

# THE COUNTRY SPIRE

Volume 33 issue 7

July, 2008



## LLC MID-SUMMER FESTIVAL

The first organizational meeting for this year's event was held June 4, 2008. I appreciate everyone that took the time to attend and offer their input.

One important thing that was discussed was that maybe we are trying to jam too many things into one day. In the past the auction was held on Saturday and the Outdoor service was held on Sunday.

After discussing this with the council, we've decided to at least for this year to keep it to a one day event. The proceeds from the Festival / Auction doubled when the two events were combined. This also reduces the amount of volunteers needed to pull off this event.

What we've done is to schedule it differently so that most of the meal will be served before the auction starts. This year's Summer Festival / Auction will be held on Sunday, August 17, 2008.

The Outdoor Service will begin at 10:00 am. We will begin serving lunch immediately after the Worship service at 11:00am or so and the Auction will begin at 12:00pm.

Another change this year will be on the menu. Deep fried turkey will replace roast pork.

Hopefully these changes will give people a chance to enjoy whatever part of the day they choose.

As you consider your donations to the auction I would like you to keep in mind what people bid on the most and that is new or like new items. Last year Langer Construction donated a patio set. That one donation brought in \$1,000.00. Not everyone can donate

something that big or expensive but a receipt for a new item is worth exactly what you paid for it on your tax return. Used items are worth fair garage sale prices in that respect. Other things that sell really well are crafts such as quilts. People love handmade quilts. Anything handmade can always be a great donation. Crafts are usually inexpensive to make and sell very well at the auction. One thing that doesn't sell is used exercise equipment. This almost always ends up in the dumpster.

As usual we would like you to fill out an auction donation sheet which will be available in the narthex. Please fill them out as soon as possible. The sooner we get the donation sheets the sooner we can get the auction bill together. I would like to be able to have the auction bill ready to post 2 weeks before the Summer Festival / Auction. So mark your calendars for Sunday, August 17, 2007 for 10:00 am Outdoor Worship Service, 11:00 am Deep Fried Turkey Dinner and 12:00 pm Auction.

See you there!

Let your light shine!

Steve Vigstol Committee Chair

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# FROM THE PASTOR

July, 2008

Dear Members, Friends, Community Residents, Neighbors of Long Lake Lutheran:

Jesus sat down, called the twelve disciples, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must place himself last of all and be a servant of all.” **Mark 9:35**

Twice a year geese migrate in a beautiful V formation, as a flock. Phil Yancey explained: “that’s the secret of their strength....cooperating as a flock, geese can fly for a 71% longer range....The lead goose cuts a swath through the air resistance, which creates a helping uplift for the two birds behind him. In turn, their beating makes it easier on the birds behind them....Each bird takes his turn as the leader. The tired ones fan out to the edges of the V for a breather, and the rested ones surge forward to the point of the V to drive the flock onward.” Yancey notes further that “if a goose becomes sick and needs to rest, another goose will stay with it until it can continue again.”

Is not the call of Christ the same? Is not that the responsibility of all committed Christians who are members of the body of Christ, (the church of Jesus Christ)? And how important is it? It is crucial. The V formation of geese in migration that Yancey explains is a perfect metaphor and example for us as Disciples of Christ.

In Luke 17:10, Jesus said to His disciples “When you have done all you have been told

to do, say, ‘We are ordinary servants; we have only done our duty!’”

Like geese in formation, our presence in the life of the church is important. It is critical that we all participate in the commitment to Christ at Long Lake Lutheran. It goes without saying that if one goose does not carry out the responsibility of the V formation, the migration can and will eventually collapse. Likewise the church faces the same threat, if we do not all make a promise of commitment that we are there for one another. This includes all phases of the church. Our presence at worship is absolutely essential and it’s not just for our own spiritual journey, but it’s for our neighbor. Serving where we are called is necessary for our formation of faith. And let us remember the words of Jesus, “We are ordinary servants; we have only done our duty!” (Luke 17:10)

### **This and That**

- Parents of our Sunday School Children – Day camp is in July.
- Our Summer Festival is on August 17.
- Belgium Waffle Feed, Sunday, September 14
- Our Sunday School Rally Day is September 7.
- Dedication of the Stained Glass Windows will be on October 5.

In Christ’s Name,

Pastor Howard

Please Note: To reserve a date for the usage of either church building, you MUST verify your date with the Pastors and church secretary.



LONG LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MIINUTES 6/12/08

Candy read the devotions and the May minutes were approved. Council Reps for July are 8:00 am: Dale Findell, 9:30 am: Monica Ahlman and Wednesday nights: John Bartz.

Pastor's Report: Howard~Has had a lot of sick calls. He is also looking for someone to get Cub cards, other than council.

Youth:: Tina Anderson~Things are looking good for the workcamp trip.

Property: Steve Vigstol~Getting ready to work on the bell. The 4-H still wants to do flower beds. Steve is working with the insurance company about shingles. He also got a letter with things that need to be done for IHN. We need fire alarms in areas that people sleep, somebody needs to stay awake all night. This came from the Fire Marshall and Pathways is checking with a lawyer.

Worship & Music: Candy McColley~We are questioning Wednesday night services, as not many there. We are going to see how it goes and talk about it in July.

Congregational Life: Rose Hass~The Fish Fry is coming up on June 20th, things are going good.

Education: Monica Ahlman~VBS is going good. There are 17-20 on Wednesday nights. Day camp is coming up in July. We are looking at Sunday School material for the Fall.

Old Business:

Outdoor Worship Service is August 17<sup>th</sup>, with Worship at 10:00, Meal at 11:00 and Auction at 12:30. Rejoicing We Grow is off to a good start at \$2,200.00 so far.

New Business: A fence and grass is still needed for the softball field.

The meeting closed with prayer by Howard.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rose Hass, Council Secretary

## ***LLLC Happenings:***



**July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30<sup>th</sup>-Wednesday Night  
Worship @ 7 pm, with "Sundaes on  
Wednesdays" to follow.**

**July 14-18<sup>th</sup>-Day Camp, 9am-3pm M-Th  
& 9am-12pm Friday.**



**August 17<sup>th</sup>-Mid-Summer Festival~10:00  
am Outdoor Worship Service, 11:00 am  
Deep Fried Turkey Dinner and 12:00 pm  
Auction.**



## **Youth Softball**

The youth have 3 games left for the year.  
The schedule is as follows:

6-30 At Salem Church, 6:00 pm.

7-21 At Long Lake against Lewis Lake,  
6:00 pm.

8-2 Tournament at Cambridge Complex.

Any questions on times or directions, please  
call Betsy Vincent at 763-516-4655 (cell)  
or 763-444-3909 (home).



## PARISH NURSE NOTES

This is an article that I initially submitted last July, but it is a subject worth printing about again. The topic of domestic violence is one that many of us shy away from. We don't hear a lot about this devastating problem because it is such a private and painful existence for so many women. We want to believe that this doesn't exist, especially within our church families. The women may seek out help, but often times they are too afraid or ashamed to. We need to know the signs of domestic violence and what we can do to help these women. The following article is taken from the ELCA website.

When we hear about domestic violence, it is tempting to think: "That hasn't happened to anyone I know!" However, according to *What Every Congregation Needs to Know About Domestic Violence*, (published by the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence in Seattle) domestic violence occurs in at least 28 percent of all marriages in North America. Battering is the single largest cause of injury to women in the United States. Some 95 percent of domestic violence victims are women. These statistics include women inside and outside the pews of congregations!

Abuse is behavior that intimidates and controls the abused partner for the purpose of establishing and maintaining authority; It can range from constant put downs, dismissals or ridicule, to controlling behaviors and pathological jealousy. It includes such behaviors as intimidating gestures, controlling of family income, treating another family member like a servant, shoving, beating, and threatening to take away children. Abusive behavior includes denial, minimizing and blaming the abused partner for the actions perpetrated by the abuser.

What can you and your congregation do to assist families struggling with domestic violence?

- Be honest about naming abuse for what it is. Help families move beyond denial and

acknowledge the devastating impact of the abuse on all family members.

- Avoid blaming the victim. No one deserves to be beaten. Abusers are responsible for ending the violence.
- Recognize that it is difficult for a battered woman to leave her abuser. Economic factors, fear of retribution to herself and her children, physical exhaustion and psychological trauma all contribute to the reasons why women stay with an abusive partner. The threat of death is real. Women are more likely to be victims of homicide when they separate from their husbands.
- If you know a woman being abused here are some things you can do to help: Listen to the woman and believe her. Tell her that the abuse is not her fault, and it is not God's will for her. Refer her to local domestic violence agencies. Help her find a shelter and resources for legal assistance and counseling. Help her think through a safety plan of action.
- If you or your children are being abused: Trust your instincts and seek help from a domestic violence program in your community. Recognize that the abuse is not your fault. Talk in confidence to someone you trust. Set up a safety plan of action.
- If you know someone who is abusing his partner and children: Talk to him about the devastating impact of his behavior on his family and tell him that he is committing a crime.

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I pray that we all take an honest look at this devastating problem, knowing that it exists, and also knowing that we can all do something about it. If you or someone you know is being abused, there is help for you. In our area, you can call Alexandra House at 763 780-2330 or the Refuge Network at 763 689-3532 or 1800 338-7233. To contact the parish nurse about this or any other concerns you may have, please call 763 226-7286.

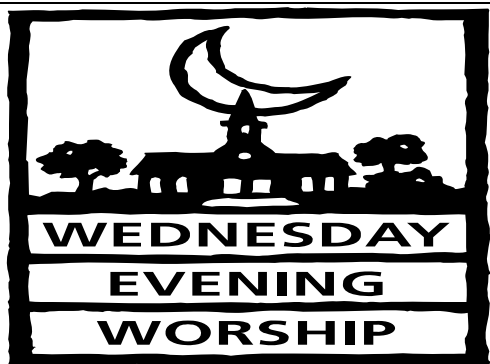
In Christ's peace,  
Mary Martin, RN, Parish Nurse

Here is a recipe submitted by Sam Goodlin. If you have heart healthy &/or diabetic friendly recipes, we would love it if you would share them with us! You can leave a copy of your recipe on the Parish nurse desk in the mail room or submit it by email to: marymartin@goldengate.net

**Crockpot Creamy Mushroom Chicken**  
**(or pheasant for the hunters out there!)**

2 lbs cubed raw chicken or pheasant breast  
4 oz can (or fresh) mushrooms  
2 10 3/4 oz cans of low fat and sodium cream of mushroom soup  
1 envelope dry onion soup mix (can reduce to 1/2 pack to reduce sodium)  
1/2 - 1 cup chicken broth

1. Place chicken in slow cooker.
2. Combine remaining ingredients and pour over chicken
3. Cover and cook in crockpot on low for 5-6 hours
4. Serve over mashed potatoes (can add 1/2 cup pureed cauliflower to mashed potatoes to sneak in some extra good stuff!)



Sundaes on Wednesdays  
Worship

Please join us for Wednesday Night  
Worship at 7:00 pm,  
then stay for sundaes and fellowship.

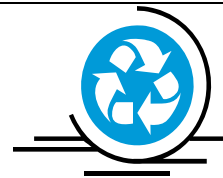
**Property Report**

The installation of a sprinkler system was a great help in caring for the lawn and keeping things green and well watered.

The 4-H club would love to plant some flowers where they would be watered properly. They have proposed we build two 5' x 11' oval beds, one on each side of the church. These flower beds would be 18" - 24" high.

I have priced out the landscaping blocks needed at Menards and the estimated cost is around \$600.00. The property team will take care of the labor. The only thing we need now is the funding. If you would like to donate to this project or if you have a connection for landscaping blocks we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Steve Vigstol or Marci Stoeckel.



**Recycling Drive Reminder**

Remember the Recycling Drive will continue throughout the summer at least. So bring all your aluminums, cans and other recyclables to Clarence's Recycling on Highway 65. Just let whoever is behind the counter know that it's being donated to Long Lake Lutheran Church and they will see that the proceeds go to the Capital Campaign.

Thanks so much for your continued support,  
Steve Vigstol  
PropertyChair

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Since April we have raised \$1,061.67. Keep up the good work!!!



**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	<a href="mailto:hskulstad@longlakeluth.org">hskulstad@longlakeluth.org</a>
Pastor Howard Cell Phone	612-232-8875
Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka	763-783-3625
E-mail Address	<a href="mailto:rhondah@longlakeluth.org">rhondah@longlakeluth.org</a>
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 Hylen, 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 Hugel	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 July:

I Peter 2:9

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,\* in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.



Dear Friends,

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us."--Hebrews 12:1*

Greetings from Luther Seminary and thank you for your recent gift of \$579.00! Your generosity will help this next generation of pastors and lay leaders answer God's call.

We appreciate your eager and faithful response to the Sander Seminarian Scholarship Challenge. The Sanders are bold in their challenge, calling others to join them in their dream of eliminating student debt. Thank you for joining with the Sanders and many others in providing important scholarship assistance for our seminarians!

Through this scholarship match, you have made a double impact on the lives of students at Luther Seminary. Our students are growing into their vocations and becoming strong, effective church leaders, but they cannot do it alone. Your participation helps to surround them with a cloud of witnesses, providing important prayerful and financial support. We are grateful for your investment in their education and preparation for ministry.

You have given your financial support to Luther Seminary, and we invite you to support in another important way as well-through your prayers. We invite you to include the students of Luther Seminary in your prayers.

Thank you again for your prayerful support of Luther Seminary and the next generation of church leaders! If you have any questions about Luther Seminary or about your gift, please call the Seminary Relations Office at 1-800-358-8437.

Sincerely,  
Gerry Rafferty, CFRE,  
Philanthropic Advisor



## Greetings from Luther Point! July 2008

### **20<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL QUILT & CRAFT AUCTION:**

August 10, 2008 is the date to put on your calendar. Come join us for a day of fun, great food, wonderful quilts and a good day to help raise funds for your Bible Camp. Quilt viewing starts around 10 am with the Luther Point Summer Staff leading us in worship at 11 am. The Pig Roast Lunch starts around noon and the Auction starts at 1:15 pm. Come support your Bible camp with generous bidding and a generous heart.

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Scramble:** It's not too late to register for this year's Golf Scramble. We have moved the date back this year to Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Please note the change in registration and Shot Gun start time. Everything is moved up an hour with registration from 9-9:45 am and Shot Gun Start at 10 am. For more information about the day, registration, sponsorship and much more, go to our website at LutherPoint.org and scroll down to the Golf Scramble. ALL PROCEEDS go to help sponsor camperships for youth and families needing assistance for camp. Campership dollars are down this year and we need more golfers to raise some "dough" for the Campership Fund. The camp is still committed to not refusing any camper due to lack of ability to pay. Put your scramble team together today and register ASAP.

### **Opening More Doors Together Capital Campaign**

**Update:** We have started the asking process for the Leadership Gift Phase of the Campaign. The Luther Point Board of Directors has pledged a little over \$60,000 toward the project. We have other pledges totaling \$73,000 from families and individuals and the Women of the ELCA Division has committed themselves to raising \$70,000 over the next three to five years. Major Gift Committees are functioning in four areas of the Camp Association right now and additional visits are being planned or made with prospective donors.

It is not too late to register for Camp! Register online at LutherPoint.org or call us at 715-689-2347.

## **Letter from the Minneapolis Synod,** **ELCA**

### ***"Opening the Book of Faith: Lutheran Insights for Bible Study"***

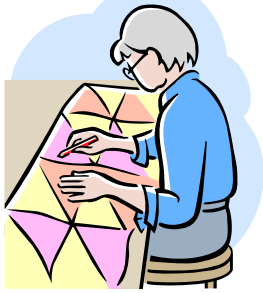
To Our Friends and Partners in Mission at Long Lake Lutheran Church:

This month, when your congregation offered a gift of Mission Support totaling \$1,666.67, you supported a movement to engage each and every member of the ELCA in the dynamic, life-changing Word of God revealed in the Bible. In Scripture the transforming Word of God positions its hearers for a vital life meaning and purpose. THANK YOU!

Your generosity placed *Opening the Book of Faith: Lutheran Insights for Bible Study* in the hands of every synod assembly voting member. This slim and useful little book has been called "the GPS (Global Positioning System) of the "Book of Faith" initiative of the ELCA. A GPS receiver determines its location on Earth through transmissions from a series of orbiting satellites. This "satellite" resource guides congregational leaders help their people engage in the Word in distinctively Lutheran ways. Dr. Diane Jacobson of Luther Theological Seminary heads up the Book of Faith Initiative. At last month's Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly she said, "What we have is a vision and a calling to let Scripture be more central to our life as a church and in our individual lives."

*Opening the Book of Faith* is the first of several resources supporting a church-wide effort to renew the engagement of believers with the Bible. Augsburg Fortress, the publishing ministry of the ELCA, will soon launch an "Introducing the Bible" curriculum, following it up with a study Bible and an adult Bible study curriculum in the spring 2009. Your Mission Support is what makes it happen.

For all you do in Jesus name,  
Pastor Heather Hammond, Bishop's Associate



## Sunshine Circle's Project of Interest:

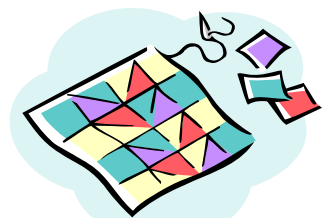
Sunshine Circle has started a new project of making prayer shawls for the Harbor Room at Cambridge Hospital, which supports cancer patients.

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, July 8<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



# CIRCLES & GROUPS



## FRIENDS OF RUTH

The next Friends of Ruth meeting will be on July 3, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the Cornerstone. We invite all women of the church to join us as we get together for a time of devotion, snacks and working on the various mission projects, such as midwife kits.

In Christ's peace,  
Friends of Ruth



## WELCA

All the church women are invited to join us at our WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) monthly meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

For June~Through 6/15/08

<b><u>NEEDED FOR GENERAL FUND EACH WEEK:</u></b>	\$15,658.56
Contributions given through June 15	\$13,268.80
Net gain (deficit)	\$(2,389.76)

<b><u>NEEDED FOR MORTGAGE FUND EA. WEEK:</u></b>	\$ 5,116.86
Contributions given through June 15	\$ 4,813.50
Net gain (deficit)	\$( 303.36)

<b><u>COUNTY MARKET CARD PROCEEDS</u></b>	
<b><u>~FOR JUNE, THROUGH JUNE 15</u></b>	\$ 80.00

<b><u>CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GIVING TO DATE</u></b>	\$ 2,888.00
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# Kids and Youth on a Mission

This fall we will be asking our Sunday School kids, our confirmation students, and other young people at Long Lake to be in mission with Lutheran World Relief as we make “School Kits” to go to children around the world.

*“A school kit may provide the only supplies for children returning to school after the disruption of war. School kits help parents continue their children's education, even while living in a refugee camp, for example.”*

We want you to start thinking about your ability to help put these “school kits” together due to the fact that school supplies will hit our local stores in July (long before any of us are ready to go back to school) and we want you to be able to procure the best deals you can on anything you may be able to donate.

What is in a “school kit”? Each kit will be put into a hand sewn bag made by the women of Long lake and needs to include the following:

- Padded or spiral notebooks of ruled paper approximately 8" X 10-1/2" totaling 150-200 sheets (if using 70-count notebooks, please include three); do not include loose-leaf paper
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- Six new, unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- One eraser approximately 2-1/2" long
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons

We are asking each student or family (who is able to participate) to take a bag that will be made by the women of the congregation and fill it with all the contents of the school kit. Once it is complete – then return it.

Bags will be available for pick up on Rally Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> and September 14<sup>th</sup>. We are asking completed bags to be returned by September 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Lundeen Scholarship Fund

**BECAUSE OF THE SLOWDOWN IN THE ECONOMY THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND HAS DEVALUED TO A POINT THAT THIS YEAR IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO AWARD ANY SCHOLARSHIPS. NEXT YEAR WE HOPE THE FUNDS WILL RECOVER AND WE WILL BE ABLE TO AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS AS BEFORE.**



Long Lake Lutheran Church  
Non-Profit Organization  
3921 277<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
Isanti, MN 55040  
Phone 763-444-5315

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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**