

LONG LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2020

COUNTRY SPIRE

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LEADERSHIP

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DRIVE-UP SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 am and 10:00 am

STREAMING SERVICES ON FACEBOOK

8:00 am Sundays

6:00 pm Wednesdays

FOR YOU
WERE
CALLED TO
FREEDOM,
BROTHERS
AND SISTERS
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BUT
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ONE
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GALATIANS 5:13

LONG LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3921-277TH AVENUE NW
ISANTI, MN 55040

Long Lake continues to follow recommendations made by the CDC and Minnesota Department of Health in regards to places of worship. We will offer drive up services until we can safely move on to Phase Two of our reopening plan. Watch Facebook & emails as more information is available.

LifeTouch Directory has finally sent a proof. Jen is checking for corrections. We will keep you posted when we know when they will be available.

Thank you to all who are keeping our property looking nice. Thanks for all the people doing lawn mowing, flower tending, garden upkeep, and to Tom Anderson for keeping the cemetery looking beautiful for our loved ones.

The 4-H Community Garden, in partnership with Long Lake Lutheran Church, is growing. Stop by to see the progress and offer your help to Marcy Stoeckel who is leading the project along with area 4-H groups and Master Gardeners

Aluminum Cans for Youth: Please remember that only aluminum cans in tied plastic bags should be thrown into the trailer beside the first garage. All money raised goes to the Youth Fund and aluminum stays out of the landfill. Win! Win!

Missions: We are collecting men's clothing such as tube socks, underwear, t-shirts, ball caps along with men's stick deodorant for Jim Werronen's Street Life Ministries in New York. The clothes don't have to be new, but still in good shape. Please drop donations off by the front entrance to the church and the Missions Team will send them to Jim.

OFFERING: Thank you for your continuous support of the ministries of Long Lake Lutheran Church through your tithes and offerings. You have been faithful even when we have not been meeting. Offering checks may be sent through the mail, through the Give Plus App, through the Give Now button on our website, or by texting 833-623-0354 with a bit of setup.

SUMMER SPLASH

By Camp Onomia

Are you bummed that you couldn't go to camp this summer? Have you ever wondered about what camp might be like? We have a great opportunity for you! Join Camp Onomia Summer Staff and your friends from Long Lake for a day of camp here at Long Lake! We will have games, worship, campfire and more in this day camp experience! We will gather on July 30th from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. for "Summer Splash" day camp at Long Lake with Camp Onomia. Participants will be placed in small groups of up to eight students in their age group with Camp Onomia counselors. Under current guidelines, masks will be required, and games will be no contact – but we can still have a great time! This experience is open for kids from kindergarten through high school (small groups will be made according to ages) and the cost is \$40 per child (if you need assistance for the cost please let Shawna know). To register contact Shawna!

SAVE THE DATE!
July 22nd 5:00 pm-9:00 pm
Invite your friends, family, and neighbors!

Food Truck Fellowship



On Wednesday, July 22nd from 5:00 pm-9:00 pm Long Lake Lutheran Church will be hosting a variety of food trucks throughout our parking lot.

We invite you to join us for an assortment of entrees and outdoor fellowship!

Take the night off from "What's for dinner" and come and support some small businesses while enjoying some socially distanced fellowship!

Confirmed food trucks include:

Center City Swine Circus

Bradford Roadhouse

Apple Cider Donuts by North Star Donuts

More trucks to be added soon!

Long Lake Lutheran Church

3921-277th Avenue NW

Isanti, MN 55040

longlakeluth.org

PRAYERS

Pray for healing for: Dave Johnson, Renae Hooker, Dale Lundeen, Dale Strike, Larry Oliver, Claudia Hanson, Diane Englund, Jim Johnson, Sharon Johnson, Donnie Weidner, Will's sister Grace; Jean Hansen's brother Jim; Connie Engren's Brother-in-law Terry Guenther; Marcy Stoekel's niece Erin, Krista's mom Kathy, Shirley Oldenburg, Loretta's sister Darlene, Beaner Bell, and all who are struggling with health issues. **Pray for strength and comfort for** their caregivers.

Pray for those who grieve: Shawna's family in the loss of her uncle Mike Hamm and for strength and consolation for all grieving families.

Pray for all people struggling with mental illness.

Pray for our country and our leaders, Street Life Ministries and our missionary Jim Werronen who is serving homeless people in New York, all medical professionals, military and their families, law enforcement, people with addictions, people who don't feel safe staying at home, people isolated in care centers who don't understand why their family can't visit, truck drivers and delivery people, people in service industries, people around the world who have lost loved ones to the COVID-19, all inflicted with COVID, and those who live in fear and isolation due to COVID.

We all pray: God of freedom, we live in a country that is in a time of turmoil and sometimes we are afraid. Help us to live out our freedoms established by our founding fathers and by you, creator God, where ALL are created equal and should have equal rights and treatment. We have a long way to go, but with your guidance, with scripture as our guidebook, and with our intense efforts at understanding and welcoming the "other", we can be part of transformational change for your world and for your children. In the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord. Amen.

From the desk of Pastor Sue...

Grace and peace to you from God, our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen!

What joy it brings me to have us worshipping together in the parking lot! If we can't be in our building, yet, due to COVID-19, meeting outside is the next best thing. I believe many of you are enjoying sitting in your car/truck drinking your coffee and tuning into our service. Some folks have begun to fellowship outside their cars keeping a good 6' distance between them. We sure have had nice weather. Thank you, Lord!

Worship as we know it has changed and will remain different for quite some time. We are loving our neighbors by being responsible in our gathering. We are still worshipping God, still celebrating the feast of Holy communion, and still feeling connected to LLLC.

From Martin E. Marty's book, "Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers," I have come to realize that everything we do as a church is worship in a way (like feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, etc.). However, at the root of our Lutheran denominational understanding, is worshipping God because God loves us. We respond to that unconditional love for each one of us singularly and collectively by praying, singing, and learning about scripture in a group experience.

Human brains are God-wired to seek meaning in our lives and in our spiritual minds. Martin Luther once said that the human has "entweder Gott oder Abgott." The human has "either God or non-God," an idol, a creation. Martin Marty



given her first communion. Someone in the group made a comment, that made it obvious that they assumed that Jeanne was a man and Kylie (my daughter has never been a shy one) said no Pastor Jeanne isn't a boy, she is a girl! This person was obviously surprised, and said, but women can't be Pastors! Kylie put her hands on her hips and said, well at my church they are! It was an interesting reminder to me that some people have had very different experiences. When we came home, Kylie and I had a conversation about it, and she couldn't believe that there were places that even then, and even now, women were not welcomed to serve in leadership roles in the church.

I am thankful for the many different women who have been mentors for me on my faith journey, and I am glad that all the young girls in our churches have never known a time when being a Pastor wasn't a possible career choice for them, or when the possibility of having a female mentor on their faith journey wasn't a far off possibility.



Shawna Berg, Director of Youth & Family Ministries



On June 29th, the ELCA marked an important anniversary – 50 years since the vote to ordain women. I was reflecting on some of the amazing women I have known over the years in ministry, and there have been many. In every congregation I have served, there has been at least one female pastor serving there as well. I have many female friends

who serve as pastors and I've met many other gifted female clergy over the years at camps, continuing education events and other gatherings. I have been blessed to call many of these women friends and mentors. When I was growing up in the church, I was given many leadership opportunities – and I had many people affirm my own gifts for leadership that encouraged me to seek out a vocation in the church. Never once did it occur to me that this wouldn't be an option for me because I was female.

My daughter has never been to a church that hasn't had at least one female Pastor. I remember a time several years ago when we were with a group of people and my daughter was talking about my colleague Jeanne, who was a Pastor at our church. It was time for my daughter's first communion and I remember that Kylie was doing a lot of planning and scheming to try to figure out how to make sure that she was in the group that was going to get communion from Pastor Jeanne that day, rather than one of the other Pastors on staff. All of the other Pastors that I worked with were delightful people, and Kylie liked them all, but she adored Jeanne. Kylie was telling everyone at this gathering how excited she was that Pastor Jeanne, who had baptized her, had also

wrote, "Worshiping God fills in the blank in the human brain in an utterly positive way." Worship should begin with a sense of awe. Under normal circumstances many people come to worship after a busy week at work, a busy week at home, with a busy mind and bringing with them a myriad of problems. They slide into their pew with more of a sense of relief. We should all take time to rest and meditate in awe before we begin to worship. "*Be still, and know that I am God!*" (Psalm 46: 10)

"Worship allows us to clear our minds of distractions, to concentrate on the biblical story about the acts of God, who calls us to worship." (Marty, p. 103) "In many ways worship, properly achieved, is the rest of life." (Marty p. 109) If we could think of worship as life, we would "Be" the church all day, every day, whether at work, at play or at home. We would bring the good from our once a week worship experience out into our 24/7 world. We would be transformed and our world would be transformed. "*Be still, and know that I am God!*"

God doesn't care whether we worship in a building, in our cars in the church parking lot, or at home by our computers. What God wants is your love and devotion in return for God's love and devotion. "*Be still, and know that I am God!*"

*Be still, and
know that I am God*

Matt Lundeen, Council President

We made it to a warm and steamy July! Even though Covid has seemed to slow time to a crawl, I can't believe that we are halfway finished with 2020. It sure has been nice to worship with all of you that have been attending our parking lot services. I understand that it is quite different than being inside our sanctuary, but I enjoy being able to worship with all of you in ways that include speaking and singing. In case you haven't heard, the reason we have chosen to worship in the parking lot is that the CDC has strict guidelines for indoor worship that require social distancing, no speaking, and no singing. Your council and staff did not feel that would be a welcoming worship experience, so we chose to worship outside. We are all so grateful for your patience during this time.

As we enter full swing into summer, I pray that all of you are able to keep attending and continue to give as you can (or till it feels good). Just like your household, Long Lake Lutheran has expenses that haven't stopped during Covid. During this time, givings have decreased in some areas. Back in March and April, the Executive Team was meeting weekly to trim expenses as best we can. We chose to reduce the mortgage payment for three months to the interest only; that helped us save over \$7,000 each month. Now that we are into July, we will begin making the minimum mortgage payment of \$5,700 again (we were paying \$7,500). With that being said, your givings are just as important now as they ever have been.



Even though things are different than what we are used to at Long Lake, we continue to try to find ways to be together while maintaining social distance. Your council and staff are coordinating and planning ways to continue being part of many activities that include Camp Onamia, outdoor meetings/ gatherings, and a food truck event on July 22 from 5-9. These are great opportunities to not only gather, but to get involved and serve

I'm hoping to see you all at church this summer!

God's Peace,

Matt



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

We have three \$250 scholarships available for any of our college students that have finished at least one semester of college. Applications are available on the website, or talk to Shawna. Deadline is August 1st, don't miss out on this opportunity!