

# Long Lake Lutheran Church

March 2021

Country Spire

## Lent & Holy Week Schedule

### Lenten Worship Services

Lenten Services      Wednesdays      6:00 pm

Palm Sunday      March 28      9:00 am

Maundy Thursday      April 1      7:00 pm

This service will include 1st communion

Good Friday      April 2      7:00 pm

Easter Sunday      April 4      6:30 am sunrise  
9:00 am

SPRING AHEAD  SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH!



Christ Centered

Purpose Balanced

Mission Driven

3921 277th Ave NW

Isanti, MN 55040

763-444-5315

[Longlakeluth.org](http://Longlakeluth.org)



# Pastoral and Office Staff



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

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

Business Administrator  
Jen Sonterre 763-354-9574  
jensonterre@longlakesluth.org

Administrative Assistant  
Joanne Eittreim 612-386-7480  
joanneeittreim@longlakesluth.org

*<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill yo u with all joy a nd peace i n believi ng, so that  
yo u may abo und i n hope by the power of the Holy Spir it. Ro-  
ma ns 15:13*

## Staff

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

## C o uncil

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	jknielsen44@gmail.com
Worship & Music	Rachel Maguire	651-307-2490	rachelmariemaguire@gmail.com
Youth	Margaret Bauer	612-221-5922	jtbmab@aol.com



# PASTOR

## Sue Olson

From the desk of Pastor Sue. . .

In Paul's short letter to the Philippians, he wrote, *"<sup>2</sup> If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,"*

God has given us work to do here at Long Lake Lutheran Church in rural Isanti County. You have fulfilled the calling to proclaim the Gospel for over 125 years. You have financially supported a building, a pastor, a youth director, support staff and many ministries throughout the years. It is time to move forward in new ways to grow our ministries and fulfill our mission. Our tagline has been "Christ Centered, Purpose Balanced, Mission Driven." That is not a mission statement. I have proposed the following for a mission statement: **"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 must ask ourselves, "What is God dreaming for us for the future?" God has given us the mission; it is up to us to carry it out!

In 2020, we began a visioning process where we looked at our ministry teams and what they were already doing well. We asked questions like, "What do you love about LLLC? What do you think needs to change? What are our biggest challenges? We began to formulate a one, three, and five to ten year plan. then Covid restrictions put the brakes on our momentum. It is time to revitalize our enthusiasm for moving forward and looking into what we can accomplish to bring the Gospel to more people. God breathed life into Adam and Eve, The Holy Spirit breathed life into the disciples, Jesus breathed life and took away the power of sin and death. It is time to Breathe New Life into LLLC!

Remember, in the dreaming phase, there are no silly ideas, anything is possible and money is no object. Once we prioritize our action plan, we put dollar figures into it and only then are we ready to begin with real action, fundraising and building the dream! Some of these actions can occur simultaneously. Some of the ideas that have been offered:



1. Immediate: Phase I: **Breathe New Life into our current 2020 building:** (build desk in sanctuary for sound, video and slide controller, take out equipment in current sound room, make that room into a crying room by putting glass back in the window, adding a changing table, cleaning it up—declutter, making the current nursery into a cozy small group meeting room with couches, fireplace, tv, coffee maker; removing clutter from narthex and putting in standing bistro tables and coffee maker, welcome area, improve signage, identify visitor parking.....

2. Next Step: Phase II: **Breathe New Life into the Cornerstone** (paint, replace the cross on the steeple, modernize the bathrooms, update decorations, create teen activity space, landscape, create new entry with identifying signage and directional signage (not everyone knows what the “Cornerstone” is!, playground, permanent firepit and outside gathering space.....

3. Next Step: Phase III: **Breathe Life into the Middle Space** (build connecting great-room, hallway, elevator, handicap bathrooms, storage, choir practice space, small group meeting room.....

4. Next Step: Phase IV: **Breathe New Life into the Landscape:** (Cemetery Columbarium, Sprinkling Garden, digitizing cemetery directory for our website, solar panels, ballfield improvements, garden growth with arboretum, fruit trees.....

We need to think of opportunities knocking on our door. The Cornerstone could bring us revenue through renting it out to groups, daycare, piano teachers, yoga instructors. It could become a drive-through coffee and prayer station, a community and/or teen

center, a retreat center, an ongoing craft store or artists’ center.....

We need to be intentional about the vision; we cannot have different groups going in different directions. We need a comprehensive and coordinated plan. When the dreaming phase is complete, we will be looking for a Building Chair and a Fundraising Chair. These people will be charged with communicating the vision, keeping us focused on the vision, and energizing us to fulfill the vision. Begin praying to see if God is calling you in that direction.

<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of  
death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

# DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

## Shawna Berg



As the “church lady” in my extended family (this a term people often use to describe me, I get visions of Saturday night live when I hear it- maybe you do too?) I’m often called upon to pray at extended family gatherings, or important life events. It is an honor to do it, and I’m happy to pray when asked, but it always reminds me at how uncomfortable many of us are with praying, especially out loud.

It is our custom at Confirmation gatherings to end each week in prayer. Our young people are always anxious to add their prayer requests each week, and there is never a shortage of people or things to pray about, but whenever I ask if someone wants to pray for us, a hush falls over the crowd. Inevitably, I’ll wait a few moments, no one will volunteer and I will end our time, lifting up all the prayer requests that have been shared and we go on to the next week.

This last week, much to my surprise, one of our 7<sup>th</sup> graders volunteered to pray. His first comment before he began was “It might not be very good, but I’ll try”. We reassured him that prayer was just talking to God, and there was no wrong or right way – and he began his prayer. After a few moments of earnest prayers, offering up the things that had been shared, it was evident that he was struggling to remember a few of the things that had been offered up. That was when there was another voice from across the room that piped up and said “Can I help you?” Another one of our confirmands then finished up the prayer, supplying the rest of the requests that other students had shared. I will tell you that, it was probably the most beautiful prayer time we have had in confirmation.

Earlier this month, I received a book that I had pre-ordered from a favorite author, Sarah Bessey on prayer called “A Rhythm of Prayer” which is a collection of prayers from several different authors. I have been enjoying beautiful words and prayers from some very gifted authors, many of which have moved me to tears, and yet, the vulnerability and honesty from those words last Wednesday night moved me to tears.

Most of us feel a little bit inadequate when we try to pray, and especially if we are asked to pray out loud. We hear the prayers on Sunday morning and we think, gosh, I can’t pray like that (I’ll tell you a secret your staff gets those prayers too, we don’t even write most of them). We neglect to remember that when it comes down to it, prayer is simply a conversation between you and God, and God just wants to hear from you! It doesn’t have to be fancy words and you can say whatever is on your mind, God can handle all of you, just the way you are. All of your emotions, God can handle them. There is no wrong way to pray, but it is an amazing practice. It is my hope and prayer that we can all have the courage of that confirmand, to step out in faith to offer up a prayer, even if we are nervous, and we aren’t sure that we have the right words. I also pray that when we falter, in whatever we are doing, that there is always someone there that will jump into help, without judgement and without hesitation, because that is what the Body of Christ in action looks like.



# WHY DO WE NEED A CREED?

The *Shema* is the Jewish confession of faith found in Deuteronomy 6:4: “Hear O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one!”

Some churches proclaim: “No Creed, Just Deeds!” or “No creed but Christ!” In the ELCA, we use The Apostle’s and The Nicene Creeds on a regular basis to profess our faith together. There is also an Athanasian Creed, but we rarely use it because it is very long. These creeds were not arbitrarily thrown together, but were deliberately studied and vehemently defended. These are historic confessions of faith, but have been used to define denominational barriers. Different congregations adopted their own distinctive doctrines that disagreed on many aspects of scriptural teaching. Churches agreed that the Bible teaches, but they disagree on *what* the Bible teaches.

Creeds were written to prevent false teachings or heresies. It would not be good for each of our congregations to decide what they wanted to believe and how they wanted to practice their form of Biblical understanding. Luther called it, “good order.” He observed different churches doing just that with each church teaching their own understanding of the Bible. That is why Luther wrote so many letters and articles defending a universal creed. This is what we believe. Period.

The Bible is the only document given to the church directly by the inspiration of God (2 Tim. 3:16). The bible has the final say. But, when a specific heresy arose in the early church, a group of bishops, pastors, theologians and other churchmen would gather together, discuss the issues in light of Scripture, then decide what it was that the church believed. When I was ordained in the ELCA, I swore an oath to uphold the teachings of the ELCA. That means I cannot go off on my own and teach and preach whatever I wish. Rather, I must teach and preach what the ELCA has agreed upon. You would know what to expect from your pastor and there should be no surprises. I am accountable to the ELCA and would be disciplined if I taught differently.

We are a Confessional and Trinitarian Church that believes we are saved by grace alone, not by any of our own actions. Christians with differing views from the ELCA are free to seek a different church that proclaims what they believe Scripture teaches. What I don’t get is that many people do not know what their church stands for or what their own personal beliefs are and they don’t care! I could not belong to a church that did not preach that Jesus is divine, God’s Son, part of the Trinity. I could not belong to a church that believes women should not be allowed to be pastors, teachers, lectors and serve on the council.

At Long Lake Lutheran, we have been using the Apostle’s Creed on non-Communion Sundays, the Nicene Creed on Communion Sundays and the Athanasian Creed once a year on Holy Trinity Sunday. This is sort of our adult catechism as we recite our beliefs every Sunday when we gather and helps us to understand the basics of our faith.

Why do we need a creed? So we can proclaim with one another what we are doing being a church together.



# COUNCIL PRESIDENT Kara Hepp

Happy Spring!

I hope everyone is doing well and finally thawing out after a few weeks of very cold weather! The spring always brings motivation, life and warmth back into our lives! Recently, I have been able to feel that sense of motivation and renewed sense of connection not only within our church walls and parking lot, but also within the interactions of our online community as well. Did you ever think we'd be saying/seeing an "online community"?? If nothing else, the trials of the last year have led to our staff and world becoming creative and expanding their comfort levels and viewpoints to see opportunities that exist beyond the physical four walls.

I personally have witnessed three different people attend Zoom meetings for the first time. These meetings were in lieu of church meetings in person but still allowed for a great experience. I know that Pastor has begun to pick back up the visioning efforts for the church and hosted a very well attended Zoom meeting to do so. It brought together members both near and far to weigh in, brainstorm, and connect!

There are so many other ways that it has allowed for outreach and connection and if you have been at all hesitant in joining in, please reach out. We can get you set up! In March, this is what I am thankful for; the variety of ways our congregation is able and willing to show up and be that community for one another!

Prayers and Blessing,

Kara Hepp





# EDUCATION

## Amanda Saelens



Happy Spring? Let's hope this weather is here to stay and we can have ourselves an early spring. To continue with the good news, education is back in person at church for the youngsters! We will continue with every other Sunday for Sunday School, especially while we have one service. The online option is still available too if that works better for you. If you haven't been able to access it, please don't hesitate to ask. Myself, Shawna, or the office can get you connected.

As Pastor Sue has reminded us, it is important to get involved. The Education Team meets the first Sunday of the month at 10 and it usually lasts about an hour. Because of the overlap, we have a joint meeting with the Youth Team. Simply by coming at ten, you could be involved with both teams! We would love to see you there and hear any input or ideas you might have.

Proverbs 22:6

*"Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it."*

Amanda

# WORSHIP & MUSIC

## Rachel Maguire



Ash Wednesday/Lent - Ashes have been ordered and will be applied with a q-tip as people leave. Then will do communion on the second and fourth Sundays and the first and third Wednesdays going forward. Pastor Sue would like to have one male and two females to lead singing at Wednesday evening services also. I have one female lined up through Lent, if you know of anyone else that would be willing please let me know.

Palm Sunday - Donna Larsen is putting together the service and special music.

Maundy Thursday (4/1) and Good Friday services will be at 7 pm.

Easter (4/4) services will be at 6:30 am and 9 am.

We have two baptisms coming up. I will have my sister write calligraphy on the baptism certificates. If there is anyone in the congregation that knows calligraphy please let me know.

We are checking with the piano tuner to see what we can use to dust the inside of the piano. It is quite dusty.

Matt is working to get the new candle bases installed so that they won't wiggle at all.

Thanks,  
Rachel





# Angie Spartz

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The kind, welcoming attitude, and generosity of spirit is tangible here at Long Lake Lutheran Church. Congregational Life works to foster this spirit and offer opportunities for all members of LLLC to connect with each other and our community. As we embark on planning for 2021, Covid still leaves some unknowns, but our passion for bringing fun, engaging, and welcoming energy and activities to Long Lake Lutheran Church is strong! We are excited for the day when we can all be together again in person, and until that day, we will strive to keep us all connected and spreading God's love.



Hello all! I can't believe its March! I know I'm not the only one enjoying the melting of snow and sunshine. What is happening with our Awesome youth of our congregation?

- \* Shawna and mission trip team are working with Praying Pelican to decide destination of 2021 trip. This will be decided by mid-March.
- \* Our snow tubing and our 6th grade- 8th grade confirmation retreat were cancelled due to Covid restrictions/guidelines.

\* We are back to in person for Confirmation classes which began February 24th. Also having Zoom available for those not ready to be in person. It is so nice to see them in person and coming with their families.

\* February 13th, we had a well-supported Sweetheart Dinner "drive up". Thank you for the financial donations, our mission trip families, our youth, volunteers, and the wonderful BBQ food that was prepared by the Goedels.

\* Butterbraid sales are beginning. This will help support our youth and mission trip families.

\* Our youth purchased a stole for Pastor Eric to congratulate him for his ordination.

Youth Council rep, Margaret

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Long Lake Community Garden was very successful last year. I was hoping to instill the love of gardening in our youth. It worked! Now several of my devoted families want to do their own gardens and don't have time to participate in ours. So I need some more help---youth, Confirmation kids who need service hours, adults...We will have a zoom training meeting on Tues, March 9 at 6:30. If you want to participate in the training, please contact Marcy at 651 338 8996 for the zoom info. If you just want to help with the garden and can't do the zoom, please also contact Marcy so that I can include you on future plans. Thanks so much!

# STEWARDSHIP

## Julie Nielsen



What does stewardship mean to you? If I had been asked that question before I joined the Stewardship Team, my answer would have been your offering, but I know now that is not all stewardship is.

Stewardship is treasure, talent and time. You can share your talents-whether they are music, singing, maybe your talent is mechanical aptitude, problem solving, or some other talent that you would like to share.

Time is volunteering to be on a committee, assist the office staff if needed. There are many ways to volunteer your time.

Come join us for a meeting to learn more about stewardship. We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month after church.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

We have a scholarship opportunity for anyone who has completed at least one semester of college. Please look for the application on the website, check with Shawna for any questions! Also, there is a scholarship available for anyone wanting to get a boiler's license in the amount of \$500. This has been given in memory of Marv Evenson by his wife Colleen.

## EASTER FLOWERS

There are inserts around for Easter Flowers! Let's decorate our sanctuary for our Easter services! Get your order in by March 26! Talk to Shawna if you would like to order flowers! You can fill out the inserts, or just let Shawna know if you would like to order as well!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Birthdays</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Baptism Anniversaries</b>
1	Roger Pelika Madonna Schmidt		Madonna Schmidt Mackenzie Goedel
3	Kylie Berg		Logan Soligny
5	Wesley Sonstebly	1	Wayne Olson
6	Matthew Lundeen		Edward Rouen
7	Logan Orr		Donna Larsen
8	Carlee Oliver Roxanne Peterson		Angie Hysten Phillip Maguire
9	Logan Anderson		Jenna Goslinga
9	Colleen Bell		Kelsey Hooker
	Bexley Budnick	4	Aubrey Bell
12	Jon Westover	6	Finnley Belsheim
14	Samantha Capra Kerri Hill Zachary Thompson	8	Mike Hanson Charlotte Fischer Margaret McGovern
15	Karen Baker Karen Bartz	9	Peyton Stanius
18	Antonio Rouen	11	Abigail Niemi Shelby Niemi
19	Richard Larsen Nicholas Wachsmuth		Tiffanie Niemi
20	Wyatt Wald	12	Susan Netzer
21	Jarek Scheller		Andrew Jaques
23	Mark Hanson	17	Kenneth Miller
24	Carter Fournier	18	Charlotte Sonterre
24	Don Weidner Ben Westover	19	Lydia Lund Sophie Lund
25	Marlene Mitchell	21	Tucker Kolb
26	Alex Hysten	22	Karen Bartz Baylye Anderson
27	Jeannine Anderson Lydia Lund	23	Taylor Bender
28	Katie Bauer	24	Ben Hysten Robin Gemmill
29	Gerald Anderson Tony Nechanicky		Brooklyn Zilmer
		25	Kaitlin Bender Victoria Henry
		26	Mitchell Nelson Kody Puck
			Jacob Anderson
			Madelyn Anderson
			Maya Anderson
			Sam Anderson
		27	Mickey Hanson
		31	Don Hansen
<b>Date</b>	<b>Anniversaries</b>		
5	Dale & Kathy Findell		
22	Linda & Larry Oliver		
28	Betsy & Jim Vincent		

Birthdays, Baptism Anniversaries, Wedding Anniversaries





# Jim Werronen

## Jim's Journeys



### Bakairi Tribe, Mato Grosso, Brazil

Back in October 2020 my good friend Tio Pedro ( Uncle Peter ) invited me to Brazil to help build some bathrooms for an indigenous tribe in the state of Mato Grosso. I immediately said yes because God has given me a love

for Brazil, so on January 2<sup>nd</sup> I left for Brazil.

Our goal was to build five bathrooms complete with toilet, sink, and shower, and add a room to an existing house. The team consisted of about 30 students from a Discipleship Training School that was in the practical phase where they go out and serve. The existing toilets were just a hole in the ground with two boards to stand on and the shower was just a white tarp wrapped around four poles.

The village was pretty remote, once we turned off the paved road we had another 62 miles of a bumpy dirt road before we got to the village. We started construction the day after we arrived, the work was back breaking in the 90+ degree heat. There was rock to be hauled, lumber to fetch out from the forest, and then the construction of the bathrooms. After about day four I was wondering how I would make it to the end of our time there. When I spoke to some of the younger men, I found that they were struggling just as much as I was!

Sometime in that first week I was invited to go on a hunt with some of the men in the tribe including the Cacique (tribal leader)! We hunted what they call

Anta, we call them Tapir, I missed my shot with the old .22 break action with no rear site and not much of a homemade site on the front! Later in the week the Cacique shot one with the same .22. I believe I may be the only American who has ever hunted with the Bakairi or hunted tapir in Brazil as guns are illegal there with the exception these antique guns the Indians have.

One of the most impactful times I had in the village was when a nurse was giving eye exams and giving out reading glasses. The eye exam kits were a gift from my mother in 2018, they came with enough materials to make nearly 700 pair of glasses. These kits have been to Africa and various parts of Brazil, I started to cry when I realized my mom was still impacting people even though she is no longer living.

We completed all the bathrooms and the house addition, and it was a wonderful time serving practically. I always enjoy extending God's great love to all to all those I meet, and I want to thank you all at Long Lake Lutheran for helping to make this possible. I hope to be in Minnesota in mid-May and hope to share more details of the trip then.

God Bless You All,  
Jim

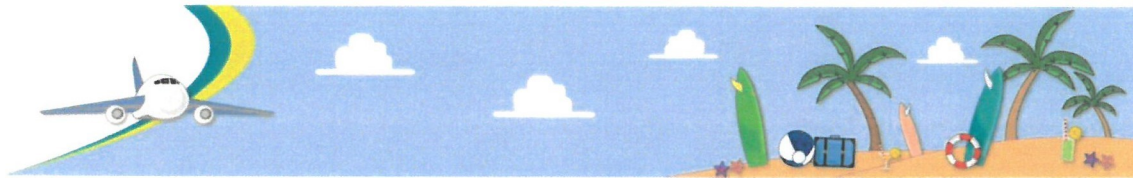




# CAMP ONOMIA

## Interested in these camps?

## Talk to Shawna for more info!



### SUMMER ACTIVITY CALENDAR 2021



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June			1 STAFF 10am	2 STAFF	3 STAFF	4 STAFF	5
	6 STAFF	7 STAFF	8 STAFF	9 STAFF	10 STAFF	11 STAFF ends 5 pm	12
	13 Confirmation	14 Confirmation	15 Confirmation	16 Confirmation	17 Confirmation	18 Confirmation	19
	20 Dcamp Belle >	21 Deaf & Hard of Hearing Families 3pm	22 DHHF	23 DHHF	24 DHHF	25 DHHF 11am	26
July	27 Camp SJ 3pm Dcamp Duluth > SIT(LTE)	28 Camp SJ SIT(LTE)	29 Camp SJ 11am SIT(LTE)	30 SIT(LTE)	1 SIT(LTE)	2 SIT(LTE)	3
	4 4 of July Holiday	5 Fish Camp > 3pm Dcamp Hanover >	6 Fish Camp	7 Beginners GrandparentKI DS Fish Camp	8 Beginners GrandparentKI DS Fish Camp	9 GrandparentKI DS Fish Camp	10
	11 GREATER MN only Pioneers Explorer	12 Pioneers Explorer Adventure Club	13 Pioneers Explorer Adventure Club	14 Explorer Adventure Club	15 Explorer Adventure Club	16 Explorer Adventure Club HS Together	17 HS Together Retreat
	18 HS Retreat Night Owls Night Hawks	19 Night Owls Night Hawks	20 Night Owls Night Hawks	21 Night Owls Night Hawks	22 Night Owls Night Hawks	23 Night Owls Night Hawks ServantSONG >	24 ServantSONG
	25 METRO only Pioneers Explorer	26 Pioneers Explorers Adventure Club	27 Pioneers Explorers Adventure Club	28 Explorers Adventure Club	29 Explorers Adventure Club	30 Explorers Adventure Club Family Wknd	31 Family Weekend
Aug	1 Family Wknd Family Camp	2 Family Camp	3 Family Camp	4 Family Camp	5 Family Camp	6 Family Camp	7
	8 Pioneers Explorer Adventure Club	9 Pioneers Explorers Adventure Club	10 Pioneers Explorers Adventure Club	11 Explorers Adventure Club	12 Explorers Adventure Club	13 Explorers Adventure Club	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Sept	29	30	31	1	2	3	4

Register by March 15th for Early Bird Discount



# A.A. Step By Step Step Three

## STEP THREE

*Make a decision to turn  
our will and our lives  
over to the care of God  
as we understood Him.*

Step Three has been summarized as: I can't, God can, I think I'll let Him. Our spiritual awakening is partly a process of becoming real. We are shedding the games that maintained our old style of life-macho or hero or poor me. In it's place we are developing a real relationship with ourselves.

Sometimes change comes in a moment of sudden awareness but more often it comes a little bit at a time. As we work the Steps, as we are true to our inner voice, as we keep returning to conscious contact with our Higher Power, as we get closer to our friends, we become more real to ourselves.

In the past many of us closed the door on the reality of our abuse to ourselves or others. We gave explanations but our words more often hid the truth than revealed it. Many came into the program priding themselves on their honesty, but now are aware of how dishonest they were with themselves. Honesty is a pillar of spiritual awakening. There is no growth without it. It begins with ourselves. We do not define the truth, we accept it. We surrender to it. The truth may not feel good; it can even be painful. This is the reward of having our integrity and the peace of self-acceptance.

The Serenity Prayer really ties into the Third Step. In that we ask for God's help to "accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and wisdom to know the difference. Thy will, not my will, be done." The decision to turn our will and lives over to the care of God is made almost as often as the decision not to do it. The Serenity Prayer helps keep us centered when things don't go our way. Lives not only include our life but also our life as a spouse, employer, friend....all our lives.

based on the books "How It Works" and the AA Big Book



# VISIONING

This is your opportunity to be heard. Write your ideas for our Visioning on this sheet. Tear it out, fill it out (use as much paper as you need!) and send it to us at: 3921 277<sup>th</sup> Av. NW, Isanti, MN 55040, drop it off, or send us an e-mail with your ideas. [susanolson@longlakeluth.org](mailto:susanolson@longlakeluth.org)

DREAM BIG

How will we carry out the ministries God has called us to do? What needs to change?

## **BREATHE LIFE INTO:**

**1. Main Building built in 2020**

**2. Cornerstone Education building—old church built in 1891**

**3. Property/Landscape**

*<sup>11</sup>For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. <sup>12</sup>Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. <sup>13</sup>When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.*

*Jeremiah 29:11-13*

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