

# THE COUNTRY SPIRE

Volume 33 issue 3

March, 2008



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES

Our Lenten Services started on Ash Wednesday, (February 6<sup>th</sup>) and will continue through March 12<sup>th</sup>. Soup Suppers will start at 5:30, with the Worship Service following at 7:00 p.m. This has proven to be a great time of fellowship and the soups are always delicious! Below are the titles of each Service remaining and the type of soup for each evening.

**Wednesday, March 5:** Encouragement Soup~Chili

**Wednesday, March 12:**  
Giving – Stewardship  
Soup~Vegetable Beef

**Thursday, March 20: Maunday Thurs.**  
Serve: Service for the sake of others.

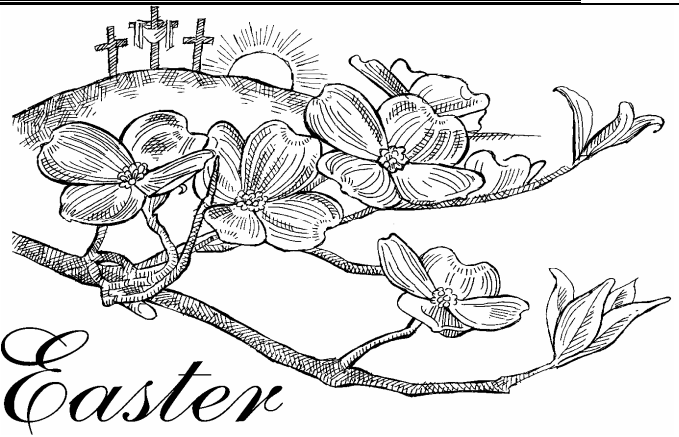
**Friday, March 21: Good Friday**

### Sunday Morning Services

Sunday, March 2:  
**The Need to be Listened to and Heard.**

Sunday, March 9:  
**The Need to Feel that One is Growing in Faith**

Sunday, March 16:  
**The Need for Practical Help in Developing a Mature Faith**



## Easter

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Seder Supper, Wed., March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

Good Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm

### EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Sunrise Service at 7:00 am

Easter Worship at 9:30 am

Easter Breakfast served 8:00-10:00 am

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BCover	It's March!	commit to holding the babies with the love of Christ
		and the unconditional grace of God.



March, 2008

Dear Members, Friends and Community Members of Long Lake Lutheran:

As most of you know, I have always been taught and mentored by Gerhard Frost. Not only in the classroom at the Luther Seminary or from the pulpit when he spoke at congregations where I served, but also in books that he has written and I still read. In his book, *A SECOND LOOK*, he has written a piece that fits for me as I begin a journey toward retirement. As most of you know, I announced my eventual retirement at the annual meeting for January 31, 2009 and when I read Frost's piece, "The Key" I think it summarized some of my focus for ministry.

#### THE KEY

"Four years in his first parish.....

I remembered him as a good presence

In and out of my classroom: seeker and asker

Alive and interesting, an encourager to any teacher

I asked him now, expecting a different response:

"After these many years on the firing line, what have you found to be the greatest gifts in ministry?"

He deliberated, I waited longer than I'd expected to.

Then the answer came, without a trace of flippancy;

Well, for one thing, I'm good at holding babies."

Good at holding babies!

It brings back pictures, one in particular I saw often in my childhood;

A picture of Jesus, strong Son of God, Lion of Judah, in which he's holding babies.

"Let the children come, he said.

In this the first and greatest step toward faith following—to be open to the young?

Is this the golden key to discipleship for everyone?

Is that what God's call to all of us? To be open to the young and to be examples to the young. To be teachers of the young. To be the people who inspire the young to follow Jesus. To witness to the young with prayer and commitment. I love holding babies

in the aisle of the sanctuary and asking members to commit to holding the babies with the love of Christ and the unconditional grace of God.

It is our call of mission and ministry to cradle all babies with the arms of promise that Christ offers to us. As I reflect on my ministry which began in 1971 and remember the 100's of baptisms I was given the privilege to carry out, I wonder how many of them benefited not only from the gift of being claimed and named as a precious child of God, but experienced the power of the support from the body of believers who witnessed that great event. Indeed, it is a sacred and holy call to promise to teach, pray, support and care for the babies and older children and adults too when brought to the baptismal font. I know that I am a pastor because those at Bergen Lutheran Church made every effort to support my parents and my godparents in assisting them in teaching me about the love of God. It was Emma, Douglas, Eldon, Ruth, and many others that taught me about the love of Christ and lived it day to day.

Let us do the same for those who come to us seeking to hear that promise and hearing our commitment. It comes in so many ways and all of us have gifts to make that happen.

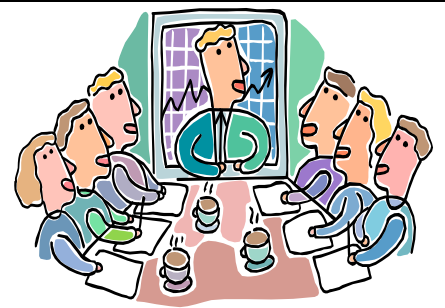
#### This and That

- Lenten worship every Wednesday at 7 pm – Marks of Discipleship
- Holy Week worship – Seder Supper, Maunday Thursday, Good Friday
- Prayers for everyone at 12:12 pm every day. Prayer is a mark of discipleship.
- Easter Services at 7 am and 9:30 am with Easter Breakfast in between.
- Commitment to worship every Sunday. Another mark of discipleship.

May the Easter message of hope guide and hold us every day.

Shalom,

Pastor Howard



**LONG LAKE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH COUNCIL MIINUTES**  
February 13, 2008

John Bartz called the meeting to order.

Candy read devotions. The master calendar for March was reviewed.

Ronda Fenlon and Carol Perrin from the Live Nativity committee came to present a suggestion on may be doing an indoor Live Nativity. Is it time for a change? A church in Walkon does it indoors and there is a very good turn out. Motion was made by Matt Hylen and seconded by Monica Ahlman to try this.

Spire articles are due February 15<sup>th</sup>. March council reps are: 8:00 Monica, 10:15 Candy and Wed. Tina. January minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer' Report: (Matt Hylen) We are about \$6,000.00 behind in giving.

Sr. Pastor's Report: No report.

Assoc. Pastor's Report: The Sweetheart Dinner went great. A special thanks to Candy & Jerry McColley, Mike Engel and the Lynn's.

Youth Report: (Tina Anderson) On March 12<sup>th</sup> the youth will serve the soup supper and have a silent auction. The Easter breakfast will be on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 8:00-10:00 am. Meat is needed for the breakfast.

Property Report: (Steve Vigstol) On clean up day, we need the youth to rake. Bathroom in the Cornerstone, question is, do we put a shower in the men's bathroom?

Missions Report: (Dale Findell) We are going to contact Lil' Farm. IHN wants the okay to buy County Market cards to buy groceries. Mission of the month giving will be reported in the Spire.

Worship Report: (Candy McColley) Wednesday night reps are needed for March, June, June August, November and December. Connection cards were discussed. It was discussed to get larger communion cups for disabled people. We will be contacting Cambridge Lutheran about the sound room. On August 17<sup>th</sup> will be the Outdoor Service. We are checking on having the Sunday School children sing for Easter.

Stewardship: (Tony Steiner) He is working on capital funds for April.

Congregational Life: (Rose Hass) Soup Suppers are going well, we still need chili.

Education: (Monica Ahlman) Committee members will continue to stay on the committee. Karyn Hansen will help with the next rotation. Day Camp is scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. We

are checking on the Isanti and St. Francis parades. VBS will be Wednesday nights in June.

Workcamp has a chance to go to the BWCA to work.

Old Business: Kenny Englund said he would help on the Bell Committee. We need to check on the light in front of the church.

New Business: It was discussed to hold the next Annual Meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rose Hass, Council Secretary

## ***LLC Happenings:***



**March 5<sup>th</sup>** Soup Supper 5:30-6:45 pm,  
Lenten Worship 7:00 pm.

**March 8<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup>** Communion Class 9-11:30 am

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** - Soup Supper 5:30-6:45 pm,  
Lenten Worship & Silent Auction 7:00 pm.

**March 14-15<sup>th</sup>**-Confirmation Retreat

**March 15<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup>** Communion Class 9-11:30  
am

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** - Seder Supper 7:00 pm.

**March 20<sup>th</sup>**-Maunday Thursday Worship  
and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion 7:00 pm.

**March 21<sup>st</sup>**-Good Friday Worship 7:00 pm.

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>**-Easter Worship 7:00 am and  
9:30 am.

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>**-Easter Brunch 8:00-10:00 am.

**Adult Bible Study**-Every Sunday morning  
at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room,  
everyone is welcome to attend.



### **One Night in Bethlehem**

New Twist on Long Lake Lutheran's  
Live Nativity.

Join us April 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:30PM to learn about  
plans for the 2008 Live Nativity.  
We're moving in out of the cold in 2008  
and We will need some additional  
planning/prep to move inside.  
See you in the Fellowship Hall April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
to learn more.

### **A Note from WELCA**

For those people who are interested in what we  
serve at funerals. We have two menus.

From October through March, we serve:

- Hamburger Rice Hotdish
- Buns
- Mixed Fruit Salad
- Pickles
- Cakes/Bars/Cookies
- Coffee & one other Beverage

From April through September, we serve:

- Sliced Ham Sandwiches
- Veggie Tray
- Mixed Fruit Salad
- Pickles
- Chips
- Cakes/Bars/Cookies
- Coffee & one other Beverage

Note: If the family would like to provide fully  
prepared or catered food, they may do so and the  
serving group will serve it.

WELCA does not charge. The funeral homes  
suggest a price per plate and this is what helps us  
with the food costs.

Our serving groups will also help serve your food at  
other functions as well. Such as, potlucks,

anniversaries, weddings, etc.. If you are interested, contact Loretta Fornberg at 444-5973. We need to schedule your event, so we can keep our groups in rotation.

Men, we need your help. At funerals it would be nice if two men could help with the heavy lifting of dish racks and tables. This would make it much easier on the women.

There is a sign up sheet by the coffee area. We will rotate all volunteers, so the same people aren't always doing it. The more volunteers we get, the fewer times everyone needs to do it. Thanks for helping the girls.

Sincerely with God's Blessings,  
Loretta Fornberg  
Coordinator of the WELCA serving groups



**LONG LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
3921 277<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW – Isanti, MN 55040  
Website: [www.longlakeluth.org](http://www.longlakeluth.org)

**Staff**

Pastor Howard Skulstad 763-213-1136  
E-mail address [hskulstad@longlakeluth.org](mailto:hskulstad@longlakeluth.org)  
Pastor Howard Cell Phone 612-232-8875  
Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka 763-783-3625  
E-mail Address [rhondah@longlakeluth.org](mailto:rhondah@longlakeluth.org)  
Pastor Rhonda Cell Phone 763-229-4459  
Church Office 444-5315

**Church Office**

FAX Machine 444-8066  
Geri Fournier,  
Financial Coordinator & Secretary 444-0279  
Lynn Perrin, Custodian 444-5607  
Kristy Anderson, Organist  
Mary Martin, Parish Nurse 763-226-7286

**Council Members**

John Bartz, Chairperson 444-9731  
Steve Vigstol, Property 753-0177  
Matt Hysten, Finance 753-2149  
Rose Hass, Congregational Life 444-5892

Monica Ahlman, Education 444-6462  
Tony Steiner, Stewardship 444-6768  
Candy McColley, Worship & Music 753-5187  
Tina Anderson, Youth 612-747-6871  
Dale Findell, Missions 689-2219

**Church Organizations**

Rose Hass, Council Secretary 444-5892  
Donna Larsen, Director Adult Choir 444-9975  
Friends of Ruth, June Huges 689-3174  
Women of the ELCA (WELCA):  
Jean Hansen 444-5447  
Serving Groups Coordinator  
Loretta Fornberg 444-5973  
Sunshine Circle:  
Loretta Fornberg 444-5973  
Betty Stanius 689-5405  
Lundeen Scholarship Committee &  
Cemetery Sexton: Philip Lundeen 444-5357

**BIBLE VERSE FOR MARCH**

**Romans 15:5**

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Lenten Supper and  
Silent Auction**

The youth will be serving Lenten Supper on Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup>. In addition, at the Lenten Supper we will be having a silent auction to help raise funds for camp and mission work.

We are looking for donations from the congregation to help us make this auction a success. Everything from gift items to services would be accepted. If you think someone would bid on it and you can donate it talk to Pastor Rhonda or Tina Anderson. Thanks for all your support!



## **New Stained Glass Windows**

When we first joined the church in the mid-sixties, the church was so small that the stained glass window of Jesus knocking at the door took up nearly the whole front wall in back of the altar. The six smaller windows dominated the side walls, filling the church with a muted glow on sunny mornings. The jewel toned red and green in the east-facing front window sparkled and danced in the rays of the rising sun. I'm afraid that attention sometimes wandered as kids (and adults, too) were mesmerized by the shining windows with their message of Christ's love.

According to the book celebrating LLC's 100 year anniversary in 1991, these windows were placed in the Sanctuary in 1941 as a special effort of the Congregation for the church's Golden Jubilee, which took place September 28-29, 1941. The dedication sermon was given by Emil Swenson, president of the MN Conference of the Augustana Synod and was based on Rev. 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

We are glad that we have incorporated these windows in our new Sanctuary. But we would really like to see our present side windows filled with stained glass so our Sunday mornings can once again be surrounded with that glow, spreading the message of God's love through the beauty of stained glass. We think that if that tiny, poor Congregation could succeed in the tremendous effort of filling our church with so much lasting beauty, we should do no less with our new Sanctuary.

This idea was brought to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting and received approval as long as funds were raised separately or through the Memorial Fund. A committee was formed, and on February 12<sup>th</sup> they met with Walter Horcher, a local artist who has done stained glass windows in several local churches. Another meeting is scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup> when he will submit drawings. It is tentatively proposed at this time that the top arched section of the side windows will be done in the style and colors of the existing windows and the bottom of the windows will have a coordinating border with the center left clear. (Some people like to look outside.)

Mr. Horcher has estimated that if we go with this plan, each window will cost about \$950.00, which is a very good price. We are hoping some families might wish to donate a window as a memorial. A bronze plaque can be fastened to the window designating the memorial or family name, or a list of names if several people go together.

Several suggestions have been made regarding fundraising for this project. We plan to have some meals, like the meatball dinner and spaghetti supper we had this past year. We'd also

like to contact some families with ties to the church and/or cemetery to see if they would like to make a memorial donation in memory of loved ones who went to this church or are buried in the cemetery. And as mentioned above, some present members have already expressed interest in donating a window as a memorial.

Please remember this endeavor in your prayers for our church. We will keep you posted on our project in future editions of the Spire.

By God's Grace,  
Richard & Jean Hansen



## **Notes from the Parish Nurse**

When we witness the baptisms of children, we all make a promise to help raise these children in the Christian faith. We promise to be a part of their Christian family. We all are a part of the lives of the children in this church and in the community. It seems easy when the children are young, as most of us are aware of the needs and concerns of infants and toddlers. It isn't as easy to define those concerns as children get older though. Many of the issues facing children today are much different than those of only 20 years ago. This article is to help bring awareness to the very real issue of children sniffing chemicals to get "high". This is a huge concern that anyone who has a connection with children should be aware of.

Inhalant use is when gas or vapors are sniffed in order to get "high". Unfortunately, this is becoming more common. One in five children will have used an inhalant by the time they reach eighth grade. Inhalants are found in everyday products, which make them easy to get and use. Many of these products include paint, markers, correction fluid, glue, hairspray, gasoline, and even cooking spray and whipped cream sprays. Another product to be concerned with is computer keyboard cleaner.

Sniffing these and other products to get high is extremely dangerous. Sniffing inhalants can lead to serious health issues including damage to the kidneys, lungs, heart, brain and other organs. The most serious risk related to sniffing inhalants is "Sudden Sniffing Death Syndrome". This can occur after sniffing inhalants the 1<sup>st</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 100<sup>th</sup> time. The use of inhalants is addicting, both physically and psychologically and users will go through withdrawal symptoms.

If you think someone is sniffing inhalants it is important to stay calm. Agitation could cause the person to hallucinate, become violent or heart problems may occur. Make sure that the room is well ventilated and call an ambulance. It is also important to try and find out what kind of inhalant was used. After the person has recovered it is important to get professional help for the person.

Talk to your doctor, school nurse, counselor or myself. There are counseling centers able to help with inhalant addictions.

There are some things to look for with inhalant use. These include:

- Problems in school
- Delinquency, especially theft or burglary
- Poor short term memory
- Spots or sores around the mouth
- Red or runny eyes or nose
- Irritability, anxiety or excitability
- Chemical breath odor
- Looking drunk, dazed or dizzy

This is a very serious issue that could potentially affect any of us in one way or another. We are all parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles, teachers, mentors or friends to the children in our community. This is something we need to talk to our children about. In talking to youth about this, we should be honest about it but avoid being accusatory. Inhalants are poisons, not drugs. Children, even at a young age can be taught the dangers of poisons. Older youth are able to understand the dangers of these toxins at a greater level. By being aware of the dangers of inhalant use, we can be better prepared in keeping our children safe from this potentially deadly behavior. This is part of that promise we make as we witness the baptisms of our children. If you have questions or want more information about inhalant use please feel free to talk to myself or your doctor. You can also contact the National Inhalant Prevention Coalition at 1-800-269-4237. The information used

in this article was used with permission from the National Inhalant Prevention Coalition.

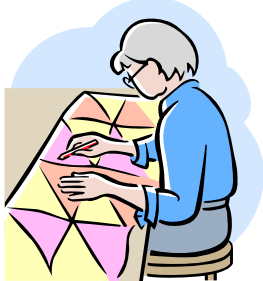
In Christ's Peace,  
Mary Martin, RN, Parish Nurse

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Through 01/31/08**

### **TOTAL GIVING TO DATE**

2007	\$23,926.74
2008	\$22,611.65
Gain/(Deficit)	\$ (1,315.09)



### **Sunshine Circle's Project of Interest:**

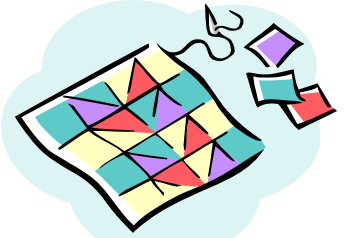
Sunshine Circle has started a new project of making prayer shawls for the Harbor Room at Cambridge Hospital, which supports cancer patients.

If anyone would like to knit or crochet these at home, they can bring them in to church and put them in the Sunshine box in the Narthex. We will then tag them with Long Lake Lutheran Church tags and deliver them to the Harbor Room when we receive a good quantity of them.

We meet every second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. Come join us.

"Two can accomplish more than twice as much as one, for the results can be much better." *Ecclesiastes 4:9*

Thank you,  
Sunshine Circle



### **WELCA**

All the church women are invited to join us at our WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) monthly meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

# CIRCLES & GROUPS



### **FRIENDS OF RUTH**

ATTENTION ladies of Long Lake Lutheran!! It's that time of year again! Yes, Friends of Ruth is hosting the annual women's luncheon again this spring! We are excited to once again be offering a day for the women of the church to get together for fun, fellowship, and of course food!! The luncheon will be on Saturday

April 5, 2008 from 10a.m. to noon. Our speaker will be Theresa Nelson. The cost of the lunch will be \$10. We urge you to join us this day, and please invite your mothers/daughters, sisters, aunts or friends for a wonderful day. Remember, it's a time for you to get out, enjoy each others' company, **and** have someone else cook and clean up afterwards! It doesn't get much better than that!! We will announce more about registration & deadline for it soon. Hope to see you there!!

The next Friends of Ruth meeting is March 6 at 7p.m. in the Cornerstone. Please join us for an evening of fellowship and devotion, along with some ministry work.

In Christ's peace,  
Friends of Ruth

## **Letter from the Mpls. Area Synod**

### **Hands-on Ministry**

Dear Disciples at Long Lake Lutheran Church,

This whole church thanks you! Your recent mission support offering of \$1,666.67 helps provide for the ELCA's gospel witness by funding empowering opportunities for young adults (aged 18-30) through ELCA congregations, synods, seminaries, outdoor ministries, campus and chaplaincy ministries, colleges and universities, and innovative pilot ministry programs. Let me tell you just one story.

Krista Oppie is a first-year student at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, but already she has years of mission and ministry experience. This twenty-something leader served for a year in the Phillipines through the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program. She participated in a pilot program in northwest Washington state that

organizes and mobilizes young adults to fight the cause of world hunger. Before that Krista ministered in soup kitchens in El Salvador and on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Most recently, she has participated in the Young Adult Conversations Pilot Program, which invites young adults to consider what their ministry might be.

Your sustaining generosity prepares capable hands for service throughout God's world. Thank you!



## Quilters

We will be assembling and tying mission quilts for Lutheran World Relief on Thursday & Friday, March 6 & 7 and Thursday and Friday, March 27 & 28 from 8:30 am to 8:00 pm. Our guest speaker from LWR will be coming on Sunday, March 30th and we would like

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### EASTER

There was a man named George Thomas, a pastor in a small New England town. One Easter morning he came to the church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage and set it by the pulpit.

Several eyeballs raised and, as if in response, Pastor Thomas began to speak. "I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming towards me, swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright. I stopped the lad and asked,

"What you got there, son?" "Just some old birds," came the reply.

"What are you gonna do with them?" I asked. "Take 'em home and have fun with 'em. I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time."

"But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do then?" "Oh, I got some cats. They like birds. I'll take 'em to them."

The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, son?" "Huh????!! Why, you don't want them birds,

to have as many quilts completed as we can by then. As usual, we will meet at the Cornerstone and meals and coffee breaks are potluck. Come when you can, leave when you must, any or all of those days. If you have questions call Kris Skulstad @ 763-213-1136 or 763-464-1410.

mister. They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing—they ain't even pretty."

"How much?" The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "10?"

The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten-dollar bill. He then placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash the boy was gone. The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars, persuaded the birds out, setting them free.

Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit, and then the pastor began to tell this story:

*One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting. "Yes sir, I just caught the world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!"*

*"What are you going to do with them," Jesus asked. "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!"*

*"And what will you do when you get done with them?" Jesus asked. "Oh, I'll kill 'em."*

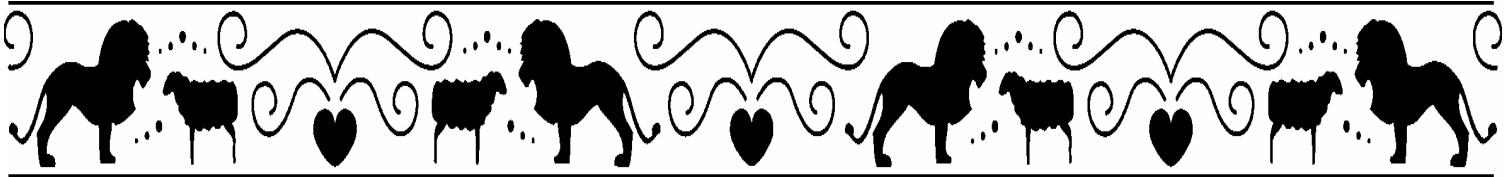
*Jesus paid the price. He picked up the cage.*

*Jesus asked, "How much do you want for them?" "Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you!"*

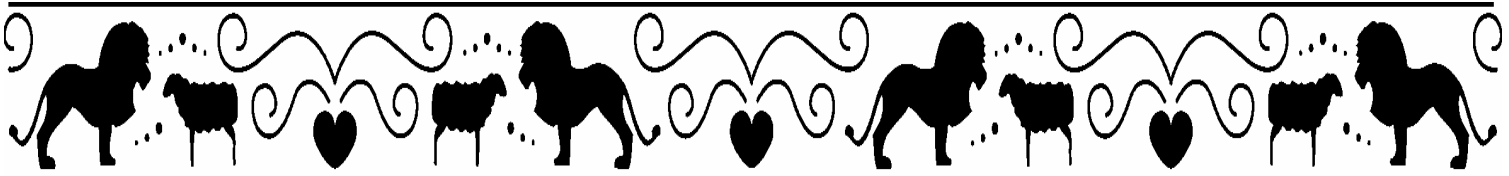
*HE OPENED THE DOOR.*

*"HOW MUCH?" Jesus insisted.*

*Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your tears, and all your blood."*



# March



Long Lake Lutheran Church  
Non-Profit Organization  
3921 277<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
Isanti, MN 55040

U.S. Postage  
PAID

Phone 763-444-5315

Permit NO. 5  
Isanti, Minnesota 55040

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

**“FOLLOWING CHRIST’S EXAMPLE  
OF LOVE AND FORGIVENESS  
WE OPEN OUR HEARTS AND  
OUR DOORS TO ALL PEOPLE AS WE  
PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL AND GROW  
IN CHRIST’S LOVE.”**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
DATED MATERIAL –  
PLEASE EXPEDITE**