Lutheran Church of the Cross



April 28, 2024 Rogate Sunday Blessing of the Seeds & Plants 9:00 am Worship

ROGATE SUNDAY

April 38, 2024 9:00 AM Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa, Minnesota Rev. Drew Bakken Rev. Michelle Ruen

GOOD MORNING & WELCOME TO LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS!

Welcome to worship as we come together in praise and thanksgiving to our living Savior! Holy Spirit, blow through our church with power. Open our hearts to follow your call.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Rogate Sunday here at LCC. Stewardship of creation is an ongoing ministry in the church. The creation, which God declared good, is entrusted to the care of humankind. Exercising that care is one dimension of daily Christian discipleship. *Rogation Days are a way for the church to honor God for the gift of creation and to pray for the land, the gift of labor, and the needs of all people.*

PRELUDE

"You Fill All Creation," M. Sedio

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

HYMN# 879 vs. 1,2,5

(please stand as you are able)

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

- For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, Hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
- 5. For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n; For thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n.

Public Domain

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew. Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, we praise you for this beautiful and fruitful Earth, which produces what is needed to sustain life. Give us wisdom and reverence to use the gifts of nature so that no one suffers from our abuse of the Earth. Grant that we cherish the world around us and live in harmony with this good creation. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(please be seated)

FIRST READING

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. To Adam God said, "Cursed is the ground because of you."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:10-11 & 22:1-3

Genesis 1:1, 1:31, & 3:17

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CROSS KIDS EXCUSED

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

(please stand as you are able)

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia! Praise him, all you heav'nly host. Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** *(please be seated)*

SERMON	"The Earth is the Lord's, and all its Fullness"	Pastor Luther Swenson
OFFERING HYMN	"The Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe"	see page 7
(please stand as you a	re able, during the last verse)	

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(please be seated)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Revive ecosystems along coastlands that have been devastated by natural forces and human negligence. Reestablish plant and animal life that purifies air and water and that fees humans and other living creatures. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

From the polar ice caps to the flowers in the garden and the chickadees on the white birch, help us marvel at the wonder of the world around us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us to be wise caretakers of creation so that the waters of the oceans, the Great Lakes, the mighty Mississippi and the lakes and wetlands of Minnesota are preserved. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Join our voices with angels, creatures, and all the saints in praising Christ and bestowing upon him all blessing and honor and glory. Reveal Christ' glory to us and through us in our worship. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, alight and eternal God, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING OF ROGATION ELEMENTS

Prayer for Seeds (Hold seeds aloft)

Creating God, you have given seed to the sower and bread to the people. Nourish, protect, and bless the seeds which your people have sown in hope. By your loving and bountiful giving, may they bring forth their fruit in due season. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Soil (Hold soil aloft)

Giver of life, we give you thanks that in the richness of the soil, nature awakens to your call of spring. We praise you for the smell of freshly tilled earth, the beauty of a well kept garden or field. We ask that you help us to be good stewards of this land. In the name of the one who gives us new life, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Water/Rain (Hold water aloft)

Sustaining God, we receive the fruits of the earth from you. We give you thanks for the smell of the earth after rain, for its welcome cooling, and its necessary hydration for the land. We ask that the rain come as often as it is needed so that the crops may flourish and the coming harvest be indeed bountiful. **Amen.**

THE RETURN"Touch the Earth Lightly," vs. 1 & 3Mike Smith

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (please stand as you are able)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen. (please be seated)

COMMUNION

Piano Selections

COMMUNION BLESSING (please stand as you are able)

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The God of all, who raised \oplus Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"You Fill All Creation"

- You fill all creation, O Source and Summation, Descended, ascended, you fill all the earth. You, Christ, are the measure of life's truest treasure; Your grace is our being; your presence, our worth. To each you have given the gifts of your heaven And called us to service unselfish and true. So grace by one Spirit your peace we inherit, And all our small labors converge into you.
- O Infinite Center, our open hearts enter, Take from us all falseness, unholy unwise; Then bathed in God's bounty and bound to your body, Your people may flourish and grow into Christ. One faith is our story, one God is our glory, One hope holds creation below and above; That God in Christ dwelling with Spirit upwelling May fashion one people united by love.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. Thanks be to God. We will.

POSTLUDE

"Prelude in Classic Style," G. Young

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If you are visiting or interested in joining Lutheran Church of the Cross, please leave your contact information on the Welcome to Worship

cards in the pews and place in the offering baskets. If you have questions about LCC, please feel free to call Pastor Drew or Pastor Michelle at 218-963-2564.



PREACHING TODAY PASTOR LUTHER SWENSON

Rev. Luther and Rev. Lori Swenson joined LCC last year, moving here from Green Bay, WI where they had served Ascension Lutheran Church for the last 28 years as a clergy couple. Pastor Luther calls northern Minnesota his home although previously to that he had lived in both Canada and, in his early years, in Tanzania, Africa as his parents were missionaries there in the 1960's. Luther and Lori have three children, each married, all living in Minnesota, and each couple

have one child, so Luther and Lori are very much enjoying this stage of life of being retired and grandparents.

The Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe



Tr. Kenneth Jennings©1974 Walton Music; OneLicense#A-704268

Reminder: <u>Wednesday, May 8th</u> will be the last Worship on Wednesday, supper, and programming until this fall.

Lutheran Church of the Cross - News and Notes April 28—May 5, 2024

PRAYER REQUESTS

LCC Members: Arlene Rice, Dave Jabas, Betty Labs, Mike Brodeur, Bonnie Anderson, Lowell Carlson, Diane Eitrheim, Wayne Van Vliet, Jean Larson, Louise Warden, Mark Boesen, John Wallin, David Pederson, Nancy Schmidt, Pete Mogenson, Lois Jensen, Kathleen Warden, Keith Both, Sarah Aga, Rick & Sue Pratt, Sheri McSherry

Friends & Relatives of LCC Members:

Marge Brantner (David Olness' sister), Greg Scheytt (Lori Olson's uncle), Phyllis Coleman (Lori Olson's godmother), Steve Hedtke (Chris Hedtke's dad), Brian Krawiecki (Kelsey Kuhn's father), Sabrina Lewandowski (Tracy Olson's friend), Linda Reid (Carol Alverson's sister), Karla Kepler (Jim Bailey's friend), Tom Anderson (Rena Bolt's dad & Pete Mogenson's friend), Angie Barnack (Darrell Barnack's mom), Tom Smith (Mark Smith's brother), Pr. Erika Foss, Nick (Rob & Loretta Norgon's brother-in-law), Dave Watson (Mark & Kari Erickson's friend), Cheri Axel (Tracy Olson's friend), Merv Johnson (Kerri Nordby's dad), Pastor Tom Peterson (Keith & Colleen Both's friend), Sue Ziegler (Pr. Michelle's friend), Paul Gell (Janet Bedard's brother), Annie (friend of Dave & Marie Olness), Caitlin Deal (Colleen Both's great niece), Tom & Peggy Woog (Missy Tree's dad &mom), Jane Alvis (Marsha Thomson's friend), Greg Arends (Boyd & Dawn Maine's brother-inlaw), Ronald Anderson (Jean Larson's husband), Andy Skjod (Dennis & Cynthia Skjod's nephew), Linda Bock (Jim Bailey's sister-in-law), Graham Kluck (Terri Langerud's grandson), Sue Boyd (Pam Johnson's aunt), LCC members in care facilities, all veterans and active servicemen and women, and those struggling with mental health or addiction issues.

Please call the church office to make updates to the prayer list. If you or someone you know is in the hospital or would like a visit, please call the church office at 218-963-2564.

With

Our sincere sympathies and prayers to Jon & Erica Henke and Chris & Julie Helsene families and friends on the passing of Erica & Chris' mother Connie Nelson. Deepest Funeral arrangements pending. Please keep them all in your prayers. Sympathy...

Thank you to the Creation Care Team for handing out seedlings for Blessing of the Seeds & Plants worship service today. The service is centered around the Gift of Creation, and our understanding of a loving God who desires that we be good stewards of creation. Rev. Jerry Raedeke is officiating with guest preacher, Rev. Luther Swenson giving the message.

Following worship at 10:00, take a seat in Chapel Hall for the forum: Daren Blanck, who currently is a local high school science instructor, will be re-presenting work by Meteorologist and Climatologist Dr. Mark Seeley, University of Minnesota Professor emeritus in the Department of Soil, Water and Climate, and Guest Presenter on climatology for Minnesota Public Radio. The re-presentation will include measured evidence of climate change occurring in our own backyards, how the consequences of a changing climate is affecting our state's natural resources and societal infrastructure, and what we all can do to slow down the pace of change!"

We will be welcoming another group of new members on **New Member Sunday, May 5th** at our **9:00 AM service**. Come to church next Sunday to meet these wonderful people! There will be scones and cake afterwards in the Celebration Center. There will be an Informational Gathering and sloppy joe supper on **Thursday, April 30, from 6:00-7:30** PM for our new members to meet our staff and council, and learn what we do here at LCC. If you are interested in becoming a member of LCC or know someone who is, contact Laurie in the church office or talk to Pastor Drew or Pastor Michelle. We would love to visit with you!

Bible Studies: Men's Breakfast at The Side Track every Thursday at 8:15 AM.

Text Study on Wednesdays @ 8:30 am in Chapel Hall. All are welcome to be a part of this ministry! If you are interested, email <u>laurie@lccnisswa.org</u> and you will be added to the email list to receive the texts each week.

Beth Moore Bible Study, *The Surpassing Value of Knowing Christ*, a study of Philippians. Mondays 9:30 am—11:30 am April 8, 15, 29 and May 6 & 13. Led by Marilyn Quist

StoneHouse Friday—Prayer 101 - April 5, 12, 19 and May 3, 10, 17

A 6-week class on Prayer—Fridays at 12:00 Noon -1:00 pm in the conference room at RiverWood Bank/StoneHouse Coffee by Target. Led by Marty Holmstrom.

Women in the Word—with Pastor Michelle, Tuesday, May 7 at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm; Chapel Hall.

Widow's "May Day" Luncheon will be held **Wednesday, May 1st** from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. RSVP to the church office or Pastor Michelle by Monday, April 29. All widows are welcome.

Spring Outdoor Cleanup Day will be held <u>Thursday, May 2nd at 10:30 am</u>. Bring gloves and tools. Lunch will be provided.

"Until All Are Fed" is the theme for the **2024 NE MN Synod Women of the ELCA Summer Convention** to be held **June 10-11, 2024 at Zion Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MN**. The scripture verse is Matthew 25:35 "I was hungry and you fed me." The Convention quilt is being made by Diane Wermager and Margaret Sommerfeld of Lutheran Church of the Cross. In-Kind Gifts are School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Attending the Convention is an educational and uplifting experience. Plan now to attend! First time attendees get a 50% discount on the registration fee.

Thank You Rummage Sale Donators, Shoppers, and Volunteers! YOU are the reason the Rummage Sale was a success! So many generous donations, so many happy shoppers, and so many very tired, exhausted volunteers!!! You once again proved that the Rummage Sale amplifies camaraderie and caring hearts for people in need, the church, community, and world. JOB WELL DONE! YOU ARE AMAZING! <u>Reminder "LCC Rummage Sale Donation</u> <u>Fund"</u> request forms are located at the church office and are due to Laurie by Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

A Big Thank you to Rick Flaws with Evergreen Storage for donating his time and equipment in moving the storage pods.

THIS WEEK AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Lutheran Church of the Cross **Daily Bible Reading** from Lectionary B Mon., Apr 29, 2024 Isaiah 5:1-7 Galatians 5:16-26 Psalm 80 Tues., Apr 30, 2024 Isaiah 32:9-20 James 3:17-18 Psalm 80 Wed., May 1, 2024 Isaiah 65:17-25 John 14:18-31 Psalm 80 Thurs., May 2, 2024 Isaiah 49:5-6 Acts 10:1-34 Psalm 98 Friday, May 3, 2024 Isaiah 42:5-9 Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 98 Sat., May 4, 2024 Deuteronomy 32:44-47 Mark 10:42-45 Psalm 98

April 28—May 5, 2024

SUN,	4-28:	B-days: Brea Eckes, Hudson Nokken. Carolyn Schley ROGATE/BLESSING OF THE SEEDS	
MON,	9:00 10:00 10:00 12:30 1:00 4-29: 9:30 1:00	Worship w/ Communion & Online Coffee Fellowship Forum: Climate Change Earth Day Art Event Piano Recital MS/HS Hwy Cleanup <i>B-days: Karen Taylor</i> Women's Bible Study—Surpassing Value of Knowing Christ Prayer Shawl Group	
TUES,	4-30: 8:30 9:00 10:30 6:00	<i>B-days: Jon Henke, Lori Olson, Chip Taylor</i> Staff Meeting & Prayers Computer Lab Novel Ideas Book Club New Member Gathering	
WED,	5-1: 8:30 9:30 11:00 5:45 6:00 6:20 7:00 7:00	<i>B-days:</i> Text Study Quilters Widows Group Supper King's Kids Wed. Worship w/ Communion Route 56/Confirmation/HSYG Sr. Choir/ A Time for Us	
THURS,	5-2: 8:15 10:30 7:00	B-days: Jason Bassett, Sue Kuhn, Sarah Tietz, Marcella Timmons Men's Breakfast at SideTrack	
FRI,	5-3: 12:00	<i>B-days: Stacey Paulbeck, Diane Peukert, Paula West</i> Stonehouse Fridays in Baxter—Prayer 101	
SAT,	5-4: 9:00	<i>B-days:</i> Love Lake Association Mtg	
SUN,		<i>B-days:</i> <i>NEW MEMBER SUNDAY</i> Worship w/ Communion & Online Coffee Fellowship Worship w/ Communion Piano Recital	



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

CROSS KIDS: save June 10—13 for VBX—sign up at: tinyurl.com/rdvz7x8v. Join us for a week of fun and learning about how animals help our church to help others around the world! We also need youth helpers (grades 5 and up) and adults to help make this week a great experience for all. All are welcome to join us for VBX.

Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa Youth: Highway Clean Up is scheduled for TODAY at 1pm. Please help us out and chalk up some Confirmation Service Hours.

Cross Kids Parents: join us on May 19 for an important meeting regarding plans for "Cross Kids Plus" for 2024-25! We will meet in the Treehouse during Coffee Fellowship.

YOUTH AND ADULTS ARE NEEDED TO HELP WITH SCONE SUNDAY IN MAY. Let Kari know if you can help out on May 5—last one of the programming year.

Check out our Playground Display in the narthex and consider giving to this project join us and our community partner, Copper Creek—in making this project happen. Thank you to our generous donors who have already contributed.

Thanks to all our families who donated time setting up and tearing down the Rummage Sale!

Novel Ideas Book Club will meet Tuesday, April 30th at 10:30 am in Chapel Hall to discuss *Belonging* by Michelle Miller.

Creation Care Green Tip

Submitted by Laura Raedeke, Creation Care Team

Changing Our Food and Farming Systems: Making Peace with Nature

Farms are not only the foundation of our food system, they are also the foundation of rural communities and economies. Yet farms have been in crisis for a hundred years as the need to rely on increasingly expensive chemical inputs, machinery, and fossil fuels drove the consolidation of many small and mid-sized farms to ever larger, but fewer, farms. Often called "the hollowing out of U.S. agriculture," the same term can be applied to rural communities as people leave to seek jobs elsewhere. Rebuilding small and mid-sized farms that use **regenerative practices to build soil and plant health and address climate change** will require us to support an "expanding, diversifying, creative community of farmers to meet those challenges," according to the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). This means both at the public policy level as well as engaging in direct-to-consumer marketing and building relationships and connections in business. If we want to help small farmers and rural communities thrive, we should work with farmers and consumers to build an economy that provides a living income while increasing all people's access to nutritious food. Look for a list of community-supported agriculture (CSA) farms at <u>landstewardshipproject.org/csa-farm-directory</u>.

Thanks to our Worship Assistants!

Musicians	Cathy Taylor, Mike Smith, Lori Swenson
Greeters	Marilyn Quist,
Ushers	Rod & Karen Opp
Reader	Jerry Raedeke
Worship Coord.	Todd Whipple
Altar Guild	Connie Peterson, Jan Geiger, Darrell Paske
Communion Asst.	Jim & Joan Roberts
Acolytes	Samuel Andrist, Mac Chandler
Coffee Fellowship	Chuck & Mary Klang
Tech Support	John Quist, Bradley Carlson
Nursery	Stacey & Evelyn Paulbeck



To give with your mobile device, Scan the QR code to the left. Online giving available at www.lccnisswa.org.

**Assistive Listening Devices are available in the Narthex. If you choose to use one, please leave it on the counter when you exit so it can be sanitized for the next use.

DIRECTORY

	Pastor	Pastor
	Rev. Drew Bakken	Rev. Michelle Ruen
Church of the Cross	Children, Youth & Family Ministry	Volunteer Coordinator
Office	Kari Erickson	Todd Whipple
218.963.2564	High School Youth Director	Music Ministry/Organist
Office Hours	Emma Trees	Cathy Taylor
Monday - Friday	Custodians	Organist
8:30 am - 4:30 pm	Todd Whipple	Laura Raedeke
8:50 am - 4:50 pm	Whitney Peterson	Senior Choir Director
	Office Manager	Mike Smith
Email: <u>lcc@lccnisswa.org</u>	Laurie Hemish	Bell Choir Director
Web Site: <u>lccnisswa.org</u>	Financial Secretary	Cheryl Karlgaard
	Karen Wiele	King's Kids Director
	ELCA Global Missionary Pr. Bradn Buerkle	Carol Smith

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