

LONG LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

October Newsletter

10-1-2022

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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Isanti, MN 55040

www.longlakeluth.org

(763) 444-5315



October

2nd	9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15 Meetings: Stewardship, Property, Youth & Education	17th	6:00 4-H Long Lake Leaders Meeting 6:00 Emotions Anonymous
3rd	6:00 Emotions Anonymous	18th	9:30 Fellowship Café 7:00 AA
4th	9:30 Fellowship Café 7:00 AA	19th	1:00 Grief Share 6:00 Worship
5th	1:00 Grief Share 6:00 Worship	20th	9:00 Prayer Group 10:30 Bible/Book Study 1:00 WELCA
6th	9:00 Prayer Group 10:30 Bible/book study 1:00 Worship and Music Meeting	23rd	9:00 Worship - Hymn Sing
9th	9:00 Worship 10:15 Color My Cup and Pot Luck Brunch 10:15 Cong. Life Meeting	24th	6:00 Emotions Anonymous
10th	1:00 Friends of Ruth 6:00 Emotions Anonymous	25th	9:00 Mission Quilting 9:30 Fellowship Café 7:00 AA
11th	9:30 Fellowship Café 1:00 Sunshine Circle 5:00 Finance Meeting 7:00 AA	26th	1:00 Grief Share 6:00 Worship
12th	1:00 Grief Share 6:00 Worship	27th	9:00 Prayer Group 10:30 Bible/Book Study 12:00 Senior Cards
13th	9:00 Prayer Group 10:30 Bible/Book Study 12:00 Senior Cards	29th	10:00 9th Grade Confirmation Rehearsal 3:00 Trunk or Treat
16th	9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15 Missions Meeting 11:00 Meal Packing Event	30th	9:00 Worship 10:45 9th Grade Confirmation
		31st	12:00 Lunch Ladies 6:00 Emotions Anonymous



From the desk of Pastor Sue:

I invite you to read Romans chapter 8 and then return to my report. The book of Romans is more than a theological explanation of God's redeeming grace—it is a letter of comfort and confidence addressed to you!

Romans 8: 26-27

“²⁶Likewise 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. ²⁷And 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.”



On Thursday, Sept. 29th, we opened the sanctuary from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm for prayer, “An All Day Prayer Day”. It was a quiet time with soft music in the background, the Christ candle glowing, and people praying all day. We honored God with our words, with our silence, our tears, and our praise. We lifted up issues that weighed heavy on our hearts and we gave thanks and praise for our many blessings. This was an idea brought forth to me and was council approved. I believe, it will happen again as it was spiritually moving.

Jesus prayed often; he taught his disciples to pray, and “The Lord’s Prayer” continues to be a favorite one for many of us in our devotion time. It is found in Matthew 6: 9-13 and in Luke 11: 1-13. The Bible offers many ways to pray; you can read through the Psalms and give praise, lament, a cry for help, sing a love song, and remember God’s glory. We have a lot of devotional books in our library for you to borrow. Sometimes, when we don’t know what to say, we are able to just open our hearts to the Holy Spirit who intercedes our deepest desires for us.

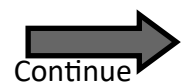
Matthew 5: 43-45

“⁴³You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.”

Friends in Christ, there is a lot of vitriolic rhetoric floating around in our country, our government, our workplaces and our homes, that goes against everything that we, as followers of Christ, should not engage in, but abhor. We are entitled to disagree with one another, but we are commanded to pray for each other, love each other, and hold each other in community, not divisive hatred. Calling people who disagree with us such names as “evil”, “ignorant”, or “disgusting,” does not look good on us and it does not show the people around us that we are Christ’s disciples. We are neither Gentile or Jew, slaves or free, but rather are all children of the same heavenly Father. Pray for your enemies and show them Christ’s love.

Matthew 7: 7-11

“⁷Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? ¹⁰Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? ¹¹If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!



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We may wonder why some of our requests are not given to us as Jesus promised even though we have prayed our little hearts out. There are many answers to that question with the greatest one being that we are not God, and we cannot purport to understand the ways of God. Sometimes the answer may be "not yet." Sometimes God knows that we do not need what we are asking for. That is difficult for us to grasp. People who preach a prosperity gospel believe that they can pray for anything like financial wealth, a parking space, the Vikings to win! They do not preach that God knows our needs and will take care of us. You may wonder why God hasn't taken care of the poor or the homeless near us. We are the hands and feet of God on earth and are commanded to care for them.

Romans 8: 18

¹⁸"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us."

Nothing that we suffer through in our time will compare to the suffering of Jesus on our behalf. We have seen financial crisis, hurricanes, devastating wildfires, war on Ukraine, poverty, hunger, homelessness, and other travesties. Our time on earth is short and our suffering not worth comparing with the glory we will find at the end times.

Romans 8: 28

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

Sometimes we wonder what good can come out of our tragedies and our sufferings. But, it is true that all things work together for good through God's redeeming grace. Many of you have survived terrible things, yet your faith is unwavering. We may not understand how good can come out of a tragedy, but we must be open to seeing and believing that through God, all things are possible. We may not even see the good in this life, but rather, in eternal life.

Romans 8: 31-32

³¹"What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?"

Isn't it comforting to know that God is for us? He gave up His very own Son to save us. We can face any difficulty knowing that God is with us. We are enough! God loves all of God's children; God will not withhold the gift of salvation.

Romans 8: 35, 37 - 39

³⁵"Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

³⁷"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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."

Stay connected to the power! Keep your source with you and you will find strength and energy to complete your tasks. If you feel down and out, remember these words: "Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." We are called to live like we believe this! Love one another; pray for your enemies; make the words of your mouth and the meditations in your heart pleasing to God who loves you beyond measure.

From the desk of Shawna Berg:



Recently, I went to a funeral, of young woman that was in my first youth group, as a young youth director right out of college. It was a double funeral, a funeral remembering the lives of both she and her husband, who had both tragically died way too soon, leaving behind two young children. As I sat in the sanctuary, where I had worshiped with her, prayed with her and laughed with her the memories of her as a teenager washed over me. I listened to a former colleague of mine, who was currently her Pastor, speak eloquently of her life, and her faith.

As I was thinking of her, and of the raw emotions everyone was feeling, I kept thinking of the verse from John 11:35 “Jesus Wept”. It was this verse that continued to bring me comfort, as I thought of the enormity of the emotions that everyone was feeling, The sadness, the anger, the confusion... sometimes we wonder – where is God?

I believe that when all of these terrible things are going on in the world, Jesus weeps, just as we do. It has become a mantra that I repeat over and over again every time I see something happening in my community or world that gives me pause.

Author Brene Brown recently said in an interview that faith was more like a midwife than an epidural. She said that she sought out faith and the church when going through personal crisis and pain hoping that the church would provide her relief from the pain, and found instead that they sat with her in it, helping her through it.

I love this analogy. Jesus is love incarnate. God in the flesh. God sent us Jesus to show us how much he loved us.

Loving God isn't always easy. (I'm sure God could say, “Right back at ya.”) It means we are entering into a relationship that can bring us more happiness than we ever might imagine, but it also means that occasionally we might get angry or we just might not understand. It means we might be called to do things we don't want to do. It means we may be asked to love people we don't want to love. Sometimes things happen that we don't understand, and all we can do is be comforted in the knowledge that “Jesus wept” also. That God's heart also breaks when his children are hurting and that if we trust, we can be helped through the pain. That is Good News, and sometimes that is all of the promise that we can cling to, and sometimes that is enough.

September's Fun Run!



Thank you to all who came to our fun run on September 10th! We were able to raise \$750.00 for our food packing event coming up in October.



**Long Lake Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2022**

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

Meeting called to order by Ronda@ 6:08pm
Devotions/Prayer: Ronda-Sin in the Church Mark 18:15-22

Approval of May Meeting Minutes-this was done via email

Additions to September Agenda

Open Council seat- David Rock has resigned from his council seat immediately. Ronda and Bruce will be the signers for any green slips for Congregational Life and monitor budget. Pastor Sue will reach out to members/groups to ask for help with the directory that is scheduled in October.

Custodial position- Kathy Schlieif has given her notice as of October 26. We will need to post the position.

Staff/Team Reports-Thank you to all who submitted team reports. Ronda reviewed with several teams some clarity from team reports. We will not have Pastor Sue or Shawna with us for the annual meeting in February.

Worship and Music- We will be trying something different on Wednesdays with worship. We will have dinner at 5:30 PM with worship beginning at 6 PM in the fellowship hall. Families will stay at their tables and will do communion in their seats. We will sing songs geared toward our young. Pastor Sue will connect with our musical team for logistics.

Youth-A recommendation was made to have a noisy offering for the Townswick family who lost their home to a fire. The recommendation was approved. Pastor Sue will share at this Sunday's worship and will do the offering the next Sunday.

ONGOING (Reoccurring items)

Highs/Lows- Several team members shared their highs.

Cadence of Council Meetings- Team shared feedback regarding summer meetings. We will review this process again in the spring for next summer.

Budget additions- Please share any additional budget items to help provide a 2023 calendar plan for monthly cash flow.

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

HOUSEKEEPING (PROCEDURAL ITEMS)

Communications- Ronda checked with team members regarding best communication routes. If it is an "urgent" need from council members, texting will be utilized to check your email. For other communications, we will continue to use email. Please acknowledge that you received communication to the person sending the email and not the whole team to avoid a long email tail. It has happened that some mail may go to junk mail accounts for some. Feedback is the key to communication and we value all responses. We will also be sending the approved minutes to Joanna to share in the monthly newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

Meal Packing Event- Our meal packing event will occur October 16th, 11 AM-1 PM. We have raised the expected funding of \$5,000 for the event. We are now in the need of volunteers from congregation members, families or groups that can help. We currently have approximately 35 people signed up with the need of a 100 volunteers total. Life Rice will set up and take down for the event. We will set up in the narthex after worship gathering for coffee. We have another group that will use our site for packing from 1 PM-3 PM Ronda will be the ambassador for this event.

Faithful Friends- This is a group of members who have been trained to visit members when sick, grieving, or needing companionship. This is a complement to pastoral care and not a replacement. Shawna, Marcy S. and Pat W-M are the leads with 4 others on the team.

Master Calendar- We will review this next month.

May 2022 Finance Report- Bruce shared finance reports. The negative balance of -\$2,765 in the General Fund this month is about the same as it was last month. Historically, we have seen an increase with the fall giving's. We have completed our high budgeted items that were needed for this year. The finance team has completed approximately 27 out of the 35 task of the list for 2022. Lots of improvement with processes such as check signers, Founders fund, green slips, and credit card limit usage. He reviewed the three step process for the 2023 budget proposal. We will see the 1st step next month with our current financials and proposed budgets for teams to begin planning.

NEW BUSINESS

Office hours- Our office hours will be 8 AM- 4 PM Monday-Thursday and 8 AM-12PM Fridays. Joanna will be available to do assigned projects from 12p-4p12 PM- 4 PM on Fridays. If your team needs support with certain projects, please let Joanna know. These projects will be prioritized accordingly.

Mission Statement/Purpose Statement-This will be reviewed at the next meeting due to our time constraint.

Set Goals for 2022 Church Council

Set Goals for Congregation

October Council Reps-

9 AM Sunday- Monica P

6 PM Wednesday- Amanda S.

October Devotions- Mike S

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned @7:36 PM

October Executive Team Meeting 10/17/22 @ 6 PM

October Council Meeting 10/20/22 @ 6 PM

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

November Council Meeting 11/17/22 @ 6 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Bauer

<u>September attendance:</u>	
September 4th-	75
September 11th-	100
September 18th-	99
September 25th-	104

October Worship Helpers are:

October 2nd

Greeter: Judy Carolan

Ushers: Gerald & Connie Anderson

Lector: Karen Baker

Kitchen: Margaret Bauer

October 9th

Greeters: Richard & Jessica Larsen

Ushers: Matt Lundeen

Lector: Joanne Eittrheim

Kitchen: Jenny Boniarczyk

October 16th

Greeters: Chris & Kara Hepp

Ushers: Carol Perrin

Lector: Ronda Fenlon

Kitchen: Dylan Monroe

October 23rd

Greeters: John & Rose Hass

Ushers: Cierra, Mackenzie & Megan Larsen

Lector: Julie Nielsen

Kitchen: Lisa Gustafson

October 30th

Greeters: Richard & Jean Hanson

Ushers: Mike & Manda Hanson

Lector: Merwyn Larsen

Kitchen: Ernie & Nancy Sandahl



October Birthdays

October 1st– Martin Lynn

October 2nd– Gary Grell & Wayne Olson

October 3rd– Jo Hennen & Ellie Sand

October 4th– Bruce Hooker, David Jaques, Barry Smith & Bruce Yurich

October 5th– Diane Harmon & Tyler Jensen

October 6th– Nate Hanson & Blaine Wald

October 7th– Ernie Englund, Jean Englund, Sarah Hanson ,Finn Netzer

October 8th– Marcia Johnson

October 9th– Jack Bauer & Oliva Larson

October 10th– Kaitlin Bender & Marcia Westover

October 11th– Leann Snidarich & *Remembering Tom Fornberg,*

October 14th– Catie Dufeck

October 15th– Jenny Boniarczyk, Aaliyah Monroe & Duane Oberg

October 20th– William Rowe

October 21st– Kent Eittreim & Julie Nielsen

October 24th– Ron Selix

October 25th– Alyvia Hepp

October 27th– Les Rowe, Jason Sonterre & Peyton Stanius

October 28th– Jeremy Hill & Sophia Magaard

October 29th– Charlotte Sonterre

October 30th– Nicole Nelson

October 31st– Becky Agranoff



October Anniversaries:

10/03 Larry & Jeannine Anderson

10/05 Barry Smith & Margaret McBride

10/10 Ben & Elizabeth Pipp

10/11 Shane & Lori Wald

10/13 Harlan & Madge Lillemoen

10/13 Lance & Jennifer Jensen

10/14 Chad & Abby Fournier

10/14 Justin & Taylor Overby

10/16 Tom & Teresa Hanson

10/16 Mark & Heather Townswick



We will be having a **Hymn Sing** on October 23rd, please let us know your favorites!



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!



Connections event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

- Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at the church or simply **sign up online at www.ucdir.com**
Church Code mn169 Password: photos
- Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory!
- Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church!

Photography dates: Oct. 13th & 14th from 2:00-8:30pm

Saturday October 15th from 10:30am-5:00pm

Looking ahead for Children, Youth and Family:

Mark your Calendars:

Trunk or Treat October 29th from 3-5 p.m.

Confirmation October 30th at 10:45 a.m.

Moonlight Madness Lock-out November 11 8 p.m. – 8 a.m.

Food Packing Event

Long Lake will be hosting a meal packing event with Life Rice on October 16th. Contact Shawna Berg for more details.



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

Pray for healing for: Colleen Evenson, Mike Schlegel, Aaron Gustafson, Linda Rouen, Richard Hansen, 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 Eittrheim'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 niece Kelly, Lisa and Martin Lynn's daughter Kelsey, Linda Rouen's aunt Evelyn Patterson, Madonna & Chris Schmidt's son Tristan, Kathy and Ken Schleif's grandson Kade.