

# LONG LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## November Newsletter

11-1-2022

Our mission: 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 are Christ Centered, Purpose Driven & Mission Focused!*



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# November

- |      |  |      |   |
|------|--|------|---|
| 1st  | 9:00 Fellowship Café<br>7:00 AA  | 16th | 1:00 Grief Share<br>6:00 Worship  |
| 2nd  | 12:00 Senior Cards<br>1:00 Grief Share<br>5:30 Dinner<br>6:00 Worship                        | 17th | 9:00 Prayer Group<br>10:30 Bible/Book Study<br>1:00 WELCA<br>6:00 Council Meeting |
| 3rd  | 9:00 Prayer Group<br>10:30 Bible/Book Study<br>1:00 Worship & Music Meeting                  | 20th | 9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion<br>10:15 Mission Team Meeting                      |
| 6th  | 9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion<br>10:15 Meetings: Stewardship, Youth and Education, Property | 21st | 6:00 4-H Long Lake Leaders Meeting<br>6:00 Emotions Anonymous                     |
| 7th  | 6:00 Emotions Anonymous  | 22nd | 9:30 Fellowship Café<br>7:00 AA   |
| 8th  | 9:30 Fellowship Café<br>1:00 Sunshine Circle<br>5:00 Finance Meeting<br>7:00 AA              | 23rd | 1:00 Grief Share<br>6:00 Worship<br>7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social              |
| 9th  | 1:00 Grief Share<br>5:30 Dinner<br>6:00 Worship  | 24th | Office Closed<br>Happy Thanksgiving   |
| 10th | 9:00 Prayer Group<br>10:30 Bible/Book Study  | 27th | 9:00 Worship<br>3:00 Friends of Ruth- Christmas Tea                               |
| 11th | 8:00 pm Moonlight Madness  | 28th | 12:00 Lunch Ladies<br>6:00 Emotions Anonymous                                     |
| 13th | 9:00 Worship<br>10:15 Cong. Life Meeting   | 29th | 9:00 Mission Quilting<br>9:30 Fellowship Café<br>7:00 AA                          |
| 14th | 1:00 Friends of Ruth<br>6:00 Emotions Anonymous  | 30th | 1:00 Grief Share<br>6:00 Worship  |
| 15th | 9:30 Fellowship Café   |      |   |



## From the desk of Pastor Sue:



### **GOD IS LOVE!!**

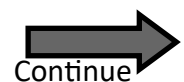
This month, I invite you to read the 3 letters of John. They are located at the back of the New Testament just before Jude and Revelation. They were sent as pastoral letters to several Gentile congregations, but also seem to apply to all believers everywhere for all time. They are believed to have been written by John, the beloved disciple of Jesus, to dispel doubts, and to give confidence and assurance in God, and in their faith. The word “love” appears more than 40 times in these letters. Because God loves us, he calls us his children and makes us like Christ.

In our dark world, God is light (1.1-2.29); in our cold world, God is love (2.29-4.21); and in our dying world, God is life (5.1-21). False teachings had begun to disrupt the community of new believers. John’s writings invited these believers into a deeper relationship with God through the good news of Jesus. It’s about relationship with God first and foremost, but then it’s about fellowship with other believers. The Greek word for fellowship, *koinonia*, means “to share, partake, partner.” We are partners in the light with Christ. If we do not cultivate fellowship among us, we are walking away from the light into dark territory where Satan can have a field day with us, causing us to sin.

1 John 1: 5-10 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

<sup>8</sup> If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.



There are many opportunities for you to “share, partake, and partner” with other believers here at LLLC. I am inviting you, but more importantly, I am praying that you will join with us in worship, coffee fellowship, Tuesday morning Fellowship Café, prayer group, Bible and book studies, educational programming, Live Nativity, Food Truck Fellowship, Trunk n Treat, decorating the church for Christmas, Friends of Ruth Tea, WELCA, Sunshine, Mission Quilters, Lunch Ladies, GriefShare, AA, Meal Packing, Youth Activities, Pie social, silent auction, choir... and much more. Are we missing anything that would be more interesting to you? Let us know; we can do more together.

1 John 3: 11 (NIV)

*“For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.*

We still have rice on the carpet in the fellowship hall from our meal packing event! Our Narthex is full of tables showcasing different aspects of life and opportunity in the church. I love it when we are showing our love to our brothers and sisters through action, even when it gets messy. I would much rather see a mess of activity than a pristine area void of anything happening. We have a lot going on at LLLC. Please join in something. We need fellowship; we need the love and support of our fellow believers; we need each other. Come. Be an active participant of this church and the mission we share.

In our dark world, God is light (1.1-2.29); in our world, God is love (2 29-4 21); and in our dying world, God is life (5: 1-21)



## From the desk of Shawna Berg:



It is hard to believe that it is November already! Before we know it, we will be eating pie, and celebrating together at our Pie Social.

Thanksgiving has always been one of my very favorite holidays. Perhaps it is because it hasn't been overly commercialized, and it isn't attached to a church holiday (which for me, often means work). This means that Thanksgiving for me simply is about family, good food, and time spent together.

When my kids were tiny, we started a tradition of special tablecloths that we put out each year on Thanksgiving (these were plain off white tablecloths I bought, nothing special) that we have every person who celebrates with us sign and date and write what they are most thankful for that year. If we travel to someone else's house for the holiday, we bring our tablecloth, spread it out on the floor, and ask everyone to sign it, to remember who we shared the holiday with, and continue the tradition.

This year, my mom and brother will be coming up from New Mexico to celebrate Thanksgiving with us, and it is the first time we will celebrate that holiday since my dad has passed away earlier this year. I was thinking about my tablecloth yesterday, and found myself get really emotional, and very thankful that I have all those years of my dad's writing on that tablecloth. On Thanksgiving Night, our entire family, will go to the Vikings Game in his memory. My dad was a die-hard fan, and always wanted to go, and never made it to a home game. When the new stadium was built, we bought a brick in his honor. We will all go and see his brick, and watch the game together, and toast his memory (and hope he is pulling some strings up there to help them this season!).

I am glad that we have found a way to be thankful, and celebrate, in the midst of what could be a sad day. The practice of gratitude, and finding something to be thankful for, doesn't minimize pain (we know, we will still be sad) but reminds us of the reasons that we still have to be thankful. Gratitude allows us to be thankful for the memories that we have, for the loving family and support system that remains, and for a faith that sustains us when times are difficult. We are grateful for a faith that reminds us that this life isn't the end of the story, and for that, we can also celebrate.

I hope that this month you will find your own reason to be grateful.

*For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. **Ephesians 1:15-16***

## **LifeRice Meal Packing Event**

Last Spring, the Youth and Education team were brainstorming ideas about events. We talked about a meal packing event we went to with a few members of our church in a previous year, and talked about how fun that would be to do here, but didn't really know how realistic it would be. We thought it would be a really fun thing to do, possibly in connection with Rally Sunday. After doing a little research, we discovered LifeRice, an organization based in Cambridge, MN that does mobile food packing events and began talking to them about bringing a mobile pack to Long Lake Lutheran.

We brought the idea to the church council. No one really knew for sure if we would be able to pull off what we needed to do to make it happen, but we all agreed that we wanted to try! The Stewardship, Congregational Life, Mission and Youth and Education teams decided to work together to make this event happen. We set a goal of raising \$5,000 to purchase the ingredients, and getting 100 volunteers to pack food on the UN World Food Day, which was October 15th, 2022.

To begin the process, we had a few people who said they would support the event with a donation, Sunday School decided to give their offering for several months and the mission team committed one quarter of their offerings to the cause. We knew we were well on our way to raising our funds! Kara Hepp and the youth and education team helped to organize a fun run to help raise money for the event. This event, raised \$750 to go towards the meal packing event, and was a lot of fun for all the people who participated (most of them families). We had a course at church complete with color run stations, goofy tasks and the weather cooperated beautifully. Finally we took a special offering and we ended up taking in \$6,100 – surpassing our goal!

The next question was, would we be able to get 100 volunteers on a Sunday afternoon – during a Vikings game? No problem! We had 116 people sign up to help pack food from 11-1 p.m. and other community members purchased food and came into pack from 1-3 p.m. All in all about 200 people packed around 58,000 meals!

This was an event that was intergenerational with 4 year old children serving along side 80 year old members of our congregation and community and it was so much fun! Families were able to serve together. It is our hope that this can be an annual event.

Thank you for supporting this event with your time and talents and financial gifts. Together we can make a difference in our community and the world!

# Meal Packing Event w/ LifeRice



# *Pastor Appreciation Month*



October was Pastor appreciation month! We are thankful for Pastor Sue and our Youth Minister, Shawna Berg. Please make sure to thank them for all they do for our congregation!



## 2022 Community Garden Report– Marcy Stoeckel

We have put our Long Lake Community Garden to rest for another season. It was very productive—we provided produce for the sharing table every Sunday, we provided for our neighbors and shut-ins.

4-H-ers proudly exhibited our produce at the county fair and we provided over 550 pounds of produce for the local food shelf! We would like to thank the members of Long Lake Lutheran for their support and prayers for our wonderful new water system! Some of our backs are getting older and we would greatly appreciate more help next year. So please prayfully consider devoting some time to the garden next summer. Most of all, please pray for continued success of the garden!





Pastor Sue introduces our newest member Delilah Mae Rivard after her baptism. 10.23.22



Collette McGovern participates in our “Paint My Cup” event for Stewardship kickoff.



Women’s Retreat to the Grotto of the Redemption in West Bend, IA and the Amana Colonies.

Pastor Sue (picture taker), Judy Carolan, Karen Schlegel, Nancy Sandahl, Joanne Eittriem, Carol Perrin, Julie Nielsen.



*Trunk or Treat!*



**Long Lake Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
October 20, 2022**

**Attendees:** Ronda Fenlon, Pastor Sue Olson, Amanda Saelens, Julie Nielsen, John Hass, Margaret Bauer, Monica Peterson, Bruce Yurich, Mike Schlegel, and Denise Sunderland

Meeting called to order by Ronda@ 6:01 PM  
Lighting of the Christ Candle by Pastor Sue

**Recommendation from the Executive team to appoint Denise Sunderland for the remaining 4 month term to the open council seat**

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Julie N.

2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by John H.

Discussion – Council DL email address needs to be updated

Motion passed

Devotions/Prayer: Mike S.-Gifts and Talents (all come from God free)

**Approval of September Meeting Minutes**-this was done via email

**Approval of October Agenda**

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Mike S.

2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Amanda S.

Discussion – Add Facility Use under New Business

Motion passed

**Reports-** Thank you for submitting reports prior to the meeting. Ronda will cross check her email for submitted reports that she did not receive.

Staff

Executive Team

Council Teams- Please review the Stewardship packet email sent and give feedback.

**ONGOING (Recurring items)**

**Highs/Lows**

**Budget additions-** Please share any additional budget items to help provide to the Finance team. They have begun the process for the 2023 budget.

**Celebrations-** Please continue to share celebrations and take pictures of your team. We can share them with the congregation at the annual meeting. You can send your pictures to Joanna to save.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Constitution Review-** Previously this year Kara H. looked over and provided feedback. The executive team will be meeting Tuesday October 25 to begin reviewing and referencing the Minneapolis Synod guidelines.

**Custodian Position-** We received several applicants. The Personnel team will begin interviewing next week. Ronda is checking with Kathy to see if she will be able to stay on to help and train new staff.

**Admin Projects-** Joanna has completed previous projects and can help council members for upcoming projects. Please send your team minutes to Joanna. She has created books for council teams. She also has begun to create an itemized yearly expense report for each team.

**Master Calendar Review-** Add “begin Budget process” to October,

**September 2022 Finance Report-** Bruce shared finance reports. There is a correction for the Founders Fund-the ending balance on the report is \$25,899.92 and the correction is \$24,307.62. Tim Newton of Newton Financials attended the team’s monthly meeting. He shared some investment options. These investments are

bond based mutual funds and result with a number of shares that produce reliable year over year income. A new investment fund was selected to increase the reliable annual income. The team is reviewing options for other funds for investing including some short term investments. Bruce reviewed the proposed budget with council. Bruce asked council to review 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the proposed budget with team members and bring back in November to review/revise.

**Recommendation from the Finance team to have the Executive team be the authorized signers for investment accounts with Newton Financials** (Ronda Fenlon, Bruce Yurich, Amanda Saelens, and Margaret Bauer)

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by John H.

2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Mike S.

Discussion – none

Motion passed

**Recommendation form the Finance team to have bank check signers to be Ronda Fenlon, Amanda Saelens, and Margaret Bauer**

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Mike S.

2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by John H.

Discussion –none

Motion passed

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Facility use-** Pastor Sue received a request from Isanti 4-H team asking to use our facility for an overnight Leadership group lock in consisting of 20 students and 2 adults for Jan 6-7<sup>th</sup>.

**Recommendation to Approve Isanti County 4-H to use building with a refundable deposit Jan 6th-7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Amanda S.

2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Mike S.

Discussion – none

Motion passed

**What is the thing that our community and our people would lose if this ministry/congregation disappeared entirely?**

**Safety/Security Policies**

**Green Policies**

## **Housekeeping (Procedural Items)**

November Council Reps-

9 AM Sunday- Amanda S.

6 PM Wednesday- Mike S.

Thanksgiving Eve- Julie N.

November Devotions- Amanda S

November Executive Team Meeting 11/14/22 @ 6 PM

November Council Meeting 11/17/22 @ 6 PM

December Executive Team Meeting 12/12/22 @ 6 PM

December Council Meeting 12/15/22 @ 5 PM (Potluck at

Pastor Sue's home)

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned @8:10 PM

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Mike S.

2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by John H.

Discussion –none

Motion passed

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Bauer

### **October attendance:**

**October 2nd– 81**

**October 9th– 94**

**October 16th– 109**

**October 23rd- 108**

**October 30th– 108**

## **November Worship Helpers are:**

### **November 6th**

Greeter: Connie Engren  
Ushers: Pat & Pat Weiss-Meyer  
Lector: Wayne Olson  
Kitchen: Barb Talbot

### **November 13th**

Greeters: Dale & Kathy Findell  
Ushers: Margaret McBride & Barry Smith  
Lector: Kathie Schleif  
Kitchen: John & Rose Hass

### **November 20th**

Greeters: Denise Sunderland  
Ushers: Wayne & Becky Olson  
Lector: Melissa Sorenson  
Kitchen: Judy Carolan

### **November 27th**

Greeters: Harlan & Madge Lillemoen  
Ushers: Mike & Karen Schlegel  
Lector: Angie Spartz  
Kitchen: Lisa Gustafson





# November Birthdays

**November 1st**– Robin Gemmill, Rachel Maguire & Miura Yurich

**November 3rd**– Sarah Koester & Merwyn Larsen

**November 4th**– Grayden Hepp & Karen Lundeen

**November 5th**– Margaret McBride

**November 7th**– Mike Hanson

**November 8th**– Jace Goedel, Angie Hylan & Megan Larsen

**November 9th**– Kathy Findell, Renee Griego, Jennifer Rowe & Archie Spike

**November 11th**– Justin Peterson

**November 13th**– Ross Vandenheuvel

**November 14th**– Dan Peterson & Jocelyn Peterson

**November 15th**– Joanna Puck & Christy Strand

**November 16th**– Kenna Hill & Becky Olson

**November 17th**– Teresa Hanson

**November 18th**– Harold Merchlewitz

**November 19th**– David Rock

**November 20th**– Barb Peterson

**November 21st**– Kylee Lehman & Adam Staff

**November 22nd**– Barb Erickson, Cece Netzer & Lyrah Plath

**November 23th**– Tony Dufeck, JoJo Dufeck & Sarah Greene

**November 26th**– Jesse Lehman

**November 27th**– Kelsey Lynn, Chris Rowe & Megan Yurich

**November 28th**– Linda Rouen

**November 30th**– Baylee Anderson & Mikki Hanson



# Happy Anniversary!

11/06 John & Rosie Hass

11/15 Richard & Jessica Larsen

11/16 Doug & Carole Larson

11/23 John & Julia Splettstoesser





## Lutefisk Lament—Don Freeburg

'Twas the day before Christmas, with things all a bustle.  
As Mama got set for the Christmas Eve tussle.  
Aunts, uncles, and Cousins would soon be arriving,  
With stomachs all ready for Christmas Eve dining.  
While I sat alone with a feeling of dread,  
As visions of lutefisk danced in my head.  
The thought of the smell made my eyeballs start burning.  
The thought of the taste set my stomach to churning.  
For I'm one of those who good Swedes rebuff,  
A Scandahoovian boy who can't stand the stuff.  
Each year, however, I played at the game,  
To spare Mama and Papa the undying shame.  
I must bear up bravely. I can't take the risk  
Of relatives knowing I hate lutefisk.  
Then out in the yard I heard such a clatter.  
I jumped up to see what was the matter.  
There in the snow, all in a jumble,  
Were three of my uncles who had taken a tumble.  
From out in the kitchen an odor came stealing,  
That fairly set all of my senses to reeling.  
The smell of the lutefisk crept down the hall,  
And wilted a plant in a pot on the wall.  
Uncles Oscar and Lars said "Oh, that smells yummy,"  
And Kermit's eyes glittered while he patted his tummy.  
Mama announced dinner by ringing a bell.  
They rushed to the table with a whoop and a yell.  
I lifted my eyes to heaven and sighed,  
And a rose on the wallpaper withered and died.  
Then Mama came proudly with a bowl on a trivet.  
You would have thought that the crown jewels were in it.  
She set it down gently and then took her seat.  
And Papa said grace before we could eat.  
It seemed to me, in my whirling head,  
The shortest of prayers he ever had said.

Then Mama raised the cover on that steaming dish,  
And I had to face the quivering fish.

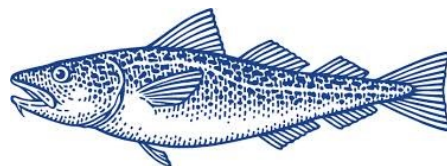
The plates were passed for Papa to fill,  
While I waited in agony, twixt fever and chill.  
He dipped in the spoon and held it up high,  
As it oozed to plates, I thought I would die.

Then it came to my plate, and to my fevered brain.  
There seemed enough lutefisk to derail a train.  
It looked like a mountain of congealing glue,  
Yet oddly transparent and discolored in hue.  
With butter and cream sauce I tried to conceal it,  
I salted and peppered, but the smell would reveal it.

I drummed up my courage, tried to be bold,  
Mama reminds me, "Eat before it gets cold."  
Deciding to face it, "Uffda," I sighed.  
"Uffda, indeed," my stomach replied.

Then summoning up resolve for which we are known,  
My hand took the fork as with a mind of its own.  
And with reckless abandon the lutefisk I ate,  
Within 20 seconds, I'd cleaned up my plate.  
Uncle Kermit flashed me an ear-to-ear grin,  
As butter and cream sauce dripped from his chin.  
Then to my great shock, he spoke in my ear,  
"I'm sure glad that's over for another year."

It was then that I learned a great wonderful truth,  
That Swedes and Norwegians from old men to youth,  
Must each pay their dues to have the great joy,  
Of being known as a good Scandahoovian boy,  
And so to tell you all, as you face the great test,  
"Happy Christmas to you, and to you all the best."



**\*Don't forget to set your clocks back.**

Daylight Savings Time ends early Sunday morning 11.6.22.

\*WELCA's Harvest Horn of Plenty table in the Narthex is ready for you to fill up with much needed food.

**A fun way to help while you shop!**

Long Lake Lutheran Church is signed up with Amazon Smile to receive charitable donations.

What is AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a **simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you.** AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones.

**Here is how you can help our church:**

Visit smile.amazon.com

sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com

**Select Long Lake Lutheran Church**

and start shopping!



**Women's Refresh Weekend**

**@ Camp Onomia**

November 4-5

Friday 6 pm—Saturday 3 pm

Enjoy an overnight retreat and be encouraged in your faith journey. This year the theme is wholeness and healing. Fee: \$94 See Pastor Sue for more info.

**Our Silent Auction and Pie Social is coming up on Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>!**

This is one of our Youth's biggest fundraisers! We need donations of pies, and silent auction baskets! Funds help our youth attend camp, participate in special activities and will go towards our mission trip this summer (location to be announced soon!). If you can donate a basket or item please drop them off in the office, or sign up to donate a pie!

Care Packages

We are collecting addresses for care packages to be sent out to college students or those serving in the military. You can give addresses to Shawna, or Joanna in the office. Packages will go out the first week of November.

Thank you!



**Upcoming Events:**

Nov. 11th– Moonlight Madness 8pm

Nov. 23rd– Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social 7pm

Nov. 27th– Friends of Ruth Christmas Tea 3pm

December 3rd– Live Nativity 3pm-7pm

**PRAYER CONCERNS (Let us know how we can pray for you.)**

Pray for healing for: Colleen Evenson, Aaron Gustafson, Linda Rouen, Sharon Johnson, Wanda Strike's cousin Marie and friend Gene, Diane Englund, Marcy Stoeckel's niece Erin, Karen Baker's mom Floy, Dave and Mel Ringstad's friend Sue, Kent and Joanne Eitrem's friends Scott and Katie, Karen Baker's niece Angie Bentley, Sharon Stanius' sister-in-law Jackie Englund, Lisa Gustafson's brother Eric and Lisa's friend Brenda, John Hass' nephew Kevin Bagne, Therese Cather's brother Jim, Lisa and Martin Lynn's daughter Kelsey, Linda Rouen's aunt Evelyn Patterson, Kathy and Ken Schleif's grandson Kade, Carol Perrin's brother Bob, Matt (Angie) Hysten's dad Mike, Tina Engren's friend's son Oliver Schiffer (4 yrs old with cancer), Gina Myer's dad Sid.

# Long Lake Lutheran Church Presents: A Live Nativity



## *“One Night in Bethlehem”*

December 3rd Performances each half hour from 4:00-7:00 pm

*\*December 3<sup>rd</sup> will feature a special showing from 3:00-4:00 pm for those with special needs and mobility issues. \**

December 4th Performance during Sunday Worship 9:00

On Saturday, December 3rd and Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> Long Lake Lutheran Church will be transformed into the town of Bethlehem. You can meet the angel Gabriel, who saw it all.

Meet Mary & Joseph who heard and believed.

Meet the innkeeper's wife, the shepherds, and the wise men.

You can smell the straw and you can see the live animals.

See the beautiful baby Jesus and come away with the true meaning  
of Christmas in your heart.

Bring your camera for picture opportunities. After your visit to Bethlehem join us in the fellowship hall for a **chili and chicken wild rice soup supper**. Free will offering donated to local charities. Special funding from THRIVENT.

Long Lake Lutheran Church

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