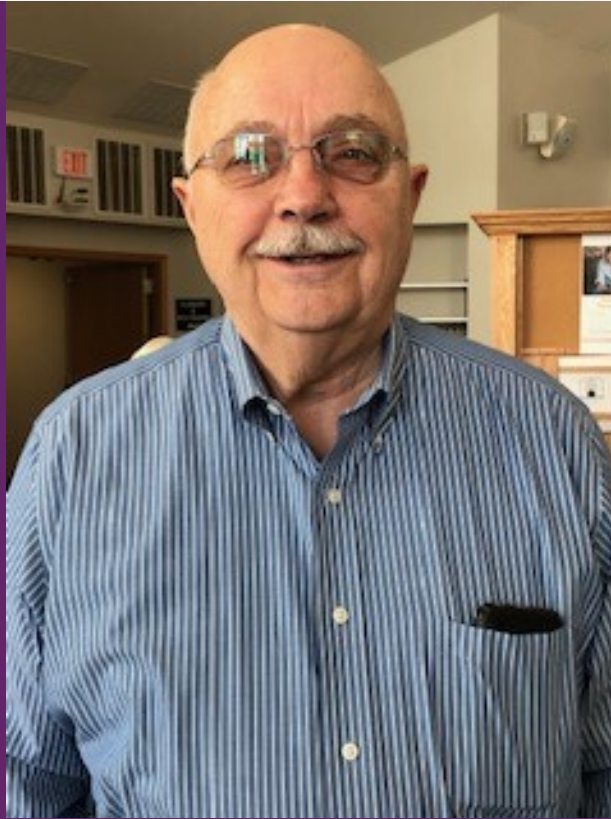


WORSHIP & MUSIC

Hi, I am Rachel Maguire and this is my third year on council as the worship and music chair. I am a North Dakota native and this year will be my 10th year in MN. My husband, Phil, and I have lived in this area for four years now. We have three kids, Cora (4), Noah (2), and Helen who is turning one this month! The kids keep me busy but I love to sneak in some reading or playing piano when I can.

I am so grateful for all the wonderful volunteers we have had this last year to help with the worship music and leading singing. I look forward to serving on the council this year.

FINANCE



DENNIS WANLESS

Dennis Wanless is a long time member of Long Lake and he continues to lead our finance team through the ups and downs of all the changes. He has been an important part of our team for the past year, shepherding us through this pandemic. Thank you, Dennis for all your hard work!

Greetings to you! My name is Amanda Saelens and I will be serving on the council as the education chair. I have been both baptized and confirmed at Long Lake Lutheran Church. Three summers ago, I followed in my parents' footsteps and was married to my husband Chad, at LLLC. It is safe to say that I have grown up in this church and am curiously waiting to see how I can continue to grow in faith.

I hope over the course of the next two years, I have a positive impact on the education that is conducted at Long Lake Lutheran Church. I look forward to the challenges this new venture may bring and hope to create new friendships along the way.



AMANDA SAELENS

EDUCATION

CONGREGATIONAL

LIFE



ANGIE SPARTZ

My kids and I joined Long Lake Lutheran Church about 8+ years ago, and it has felt like home since day one! The kindness, welcoming attitude, and generosity of spirit is tangible here. As the Congregational Life Council Rep, I want to continue to foster this inviting spirit because I believe it is a big part of what being the hands and feet of Christ is. I want current members to feel connected and like this congregation is their family and others who walk through the door to feel welcomed and loved.

Outside of church, you might find me reading (especially personal development or mystery books), singing in the East Central MN Chorale, or teaching yoga and fitness at the YMCA and WillowBridge. I am a mom to three energetic kids, Matthew (16), Luke (13), and James (11); so you might also see me out and about with them.

YOUTH

Margaret Bauer married to Joe for 31 years. Three children Samantha 23 years old, Kaitlyn 21 years old, and Jack 18 years old. Moved to Bradford Township in 1996. I'm originally from Mississippi. I work in Cambridge at the medical center in Radiology. Member of LLLC since 2005 (I think that's the right year) or it may be 2006. During the last 10 years, I have been part of the youth committee and a confirmation mentor. I've chaperone many youth events and several youth mission trips. I also serve as an altar guild and counter for our congregation.



MARGARET BAUER



JULIE NIELSEN

I have been a member of Long Lake Lutheran since November, 2014. The first Sunday I attended I knew I had found my church home. One of the first Sunday's I attended I was having coffee at a table by myself, when Margaret McBride came over and told me nobody sits alone and invited me to sit with them, I knew I was home.

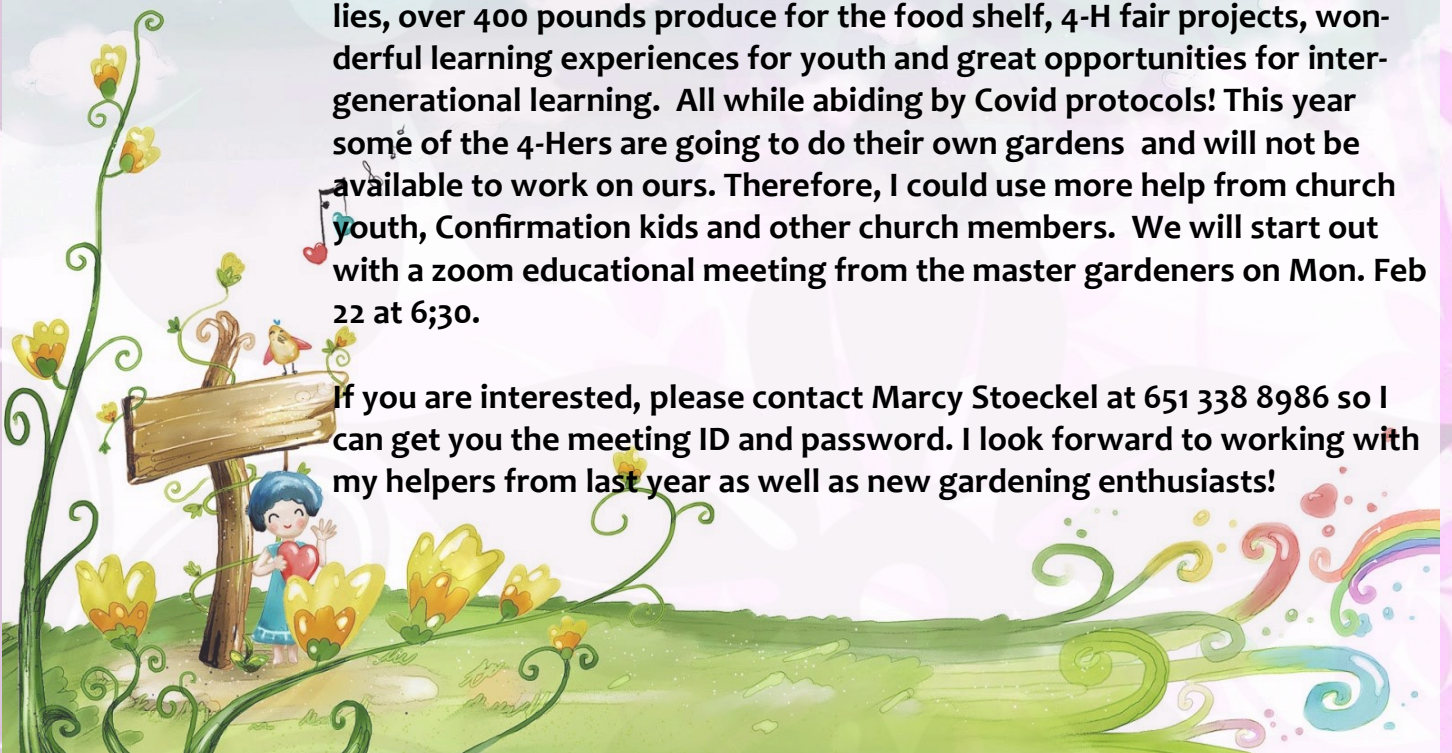
I hope to bring a new awareness to stewardship and what stewardship is.

The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants belong to the Lord. (Psalm 24.1)

STEWARDSHIP

Last summer a group of 4-Hers teamed up with members of Long Lake Lutheran and Isanti County Master Gardeners to create Long Lake Community Garden. It was very successful, providing produce to over 60 families, over 400 pounds produce for the food shelf, 4-H fair projects, wonderful learning experiences for youth and great opportunities for intergenerational learning. All while abiding by Covid protocols! This year some of the 4-Hers are going to do their own gardens and will not be available to work on ours. Therefore, I could use more help from church youth, Confirmation kids and other church members. We will start out with a zoom educational meeting from the master gardeners on Mon. Feb 22 at 6:30.

If you are interested, please contact Marcy Stoeckel at 651 338 8986 so I can get you the meeting ID and password. I look forward to working with my helpers from last year as well as new gardening enthusiasts!



BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARIES, AND BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

Date	Birthdays
1	Jay Anderson Mia Sonterre
2	Edward Rouen Samantha Titus
3	Abigail Fournier
4	Ann Merkouris
5	Donna Larsen
7	Emily Hennen Pat Weiss-Meyer
10	Sharon Stanius
11	Ken Miller
12	Tessa Budnick Lynn Perrin
13	Taylor Bender Chad Saalens
14	Brody Brown Kylee Staff
15	Logan Wynne
16	Lillah Boettcher Claudette Oberg
17	Maguire Hepp
19	Joshua Budnick Jimmy Hanson Ed Sanford
20	Ruth Sweet
21	Sharon Sudeith
22	Jakob Engler
24	Elaine Mellin Riebe
26	Grace Fournier Parker Matson
28	Axel Larsen Riley Puck

Date	Anniversaries
14	Tom and Judy Nelson
22	Don and Marsha Weidner

Date	Baptism Anniversaries
	Paul Agranoff Joanne Eittreim Austin Pankan Colton Schulsted Jessica Manion
1	John Hass Daniel Manion Justin Hooker
3	Paige Hamilton Trevor Hill
4	Kendra Beckensten
9	Jeff Moulzolf
10	Lennox Gilbert
11	Lynn Perrin
12	Karley Johnson
17	Bob Johnson Martin Lynn Madeline Jaques Taitum Kostecka
18	Kelsey Hooker
19	Lisa Dye McKena Dye
19	Logan Orr
22	Jim Werronen Layton Gilbert
24	Aaron Anderson Cody Gustafson Lucas Gustafson Travis Gustafson
25	Axel Larsen
26	Ted Erickson Richard Durant
27	Geralyn Fournier
28	Brooklyn Browen

Step 2


AA

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Meets Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm.

When, therefore, we speak to you of God, we mean your own conception of God. This applies, too, to other spiritual expressions which you find in this book. Do not let any prejudice you may have against spiritual terms deter you from honestly asking yourself what they mean to you. At the start, this was all we needed to commence spiritual growth, to effect our first conscious relation with God as we understood Him. Afterward, we found ourselves accepting many things which then seemed entirely out of reach. That was growth, but if we wished to grow we had to begin somewhere. So we used our own conception, however limited it was. We needed to ask ourselves but one short question. - "Do I now believe, or am I even willing to believe, that there is a Power greater than myself?" As soon as a man can say that he does believe, or is willing to believe, we emphatically assure him that he is on his way. It has been repeatedly proven among us that upon this simple cornerstone a wonderfully effective spiritual structure can be built.

This is an open meeting, all are welcome.



CAME TO BELIEVE THAT A POWER GREATER
THAN OURSELVES COULD RESTORE US TO SANITY

Long Lake
Lutheran
Church
February 2021

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13

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February 2021
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