

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church
of the Cross
2023

December



Advent: a season observed in the church year. It is a time of expectant waiting and preparation; just what are we waiting and preparing for? We await and prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas, as well as the return of Jesus at the Second Coming.

While retailers have been going full speed ever since the last piece of Halloween candy was handed out, the church uses the four Sundays before Christmas to build up anticipation, using our time to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration that is to come. At Lutheran Church of the Cross, we would like for you to use Advent as a time to slow down and get into a rhythm as you feel the presence of our Lord as Emmanuel. This is the intent of the Advent season.

Please join us at one of the many events that we are hosting this Advent season, from StoneHouse Fridays for Pastor Michelle's Advent study; volunteering at the Bridge on 7th; purchasing a gift for the Giving Tree –just to name a few. There are many more ministry opportunities during this Advent season that you will find in the newsletter and posted around the church.

On Sunday, December 10th come and join us at both 9am and 10:30am worship service for our "Musical Extravaganza," a wonderful service full of musical offerings from our Bells of Praise, Sr. Choir, King's Kids, and a message from Pastor Michelle at 9am. Or, join us for the 10:30am service to see and hear the message presented out by our Cross Kids and Youth (note that communion will not be served at either service.)

You are also invited to come and hear the familiar Christmas story and sing your favorite Christmas hymns at our Candlelight Communion services on Christmas Eve. Worship with us at 2pm, 4pm, or 6pm. Our Sr. Choir will sing at the 6pm service and this service will be live streamed as well. Because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, we will be having only one morning service at 9am to celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent.

Christmas will be here before we know it. Together, let's all take a moment to slow down, breathe, and feel the presence of our Lord as Emmanuel. *God with us*. Together let us anticipate and prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration that is to come. After all that is the true reason for the Advent season.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Drew Bakken



Christmas
EVE
Worship
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
9am Fourth Sunday
in Advent Worship
with Holy Communion

2pm, 4pm & 6pm
Candlelight Worship with
Holy Communion
*Staffed Nursery available
at all services*

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2023 General Fund

	<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>	Annual <u>Budget</u>	% YTD of Annual <u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 61,349	\$ 570,972	\$ 699,490	81.63%
Expenses	\$ 55,725	\$ 586,034	\$ 699,490	83.78%
Difference	\$ 5,624	(\$ 15,062)	\$ 0	

**In the month of September our income was greater than our expenses by \$5,624.
Thank you for your continued support.**



Annual reports due: Please submit your 2023 annual committee reports via email to Laurie by January 5th, 2024 at laurie@lccnisswa.org.

LCC 2024 Offering Envelopes will be available to pick up in the Narthex beginning **Sunday, December 3rd**. Those who give electronically or only a few times a year do not have offering envelopes. Any questions, please contact Karen Wiele, Financial Secretary at 218-961-2016.



*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him,
that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13

Merry Christmas from the staff of LCC.



After you have decorated your home for Christmas and set up the Christmas tree, take a moment to bless your tree. As a family, step back from your tree and recall that God has blessed you with life and that, just as the tree is evergreen, God's love for us is unending and never changes. Have each family member select an ornament on the tree and share a particular personal or family blessing that has been received during the past year. After each family member has shared, read the prayer.

O God, you made light shine out of darkness. Bless this tree that we decorated with lights in honor of Jesus Christ who has come to bring light to us. This Advent season, help us to show your light in our faces and be happy, radiant, and loving people. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Dec. 3	Kolby Clarine & Peyton Clarine	Kolten Hiles & Jacob Hernandez
Dec. 10	Graham Johnson & Noah Johnson	Anthony Nelson & Alex Pape
Dec. 17	Maggie Prahm & Walter Prahm	Allie Reilley & Bi Martini
Dec. 24	Hazel Schwanke & Jonah Schwanke	No 10:30 service
Dec. 31	Isaac Trees & Kellan Timmons	Kyle Christianson & John Christianson
Jan. 7	Dagne Neale & Aliana Lind	Emily Smith & Nora Nelson
Jan. 14	Gavin & Ethan Troisdahl	Lauren Scott & Anthony Nelson
Jan. 21	Gavin Johnson & Tucker Williams	Rebecca Bakken & Emersyn Sullivan
Jan. 28	Presleigh Larson & Violet Anderson	Jude Anderson



**ACOLYTES FOR
DECEMBER**



KING'S KIDS IN ACTION!



Route 56



Christmas Symbols & Meanings

- **Star** = the star of Bethlehem—and hope for humanity.
- **Fir Tree** = stands for everlasting life—its needles point upwards toward heaven.
- **Candles** = a mirror of starlight (the star of Bethlehem)
- **Gifts with bows** = the gifts the Magi brought to the baby Jesus—the ribbon signifies how we should all be tied together in love and kindness at this time of year.
- **Red and Green** = red stands for Jesus' blood; green stands for everlasting hope of all mankind.
- **Bells** = their ringing announced the birth of Jesus; shepherds used bells to help locate lost sheep.
- **Ornaments** = their bright colors mirror the Holy Spirit and shining hope. Their orb shape stands for completeness and purity.
- **Lights** = Jesus is the light of the world.
- **Candy Canes** = the shape is like that of a shepherd's crook. Again, the red in the candy stands for Jesus' blood, with the white indicating Christ's purity.
- **Wreath** = never-ending symbol of God's eternal love; generosity, giving and gathering.
- **Holly** = immortality.
- **Christmas Cookies** = ordinary dough is transformed into wonderful pieces of art, much like God fashioned each of us into wonderful pieces of art.
- **Evergreens** = they maintain their color all year, and green represents new life and strength.
- **Mistletoe** = love; it cannot grow without having a tree to attach to.
- **Dove** = peace on Earth that comes through Jesus.
- **Poinsettia** = the Star of Bethlehem.
- **Tinsel** = tinsel represents spider webs woven in the Christmas Tree by the Christmas Spider in a Eastern European tale. The spiders danced over the tree because it was so beautiful and when Father Christmas arrived, he transformed the webs into silver and gold so as not to disappoint the woman who had so carefully cleaned her house, sweeping the spiders away.





PLAYGROUND TASK FORCE UPDATE

After more than a year of meetings, discussion, and planning, we are happy to report that we have a final plan to present to the congregation. We will present our plan during Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, December 10. Drawings of the proposed plan, costs, and proposed location of the play structure will be presented. Jon Henke will also host an Adult Forum to address the plan

on January 7 during Coffee Fellowship. The proposal will be voted on at our January 21 Annual Meeting.

Special thanks to Task Force members for their time, input, and commitment to this project. We have worked prayerfully and diligently to come up with a workable plan and are anxious to share it with you. Task Force Members: Pastor Drew, Todd Whipple, Kari Erickson, Dale Peterson, Jean Kraft, Jon Henke, Julie Helsene, Danae Anderson, Sherry Pape, Maureen Schmidt.

Chat-n-Chow





ADVENT

The crazy holiday season countdown is like a great big package we tear into (earlier and earlier!) every year. It's bright and flashy, but we don't find a whole lot at the heart of it.

And then there's Advent.

Advent is like a small and carefully-wrapped gift that invites us to open it slowly, day-by-day, to discover new treasures inside each year. It's the quiet, magnificent story unfolding beneath all the shopping and celebrating. It's the real journey that will still be beautiful and true when everything else passes away. It is a time of happiness, celebration, and hopeful anticipation of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This is the story we should want our children to be swept up in.

They love anticipation and discovery; They love creating and celebrating. Help them pour that God-given energy and excitement into the stuff that truly matters this Advent season. If you have an Advent calendar, include scripture with it to be read each day. Taking a few moments each day to shift focus to Jesus' arrival will make a big difference. Make prayer a part of this moment—brainstorm some people, situations, locations, etc. that you'd like to pray for this Advent. As you check the calendar each day, choose one of your prayer requests and pray together for it/them. On Sundays, light an Advent wreath—it doesn't have to be fancy by any means. As you light the candles, talk about what it might look like to shine God's light in the coming week. Just don't let Advent become another burdensome thing to check off the holiday to-do list. Make it a fun and meaningful family time of a few moments each day.

Celebrating Advent as its own holiday, a special event all its own, makes the waiting for Christmas to come a little easier. The days pass more quickly. And, best of all, we talk about Jesus all month long. The key to observing Advent isn't doing every possible activity every day. The key to observing Advent is celebrating the coming birth of Jesus, celebrating a God that has so much love for us that He sent His Son as a humble human baby, born in a stable. The key to observing Advent isn't doing every possible activity every day. The key to observing Advent is celebrating the coming birth of Jesus, celebrating a God that has so much love for us that He sent His Son as a humble human baby, born in a stable. When the excited whirlwind of Santa and his elves blows through, we needn't worry about new toys and old legends. Our kids will know the Reason for the Season.

<https://www.dayspring.com/articles/simple-advent-activities-for-your-family>; <https://feelslikehomeblog.com/8-ways-to-celebrate-advent-with-kids/>

Advent Trivia: The first recorded mention of Advent occurred at a meeting of church leaders in Spain in the 300's A.D. The Council of Saragossa encouraged people to attend church daily between December 17-29.

- In Eastern Orthodox churches, believers participate in a Nativity Fast that begins November 15 and ends December 24. During the fast, they abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil.
- In Germany, Christians set four candles in an evergreen Advent wreath. Each Sunday preceding Christmas, they light another candle while singing Christmas songs.
- In China, families put up a "tree of light" and decorate it with lanterns, flowers, and red paper chains. Some give apples on Christmas Eve because the Chinese word for apple sounds similar to the word for peace.
- In the Philippines, people attend nine different early morning masses with the final mass occurring on Christmas Day. They decorate a bamboo pole with a lighted "lantern" that represents the star followed by the wise men.
- In Costa Rica, families decorate their houses with tropical flowers and set up a nativity scene. On Christmas Eve, everyone dresses up and goes to Midnight Mass.

WELCOME, EMMA TREES!



Please join the pastors and staff in welcoming Emma Trees to our ministry team! Emma will be not only working in our Nursery, but also with our high school youth. She will be hosting a Wednesday evening bible study hang out for all 10th through 12th graders that will start after Weds. Worship and wrap up

at 8pm. All 10th—12th graders are welcome and encouraged to attend. We also look for Emma to work closely with Kari and Pr. Drew in developing youth programming to meet the needs of our youth and their parents. She is a great addition to our staff at LCC!

Here's a pic of Emma with her family (L to R) Dad Bryan, Emma, brother Isaac, and Mom, Missy.



On Sunday, December 10, our Cross Kids and Youth will be presenting a Reader's Theater Christmas Story during the 10:30 worship service. There are no rehearsals required—Cross Kids are all invited to participate by making the sounds of the animals in the stable. Just come forward when Kari calls you and you will be a part of this wonderful story which will be read by some of our youth. All are welcome to participate and the congregation will be helping out, too! Special holiday Take Home Faith Bags will be handed out at the conclusion of the service.

Music Notes



December 2023 Hymn of the Month

ELW 281 Silent Night, Holy Night (STILLE NACHT)

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
‘Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior is born!
3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Public Domain

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel (God with us). Isaiah 7:14

It was Christmas Eve in the Austrian Alps. At the newly constructed Church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, a Tyrol village near Salzburg, Father Joseph Mohr prepared for the midnight service. He was distraught because the church organ was broken, ruining prospects for that evening’s carefully planned music. But Father Joseph was about to learn that our problems are God’s opportunities, that the Lord causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him. It came into Father Joseph’s mind to write a new song, one that could be sung without. Hastily, he wrote the words, “Silent Night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright...” Taking the text to his organist, Franz Gruber, he explained the situation and asked Franz to compose a simple tune.

That night, December 24, 1818, “Silent Night” was sung for the first time as a duet accompanied by a guitar at the aptly named Church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf.

Shortly afterward, as Karl Mauracher came to repair the organ, he heard about the near-disaster on Christmas Eve. Acquiring a copy of the text and tune, he spread it throughout the Alpine region of Austria, referring to it as “Tiroler Volkslied” (Tyrolian National Anthem).

The song came to the attention of the Strasser Family, makers of fine chamois-skin gloves. To drum up business at various fairs and festivals, the four Strasser children would sing in front of their parent’s booth. Like the Von Trapp children (from Sound of Music) a century later, they became popular folk singers throughout the Alps.

When the children-Caroline, Joseph, Andreas, and Amalie-began singing “Tiroler Volkslied” at their performances, audiences were charmed. It seemed perfect for the snow-clad region, and perfect for the Christian heart. “Silent Night” even came to the attention of the king and queen, and the Strasser children were asked to give a royal performance, assuring the carols’ fame.

“Silent Night was first published for congregational singing in 1838 in the German hymnbook, *Katholisches Gesang-und Gebetbuch für den öffentlichen und häuslichen Gottesdienst zum Gebracuche der katholischen Gereindem in Königreiche Sachsen.*(translated – Catholic Hymn and prayer book for public and domestic worship for the use of Catholic communities in the kingdoms of Saxony) It was used in America by German-speaking congregations, then appeared in its current English form in a book of Sunday school songs in 1863.

Were it not for a broken organ, there would never have been a “Silent Night”.

From “*Then Sings My Soul*”, Robert J.Morgan

“*For unto you is born this day a Savior, which is Christ the Lord*” Luke 2:11

Peace to you this blessed Christmas season.

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music Ministries



The December *Festival of Tables* is Friday, December 1, at 12:00. Come at 11:30 AM to preview the tables. Thank you to everyone who decorated a table, helped cook and serve the dinner, and/or came to share in this beautiful festive event. Thank you to Brian Stubbs and his Madrigal singers for entertaining us with musical cheer. A special thank you to Stacy Grothem for organizing and chairing this event which is sure to become a tradition at LCC as we kick off the Christmas Season!

January PrimeTimers will be Thursday, January 11, at 12:00 Noon. Put it on your calendar.

The poster features a background image of a desert landscape at sunset or sunrise, with a bright sun low on the horizon and mountains in the distance. The text is overlaid on this image. At the top, it says "Join Pr. Michelle this Advent for" in white. Below that, "StoneHouse Fridays" is written in large, bold, white letters. Underneath, "at 12noon in Baxter" and "December 8, 15, & 22" are also in white. In the bottom left corner, it says "Devotionals available in the narthex ALL ARE WELCOME" in white. In the bottom right corner, it says "come, emmanuel" in white, with "DEVIATIONS FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2023-2024" in smaller white text below it.

WOMEN in the WORD Bible Study

Join us for our December Christmas Bible Study on Tuesday, December 5, at either 10:00-11:30 AM or 7:00-8:15 PM. Come for treats, coffee, apple cider, and a rich time in God's Word. Enjoy the company and fellowship of your sisters-in-Christ as we delve into the Christmas Story. We meet in the Chapel Hall. Led by Pastor Michelle.



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.

A Time For Us Wednesday night Parent Group

A Time For Us for parents meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 PM. We are doing a book study centered around the book, Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles by Paul David Tripp. We have extra books if you would like to join us. Talk to Pastor Michelle for more information.

Grub 'n Games

No December Grub 'n Games due to the busyness of the season. We will see you on Friday, January 12, 5:30-7:30 PM in the Celebration Center for supper and games.



Toning with a Purpose Thursdays at **10:00am**. Join us every Thursday from **10:00—11:00am** in Chapel Hall for an hour of toning using bands and weights as we work on our core and balance. You are welcome and encouraged to work at your own intensity level. All are welcome! Instructor and Lead Teacher: Gloria Thomas.





WOMEN OF THE CROSS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY—FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH AT 1:30 PM
NOTE DATE AND TIME CHANGE

The annual Women of the Cross/Women of the ELCA Christmas Party is **NOW Friday, December 15, 2023, from**

1:30 to 3:30 p.m. All men and women are welcome to attend. Bring your spouse, neighbor, and friends. We will be enjoying light appetizers and Christmas goodies as well as Christmas Tea and coffee. During the party we will be putting together LWR Baby Care Kits and listening to a wonderful Christmas Message. ***BUT THAT'S NOT ALL--at 3:30 p.m.*** we will be going to **Hill's Crossing** to bring the Christmas Tree of Sharing Gifts and have ***some fun caroling with Hills Crossing residents.***

We are collecting donations for our baby care kits to be prepared that day. Please see the donation drop-off display in the Narthex.



2023 LCC Christmas Tree of Sharing
Sponsored by LCC Women of the Cross



Plan now to join other LCC members in gifting children and adults whose lives have been touched by trauma and brighten the lives of the elderly. This year's Sharing Tree gifts will benefit children of Adult and Teen Challenge participants, residents of Hills Crossing Senior Living, residents of Breath of Life Adult Day Care, families of Relationship Safety Alliance (Mid MN Women's Shelter), and students of ISD 181 Collaborative Services at Nisswa Elementary School. **Choose an ornament from the tree, purchase the gift requested on the ornament, bring the unwrapped gift (with the ornament attached) back to LCC and place it under the Christmas Tree of Sharing.** A Tree of Sharing will be in the Narthex and also one in the Celebration Center Hallway on **Sunday, November, 26 through Sunday, December 10.** Monday, **December 11 is the last day we can accept gifts** for the Christmas Tree of Sharing. The gifts will then be delivered to the appropriate organization. Thank you in advance for sharing your gifts as we celebrate God's gift to us of the Christ Child.



The Bridge on 7th -

Please consider filling one of the 14 volunteer spots during LCC's week to volunteer

NOTE Date change: **December 10 to December 17**. Follow the link to volunteer:

<https://whocanbethere.com/SignUp/week-of-december-10lcc/1V4mz3t2JPg>

If you have not volunteered previously, Bridges of Hope is asking for a simple background check and to sign a confidentiality agreement which will be done when you arrive.

Morning shifts are 6:30 am to 8:30 am and are the busiest times for volunteers making beds, assembling lunch kits and light cleaning. Evening shifts are from 6:45 to possibly 10 pm depending on the number of guests and staff needs. There is more time to interact with guests in the evening.

After our week, the volunteer slots will be opened up to anyone who would like to take a shift at the Shelter over the holidays. Since it's sometimes difficult to have one church or organization fill a week, everyone who volunteers is invited to check their schedules and fill in where needed. Please follow this link to volunteer.

<https://whocanbethere.com/SignUp/holiday-extra-shifts-for-all/1VPjxJt0nap/1OWyXJEbPKo>.



Don't we all have "sweet memories" of the Christmas season? These might include a favorite cookie baked by your grandmother or now holiday baking with your own grandchildren. Our Friends and Neighbors at the Lakes Area Food Shelf eagerly shop for holiday meal staples like turkey, stuffing mix, green beans, and cranberries from the LAFS shelves, but, just like us, they like to create memories with their families and perhaps bake that special plate of treats for Santa's visit. During the weeks before Christmas, we are asking for donations of baking items – flour, sugar, brown & powdered sugar, baking soda/powder, vanilla, chips, and decorating sprinkles. Help make this season magical for families in need. End of year monetary donations are also most appreciated.

Pray that the coming year will be one filled with blessings and good cheer for our Friends and Neighbors in need!

Jean Kraft

Board Member, Lakes Area Food Shelf



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.

LCC is Blessed with an abundance of volunteers!

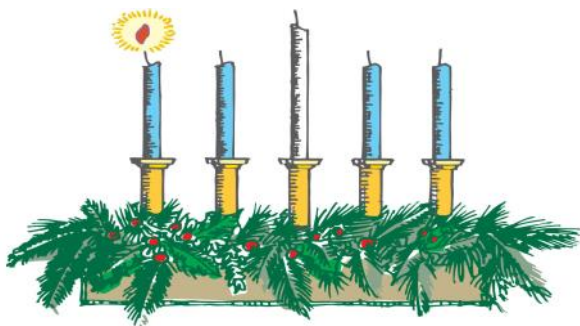
What a delight it was to see the well-attended Thanksgiving Eve service and all who gathered after in the Celebration Center for wonderful fellowship and pie! Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with this event:

Bradley, Giina, Peyton & Kolby Clarine, Bonnie Stevens, Pam Krawchuk, Allan & Sandy Loney and Dale & Connie Peterson. Thank you for being the hands & feet of Jesus and giving of your time!

December Worship Services: With *FIVE* busy Sundays in December, many calls to serve will be made seeking volunteers for all the Sunday services, and the Wednesday Eve services. So much appreciation to those who have already signed up, AND those who have yet to sign up! Your involvement is significant in the life of our congregation!



Advent Wreath Families: Each year at Church of the Cross we ask our young families to participate in our Advent Wreath Lighting & Reading. We are so thankful and appreciative of these families willingness to participate in the Worship Services on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings during Advent; you are each a blessing!

Christmas Eve Worship Services: With three Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services again this year (2:00, 4:00 & 6:00pm) approximately 60 volunteers will be sought to meet the serving needs. Many visitors are anticipated that afternoon and evening and we want to extend a warm and sincere welcome to all. If your holiday scheduling allows, please consider volunteering for one of the services. We will need ushers, greeters, communion assistants, readers, acolytes, and worship coordinators for all three services AND the 9:00am morning service on Christmas Eve day. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex, or call/text me at 612-810-2201. Thank you for your involvement here at Church of the Cross; your willingness to serve is a blessing!



May you and your family share in the Blessings of this Christmas season,

Todd Whipple, Volunteer Coordinator

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
facility calendar for: Dec			
3 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship w/ Youth Rolls 10:30 Worship w/ Communion	4 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group 7:00 People for Racial Justice	5 8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Women in the Word 10:00 Coffee Clutch 7:00 Women in the Word	6 8:30 Tex 9:30 Qui 5:00 Bell 5:45 Sup 6:00 King 6:20 Wo 7:00 Con 7:00 Sr.
10 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:00 Musical Ext. w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Musical Ext w/ Communion 1:00 Piano Recital LCC at warming shelter	11 9:30 MOPS 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group	12 8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Coffee Clutch	13 8:30 Tex 5:45 Sup 6:00 Kin 6:20 Wo 7:00 Co 7:00 Sr.
17 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:00 Blue Christmas Worship w/ Comm. 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Blue Christmas Worship w/ Comm. 1:00 Piano Recital <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	18 11:00 Soul Sisters 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group	19 8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Coffee Clutch 10:30 Novel Ideas Book Club	20 8:30 Tex 9:30 Qui 4:00 Cre 5:30 Bell 5:45 Sup 6:00 Kin 6:20 Wo 7:00 Con 7:00 Sr.
24 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 2:00 Candlelight Worship w/ Comm. 4:00 Candlelight Worship w/ Comm. 6:00 Candlelight Worship w/ Comm.	25 OFFICE CLOSED <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	26	27 No worship
31 SWEATERS & CAROLS 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship			

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>ember</p>	<p>2023</p>	<p>1 12:00 Festival of Tables</p>	<p>2 3:00 Parents Day Out</p>
<p>xt Study ilters s of Praise pper g's Kids orship w/ Comm. nf./Route 56/HSYG Choir/ A Time for Us</p>	<p>7 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 7:00 A.A. </p>	<p>8 12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>xt Study pper g's Kids orship w/ Comm. nf./Route 56/HSYG Choir/ A Time for Us</p>	<p>14 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>15 9:00 55+ Driver Improvement Class 12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter 1:30 Women of the Cross/ WELCA Christmas Party </p>	<p>16</p>
<p>xt Study ilters ation Care Mtg s of Praise pper g's Kids orship w/ Comm. nf./Route 56/HSYG Choir/ A Time for Us</p>	<p>21 8:15 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>22 12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>or programming</p>	<p>28 8:15 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
			<p><i>Reminder: Before planning any meeting/event/gathering at church, call the church office for availability and scheduling. Thank you.</i></p>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1. Dena Moody, Jesse Sullivan, Bonnie Tangen
2. Kiersten Kralovetz, Autumn Loge, Allie Reilley, Trish Reilley
3. Kerry Malmquist, Ben Schamber, Barbara Scrimgeour, Emily Smith, Brian Stumvoll, Cecilia Troisdahl
4. Karen Boche, Brett Dutton, Janet Haeg, Andrew Kirzeder, Keith Mickelson, Anne Pierson
5. Noah Hanson, Kirk Loge, Kelsi Martini, Janice Pietig, Ryan Ruckdashel
6. Lea Anderson, Lyle Hillman
7. Caroline Martin, Jim Pierson
8. Michelle Johnson
9. Cristi Hedtke, Carolee Wallin
10. Kate Carlson
11. Mike Brodeur, Jean Kraft, Theodore Merickel, Tony Schwaller
12. Lynne Blanch, Mary Boche, Connie Peterson
13. Colleen Bakken
14. Christopher Fogderud, Doug Johnson
15. Shawn Hansen, Chris Olson
16. Kolten Hiles, Cassi Holmstrom, Bonnie Nygren, Gavin Troisdahl
17. Linda Brandon, Debby Snyder, Missy Trees
18. Zach Hohertz, Dolores Weibel, Benjamin Wermager
19. Bob Beck, Jenna Bergin-Ude, Karen Holmen, Greg Tollefsrud
20. Jacob Hernandez
21. David Pelowski
22. Sarah Olson, Becky MacIver, Curt Wohl
23. Rod Opp, Joseph Reed
24. Brendan Brill
25. Everett LeBlanc, Karen Peterson
26. Jason Gorr
27. Julie Anderholm, Aubrie Schamber
28. Ara Anderson, Carter Dirkes
29. Carol Smith
30. Trevor Maier, Joel Mailand
31. Clara Bolt, Dick Schmidt, Stefanie Ubl, Byron Wacker, Grace Winegar



ART & FAITH GALLERY

"The Art and Faith Gallery is presenting a series of photographs taken by Dave Boran at the Will Steger **My Life As An Explorer** event sponsored by the LCC Creation Care Team on October 7.

Steger is known world-wide for his Arctic and Antarctic Polar Expeditions. Around 325 people attended as Steger described his life and adventures, warning us that tremendous changes are taking place as human-caused global warming is rapidly melting the glaciers."

Display is located in the celebration center.

Did You Know?

From the "People for Racial Justice" Group

Submitted by Marty Halvorson

Ojibwe call themselves Anishinaabe which means "True People" or "Original People". In the United States, Chippewa was used in all treaties and remains the official name so if you are confused by the number of names used to describe the same peoples that makes sense. There are 7 primary clans of the Anishinaabe people: loon, crane, fish, bird, bear, marten and deer. Members of the same clan consider themselves close relatives and could not marry within the clan.

God in Ojibwe is Gitche Manitou. Ojibwe religious life was largely personal but was also a daily concern with living appropriately and making one's way through a world filled with spirits. The spirits inhabited birds, animals, rocks and cosmic phenomena including the sun, moon, four winds, thunder, lightning and thunderbirds. Included in the spiritual practices of all tribes is the pipe ceremony. Smoking the pipe, for many First Nations, is rich in symbolism: offering tobacco to the almighty, demonstrating solidarity and power within a tribe or band, signifying honor and sacredness of life, as well as making a commitment, an agreement or treaty.

As we all know, the the war and terror attacks persist in ravaging the Holy Land. Due to this continuing unrest, I feel that it is best that we postpone our trip to Israel until 2025.

Sadly, fighting in this region has been going on for a long time. As we prepare for the season of Advent, let us bear in mind that God sent his Son into the world to bring it peace. Join me today in praying that peace that surpasses all human knowledge may rest upon the people of Israel and the Palestinian people.

May we focus our prayers on resolution of conflict and ask God to bring peace.

Pastor Drew





Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen News

I thought I'd share this beautiful poem that was written by one of our talented Soup Kitchen guests.

This is the time of year when we should give thanks for all we've got.
Hopefully no one believes this is true because in all honesty it's not.
All year long we should be thankful for the things that help us along.
Next give thanks for those in your life whose love helped you be strong.
Knowing that life without these things would be almost too much to bear.
For us, to not always be thankful doesn't quite really seem fair.
Until the day you finally walk upon this world no more
Live each day, giving thanks for all you're thankful for. -George

I'd like to thank our October volunteers, Tim Bergin and Sheila Avenson, and our November volunteers Jenna Ude, Nicole Nelson, and their golf team, for making the meal and serving.

Through meals we are able to show those in need that God loves them and that they matter. This past year Sharing Bread has served 18,508 meals and provided 3,402 breakfast/lunch bags to the homeless population staying at the overnight shelter, "Bridge on 7th".

LCC serves the first Thursday of every month. If you would like to volunteer please contact me, Ann Bergin at georgiabergin@gmail.com or 218-820-5511. I'd love to talk with you about ways you can help.



Lutheran Church of the Cross

Blue Christmas

Sunday, December 17, 9am
Worship with Holy Communion.
Wednesday, December 20, 6:20pm
Worship with Holy Communion

Join us as we create a sacred space for those living through challenges this holiday season. This Advent service is reflective and holds out healing and hope to all.



December 31
ONE SERVICE @ 9am

Sweaters & Carols Worship



Don your holiday sweater for this special service with Holy Communion

Why Does LCC Use LWR Farmers Market Coffee?

Meet One Community that Purchasing LWR Farmers Market Coffee Supports. Wadamba Dison and Nafuna Oliver from *Mt. Elgon region of Uganda* were childhood sweethearts.



They married young and experienced loss early into their marriage. “Losing our first child was one of the hardest things we have been through,” says Wadamba. The couple thought if children could stay in school longer, they could begin to envision a different kind of future for themselves. But the nearest school was a great distance away, and the route wasn’t always safe. After talking with others in the community, Wadamba and Nafuna felt called to start a school on their own property.

Now their farm welcomes about 250 students each day, and it has **become a ministry you can support just by enjoying your morning coffee.** The couple has been growing coffee on their 4-acre farm since 1988. Nafuna and Wadamba say coffee is the only source of income for their household and the school. Education is light. It is also the ministry Wadamba and Nafuna bring to their community, to help children realize better futures. With your purchases of LWR Farmers Market Coffee, you become a part of that ministry. For each order of delicious coffee LCC buys, Wadamba, Nafuna and many other farmers get a strong up-front price for their beans and share in the profits from the sale of the coffee with the other farmers and the school. This just one example of the many communities that LCC’s purchasing of Farmer’s Market coffee supports.

In 2018 the Creation Care team began this support by proposing that LCC purchase coffee from LWR Farmer’s Market. The overage cost amount of coffee over the budgeted amount would be split equally four ways: Creation Care Team, Women of the Cross/Women of the ELCA, Global Missions, and additional budgeted funds from the church. **Women of the Cross is a proud supporter of this extremely important ministry.**



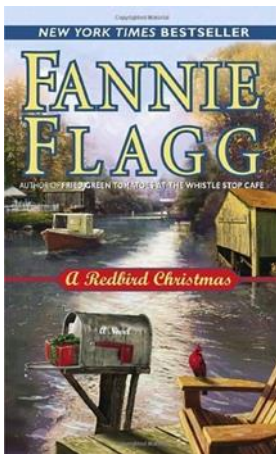
ADVENT

**HOPE.
PEACE.
JOY.
LOVE.**

**NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 24
SUNDAYS | 9AM & 10:30AM
WEDNESDAYS | 6:20PM**

in the sanctuary

NOVEL IDEAS BOOK CLUB



Please join us for this Christmas story of faith and hope for all ages!

Deep in the southernmost part of Alabama, along the banks of a lazy winding river, lies the sleepy little community known as Lost River, a place that time itself seems to have forgotten. After a startling diagnosis from his doctor, Oswald T. Campbell leaves behind the cold and damp of the oncoming Chicago winter to spend what he believes will be his last Christmas in the warm and welcoming town of Lost River. There he meets the postman who delivers mail by boat, the store owner who nurses a broken heart, and the ladies of the Mystic Order of the Royal Polka Dots Secret Society, who do clandestine good works. He also meets a little redbird named Jack, who is at the center of this tale of a magical Christmas when something so amazing happened that those who witnessed it have never forgotten it. Once you experience the wonder, you too will never forget A Redbird Christmas.

December 19th, 2023

10:30am

Chapel Hall

You'll enjoy the discussion, the fellowship and the Christmas treats.

LIBRARY

Wondering what books your LCC library has? Check it out online!

In the address bar of your internet browser, type in: librarycat.org/lib/lccnisswa

You can then search by Book Title, Author, Genre or Subject. If you have any questions or suggestions, please email or call: Jean Olson at ltlthndr@gmail.com or 763-234-9445.

Please note that all books will show as "Available" as we are not currently using the online check out part of LibraryCat. Also, the majority of the books have been entered, except for the seasonal and children's books.

The Christmas books are now on display on the table in the library. There is a variety for all ages!

May you have a very merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!



CREATION CARE

RECYCLE MORE!



These Items may all be recycled in Crow Wing County:



Plastic Water & Soda Bottles



Newspapers & Magazines

Glass All Colors



Junk Mail



Milk Jugs
(Please Crush)

Corrugated Cardboard
(Please cut and flatten)



Plastics with a neck
Lids removed and thrown



**No containers used for chemicals or automotive products (oil, antifreeze, etc)*



Metal Cans
(Please wash)

- DROPOFF LOCATIONS -

- Crow Wing County Landfill - 15732 State Highway 210, Brainerd
- Nisswa Community Center - 25636 Main St, Nisswa
- Ideal Transfer Station - 33503 W Island Lake, Pequot Lakes
- Crow Wing Town Hall - 6930 Cuyuna Ave, Brainerd - Open 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Recycling is good for the environment and our community.
LEARN WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME!**

To learn more about recycling in your area, you may call your local refuse hauler or Crow Wing County Land Services Solid Waste 218-824-1290. There are numerous recycling containers throughout Crow Wing County, check out our website www.crowwing.us

DO NOT include in your mixed recycling container:

- ⇒ No Food or liquids
- ⇒ No Foam Cups & Containers
- ⇒ No Loose Plastic Bags, Bagged Recyclables or Film
- ⇒ No Batteries
- ⇒ No Green Waste
- ⇒ No clothing, Furniture & Carpet



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 14, 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, Dean Dalzell, Rachel Gerhartz, Darrell Paske, Dale Peterson, Mike Smith, Bonnie Stevens, Brian Stubbs, Jenny Stubbs, and Lyn Underdahl.

Devotion: Jenny Stubbs

Officer Reports:

Approval of Last Month's Minutes (October 2023): Jenny Stubbs

- **Motion to approve by Lyn Underdahl; Second by Bonnie Stevens. Motion passed.**

Treasurer's Report (October 2023)

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

New Business:

1. Nominating Committee- All open positions for 2024 Council, Heartland & Synod Assembly have been filled for the Congregational Meeting Nov. 19th.
2. Sarah Tietz's Council position- Bryan Trees has agreed to serve in this position.

Old Business:

1. Playground Project- Continues to move forward. \$27,000 raised; \$60,000 estimate for total project. New plan will be presented Nov. 26 via Temple Talk and a display set up Dec. 10 so the congregation can view plans.
2. Exploratory Committee- no new discussion

Pastors' Reports

Senior Pastors' Report; Pastor Drew:

- The month of October was an exciting time in the life of our church. Confirmation has started up and I am so impressed with our confirmands this year. I am amazed at the questions that they ask, their willingness to serve and to see the community that is growing in their small groups. This would not have been possible without Kari introducing route 56 several years ago. That program led to the strong bonds that our youth are forming in Confirmation.
- A Special thank you to Dean Dalzell and all those that volunteered to help with our Stewardship Breakfast. We served almost 200 people on Stewardship Sunday. It is great to see the energy and love that our members have for our church. We are truly blessed.. It was a great morning.
- I am so impressed with the musical talents that our church has. The Sr. Choir seems to be growing with strong voices. I have enjoyed having them help us lead worship up front. There is something truly powerful and spiritual watching the joy that they have singing about God's love. Thank you to Cathy Taylor, Mike Smith, Carol Smith and Cheryl Karlgaard for leading our choirs. The love of music is vital part of our worship service and I hear over and over again how meaningful all of our worship services are because of the variety of music we have.
- As you have noticed the handicap doors have been installed by the offices. Once again we have had a wonderful campaign raising the funds for the doors and new ramp. The ramp will be installed this spring. Thank you to everyone who donated to this project.

Associate Pastor's Report; Pastor Michelle:

- To get the Christmas season underway, the PrimeTimers's December event is the 2nd Annual *Festival of Tables* which will be held on Friday, December 1. Thank you to Stacy Grothem for heading up this wonderful event. Thank you to Brian Stubb's Madrigal singers who will be providing the entertainment. Thank you to everyone who is willing to host a table and also, to the volunteers that help make this event a success. Tickets are \$15. Tickets are being sold in the Narthex after church or in the office during the week.
- Program Organizers for PrimeTimers in 2024 will be Ron and Sue Whipple, Mike and Carol Smith, and Bruce and Sherrie Kunkel. Thank you to these people for stepping up so that we have another year of wonderful programs. If you have an idea for a program, please share your idea with the committee. Thank you to everyone who is willing to host our monthly PrimeTimer gatherings. PrimeTimer's is a fellowship and learning group for those over 55 years old which meets the second Thursday of the month at 12:00 noon in the Celebration Center. Come join us each month for an interesting program and yummy dessert. Bring your own sack lunch.
- StoneHouse Friday is coming back! On Fridays from 12:00 noon-1:00 PM we will gather at StoneHouse Coffee in the conference room at RiverWood Bank in Baxter, MN. Beginning on Dec. 8, we will be diving into the Augsburg Fortress Advent and Christmas devotional, *Come, Emmanuel*. Join us for a time of conversation and devotion as we prepare our hearts for the birth of the coming King. Whether you can join us at StoneHouse or not, please take a devotional, *Come, Emmanuel*, home with you to use throughout the Advent Season. They are found in the narthex. Emmanuel came that first Christmas. Emmanuel comes to us today. Emmanuel will come again. Rejoice and share the good news!
- I pray you and yours will have a happy Thanksgiving. May we reflect on all we have to be thankful for this year. God's peace and blessings to you.

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music: Brian Stubbs

- We had a quick meeting Sunday, October 22, to approve the use of memorial funds from Kathy Kline's funeral to purchase choral risers. Mike Smith did the homework on the product and secured a competitive bid of \$4,715.65. (This bid has since increased to approx. \$6,000 as a back rail will be added for safety reasons.)
- The choral risers will be used in the sanctuary for the Senior choir, and can also be moved to other locations as needed. Most probable: move to the Celebration Center for the Christmas Extravaganza or other events. They can be adjusted to make a straight line or a curved shape as needed.
- The committee voted unanimously to make the purchase.

Stewardship Ministry: Dean Dalzell

Summary of Stewardship Breakfast held on Oct 15, 2023

First of all, a huge thank-you to the following volunteers who made this years Stewardship Breakfast possible: Dale & Connie Peterson, Brad & Joanie Swanson, Dick Rickbeil, George Olson, Mike Smith, Don & Cheryl Karlgaard, Darrel Paske, Jim & Jean Kraft, Shane & Sadie Moore, Steve & Mary Panzer, Bonnie Stevens, Diane Dalzell

Based upon a plate count at the front of the serving line, we served 160 people. This years count was slightly down from last years count. One possible reason was the 15th of Oct was the start of MEA week. The following food quantities were pitched from Shane Moore at Sysco foods.

30 lbs of pancake mix (6-5 lbs bags)
 8.81 lbs butter (individual packets)
 30 lbs liquids eggs
 400 individual precooked sausage links
 1 box orange juice (12- 46 oz)

Almost all the pancake mix was used, there was a small quantity left over. All the sausage links and eggs were served, we had plenty of butter left over and there was one container of OJ left.

I heard a couple of comments regarding tough pancakes. We began cooking the pancakes about an hour prior to serving time and placed them into the oven to keep warm. The pancakes cooked first were served first, so they may have been in the oven for an hour and dried out. Next year we will wait to cook the pancakes. That was the only comment that I heard.

I would also like to thank Rob Norgon for taking the time to brief me on organizing the breakfast and providing notes from previous events.

I'm open to any other comments / suggestions to improve the process.

LCC Property Report: Dale Peterson

- Fundraising for the ramp project is complete. Last week the new handicap accessible doors were installed at the north entrance. Removing the existing concrete steps and constructing a heated ramp with new railings will be completed early next year. The keypad access has been relocated to the outside kitchen entrance.
- Winter preparations continue with the snow removal service marking the parking lot boundaries. I will assist Todd in putting the ice melting mats on the roof.
- Please let me know if there are items or projects to be included in the 2024 property budget. Working projects include new carpet in the Narthex and hallways, creating a family/handicap accessible bathroom, painting the conservatory, and relocating the garbage container.

Social Concerns & Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens

The Bridge on 7th

- Please consider filling one of the 14 volunteer spots during LCC's week to volunteer December 3 to December 10. Needed are Ramen, Oatmeal packets, real sugar, creamer and coffee cups. Donations are dropped at the Shelter from 11 to 1 on Wednesday afternoons.
- There were 5 volunteers plus Ann who conducted the **Wilder Research surveys** to compile the Minnesota Homeless Study. I was able to attend the training and did two of the 13 interviews.

Central Lakes College Food Pantry

- Working with Kari and Route 56, we're doing the Treat boxes for the College on December 6 and Kari has started the Food drive for LCC Food pantry with a box and posters in the narthex.

Congregational Life: Lyn Underdahl

There are no special requests for this past month. The life of the congregation continues to be busy in small groups.

- Prime Timers: Programming meeting – Thursday, November 9 @ noon, yearly planning meeting.
- Prime Timers: Festival of Tables – noon on Friday, December 1st
- Prayer Shawl: Meets every Monday at 1:00 p.m. in Fireside Lounge – No report.
- Funeral Committee: No report
- Library: No report

Personnel: Darrell Paske

No Report

Youth & Family Ministry/ Children & Family Ministry: Rachel Gerhartz (submitted by Kari Erickson)

- Playground update: Pastor Drew has the display board of our preferred design. The Burke company rep came to LCC and looked at the space (behind CC) and came in with the best price. We are tweaking the design to perhaps add some additional stand alone components to provide for more activities

for younger children and those with disabilities. We hope to present the final design to the congregation on Dec. 10 between services. Julie Helsene will be doing a Temple Talk in November, and we will also do an Adult Forum before the Annual Meeting. We have approximately \$27,000 so far in donations for this project. Jon Henke has been EXTREMELY helpful and has provided much expertise and guidance. We will need to provide for excavation (donated by Eric's Excavating), retaining wall materials and labor, and fencing material and labor. Related to this project is relocation of the dumpster and recycle bins. Todd has been in contact with Drey Loge regarding this.

- Trunk or Treat went well, despite the weather. Next year the CYFM team will be challenging all ministry groups and committees to sponsor trunks next year. Unfortunately we did not have many trunks this year. Since this is such a great outreach ministry, we feel the need to increase the number for next year.
- We will not be attending the All Youth Gathering - the three kids we did have signed up all had to cancel. We will try to offer some sort of winter retreat instead. Kari will reach out to Erin Anderson to discuss possibilities at her camp.
- Koko Korner is going well, and attendance at Cross Kids is booming - two new families joined us this past Sunday. Sally Hodgson has been extremely faithful and helpful in preparing the take home activity bags.
- Kari has procured a couple of Thrivent grants for upcoming CYFM events, and has made a call out for more. We discussed the need for clarification on how to apply for Action Team Grants and that they are from funds OTHER than Thrivent Dollars. Hopefully with clarification, folks will be more willing to support our ministry with grants.
- Musical Extravaganza will include a Nativity Reader's Theater (featuring Route 56 kids and Cross Kids) at the 10:30 am worship service. There will be no rehearsals required.
- Our next big event is Parent's Day Out and we are looking for adults to help with Nursery and Supper prep and serving. We already have kids registered for this annual event.
- Route 56 will once again do CLC Food Pantry Holiday Cookie Boxes on Dec. 6, and to supplement, we are asking the congregation to donate needed items for the Pantry. A collection box is in the narthex. Bonnie Stevens is helping with this once again and funding it with a Thrivent grant. She will purchase fresh fruit to go along with our donations.
- Super Roll Sundays have been going well and we are getting used to our new routine. Thanks for your continued support of this program.
- Kari has another issue of PrimeTime Press ready to be sent to our shut-in members and for all other members to pick up in the narthex. This edition covers Nov. through Jan.
- Kari has ordered permanent oil candles for the Advent Wreath in the Sanctuary that includes a Christ Candle. This is a memorial/donation from Mark and Kari in memory of Kari's sister Jill Nilssen.

Closing Prayer: Pr. Michelle Ruen

Meeting Adjourned.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, December 14, 2023, 7 p.m.

Devotions: Dean Dalzell

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.

**2023 Annual Meeting Pt. 1
Sunday, November 19, 2023
10:05 a.m.**

Meeting called to order by Council President Mike Smith at 10:05 a.m.

A quorum was present.

Pr. Drew led the opening prayer.

Motion to approve the January 2023, Pt. 2 Annual Congregational Meeting minutes made by Sara Smith; Second by David Smith. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the July 9 and September 10, 2023 Congregational Meeting minutes made by Marilyn Quist; Second by Marty Halverson. Motion carried.

Introductions were made for LCC members on the Voting Ballot for open council positions, 2024 Heartland Conference representatives, 2024 Synod Assembly representatives and 2024 LCC Nominating Committee members.

Mike Smith called three times for nominations from the floor. None were presented.

Motion for a unanimous vote for the ballot nominees by the congregation made by Brian Wermager; Second by Bob Burns. Motion carried.

Pr. Michelle led the closing prayer.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Jenny Stubbs

YEAR END GIVING

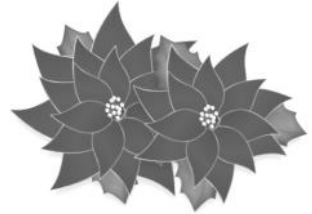
For those of you considering year-end giving which involve retirement accounts (ie: IRS's, 401K's, etc); the normal process can take up to several weeks to convert funds. We suggest you contact your financial institution early December. Please use the correct mailing address: LCC PO Box 29 Nisswa, MN 56468
All giving dated 12/31/2023 will be credited to statements if received by 1/02/2024. Please be aware the Postal Service has indicated there will be up to a five day delay in receiving 1st Class mail.

For those who use offering envelopes, the 2024 envelopes will be available to pick up at church beginning Sunday, December 3rd.

Christmas Poinsettias

Remember a loved one or honor someone in your family this holiday season by helping us fill our church with Christmas color! You can contribute \$15.00 toward the purchase of poinsettia plants for our church in honor/memory of a loved one. Complete the form and place in the offering, or mail the form and payment to the church office. Please write "poinsettia" in your check memo. These poinsettia tributes will be listed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve, so please clearly write your tribute on the form, with special attention to spelling of name(s).

We appreciate your help in decorating this Christmas season!



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM (due by December 20th)

Your Name: _____

Phone #: _____

_____ Plant(s) donated at \$15 = _____ (total)

_____ In honor of: _____

_____ In memory of: _____

Please make checks payable to Lutheran Church of the Cross and place in the offering or mail to the church office.

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
High School Youth Director	Emma Trees	
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	Mike Smith	
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	
Secretary	Jenny Stubbs	Stewardship	Dean Dalzell
Cong. Life	Lyn Underdahl		
Children/Family	Rachel Gerhartz		
Properties	Dale Peterson		

