

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church of the
Cross
2020



Dear Friends,

The old saying, “March comes in like a lion, out like a lamb” is not too fitting for this year, as it seems that the lion has not yet passed the baton onto the lamb as the month ends...and together we face uncertain times in our community. We receive regular updates from our Governor, our President, the CDC, and the MN Department of Health. I am in at least daily contact with the Northeast MN Synod and our Bishop, and can tell you that we as a church are doing our part to help flatten the curve of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you have noticed, Lutheran Church of the Cross now has a greater online presence in these days of social distancing. We have been able to seamlessly continue to offer Sunday and Wednesday worship services in the form of video streaming. I applaud and give thanks to Steve Lanz, Bob Burns, Bob Olson, and Ron Reph for their foresight in implementing an online worship service presence for our church years ago. It is because of their vision and work that we are able to jump into this virtual world with confidence. We have also launched daily staff devotions at 10:00am on Facebook Live. If you haven’t yet done so, please like and follow our LCC Facebook pages (Lutheran Church of the Cross – Nisswa, Kids of the Cross, and Lutheran Church of the Cross Nisswa – Youth) and check these pages for regular updates.

Recently, Governor Tim Walz has asked Minnesotans to “Stay At Home” for the next two weeks, in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. For Lutheran Church of the Cross, it means that we will be closing the building from 4:30pm Friday, March 27 through 4:30pm Monday, April 13. Note that the *building* will be closed, not the *church* – the church is all of us and includes the ministry that each of us provide daily for each other, our church family, and our community. Unfortunately for us, the “Stay At Home” order covers Holy Week and Easter Sunday, so we won’t be able to worship together in person. But you can rest assured that all of our Holy Week worship services will be streamed online on our website and also appear on Facebook Live. Even though we are not meeting in person, please know that it is important for you to join us for these services as we worship the gift and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Come in your pajamas, or in your Sunday best!!

As we are asked to stay home for the next two weeks, it will be easy for us to hide behind our doors and isolate. These are the times when fear and anxiety can overtake us. I would ask your help at this time, as you are needed to help contact your friends and church family members to let them know that they are not alone and that they are prayed for and thought of – not forgotten. Let this time show the best of *who* we are and *whose* we are. Remember that Jesus reminds us that we are never alone, even when we are behind closed doors – he did this when he appeared to his disciples and he does it for us.

In closing, I pray that this blessing may help you through the days ahead:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you

May the Lord look upon you in favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

Pastor Drew Bakken

OTHER IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

Due to the “Stay at Home” order by Governor Walz, Lutheran Church of the Cross will be closed thru April 13th. If there is an emergency, please call Pastor Drew Bakken at 952-451-5628. Staff will be working remotely during this time and will be checking and responding to messages as they are able.

We as a church have also decided to cancel all programming until May 3rd. We will continue with our streaming of worship services on Sundays at 10:30 am and Wednesdays (starting April 15th) at 6:20 pm, our Facebook Live devotions M-F at 10:00 am, and Treehouse Time with Kari Erickson on Sundays and Wednesdays at 9:30 am.

A big thank you to all who have donated to the Easter Garden in memory/honor of their loved ones. We will purchase a limited number of Easter plants to decorate the Sanctuary for online worship. We will purchase plants with remaining funds to decorate our church for Memorial Day worship.

For you during this difficult time:

I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from?

My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip-- he who watches over you will not slumber;

indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD watches over you-- the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all harm--

he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

— Psalm 121



**Update your
contact info!**

Please make sure the church has accurate contact information for you. This is very important as we are using email to relay letters and messages from Pr. Drew Bakken as the COVID-19 situation changes.

If you only use your cell number or have changed your phone number or mailing address, etc., please let us know so that we can update our database.

We communicate weekly thru an Eblast (email). If you would like to receive these weekly notifications, please email Laurie at laurie@lccnisswa.org with your preferred email address.

You must request to be put on this list as it uses a database separate from our member database.

If you do not have internet or email abilities, please let us know.

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2020 General Fund

	% YTD of			
			Annual	Annual
	February	YTD	Budget	Budget
Income	\$ 55,824	\$ 115,023	\$ 672,326	17.11%
Expenses	\$ 56,593	\$ 110,131	\$ 672,326	16.38%
Difference	\$ (769)	\$ 4,892	\$ 0	

In the month of February our income was less than our expenses by \$769.

Thank you for gifting our ministry together. You make sure Worship space is provided; pastor, musicians, and staff are compensated; ministry supplies are bought; etc. By your general offering today, you are making sure that such ministries as video streaming, Facebook Devotions and many others are blessed by your Christian love. Thank you! To give with your mobile device, scan the QR code to the right.



FUNERAL

Nora Jabas
 Born: May 14, 1948
 Died in Christ: February 25, 2020
 Funeral: March 4, 2020
 Lutheran Church of the Cross
 Pr. Kari Williamson, Officiant



New Member Gathering and New Member Sunday—Postponed

The new member gathering for **April 16 at 7:00 pm** has been postponed—date yet to be determined. The New Member gathering is an opportunity for new members to get to know each other, as well as some LCC members and simply learn more about Lutheran Church of the Cross. If you are interested in joining please see Pastor Drew.



CHILDREN & FAMILY ministry



Even though we aren't meeting, be sure to complete a Worship Experience sheet each Weds. night as you tune into streaming worship. The sheet is posted on the website on the CFM page and on the Kids of the Cross Facebook page. John & I are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers for now! Look for a package coming in the mail with details on a ZOOM ROOM VIRTUAL LOCK-IN!!!!



We had a great First Communion Workshop on the first Saturday of March – thanks to the kids and parents who attended. Details on Maundy Thursday and plans to celebrate First Communion will be published as soon as they are available.



Join us online at the Kids of the Cross Facebook page for Treehouse Time each Sunday and Wednesday morning at 9:30am. Activities will be posted after each live video so that you can be reminded of the day's message and continue to talk about how it relates to your faith. Please post pictures of your completed projects!!

Prayer for families with young children at home for the foreseeable future: God, help mothers and fathers to partner together creatively for the care and flourishing of their children. For single mothers and fathers, grow their networks of support. For parents who cannot stay home from work but must find care for their children: God, present them with creative solutions. In Jesus' name, AMEN



Thank you,
KING'S KIDS—
your gifts of
musical offering
are greatly
appreciated by
your church
family!

FROM ZACH'S DESK:

Spring of their Senior Year.

My heart breaks for them.

So many moments. Ripped from their hands. After school hangouts. Final tournaments. Prom? Tossing of their caps?

We are now living in this weird liminal space. What's up? What's down? What's forward? Where has this week gone? Where was it supposed to go? What is next? When will next come?

We were supposed to have a retreat for Lutheran beer nerds at Camp Onomia this weekend. Next weekend was supposed to be our eighth grade retreat at Luther Crest Bible Camp. These Lenten Mentor nights were off to a great start. The world was making so much sense. And then...

Nothing...

Sometimes I do well in these liminal spaces. And sometimes I don't. I don't think we always have to. It's ok, if it is bringing you down too.

I do try to lean into Jesus at this time. I try extra hard to see God in my life. And that doesn't make it any easier than it normally is. It doesn't make it any more difficult, either. As I write this, my friend Tim started a live stream of him jamming on his guitar, it's brightening my day, or maybe just making me feel more human and less like a dismal drone. Tim, you are the light of Christ right now.

Do you know a senior? A senior in high school? Reach out to them. Lament with them. Give them a virtual hug. Do you know a senior? A senior citizen who lives alone? Reach out to them. Lament with them. Give them a virtual hug.

Thanks for being you, LCC. You are like Tim. You are the light of Christ in my life right now.

In peace,
Zach



Happy Stuff:

Cardio Deo was the first weekend of March! And it was THE BEST. Seriously. Cardio Deo is our Synod-wide High School Youth Gathering. It is led by the LYO Board, aka high schoolers like ours, for our high schoolers. There were over 160 people at the event and I think it really made a difference in lots of our lives. On Friday, night, we heard Sam S., and LYO board member, give a message about what it means to be sent out into the world. It was really inspirational for a young person to give that powerful of a message. I think all of us had goosebumps, and it got us into the right mindset for the weekend.

We did service through learning as well. We had two Ojibwa teachers (Deacon Candidate Colleen Bernu and her friend) lead us through what is called the Blanket Exercise. This exercise is often used at NEMN Synod events and really shows the hardships that our Native Siblings have faced throughout the years. We gained empathy and knowledge. We are better equipped as Christians in this world as a result, and this will inform some of the service that we are doing this summer in Idaho.

Lastly of course, we had fun! We played hours of Foosball, Nine Square, board games and broomball! Thank you so much to Catherine Anderson and the LYO Board for putting together this amazing event every year! Here are some pics from our weekend:



LCC Spring 2020 Forums

All forums for April have been postponed until a later date. Stay tuned to our website for further updates.

Thursday Morning Prayer

Be Still

“Be Still and Know that I am God” Psalm 46:10

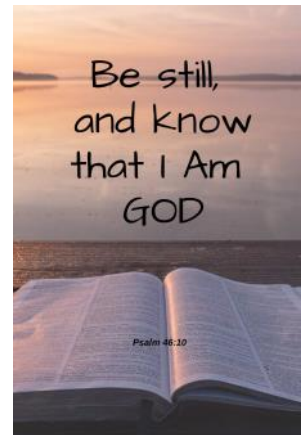
And

Mark 4:39, where Jesus orders the wind and waves, “Peace, be still”

By **Being Still** with God –giving God what is on our hearts can lighten our loads. We find in **Peace** by reflecting and sharing as a community of faith. We are not in this alone.

On Thursday mornings at 10 am we combine Being Still in God and the joys and benefits of being Community. Please come join us when church programming resumes.

If you have questions about Thursday morning prayer contact Carol Johnson, Carol Smith and Maren Ortmeier.



Thank you to Jarrett, Danae, Jace, and Jude Anderson for continuing to work on the basement project. Your help and skills are much appreciated!

Thank You!
😊



The Teie Family Concert originally scheduled for **Saturday, May 2, has been postponed** due to the COVID19 pandemic. A new date has yet to be determined, so stay tuned for further updates.

Music Notes

April 2020

In these most trying and uncertain times that we find ourselves in, I believe that music can play an important and essential part in helping us to center, find peace, find solace, find comfort and find God.

I will list a few of my favorite “comfort” and “peace” hymns and songs. If you have a hymnal, you can find these, otherwise you can find all of them on the internet. Just google the name of the hymn and you will find either the text or a YouTube for each hymn. I encourage you to do some exploring and discover maybe some new favorites.



From our hymnal:

- Hymn 726 Light Dawns on a Weary World
- Hymn 396 Spirit of Gentleness
- Hymn 759 My Faith Looks Up To Thee
- Hymn 763 My Life Flows on In Endless Song
- Hymn 765 Lord of All Hopefulness
- Hymn 770 Give Me Jesus
- Hymn 773 Precious Lord, Take My Hand
- Hymn 774 What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
- Hymn 779 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
- Hymn 787 On Eagle’s Wings
- Hymn 502 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Praise Songs that you can find on the internet:

- Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone), Chris Tomlin
- I Lift My Eyes Up, Brian Doerksen
- Wonderful, Merciful Savior, Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse
- There is a Redeemer, Melody Green
- Surely the Presence of the Lord, Lanny Wolfe
- My Lighthouse, Rend Collective

So many more, but I need to stop here!

My prayer is that you all find peace and serenity at this time. Let music help with finding solace and comfort.

Cathy Taylor, Ministry of Music



Due to the concerns about meeting in groups and the risks involved, our Spring Gathering has been cancelled. The business will be conducted at the Fall Gathering at Light of the Cross in Garrison. Next spring our gathering will be at Pequot Lakes. If you have In-Kind items for The Mustard Seed or Salem West and can't deliver them, let me know and I will arrange for them to be picked up and delivered.

These are different times that are challenging us and how we usually go about our lives. Remember that it is God who sustains us and loves us deeply.

Any questions contact: Jeannine Bruesewitz at #320-630-4785 or djbruesew@gmail.com



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The task force has met and we have received bids from Anderson Brothers, Jim's Electric, and are waiting for a bid to move the bell tower. A big thanks to Eric's Excavating and Mike's Tree Service for our tree removal. We are waiting on the County for cleanup of their tree removal in the right of way. MN Power has already been working on installing the temporary signal lights at the intersection.

We have agreed to allow staging of equipment and materials on our church property for a donation to the church with some of the contractors.

The task force will be meeting in April to finalize a recommendation to the Church Council to accept the bids. We are still hoping for work to begin sometime in July on the parking lot. Stay tuned as we are "Under Construction: God At Work."

Any questions, please contact Pastor Drew.

GATHER WINTER 2020 Bible Study

We are called!

by Kathryn A. Kleinhans



Reformer Martin Luther used the word “vocation” or “calling” to refer to all aspects of human life. We are called to respond to God not just in our personal relationship with God but in our relationships with family and friends, in our work, and in our communities. This four-part Bible study will explore stories from both the Old and New Testament. As we reflect on how our biblical forebears heard and responded to God’s call, we will gain insight into how God is calling us—and how God may be calling others through us.

Session 1: Hearing God’s Call . . . Wednesday, January 8, 2020 10 AM

This session focuses on men and women in the Old Testament. Some of them heard and recognized God’s call clearly. Others struggled to realize that it was God who was calling them or exactly what God was calling them to do. What can we learn from their stories?

Session 2: The Call of Jesus . . . Wednesday, February 12, 2020 10 AM

This session focuses on Jesus’ calling of the disciples, on Jesus’ call to Saul (Paul) on the road to Damascus, and on Jesus’ call to all Christians to take up the cross and follow. As Christians, how do we see ourselves in these stories today? How do we respond to the call of Jesus?

Session 3: Called to Serve . . . Wednesday, March 11, 2020 10 AM

Jesus is clear that one of the central ways we respond to God’s call is by serving others. When we serve others, we are recognizing Christ present in their need. When we serve others, they see Christ visible in our loving service. This session engages scriptural texts that help us focus on the questions, “Who is my neighbor?” and “What does my neighbor need?”

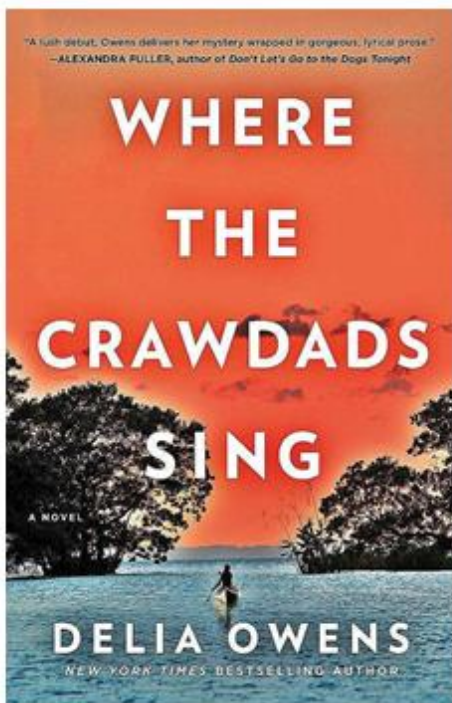
Session 4: Calling Networks . . . Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10 AM

The title of this Bible study, “We Are Called!” reminds us that our callings are not just private or individualistic. Our callings are always in relationship with others in our families and our communities. This session focuses on how we hear and respond to God’s call.

POSTPONED

About the author

The Rev. Kathryn A. Kleinhans, Ph.D., serves as dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio.



Lutheran Church of the Cross

Book Discussion

Tuesday

MAY 19, 2020

1:00 PM

Chapel Hall

Please Note . . .

Because of concerns for and the uncertainty of the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID 19), the book discussions will start in May.

Where the Crawdads Sing is a 2018 novel by Delia Owens. It topped the New York Times Fiction Best Sellers of 2019 for 27 non-consecutive weeks. The story follows two timelines that slowly intertwine. The first timeline describes the life and adventures of a young girl named Kya as she grows up isolated in the marsh of North Carolina from 1952-1969. The second timeline follows a murder investigation of Chase Andrews, a local celebrity of Barkley Cove, a fictional coastal town of North Carolina. The book was selected for Barnes & Noble's Best Books of 2018. By December 2019, the book has sold over 4.5 million copies, and it has sold more print copies in 2019 than any other adult title, fiction or non-fiction.

Perfect for fans of Barbara Kingsolver and Karen Russell, *Where the Crawdads Sing* is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.

We will also take time to discuss the direction we would like to take in the remaining months of 2020. Bring your ideas. Share any books you would like to recommend. Please join us!



Prime Timers has been cancelled for **Thursday, April 2nd**



Thank you to Rick Paine with the Lakes Area Food Shelf who presented to the group on March 5th.

The logo features an illustration of five elderly people (three women and two men) standing in a row. To their right, the text 'Lutheran Church of the Cross' is written in a small, elegant font. Below that, 'Merry Widows & Widowers' is written in a large, flowing, cursive script.

Merry Widows & Widowers will not be meeting in April.



The staff of Lutheran Church of the Cross wish you a Happy Easter.

I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

—John 11:25-26

*Pastor Drew
Pastor Dave
Kari Frickson
Zach Malecha
Cathy Taylor
Sally Hodgson
Karen Wiele
Clint Baker
Laurie Hemish*

Video Streaming Worship

Please join us for worship on Sundays mornings at 10:30 via streaming on our website www.lccnisswa.org or Wednesday evenings at 6:45 pm during Lent and at 6:20 pm after Lent (starting April 15th). Click on the *Live Video Streaming Worship* tab. (Can always be viewed at a later date, just click on the service you wish to view.)

View or print the current bulletin to follow along during worship.

Or join us on Facebook Live at Lutheran Church of the Cross—Nisswa

Join us online for Maundy Thursday, April 9th and Good Friday, April 10th both at 6:45 pm. (No worship on Wednesday, April 8th.)


Thank you to Steve Lanz, Bob Olson, Ron Reph and Bob Burns for the foresight and work to provide video streaming to our church family. Covid-19 has definitely proven the necessity.

April Worship Assistants

	APRIL 5	APRIL 12	APRIL 19	APRIL 26
GREETERS	8:15 10:30	8:15 10:30	8:15 10:30	8:15 10:30
USHERS	8:15 10:30	8:15 10:30	8:15 10:30	8:15 10:30
COMM. ASST.	8:15 10:30	8:15 10:30	8:15	8:15
SCRIPTURE READERS	8:15 10:30	8:15		10:30
ACOLYTES	10:30		10:30	10:30
BREW CREW				
WORSHIP COORD.	8:15 10:30	8:15 10:30	8:15 10:30	8:15 10:30
SOUND ROOM	Andy Grell Nathan Bakken	Andy Grell Nathan Bakken	Andy Grell Nathan Bakken	Andy Grell Nathan Bakken
ALTAR GUILD				

Thank you volunteers. As we have canceled in person worship for the month of April, we are giving our volunteers a break. Please contact Sally if you are willing to help for the month of May. Thank you to our sound room/Facebook Live, musicians, singers, and Pastors for continuing our worship via streaming on our website.

Please contact Sally Hodgson to volunteer: 218-838-5765

Sun	Mon	Tue	
<h1>facility calendar for:</h1>			
Church closed thru April 13th per Gov. Walz executive order. Stay safe.		<h1>2020</h1>	1 CHURCH 10:00 Face 6:45 Lent
5 PALM SUNDAY 10:30 Worship –Online Only	6 10:00 Facebook Devotions	7 10:00 Facebook Devotions	8 10:00 F
12 EASTER 10:30 Easter Worship –Online Only 	13 OFFICE CLOSED → 10:00 Facebook Devotions	14 9:00 Computer Lab 9:30 Good Sam Training 10:00 Facebook Devotions	15 10:00 Fa 6:20 Wo
19 10:30 Worship—Online Only	20 10:00 Facebook Devotions 11:00 Staff Meeting/Prayer 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group	21 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions	22 10:00 Fac 6:20 Wo
26 10:30 Worship—Online Only	27 10:00 Facebook Devotions 11:00 Staff Meeting/Prayer 7:00 Brewing Theology	28 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions	29 10:00 Fac 6:20 Wo

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>CH CLOSED</p> <p>Facebook Devotions Worship Livestream</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions 3:30 Staff serving soup kitchen</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>9 MAUNDY THURSDAY</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions 6:45 Worship—Online Only</p>	<p>10 GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions 6:45 Tenebrae Service Online Only</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>Facebook Devotions Worship—Online Only</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Church Council via Zoom 7:00 AA</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> 	<p>18</p>
<p>Facebook Devotions Worship—Online Only</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 AA</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>Facebook Devotions Worship—Online Only</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 AA</p>		

April 2020 Birthdays

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. David Grell, Oliver
Martinson, Elsie Neale, Kurt
Nelson, Brian Peltier,
Michael Smith, Sophie
Stubbs | 10. Evan Bolt, Mason Fritz, Heidi
Larson | Opp-Baker |
| 2. Wade Brill, Aliana Lind,
Sutton Sullivan | 11. Richard Melquist | 26. Bruce Burke, Bill Schmidt |
| 3. Todd Dunlap, Emily Foster,
Julie Helsene, Cheryl
Karlgaard, Marcus Mailand,
Connie Peterson | 12. Brighton Bachman, Vienna
Dean, Gloria Thomas,
Pamela Utter | 27. Betty Arveson, Jonathon
Bassett, Madelyn Smith, Jon
Wennberg |
| 4. Ron Halligan, Patti Harles,
Carol Johnson, Doug Miller,
Christy Winegar | 13. Katie Dutton, Barbara
Elmquist, Ivan Kraemer,
Bailey Landecker, Rick Pratt | 28. Jack Barsness, Brea Eckes,
Carolyn Schley |
| 5. Lyle Amundson, Ryan
Gerlich, Jake Stunek, Marty
Urban | 14. Dan Bzdok, Elijah Hayes,
Daniel Neale, Carol Ricklefs | 29. Rori Stumvoll |
| 6. Pat Birzniaks | 15. | 30. Jon Henke, Lori Olson,
Lindsay Taute, Chip Taylor |
| 7. Ann Johnson, Karen
Johnson, Michael Smith | 16. Maren Goff, Mary Lienke | |
| 8. Darrell Barnack, Lyle
Barsness, Heather Carey,
Austin Domino, Ellen
Germundson, Tyler Larson,
Michael McMenimen, Claire
Oseland, Vaugh Petersen,
Mark Swenson | 17. Tim Bergin, Peyton Clarine,
Katherine Nistler, Joanie
Swanson | |
| 9. Sarah Aga, Everett Gromer,
Kylee Mortenson, Garrett
Owens, Pamela Sandelin,
Thomas Teasck, Laura Zard | 18. Wes Anderson, Jana
Campbell, Lyn Luick, Mark
Moran, Arlene Rice | |
| | 19. Kristen Moran | |
| | 20. Jonathan Aga, Sue Carlson,
Riley Johnson, Judy Rickbeil,
John Rihm, Lillian Schmitz | |
| | 21. Diane Eitrheim, William
Erickson, Carolyn Sneep | |
| | 22. Shane Lueck, Jodi Milli | |
| | 23. Steve Aakhus | |
| | 24. Joshua Chandler, Melissa
Holland | |
| | 25. Kristin Blanch, Anthony
Fargo, Karla Hoelmer, Chloe | |



The 2020 Lutheran Church of the Cross



scheduled for April 24th and 25th has been cancelled due to the coronavirus. Please watch for further information regarding the upcoming 2020 Fall Lutheran Church of the Cross Rummage Sale. It's going to be a "really big sale!"

Theme: " Marching in the Light of Christ"

Theme Verse: Matthew 5:16 Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Many factors were involved when considering the cancellation of our Spring Sale including the impact of the coronavirus, the construction on County Road #13, and the reconstruction of the LCC Parking Lot. However, with certainty, we do know that the Lord will continue to bless our rummage sale ministry when we once again reach out to community, state, nation and world needs with the 2020 Fall Lutheran Church of the Cross Rummage Sale. As our Chaplain, Ray Arveson, says "We are taking this situation day to day. God holds the future in His hands so let's trust in His prayerful guidance and we will clearly see His will."

In the Fall we pray that you will once again volunteer for this ministry and will *march into a really big sale with us* where you will once again enjoy new friendships, have fun and experience the joy of giving to others! **At this time we are also suspending accepting any donations.** Please watch for further information regarding the upcoming Fall LCC Rummage Sale.

In His Service,
Carolyn Blanck
LCC Rummage Sale Chair

CREATION CARE

BLESSINGS OF THE SEEDS AND PLANTS (Patterned on ancient Rogate Sunday Ritual) MAY 3rd at 8:15 & 10:30 WORSHIP

Guest preacher is Daren Blanck, son of Duane and Carolyn, and a Lutheran pastor in Tofte.MN. His sermon will center on what it means to show Christian love **in response to an Earth in distress**. Each of us plays an important part in making sure the Earth is able to support all of the living beings God created.



May 3rd's forum presenter is LCC member, Creation Care Team member, and member of the LCC Senior Choir, Erica Bjelland. " A millennial woman and graduate of Concordia College, Moorhead, with degrees in Global Studies and Environmental Policy, Erica leads the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL) Solar for Humanity Initiative. RREAL, a non-profit in Backus, MN, seeks to make **solar energy accessible to everyone**, and has installed over **600 solar projects** in partnership with low-income families and communities worldwide. RREAL installed **LCC's solar array** and coordinated, with WELCA, the **PV for Phebe and Current for Curran projects in Liberia**.

"Erica's forum, **The Power to Make a Difference: Solar Empowering the Globe,**" will inform us on solar basics and then highlight some low-income solar projects locally and globally."

Community Garden

Community Gardeners be sure to sign up for your garden plot in the community garden by **April 10th**. Forms can be emailed to laurie@lccnisswa.org and payment mailed in. Each plot just \$25.

After April 10th, any unpaid plots will be open to gardeners who have expressed an interest in a second plot or those on a waiting list.

Any questions, please call Janyce Halligan at 218-568-4480.



ART AND FAITH GALLERY

OUR RURAL MINNESOTA 1930-1960'S

"Those were the days my friend..."

An exhibit featuring a series of paintings by Jerry Raedeke, celebrating the heritage of farms, small towns and the landscapes of rural Minnesota. The artwork illustrates the changes taking place through the seasons and through the years. The scenes are familiar to anyone who has grown up in our state.

Reproductions of this artwork were made available as limited edition prints and have been seen across the country.



Thank you to Jerry for the beautiful exhibit, may have to display again so more people can enjoy it!

Brewing Theology

What a great turn out in February! It seems every time I wonder if this ministry has run its course, it comes back even more boldly. We were able to tour the back of Jack Pine and taste some of my homebrew as well. Wonderful conversations popped up about whatever people had on their hearts, and I know we all enjoyed the conversations we were in. As of right now, I would be surprised if Jack Pine is open for regular business in the month of April. If they are, we would meet on the fourth Monday, April 27th. I hope we can meet virtually that day if needed.





Northeastern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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218/724-4424 www.nemnsynod.org Fax: 218/724-4593



A prayer from Bishop Aitken:

God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Some Excellent Resources from the NEMN Synod:

Mental Health Resources to Understand and Address COVID-19

<http://www.nemnsynod.org/mhcovid19.html>

Worship In the Home

<https://blogs.elca.org/worship/1405/>

Holy Communion under Quarantine

<https://files.constantcontact.com/226aeac6001/1bad444f-5572-4201-b919-5cb4da0fdd51.pdf>

Pandemic Hope: A Family Devotional for Life During COVID-19

https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/cb/cb0cd516-be94-40af-99bd-f2f2860b752e/documents/Pandemic_Hope_Devotional.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1RVSuW1DHOiO5tdKp6fw0QTFLhpQIBVkrzi0huZN1DnfhmaYCB8miTkk0

Dick and Judy Rickbeil, Mark and Judy Swenson, their daughter Nancy and two granddaughters, Uldis and Pat Birznieks, Ray and Betty Arveson, and a foreign exchange student from Romania served chicken & rice casserole, mixed vegetables, fruit salad, buns, and bars & ice cream to 35 appreciative people on Thursday, March 5th. Thank you!



If you are willing to serve at the soup kitchen, please contact Ann Bergin at 218-820-5511.



Things are still happening! With COVID-19, we can only expect to have a higher need for this project in our communities. So we are called to step up to the plate and do what God has been calling us to do all year. We are planning on handing out food at three locations this summer: Pine River - Dam Park, Pequot Lakes - Trailside Park and Niswaga - Community Park. We will be hiring a Summer Coordinator to keep things consistent. This will be a contract position for the summer. Keep an eye out for this opportunity, and consider applying for it or sending it to a friend.



Farewell and God Bless Pastor Kari.



Thank you to the decorating crew, Sr. Choir, Church Council and Staff for making Pr. Kari's farewell celebration a success.

Special thank you to John Wallin and Andy Grell for the great photos and video.



AZ has gained an angel!



Council Highlights from March 2020
Lutheran Church of the Cross

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
Church Council Meeting
Thursday, March 11, 2020

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion: Colleen Both

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Council President David Grell

Present:

David Grell, President; Jamie Boesen, Vice President; Colleen Both, Treasurer; Darrell Paske, Secretary; Pastor Drew, Pastor Kari; Dale Peterson; Mike Smith; Pam Johnson; Jen Henry; Hillary Johnson

Officer Reports:

February 2020 Council Minutes by Darrell Paske

- Motion to approve Jamie Boesen; Second Pam Johnson; Motion Passed

January 2020 Treasurer's Report by Colleen Both

- Motion to approve Mike Smith; Second Jamie Boesen; Motion Passed

New Business:

Pastor Drew presented a draft letter to be sent to the congregation regarding the Coronavirus and our response to limiting its spread. Following discussion motion was made by Pam Johnson; second by Hillary Johnson to proceed to notify the congregation of actions to be taken. Motion passed.

Pastors' Reports

Pastor Drew:

- The end of February and the beginning of March has been an exciting time in the life of our congregation as we wind down the season of Epiphany and move into Lent. Our theme for Lent this year is the "Journey to the Cross". I am so excited to hear the stories and firsthand experience from our pilgrims from Lutheran Church of the Cross.
- We had a fantastic attendance for our Ash Wednesday worship. A special thank you, for all who helped and volunteered their time to make Ash Wednesday worship

service so meaningful and welcoming to all who attended. We had close to 300 in attendance that night. Carol Smith also started us on our Journey to the Cross our second night of Lenten Worship. Attendance was close to 200. In a time when we see attendance drop in Lenten worship around the ELCA, we are still going strong. Thank you for you making worship an important part of our walk with Christ.

- It is with a sad heart to hear that Pastor Kari is leaving Lutheran Church of the Cross in mid March. She has been a wonderful colleague these past 2 ½ years. She will be missed but I can't blame her from moving closer to family. The ELCA is in need of strong leaders in the church and Pastor Kari is one of those leaders who will help to shape the ELCA in the near future. I am blessed to have called her a colleague but am glad to call her friend. I hope that you will join me on March 15th and Wednesday March 18th as we wish her well on her next chapter in her ministry.
- I begin to look at the near future of Lutheran Church of the Cross. I have asked Pastor Dave Stevens to join our staff as Interim Associate Pastor. Pastor Dave will begin at the end of March with an installation service in April. Please join with me in welcoming Pastor Dave to our staff.
- We will at some point start the call process here at Lutheran Church of the Cross and I will keep you informed when that happens.

Pastor Kari:

Committee Reports:

Property: Dale Peterson

- Front Parking Lot/County 13
 - ◊ County 13/MN 371 Intersection temporary traffic lights to be installed soon. Anticipate the intersection project will take most of the summer to complete.
 - ◊ Trees have been removed, grubbing stumps will take place as soon as weather permits
 - ◊ Parking lot lighting estimate was received and is under review
 - ◊ Parking lot asphalt replacement estimates received and under review
 - ◊ LCC Forum planned for April 5th for congregation update on project
 - ◊ Subcommittee on future LCC sign to begin researching options
- Lower Level Painting
 - ◊ Classroom have been painted. Many thanks to Danae and Jarret Anderson, Zach, and Clint for all the hard work.
 - ◊ Trim and mopboards to be installed and rooms to be reassembled.
- Security Cameras
 - ◊ Contacting electrician for options to power security cameras

Stewardship: Craig Fink
No Report

Worship and Music: Mike Smith

1. Two new acolyte robes were purchased.
2. Sunday, March 29, the Jazz Band will lead worship at both services.
3. Palm Sunday, April 5, Sr. Choir and King's Kids will be part of worship.
4. Maundy Thursday, April 9, First Communion, King's Kids singing
5. Good Friday, April 10, Tenebrae service with Sr. Choir, soloists, readers
6. Saturday, April 11, decorating the sanctuary for Easter
7. Easter Sunday, April 12, 7:00, 8:15, and 10:30 services with Sr. Choir and festival music Easter breakfast served
8. Wednesday, April 15, resume WOW in Celebration Center
9. Art and Faith Gallery to feature the artwork of Jerry Raedeke

Social Concerns and Global Missions: Jason Martinson

Our committee for Operation Sandwich is moving forward. We have a great team assembled and are currently working to iron out the logistics of the program. I will be speaking at the Nisswa Lions March 23rd meeting about Operation Sandwich and hope to acquire some funding via their charitable gaming. I will have more information for next month's Council meeting.

Children and Family Ministry: Pam Johnson

- Parents Time Out - fun for all - we had a good turnout and great kids helping out! Potato Bar on Ash Wednesday.
- In Sunday School we've wrapped up the Beatitudes and have been learning about Paul, along with making good wish flowers for PK.
- We had our first First Communion Workshop and it was very meaningful - we had four kids and their parents in attendance. So far we have 6 signed up for the March 28 workshop.
- Kari's trip to Holden had to be postponed due to health concerns and the Corona-virus. She will be re-booking it for later in the fall.
- We are taking a break from Route 56 during Lent.
- Registration for VBX is now open and we've had our first registration!!! And Pr. Drew has requested to help with Bible Exploration. Most of our materials have been ordered/arrived.
- MANY MANY thanks to Dale and Jarrett for their work in the basement - it looks FANTASTIC!!! Thanks to the Council for their support in making the basement repair/reno happen. We look forward to using the new space soon:-)

Youth and Family Ministry: Jen Henry

- Feb Recap Camp Registration 2/14: 29 Woohoo! Day-O-Fun 2/17: Good bible study. Good fun. Scholarship 2/19: Going out this week alongside an invitation to Senior Breakfast. Baked Potato 2/26: Best volunteer crew we have ever had. period. Cardia Deo 2/29: Great group of kids. Great bible study. Couldn't have asked for a better retreat.
- Looking Forward: Lazer Tag 3/6: Inspired by the impromptu movie over Christmas Break. 3/22 - All Church Meeting - "Our Work Together" 8th Grade Retreat at LCBC 3/27: Looking good. Less than 24 hours. Should be rad. 2020 Idaho Update: Youth will select their own service projects in March. 2021 National Youth Gathering: Probably going to offer two routes. For sure: Synod Journey in Duluth for 2.5 days. Optional: Ride the River to the National Youth Gathering with Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry

Congregational Life: Hilary Johnson

No Report

Personnel: Jamie Boesen

No Report

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by
Darrell Paske, Council Secretary

Next Council Meeting: March 16, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome at Council meetings. Approved minutes and approved financial reports are available in the church office to any member upon request. If you would like to have something on the Council meeting agenda, please submit it in writing addressed to President Grell and delivered to the office manager in the church office no less than one week prior to the monthly Council meeting, the council meets the second Thursday of the month. If the request is submitted less than one week prior to the next Council meeting it will be addressed at the following monthly meeting.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. —Proverbs 3:5-6

Thank You!

to all who assisted in any way with Lutheran Church of the Cross hosting the 2020 Lakes Area

World Day of Prayer on Saturday, March 7th. The Lord blessed others by your efforts and willingness to volunteer, participate, decorate, create, bake and donate items. Those who attended have made comments such as “The day was the most meaningful and fun I have ever been to.” My prayer is that all of us in attendance that day would often be reminded, as we go about our daily routines, to ask the Lord to help us “Rise, Take up our Mats (whatever they might be at the time) and Walk.”

Your sister in Christ,
Carolyn Blanck

2020 Lakes Area World Day of Prayer Chair



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020
Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk!!**



WOW!



Thanks, LCC family, for stepping up during Food Share month with your generous contributions to the Lakes Area Food Shelf and Operation Sandwich...God at Work!

Lutheran Church of the Cross

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Main Phone: 218-963-2564
Web: lccnisswa.org
E-mail: lcc@lccnisswa.org

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Address label here

Welcoming all people into discipleship

STAFF

Pastor	Drew Bakken	218-961-2014
Pastor	David Stevens	218-961-2013
Director of Youth and Family Ministry	Zach Malecha	218-961-2015
Director of Children and Family Ministry	Kari Erickson	218-961-2012
Director of Music Ministry/Organist	Cathy Taylor	218-961-2053
Financial Secretary	Karen Wiele	218-961-2016
Lay Ministry Coordinator	Sally Hodgson	218-961-2052
Senior Choir Director	Brian Stubbs	
Organist	Laura Raedeke	
Bell Choir Director	Judy Rickbeil	
King's Kids	Carol Smith	
Custodian	Clint Baker	218-963-2564
ELCA Global Missionary	Bradn Buerkle	
LCC Office	Laurie Hemish	218-961-2011

2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

President	David Grell	Social Justice/Global	Jason Martinson
Vice President	Jaime Boesen	Worship & Music	Mike Smith
Treasurer	Colleen Both	Youth	Jen Henry
Secretary	Darrell Paske	Stewardship	Craig Fink
Cong. Life	Hilary Johnson	LCC Foundation	Dan Halland
Education	Pam Johnson		
Properties	Dale Peterson		

