Long Lake Lutheran Church November 2021

Country Spire

Monday, November 1st 7:00 pm Visioning Team Meeting

Wednesday, November 3rd 5:15 pm Fried Chicken Dinner 6:00 pm Worship/Confirmation/Children's Church

Sunday, November 7 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Youth & Education

Tuesday, November 10 1:00 pm Sunshine Circle

Wednesday, November 10
5:15 pm Taco in a Bag Dinner
6:00 Worship/Confirmation/Children's Church

Sunday, November 14 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Congregational Life, Missions Team

Wednesday, November 17
5:15 pm Ham & Au gratin Potatoes
6:00 pm Worship/Confirmation/Children's Church

Thursday, November 18
1:00 pm WELCA
6:00 Property & Finance Team Meetings

Sunday, November 21 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Stewardship Team Meeting 10:15 am Tator Tot Hotdish Benefit

Tuesday, November 23 9:00 am Mission Quilting

Wednesday, November 24
6:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve
6:45 pm Pie Social/Silent Auction

Sunday, November 28 9:00 am Worship

Don't Forget!

Adult Forum Sundays at 8:15 am

Prayer Team Thursdays 9:00 am

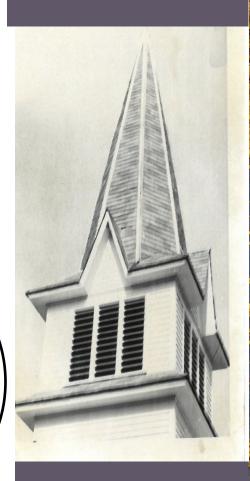
Bible Study Thursdays 10:30 am **Christ Centered**

Purpose Balanced

Mission Driven

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

longlakeluth.org



Pastoral and Office Staff



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

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¹⁷I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness, and sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High.

Psalm 7: 17

Other Staff

Organist Kristy Anderson 763-300-0167 cookiesue2020@gmail.com

Wedding Coordinator Carol Perrin 952-220-2684 carol.perrin.cp@gmail.com

Custodian Mary Johnson

Council

Chairperson **Kara Hepp** 763-350-0250 kara@larsengardens.com **Congregational Life** Open Education **Amanda Saelens** 763-227-6545 a.hansen4721@gmail.com **Dennis Wanless** 612-802-2735 **Finance** dennisatthelake@yahoo.com 763-221-0725 Missions Ronda Fenion ronda.fenlon@yahoo.com Property acting chair John Hass 612-919-2428 john-jhpumping@hotmail.com Stewardship 612-269-0489 jknielsen44@gmail.com Julie Nielsen **Worship & Music Rachel Maguire** 701-330-3434 rachelmariemaguire@gmail.com 612-221-5922 Youth **Margaret Bauer** jjtbmab@aol.com



From the desk of Pastor Sue

"He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; 2 he also saw a poor widow put in

two small copper coins. ³ He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; ⁴ for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."

It is hard for us to imagine this poor widow giving all she had to live on to the temple treasury, but that is, in fact, what she did. Each month we pay our mortgages, car payments, utility bills, home and car insurance, then we buy our gas and groceries. We pay for tv and streaming services, internet and phone services. Some of us have student loan payments or medical bills. Maybe there is some money left over for entertainment like seeing a movie or a play. At the end of the month, it seems, for many, that the days of the month outlast the dollars in the checkbook. What do we have left to give to our church. Not much, it seems.

What if, at the beginning of the year, we looked at our projected annual income and made a decision as to what percentage we could contribute to the church. 10% is a tithe and is a great amount to strive for. What if, at the beginning of the month, we wrote out our check for the church, or gave online trusting that God would provide for our needs. What would that feel like? Do we trust God enough to get us through the rest of the month if we share the first fruits with Him?

Imagine Jesus is there in the room with you when you fill out your commitment card for 2022. What would Jesus think of your choice? A long time ago, in the early days of the church, people pooled all they had and redistributed it so that all could be taken care of. Not that long ago, people stood before their congregation at the beginning of the year and made a vow, a promise that included being faithful in participation of the church and personal prayer life, a vow to be present in worship, and a promise to give financial gifts and gifts of service. How would like

Luke 21: 1-4 (NRSV) that? That makes us squirm.

Our giving is a personal matter. It's between you and God, the giver of all things. Your contributions are kept in strict confidence. What if you made a commitment to God to offer nothing less than your personal best, making sure that you would be the best disciple you could possibly be? What is standing in your way?

Luke 16: 10-14

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. "If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

In the biblical passage from Luke 21, we were introduced to a woman who gave her best, her all. Jesus is standing by the offering plates watching people put in their offerings. Now isn't that a scary thought? What if Jesus stood by our church's offering plate and watched what each person put in? Uff dah. In the Luke passage, however, that is exactly what Jesus is doing.

In his book, "Why Not The Best?," Jimmy Carter wrote about his interview with Admiral Rickover as an applicant to the nuclear submarine program. Rickover asked Carter questions for over two hours with ever increasing difficulty. He looked right at Carter who was saturated with cold sweat. Finally, he asked, "How did you stand in your class at the Naval Academy?" Carter thought he would redeem himself with his answer. "Sir, I stood fifty-ninth in a class of 820!" Rickover asked, "Did you do your best?" Carter started to say, "Sir, yes, sir!" but then he recalled several times when he could have learned more and applied himself more. "No sir, I did not always do my best." Rickover stared at Carter for a long time, then turned his chair around indicating the end of the interview. He asked one final question that Carter could not answer, nor would he ever forget. "Why not? Why not?"



Shawna BergDirector of Youth and Family Ministry

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. *Philippians 4:6*

We are coming up on Thanksgiving, which, I have always said is one of my favorite holidays. I've always loved Thanksgiving because it isn't commercialized, and it generally is a holiday that focuses on family, traditions, food and gratitude. Unlike many of the religious holidays, thanksgiving isn't usually a day that I have any work connected to, so I can usually fully focus on the holiday with my family, our traditions and on all the things we are thankful for.

This year, as thanksgiving is approaching, I'm feeling anxious. I'm not sure how my holiday will look, as I will be recovering from surgery. My dad has been going through very challenging cancer treatments. Logically, I know that I still have so many things to be grateful for, but my mind tends to be consumed with all the things I'm anxious about. When you are going through challenging times, it's harder to see the good that exists amidst those troubles. For all of these reasons, I'm need to make an effort to do some things to focus back on gratitude, rather than anxiety. Research has shown that we can be increase our happiness by intentionally practicing gratitude. Generally, people that practice gratitude are better able to cope with everyday stress, may recover faster from illness and, as many of us have probably experienced, that attitude of gratitude can be infectious.

So how do we do it? In the face of what has seemed like a lot of overwhelming bad news lately, I have reinstated a practice of finding three things to be grateful for each day, and writing them down. It is easy to realize once you do this, that there are many things that you take for granted. In the moments when anxiety begins to take over, I look over my gratitude lists, and remember all the reasons why I am thankful.

Make an effort to stop the negative talk. Dwelling in negative talk, can help you be consumed by it. This doesn't mean you should deny what you are feeling, or that you shouldn't feel safe enough to share your feelings, but always complaining can change your outlook. Try to look for the positive in situations.

Share what you are grateful for to your loved ones and even to strangers. Giving a genuine thank you to people that we may take for granted can make someone's day. Take the time to write a note or a letter to someone you are grateful for, that way they can look back on it during a difficult time when they need to.

Take time in prayer to thank God for all of your blessings, and turn over all the things that are out of your control to God. Many of us are in the practice to go to God when we need something, but we rarely thank God for all the God things. Flipping the script, to one of gratitude can be a real mood changer.

If you are looking for a practice as a family, get a pumpkin (you might be able to get a great deal now!) and write something you are grateful for every day from now until thanksgiving and use it as a centerpiece on your thanksgiving table.

So, what works for you and the people you love? I'd love to hear about it!

Long Lake Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2021

Attendees: Kara Hepp, Pastor Sue Olson, Ronda Fenlon, Amanda Saelens, Julie Nielsen, Shawna Berg, Dennis Wanless, , Rachel Maguire, and Margaret Bauer

Meeting called to order by Kara at 6:35pm Christ candle lit by Kara

Devotions: Julie – Be Attentive: Proverbs 4:20-21 Can anything separate us from God?

Approval of September Meeting Minutes-this was done via email by attendees

Approval of October Agenda

1st motion made by Julie Nielsen

2nd motion made by Amanda Saelens

Discussion-Moma should be "Moms" under Housekeeping Items

Motion passed

Staff Reports

Pastor Sue and Shawna shared the need to confirm recording of Sunday's service. The Worship and Music team will reach out for volunteers to cover this need. Team discussed other needs such as donut/cookie pickup and other jobs that make worship and fellowship successful.

Team Reports

Thanks to the teams who were able to send reports prior to meeting.

Worship and Music- Rachel shared that we have 2 pianos that are no longer used and can be given away. We will share with the congregation and do a Facebook post for any interested parties. If we have no interest

after a week, we will place them on Facebook Market until the end of the month. Rachel will get pricing and budget for new headsets for Pastor Sue and Shawna for 2022.

Finance- Youth team would like youth accounts be merged into one account for ease of accounting.

Property- Dennis gave an update regarding the ventilation and barriers with replacing the pumps. Massman will be onsite 10/21 for the fall tune up. It was ask if the team could mount the TV from the sanctuary into the youth room in the Cornerstone (wall mount has been ordered). Property team will activate the heat in both buildings. It was decided to set the heat at 70 degrees in the cornerstone.

ONGOING (recurring items)

Discuss COVID variant (7.7% current Isanti County Rate) – We will continue to use CDC/MDH for guidance of exposures. If needed, we will use our Parish nurse, other medical professionals along with staff and council team to review data and case by case concerns.

Personnel-Office Admin Update-Final interviews were completed with Pastor Sue and Shawna. Personnel will meet and make an offer to chosen candidate. Personnel team will also be completing yearly staff reviews this month.

Technology- Kara will invite Bruce Yurich to our next council meeting to get clarity on our needs and actions for technical support and service.

Visioning- Pastor Sue has had one meeting already and 3 more planned. We have 4 interested individuals. Some great discussion and thought about what the vision is for our 2 buildings, what is the "link. Team will continue to gather information and move forward.

HOUSEKEEPING (PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Mom's Cows Cleaning- Mary and her team finished this week and will not be retuning. She is having knee

surgery. Pastor Sue met with Beth Hein (referred by Mary) today. She is based out of Rush City. Recommendation from team is to hire Beth's cleaning for interim of 30 days. We do not want to delay in the cleanliness of the buildings. Pastor Sue will review other cleaning companies and share with team.

Copier Contract follow-up-A new contract/agreement was completed. A new printer will be delivered mid-November. Shawna will respond to Tate's email regarding timeframe and delivery date.

OLD BUSINESS

Reps needed for next year- We will be looking for 3 council reps for next year. Currently these teams are Congregational Life, Worship and Music, and Property but can change depending on members and team interests. Team discussed different views, pros and cons of being a servant on council. Pastor Sue will check with other leaders for council roles and expectations. Ronda/Kara will check with the Synod for some guidance also. We will add this to the next meeting.

New Council Meeting Time- Finance and Property were not able to discuss this last month. They will discuss in November. Another suggestion was to wait until after the annual meeting due to new members and other barriers.

NEW BUSINESS

Porta Potty- It was felt that this meets the needs for many (members and nonmembers). Several people have shared their appreciation. We will continue to support it but may have the property team review the location and if it needs to placed elsewhere.

Review of Master Calendar – Preliminary Budget proposal- We will ask Jen to print yearly team expense reports. Teams will prepare budgets and submit to Dennis by November 1st.

Confirmation of Next Month's Responsibilities

November devotions-Rachel Maguire

November Council Reps-

9 am –Open- Margaret/Ronda/Kara will cover

6 pm –Amanda Saelens

Spire articles due 10/27/21

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm 1st motion made by Dennis Wanless; 2nd motion made by Rachel Maguire Discussion none, Motion passed

Respectfully submitted, Margaret Bauer

Happy Fall!! I hope everyone is enjoying the bright colors - isn't His work a sight to see??

I'm a beyond excited for the month ahead! Thanksgiving offers us yet another time to reflect and come together with family and friends. There is a buzz in the air reminding us of the

blessings He bestows upon us. I know we can never say this enough but I am beyond thankful for each of you! Your faithfulness to the church (in thought, word, or deed) does not go unnoticed. It is because of you that this church thrives!

Thank you 1,000 times over!!
Prayers and Blessings,
Kara Hepp

A Message from Kara Hepp Council President



STEWARDSHIP

Psalm 24: 1-2 "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

² for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers."





All good gifts of time, talent and treasure are gifts from God. Our proper response is gratitude. What are you thankful for? I am thankful for—my family, my friends, my health, Long Lake Lutheran and most of all I have an awesome God.

The volunteers who give so much of their time for the work needed to be done at LLLC. The generous contributions that come in week in and week out that support the ministry we share in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The amazing talents of our musicians, artists, teachers, worship leaders, readers, office staff, cleaners, cooks, sewers, quilters, decorators, and greeters.

Stewardship is not about how much money you give to the church. It is about what you do with what God has first given you and what God continues to give, sharing in God's work for the good of all God's people. It is exercised in joy, thanksgiving and trust in God.

Your Stewardship Team is asking you to prayerfully consider all that you have been given and in gratitude return a portion of that to your church. You will be receiving a letter with a commitment card to fill out in the privacy of your own home. Invite Jesus into your conversation about how much you will contribute in 2022. On November 21st, we will celebrate Commitment Sunday during worship and will be serving pumpkin bars and hot apple cider at Shawna's benefit.



The mowing season has come to an end. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped with keeping the grass mowed and the shrubs trimmed. The snowblower has been installed on the John Deere, we are looking at options for the flooring in the kitchen area. The heat system is getting its fall check up. The wiring for the roof vents is being worked on to help stop the ice dams. The property committee meets the third Thursday of the month.

JOHN HASS

PROPERTY

EDUCATION

As we continue to hold onto Fall as long as we can, we are also looking ahead to what's coming. Hope the students are enjoying being back in person for Sunday School. We sure do like having a full classroom of busy children learning about God. In addition to the typical lesson, we will be slowly gathering material for the Christmas program. We look forward to creating a presentation that is fun, entertaining and showcases the story we know so well.



AMANDA SAELENS

On a side note, I would encourage you to find a group in our church to join. The youth and education teams gather on the first Sunday of the month after service. During our meetings, it is a brainstorming session to better the education of all and provide a safe haven for our youth. They only last about an hour, but I would like to think we accomplish a lot. I hope you will consider joining us.

Amanda

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 5:15 pm for food and fellowship! Each Wednesday we have a community meal before our Wednesday evening service. Suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$20 per family for meals. The food is good and the company is even better! Join us!



Our youth were busy last month! We had a wonderful Trunk and Treat event on Saturday October 30th. Thank you to all who supported this event with providing candy, decorating a trunk, and volunteering! A special thanks to Isanti Rental for their continued support of providing the Bouncy house (which is always a big hit)! Brian Richards (the magician) was a new vendor for this year and provided two shows.



Our congregation confirmed the faith of four students (Lilah, Andrew, Lucas, and Graydon) on Sunday, October 31st. There were family members and friends there to support and affirm the faith of these amazing young people of our congregation. Thank you to our confirmation leaders for supporting, encouraging, and being a example of a faithful servant of God. A special thank you to Shawna and the parents for helping lead our youth in their faith journey! We are planning our Pie Social and Silent Auction for Wednesday November 24th! So excited for this event and looking forward to having some pie!





Feeling so grateful for many things! Margaret (Youth Rep)

LADIES GROUPS

WELCA is doing a benefit for Shawna's medical bills on Sunday, Nov. 21st following the church service. They will be serving Tater Tot Hotdish, Rolls and Salad. The Stewardship Team will be serving pumpkin bars and hot apple cider. Free will donation.

Holiday season is coming up fast, lets all help anyone that is in need of food for the holidays and anytime. The table is setup on the narthex as a reminder. Please help us to fill it up!

Sunshine circle meet on Oct.12th. It's nice to be able to meet again, We checked out the quilts that we have on hand. We where able to decorate the tables in the fellowship hall. Remember that we have Greeting Cards for sale in the narthex. if you're in need of a card. We set up the Horn of plenty in the narthex. Please share what you can this holiday season with the less fortunate. Our next meeting will be Nov.8th at 1:00. Please come and join us. Coffee and treats are always on.

I would like to thank all the people that signed up for donating items to the kitchen over the years. This was started in 2010 and now we have a new chairperson—Becky Agranoff. I sincerely want to thank everyone who answered the requests. You got right on it! You were all a joy to work with!!

Sincerely, Loretta Fornberg

IN OTHER NEWS

Hi, I am Rachel Hemsworth, the new Office Administrator. I live in Cambridge with my husband Nick and our 3 amazing children Dylan, Morgan, and Logan. Some of my hobbies are gardening and reading and we love to go fishing and camping as a family. I am so excited and blessed to be given this opportunity. I cannot wait to get to know you all!



Your church council has 3 openings coming up at our next annual meeting. We invite you to pray about stepping into a leadership position for your church. The terms are 3 years. Please talk to any of our current council reps.

The horse painting (Long Legged Lady) in the Narthex is donated by Barry Smith. Anyone is eligible to sign up for the drawing. There is no cost for a ticket. The drawing will be held on Thanksgiving Eve and someone will go home with a beautifully framed picture.

The time is going by fast. the Live Nativity will be Dec. 4 and 5th. We are looking for volunteers for characters and all kinds of help. We will be doing the donation for the soup supper a little different this year. We are asking for money donation and will buy all the food that we need. We will still need cooking donation though. We are looking forward to the Live Nativity this year. It will be the 25th performance. We are open to any new ideas.

PLEASE CONTACT CAROL PERRIN OR ROSIE HASS with any question or ideas. Our next meeting will be Nov.7th after church 8in the conference room. We want to make this a great community outreach. Thank you Rose Hass

Date **Birthdays Robin Gemmill** Rachel Maguire Muira Yurich Eloise Mitchell Sarah Koester 3 Mer Larsen Jack Ford **Grady Hepp** Karen Lundeen Margaret McBride Mike Hanson 7 8 Jace Goedel Angie Hylen Megan Larsen Kathy Findell Jennifer Rowe Archie Spike 11 Justin Peterson Sandie Hemsworth 12 Ross Vandenheuvel 13 Jocylyn Peterson 14 Joanne Puck 15 **Christy Strand** 16 Kenna Hill **Becky Olson** Teresa Hanson 17 18 Karen Anderson Harold Merchlewitz David Rock 19 21 Kylee Lehman Adam Staff Barb Erickson 22 Kaitlin Ford Cece Netzer Lyrah Plath Tony Dufeck 23 Joanna Dufeck Sarah Greene Jesse Lehman 26 27 Chris Rowe Megan Yurich Linda Rouen 28 **Baylee Anderson** Mikki Hanson

Baptism Anniversary Date Becky Agranoff James Peterson, Jr. Samantha Titus **Graydon Townswick** LeAnn Snidarich Dave Baker 3 6 Madelynn Belsheim 7 **Nathaniel Peterson** 8 Heidi Vandenheuvel Michelle Pankan Evan Puck 9 11 Lucas Jensen Gavin Yurich 11 Finn Netzer **Hadley Nelson** Collette McGovern Brooklyn Mehle 13 Tyler Jensen Levi Hill Laila Isle 14 **Dawson Sheldon** 15 **Delanee Wachsmuth** William Rowe 17 19 Julie Nielsen Jacek Greene 22 Carol Perrin 24 Melissa Sorenson 26 Jarret Gemmil 30

Date Anniversary 6 John & Rose Hass 15 Jessica & Rich Larsen 16 Carole & Doug Larson 23 John & Julie Splettstoesser



A.A. Step By Step

Step Eleven

"Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with god as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out"

Our sobriety depends on the maintenance of our spiritual condition. The powerlessness over our addiction that nearly destroyed us will return if we do not work on maintaining contact with our Higher Power. Prayer and meditation are our principal means of conscious contact with God. It is through these channels we reestablish our desire to do God's will. A handy distinction that is often made between prayer and meditation is that prayer is talking to God, mediation is listening. We must ask God to reveal his will for us but then we must listen for the answer.

We came into the program seeking help for our addictions. Many find the spiritual peace they didn't realize they were seeking. After some time in the program it begins to dawn on most AA members that the program is a spiritual program and through the steps they can find the way to spiritual peace. Many come into the program angry and estranged from God and find their way back through working the steps.

Step Eleven talks about praying only for knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out. The work 'only' serves as a reminder to take our will out of the equation. How do we recognize the will of our Higher Power? Many of us become aware during those quiet, still moments during meditation when our minds are clear from distraction. We can connect with our Higher Power in many ways: through nature on a walk in the woods, listening to music, or sitting quietly with our eyes shut. We can repeat the Se-

renity Prayer throughout the day. We don't have to do it perfectly; we just have to do it willing.

What exactly is meditation? The dictionary says it means "to think contemplatively". When I look up 'contemplate' it means, "to view thoughtfully." When we awake, we should consider our plans for the day. Before we begin, we ask God to direct our thinking, perhaps read some meditation books or scripture and then just sit quietly and let our Higher Power work within us. Upon retiring, we constructively review our day. Do we owe anyone an apology? Were we loving and kind? What could we have done differently? Were we thinking of ourselves or others? After taking inventory of our behavior for the day and we inquire what corrective measures should be taken, we ask for God's forgiveness.

Of course we cannot work Step Eleven perfectly nor can we ever be done working this step. If we have truly worked all the eleven steps to the best of our ability we have developed a true spiritual basis for living. That basis is humility; putting God's will before our own.

How It Works One Dayi at a Time Courage to Change

Long Lake Lutheran Church

⁶DO NOT WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING,

but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

⁷AND THE PEACE OF GOD,

which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

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