

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church
of the Cross
2023



Time



This image is of Lorado Taft's "Fountain of Time" sculpture in Chicago. Considered one of Chicago's most significant historical artworks, it is stunning and was inspired by Henry Austin Dobson's poem, "Paradox of Time."

*Time goes, you say? Ah no! Alas, Time stays, we go; Or else, were this not so,
What need to chain the hours, For Youth were always ours? Time goes, you say?-ah no!*

The sculpture depicts a hooded Father Time carrying a scythe, watching over a parade of 100 figures arranged in an arc. If you look closely, you will see that the overall shape of the sculpture resembles a cone or pyramid. This procession of people is meant to illustrate the entire spectrum of humanity at various stages of life.

I love this illustration of time. As your eyes move over the 100 figures you begin to realize that we - in the here and now - are simply a blink in the history of time. And isn't it curious that in our daily lives, it can sometimes feel as though time is just crawling along; while other times it seems to fly by?

Time: *continuance, duration, season, moment* - we as a church have taken our time to make a decision on moving back to two Sunday worship services. After the COVID shut down, our council decided to go from two services to one, as our second service had very light attendance. We wanted to create the sense of a full church once again and gather the family of Christ together, for gathering together for worship is essential. Hebrews 10:25 says, *We must not quit meeting together, as some are doing. No, we need to keep on encouraging each other. This becomes more and more important...*

After last year we have seen growth in our attendance with many new members joining the church. We have hit the threshold of 200 in attendance consistently. So starting on September 10th, "Rally Sunday" we will move back to two services. The first service will be at 9am and the second service will be at 10:30am.

As we move to two worship services, we will need double the volunteers to help. We also need to have a critical attendance at the 10:30am service so that it is welcoming to visitors and the sanctuary does not feel empty. With this additional worship service, we will need your help in volunteering, we will need your attendance, and we will need your prayers and support as we move forward.

Blessings,
Pastor Drew

**Summer
Worship
at
LCC**

**June 4 -
August 27**

**ALL
ARE
WELCOME**

**Sunrise Service at 8am -
30 min, no Communion**

**Worship with Holy Communion at 9am;
Cross Kids during sermon;
Staffed Nursery available**

*9am Outdoor worship in Memorial Garden on
June 18, July 16, and August 20*

Lutheran Church of the Cross

Starting Sept. 10

**JOIN US FOR SUNDAY
WORSHIP**

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 9am Service | 10:00am Coffee Fellowship | 10:30am Service |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|

- *Holy Communion, Cross Kids, & staffed nursery at both services*
- *Pastors Drew Bakken & Michelle Ruen*

All are welcome!

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2023 General Fund

| | <u>June</u> | <u>YTD</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
|------------|-------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Income | \$ 41,592 | \$ 344,308 | \$ 699,490 | 49.22% |
| Expenses | \$ 51,230 | \$ 352,103 | \$ 699,490 | 50.34% |
| Difference | (\$ 9,637) | (\$ 7,795) | \$ 0 | |

**In the month of June our expenses were greater than our income by (\$9,637).
Thank you for your continued support.**

BAPTISM

Name: Amelia Lee Thomson
Born: January 31, 2023
Baptized: July 3, 2023
Parents: Alexander Thomson &
Charlotte Thomson
Pastor Michelle Ruen, Officiant



FUNERAL

Name: Bill Ingvaldstad
Born: January 28, 1936
Died in Christ: June 30, 2023
Funeral: July 5, 2023
Lutheran Church of the Cross
Pastor Michelle Ruen, Officiant
Pastor Drew Bakken, Officiant

FUNERAL

Name: Jeffrey Evanson
Born: March 9, 1962
Died in Christ: June 22, 2023
Funeral: July 1, 2023
Brenny Funeral Chapel
Pastor Drew Bakken, Officiant

INURNMENT

Name: Rosemary Kraus
Born: June 7, 1928
Died in Christ: November 25, 2022
Inurnment: July 11, 2023
Lutheran Church of the Cross
Pastor Michelle Ruen, Officiant

FUNERAL

Name: Claus Peukert
Born: September 5, 1942
Died in Christ: June 21, 2023
Funeral: July 7, 2023
Lutheran Church of the Cross
Pastor Michelle Ruen, Officiant

FUNERAL

Name: Colleen Robinson
Born: March 2, 1950
Died in Christ: July 1, 2023
Funeral: July 14, 2023
Lutheran Church of the Cross
Pastor Michelle Ruen, Officiant

WEDDING

Tye Ausmus & Marissa Brown
Date: July 20, 2023
Pastor Michelle Ruen,
Officiant

Salt and Light by Kari Erickson

Children are not just the church of tomorrow, they are the church of today as well. As members of our church body, children:

Serve
Make an impact
GIVE
Pray big prayers
LEAD
Bring people to Jesus



And when given an opportunity to contribute to the life of the church, they build relationships with Christians who are ahead of them on their faith journey – which is vital to a child’s faith over the long haul. The most effective way to learn about God is through example, and that’s where we come in. After all, a healthy family consists of grandparents, aunts, uncles, parents, and children. Our church family is no different.

I read over and over again that 85% of people who come to faith in Christ do so before the age of 18. So laying the foundation of God and the Gospel in the hearts of children in their early years is significant; a child’s view of God is formed in their early years. It’s like planting seeds that will grow into saving faith when they are older. *This is our greatest mission field.* Remember that there is no “Junior Holy Spirit” - kids come to Jesus just as adults do – God answers their prayers just as He does ours. He moves in their hearts just as He does in ours. In fact, the Bible tells us to act like kids rather than telling kids to act like us!

Worshiping with children is important to all of us. It helps us to examine how we engage with each other in our faith. We are reminded to be open to the spontaneity and mystery of the Holy Spirit and that God is most certainly present in the messiness of our lives. It also provides opportunities for us to practice patience and grace as we encounter God through the eyes and faith of a child.

Let’s not forget about the parents of our children – for “When you take a child by that hand, you take a parent by the heart.” It is essential that we partner with our young parents to walk with them on their faith journey, too. We’ve all heard the saying, *it takes a village to raise a child* – well it takes a church to raise a child in the way of Christ!

Young parents look to their church family for all ages that will care for their children. They want volunteers who are loving and caring. And let’s face it, children can’t get to church by themselves, they rely on their parents to bring them. So when you see young parents bringing their children to church, take the time to thank them. It requires work and effort to get everyone ready and loaded up for church – so let’s do what we can to show them our gratitude. Let’s show them that we believe that children and youth are not just the church of tomorrow, they are the church of today as well at Lutheran Church of the Cross.



Our school backpacks are a very important part of our day. Our backpacks contain our schoolwork, our supplies and our lunches and snacks. We carry them to school and back home again each day. Not only will we be blessing these essential packs, but also the individuals who will be carry them, along with all of the helpers who will be guiding them this school year. Bring your backpack to church on September 3 so you can participate in this dedication.

Kids August Prayer

Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer!
 Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight.
 Thank You for the beauty I see all around me
 and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation.
 Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family,
 and for the more casual pace of the summer season.
 Draw me closer to You these next few weeks.
 Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing.
 Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence
 and light my path with Your Word and Counsel.
 As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart
 and a hunger and a thirst for You.

AMEN.



**Announcing a mandatory event for
9th graders and their mentors:**

***Affirmation of Baptism Stole Making
and Faith Statement Writing Workshop***

- **Wednesday, August 16**
- **5:30pm - 8pm**
- **Food provided**
- **Led by Pr. Drew and Kari**

We will get prepared for our Affirmation of Baptism and Dessert & Sharing on September 16 & 17. See you there!!

PRAYER FOR OUR YOUTH WHO WILL START POST SECONDARY SCHOOLING

God of life and love, you have given us these youth to care for this little while.

Our hearts are welled with joy and thanksgiving, anticipation and anxiety, amidst a longing to be together as we have been till now. The years of growing up have moved so quickly, with so many things left undone, so much left unsaid, so much we still hope to give to these youth who are taking this new step in the journey of life.

Help us as we reshape our lives to reflect this new reality of college. Show us new ways to be present to each other in love and in trust. Give us patience and help us to remember that our son/daughter is establishing new routines in freedom, routines different from our routines.

Calm our fears. Strengthen and protect our youth in the midst of the challenges and temptations which surround all students. Grant greater courage that we ourselves may have had in standing for your truth against compromises of faith.

Provide good friends and worthy confidants for our youth during these learning years. Help us to give support and confidence, to discern how we are needed now, and to pass on, in our love, a measure of the strength and courage you have given us in the gift of parenting, mentoring, and guiding.

AMEN





YOUTH by Kari Erickson

So – we have nurtured our children to embrace living like Jesus. How do we keep this going as they reach their adolescent and teen years (which, by the way is a very important and challenging time in their development)? How do we keep them coming back to church as they outgrow Cross Kids and become confirmed members of our church family?

We can start by helping them continue to grow in their relationship with the Lord. We can keep in mind that part of our job is to prepare them to be the future leaders of our schools, communities and churches. God used young people to do great things and we should, too. Think of Timothy – who God used to lead the Ephesian church, and told him: *You are young, but don't let anyone treat you as if you are not important. Be an example to show the believers how they should live. Show them by what you say, by the way you live, by your love, by your faith, and by your pure life.* (1 Timothy 4:12). That said, we must keep in mind their intrinsic value – their value just as they are, because they are created in God's image. Their importance cannot be solely based on their potential.

Their presence in church is necessary, for they keep us fresh – they are passionate and want to know about Jesus – they crave a relationship with Him that will give them meaning, purpose and love. As teenagers, they become co-laborers and co-creators with us, and possess God-given gifts to use and share. They bring a new perspective in that they are living in an *ever-changing* culture and need to learn to apply the *never-changing* Word to their everyday lives. They bring vibrancy, positivity and energy to the church. Combine that with the guidance and the benefit of the experience and wisdom of our older members and it's a winning combination. It looks like WE NEED EACH OTHER!

We must continue to build meaningful relationships with our youth so that they feel more confident in their ability to make an impact for Christ in their daily life and in their future, especially when life hands them challenges. Helping them continue to grow in their prayer and spiritual life is essential. We need to raise them up so that they can continue the church and 'keep running the race.'

Providing opportunities for activities and service (both church-based and non-church-based) will allow them to have fun and build their sense of worth as well as help them be empathetic and see the importance of fairness and inclusivity. And just as important as providing those opportunities is participating WITH them now and then – even if it means only watching. Find out what activities they are in and ask about them, or better yet, go watch a game/match or enjoy a concert/performance that they are participating in.

It's all about relationships. I also read over and over again how young adults are more likely to stay involved in church after high school if they had at least one significant relationship with an adult in their church growing up (a non-family member). Could that person be you? My hat is off to those of you who make it a point to reach out and connect with the youth of our church and/or accept the invitation to be a confirmation mentor. You will make an impact that just may be life-changing for a young member, and you might just realize some benefits yourself. Never forget that we need each other to keep growing in faith.

As always, I thank you for your support and prayers. This is a great church family to serve and I am grateful for the opportunity. Together we can achieve great things for God!

The flower of youth never appears more beautiful than when it bends toward the sun of righteousness. – Matthew Henry

Music Notes



August 2023 Hymn of the Month

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace (PROSPECT)

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn; Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

1. Creating God, your fingers trace the bold designs of farthest space;
Let sun and moon and stars and light and what lies hidden praise your might.
2. Sustaining God, your hands uphold earth's myst'ries known or yet untold;
Let water's fragile blend with air, enabling life, proclaim your care.
3. Redeeming God, your arms embrace all now despised for creed or race;
Let peace, descending like a dove, make known on earth your healing love.
4. Indwelling God, your gospel claims on fam'ly with a billion names;
Let ev'ry life be touched by grace until we praise you face to face.

In keeping consistent with singing lots of God's lovely creation hymns, our hymn of the month for August is "Creating God, Your Fingers Trace". As you read in the verses above, Jeffery Rowthorn wanted to express creation by our immense universe, God's loving embrace of all His people and our indwelling God told to us by the Gospel.

Jeffery Rowthorn (b. 1934) is a Welsh retired Anglican bishop and hymn writer. His early career was spent in the Church of England. Later he moved to the United States and worked at the Union Theological Seminary in New York City and Berkeley Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut.

According to his book *Singing Songs of Expectation*, Rowthorn expressed his intentions for his hymn:

1. To use inclusive language throughout and in particular by addressing each stanza to God;
2. To depict the ongoing and unceasing activity of each person of the Trinity by using active present participle (creating, etc.) rather than just static "Father";
3. To evoke awe and wonder ("water's fragile blend with air, enabling life") and the recognition that our knowledge of the universe remains at best partial ("earth's mysteries known or yet untold")
4. To emphasize the radical barrier-free love of God for all;
5. And to use "billion" in the final stanza, even though at first some resisted its use; today "two billion" (the number of Christians in the world) or "six billion" (the number of people on earth) would make the point I was trying to make in 1974 when I used "billion".

The tune PROSPECT is from William Walker's *The Southern Harmony*, a hymnal of a compilation of southern Appalachian folk tunes.

Summer is going fast. My prayer for all of you is that you enjoy your time in the outdoors, enjoy your family and your friends. Live each day praising God for his beautiful bounty and creation.

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music Ministries



As in the past few summers, we offer a chance for anyone to join us for a "pick up" choir to sing at our services.

This is a great opportunity for all of you who cannot join us during the rest of the year, including our summer guests who love to sing. We sing one piece

that can easily be rehearsed by all prior to the service. We always sing on the second Sunday of June, July and August.

Our last pick up choir date is August 13. We will meet in the choir room at 8:15 then sing for just the 9:00 service.

Questions: Cathy Taylor 763-607-4282 or cathy@cathysmusicstudio.com.

Please come join us.

Brian Stubbs Retirement from LCC Choir Director

Brian Stubbs has retired from the position of Lutheran Church of the Cross choir director. We will honor and thank him for the ten years he has led our wonderful and faithful Senior choir after the 9:00 worship service on August 13. He will continue to be a part of our congregation and SING in our choir! Please greet him, thank him and give him your heartfelt blessings. We as a choir will miss his great sense of humor and his musical gift as a choir director, but wish him and Jenny all the best.



Outdoor Worship with Blessing of the Animals on July 16th.



WOMEN in the WORD Bible Study -

Tuesday, August 1st

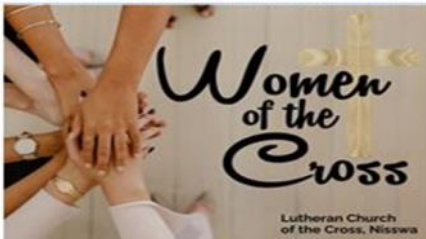
Join Pastor Michelle for a time in God's Word on Tuesday, **August 1**, at 10:00 AM or 7:00 PM in the Chapel Hall. Come for coffee, tasty treats, fellowship with sisters-in-Christ, and listen to God speak to us through Scripture. No preparations or homework. Come and be blessed. All are welcome. See you on August 1.



Men's Breakfast

Come join the guys for breakfast and a short Bible Study on Thursday mornings at Side Track restaurant on #371 every **Thursday at 8:15 AM**. All men are welcome. Come when you can.

Camp Yap-A-Lap—Join us on Tuesdays at 9:00 am at the back door of the church. We have a two mile route that you can walk as you can and at your own pace. No sign up needed and bring a walking buddy. A few laughs are guaranteed.



Gather Bible Study—Wednesday, August 23rd, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in Chapel Hall

We are continuing our three-part summer bible study by Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen entitled, "*Salvation Now.*"

This three-month study will focus on the gospel of John where we will see that the gospel writer was focused on the here and "now" of Jesus' ministry. Candace Barnack will be leading us in *Session Three: A World Wanting Wellness*. From the start, the ELCA has had the world's needs baked into its identity and mission.

There are four markers of the ELCA.

...We are church

...We are Lutherans

...We are church together, and

...We are church for the sake of the world.

Stacy Grothem will provide treats. Pick up a Gather Magazine in the narthex.

Thursday, August 10th at 12:00 Noon



The August PrimeTimer's Program will be Breath of Life Adult Day Service, who provide an encouraging, caring and Christian atmosphere in a safe, homelike setting. They are a place for dependent adults to socialize with peers in a stimulating environment while helping their caregiver maintain their own physical and emotional well-being.

Their compassionate staff and volunteers are highly skilled in providing exceptional care for dependent adults. Most participants have Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, have had a stroke or some other form of memory loss. Services include: stimulating daily activities, medication administration, health monitoring, nutritious noon meals and snacks, and transportation.

They are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Daily program includes a structured exercise program, arts and crafts, devotions, trivia/competitive games, memory joggers, live music, and field trips. Their service helps adults lead fuller lives as well as offering their caregiver much needed respite time.

Bring your own sack lunch. Lemonade, coffee and pies provided. Host/hostess are: Duane & Carolyn Blanck



Gloria Thomas
being brave at
Women's Week
at Luther Crest
Bible Camp.





Good Gifts Sunday

Women of the Cross wants to give everyone a big THANK YOU for donating on Good Gifts Sunday! We raised \$770.00!!!! With these funds, we are able to provide: (1) a flock of chicks, (2) 3 goats, (3) 3 pigs, (4) Farmer's Field School for a woman, (5) 2 microloans for two women, (6) school fees and a uniform for a girl, (7) soap and sanitation supplies for a family, (8) vaccinations for a child, (9) housing for a vulnerable youth, and (9) fed a refugee family for a week. WOW!! You just made a big impact on many families' lives by your generous act of love. You are truly God's hands and feet in the world.



Red Cross Blood Drive will be held Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at Lutheran Church of the Cross in the celebration Center from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Volunteer signup sheet located in the Narthex for registration table and canteen. Questions? Please call Cheryl Swanson at 218-820-8031.

To schedule an appointment to donate blood call 1-800-733-2767 or go to: RedCrossBlood.org

A Message on our ELCA Global Missionary

Russian Correspondent— Bradn Buerkle

Mission with a New Direction – exploration of opportunities for international theological education

Since arriving in Germany, the Hermannsburg Mission has sought ways to maximize the skills and experience I gained in Russia for the good of the mission's other partners around the world. Part of that work includes speaking in Germany about the state of affairs in Russia in general and the churches in particular; more of my ministry, however, is aimed at finding ways to encourage mutual enrichment in the field of theological education. My particular focus in the past years has been on lay leader formation, and my conversations with colleagues indicate that this topic is relevant not only in Russia, but around the globe. As I have dug deeper into the situation of churches in the developing world, I have seen that they frequently do not have the resources to dedicate staff to this ministry; instead, lay leader training is added to area deans' or assistants' to the bishop long list of responsibilities. In my first months at the mission, it was my theory that – despite enormous differences between countries such as Brazil and India, Ethiopia and Peru – it should be possible to share curriculums and best practices among partners, both cutting down on the effort needed to prepare educational programs and enriching those programs through a cross-cultural element.



At the same time, I realized that this was my theory “on paper,” and that, in order to see what really might and might not work, it would be important to develop relationships with local leaders among partner churches. They, I knew, would be able to show me much about their ministry contexts. This would help me understand much better what priorities the churches have and what local factors could either enhance or hinder such cooperative work.

It is with this in mind that I was given the opportunity to travel to southern Africa – Malawi and South Africa – for two weeks at the end of 2022. ELM partners in this region are quite varied, but all of them are interested in working together with us in the field of theological education. By traveling to the countries, I not only developed important relationships with local leaders and gained new insights into their ministries, I also now have a better understanding of changes I need to make in order to increase the odds that cooperative educational efforts might be successful. In order to gain a still fuller picture, it would be helpful for me to travel to other regions as well; we'll see if the Lord makes that possible. In the meantime, I pray for guidance as we attempt to support the wonderful work Christians throughout the globe are doing to spread Jesus' love and the word of God's grace.

Prayer requests

Please pray for peace, both among nations and within each of us, as we witness the horrors of war. Please pray for my family that all of us continue to adapt to our environments – Natasha, Lukas (9) and I in Hermannsburg; Martin (16) at ballet school in Berlin, and Matvey (18) at Montana State University in the United States.

Yours in Christ,
Bradn

I am an ELCA pastor serving with the Evangelical Lutheran Mission of Lower Saxony (ELM). I spent 20 years of ministry in Russia before leaving there in March of 2022. If you have any questions for me, please feel free to write to me at: bradnbuerkle@gmail.com.

Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen News

Thank you to our June Volunteers, David Ude and the staff at Lakes Dental Care. This is the second out of three Lakes Dental has volunteered. We'll see them again in August.

Thank you to July volunteers, Jeni Berg, Terri McLean, and myself.

In May and June, the SK has served 3,308 meals and over 400 breakfast/lunch bags.

People have been very generous this summer by gifting A LOT of food from picnics, graduations, and parties. Just a reminder that we can only accept food that was prepared in a commercial kitchen and has been stored at proper temperatures.

The Soup Kitchen has a summer intern, Hailey. Hailey will be around every weeknight all summer to help until she goes back to college in the fall. It's a blessing to have her there.

If you would like to help at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, PLEASE sign up on the calendar next to the restrooms. Or call me so we can talk about it.

Ann Bergin, Soup Kitchen Coordinator at 218-820-5511.



After Pastor Drew put me on the spot during Sunday announcements and inquired how many families have been seen at our Operation Sandwich stops this summer in Nisswa, Pequot Lakes, Jenkins and Pine River, I thought I would share the numbers through 7/13/23. The simple fact is that numbers are high! Last summer our Northern Route averaged 47 families per week. This year the lowest weekly total has been 85 families, with the highest

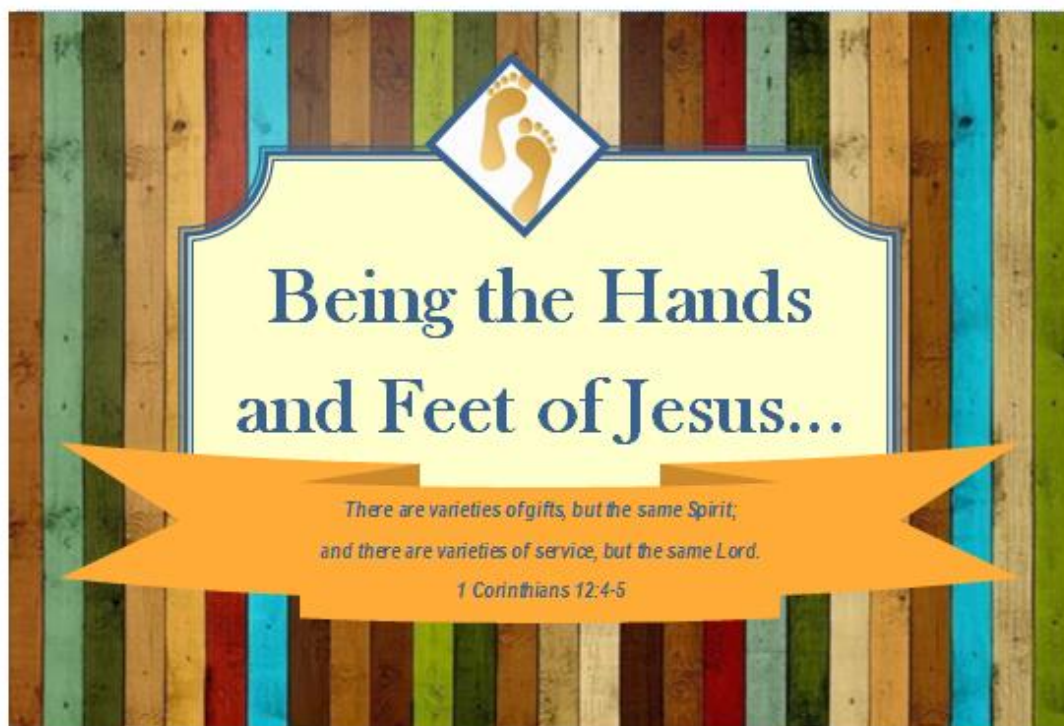
total 104. That's a lot of grocery bags to pack and carry and an incredible amount of work done by volunteers and Bridges of Hope. All our stops have seen an increase in families. I believe stuffing our rummage sale bags with Operation Sandwich flyers really helped get the word out! Area schools, churches, community events, food shelves, and media also shared our message well.

Packing food for our hungry families continues until 8/31/23. Your generous donations of peanut butter, jelly in plastic jars, granola bars, and Goldfish crackers have been greatly appreciated. Keep it coming. Monetary donations and support through Bridges of Hope also make a big difference. Please thank our grocery neighbor, Schaefer's, for ordering our fresh fruits and vegetables.

Count your blessings. Enjoy the rest of summer!

Jean Kraft

On behalf of Bridges of Hope



Volunteering at LCC

August Opportunities...

Coffee Fellowship: Help serve coffee, donuts & cookies on Sunday at the 10am fellowship. Instructions are readily available in the kitchen. Sign up with other people or couples! Sign up on the board next to the kitchen serving window in the Celebration Center. The last 3 Sundays in August are still open!

Worship Assistants: There are a few positions still available in August. We need a few Ushers at both the 8:00 & 9:00 am services, and a couple Worship Coordinators for 2 9:00am services. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex, or contact Laurie while I am gone.

Many Blessings,

Todd Whipple, Volunteer Coordinator

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed |
|--|---|--|--|
| facility calendar for: | | | |
|  | | 1 9:00 Computer Lab 9:00 Camp Yap-a-lap 10:00 Women in the Word 10:00 Coffee Clutch 7:00 Women in the Word | 2 8:30 Text 9:30 Quilt 5:30 Bells |
| 6 8:00 Summer Sunrise Worship 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship | 7 | 8 8:30 Staff Meeting /Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 9:00 Camp Yap-a-lap 10:00 Coffee Clutch | 9 8:30 Text 5:30 Bells |
| 13 8:00 Summer Sunrise Worship 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship/ Brian Stubbs TY 10:30 Holy Land Informational Mtg Sharing Market after both services | 14 | 15 8:30 Staff Meeting /Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 9:00 Camp Yap-a-lap 10:00 Coffee Clutch | 16 8:30 Text S 9:30 Quilt 4:00 Creati 5:30 Bells 5:30 9th G Faith |
| 20 8:00 Summer Sunrise Worship 9:00 Outdoor Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship | 21 11:00 Soul Sisters 7:00 People for Racial Justice | 22 8:30 Staff Meeting /Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 9:00 Camp Yap-a-lap 10:00 Coffee Clutch | 23 8:30 Text 10:00 Gath 5:30 Bells |
| 27 8:00 Summer Sunrise Worship 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship | 28 | 29 8:30 Staff Meeting /Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 9:00 Camp Yap-a-lap 10:00 Coffee Clutch 10:30 Novel Ideas Book Club | 30 8:30 Text 5:30 Bells |

| Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|--|
| August | 2023 | | |
| Study ers s of Praise | 3 8:15 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Operation Sandwich 7:00 A.A.  | 4 | 5 |
| Study of Praise | 10 8:15 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Operation Sandwich 12:00 PrimeTimers 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A. | 11 9:00 55+ Driver Improvement | 12 8:30 Cullen Lakes Annual Mtg 9:00 Lake Hubert Board Mtg |
| Study ers ion Care Team of Praise r. Stole Making/ Stmt Workshop | 17 8:15 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Operation Sandwich 7:00 A.A. | 18  | 19 10:00 Cullen Lakes Assoc. presents "Necessity of Wills & Trusts" |
| Study er Bible Study of Praise | 24 8:15 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Operation Sandwich 7:00 A.A. | 25 | 26 |
| Study of Praise | 31 8:15 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Operation Sandwich 7:00 A.A. | | Reminder: Before planning any meeting/event/gathering at church, call the church office for availability and scheduling. Thank you. |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1. Laurie Hemish, Kris Moody, Emmett Wilson
2. Tim Hernandez, Bennett Wottreng
3. Patrice Maier
4. Alice Carlson
5. Jim Bailey, Derrick Chase, Bonita Dunker, Max Roby, Emersyn Sullivan
6. Keith Both, Bev Cook, Lynn Durrenberger, Marlow Strand, Tony Trucano
7. Renee Johnson, Cory Olson
8. Jodie Hiles
9. Randy Hansen, Allison Van Vliet
10. Gary Boche, Bev Goff, Char Oraskovich
11. Gisela Borgwarth, Pete Christofferson
12. Jim Brandon, Marv Green, Jerry Leese
13. Patti Pluth
14. Karen Green, Pat Maccabee, Dale Peterson, Thea Ude
15. Byron Huseby, Nate Merseth, Pam Osmera, Kara Thomas-Jenkins
16. Colleen Both, Dale Christensen, Gail Goble, Jean Meyer
17. Bruce Domino, Gary Johnson, Debbie Rottschafer, George Sommerfeld
18. Cory Kralovetz, Ethan Thomas
19. Jon Fogarty, Duane Heikkila, Jennie Pelowski
20. Ron Reph
21. Elizabeth Knutson
22. Jean Larson, Steve Panzer, Kirk Tietz
23. Kate Henke, Bruce Kunkel, Ann Reid, William Scrimgeour
24. Travis Aune, George Martin, Tonya Wermager
25. David Clausen, Grant Loge
26. JoAnne Dayton, Kathy Kline, Roger Miller, Reese Schamber
27. Arlene Brodeur, Janet Erickson
28. Carol Carlson, Dean Dalzell, Marlene Larson
29. Lukas Lind
30. Sheila Avenson, Don Karlgaard, Bailey McMahon, Abby Pelowski
31. Mark Erickson, Marj Holmstrom, Joan Roberts, Wyatt Verville



ART & FAITH GALLERY

July 16—September 3, 2023

The second exhibit of the summer is

“A Tribute to the Life and Art of Russell Norberg”

Russ Norberg was a well known Minnesota artist whose art found its way across the United States and other countries. He was represented by several of Minnesota’s most noted galleries in addition to regional shows. His paintings are included in many private collections as well as corporate headquarters across the US.

Russ grew up in Minnesota and showed an early talent for drawing and painting. His formal training included a masters degree in studio art from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, plus additional studies in Louisville, Kentucky. After four years as a commercial artist, he was a high school art teacher in Staples for 12 years before becoming a fulltime watercolor artist.

The subjects for his paintings came from extensive travels in the US, Canada and Alaska, also Norway and Sweden. But most of his inspiration was from his experiences around the forests, lakes, and farms of Minnesota.

Russ lived from 1933 to 2022. We are appreciative that his wife Gwen and son-in-law Bryan Petersen have made this exhibit possible. Norbergs lived on Clark Lake and had a Nisswa Gallery.

Did You Know?

From the “People for Racial Justice” Group

Submitted by Marty Halvorson

When you look at your life what would you say is your most significant accomplishment? For many of us who have had successful jobs we might think of our work as at the top of the list. But what often comes first is that we have given our best at raising children, guiding them as best we could. I know in our family we have had all kinds of advantages with quality day and health care, educational opportunities and advantages with home and church. We never had to worry about whether our children would be taken from us and disappear.

Archeologists in Nebraska, at a remote boarding school, are trying to find the bodies of dozens of children who died there and have been lost for decades. Crews with shovels are searching for unmarked sites where ground-penetrating radar suggested a possible location for the cemetery of the Genoa Indian Industrial School. Genoa was part of a national system of more than 400 Native American boarding schools that attempted to integrate Indigenous people into white culture. This was done by separating children from their families and cutting them off from their heritage.

The school, about 90 miles west of Omaha, opened in 1884 and at its height was home to nearly 600 students from more than 40 tribes across the country. Newspaper clippings, records and a student’s letter indicate at least 86 students died at the school, usually due to diseases such as tuberculosis and typhoid. You will not find these statistics recorded in any of our history books.

The raising of our children had it’s bumps and problems, but we never had to be concerned in the way Indigenous families had to be.



LUTHER
CREST





***Heavenly Father,
Thank you for summer.***

Thank you for the chance to build great memories with our family. I pray that this summer be filled with more fun and excitement like never before. I pray that wherever we set our sights we will be encouraged. I pray there will be a lot of laughter, genuine excitement, and overflowing joy. I pray that the memories we make will truly last a lifetime. I pray that even while we are having fun we remember to serve those around us. I pray that we find fun in the ordinary and the extraordinary. I pray that our fun will be filled with peace and safety throughout the summer. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



September 10

Prepare Your Heart



Rally Day 2023

Worship at 9am and 10:30

Cross Kids and Staffed Nursery at both services



**What does a Tootsie Pop have to do with
preparing our hearts?
Join us for Rally Day to find out!**

Holy Land Pilgrimage

with Rev. Drew Bakken, LCC

REGISTER AT: tinyurl.com/LCCHolyLand24

October 26 to November 4, '24

VISIT: Herzliya, Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Nazareth, Cana, Tiberias, Caesarea Phillippi, Golan Heights, Mt. Arbel, Valley of Doves, Sea of Galilee, Magdala, Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, Jordan Valley, Shepherds Field, Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, Augusta Victoria Hospital, Mt. of Olives - Anns, Pools of Bethesda, Wadi Qelt, St. George Monastery, Baptismal Site, Dead Sea, Holy Speulcher, Church of the Redeemer, Western Wall, Jerusalem.

\$4,390 per person, double occupancy includes:

- Airfare to/from MSP
 - 8 nights in 4-star hotels
 - Breakfast & Dinner each day
 - Entrance fees to all sites
 - All ground transport in private tour bus
- <<< ● >>> —————
- \$300 deposit due at registration
 - \$1000 due on or before April 20, '24
 - Balance due on or before August 1, '24

Informational meeting on August 13 at 10:30am

Worship on Wednesday Resumes on Sept. 27

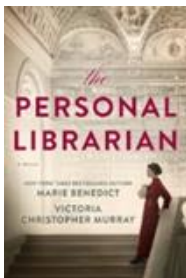
- Bells of Praise @ 5:30pm
- Supper starts @ 5:45pm
- Worship @ 6:20pm
- Route 56 @ 7pm
- Confirmation @ 7pm
- A Time For Us @ 7pm
- Senior Choir @ 7pm

NOVEL IDEAS BOOK

WHEN: Tuesday, July 25th at 10:30am

WHERE: Chapel Hall

Please join us for fellowship, treats and discussion.



The story of a young woman hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library and the lengths she must go to preserve her carefully crafted white identity in the racist world in which she lives.

LIBRARY REFLECTIONS

For those of you attending Wine & Words later this month (sponsored by Friends of the Brainerd Public Library), J. Ryan Stradal will be one of the guest authors speaking and you can find a copy of one of his books in your church library!



Here we meet a cast of lovable, funny, quintessentially American characters eager to make their mark in a world that's often stacked against them. In this deeply affecting family saga, resolution can take generations, but when it finally comes, we're surprised, moved, and delighted.

You can also find these books in the library by Minnesota author, **Lorna Landvik** who is emcee of the event: *Once in a Blue Moon Lodge*, *Oh My Stars*, *Your Oasis on Flame Lake* and *Patty Jane's House of Curl*.



CELEBRATE AMERICA by taking a look at the book selection in the Americana section. You'll find these and other great books:

The American Presidents by David Whitney

Blue Highways: A Journey Into America by William Least Heat-Moon

It Happened in America: True Stories from the Fifty States by Lila Perl

Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder by Caroline Fraser

CREATION CARE

Creation Care Team Presents



WILL STEGER

A formidable voice calling for understanding and the preservation of the Arctic, and the Earth, Will Steger is best known for his legendary polar explorations. He has traveled tens of thousands of miles by kayak and dogsled over 50 years, leading teams on some of the most significant polar expeditions in history.

**At LCC OCTOBER 7
1pm
in Celebration Center**

Steger will share about his adventures and the drastic effects of climate change on glaciers at both Poles.

STEGER
WILDERNESS CENTER
ELY • MINNESOTA



*There is no charge for this event,
which is open to the public*



The Sharing Market

In July we raised over \$400 and challenge the congregation to top that in August. Please donate plants, baked goods, jellies, flowers, and other produce and purchase these items so we can help our neighbors at the Lakes Area Food Shelf in Pequot Lakes! **There will be only 2 more sharing markets this summer — August 13 and September 10.** Will be set up in the Narthex following both services on these two Sundays.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
Church Council Meeting
Thursday, July 13, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

We Assemble in God's Name

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Council President Mike Smith

Present:

Pr. Drew Bakken, Pr. Michelle Ruen, Colleen Both, Rachel Gerhartz, Rob Norgon, Darrell Paske, Dale Peterson, Mike Smith, Bonnie Stevens, Brian Stubbs, Jenny Stubbs, Sarah Tietz and Lyn Underdahl.

Devotion: Dale Peterson

Officer Reports:

Council Minutes (June 2023)

- **Motion to approve by Dale Peterson; Second by Bonnie Stevens. Motion passed.**

Treasurer's Report (June 2023)

- **Motion to approve by Rachel Gerhartz; Second by Lyn Underdahl. Motion passed.**

New Business:

- 1.) Announcement: Brian Stubbs has resigned from his position as Sr. Choir Director. An appreciation celebration was set for August 13th.
- 2.) LCC's fee structure for weddings and funerals. Will be discussed at the upcoming Worship & Music planning meeting July 25th.
- 3.) LCC is currently at 48 % impervious coverage on its property and the city of Nisswa doesn't allow more than 50%- LCC's ability to expand depends on its opportunity to add to its property.
 - **Motion to create an exploratory committee to begin the conversation about expanding LCC's property by Brian Stubbs; Second by Lyn Underdahl.**

Old Business:

- 1.) The playground project was tabled for the time being. More conversation about the project, its cost, and the vision LCC has for its young members and their families was had. Pr. Drew and the playground committee will continue to explore their options.
- 2.) Two services will be continued at LCC, starting on Rally Day Sunday, September 10th. Times will be 9:00 and 10:30.

Pastors' Reports

Senior Pastors' Report; Pastor Drew:

- Every year I am asked the question. "Aren't you happy that summer is here so that you can relax?" The truth is, summer can be just as busy as the regular school year. This summer we as a staff have been busy discussing and planning for the upcoming fall programming such as Confirmation, Wednesday Worship, Wednesday programming, Sunday Worship, Bible studies, fellowship events and Sunday worship schedules. Ministry continues throughout the summer with Bible studies, nursing home worship services and visitations and so much more.
- One of the joys of ministry is walking alongside the members of our church from birth to death. It has been a wonderful journey. This June and early July, Pastor Michelle and I, have seen an increase in hospital visits and funerals. We have been honored to be able to walk with the members of our church and community throughout their life journeys.

- Summer time is our time to plan for future programing, but it also gives me time to reflect on things we have done over the past 6 years. It was 4 years ago that Pastor Kari took a group of church members to the Holy Land. Since their return I have been asked “when will we offer another trip?” I have been in contact with a travel company that is working with the ELCA. I penciled in October 26th thru November 4th, 2024 for a potential trip. On Sunday August 13th after our 9 am worship service, I will be holding the first of several informational meetings regarding this trip. If you are interested or would like more information, please let me know.
- In June, Brian Stubbs, our Sr. Choir director has let me know that he is stepping down as our choir director for LCC. Brian has led our choir program for the last 10 years, and will be greatly missed. Please join me in thanking Brian for sharing his gift of music with us. Brian and Mike Smith have volunteered to help us with our pick up choir during the summer until we hire a new choir director.

Associate Pastor’s Report; Pastor Michelle:

- June and July have been full and energizing months. There are two different services on Sunday mornings at 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM. Women Bible Studies, Text Study, Men’s Breakfast, Prime-Timers, and Novel Idea Book Club have continued throughout the summer months. Thank you for all your enthusiastic participation over the summer.
- We continue to be blessed with visitors gracing the doors of our church this summer. Thank you for making our guests feel so warm and welcome. Our coffee and donut time after service is well attended and appreciated.
- We had many Celebration of Life services in June and July as we honored our Saints that were called to their eternal home. We thank God for the hope in the promise that because Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, so shall we.
- A Visitation Ministry is in the planning stages. Would you be willing to be a friendly visitor to a member(s) of our church in the year ahead? Watch for more information on our future Visitation Ministry to come. We hope to begin this formalized vital ministry in the Fall.
- Have a safe and restful summer! See you in church!

Committee Reports:

Youth & Family Ministry: Sarah Tietz / Children & Family Ministry: Rachel Gerhartz

It's been a whirlwind summer so far!

- Attendance at Cross Kids has been lower than usual, due to family activities and vacations.
- Summer Stretch wrapped up - in all honesty it was a bit harder to coordinate this year. Again, it may be good to discuss options for next year.
- VBX was a rousing success and many thanks go out to our volunteers, families, and kids - we had between 50-60 kids this year.
- We have decided to table our motion to install a playground. More information and opportunities have come to light that warrant prayer and consideration.
- Our Affirmation of Baptism Workshop is slated for August 16 and all information has gone out to mentors and participants.
- Looking forward to outdoor worship this Sunday. Kari has a special outdoor busy bags ready and will also hand out Take Home Faith as well.
- Kari is working on Rally Day with the Theme, "Dare to Prepare Your Heart". So far she has a Tootsie Pop centered message, and is creating a bible study for the Pastors to do as a Forum for the adults.
- Sunday starts our week at Luther Crest - we have fewer kids this year, as many of our kids attended during different weeks as their schedules allowed. We will have 10 in attendance.
- Kari continues to tweak and prepare for our Holden Village trip coming up at the end of the month.

Worship and Music: Brian Stubbs

The Worship & Music team will meet for its annual planning session Tuesday, July 25, at the Stubbs' home. Overall schedule will be planned for the upcoming church year.

Stewardship Report: Rob Norgon

No report

LCC Property Report: Dale Peterson

- The project to replace the north steps with a handicap accessible ramp has been approved by the congregation. A contractor will be selected and hopefully scheduled for completion this summer or fall. The project includes removing the existing concrete steps and railing and constructing a heated ramp with a handicap compliant railing. We also need to replace the existing wooden exit doors with new handicap accessible doors.
- Todd is taking vacation through mid-August. Whitney will continue the cleaning and I volunteered to mow as needed and to assist with room setups when I'm available.
- Anderson Brothers will seal the cracks in our new parking lot. We are on their schedule and completion will depend on the weather and church schedules.
- The well was treated to remove the mineral buildup. The treatment resolved the problem of low water pressure and air in the plumbing lines.
- Other projects on the list include removing the in-ground steps by the pergola north of the kitchen, installing a handrail on the north steps outside the kitchen door, and continuing landscape improvements.

Social Concerns & Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens

Operation Sandwich

At the start of the summer, 750 individuals per week were estimated as requests and over 1,000 individuals have been served each week. That means, in order to meet the need for the rest of the summer, Operation Sandwich needs to raise at least another \$10,000. If you haven't had a chance to give yet, now is your chance to help reach the goal to serve families this summer and through the fall and winter holiday. Donations of peanut butter, jelly in plastic containers, Goldfish crackers and snack bars are always appreciated but monetary donations do purchase fresh fruit and other needed items through Second Harvest.

The Bridge on Seventh

Met with other Church volunteer coordinators and Anne Hunnicutt in June. The Bridge served 177 guests for a total of 3,500 sleeps this past season. September 15 is the date set for the initial opening of the Shelter for the upcoming season. Volunteers will be asked to sign up as they do for Operation Sandwich. Volunteer shifts are from 6:30 am to 8:30 am and 6:30 to 9:00 pm. With the number of churches involved, LCC may be assigned three different weeks throughout the season. Please consider signing up to work a shift.

Women of the Cross

ELCA Good Gifts Sunday and Blessing of the Animals. Bring your beloved pets for a blessing service sponsored by Women of the Cross, centered around God's good gifts to us through creation. Please consider supporting ELCA Good Gifts with a donation to help support the ELCA's very important work in this country and around the world. Good Gifts coloring books, banks, and stickers for kids are here to enjoy and take home and the bulletin will have an insert for Good Gifts.

7) Congregational Life: Lyn Underdahl

- Since last meeting, Pastor Michelle and I have visited about our approach and plan for creating a physical meeting with members from the ministry groups. While a meeting date of July 12th was being considered, we postponed it at this time. Busy time of year.
- Prayer Chain Ministry – Ann Bergin? How many members?

- Prayer Shawls Ministry – Colleen Both, other members?
- Funerals – Ministry – Sandra Hins & Sally Hodgson
- *Personally helped with a funeral and experienced the great organization of this ministry. So well done and includes a good number of people to help. Also, helpers were sensitive to not rush the family and friends at the fellowship afterward. Wonderful ministry of support and nourishment for those involved. Sue Whipple called me to ask if I would help.*
- Red Cross Blood Drive – Who’s in charge of this?
- New Member Committee – next mtg on calendar
- Library Ministry – Any thoughts?
- Fellowship Group Learning Ministries (small groups) Example: Prime Timers – what are the others?
- Prayer Ministry Team (Book Study)
- Visitation Ministry – Work in progress

8) Personnel: Darrell Paske

No Report

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, August 10th, 2023, 7 p.m.

Devotions: Rachel Gerhartz

Submitted by Jenny Stubbs

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 Mike Smith 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.



Congregational Meeting
Sunday, July 9, 2023
10:20 a.m.

Meeting called to order by Council President Mike Smith at 10:20 a.m.

A quorum was present.

Council’s motion to accept the recommendation by the playground task force for the building of a new playground at LCC was tabled to allow further congregational information and discussion.

Motion:

Council’s motion to approve the handicap access to the north entrance of the building, with an updated total of \$37,000 presented by Dale Peterson, LCC Council Property Chair, was seconded by Stacy Grothem.

Vote:

The motion was approved unanimously by congregation members present.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Jenny Stubbs

LCC Rummage Sale Donations

All items must be clean and in working order!

Please place all soft goods in plastic bags:

Clothing, Coats, Hats, Mittens, Bedding, Towels, Etc.

All boxable hard goods should be placed in totes with lids or boxes with flaps that close for stacking:

Bicycles, Books, Crafts, Electronics, Furniture, Hardware, Home Décor, Housewares, Jewelry, Lamps, Lawn/Garden, Office, Pictures, Purses, Rugs, Shoes, Small Appliances, Sporting Goods, Toys, & Miscellaneous

Not Accepting:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Badly Soiled/Broken Furniture | • Tube TVs/Tube Monitors |
| • Hide-a-Beds/Futons | • Reference and Textbooks |
| • Mattresses/Box Springs | • Encyclopedias/Magazines |
| • Car Seats/Car Booster Seats | • VHS & Audio Cassettes |
| • Cribs | • Doors/Windows |
| • Exercise Bikes/Treadmills | • Used Carpet |

Questions?

Call Marv (218-537-0522) or Liz (612-849-1500) - large items/significant volume
Call Lyle (218-330-5110) - electronics (flat screen TVs, computers, monitors, laptops, tablets, phones, cameras, etc.)

Fall Sale: Sept. 21 – 23, 2023

We Appreciate Your Donations!

(Donation deadline – September 16 at 2 P.M.)

Another Rummage Sale Sorting
Day. Thank you!



Church Directory

The 2023 church directories are for sale at \$10 each. Pay by cash or check (make out to LCC with *photo directory* written in the memo line.) Available in the church office during business hours. Thanks for all of our members for helping with this project.

SCSU'S DRIVER DISCOUNT PROGRAM FOR DRIVERS OVER 55 YEARS OF AGE

4-hour refresher course for returning students

Classes held at Lutheran Church of the Cross

August 11 (4 Hr Refresher) 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

September 8 (4 Hr Refresher) 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

1-888-234-1294 or 1-320-308-1400

Do not call the church to register—call SCSU



Update
your
Information



If you would like to receive weekly eblast notifications, please email the church office at laurie@lccnisswa.org with the email address you wish us to use. Have you changed your phone number, or no longer use your landline, changed your mailing address, etc.? If so, please let us know so we can update our database.

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 | Michelle Ruen | 218-961-2013 |
| Director of Children, Youth 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 |
| Volunteer Coordinator | Todd Whipple | 218-961-2052 |
| Senior Choir Director | Brian Stubbs | |
| Organist | Laura Raedeke | |
| Bell Choir Director | Cheryl Karlgaard | |
| King's Kids | Carol Smith | |
| Custodian | Todd Whipple | 218-963-2564 |
| ELCA Global Missionary | Bradn Buerkle | |
| LCC Office | Laurie Hemish | 218-961-2011 |

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| President | Mike Smith | Social Justice/Global | Bonnie Stevens |
| Vice President | Darrell Paske | Worship & Music | Brian Stubbs |
| Treasurer | Colleen Both | Youth | Sarah Tietz |
| Secretary | Jenny Stubbs | Stewardship | |
| Cong. Life | Lyn Underdahl | | |
| Children/Family | Rachel Gerhartz | | |
| Properties | Dale Peterson | | |

