

Long Lake Lutheran Church

November 2019

Country Spire

November 4th

1 & 6 pm Visioning Team Info Sessions

November 8th

7:30 pm Moonlight Madness Youth Lock-Out

November 11th

Veteran's Day Remembrance

November 13th

9 am-4 pm Mission Quilters

November 17th

Gratitude Sunday

November 24th

Thank You Sunday

November 27th

6 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service

7 pm Pie Social/Silent Auction

November 28th

Thanksgiving, office closed 11/28-11/29

December 3rd

First Sunday in Advent

December 7-8

Live Nativity Saturday and Sunday



Christ Centered

Purpose Balanced

Mission Driven

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Isanti, MN 55040

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Longlakeluth.org





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*³⁴ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.* 1 Chronicles 16:34

Staff

Choir Director	Donna Larsen	763-350-8209	donna@larsengardens.com
Organist	Kristy Anderson	763-300-0167	kristy.anderson@co.isanti.mn.us
Wedding Coordinator	Carol Perrin	952-220-2684	carol.perrin.cp@gmail.com
Custodian	Randy Lilleboe	612-222-7024	

Council

Chairperson	Matt Lundeen	612-817-3372	bmt_cambridge@q.com
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PASTOR

Sue Olson

From the desk of Pastor Sue...

One wouldn't normally look to the book of Lamentations for a word of hope and expectation. It is traditionally seen as a moving and emotional lament for the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 BCE. But in this season of "thanks" giving, of celebrating the birth of the Savior, and of looking forward with 20/20 vision for the future of Long Lake Lutheran, I found a passage in Lamentations to share:

²² *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;*

²³ *they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*

²⁴ *"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."* Lamentations 3:22-24 (NRSV)

We have been richly blessed in so many ways and our church is one of the few rural ELCA churches that is thriving and growing. If I listed all of our active ministries here at LLLC, and all of the ways we reach beyond our walls, this Spire would be 25 pages long! We were never promised an easy road in our walk of discipleship, but you are putting in a great and enduring effort. Praise God!

On **Friday, November 1st at 1:30 pm**, Anne Gerriets of the ELCA Mission Investment Fund is doing a free consultation walk through of our buildings and property. She will observe, listen, and evaluate our growing needs and our present opportunities and limitations. This is just one piece to the puzzle of our 20/20 Vision Plan. On **Monday, November 4th**, I will hold two sessions: one at **1:00 pm** and another at **6:00 pm**. This meeting will begin the process of developing a Vision Plan for our future by identifying the hopes and dreams of this congregation, examining the past visioning team's work, and identifying the constituents that our plan will affect. No commitment to a team will be required, but everyone is welcome to attend and help us form the best visioning team possible.

How about some PIE? The night before Thanksgiving, holds a special tradition for us as we worship together, giving thanks, then celebrating with a youth fundraiser pie social and silent auction. This year's worship service will be a "State of the Congregation" address presented around songs, scripture, and prayer. P.I.E. "Possibilities in Everything" is the theme of the night. I sure hope you join us for a joyful "Thanks" giving, a celebration of our ministries, and PIE!

God, our heavenly creator, will provide the vision, the energy, and the hope for our future. This is an exciting time to be a part of LLLC as we look to the future with 20/20 vision. How can we use our property for the good of God's kingdom? How can we impact our surrounding community and beyond? How can we become such a critical part of this rural area that we would be missed if we disappeared? How can we provide a safe and inviting space for our youth and young families to fellowship, recreate, and support one another? How can we reach unchurched, or underserved people? What services could we provide to help God's family. What will LLLC look like in 5, 10, 20 years? Let's hear from everyone!

²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:24-28 (NRSV)

Thanksgiving Prayer



Have a blessing filled Thanksgiving. Use the following prayer at your Thanksgiving meal.

O Lord, creator of all things, we give you thanks and praise. You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. Your generous goodness comes to us new every day. We praise you for the fields that produce food for our table, for the workers in the fields who gather the harvest, and for the laborers who process the food from farm to fork. Teach us to use your gifts carefully that our land may continue to yield her increase. We remember those in our world who do not have plenty to eat and ask that you give us generous hearts to accomplish your purposes on earth. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen!

Director of Youth and Family Ministry Shawna Berg



I grew up as a military brat, which means as a young child I moved around a bit. However, for most of my growing up years we were stationed in a small community in Southern Arizona. I was fortunate enough to be a part of two different faith communities while growing up there, and both of them had a profound impact on my faith journey and my decision to stay active in the church as an adult.

A couple of years ago the Fuller Institute put out a book called "*Sticky Faith*." This book did some extensive research of church youth to find out what the difference was between those who stayed involved in the church in college and beyond, and those who had fallen away from their church after being very connected as youth.

One of the strongest indicators for students who stayed involved and connected continuously was that they had been involved in intergenerational worship and intergenerational ministries in their home congregations. This resonated with me.

The first church we attended was in an old military chapel on the base. We had a large chapel on the base that held a protestant service at one hour, and a catholic service at another hour. At the time we were living there our Chaplain happened to be Lutheran, and he decided to do an additional service at a tiny chapel after the other protestant service for anyone who wanted to attend.

My parents had both been raised Lutheran and thought this would be a great opportunity for us. There were 40 of us who attended services in this old WWII chapel. There was no Christian education opportunity as we just weren't big enough. Every family took turns hosting the fellowship hour following worship. When you hosted you brought the treats (sometimes you bought donuts, sometimes you baked... it was always delicious!). The fellowship time often lasted longer than the service.

Everyone knew everyone by name. The church felt safe to me and was a place I wanted to be. If you weren't there, you were likely to get a phone call from someone to make sure you were okay. This place was a great example of community, and sharing, and learning.

When I entered junior high, my parents and the pastor began talking about Confirmation. Confirmation is an important ritual in the Lutheran tradition, and I was the only one of that age in this tiny congregation. I learned that my parents had decided it might be best if we went to the Lutheran church in town, so that I might begin Confirmation instruction. I was devastated. That church seemed huge to me (they had about 250 people). I didn't know anyone there.

On my first day of confirmation class, we were asked to choose a mentor from the congregation. Each student had a name that came to their mind immediately, and I began to cry. I didn't know anyone – how could I choose? I was paired up with the intern pastor, because he was new too! I didn't know it at the time, but that relationship would end up being very influential to me.

I quickly made friends, and learned that the 13 kids in my confirmation class were great people, and the people in my youth group were some of my favorite people I met in junior high and high school.

However, what was even more special to me were the relationships I made with everyone else in worship. I learned that even in a congregation of 250, there were people who noticed I was gone. There were ladies in the choir who sought me out each week to say hello and give me a hug, and when I decided I wanted to sing in worship (and didn't do so great) they encouraged me to keep singing, until it became something I loved and could do well. I felt like I was valued, and I was important.

We didn't have flashy music, we didn't have great youth ministry programs – but I knew I was loved, and I experienced God's love in that church. When I went off to college, I couldn't wait to come home and visit my church family. Sierra Lutheran Church inspired me to choose ministry as a vocation and will always hold a special place in my heart.

I have always chosen to have my children in worship too. They participate in the Christian education opportunities for their ages in addition to us finding worship times during which we can all be together.

We do a great disservice to our youth when we keep them in age-specific programming and then, when they have "aged" out of such programming, we expect them to go to worship. Why would they? It is all foreign to them. They don't know what to expect, why we do it, and they have rarely experienced the beauty that can be found in that kind of intergenerational community.

Worshiping with kids is hard, I get it. It is especially hard when you have small children. However, the payout is worth it. Thanks mom and dad for bringing me to worship, and thanks to the worshiping communities that put up with goldfish in the pews, loud "whispers," giggling teenagers, and occasional outbursts in the name of loving Jesus and each other.

I promise it is worth it. In the spirit of continuing to find ways to make worship a welcome space for our young people – you may see changes. Thanks to a generous donation we will be putting in place a "PrayGround" space in the front of the sanctuary where parents can sit with their young children and allow them to be more fully engaged in the worship experience. We have been working with the worship team on Wednesday nights to work to make that service more engaging for the teenagers that make up much of that worshiping community. This is so important because our young people are not only the future of the church, but they are a big part of our church now, and we want them to feel valued and important!

So the next time you see a young person in church, thank them for being there, and thank whoever it is that brought them there for continuing to make that effort! It takes a village, and we have a great one here!

Silent Auction/Pie Social- November 27th – We need donations of Silent Auction items for this very important youth fundraiser that will help fund our mission trip to Haiti this summer! IF you can donate a basket, or know of a business that might be able to donate an item or gift certificate please help us obtain items for this event! In addition we need PIES! Watch for sign ups for bringing pies to this event

Council Minutes 09/09/2019

October 10, 2019

Attendees: Jennifer M., Shawna, Pastor Sue, Kara H., Marsha W., Rachel M., Matt L., Kathie S., Ronda F
Guest: Marcie S.

Matt called the meeting to order 6:31PM

Jennifer Lit the Christ Candle

Pastor Sue opened with prayer "Help Thanks WOW" the 3 essential prayers.

Bible verses included Psalm 100 and Ephesians 2:4 and 1st Thessalonian's 5

Jennifer made a motion to approve the agenda, Marsha 2nd' motion passed.

Marsha motion to approve September meeting minutes, Kathie 2nd, motion passed.

Staff Reports

Pastor Sue – lots of wonderful stuff going on. Pastor Sue will be traveling October 13th through October 20th.

Pastor Mary will be available for emergency Pastoring.

Kelly Hugo Memorial funds will be used to purchase choir music.

Visioning Team – coming in 2020. State of the Church Meeting in November.

November 1st 1:30PM ELCA Mission Investment staffer will be coming to do an assessment and provide recommendations.

Prayground – Worship space for our younger kiddos ages 0-3. Activities (round tables & chairs). Recommended by the Worship & Music Team.

Shawna – Fall is busy time. 9th graders had a confirmation retreat at Camp Onamia with other churches.

Shawna has been Invited to participate on the Lutheran Youth Gathering 2021 planning committee.

Reservations for the International Youth Mission Trip have been made (Praying Pelican Missions). Haiti in August 2020 working at an orphanage, distributing manna packs from Feed My Starving Children and helping a local church).

Confirmation Sunday 10/27 @ 11AM

Team Reports

Education – new Sunday School format is going well. All kids attending on Wednesday night are new

Missions –

September – December Mission dollars will be dedicated to MN Adult & Teen Challenge and Pregnancy Resource Center.

Property –

Have snow plowing commitment

Receiving positive feedback on volunteers supporting Property needs.

Looking at replacing the tractor with a used Lawn tractor that plows snow, cuts grass + a Zero Turn lawn mower.

Continue to look for a Council Meeting Leadership.

Finance -

Need each Council member to determine their Budget needs for 2020 and provide to Marsha for November Council Meeting. Council to vote on the 2020 Budget at the December Council Meeting.

Monthly giving continues to be consistent, even during this past year of change and transition we have NOT had to dip into our reserves to pay bills. September giving is up as expected after Rally Sunday.

Sound guys were at 10.9.19 Service and provided feedback & recommendations.

Council Minutes 09/09/2019

Congregational Life -

Congregational Directory – December 8-11 Need volunteers to staff the process.

Congregational BonFire 10.16.19 2-7PM along with Trunk or Treat 2-4PM

Live Nativity – needs volunteers and live babies

Worship/Music -

MN Adult & Teen Challenge worshiped with us October 6 and it was a fantastic service.

Advent Dinner Church – Family style Dinner, Fellowship & Informal messaging

Worship Band will be coming to the 9:30AM service and offering their talents November 17th.

Stewardship

Will continue with quarterly envelopes.

Next meeting October 20th. Giving letter will be going out the last week of October.

New Business

Garden-Marcy Stoeckel

3 prong approach: Church members, Isanti County 4H, Master Gardeners

Master Gardeners to evaluate the soil and offer recommendations on what should be planted

Church members till & fertilize the soil, 4H Youth to plant, weed, water

Will be flowers & vegetables

Produce would be targeted for the County Fair exhibition, Church & 4H Members, Donations to those in need and Balance to the Food Shelf.

Need fencing

Ronda made a motion to move forward with the Garden to be implemented in phases as data is collected.

Marsha 2nd, motion passed.

Stephen's Ministry - Lay people are trained to help care for people in the congregation. Provide support to the Pastor. Looking to begin programming in 2020.

Potential new groups: Mother's of Pre-Schoolers and Woman of all ages

Old Business

Outgoing Council Members – Marsha, Tammie, Jen

Mens Square & Rally Sunday funds will be folded into the General fund

Ronda made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jennifer 2nd

November devotions Marhsa W.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer



COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Matt Lundeen

Give thanks to Him, bless His name. For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations (Psalm 100: 4-5).

As we say goodbye to fall and transition into winter, Thanksgiving provides a time for all of us to gather with loved ones and celebrate the multiple blessings that the Lord has so selflessly given to all of us. This Thanksgiving, I can't help but be thankful for all our church has to offer. We have a growing congregation with a newly installed Pastor and Youth & Family Ministry Director. We have intelligent support staff that truly care about the well-being of our church. Our council is dedicated to continuously improving everyone's experience here. Also, we have multiple members who are so generous with their time, talents, and treasure. Most of all, I'm thankful for the love of Jesus and how well Long Lake does at spreading that Good News!

Almost every time I sit down with visitors and new members, I always hear how welcoming Long Lake is. After that, I hear how surprised they are with the number of groups we have for them to get involved with. These are truly great compliments! I'm so proud to be part of our church!

As the holiday season approaches, I hope you are able to take time to realize how much all of us has to be thankful for. If you do feel extremely thankful for all Long Lake provides, please consider getting more involved here, in any way possible. What better way to give thanks than by giving back to the church!

So very
THANKFUL

EDUCATION

Jennifer Manion



A wise person once told me: "In order to tell a story, someone needs to be willing to listen." Sometimes we are the storyteller and sometimes we are the listener. I prefer to be the listener more often than the storyteller. I love to hear about people's lives, the things they have seen, the lessons they have learned, and the people they have met. I take their stories and cherish them. I love reading about others peoples stories also. My favorite parts of the Bible are when Jesus tells stories, or parables, about life lessons. I get so involved in all aspects of those stories too. There is always one character I can identify with and understand.

At times I am required to be the storyteller. I am not always good at telling my own story, but I enjoy repeating stories of others. Especially my kids. I love to tell about them. The funny things they did, or the proud moments of being a parent, or even the hard times. My own story about just me though... that is hard. I guess I don't like to brag about myself, or tell funny stories about things I did. I definitely don't like to admit when I was wrong.

So here is a brief story about my faith here at Long Lake. Brian and I moved to the area in October 2002. We had been married for 3 whole months. I asked a friend about a church in the area and she recommended Long Lake. So we thought we would try it out. I did not grow up in a Lutheran Church and neither did Brian. I grew up not going to church and Brian grew up going to Epiphany Catholic Church in Coon Rapids. We both agreed faith needed to be a part of our lives, and we just wanted a place we could call home. We did not know what to expect or who was going to be here.

Our son Greg was about 6 years old and we came to church one Sunday. Greg sat next to us and played with some cars he had found in one of those cute bags. He settled in and we started to listen. Pastor Andrew Prin was preaching that day. He preached on John 3:16. Now I didn't know a lot about Jesus, faith, or God's unconditional love for me.

Here was this young pastor telling me that God loved me so much that he sent his Son to die for me. He also did it wearing a rainbow clown wig! He did it holding a cardboard sign! He was showing how sometimes you see people in sports stadiums holding signs and wearing a wig. They didn't care how ridiculous they looked, and we should either. We need to spread the Good News, at all costs. We need to share our story and God's story.

Brian and I looked at each other and we knew this is where we wanted to be. A place where we could feel welcomed, loved, and accepted. Even when there is a clown wig on a pastor!

That was 17 years ago and I can still see him standing in front of the church wearing that wig and holding that sign! Since then, I have had numerous roles in the church. Sunday school teacher, softball coach, I have been in the live Nativity, served food, and many other things. Maybe you have done some of those things too. Maybe you are looking for some other way to help our church.

We are still looking for that person to be the education chair. I am sure God is whispering in someone's ear to step up. Being the education chair the past 3 years has deepened my faith, strengthened my relationships, and expanded my knowledge of our church. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as your council rep and I am also sure that you will also.

By the way, the person who told me that quote was Jessica Manion. My 13 year old daughter. She is a great storyteller and listener.



YOUTH

Tammy Dufeck

Breakfast Club

We continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. This month we will be meeting on November 3rd and 17th at 9:30 a.m. All High school students are encouraged to join us for this gathering!

Moonlight Madness

We are headed out on our all-night Lock-out November 8-9. We can't wait to gather with students from all over the Twin Cities for this great ecumenical event! Contact Shawna if you are still interested in attending

Feed My Starving Children (November 23rd from 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.)

Join us to pack food to help feed hungry kids around the world! We will head to the Coon Rapids site to help pack manna packs. All are welcome!

Mission Haiti

Our Mission Trip to Haiti is from August 1st -8th through Praying Pelican Ministries. To Sign up, we require a \$200 a deposit in the church office. There will be an information meeting on November 17th following the 9:30 a.m. service for anyone interested in attending.

Silent Auction/ Pie Social – Our Silent Auction/Pie Social is on November 27th.

We need donations to make this a success! We need items for our silent auction, we need pies and we need lots of helpers! If you can help, please talk to Shawna or Tammy Dufeck!

STEWARDSHIP

Kathie Schleif



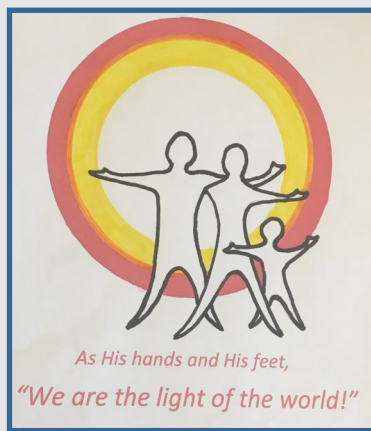
Thanks You Lord !

This month we celebrate Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Thank you our past, present, and future military staff. Margaret McBride had a wonderful sermon about stewardship. And she has graciously let me share it with you in the spire.

"As we look around us, we realize that we are so incredibly blessed. Whatever the circumstance, God has taken care of us and filled us with His peace. We have food, shelter, warmth, friends, things to do every day, and a wonderful church where we are abundantly fed, and - we realize more everyday what an indescribable gift God has given us- His son, Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!!."

This is so true for us at Long Lake Lutheran. Stewardship is our job to take care of what God has given us. We are God's caretakers.

With thanks,
Kathie



Kara Hepp

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Greetings!

Brrr... I can't believe the temperatures are already below 20 degrees! I hope you are staying warm!! Speaking of "warm", I would like to extend a warm welcome to Paul Gruber! He has graciously agreed to join the council as the new Property Chairperson! Thank you, Paul!!

October was another great month for the Congregational Life committee. We met on the 13th and discussed the upcoming Bonfire that was going to take place on the 26th. Unfortunately, due to high winds and dry conditions that day, it had to be cancelled. I appreciate everyone's willingness to volunteer their time to help with this event. The good news is that we have some fancy new signs for next year!

Our next event will take place on Monday, December 9th where we will be decorating our home for Christmas!! Everyone is invited to join as we decorate the church with twinkling lights, wreathes, pine trees, and more! Historically we've had people who attend bring a treat to share and beverages are served. We'll be discussing this in more detail during our next meeting which is set for Sunday, November 17th.

Please consider joining (with or without treats!) and helping to get our home ready for Christmas!

Also, don't forget to have your family picture taken by Lifetouch for our new directory. You can sign up online via our website (www.longlakeluth.org), or via a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Lifetouch will be here Sunday, December 8th – Wednesday, December 11th with slots open from 2:00 PM – 9:00 PM on most days.

Prayers and Blessings,

Kara Hepp

PHOTO DIRECTORY DATES

Sunday, December 8th 2:00-9:00 pm

Monday, December 9th 2:00 pm-9:00 pm

Tuesday, December 10th 2:00 pm-9:00 pm

Wednesday, December 11th 1:00 pm-8:00 pm

Pictures will be ready before Christmas!

Lifetouch®

CHURCH
DIRECTORIES
AND PORTRAITS

Helpers are also needed on picture days. Fill out a blue "Share Your Talents" form by the Lifetouch sign up sheets!

Long Lake Lutheran Church Life in Pictures

On Sunday, October 27th we confirmed nine new members. Thanks to all their families and their hard work over the last few years. Please welcome and congratulate our confirmands, their families and confirmation mentors when you see them around the building.



Long Lake Lutheran Church
Confirmation Class of 2019

Back row: Blaine Wald, Jake Hennen, Trevor Thompson, Nate Hanson, Tony Dufek
Front row: Shawna Berg, Joanna Dufek, Matthew O'Keefe, Sam Anderson,
Ross Vandenheuvel, Pastor Sue Olson

Pastor Appreciation



Third Grade Bibles

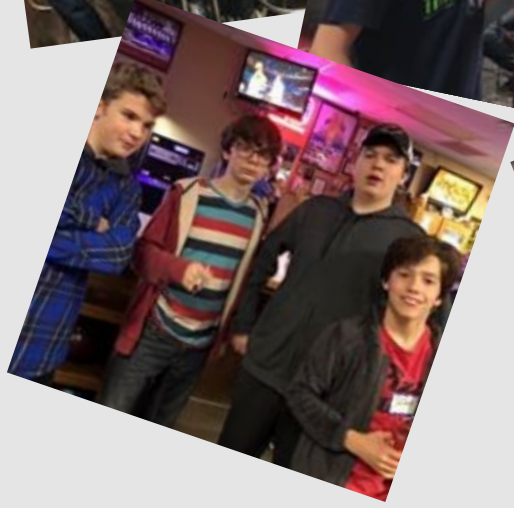
Bibles were presented to our third graders:
Megan Larsen, Mick Hanson, Lyrah Plath, and Scarlett Spike



TRUNK OR TREAT FUN



WHAT ARE THOSE KIDS UP TO NOW...



FINANCE

Marsha Weidner



Ezra 3:11 NIV

And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, "For He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever toward Israel." And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

Thessalonians 1:3 NIV [**Thanksgiving** and Prayer]

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.

Do you know how many times the word "Thanksgiving" is written in the Bible? 30 times!

I chose these two verses because Thanksgiving is a time for sharing thanks, memories, stories, and gathering with friends and family. Seeing newly born family members, newly married, or visiting longtime friends. Sharing a meal. Sharing stories of past and present. Giving thanks to the Lord for our health and time. Giving thanks for our families.

Serving on council has been like a Thanksgiving meal for me. We gather monthly to share our individual group meeting information, which are like stories of past and present. We have shared a few meals, and many treats. We share the joy for new members joining our Council, as recent as Paul Gruber joining as the property chair. We will share

conversations for those of us leaving council, but we remember to give thanks to God for He is the reason we gather, because where two or more gather in His name, He is also present.

This past year's story, we called "the Faith Budget" has been a good one. We have stayed focused on our giving and stayed within our expectations. I give thanks for our council members and their teams. We needed to dive deep into the budget a few times remembering what was projected, as we went into a call process, and then again during the hiring our Pastor Sue and Youth & Family Ministry Director Shawna!

Finance has again asked each team to come up with their forecasted budget numbers for 2020. The council will be approving next year's budget in December and presenting the budget to a congregational vote at the annual meeting in 2020. The Finance Team is looking for a replacement for my council seat, and I will be calling a few key people asking for their interest and input. Please prayerfully consider joining our council. It is a family of believers all working for the good of Long Lake Lutheran.

If interested in filling one of three available seats, feel free to ask anyone on Council or Pastor Sue.

God's Blessings to you all,

Marsha Weidner

WORSHIP and MUSIC Rachel Maguire



In the next few weeks, we will be setting up a playground in the front of the sanctuary. We received a generous donation to buy a few tables and chairs and some quiet toys. This area will be for little ones to use during the service.

We are looking forward to having dinner church for Wednesday night worship on December 4 and 18. December 11 will be a regular worship as photographs for the directory will be going on in the fellowship hall.

Our next meeting is November 5 at 7 pm. We would love to have you join us!

Rachel Maguire

Eagle Scout Project Update Daniel Manion

As some of you may know, my name is Daniel Manion and I have been building a retaining wall around the new garage for my Eagle Scout Project. I would like to thank you all for your time and donations. We worked for two weekends in July to bring it to completion. I am thankful for Barry Smith for putting up the gutters to help with the rain flow around the wall.

The total cost for the project through Northland Landscaping was \$1,940.25. Thanks to your generous support, I have raised \$1,220 of the total cost of the wall. I am currently short \$720.25. I am hoping to completely fund the project by asking for your help to get across that goal line.

Again, thank you for your continued support. My faith is stronger because of you.
Daniel Manion

PROPERTY

Paul Gruber

As Thanksgiving approaches, the property team would like to thank everyone that has helped the property team in one way or another. We are so thankful for your willingness to help and share your abilities and skills! Many of you pitched in to keep the grounds looking great during the growing months. Some put door stops on certain interior doors. Some put gutters up on the garage. Not to mention, many other things have been accomplished thanks to our generous volunteers. We accomplish so much when we work together here at Long Lake!

We just purchased a new to us snow blowing/ lawnmowing tractor. This tractor/blower should do a fine job of keeping the sidewalks clear of snow in the coming months. Although we did budget for this expenditure under improvements, we did encounter a financial shortfall at the beginning of the year. If you do feel so inclined, please consider offering anything you can to help offset the cost of the new tractor, anything

you could offer would be gratefully appreciated.

We have great news! Paul Gruber has willingly agreed to serve on our church council as our property chairperson! Paul's love of Long Lake Lutheran and leadership skills make him a great fit to serve on the church council as the property chair. Please thank Paul for his generosity to serve Long Lake. The property team looks forward to working with you!

If you are interested in joining the property team or assisting as you can, please contact Paul Gruber or a property team or council member.

God's Peace!

Long Lake Property Team



Dear Friends At Long Lake,

We had no idea we were so blessed to be part of a wonderful family at Long Lake. You have all been there for us constantly with meals, support, visits, cards and prayers.

The meals have been most appreciated by both of us. I am still not able to stand on my own so it is difficult to do anything and Bill has had to take over all the kitchen duties. Not his comfort zone. So thank you! Thank You!

Sharon Sudeith

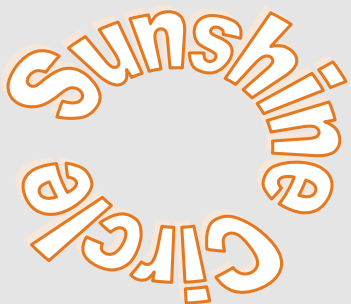


Our Thursday evening GriefShare program has been suspended until Spring. Please contact Pastor Sue if you are in need of any help or grief counseling.



Our Annual Christmas Tea will take place on Sunday, December 1st beginning at 1:00 pm (this is a change from the last Spire). Look for more information in upcoming bulletins and on the kiosk. Mark your calendars for this annual kick-off to the holiday season!

Christmas decorating is next up on the calendar. We will be gathering to decorate the church for our next meeting on Monday, December 9th at 6:30 pm. Bring a treat to share and let's get the church ready for the holidays.



We gathered on October 8th.

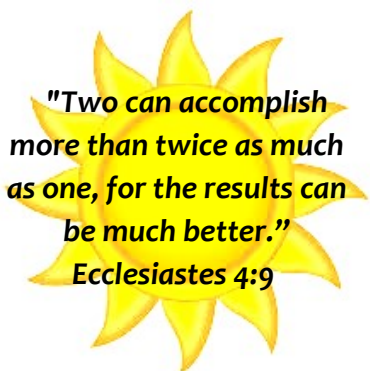
We worked on baby quilts. We have a nice supply ready.

We presented Will Remus with the funds from the Spaghetti Dinner. He was very moved by this, it will help him a lot.

We are looking to the holidays. We will be having Grandma's Attic set up at the Live Nativity again. If you have any Christmas items you would like to donate, let us know.

We will meet again on Tuesday, November 12th at 1:00 pm. Please join us. We will be doing a fun project. We always have fun, food, and fellowship.

Rosie Hass



SPAGHETTI DINNER

Thank you to all the volunteers pictured and not pictured. With your help we were able to complete our 12th year!

It is a comfort to know we can count on each other and to know that God is guiding us toward the good of this church.

So grateful for everyone's participation!

Loretta – Sunshine Circle



Thank you to everyone who donated coats for our collection participating with the Pilgrim Cleaners Coats for Kids. We had NINE bags of coats to take over. I believe that was the most we've ever had! They gave us some coupons for anyone who donated. The coupons are on the counter near the church entrance.

We will have the Harvest Table up for a few more weeks. All food items will be placed on our own church food shelf. We like to have a nice variety for folks who come in needing help at this time of the year especially. Thank you to all who have contributed!

We will be putting up a tree to gather hats, scarves and mitts in December. Handmade or store-bought items are accepted. They will be given to a group who helps children in need.

There will be no ladies lunches for the months of November and December, because of the holidays. We plan to resume the lunches in January. Mark your calendars for the last Monday in every month. We'd love to have you join us!

A Blessed Thanksgiving to All, Lillian Reetz

WELCA



Please consider joining us to make mission quilts.

We gather 6 times a year to tie them and stitch around the edges. This is a great way to fellowship with your friends and to make new friends! No experience is necessary, there will be a job for people of all experience levels!

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month and begin the day at 9:00 am and end the day at 4:00 pm. We have a potluck lunch and also bring a snack to share with coffee during the day!

This fall we will meet one more time on Wednesday, November 13th. We will resume again next spring! Thank you to all those who support Mission Quilting!



Long Lake Lutheran Church Presents:

“One Night in Bethlehem”

Saturday, December 7th Performances each half hour from 4:00-7:00 pm
Sunday one service only 9:30 am

On Saturday, December 7th 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.

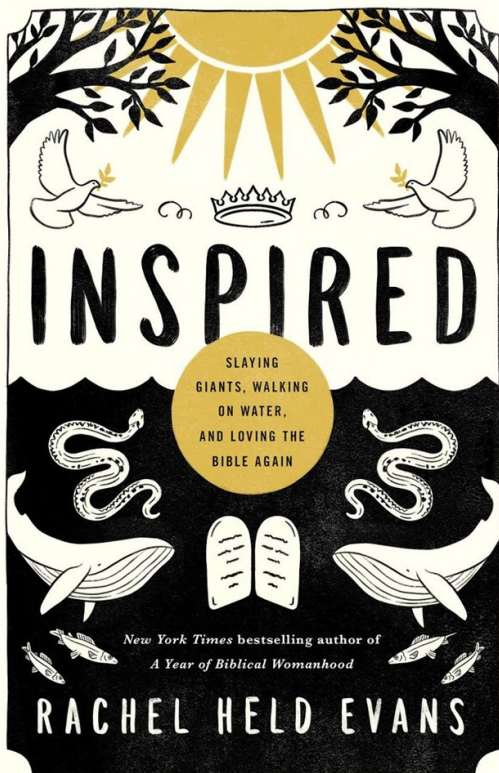
You can smell the straw and you can see the live animals.

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 soup supper. Free will donations will be accepted.

Grandma's Attic will be hosted by WELCA
with craft items and gently used treasures for sale
with proceeds going to Christmas Mission projects.

Long Lake Lutheran Church
3921 277th Ave. NW
Isanti, MN 55040
763-444-5315



What we are reading...
Inspired by Rachel Held Evans
Shawna Berg Book Review



What great
books have you
read lately?

When it came time for me to share, I spoke honestly about my doubts about the Bible and Christianity, I confessed my uncertainties about raising children in this broken and beloved community we call the church. I explained how gatherings like these help restore my faith because they pull me out of my head and into the lives of others, into the big, colorful, messy and magical story of Jesus. 'I am a Christian,' I concluded, 'because the story of Jesus is still the story I'm willing to risk being wrong about.'" – Rachel Held Evans – *Inspired*

Rachel Held Evans has long been a favorite author, speaker and blogger. Unfortunately, Rachel passed away unexpectedly earlier this year. She was a faith groundbreaker whose teachings and writings and insight into the Christian faith have inspired many people. Rachel has written honestly about her questions and doubts, while also sharing her great love of Jesus and of the church and what it could and should be.

Rachel's last published book was "Inspired". This book is about the Bible and how we read and understand it. If the Bible isn't a science book, instruction manual, or position paper, then what is it? Rachel invites us on a journey of rediscovery as she explores the magic of the Bible, engaging the old, familiar stories in new ways that honor the past and enlighten the present.

Are you looking for a new author or a new book for you on your faith journey? Consider picking up this or any of Rachel Held Evans other books up to read! Are you interested in reading and reviewing a book for the Spire? Talk to a staff member about doing just that!

Date	Birthdays
1	Robin Gemmill Rachel Magure Miura Yurich
2	Eloise Mitchell
3	Sarah Koester Merwyn Larsen
4	Jack Ford Grayden Hepp Karen Lundeen
5	Margaret McBride
8	Jace Goedel Angela Hylan Megan Larsen
9	Kathy Findell Renee Griego Jennifer Rowe Archie Spike Trent Waletzko
11	Justin Peterson
12	Sandie Hemsworth Julie Jaffe
13	Ross Vandenheuvel
14	Jocelyn Peterson
15	Karin Bartz Joanna Puck Christy Strand Stacy Welch
16	Kenna Hill Rebecca Olson
17	Teresa Hanson
18	Karen Anderson Harold Merchlewitz
19	David Rock
20	Kathy Marron
21	Kylee Lehman Adam Staff
22	Barbara Erickson Kaitlyn Ford Cecelia Netzer Lyrah Plath
23	Anthony Dufeck Joanna Dufeck Sarah Greene
26	Jesse Lehman

Date	Birthdays
27	Kelsey Lynn Christine Rowe Megan Yurich
28	Linda Rouen
30	Baylyn Anderson Mikki Hanson

Baptism Anniversaries

	Rebecca Agranoff James Peterson Jr. Samantha Titus Graydon Townswick Ella May
1	Dale Lundeen LeAnn Snidarich Madilynn Schulze
3	David Baker
7	Nathaniel Hanson
8	Heidi Vandenheuvel
9	Evan Puck
11	Lucan Jensen Gavin Yurich Brooklyn Mehle Collette McGovern Finn Netzer
13	Tyler Jensen Levi Hill
14	Laila Isle
15	Delanee Wachsmuth
16	Cole Dryden
17	William Rowe
19	Julie Nielsen Raelynn Arens
22	Jacek Greene
24	Carol Perrin
25	Stacy Welch
30	Jarret Gemmill

Anniversaries

6	Rose and John Hass
15	Richard and Jessica Larsen
16	Carole and Doug Larson
23	Julie & John Splettstoesser

Birthdays, Baptism Anniversaries, Wedding Anniversaries



A.A. Step By Step Step Ten

Step 11

"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, meditation 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 Serenity 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 Day at a Time Courage to Change

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Long Lake Lutheran Church

Nov 2019 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>27</div> <p>8am - Worship 9:30am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 9:30am - Worship 11am - Confirmation</p>	<div>28</div> <p>11:30am - Lunch Ladies @</p>	<div>29</div> <p>10am - Bible Study 6pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - AA</p>	<div>30</div> <p>5pm - Community Meal 6pm - Children's Church 6pm - Confirmation 6pm - Worship</p>	<div>31</div> <p>9am - Prayer Team 5:30pm - Pastor Sue's Chili</p>	<div>1</div> <p>1:30pm - Consult w/Synod's</p>	<div>2</div>
<div>3</div> <p>8am - Worship 9am - Missions Team 9:30am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Breakfast Club 9:30am - Sunday School 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Education Team</p>	<div>4</div> <p>9am - JoAnne Eitrelm's 1pm - Vision Team 6pm - Vision Team 6:30pm - 4-H Stoeckel 7pm - Finance Team</p>	<div>5</div> <p>10am - Bible Study 6pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - AA 7pm - Worship & Music</p>	<div>6</div> <p>5pm - Community Meal 6pm - Children's Church 6pm - Confirmation 6pm - Worship 7pm - Youth Team</p>	<div>7</div> <p>9am - Prayer Team</p>	<div>8</div> <p>7:30pm - Moonlight Madness</p>	<div>9</div>
<div>10</div> <p>Veteran's Day Recognition 8am - Worship 9:30am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Cong. Life Mtg 6pm - Men's Group</p>	<div>11</div> <p>6:30pm - Friends of Ruth</p>	<div>12</div> <p>10am - Bible Study 1pm - Sunshine Circle 6pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - AA 7pm - Live Nativity</p>	<div>13</div> <p>9am - Mission Quilters 5pm - Community Meal 6pm - Children's Church 6pm - Confirmation 6pm - Worship 7pm - Youth Team</p>	<div>14</div> <p>9am - Prayer Team 1pm - Senior Game Day 6:30pm - Council Meeting</p>	<div>15</div>	<div>16</div>
<div>17</div> <p>8am - Worship 9:30am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Stewardship</p>	<div>18</div> <p>6:30pm - 4-H Stoeckel</p>	<div>19</div> <p>10am - Bible Study 5pm - Property 6pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - AA</p>	<div>20</div> <p>5pm - Community Meal 6pm - Children's Church 6pm - Confirmation 6pm - Worship</p>	<div>21</div> <p>1pm - Welca</p>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div>
<div>24</div> <p>8am - Worship 9:30am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 9:30am - Worship</p>	<div>25</div> <p>11:30am - Lunch Ladies</p>	<div>26</div> <p>10am - Bible Study 6pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - AA</p>	<div>27</div> <p>6pm - Worship 7pm - Pie Social/Silent</p>	<div>28</div> <p>THANKSGIVING-OFFICE</p>	<div>29</div> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<div>30</div>

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers Schedule for November 2019

November 3, 2019

8:00 am

Greeter: June & Conrad Huge
Usher: Bruce & Renae Hooker
Lector: Karen Baker

9:30 am

Greeter: Rich & Jessica Larsen
Usher: Monica Ahlman
Lector: Margaret McBride

November 10, 2019

8:00 am

Greeter: Donna Larsen
Usher: Wayne & Becky Olson
Lector: Kelsey Hooker

9:30 am

Greeter: Linda & Carlee Oliver
Usher: Pat & Angie O'Keefe
Lector: Dennis Hardie

Altar Guild

November 3 & 10 Boniarczyk/Johnson

November 17 & 24 Sorenson

Bread Maker

Becky Olson

November 17, 2019

8:00 am

Greeter: Karen Baker
Usher: Connie & Gerald Anderson
Lector: Wayne Olson

9:30 am

Greeter: Lillian Reetz
Usher: Chris & Kara Hepp
Lector: Angie O'Keefe

November 24, 2019

8:00 am

Greeter: Harley & Madge Lillemoen
Usher: John Hass
Lector: Melissa Sorenson

9:30 am

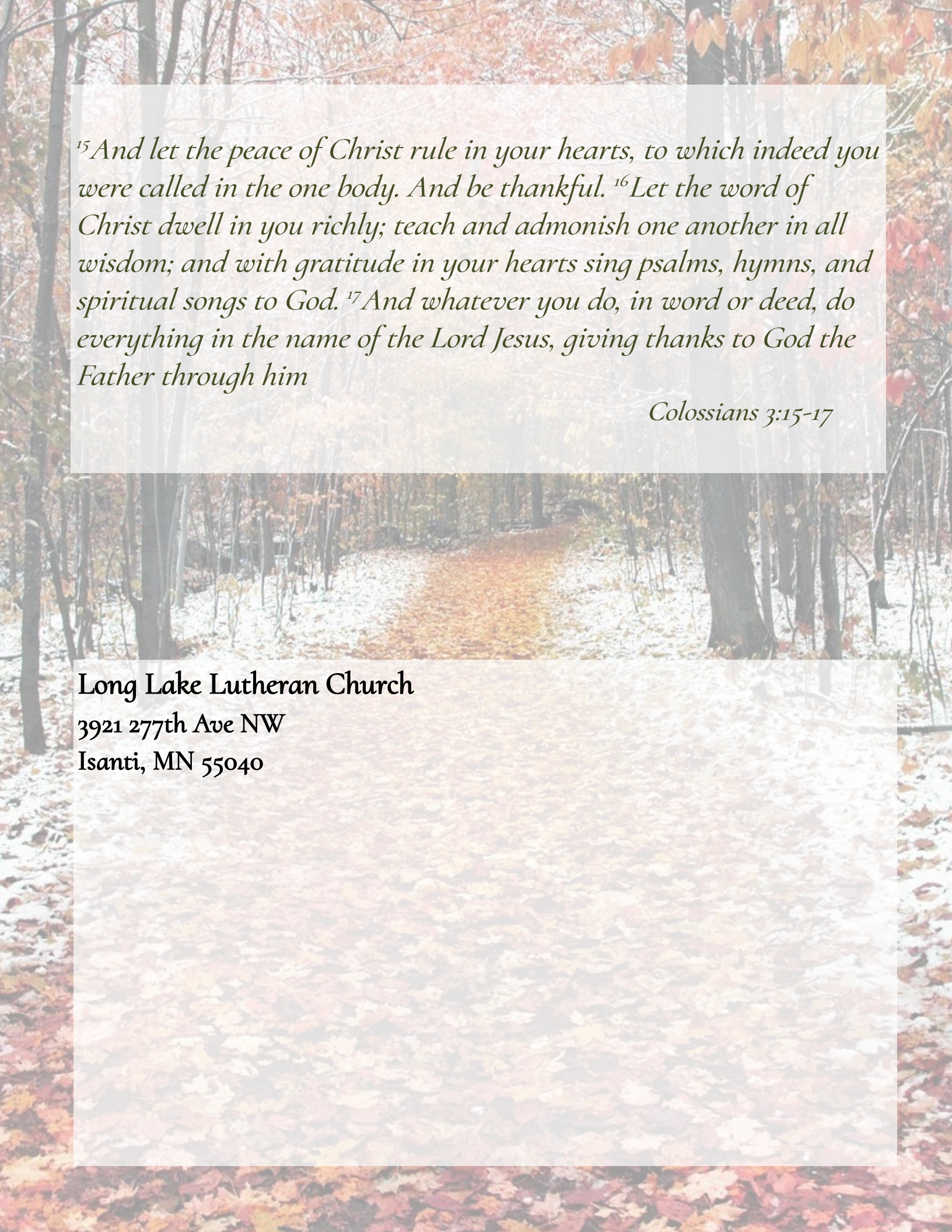
Greeter: Jennifer Sonterre
Usher: Sharon Johnson
Lector: Jennifer Manion

Council Rep

8:00 am Marsha Weidner

9:30 am Rachel Maguire

6:00 pm Matt Lundeen



¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him

Colossians 3:15-17

Long Lake Lutheran Church

3921 277th Ave NW

Isanti, MN 55040