

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church of the
Cross

2020



Nothing Can Separate Us From the Love of God

The closing benediction we have been using for the last couple of months comes from St. Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 8:38-39, "*Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rules, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.*" I believe that if Paul was writing to the city of Nisswa here today he would add in the line "*nor Covid-19.*"

What I find comforting in these words from St. Paul is that nothing, *nothing* can "separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus." What a great reminder when I feel so separated from everyone else! I miss shaking hands with people as I greet them; I miss hugging people; I miss high fives, and I miss visiting with people in their homes. Covid-19 has caused us to separate from people, and it has caused us to re-evaluate life. But what it cannot do is "separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus."

Thank you all for reminding me of these powerful words. As a staff and Sunday morning worship team we have appreciated your letters of encouragement, your affirmations, and your support during this uncertain time of Covid-19. Thank you for your financial support to our church - for with it, we have been able continue to support our benevolences - locally, the ministries of our synod, and out into the world. You continue to be a light in the midst of this pandemic, and have found new ways of connecting in powerful and meaningful ways.

In the midst of this pandemic more and more people are dealing with food insecurity. As a congregation, we have responded by bringing Operation Sandwich to the Nisswa, Pequot Lakes, and Pine River communities. Your support has made this possible and has enabled us to bring the message that nothing can "separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus" to people who need it. Thank you for *being* the church!

On August 9th and 23rd we will hold outdoor worship at 8:15 in the Memorial Garden, weather permitting. At the service on the 9th we will be honoring our high school graduates; I encourage you to come and support them. On August 16th we will be hosting drive thru communion from 11:45am – 2pm. All are welcome to come and receive the tangible means of God's grace through the bread and wine.

Blessings,
Pastor Drew Bakken



Masks and Face Coverings

Per the State of Minnesota, Governor Tim Walz Emergency Executive Order 20-81 beginning Friday, July 24, 2020, all persons entering Lutheran Church of the Cross must wear a face covering in the church as described in the executive order 20-81 (copy of order is available in the church office). All entries to the church

will be via the back door and persons entering must sign the visitor's log. We are asking visitors to voluntarily provide contact information in case of COVID-19 exposure. If we learn you may have been exposed to COVID-19 during your visit, we will only share this information with public health officials. They will contact you to explain the risk, answer your questions and provide resources. We will not use this information for any other purpose. If this list is not used within 30 days, we will destroy it. Learn more about COVID-19 at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/>.

Health Screening Checklist

If you answer "Yes" to any of the screening questions below, please stay home and away from other people and contact your health care provider.

Have you had any of the following symptoms that you cannot attribute to another health condition:

- Fever or feeling feverish?
- Chills?
- A new cough?
- Shortness of breath?
- A new sore throat?
- New muscle aches?
- New headache?
- New loss of smell or taste?



Update your contact info!

If you would like to receive weekly eblast notifications, please email Laurie at laurie@lccnisswa.org with your email address you wish to receive notices on.

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

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2020 General Fund

	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Annual Annual
Income	\$ 48,426	\$ 312,056	\$ 672,326	46.41%
Expenses	\$ 40,299	\$ 310,281	\$ 672,326	46.15%
Difference	\$ 8,127	\$ 1,175	\$ 0	

In the month of June our income was more than our expenses by **\$8,127**.

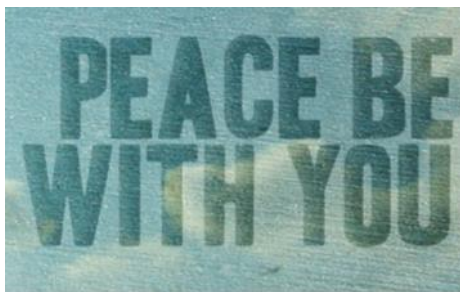


BAPTISM

Rhett Anthony Salfer
 Born: January 14, 2020
 Baptized: July 26, 2020
 Parents: Ryan & Kaitlyn Salfer
 Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant

INTERMENT

Kenneth Petersen
 Born: June 15, 1923
 Died in Christ: July 8, 2020
 Internment: July 14, 2020
 Halvorson Taylor Life Events Center



Over the past few weeks, our family has been blessed with an outpouring of sympathy-- so many notes and expressions of love, comfort and support in our grief at the death of our husband and father and your (for a short time) pastor. Thank you for those cards, notes and memorials, each one was a gift.

We are sincerely grateful to the LCC Prayer warriors who lifted up David in prayer for over two years as he continued through pancreatic cancer treatments and to the wonderful LCC staff who were there to support David and continue to support us. May the Lord bless you now and always as our church family and as we continue on life's journey. Peace be with you.

Bonnie and Michael Stevens, Joanna Sargent

CHILDREN & FAMILY ministry

Remember that the links for VBX 2020 are all still posted and active —you can do the activities ANY time. Thanks to all of the families who picked up materials and participated!!

FUN FAMILY DEVOTION ACTIVITY:

Make Crazy Cookie Bags or Bowls!!

Materials: Bible, nut/seed butter of your choice, powdered sugar, oatmeal, raisins or chocolate chips, Ziploc snack bags or small bowls and spoons.



Ephesians 4:11-13

Put all ingredients out on counter/table—discuss:

- How are the ingredients like people? How are they different?
- Why do you think God created people differently?
- Who is God’s family?
- How are God’s family members alike? Different?

God made everyone different and special. Each one of us has unique talents, gifts, and abilities. We can think of these cookie ingredients as the different gifts God gives each of us. What do you think happens when we mix them all together??

Each person gets a bag or bowl. Distribute ingredients to each, one ingredient as a time: 1 spoonful nut/seed butter, 4 spoonfuls powdered sugar, 2 spoonfuls oatmeal, 1 spoonful raisins or chips. (If using bags, seal them) don’t mix yet!

All of these ingredients are ready to be mixed. But first, what do you think happens when God’s people mix their talents, gifts, and abilities together?

Have someone in the family read Ephesians 4:11-13 and discuss:

- How does mixing talents and gifts help God’s family serve God better?
- Is one gift or talent better than another? Explain.
- What gifts or talents can you use in God’s family?

If we put only one ingredient in our bags or bowls, it wouldn’t taste nearly as good as all the ingredients mixed together. It’s that way with God’s family, too. When all of us mix our talents gifts, and abilities, we can serve God in MANY ways. Now, let’s mix the ingredients in our bags or bowls to make delicious CRAZY COOKIES!

To be the rainbow in someone's cloud means to cultivate loving kindness as a daily practice in your life. It means tuning in to your heart, practicing empathy and using that empathy to connect to the people around you in a meaningful way. After all, each person you come into contact to each day is dealing with some challenge that you know nothing about. Remember—YOU have the power to give in a meaningful way—to be that person's rainbow. Perhaps it's a wave or simple smile—not only does it impact that person, but it reinforces that YOU matter and it warms your heart. And while you are at it, lift that person up in prayer!

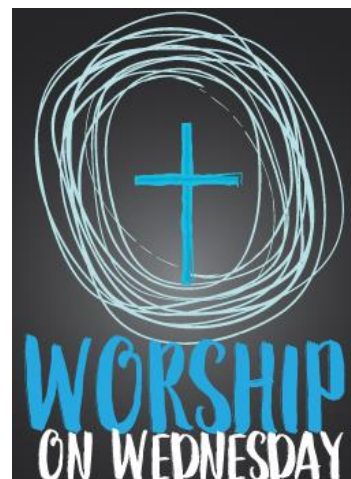


S'More
FAMILY FUN

Before dinner or as you light your bonfire, have each family member write down the names of five people they admire, on five separate pieces of paper. These people can be fictional characters, historical figures, people you know personally, or people you have never met. Mix up all the pieces of paper in a bowl. If having dinner, place this bowl on the table during the meal. If you are outdoors having a bonfire, pass the bowl around the group. Each family member takes a turn drawing a name from the bowl and describes this person to the rest of the family. The only rule is that the “describer” cannot say the person's name or any part of the name. Once the person is identified, try to guess who put this name in the bowl, and then talk about why the person plucked from the salad bowl is admirable.

What will Wednesday evenings look like this year?

Well, our weekly format will change a bit, as we will not be serving supper. Weds. evening Family Worship will be held at 6:20pm in the Celebration Center with *Pastor Drew's sermon featuring some teaching time*. After worship, Route 56 will meet with me and John Wallin to discuss Pastor's teaching further, Confirmation will meet in small groups, and we will wrap things up by 7:30pm. We hope to offer small groups for parents after worship, too—so you will have the opportunity to continue discussion on the night's lesson while the kids are meeting. At the conclusion of the night, each family will receive resources for the week to use with their at-home GIFT worship bags.



FROM ZACH'S DESK:

Pokemon.

Yes, you read that right. Pokemon. Even, if you know nothing about Pokemon, I encourage you to keep reading. After all, let's be honest I write this section of the newsletter, not necessarily for my youth or families, but for you.

I remember LOVING the Pokemon games on the Gameboy Color as a kid especially, Pokemon Red Version. I remember when the in-game timer told me I had played for 24 hours. I told this to my mom, she was not impressed. But oh, I loved that game.

Then, Pokemon Silver Version came out. And WOWZA. That game was the best. It was twice as big, we had 100 new monsters to catch. Lugia, the legendary Pokemon, was so cool! I still rank it as one of my all time favorite video games.

So with some extra time in this COVID, I decided to replay Silver version. Honestly, it's fun. But it's probably not as good as I remember. Some sequences seem slow. The "phone" rings all the time, too often in fact. 100 more Pokemon isn't enough to make the game feel completely fresh, especially when we depend on the original 150 for a good team. The gyms are too close together; I could go on.

Some things age. Some things just aren't as good as they once were. We nostalgically hold up lots of these things in our hearts as the "They don't make 'em like they used to" or "It was better back then."

Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to the ways of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Daily, we are called by Christ to continue to become better human beings, better Christians. We are constantly called to challenge our beliefs and our belief systems. We cannot remain stagnant with the status quo, but must continue to learn from those around us.

So maybe, in this, we are called to embrace the new, or create the new. We are called to listen to our young people's voices as they lead us. We are called to see where God is currently creating in this world. We are called to love new people we have met before, and maybe, just maybe we are called to enjoy the new Pokemon Games.

In peace,
Zach

National Youth Gathering

Due to COVID-19, the National Youth Gathering has decided to be postponed from June 2021 until June 2022. We give thanks for thoughtful and well timed decisions from the head planning team. This opens up what our youth can do with their summer next year. Please hold the NYG planning team in your prayers as they make major adjustments. Please hold your youth and your youth team in prayer as we discern what is best for our youth in 2021.

Senior Recognition

Please join us on August 9th at the 8:15 Outdoor Worship for our 2020 Senior Recognition. We are excited to finally celebrate with our young people. If we are rained out, families will be invited into the Celebration Center for the blessing and it will be streamed on Facebook Live.

Education Fund Scholarship Carwash

The Education Fund Scholarship scholarship team has decided to postpone the annual car wash fundraiser until further notice due to COVID-19.

Upcoming Things:

Sundays at 7pm: HSYG on ZOOM!

Tuesdays at 3pm: TAG! (Tuesday Afternoon Gaming) on Discord.

Aug 2 - High School Trip Campfire

Aug 9 - Disc Golf IV - Breezy Point

Aug 16 - Mini Golf - Pirate's Cove

Pictures: The high school youth group enjoyed a silly downtown scavenger in mid-July. Thanks to Mindy W for chaperoning! We found some chalk graffiti which reminded us that God is with us through the good and bad. We also stuck our toes in Nisswa Lake at the park.





During these last few months we have had to jump through some different hoops in order to bring worship to our congregation and others. We have reaped some benefits by having to try some new things that we may not have ordinarily. This has most certainly shown in our music program. We have had to make concessions for not being able to sing together as a congregation indoors and certainly not worship together indoors.

Our musicians have stepped up to help and lead us in worship in ways beyond their “pay grade”. They are constant in their willingness to show up, practice, be flexible, and always have a positive attitude toward worship and making music together. If you could be flies on the wall during our practice sessions on Sunday morning, you would truly witness their great spirit, flexibility and faithfulness. We do have fun!

I want to particularly thank Mallory Maine, Lizzi, Tom, & Greg Ortmeier, Chris, Kristin & Sam Lindholm, Erica Bjelland, Kevin Lattu, Chris Fogderud, Dave Endicott, Murry Holmstrom, Jim Natwick, Brian & Jenny Stubbs, and Danny Olson.



We are beyond blessed to have such fine musicians to choose from and such willingness and faithfulness on their parts to help lead our worship.



The Wittenberg Doors - Online Concert and Fundraiser

A special thanks to the Unruly Rhubarbs, and the Wittenberg Doors, aka Kevin Lattu, Erika Bjelland and Dave Endicott and Chris Fogderud, for their wonderful Facebook Live concert supporting Operation Sandwich. Thank you to all those who donated! We raised \$1600, or about one weeks worth of food! This is phenomenal! Thank you!

(The concert is still streamable on Operation Sandwich's Facebook Page.)



Hymn of the Month

August 2020

Hymn #858 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (LOBE DEN HERREN)

Tune: Anonymous, from *Stralsund Gesangbuch*; Text: Joachim Neander
Based on Psalm 103 and 150

Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Job 38:4
A story from “Then Sings My Soul”, Robert J. Morgan

This hymn was written by Joachim Neander, born in 1650, whose father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather – all Joachim Neanders – had been preachers of the gospel. But as a student, Joachim was wild and rebellious. At 20, he joined a group of students who descended on St. Martin’s Church in Bremen to ridicule and scoff at the worshippers. But the sermon that day by Rev. Theodore Under-Eyck arrested him and that led to his conversion. A few years later, he was the assistant preacher at that very church.

Joachim often took long walks near his home in Hochdal, Germany. They were worship walks, and he frequently composed hymns as he strolled, singing them to the Lord. He was the first hymn-writer from the Calvinist branch of Protestantism. When he was 30 – the year he died—he wrote this while battling tuberculosis:

*Praise Ye The Lord, The Almighty, the King of Creation.
O my soul praise Him, for He is Thy health and Salvation.*

One of Joachim’s favorite walking spots was a beautiful gorge a few miles from Dusseldorf. The Dussel River flowed through the valley, and Joachim Neander so loved this spot that it eventually was named for him—Neander Valley. The Old German word for “valley” was “tal” of “thal” with a silent “h”.

Two hundred years later Herr von Beckersdorf owned the valley, which was a source for limestone, used to manufacture cement. In 1856, miners discovered caves which contained human bones. Beckersdorf took the bones to a local science teacher who speculated they belonged to one who died in the Flood.

But when William King, an Irish professor of anatomy, saw the bones, he claimed they were proof of evolution’s famous “missing link.” Other Neanderthal fossils were found, and for many years they were used to “prove” Darwin’s theory of evolution. Today we know that the Neanderthal was fully human, an extinct people group of great strength.

But, as one expert put it, “when Joachim Neander walked in his beautiful valley so many years ago. He could not know that hundreds of years later his name would become world famous, not for his hymns celebrating creation, but for a concept that he would have totally rejected: human evolution”.

Ultimately this well-known hymn has become a most famous “Praise” hymn in many congregations. It is also the foundation for many choral pieces.

I hope you enjoyed this little anecdote.

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music





CONGREGATIONAL VOTE ON PROPOSED NEW SIGN

Thank you to all who participated in the congregational vote via mail in ballots
—we had a great response!

Results are as follows: 263 votes in favor of the proposed sign and 6 votes against the proposal. The church council will formally adopt the vote at the August 13th council meeting. As indicated in the July newsletter, we have received more than half the cost of the sign in donations but still need an additional \$12,000. Those interested in contributing to the cost of the proposed sign should mail payments to LCC at PO Box 29, Nisswa (*LCC New Sign* in the memo line.) The entire proposal is available for review in the church office. Please call or email with any questions. Sign installation would occur in October contingent upon raising the necessary funds.

So be humble under God's powerful hand.
Then he will lift you up when the right time
comes. Give all your worries to him, because
he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:6-8

Be strong and be brave. Don't be afraid...
because the Lord your God is with you. He will
not fail you or leave you." Deuteronomy 31:6

**LORD. YOU ARE MY LIGHT AND MY SAVIOR. SO WHY SHOULD
I BE AFRAID OF ANYONE? THE LORD IS WHERE MY LIFE
IS SAFE. SO I WILL BE AFRAID OF NO ONE! PSALM 27:1**

Don't worry—I am with you. Don't be afraid—I
am your God. I will make you strong and help
you. I will support you with my right hand that
brings victory. Isaiah 41:10

Remember, I commanded you to be strong and
brave. Don't be afraid, because the Lord your God
will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

LCC Rummage Sale

A New Way of Reaching Out



A meeting of the LCC Rummage Sale Core Group was held on July 23rd to discuss how to deal with the donated items that we have received over the past year. Currently, our church garage and one storage pod are full of items, with several trailer loads being stored at a member's pole barn. Since we were unable to have our 2020 Spring and Fall sales due to Covid-19, we met to discuss how to alleviate the storage pinch that we face, as well as how we can continue to support our area ministries that have benefited from our sales in the past.

1. We ask that any LCC Members planning a rummage sale at their homes take 15 or so boxes of items presently in storage to sell, contributing the profit from those boxes to our LCC Rummage Sale. These funds will be used to reach out to area nonprofits.
2. On August 7th and 8th from 9:00 to 5:00 pm, we will host a *Furniture and Miscellaneous Sale*. The money that is received will go to our LCC Rummage Sale, with funds to benefit area nonprofits.
3. If you are a gardener and have extra produce, please consider selling it at your home and donating the proceeds to our LCC Rummage Sale.
4. In an effort to help our local area ministries who have been recipients of a gift from the LCC Rummage Sale in the past, an email will be sent out to volunteers from the LCC Rummage Sale, asking for a financial donation.
5. Church members wishing to make a financial donation to our LCC Rummage Sale can send a check made out to *LCC Rummage Sale* and mail it to Lutheran Church of the Cross, PO Box 29, Nisswa, MN 56468.

All funds generated from these efforts will benefit ministries in our area to meet critical needs of our neighbors, including the ELCA's COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND, which will include urgently needed monetary gifts for our Churchwide ELCA ministries, our LCC Missionary (Bradn Buerkle) and our NE MN Companion Synods in India and Honduras.



“Caring for the health of others expresses both love for our neighbor and responsibility for a just society.” ELCA COVID Social Statement from *Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor*

LCC Rummage Sale Volunteers participating will be helping people and ministries affected by COVID-19!

To date over \$700 has already been contributed to LCC Rummage Sale. For questions or further information please call Carolyn Blanck, LCC Rummage Sale Chair, at 963-7660.

Gather Summer 2020: "Just love"

by Gladys Moore and Christa Compton

Theologian and public intellectual Dr. Cornel West once said, "Justice is what love looks like in public." Christians often imagine that if we had enough love, we would be able to solve the world's problems. But love by itself has been insufficient in eradicating the manifold forms of injustice that continue to plague our world.

This three-session Bible study invites readers to consider how justice and love intersect. What does "just love" look like? How is this kind of love more than a sentimental or sanitized emotion, but is instead a love-in-action that seeks to dismantle the various systems of sin that damage God's creation and harm God's people?



Session 1: "Just Love" in the Family: What's Love Got to do with it? (John 11:1-6, 17-37)

Session 1 focuses on what "just love" might look like in a family system. Using the story of Mary's and Martha's confrontations with Jesus in the aftermath of their brother Lazarus' death, this session explores the role of anger in the pursuit of justice, including anger directed at God.

Session 2: "Just Love" in the Community: From Tree to We (Luke 19:1-10)

Session 2 views the story of Zacchaeus through the lens of restorative justice. What does it mean to make amends for the harm we have caused? How does Jesus invite us into healing relationships that reconnect us to the communities from which we have been alienated?

Session 3: "Just Love" in the Nation: Giving Birth to Justice (Exodus 1:8-22)

Session 3 challenges readers to examine what "just love" requires when injustice occurs at the highest levels of government. In the book of Exodus the midwives Shiphrah and Puah defy Pharaoh to save the lives of Hebrew babies. This session draws on understandings of formal and informal power and how we can use the power God has given us to effect change.

Gather Bible Study offers a multi-session Bible study for the summer of 2020. Summer studies are free to download at <https://www.gathermagazine.org/bible-study/> The above study is scheduled to be available this summer. Past summer studies are already available at this site.

As soon as the coronavirus restrictions are lifted we will joyfully resume our monthly Gather meetings at church. When there is news regarding this and the start of our book group, it will be conveyed in the e-news, bulletins, and newsletter.



Lutheran Church of the Cross 2020 Book Discussion News

Because of the coronavirus restrictions we will not be meeting at the present time. When we do meet we will discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens and the direction we want to take in the future. Watch the newsletter and E-Blast weekly news for updated information.



Sunday, August 9th at 8:15 am & Sunday, August 23rd at 8:15 am

Masks must be worn, must bring your own chairs or blankets.

Social distancing of six feet from others.

No communion. Will be cancelled if raining.

Outdoor Worship

In the Memorial Garden

Due to Covid closures in May, we will be holding our Senior Recognition during the 8:15 outdoor service on August 9th. Please hold our 2020 graduates in your prayers as they take their next step in life. 2020 graduates: Sara Alcock, Whitney Fink, Jack Ingram, Andrew Kirzeder, Jacob Kruger, Hannah Oelke, Dylan Paulson, Ethan Sannes, Merriam Schmitz, Gabbie Smith, Nash Tietz.



Follow signs and directions of staff to get in line to receive the sacrament. Pr. Drew will be located near the Memorial Garden entrance and wearing a mask and gloves—we ask that all those in your vehicle wear a mask and remain in the vehicle.

The table of our Lord is set for all those who need grace, forgiveness, strength, and wisdom for ministry and mission to the world. Come, all are welcome.

Sun	Mon	Tue	
facility calendar for:			
<p>2</p> <p>9:30 Treehouse Time 10:30 Worship—Online Only 2:00 Small Group Bible Study 7:00 HS Zoom Chat</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30 Text S 9:00 Lakes 9:30 Treeh 10:00 Faceb</p>
<p>9</p> <p>8:15 Outdoor Worship & Sr. Recognition 9:30 Treehouse Time 10:30 Worship—Online Only 7:00 HS Zoom Chat</p>	<p>10 Nisswa Safety Town</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 9:00 Safety Town 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab 9:00 Safety Town 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:30 Text 9:00 Safet 9:30 Treet 10:00 Face 6:30 Disc</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:30 Treehouse Time 10:30 Worship—Online Only 11:45 Drive Thru Communion 7:00 HS Zoom Chat</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:30 Text 9:30 Treet 10:00 Face 4:00 Crea 6:30 Min</p>
<p>23</p> <p>8:15 Outdoor Worship 9:30 Treehouse Time 10:30 Worship—Online Only 7:00 HS Zoom Chat</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:30 Text 9:30 Treet 10:00 Face</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:30 Treehouse Time 10:30 Worship—Online Only 7:00 HS Zoom Chat</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>		

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<h1>August</h1>	<h1>2020</h1>	<p>1</p> <p>Nancy Erickson Graveside</p>
<p>Study Area Food Shelf Mtg House Time Book Devotions</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 Operation Sandwich 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> 	<p>7 Furniture Rummage Sale 9 to 5</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>8 Furniture Rummage Sale 9 to 5</p>
<p>Study Safety Town House Time Book Devotions Golf IV</p>	<p>13 →</p> <p>9:00 Safety Town 9:30 Operation Sandwich 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Church Council</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>11:00 Pr. Dave Stevens Funeral</p>
<p>Study House Time Book Devotions Elder Care Mtg Golf Night</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 Operation Sandwich 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>Study House Time Book Devotions</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30 Operation Sandwich 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>29</p>

August 2020 Birthdays

1. Sofie Carlson, Laurie Hemish, Kristin Lindholm, Robert Moody, Emmett Wilson
2. Tim Hernandez, Anne Oium-Salfer, Bennett Wottreng
3. Patrice Maier
4. Alice Carlson, Kade Kitzman, Lanna Uebel
5. James Bailey, Derrick Chase, Bonita Dunker, Mattie Lueck, Max Roby, Emersyn Sullivan
6. Keith Both, Beverly Cook, Michelle Ellis, Marlow Strand, Tony Trucano
7. Gregg Day, Renee Johnson, Cory Olson
8. Jodie Hiles, Laura Wittwer
9. Randy Hansen
10. Gary Boche, Beverly Goff, Char Oraskovich
11. Gisela Borgwarth, Pete Christofferson, Jacob Heinlen
12. James Brandon, Marvin Green, Jerry Leese
13. Patti Pluth, Gavin Stallard
14. Karen Green, Pat Maccabee
15. Laiklyn Day, Byron Huseby, Nate Merseth
16. Colleen Both, Gail Goble, Jean Meyer
17. Sarah Ciardelli, Bruce Domino, Gary Johnson, Deb Rottschafer, George Sommerfeld
- 18.
19. Jon Fogarty, Duane Heikkila, Jennie Pelowski
20. Annie Lindholm, Brian McAllister, Ron Reph
21. Elizabeth Knutson, Erik Macy
22. Jean Larson, Steve Panzer, Kirk Tietz
23. Katie Henke, Jo Zaiser
24. Travis Aune, George Martin, Tonya Wermager, Karen Yundak
25. David Clausen, Grant Loge, Ariel Thompson, Scott Tricker
26. JoAnne Dayton, Kathleen Kline, Roger Miller, Seth Owens, Reese Schamber
27. Arlene Brodeur, Janet Erickson, Peter Moran
28. Carol Carlson, Marlene Larson
29. Kyan Kitzman, Lukas Lind
30. Sheila Avenson, Don Karlgaard, Bailey McMahon, Abby Pelowski
31. Samuel Alcock, Mark Erikson, Micaela Hallan, Marj Holmstrom, David Najjar, Joan Roberts, Wyatt Verville





Joy Potthoff and Bubbles the cat listening to Pr. Drew's sermon on July 5th during online worship. Photo submitted by Sandra Potthoff.

We love seeing your at home worship photos!
Submit your photos to laurie@lccnisswa.org.



Wednesday morning text study held in the Memorial Garden on July 22nd after months of Zoom Text Study.

If you would like to be a part of LCC's weekly text study. Please contact Pastor Drew.





Under Construction: GOD AT WORK.

Please take time to thank the following businesses and individuals for all their help with the parking lot, lighting, and bell tower relocation projects.

- Eric's Excavating**
- Mike's Tree Service**
- Rardin Construction**
- Jim's Electric**
- Anderson Brothers Construction**
- Line Scape**
- Crow Wing County Highway Dept.**
 - Clint Baker**
 - Marv Green**
 - Dave Jabas**
 - Duane Blanck**
 - Mark Hallan**
 - Jeff Oelke**
 - Dale Peterson**
 - Darrell Paske**
 - Kevin Kosobud**
 - Lenny Hodgson**
 - Pastor Drew Bakken**
 - Laurie Hemish**



Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group

First and third Mondays of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at LCC.

Our goal is to provide a safe environment to share our stories, and to provide support and education to those who have lost a loved one to suicide.

*please note that we are a group for adults only

**contact Jeri Borgwarth at jeriborg@hotmail.com with questions

YOU'RE
not alone



On behalf of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) and those we serve, thank you for your continued support. Your support affirms our vision that all people have the opportunity to live and work in community with full and abundant lives.

Pastor Julie Wright

Thanks to Dennis & Liz Brandanger for the lovely potted plants that normally would be in the front of the church. Due to Covid, they have been keeping them alive and thriving at home and brought them for all to enjoy for outdoor worship services.





Operation Sandwich has been cruising along! We have hit a groove in July and are able to crank out a ton of food in a very efficient manner. This past week we exceeded 5000 meals served out of LCC (and another 5000 out of Brainerd!!) We are so happy to be in our community, serving our hungry people. Let's keep this ministry going together.

I have been asked the question, "So, when do we wrap up for the year?" Our goal is to feed people as long as there is a need. This need is dependent on what the schools do for food options this fall. Please continue to hold this ministry in prayer.



Thank you!



Thank you volunteers every Thursday for donating your time to pack and deliver the Operation Sandwich meals to Pine River, Pequot Lakes, and Nisswa.



Did you know that the Lakes Area Food Shelf has been serving the Pequot Lakes, Nisswa, Lakeshore, Jenkins, and Breezy Point communities for the last 29 years? We are grateful to continue to provide food assistance today! Groceries are available for pick up on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to noon, and on the first and third Thursdays from 5 to 7 pm.

With stimulus checks spent and Federal unemployment checks ending in mid-July, we are anticipating large increases food insecurity this summer. Donations can be mailed to: LAFS, PO Box 724, Nisswa, MN 56468. Nonperishable donations of peanut butter, pasta, ramen, shampoo & conditioner, toothpaste, and tooth brushes are in short supply and greatly needed.

A Message from our ELCA Global Missionary *Russian Correspondent*

Time of Transition at St. Paul, Vladivostok

These past few months have been a time of intense change for the largest Lutheran congregation in the Russian Far East. Pastor Manfred Brockmann, who has been serving the congregation for 27 years now, has reached an age when it is difficult to carry the full weight and responsibility of ministry. The church leadership came to the determination, therefore, that as of Feb. 2, 2020, Pastor Brockmann was released from pastoral leadership of the congregation. Pastor Brockmann has resisted calls to relax in his retirement and remains determined to continue to play a role in the congregation. The compromise we found was to ask Pastor Brockman to be involved in cultural outreach (musical ministry, German Culture Days, etc), while no longer being responsible for day-to-day activities of the congregation. We worked up a calendar of worship leadership that included lay preachers, Pastor Alexander Lapochenko from Arseniev, myself, and friends of the congregation from other parts of the world. This interim period will help the congregation to adjust to life without the leadership of Pastor Brockmann, especially in the period lasting until the installation of the new pastor of the congregation, tentatively planned for the first weeks of 2021. One of the new friends of the congregation is Vicar Rustem Nafikov from Ufa (Bashkiria, Russia) who, during his relatively short internship at St. Paul Lutheran (January 31- March 9) made a serious impact on congregational life. Rustem has been leading a village congregation for the past few years while receiving theological training through the distance education program of Novosaratovka Seminary. Having come to the end of his formal studies, the church has also been interested in expanding Rustem's vision for and experience in ministry. The people in Vladivostok were very responsive to his new ideas, and his friendly -yet challenging approach to spiritual life. Despite his short term of service in the region, his presence there is missed. Also showing his support through a visit (as you can see in photo together with Rustem and myself, right) was ELCUSFE Bishop Alexander Scheiermann. The bishop spent 10 days in the region preaching, providing pastoral care and guidance to the people of the congregation, and he also had the chance to meet members of the church council, elected at the congregation's annual meeting on February 16.



Your brother in Christ, Bradn

CREATION CARE

The LCC Creation Care Team has an exciting opportunity to donate fresh produce to the Lakes Area Food Shelf this summer, and YOU can be a part of it. Here's how it works: **Bring bagged or boxed fresh produce to the back steps at LCC NO LATER THAN 10 AM ON THE FOLLOWING FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAYS:**

- **Thursday, August 6**
- **Thursday, August 20**
- **Thursday, September 3**
- **Thursday, September 17**

Someone from the Creation Care Team will pick up the produce and deliver it to the Food Shelf for them to distribute. Many thanks for helping to bring fresh, healthy food to people in our area who really need it and will appreciate it.

You can also feel free to take excess produce directly to the food shelf.

They would prefer it on **Tuesdays from 9-12** (the earlier the better so they can pass it on to people that day). The Lakes Area Food shelf is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am to 12pm and from 5-7 pm on the first and third Thursdays of the month. It is located at 29316 Patriot Avenue in Pequot Lakes. The food shelf shares the same driveway with Grace United Methodist Church, but is in a separate building just a little to the south of the church. Please use the back door. They are always eager to get fresh produce. Since COVID the needs of the food shelf have greatly accelerated.



Council Highlights from July 2020
Lutheran Church of the Cross

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
Church Council Meeting
Thursday, July 9, 2020

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion: David Grell

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; Dale Peterson; Pam Johnson

Officer Reports:

Council Minutes by Darrell Paske – Amendment to Social Concerns and Global Missions Report to include in report that there still a need of monetary and food donations for Operation Sandwich.

Motion to approve minutes with amendment Jamie Boesen; Second David Grell - Approved

Treasurer's Report by Colleen Both

Motion Darrell Paske; Second Dale Peterson - Approved

New Business:

Fall Rummage Sale cancelled

Phase 3 – Returning to Church – Tentatively September 6, 2020

Pastors' Reports

Pastor Drew:

- Sometimes it is hard to imagine that we have been in a holding pattern at Lutheran Church of the Cross since March. The truth is, our in person worship and in person activities have been on hold but we as a staff and congregation have been far from on hold. Once again I am so proud of the dedication of our staff and for all their hard work into looking at new ways of doing ministry.
- I am so proud of the work that our outreach team has accomplished in our work at Operation Sandwich we served 30 plus families each week that means that we have

served close to 4,000 meals in a five week span. Thank you for your donations and support. There is a real need in our community and I am so proud of our church that we are rising to the needs of so many people dealing with food scarcity. Special thank you to Dave, Chris, Erica and Kevin for putting on a Facebook live concert to raise money for Operation Sandwich.

- Just as Covid-19 has dominated our news it has dominated my life as I sit through meetings with the synod, local churches, and our Smart team as we look at when to safely open our church. At this time we will not be having in-person indoors worship. But we will be having two outdoor worship services on July 12th and 26th in our memorial garden at 8:15am and two services in August on the 9th and 23rd. We will be having another drive thru communion on July 19th following our 10:30 online service, and on August 16th.
- After discussion with Zach and our church staff we would like to have a Graduation Recognition for our youth before they head off to school. We are looking to have that at our outdoor worship on August 9th and this will be our chance to honor our youth. We have also talked about confirmation service for our youth. We are looking to have that on September 20th at 11:40 am in our Celebration Center. Due to social distancing our sanctuary can hold 70 people but our Celebration Center can hold more. This service will be limited to the youth, their families and friends.
- I have also put together a multimedia ministry team to look at our current audio and visual in our sanctuary space. I have currently met with two companies who are putting proposals together. I hope to have bids sometime in the near future.

Committee Reports:

Property: Dale Peterson

- Roadwork is wrapping up on County 13. First layer of payment was applied; final layer will follow soon. Bike path and entrances/exits are complete. Black dirt has been backfilled and seeding is underway. New traffic lights are being installed at the Hwy 371 intersection. The project will be complete soon.
- Our new LCC south parking lot has been blacktopped and striped for parking. Lighting will be installed soon.
- Yard clean up and edging along the parking lot will be necessary. The sprinkler system will need to be reattached/repaired.
- Lighting of the bell tower will be evaluated after the parking lot lights are installed.
- The congregation will vote on the proposed new monument sign that was recommended by the sign committee and approved by the council. If the congregation approves, the sign could be installed this fall. The old sign will be mounted along the north entrance road from Crossroads.

- Landscaping of LCC church grounds is planned to be a 2021 project.
- Proposal was received to clean and sanitize the church pews and chairs. Recommend approval and completion prior to reopening the sanctuary for church services. Recommend expenditure from the maintenance fund.
- Also received an estimate to install handicap accessibility to the main front doors of the sanctuary. It will cost approximately \$2100 per door, plus electrical work. Total of \$8400 for all four doors. No action at this time.

Stewardship: Craig Fink

No Report

Worship and Music: Mike Smith

No Report

Social Concerns and Global Missions: Jason Martinson

No Report

Children and Family Ministry: Pam Johnson

- Kari has been getting VBX materials ready. She has some Jr. High girls coming to help get the kits together and will be handing out on July 12 during outdoor worship as well as July 13 - 17 each day at church. All of the skits, story videos, and music videos have been made available by ELCA World Hunger via their Vimeo channel and will be posted and included in the VBX kits. Kits will be available to ALL - postcards have been mailed to all families who participated last year. Thanks to a Thrivent grant Kari was able to purchase any extra materials that were needed.
- We have been receiving mask donations and Sally received a Thrivent grant that funded the purchase of some paper masks, as well.
- Treehouse Time and Faith Finders Fun both continue, and Kari has registered for Bold Transformational Faith through Luther Crest Bible Camp.
- Kari was able to take most of 4th of July week off to care for her grandsons, which was very much appreciated.
- Kari is anxious to keep working on plans for our Children's Worship Service for later this year. It will be held at 9:30am in Celebration Center on Sundays.
- As we move into fall, most of our programming is dependent on guidelines for opening – Kari plans to keep Treehouse Time going and our Children's Worship Service will include Sunday School songs/motions via video and will also have a take home component/GIFT relating to the gospel lesson each week. We do not plan for Sunday School to meet at this point.

- Pr. Drew, Zach and Kari met to discuss fall programming.
- We will be using the Sparkhouse Re:Form curriculum for Weds. evenings.
- Kari will be submitting a Thrivent Grant for Family Faith Formation. As of now, our resources will be: Mental Health, New Bishop Intro, Luther Crest, and Lutheran Social Services.

Youth and Family Ministry: Jen Henry

- Here is a little look at what has been happening in your youth ministry programs in June and the first part of July. And a preview as to what is to come! Also, of course, an Operation Sandwich update.
- High School Youth Group Zoom remains active to this day. We meet at 7pm on Sundays and it seems to meet our group's needs. Each week, we seem to dive deeper and deeper into the bible text and our own lives. I am really proud of this group and their efforts. We have consistency. We have a want to go deeper. We have leadership. We have ownership.
- June kicked off Summer Stretch. This summer we are issuing weekly Summer Stretch Challenges. Some of the hits have been gardening and cleaning up your local roads. We post on Instagram with some of the projects we have been up to #LakesAreaStretch!
- Confirmation Youth Group did not survive the transition into summer mode. We see summer disrupt programming every year, and 2020 is no different. I like this idea of Confirmation Youth Group and there is a possibility we may see future renditions of this program.
- As a result of the Confirmation Youth Group being laid to rest (for now), we have been able to start something else new, "Something to Do!" Every two weeks, on Wednesday, we have had an outdoor activity for our youth to do! On June 24th, we picked up the highway and had a wonderful Campfire, complete with Campfire Songs! On July 8th, we played disc golf in Breezy Point. We have a Scavenger Hunt in the works for July 22nd and a Mini - Golf day in the works for August.
- Our Youth's Summer is shaping up to be pretty rad. Thanks for all of your support as we continue to dream and figure things out.
- Operation Sandwich has been life giving. Each week, we are feeding about 30 families on the Northern Route, or about 650 meals. We have a great team of about 20 core volunteers who help out every other week (in groups of 10) to feed our hungry people. I have recently been delegating more tasks to our volunteers to lighten my own load on this project (it started off heavier than I imagined). Thank you to our volunteers who are truly making this ministry happen!

Congregational Life: Hilary Johnson

No Report

Personnel: Jamie Boesen

No Report

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by

Darrell Paske, Council Secretary

Next Council Meeting:

August 13, 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.



THRIVENT provides its members with a unique opportunity to help support LCC through Thrivent Action Teams. All Thrivent members are eligible to apply for two ACTION TEAM GRANTS and receive \$250 in funds (per grant) to help with a fundraiser, service activity or educational event.

See one of our staff members if you belong to Thrivent and would like to apply!

thrivent®

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Habitat for Humanity[®]
ReStore



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furniture, doors, cabinets,
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and more...

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Items can be dropped off Mon.-Fri.
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from 9:30AM to 2:30PM. To arrange a
pick-up of your donations, call or email
Karen at 218-454-7020 or
restore@lakesareahabitat.org



Help support Habitat's mission.

Cash donations are always accepted.
Make checks payable to Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity.
Send to PO Box 234 Brainerd, MN 56401

Lutheran Church of the Cross

PO Box 29
5064 County Road 13
Nisswa, MN 56468

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		
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		

