

Long Lake Lutheran Church
October 2020

Country Spire

EDUCATION STARTS OCTOBER 4!

Sunday School will be held every other Sunday. Children will then be able to worship with their families on the second and fourth Sundays.

Confirmation will begin in person October 7th. We will start in worship and then head to the Fellowship Hall for the rest of the hour.

Confirmation service will be held on Sunday, October 25th at 11:30 am. Pray for our confirmands as they prepare for this milestone!

Our traditional Saturday Trunk-Or-Treat has been cancelled this year. We invite children to dress up in their costumes at the 10:00 am service on Sunday, October 25th. We will be handing out treat bags to all the kids at the service. We will have a fun backdrop to take some pictures outside of the Cornerstone.

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@longlakesluth.org

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

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

¹⁰Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." Isaiah 41:10

Other Staff

Organist	Kristy Anderson	763-300-0167	cookiesue2020@gmail.com
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
Congregational Life	Kara Hepp	763-350-0250	kara@larsengardens.com
Education	Amanda Saelens	763-227-6545	a.hansen4721@gmail.com
Finance	Dennis Wanless	612-802-2735	dennisatthelake@yahoo.com
Missions	Ronda Fenlon	763-221-0725	ronda.fenlon@yahoo.com
Property	Paul Gruber	763-234-9309	gruberpaulo65@gmail.com
Stewardship	Kathie Schleif	763-444-5246	born2farm4now@yahoo.com
Worship & Music	Rachel Maguire	651-307-2490	rachelmariemaguire@gmail.com
Youth	Margaret Bauer	612-221-5922	jttbmab@aol.com

From the desk of Pastor Sue

"The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9: 6-8



A Season of Gratitude

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11

We are entering into the beautiful season of fall, harvests, apples, pumpkins, changing leaves, cooler temperatures and "thanks giving". We have been blessed in so many ways; each of us have numerous blessings for which to be thankful. This year feels quite a bit different from past years of my experience due to uncertainty, social distancing, faces behind masks, video conferencing and Zoom meetings. Waves and air hugs have replaced hand shaking and real hugs. There is a difference in the air. We are nearing a presidential election; we have seen protests that have turned violent and ugly; we have watched as our local businesses have been destroyed by fire, looting, and the financial burdens of the Covid virus. We experienced our church building closing as we began to worship online and outside. Nothing seems to be as it was pre-pandemic.

Except God. God is the same today, the same as yesterday, the same God tomorrow. True, faithful, loving, providing, merciful, ever present, and alive and living in our hearts, and in

our churches. I invite you to focus on being grateful for all God has provided, instead of focusing on all of the uncertainty that the world has provided. If you have learned anything from this time of pandemic, may it be that God's love for His people is far stronger than any virus, any political party, any system of power, and any crisis. When we turn to God for strength and guidance, we are met right where we are, in the midst of our personal and lived experiences. I see scripture as the living voice of God as alive and comforting to us today just as it was to the Israelites and to first century Christians.

In the midst of a global crisis or a personal crisis, God is present. God is present in the phone calls, the visits, the helping hands, the sharing and caring. God is present in the changing and falling leaves, the whispering of the wind, the honking of the geese, the gathering of the gulls, and the bountiful harvest that many of you have shared. God is present in the concern you have shown for one another, in the cards you have sent, in the thoughtful sentiments you have spoken. God is present in the work of the nurses, teachers, truck drivers, retail workers, farmers, police, construction workers and more. God is here. Let us remember to give God our utmost in thanks and praise.



Shawna Berg

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

My son, who has just started his senior year, recently had to write a letter to an adult that wasn't in his family who had made a significant impact in his life as part of his recent induction into the National Honor Society at his school. He chose to write a letter to his confirmation small group leader, who helped mentor his faith journey in middle school and until he was confirmed. I recently heard from her when she received his letter, and she was touched, but surprised he hadn't chosen a coach, knowing his affinity for sports and dedication he has had to them over the last several years. I wasn't surprised though, this faith mentor had always been someone that had cared deeply for the kids in her group and was someone whose kindness and care you could feel, and the boys in her group really loved her, and you could tell.

I'm sure we all have stories of people like that in our own lives through the years. People that took time to show extra care and interest in us, when they didn't have to, or maybe even when we didn't deserve it.

We are blessed to have several adults like that in working with children and youth in this church as well. I was thinking about this last week, and thinking about my own experience with adults that care for my kids as a parent. I'm not sure about the rest of you, but if you are good to my kids, I will remember it always, and probably will like you forever.

I remember an author, Glennon Doyle Melton, talking about that in a book I read called "Carry on Warrior". She says "I love God... and I'd like to get closer to Him. I've been thinking about how one of the simplest ways to get close to a woman is to be good to her children. To be kind and gentle and to pay close attention to the things that make them special. To try and see her children the way she sees her children. And how God made us in his image. How God is the parent of all of us. So I wonder if that would be the best way to get closer to God too? By being kind and gentle to his children and noticing all of the things that make them special? So many of us spend our time trying to find God in books, but maybe the simplest way to God is directly through the hearts of God's children."

Sometimes in the midst of all of the craziness going on the world I feel like we lose sight of the fact that we are all God's children, and we are called to love all of God's children. I know how I feel when someone shows kindness and love to my children, and I also know how it breaks my heart when someone does something unkind to them. No one said this is would be easy, but I'm sure it will be worth it.

September Church Council Meeting

September 17, 2020

Attendees: Matt L., Pastor Sue, Shawna B., Dennis W., Paul G., Kara H., Kathie S., Amanda S., Rachel M., and Margaret B

Matt L called the meeting to order at 707p.

Matt L lit the Christ Candle.

Shawna B shared a message titled “Love Does” by Bob Goff for devotions and ended with prayer.

Kara H. made a motion to approve the August council meeting minutes. Dennis 2nd. Motion passed.

Rachel made a motion to approve the agenda. Kathie 2nd. Motion passed.

Staff Report- See Spire for details, Reports were reviewed via email prior to meeting. Thank you Pastor Sue and Shawna!

Team Report-

Missions- reviewed via email prior to meeting-Ronda is out of town

Stewardship- Theme is “GOD IS OUR ROCK”. Team will be meeting this Sunday.

Property- Lawn Mower was repaired. Tractor/snow blower is still being used for fields. Looking for a person to replace Paul’s council seat with his pending move. Paul will place foot openers on bathroom doors. Batteries were changed in clocks.

Youth- Team meet together with Education on 9/10- We will plan starting 6-8th confirmation class Oct 4th meeting in the fellowship hall, 9th grade confirmation is planned for Oct 25th, requested approval for Trunk and Treat with using COVID safety guidelines in place

Congregational Life – Team did not meet this month but will be meeting next month. Report from Friends of Ruth they would like to plant some plants next to the garage. There will not be a Christmas Tea this year. They will not be doing children’s worship bags but are looking for a replacement for children while in worship. Ask how they can help with sprucing up the Cornerstone- Shawna will be the contact due to it being a place that serves many parts of our congregation.

Education- Blessing of the backpacks/devices was done on 9/13. Excited to get started with education programs beginning in October.

Worship-Team will be meeting on Sunday to review what is needed for having service inside.

Finance-Reports were emailed to council, please review and reach out if any questions. August givings were good. Suggest we should start sharing again with congregation the giving and expense graph. Very much appreciation for our congregation with their financial support during these times. We are applying for the forgiveness process for the PPE loan. We do not qualify for the 2nd program being offered by the county.

(continued)

Finance team has been established. Dennis will share future meeting dates and add Phillip Maguire to team.

State of the Congregation (informational meeting)-discussion on what our focus is for 2021. This will be added for October Council meeting

Decision made to begin the large Spire again-Jen will send council deadline for reports.

Shawna asked team to share the importance of having families register for education programs. This information is important for safety guidelines.

Council members shared feedback regarding families that were called to check in on with how they were doing.

The plan for reopening is on website. Plan needs to be reviewed/shared with team leaders for any group that uses the building. We will need team to prepare for reopening. A new schedule will be created for council team to help with new tasks added due to safety guidelines. Cleaning schedule reviewed and updated.

Pastor Sue presented some information regarding a programmable bell ringer. She will gather more information to share at the next meeting. Discussion regarding contact information for the cross for the Cornerstone. She would also like to promote the Military Bible stick for October 11.

Master schedule reviewed.

Dennis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kara 2nd. Motion passed.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned 9:14p

Kara has devotions for October.

PRAYERS

Pray for healing for: Dave Johnson, Dale Strike, Larry Oliver, Claudia Hanson, Diane Englund, Jim Johnson, Sharon Johnson, Donnie Weidner, Donnie's sister Kay; Will's sister Grace; Jean Hansen's brother Jim; Connie Engren's Brother-in-law Terry, Marcy Stoeckel's niece Erin, Karen's mom Floy, Mo Spike, Dave Ringstad's cousin Brad, Shawna's friend's daughter Lilah, Ron Selix's sister Donna, Becky's uncle Del, Pat O'Keefe's sister Carrie, Shawna's dad Mike, Monica Ahlman's sister Anne, Wanda Strike, Sarah Hanson and all who are struggling with health issues.





A Message from Matt Lundeen Council President

Greetings to my fellow members of Long Lake Lutheran! How can it be October already? I'm happy this crazy year is nearing to an end, only one more quarter to go!

As I reflect upon the challenges that 2020 has brought us, I am thankful that we are easing back into our church building and sanctuary. I am thankful for the different worship options that we offer; whether it's in the sanctuary, parking lot, or online. We are so blessed to be able to share the Word on so many platforms!

I can't imagine that the 13 families that started Long Lake thought that after 129 years, that the little country church that they started because St. Francis was too far would be reaching people regularly in places all over the world including New York, Florida, and many more.

2020 has taught us how much we need each other. It doesn't matter if you are an introvert or extrovert, we need each other. Even if we don't shake hands or hug, it feels good to be together! I know that when we were only worshipping online, it would warm my heart to see many of you checking in and saying hi. When we started worshipping in the parking lot, it was so nice to visit at a distance and be in each other's presence. Now that we can cautiously be in our sanctuary, it is so nice to hear how happy many of you are to be back IN our beautiful church!

I'd like to thank you for your continued support of our church. We really have a beautiful piece of property to share the Word and love of Jesus with our community.

I am praying that this is just the start of a very successful process of getting back to normal. Your staff and council continue to work very diligently ensuring that we are taking our best steps to keep you safe and offer a meaningful worship experience.

Please continue to pray for Long Lake and thank you to all of you that do so much for our church!

God's Peace,
Matt



KARA HEPP

With the unique Spring/Summer our church has had, I am beyond grateful the Congregational Life committee has been able to meet a few times in the last couple of months. In July, we hosted the Food Truck Fellowship event but as things have transpired, we have held off/cancelled a few of our traditional activities and events. It saddens us but we are grounded in the fact that it is for the safety of our congregation. It is a tough time, but we know all of God's people will persevere. The foundation He has provided gives us a solid place to land, no matter what 2020 throws at us, and for that we are grateful. Our prayer as we move forward is that the Congregational Life committee continues to be the hands and feet of our church, so our church, and every person in it, can be the light of the world! We look forward to seeing you soon!

Prayers and Blessings, Kara Hepp

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Hello everyone! It was a very unusual summer and the beginning of fall is not much different, especially with all the options of how young people are attending school. So, what is happening for our YOUTH at Long Lake Lutheran church??

RECAP OF SUMMER Our Summer Stretch program and planned fundraisers were cancelled. Our international Mission trip has been rescheduled to August 2021. Let's hope for a very different summer next year!

CONFIRMATION classes will resume Wed Oct 7th 6p-7:10p. We will start in Worship and end in the Fellowship hall. Masks will be required. Watch email for details if we need to change. Our focus this year is the OLD TESTAMENT. If you have not registered, please contact Shawna. Zoom will be an option also.

RETREAT The 9th graders will be heading to Camp Onomia Oct 8th and 9th for their retreat. The 6th-8th retreat will be scheduled later in the year.

9th grade CONFIRMATION REHERSAL AND PICTURES will be Saturday Oct 24th 10am.

9th grade CONFIRMATION SERVICE (affirmation of baptism) will be Sunday Oct 25th 1130a.

TRUNK -N-TREAT is being discussed/review due to the CDC guidelines, more information to follow. We are definitely excited about getting our youth back with their faith family of LLLC. Please see Shawna or myself if you have any questions or concerns.



MARGARET BAUER

Blessings,

Margaret

YOUTH



STEWARDSHIP

Happy Fall !

We have been separated by distance but not by the love of our community, church family, and the love of our Heavenly Father. We will get through this together. We miss you and welcome to inside worship again!

KATHIE SCHLEIF

Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to **separate us** from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Let's enjoy our time together worshipping, praying, and giving thanks being in the building while the weather is changing. The outdoor service has been wonderful to have.

Thank you to all the people that kept it going for each service.

Please follow the guidelines of social distancing. We will need everyone's cooperation to get through this transition to worshipping in the building smoothly.

We will be having busy schedules this month. Please look for a way to help use your talents, the time you are given, or the treasure God has given you.

The stewardship team has been working to remind us what God has given us. All that we have belongs to our gracious God. We are the stewards of what we have been given. God is the owner. We are to manage it wisely.

Thank you to all the teams, council, staff, Jen, Shawna, and Pastor Sue for all the time and decision making to keep the Long Lake Lutheran Church on track during this Covid virus 2020 detour in our lives. We will keep on keeping on.

Are you looking for something to do? There is still time to be a volunteer in 2020. Look in your heart and pray and listen for the Holy Spirit for guidance. There are many opportunities here and around the community. Please see a council rep, Jen, Shawna or Pastor Sue for info.

Please have a blessed fall through 2020 !

Your stewardship rep,

Kathie Schleif



FINANCE

This has been a challenging year in many respects for our church. The church council along with the finance team have achieved significant accomplishments in the financial area. As reported earlier this year, we received a federal government Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) Loan in the amount of \$27,800.

DENNIS WANLESS

This loan was through the Isanti Flagship Bank and was intended to help weather the financial uncertainties related to the pandemic. We are in the process of filing the application and required documents for “loan forgiveness” and hopefully the loan will be converted to a grant before year-end.

To make certain we would remain financially secure, we reduced expenses considerably when COVID arrived. These expense reductions have helped us operate “in the black” during this timeframe. The finance team has used this time of minimal operations to reorganize our financial statements coding structure so that expenses are now categorized by area of responsibility. This will make our budgeting process easier in the future.

We have added a graph showing monthly income and expenses to the Sunday Bulletin so that everyone has an understanding of our current financial position. We will update and include this information each month.

And as we now return to worship services in the church, we can say thank you to the congregation for your continued financial support during these trying times... your generosity is appreciated and positions us well for the future. We are grateful that our financial position at this time is solid—thanks to you all!

Dennis Wanless
Treasurer and Finance Chair

EDUCATION

What a different and quick summer we have had. I trust that you are staying well and cheerful amongst all the obstacles we have faced within this last year. Although there hasn't been a traditional spire in some time, I hope you have found a way to connect with our church. If not, let me recap quickly what has been happening with education.

The 1st communion students ended their course online but got to celebrate during a parking lot worship in mid September. There were many smiling faces to go around. Shawna did an excellent job coordinating and making sure the students were well prepared for another step in their faith journey.

End of July brought members for Summer Splash for a joyous day outside. Even though it was a different experience from years past, laughs were had and knowledge was obtained and hopefully will last.

We are getting ready for Sunday School. If you haven't registered yet, please do so. We have yet to see what the future will hold for the education of our youth but will do our best to have options for everyone. Please stay tuned for any changes.



I hope to see you all soon whether it's inside or outside our church!
Amanda

AMANDA SAELENS

Sunday School

Beginning October 4th, 1st and 3rd Sundays!
During the 10:00 am service

Children's Church

Beginning October 7th, starting in 6:00 pm worship!

Confirmation

Beginning October 7th, starting in 6:00 pm worship!

Contact Us!

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

longlakeluth.org
admin@longlakeluth.org

WELCA

The WELCA ladies have missed seeing each other at our usual monthly meetings, so for the past four months we have gathered outside on the church lawn. We have met on our usual third Thursday of the month just for social reasons. We brought our own chairs, our own drink and a snack. We tried to sit about six feet apart. Now with the weather cooling we will have to discontinue meeting outside and look forward to when we can meet safely inside the church. Looking forward to working together soon. I pray that God will see us through this difficult time and that we all will stay well.

Blessings,
Lillian Reetz

friends of ruth

The Friends of Ruth met on September 14 outside to (finally) gather together and plan what's next for our group. It was so nice to get reacquainted again! Our next meeting is Sunday, October 4 after the second service to finish the garden around the new garage. John Hass has donated dirt and he and Dave Baker have worked to finish the ends of the retaining wall as well - thanks, gentlemen!.

We are also interested in working with Shawna to see how we can help with sprucing up the Cornerstone, so stay tuned to what might happen next!

Thanks,

Joanne

FROM THE KITCHEN OF PASTOR SUE

Minnesota Wild Rice and Butternut Squash Salad with Maple-Balsamic Vinaigrette

Serves 6 as a side dish

Salad:

2 1/2 cups peeled, seeded butternut squash cut into quarter inch cubes

1 1/2 T. olive oil

sea salt & pepper to taste

2 1/2 cups thinly sliced spinach

1/2 cup thinly sliced leeks, white and light green parts

1/2 cup dried cherries or dried cranberries

1/4 cup thinly sliced fresh basil

3 cups cooked wild rice, warmed

Dressing:

1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil

2 T pure maple syrup

2 T balsamic vinegar

1/2 tsp sea salt

scant 1/2 tsp black pepper

1/2 T. chopped fresh rosemary

1 clove garlic, minced

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Toss squash with olive oil, salt, and pepper. Spread onto a baking sheet and roast for about 25 minutes, stirring once, until fork tender. In a large bowl, combine spinach, leeks, cherries, and basil. Stir in warm rice and squash so that spinach wilts slightly from the heat. Prepare dressing by pureeing all ingredients with an immersion blender or by vigorously whisking. Stir dressing into salad; taste and adjust salt level if needed. Serve at room temperature.

(From "Smitten with Squash" by Amanda Kay Paa, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2014)

BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARIES, AND BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

Date	Birthdays
1	Martin Lynn
2	Gary Grell Wayne Olson
3	Joette Hennen Ellie Sand
4	Bruce Hooker David Jaques Barry Smith Bruce Yurich Jr.
5	Tyler Jensen
6	Nate Hanson Blaine Wald
7	Ernest Englund Jean Englund Sarah Hanson Finn Netzer
8	Marcia Johnson
9	Jack Bauer Olivia Larson
10	Kaitlin Bender Eric Nelson Marcia Westover
11	Tom Fornberg LeAnn Snidarich
12	Addy Lewerenz
14	Catherine Dufeck
15	Jenny Boniarczyk Aaliyah Monroe Duane Oberg
20	Ariana Browen William Rowe
21	Kent Eittreim Julie Nielsen
24	Ron Selix
25	Alyvia Hepp Declan Nelson
27	Les Rowe Jason Sonterre Peyton Stanius
28	Jeremy Hill Sophia Magaard
29	Charlotte Sonterre
30	Nicole Nelson
31	Becky Agranoff

Date	Anniversaries
3	Larry & Jeannine Anderson
5	Margaret McBride & Barry Smith
8	Amie & Derek Johnson
11	Lori & Shane Wald
13	Harley & Madge Lillemoen Lance & Jennifer Jensen
14	Justin & Taylor Overby
16	Tom & Teresa Hanson Heather & Mark Townswick
Date	Baptism Anniversaries
	Jerry Oldenburg Donna Bahr
1	Ellie Sand Lucas Sand
3	Carol Fleischer
5	Steve Anderson Amanda Ortlepp Monica Petersen
7	Conrad Huges Karyn Hansen Gabby Johnson
9	Clara Johnson
10	Eric Nelson
11	Will Remus Karen Baker
12	Korbin Lynn
14	Logan Wynne
18	Mackenzie Larsen
19	Tammy Dufeck
21	John Sonterre
24	Madison Yurich
25	Jeffrey Engler
26	Bruce Jernell
27	Curtis Strand
28	Cierra Larsen
29	Lucas Anderson
31	Scarlett Spike

AA Meets Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm.

This is an open meeting, all are welcome.

Step 10

Step Ten is Steps Four through Nine applied daily. I have heard others refer to Steps Ten through Twelve as ‘maintenance steps’. I call them growth steps. No matter how old I get, these last three steps let me continue to challenge myself. Sometimes the healthiest thing I can do for myself is to admit I’m not perfect.

One of the most quoted lines in the AA Big Book appears on the discussion on Step Ten: “We are not cured of alcoholism. What we really have is a daily reprieve contingent on the maintenance of our spiritual condition”. It is no easy task to change the behavior and thinking of a lifetime, even when I want to change. The Tenth Step allows me to be aware of sliding back into faulty thinking. I don’t have to beat myself up over it. I just need to do what I can to make it right.

The Tenth Step asks us to ‘promptly’ admit we are wrong. A prompt admission is more effective than a delayed one in helping us acknowledge our negative behavior and to change it. A prompt admission is also more effective in defusing the anger that our inappropriate behavior has caused others. An essential part of understanding the amend process is to recognize that complete amend includes NOT repeating the same behavior.

Step Ten is a combination of taking an inventory regularly and promptly admitting when we are wrong. Some of us are tempted to ignore the inventory part and go right to the admitting we were wrong part. We are not working the Tenth Step unless we are doing both and probably will continue to make the same mistakes unless we work the step the way it was designed. We must work Step Ten daily till it becomes a habit.

Our personal inventory at the end of the day is a form of balance sheet. That means we review not only what we did wrong during the day but what we did right. When we take inventory we will want to look for many things. We can search out feelings that need our attention. We can look for low self-esteem creeping back in, but the critical part of our inventory is what we are doing right and on all the good around us.

The AA Twelve and Twelve suggests, when in doubt (about what to do) we can always pause, saying “Not my will, but Thine be done”.

Take time for prayer and meditation. We do this Step to stay on track, not to punish ourselves or be under constant criticism. The Tenth Step is a daily application of the Golden Rule: Treat others as you would like to be treated.

**Long Lake
Lutheran
Church
February 2020**

²⁸ Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

**Long Lake Lutheran Church
February 2020
3921 277th Ave NW**