

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

Long Lake Lutheran Church

January 2021

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LEADERSHIP

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**STREAMING SERVICES ON FACEBOOK AND
PARKING LOT BROADCAST**

9:00 am Sundays

STREAMING SERVICE ON FACEBOOK

6:00 pm Wednesdays

Long Lake continues to follow recommendations made by the CDC and Minnesota Department of Health in regards to places of worship. Following directions from the Minnesota Department of Health we ask that you wear a mask if you are entering the building. Watch Facebook & emails as more information is available.

¹For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

²a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

⁹What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.

¹¹He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live;

¹³moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Date Baptism Anniversaries

1	Jace Goedel James Hanson Dylan Monroe Bailey Snidarich
4	Megan Yurich
5	Thomas Fornberg
7	Melissa Browen Jennifer Rowe
11	Wanda Strike Samuel White
12	Dale Hechsel
12	Taylor Overby
14	Gregory Anderson
16	Megan Larsen
19	Lisa Gustafson
21	Karen Anderson
25	Kayl Griego
27	Mikki Hanson
29	Collen Evenson Abigail Fournier
31	Reed Jensen

Date Anniversaries

1	Rusty & Char Jacobson
14	Monica & David Ahlman
24	Linda & Edward Rouen Carissa & Joshua Hass

Have you picked up your 2021 Offering Envelopes yet? They are here in the building if you want to stop by and pick them up!

Unable to get out? Give us a call and we will schedule a time to deliver them or mail them out to you!

Watch for 2020 Contribution Statements coming soon!

Date	Birthdays		
1	Richard Hansen Tina Anderson Tucker Kolb Samuel White	22	Margaret McGovern
3	Rhonda Hechsel Sherry Beckensten	24	John Hass Jacob Anderson Matthew O'Keefe
4	Karen Hardie Madeline Jaques Justin Hooker Trygve Townswick	25	Shawna Berg Susan Netzer
5	Jessica Manion	26	Benjamin Hylan
6	Robert Johnson Kayl Griego	27	Sharon Johnson
7	Clarence Anderson Greg Rambow Cory Greene Brice Anderson	29	Gerry Stock Aaron Anderson Jenna Goslinga Kody Puck Kyle Renner Madison Eisenbraun
8	Judy Sarazin	30	Aubrey Bell
11	Wanda Strike Geraldyn Fournier MacKenzie Goedel	31	Victoria Zupancich William Zupancich
12	Loretta Fornberg Jacqueline Gruber		
14	Sam Berg Linda Mikush Oaklyn Anderson	Date	Baptism Anniversaries
17	Rose Hass	1	Barb Erickson Marvel Dahl Douglas Larson Sharon Sudeith Marion Jernell Linda Monroe Linda Mikush Ron Selix Bruce Hooker Linda Rouen Cindy Hanson Ronda Fenlon Lesley Rowe David Snidarich Rachel Maguire Joshua Budnick James Brown
18	Carole Larson		
19	Joanne Eittreim Brian Netzer James Brown		
20	Andrew Jaques Deliah Anderson		
21	Theodore Erickson		
22	Curtis Strand Vicki Theede Jarret Gemmil		

PRAYERS

PRAYER CONCERNS:

(Please let us know how we can pray for you your loved ones)

Pray for healing for: *Dale Strike, Larry Oliver, Diane Englund, Jim Johnson, Sharon Johnson, 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' Agranoff's uncle Del, Pat O'Keefe's sister Carrie, Shawna's dad Mike, Monica Ahlman's sister Anne, Claudia Hanson's friend Beth, Julie Nielsen's sister Elise, Gary Grell's brother Dave, Shawna, Kent and Joanne Eittreim's friend Scott, Carol Vogtlin's husband, Jim.*

Pray for better days: for *Jenny's brother Kevin and Marsha's son Joe.*

Pray for health, comfort and strength for *all caregivers and healthcare workers.*

A prayer for the New Year

*"The LORD BLESS you and KEEP you;
the LORD make his face SHINE on you
and be GRACIOUS to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you PEACE."
NUMBERS 6:24-26*

Thank you to Warren and Gerry Stock for the new candles in the candelabras in the sanctuary.

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR SUE

"In a letter of November 5, 1783, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg wrote, "It would be a most delightful and advantageous thing if all the Evangelical Lutheran congregations in North America were united with one another, if they all used the same order of service."



Do you ever imagine that happening? We are all so different across Lutheran congregations. I'm not sure we could agree to one church, one book.

Everything we do in a worship service has an intentional meaning and function. Though some will disagree on the importance of one thing over another, every particular thing, including clothing, furnishing, movement, gestures, music, candles, words, all matter in one way or another. Martin Luther called some of these things "adiaphora," meaning of little importance. Some pastors adhere to what is called "High Church" and follow every rite to a T, while other pastors are more casual and could care less what rites are followed. The rest of us fall somewhere in between.

I've been asked why we have liturgy and why it changes. Here is the shortest answer I can provide in this newsletter. If you have desire for more information, I'll gladly study it in depth with you!

What is Liturgy?

Why do we do it?

Why do WE do it the way WE do it?

Why does it change periodically?

YOUTH COMMITTEE Meeting December 6, 2020 1030am

Present: Margaret B, Shawna B, Amanda S, Jennifer S, Mo S. and Beaner B.

Thanksgiving pie social and auction-What a great success!!!

\$2536 dollars raised -so wonderful! Great job to all involved for such a different approach to our annual fundraiser! It is so amazing how thinking outside the box can produce a better outcome sometimes!

International Mission trip-polled team on how to proceed.

Shawna received various feedback with different options. Decision needs to be made with Pelican by March. Shawna will set up a meeting with team before then to finalize a decision.

Online only education -This has been online only for the last few weeks. Approximately 13 youth attend (about the same as when we were in person), Shawna has started playing the "Among Us" online game with youth after confirmation lessons. They seem to be engaged and enjoying having this opportunity.

Poinsettia plant sale- This year 10 plants have been ordered. We are asking members to "ADOPT" a plant for \$25.00.

Christmas program- Shawna is planning "The ABCs of Christmas" for the 4pm Christmas Eve online service. She would like children, families, youth, and members to take a part in this program. There are approximately 26 parts to be filled. Participants will need to record themselves and send to Shawna by Dec 18th. Youth that participate will receive 1 hour of service hour.

Shawna presented idea of doing a "**VIRTUAL CHOPPED**" event. The youth will support this event by providing the "4" items families will need to participate. Approximate cost will be \$150-\$200 depending on how many families participate. Any leftover items can be donated to the food shelf. This will be held online Dec 30th. Families will have 30 minutes to make a dish and present.

Jan 24th -attentive date for snow tubing/skiing. More info to come.

2021 Budget-Submitted a \$1000.00 to budget for 2021.

Aluminum cans- waiting to bring them to recycling-they need to be brought in by 3:30 and I just have not been able to make that work yet.

We submitted a green slip for Confirmation pictures of \$250.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Last Spring Long Lake Lutheran received a PPP Loan as part of the CARES Act—federal legislation that provided loans for payroll protection during the pandemic. We received \$27,800 at that time. We used those funds to cover payroll as COVID continued throughout 2020. As provided for in the original legislation, we applied for PPP Loan “forgiveness” with the assistance of Flagship Bank in Isanti (who had secured the original loan for us). This application was approved by the SBA (Small Business Administration) last month and the loan became an outright grant, which does not require repayment. We are grateful for Flagship Bank’s assistance and are happy to report that the \$27,800 received has been put to good use in paying staff salaries.



Missions for January

April 2021 will go to Global Missions to support our giving Globally the 1st 4 months of the year. Specific is TBD although focus will be on global food shortages.

Thank you, Ronda

What is Liturgy? Liturgy literally means “work of the people”, but too often in the past the liturgy gave the impression that it was the work of the pastor. The liturgy has always been the responsibility of all the people of God. Luther revised the mass to involve more actions by the congregation. Worship is not something that the pastor does while the people watch, but is something which is an action shared by all who assemble to worship. We are a living body of Christ, capable of remarkable change, renewal, and renovation. We ARE the church. We represent God in the world. Liturgy is influenced by scripture, Roman Catholic tradition, and an ever changing populace. Christian worship involves words and signs, rituals and traditions, some of which are quite new. However, the integrity of proclaiming Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is our primary concern in all of this. We cannot and should not stand on principles and traditions over proclamation of the Gospel.

Liturgical actions are called rubrics. They are usually printed in red in a hymnal and contain directions and movements that the pastor and worship leaders follow.

In the time of confession, I, as your pastor, stand among you or kneel for you as a sign that I am one of the congregation also asking for forgiveness. I am not the one forgiving; it is through my words that you receive the forgiveness from God. That’s why you might hear me say, “As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by His authority, I therefore declare unto you the entire forgiveness of your sin.”

The Kyrie Eleison is a cry for favor and for help, similar to “Hosanna.” It is a cry for peace and reminds the worshipper that peace is a requirement of genuine worship.

The Song of Praise, Gloria in Excelsis, Glory to

God, This is the Feast, are all
songs of praises the angels
would sing.

We don't say "Alleluia" during
Lent!

We stand for the Gospel.

We stand for the Lord's Prayer.

We pray for the whole people of God in our petitions.

Why do we do it? Short answer: Tradition. Scandinavians
brought their traditions with them to the New World.
Most traditions began in ancient times and evolved
over time. All of it comes from scripture, however.

Why do WE do it the way WE do it? Short answer: Tradition.
Longer answer: Every worship service has a prescribed
format similar to this: Brief Order for Confession and
Forgiveness, Kyrie, Song of the Angels, or Song of
Praise, Prayer of the Day, Word (which can contain Old
Testament, Psalm, 2nd Lesson, and Gospel) Message or
Sermon, Creed or Confession of Faith (Augsburg or
Nicene—rarely Athanasian), Prayers of the People,
Offering, Sharing of the Peace (designed to empty
your heart of grudges before receiving communion)
Sacrament of Holy Communion, Lord's Prayer, Bless-
ing and Sending. Add in Gathering Song, Song of the
Day and Sending Song and you have a really full ser-
vice. Sometimes there are a lot of announcements, a
temple talk, a presentation from one of our ministry
partners like Camp Onamia. However, most Lutherans
want to be in and out of church in one hour. That
means we can't do all of the parts all of the time. For a
pastor, it is like trying to get as much tradition and rit-
ual tucked into a neat package with one eye on the
worship manual and the other eye on the clock!



Shawna Berg, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

It is the beginning of a New Year, and
for many people that means a time of
new beginnings and resolutions. I have
to admit, I am not a big fan of New
Year's resolutions. Perhaps like many of
you, I tend to start off the year with
many grand plans. I usually am going to
eat better, exercise more, spend more time reading my Bible, and
be more intentional about the time I spend with my family and
friends. I have used New Year's resolutions as a focus, I've chosen
a "word" to reflect on in the New Year, and I've even picked
different books to work through or reflect on as I go throughout
the year.

Sometimes I focus on just one or two of these things, but most
often I have a combination of all of the above. I start out pretty
good, but inevitably at some point I fall off the bandwagon and
then get consumed by guilt because I am "failing" at my resolu-
tions. The guilt lasts a few weeks and then I kind of forget about
them all together and life goes on as normal. This year, I'm going
to try something different. My promise for this New Year is to try
to see myself, and everyone I meet, the way God sees us. This was
a focus I had several years ago, and it seems like a good one to
revisit. It seems as if this is something that I need to be reminded
of, that God loves us all and that sometimes I need help seeing
myself, and others, through God's lenses. If we saw every person
we encountered through God's eyes, I imagine that would change
the way we would respond to them and the way we act. I am hop-
ing that this lens will help me respond with more compassion,
more care and more empathy – for everyone. I wonder how the
world would be different if we all tried to see each other the way
God sees us? Would we have more patience for each other?
Would we try to interpret each persons behavior in the best possi-
ble light rather than the worst? I know I am going to try!

NEW STAFF MEMBER! JOANNE EITTREIM!



Joanne is glad to be joining the LLLC 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!



SWEETHEART DINNER

Saturday, February 13th, we will be hosting a drive through Sweetheart Dinner from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm.

You can reserve your dinner by contacting Shawna! \$20/meal

The Goedels will be serving ribs or chicken, corn, cheesy hash browns and we will include a delicious treat!
(remember how good those ribs were at Food Truck Fellowship? YUM)

Why does it change periodically? Well, people get tired of hearing and singing the same words and begin not to notice what they mean. The words become too rote. Changing it up brings interest. Many modern folks are put off by old fashion sounding words and music, while some folks prefer the traditions. As a pastor trying to please everyone and keep peace, I try to change it up every so often to give everyone a little of what they like. If we stuck to the liturgical chanting of olden times, we would lose our younger families quicker than you can say the Vikings are not in the playoffs. If we introduced modern liturgy or dumped it all together, our older, more traditional worshippers would be totally turned off and would loudly complain, although, they probably wouldn't quit coming! You can see how tricky this gets to be.

As you can see, liturgy is important and holds a lot of tradition, but is open to changing times. As "the work of the people," it is important to include the people in choosing rituals and rites that make worship meaningful for the widest variety of people. Please be tolerant of different styles as we strive to keep everyone happy. Let me know if you want to learn more about our liturgy.

2021 ANNUAL MEETING

Our 2021 Annual Meeting will be held virtually on February 7th!

Watch your email and Facebook for more information about how you can be a part of this unusual Annual Meeting.

Matt Lundeen, Council President

Wow! As I am writing this article for the January 2021 Spire, Barry Manilow's "Looks Like We Made It" song is running through my head. That's not just about 2020, but I think back to how fast the sand in the hourglass slips through.



I can't believe how fast the time has went by. My time on council is coming to an end. What an honor it has been to serve with all of you during this time. I remember when I was asked to run for church council, I agreed the second time. I told Pastor Matt that I would be happy to as long as I wasn't the Property of Finance chairperson.

My first year on church council, I served as the Worship & Music chairperson. As my first year was coming to an end, I realized that our current Property chairperson was completing his term and that we would need a replacement for the Property position. Next thing I knew, I had served as the Property chairperson for five years, and then onto President.

Isn't it funny how we think we are in control? I specifically said that I didn't want to be the Property chair, and no one objected to that. Well, almost no one... I am thankful that I saw the signs that God was showing me. Serving as the Property chairperson rewarded me with many new friends and opportunities to work with some very talented individuals.

As I served on council, I learned so much about our church. I learned how important each and every council chair is, with

each position just as important and critical to the church as the other. I really think that the rewards of serving on the church council far outweighs the efforts.

Serving these past 8 years has been a delight to me. I wish I could thank everyone personally in this report, but 8 years' worth would be more of an essay. I want to thank everyone who works so hard to make Long Lake what it is. Large or small, if you have done something for our church, you deserve to be thanked. From putting a pew back where it belongs to setting roof trusses on the garage, I want all of you to know that you are appreciated. I made many phone calls to members of our congregation asking for help over these last 8 years, and my calls were answered with enthusiasm and willingness to help.

I owe this church a big thank you for all of the friendships and opportunities to serve! Please remember that we are still looking for at least two more people to fill spots on the church council. I believe one is a three-year term, and the other is a one-year term. As I said earlier, the time goes by fast! How can you serve at Long Lake? Is God nudging YOU to serve on the church council? Did He send someone from the congregation to specifically ask YOU?

Again, I'd like to thank our wonderful staff and volunteers for your support during my time on our church council. You all have made an important impact here at Long Lake and I can't thank you enough!

God's Peace,
Matt Lundeen