

# Cross Currents

Lutheran  
Church  
of the Cross  
2021



It gives me great pleasure to announce that Lutheran Church of the Cross continues to move forward, as we transition back to in-person worship in Celebration Center on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. At our January meeting, our Church Council (along with the recommendations from the LCC Smart Team and staff) approved the move to Phase 3 of our reopening plan. Therefore, the following guidelines will be implemented:

- Anyone entering our facility must sign in (non-members will need to provide contact information) and everyone must wear a mask or face shield.
- Drinking fountains will not be available, with the exception of the touchless dispenser near Chapel Hall (bring your own bottle.)
- Restrooms use will be limited to those in SE corner of the building, near the Choir Room and Celebration Center.
- Our Nursery will remain closed until further notice.

**Sunday Worship** will consist of one service at 9am that will be broadcast live from the Celebration Center. This location will allow for social distancing, take advantage of greater air circulation, and help increase efficiency of sanitizing. Wearing masks will be required, and should you not have one, we have various types available here. Our worship service will be shortened, as there will be no call or response, and singing by the congregation will be limited. Bulletins and any other worship materials will be distributed in hard copy form for one-time individual use.

As the conclusion of the worship services, ushers will direct worshippers to leave the building in an expedient manner; we will not be hosting any fellowship time in the facility. For those wishing to, we suggest visiting in the parking lot (following social distancing and masking guidelines.)

In addition to holding Sunday services in Celebration Center, we will be once again implementing a special Cross Kids Worship Service for children ages Kindergarten through Grade 6 in the Sanctuary. This service will run concurrently with the 9am service in Celebration Center and will replace Sunday School for the time being. This service will be led by our Director of Children and Family Ministry, Kari Erikson and will include the use of video projected onto a large screen for participants to follow. Masking and social distancing will be observed.

**Wednesday evenings:** in-person worship will be held in the Celebration center at 6:20pm and will be broadcast online. Immediately following worship, programing for grades 5-12 will take place with all meetings wrapping up by 7:30pm. A hybrid model is available for those not wishing to not be in person.

**Ash Wednesday:** We will offer three opportunities for people to gather and receive ashes. Drive thru imposition of Ashes will be held from 12 noon to 1pm and 7 to 8pm in our front parking lot. Individual cups of ashes will be distributed and a brief prayer offered as you will self-impose the ash cross on your forehead. In-person worship service will be held in Celebration Center at 6:20pm with cups of ashes available for self-imposition during worship (this service will be streamed online, as well.)

This has been a challenging time in our lives and in the life of the church. No one could have imagined that we would be open this past fall and then have to go back to online and parking lot worship; but we are a resilient church. We have risen to the challenges and we have grown stronger for it.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support and we move through this pandemic time together. We will get through this. God is watching over us and giving us strength. And as we continue to move forward may we look upward, travel onward, and not be afraid.

Blessings,  
Pastor Drew

Lutheran Church  
of the Cross  
STARTS JAN. 31

*New*

**SUNDAY  
SCHEDULE**

**ONE SERVICE AT 9AM**

- ⦿ In-person in Celebration Center; masks and social distancing required.
- ⦿ Live streamed at [www.lccnisswa.org](http://www.lccnisswa.org)
- ⦿ FM broadcast to back parking lot - 87.9.
- ⦿ Cross Kids Worship in-person in Sanctuary; masks and social distancing required - for PreK to gr. 6.
- ⦿ Praise, Pedals and Pipes will be streamed at 10am each Sunday.

## Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2020 General Fund

			% YTD of	
			Annual	Annual
	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 70,328	\$ 614,916	\$ 672,326	91.46%
Expenses	\$ 55,534	\$ 584,062	\$ 672,326	86.87
Difference	\$ 14,794	\$ 30,854	\$ 0	

In the month of December our income was more than our expenses by \$14,794.  
Thank you for your continued support.

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### **FUNERAL**

Charlie Geiger

Born: November 1, 1945

Died in Christ: January 9, 2021

Funeral: January 18, 2021

Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant



Update  
your  
Information



*If you would like to receive weekly eblast notifications, please email the church office at [laurie@lccnisswa.org](mailto: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, went to warmer climates for the winter, etc.? If so, please let us know so we can update our database.*

# CHILDREN & FAMILY ministry

Lutheran Church  
of the Cross, Nisswa

## CROSS KIDS

**Sunday 9am worship in the Sanctuary is returning January 31 for PreK - Gr. 6. Wear your mask and sit on a yellow square in the pews. SEE YOU on Sunday!**

### WE ARE BACK TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP!!

All kids from preschool through Grade 6 are welcome to join us in the Sanctuary each Sunday at 9am for Cross Kids Worship. We will do a kid-friendly liturgy, hear a children's message, listen to songs and dance, and each participant gets a take home devotion and activity. We social distance and wear masks.

## Children's Call to Prayer

Let's be as still as stones,  
and as silent as the stars  
as we listen for the voice of God  
whispering in our hearts.

## A Parents Prayer for Lent

*Dear friends, we should love each other, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has become God's child. And so everyone who loves knows God. - 1 John 4:7*

Lord, Show us today the overlooked ways that we do not love others fully. The times that we ignore, or pass by, or give no attention. The moments that we have not let Your love invade. The times that are too busy to show Your love inside of us. Forgive us for cutting short what Your love would do. By Your power, help us to change habits this Lenten season in small ways. Help us become aware of any bias or busyness or selfishness. Help my children and me to display that we have been filled with the Holy Spirit by our generous and patient love. In Jesus' name, Amen.





# Thirty Seconds of Silence

Monks practice silence in order to better hear God. Your family can this Lent, too, by turning off radios and music players (maybe just in the car), turning off the television, eating a meal in silence, practicing Thirty Seconds of Silence, being silent for the first fifteen minutes of the morning, or even trying a day of silence.

Prepare for mealtime prayers or family prayer with thirty seconds of silence, a practice that helps everyone (including parents) settle down and refocus their attention. It also helps children learn to be silent and still, which is good preparation for other prayer practices, such as meditative or contemplative prayer.

Here's what to do:

- Explain that you will be spending time in silent prayer. You might encourage younger children to listen for the presence of God, or for what Jesus is whispering in their hearts.
- Light a prayer candle as a way of signaling that this is a special time, and as a sign of God's presence.
- Start with thirty seconds and gradually lengthen the time.
- Model prayerful silence by spending the time actually opening yourself to the presence of God. As much as possible, ignore children's fidgeting and giggling (at least during the time of silence). With enough practice, even young children will begin to imitate your example.

Once you've mastered the practice of thirty seconds of silence at the beginning of your prayer time, try it at the end of your prayer time, too.

—Jerry Windley-Daoust

## Celebrate Lent and make it a meaningful experience

*Celebrating Lent is about being intentional; about adding good things to our lives and about serving others. Here's some suggestions of things older kids and youth/tweens can do during the 40 days of Lent:*

- *Limit personal social media time*
- *Call someone instead of texting them*
- *Sub junky snacks with healthy ones*
- *Give uplifting comments instead of snarky or sarcastic ones*
- *Try to stick to a sleeping schedule*
- *Make your bed each morning*
- *Read the Bible each day. Try reading the Gospel of Mark over the 40 days*
- *Set aside time each day for prayer.*
- *Host family night—help choose a meal or snacks and a board game one evening a week.*
- *Do your siblings' chores once a week for them without being asked.*
- *Write a thank you note to one of your teachers or your pastor*
- *Help a neighbor with snow removal*
- *Bake cookies for a church member and deliver them with a nice note*
- *Ask a parent or caregiver to share a story from their childhood with you*

## **FROM ZACH'S DESK:**

I can't help but get excited for in-person ministry again.

When we shut down in November, we had no idea how long it would be. I remember wanting schools to stay closed through the holidays as that seemed like it would keep us the safest, and keep Ellie the safest. We wanted LCC and all of our members to be safe.

I am proud of the online streaming improvements we made in November and each little growth of skill I found as the tech guy. We were able to deliver a high quality message of hope to your living rooms. Not to mention, our wonderful drive-in parking lot worship. Pastor Drew did a wonderful job bringing us hope each Sunday morning as he bore the cold each Sunday morning. Something was able to still feel normal and worthwhile. Our souls were fed in unique and wonderful ways.

I look forward to Confirmation returning in person. Online small group attendance has been fading. It has been tough to keep track of everyone each week. We are having internet fatigue. It's real. To see your faces, even behind masks will be a treat. It will be a treat to have Family Faith Formation on February 3rd.

I look forward to High School Youth Group coming back in person. While we have had many good gatherings online, I feel like the content doesn't stick well, when we are talking through a screen. I thank God for those who consistently show up, week after week. I pray for all who have needed a break too.

I look forward to the opportunity that Lenten Mentors will bring. After a few very successful nights of Lenten Mentors last spring (just before the pandemic), we are looking forward to gathering with our Confirmation Students and their mentors for good conversation.

As we open up our doors again, come with patience, come with intent to practice good safety. For when we do this, we will be able to keep coming back to this beloved place. For when we do this, we love our neighbors.

See you soon.

In Peace,  
Zach

**In-Person Programming** - We are excited to open our doors again on Jan 31st! Our first Wednesday night in person will be February 3rd. Please continue to follow safe social distancing while attending our worship services and programs. Properly worn masks, sanitizing, etc. We will continue to offer online access to our programming. Please let Zach know if you would like to attend Confirmation or HSYG virtually.

**Family Faith Formation** - Join us and Bishop Amy Odgren on February 3rd at 6:20 for our final Family Faith Formation of the year. We are excited to host our newly elected Bishop. She will teach and lead us in conversation about the Church, the role of the bigger church in our lives and the life of the world.

**9th Grade Family Meeting** - Feb 3, following Family Faith Formation. 9th grade confirmation students and their families should attend our Feb 3 meeting. We will be talking about five points of your remaining time in the Confirmation program. Please let Zach know if you cannot attend. Online access to the meeting will be available.

**Lenten Mentors are back!** - After a few very successful nights of Lenten Mentors last spring (just before the pandemic), we are looking forward to gathering with our Confirmation Students and their mentors for good conversation. Youth: be sure to fill out the lenten mentor form before Feb 10.

**Lenten Mentors Needed** - Want to give back to the LCC community in a unique and surprisingly easy and enjoyable way? Join a young person for a 15 minute conversation each week in Lent. (Phone, online or in person.) Ask Zach for more details. [zach.youth.lcc@gmail.com](mailto:zach.youth.lcc@gmail.com)

**Feb 10** - Deserves it's own line. We will have our only small group session in Confirmation for a while, as we shift to Lenten Mentors. Be sure to be here. We will also be doing a super awesome service project.

**Ski Gull** - Keep your eyes peeled for information on Ski Gull for President's Day Weekend. Availability is not what we projected, so alternative plans are being formed as I write this.



# Music Notes

## February 2021 Hymn of the Month

### Brightest and Best of the Stars (STAR OF THE EAST)

#### Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair (DEO GRACIAS) Hymn 316



This month's hymn of the month is "Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair". The music is an old English melody from the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. The text was from *Sarum*, the 15<sup>th</sup> Century Missal or liturgy. It was translated from Latin by John Mason Neale.

Traditionally we sing this on Transfiguration Sunday, which will be February 14 this year. Transfiguration is when Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain and his appearance changed to radiant glory. His clothing became dazzling white. Appearing also was Elijah and Moses. A voice spoke to them from the clouds and said "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

Transfiguration marks also the last Sunday before the Lent season begins.

1. Oh, wondrous image, vision fair of glory that the church may share,  
Which Christ upon the mountain shows, where brighter than the sun he glows!
2. With Moses and Elijah nigh the incarnate Lord holds converse high,  
And from the cloud, the Holy One says, "This is my beloved Son".
3. With shining face and bright array, Christ deigns to manifest today  
What glory shall be theirs above who joy in God with perfect love.
4. And faithful hearts are raised on high by this great vision's mystery;  
For which in joyful song we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.
5. O Father, with the eternal Son, and Holy Spirit ever one,  
We pray you, bring us by your grace to see your glory face to face.

DEO GRACIAS (also known as the AGINCOURT HYMN) is the tune of this hymn and was also from the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. It was used to celebrate King Henry V's victory at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. It is written in the Dorian mode, which sounds very minor.

This is a triumphant hymn. You will hear it Sunday, February 14 when we celebrate the Transfiguration of Christ.

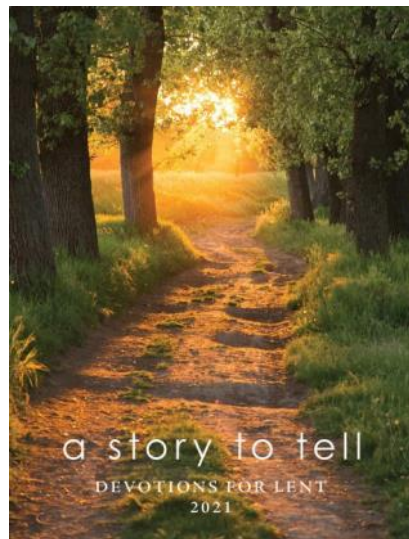
God's peace and blessings to you.

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music



**Lenten Devotional Journey is back:** join us as we walk together during the season of Lent. We will meet starting Friday, February 20th and continue every Friday during the month of March from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. in Chapel Hall in-person or online through Zoom.

We will be using the Lenten devotional book titled “A Story to Tell”. What wondrous love Jesus shows us and the world in his journey from baptism to the empty tomb! We will be following Jesus’s journey using the Gospel of Mark. Devotional books are available at church.



Lutheran Church of the Cross - Nisswa

## 2021 LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Drive Thru Communion and self-imposition of ashes  
from 12noon to 1pm & 7pm to 8pm;  
6:20pm service in CC (also online & FM broadcast)  
with self-imposition of ashes, communion

FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 24:

6:20pm Wednesday Evening Service in CC

No Route 56 during Lent,  
Confirmation Lenten Mentors in CC following service

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1

6:20pm service with First Communion

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2

6:20pm Tenebrae Service



## Winter 2021: “Journeys with angels” by Christa von Zychlin

**The Gather Winter 2021 Study, Journeys With Angels**, is taking us on an adventure of noticing and learning from and about God’s heavenly messengers, his angels. If we look and listen for angels, the spirits of God’s heavens, we’ll find out that they have much to teach us! In January we explored various kinds of angels, their place in God’s cosmos and their relationship with humans.

In the upcoming February session, Turnaround Angels, we will be approached by angels who confront and accompany people to a change of direction in their lives. You are cordially invited to join other members of LCC for the Gather February Winter Zoom on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. Please invite someone else to join us as well!

The author of this study will also be doing a video of that session that will be available at the gather magazine site- [www.gathermagazine.org/winter-2021-journeys-with-angels-by-christa-von-zychlin/](http://www.gathermagazine.org/winter-2021-journeys-with-angels-by-christa-von-zychlin/)

**Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 10:30 on Zoom.**

**Gather magazines are available at church and online.**

**Contact Carolyn Blanck at 963-7660 if you would like to be sent the Zoom connect information prior to our February meeting.**

# Shrove Tuesday



<sup>16</sup> Then Jesus used this story: “There was a rich man who had some land. His land grew a very good crop of food.

<sup>17</sup> He thought to himself, ‘What will I do? I have no place to keep all my crops.’

<sup>18</sup> “Then he said, ‘I know what I will do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger barns! I will put all my wheat and good things together in my new barns. <sup>19</sup> Then I can say to myself, I have many good things stored. I have saved enough for many years. Rest, eat, drink, and enjoy life!’

<sup>20</sup> “But God said to that man, ‘Foolish man! Tonight you will die. So what about the things you prepared for yourself? Who will get those things now?’

<sup>21</sup> “This is how it will be for anyone who saves things only for himself. To God that person is not rich.” Luke 12:16-21

Mardi Gras or Shrove Tuesday, is on February 16, 2021. This day is also known as “FAT or PANCAKE TUESDAY,” a day to feast and celebrate before the 40 days of Lent. However, there’s more to life than feasting and celebrating. Think about how you can fill your barn with God instead of self!

The word shrove refers to asking for absolution from your sins. Years ago it was typical to prepare for Lent by asking for forgiveness in order to have a clean spirit in preparation for Lent and Easter.

Lent is a time of fasting and spiritual growth, mimicking the time Jesus spent in the wilderness—Matthew 4:1-11. Many think of Lent as “wilderness time,” a time for contemplation and rediscovering your focus. For Jesus, it was His moment of readiness for His ministry. And like Jesus, we all need some reflection time to focus on our faith.

So—why pancakes? The pancakes themselves are made with ingredients and served with foods that people traditionally gave up for Lent. In the early Roman Catholic church, Lent was a time to fast and limit fatty foods—therefore, households would use up all of those foods the day before Ash Wednesday. Some churches would ring their bells to signal time for confession and time to start making pancakes!

As for the celebrating, it’s a reminder of our community of faith, the people who stick by us in good times and tough times—rejoicing that Jesus forgives us from our past mistakes and justifies us before God. ***-a little celebration before a period of contemplation.***

For us, forgiveness is always available in good times and bad. We are “shriven” by the Lord of the Dance—Jesus! Check out this You Tube video—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDdQhsjNHcw>

Jesus himself loved to feast and have fun with other people. When we gather, He is in our midst. So make some pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and ask Jesus to walk with you on your Lenten journey.

Drive-Thru  
Communion

Lutheran Church of the Cross

Sunday, Feb. 21  
10:00 am -  
11:00 am

Note new time

Please enter from the west entrance of the front parking lot follow the signs and directions of staff to get in line to receive the sacrament. Pr. Drew will be wearing a mask and gloves—we ask that all those in your vehicle wear a mask and remain in the vehicle. COME, ALL ARE WELCOME!

## ***FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS***

Our Sunday and Wednesday worship services will move to in person in our Celebration Center in February. WE will follow all the guidelines to keep everyone safe. We hope you will join us. I will be calling for Worship Coordinators, ushers, and communion assistants each week and hope you will be willing to help out. If I call and you are not comfortable, I will certainly respect your choice.

I would once again like to extend my thanks to all of you hearty Minnesotans who helped with our parking lot worship services in December and January. What a great group of volunteers.

A special Thank You to Mark & Jorgen Erickson for providing the trailer for each of our Parking Lot Worship Services in December and January.

Blessings,  
Sally Hodgson, Lay Ministries Coordinator

To Volunteer, please call:  
963-6250 (home)  
218-838-5765 (cell)



Sun	Mon	Tue	
<h1 style="color: #d81b60;">facility calendar for:</h1>			
	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting &amp; Prayers            10:00 Facebook Devotions            7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab by appt.            10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>8:30 Text St            10:00 Facebo  <b>6:20 Worshi</b>  <b>For</b>            7:00 9th Gra</p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p>9:00 <b>Worship w/ Communion</b>            9:00 <b>Cross Kids Worship</b>            10:00 <b>Praise, Pedal &amp; Pipes—online</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer            10:00 Facebook Devotions            7:00 MOPS</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab by appt            10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>8:30 Text            10:00 Face            10:30 Gath  <b>6:20 Wor</b>            7:00 Rout            7:00 Cont</p>
<p><b>14 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD</b></p> <p>9:00 <b>Worship</b>            9:00 <b>Cross Kids Worship</b>            10:00 <b>Praise, Pedal &amp; Pipes—online</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer            10:00 Facebook Devotions            7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab by appt            10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p><b>17 ASH WE</b></p> <p>8:30 Text            10:00 Face            12:00 Drive            &amp; I            4:00 Crea  <b>6:20 Ash</b>            7:00 Drive            &amp; I</p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p>9:00 <b>Worship w/ Communion</b>            9:00 <b>Cross Kids Worship</b>            10:00 <b>Praise, Pedal &amp; Pipes—online</b>            10:00 <b>Drive Thru Communion</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer            10:00 Facebook Devotions            7:00 MOPS</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab by appt            10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>8:30 Text            10:00 Face  <b>6:20 Lent</b>            7:00 Lent</p>
<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9:00 <b>Worship</b>            9:00 <b>Cross Kids Worship</b>            10:00 <b>Praise, Pedal &amp; Pipes—online</b></p>			

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Study Book Devotions <b>Worship &amp; Family Faith</b> <b>Confirmation</b> Home Family Meeting	<b>4</b> 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 A.A. 	<b>5</b> 10:00 Facebook Devotions	<b>6</b>
Study Facebook Devotions Prayer Study—online <b>Worship</b> Page 56 Confirmation & HSYG	<b>11</b> 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.	<b>12</b> 10:00 Facebook Devotions 	<b>13</b> Private baptism
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Study Book Devotions Eucharist Through Communion Composition of Ashes Pastoral Care Team <b>Wednesday Worship</b> Eucharist Through Communion Composition of Ashes	<b>18</b> 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 4:30 Rummage Sale Mtg 7:00 A.A.	<b>19</b> 10:00 Facebook Devotions 12:00 Lent Devotions: A Story to Tell	<b>20</b>
Study Book Devotions <b>Worship</b> Pastoral Mentors	<b>25</b> 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 A.A.	<b>26</b> 10:00 Facebook Devotions 12:00 Lent Devotions: A Story To Tell	<b>27</b>
			



# February BIRTHDAYS

1. Jorgen Erickson
2. William Ingram
3. Dayle Hushagen, Mia Wolter
4. Samuel Andrist, Emma Bestul
5. Rachel Gerhartz, Adam Kleist, Andi Kleist, Clint Lindberg
6. Mike Dunker, Bonnie Morris, Cathy Taylor
- 7.
8. Lucille Boche, Mary DeVahl, Mary Frost
9. Mike Larson
10. Denise Hallan, Erica Hanowski, Vickie Ottem
11. Terry Frovik, Tate Oium
12. Clint Baker, Angie Rardin, Boyd Maine
13. Eli Martini, Sandy Wacker
14. Bradley Clarine, Weston Hiles, Susan Pratt, Nikki Stark, Mary Tyler
15. Joseph Helsene, Eric Jaeche, Brent Stark
16. Cheryl Wermager, Maggie Wolter
17. Courtney Aune, Mary Backlund, Steve Heslop, Bob Miller
18. Billie Jo Jaeche, Susan Schmidt, Lisa Trosdahl
19. Amy Dirkes, Thomas Niggeler, Grace Whipple
20. Patricia Bohnet, Darci Martini
21. Silvia Schmitz, Dan Uebel
22. Andy Ogren, Chad Wolter
23. Kristi Dutton, Maria Erickson, Mike Hushagen, Alexis Lueck, George Olson, Thea Strother, Sydney Tietz, Mindy Whipple
24. Derek Maier
25. Jaime Boesen, Andi Clausen, Rick Harms, Karin Wolter
26. Nancy Hall, Kristin Hansen, Corky Johnson, Grant Kosobud
27. Esther Endicott, Whitney Fink, Dan Germundson, Beverly Hanson, Karlie Nelson
28. Jarrett Anderson, Dick Gady, Janae Petersen, Patti Oestreich





# Thursday Morning Prayer



To grasp the faithfulness of God which is ours every morning, to be able in the middle of life to begin a new life with God daily, that is the gift God gives with every new morning. That is why we meet every Thursday morning from 9:30-10:30 in the sanctuary for prayer. Restrictions have been loosened and we feel safe meeting masked in the sanctuary from 9:30 to 10:30 AM each Thursday. You are invited to join us. Come and be a part of a Mary experience away from the Martha treadmill.

*If you have questions contact Candi Barnack: 963-6059, or Carol Smith: 829-8142.*

Thank  
you!




Thank you for your donation to Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen. Your generous gift of money helps pay for 60-80 meals per day, served Monday thru Saturday at 5:30 pm at our facility.  
Glen Gustafson, Treasurer  
Sharing Bred Soup Kitchen

Thank you for supporting the Lakes Area Food Shelf. Your gift will help us ensure that no one at our door goes away empty-handed.

Tamara Larson, Director  
Lakes Area Food Shelf, Inc.



## A Message from our ELCA Global Missionary

### *Russian Correspondent*

#### Watchword for 2021



The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia in which I serve highly values the practice of reading Bible verses chosen for each day, month and year. The “losung” for the upcoming year is Luke 6:36 - “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

Looking ahead to 2021, it is clear that we will need all the mercy we can get. Here in Russia our experiences in 2020 have taught us to recognize in a new way the depth of our

own vulnerability and the seriousness of our responsibility to care for one another. At the same time, your brothers and sisters in Christ in this part of the globe have been reminded that “your Father is merciful” in a multitude of ways -including through your partnership! In response they are striving to radiate mercy through the ministries of their congregations and in their daily lives. Thank you for all the ways you support the mission of the church - through your prayers, through your offerings, through your personal connections. We look forward to restoring the best of what has been and to opening up new ways of interaction in 2021.

#### ***Prayer requests***

I am sure that many of you who are reading this have run into very serious challenges in many aspects of life over these many months of the pandemic. Having myself come down with the coronavirus (in a light form, thankfully) in May, for most of the year the main difficulties we faced on a personal level were related to keeping one another safe while at the same time trying to do the best we could for our children’s education and development. Things took a turn for the more difficult, however, after the summer. My father-in-law, Alexander, who was diagnosed with late stage prostate cancer in late spring, had difficulties receiving proper medical attention; both COVID and corruption played a role. By the fall we were able to bring him to Moscow for treatment, but by then many of his internal bodily processes were failing, and he needed all of us - my wife (Natasha), my mother-in-law (Alla), and I - to help him physically, while I tried to support them spiritually as well. In the last days of December, Alexander became infected with COVID after his doctor came down with the virus; Natasha, in turn, was also infected when helping out her father at the hospital. Alexander was transferred to a unit where we were no longer able to offer our help... and where he passed away on the morning of January 1. Natasha is isolating at home; no one else in the family seems to be infected. At the same time because these are the holidays here and because of the COVID diagnosis, everything related to the funeral is delayed and uncertain. I would certainly appreciate your prayers for Alla, Natasha and our boys (Matvey, Martin, and Lukas) at this time of mourning for the loss of Alexander, in addition to your continued prayers for your sisters and brothers here, especially St. Paul Lutheran, Pastor Vitaly Mohr, Pastor Manfred Brockmann, and all those who seek to spread God’s mercy in word and deed.

*Your brother in Christ, Bradn*



The second Annual NE MN Synod, ELCA —  
Lay Leader Network Gathering combines once  
again this year with Lutheran Men in Mission to  
host a special Zoom event :

## Faith-Filled Leadership in a Secular Age

Featuring **Dr. Andrew Root**

Saturday, February 27, 2021

9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

*Plus a special additional session with Dr. Root*

*For current LLN Yearly Intensive Students from 1 to 2 p.m.*

Please register via Eventbrite using the following link:

[https://nemnsynod\\_02-27-2021.eventbrite.com](https://nemnsynod_02-27-2021.eventbrite.com)

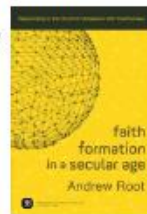
or via email to Bob Nelson, LMIM ([robertnelson97@gmail.com](mailto:robertnelson97@gmail.com)) and/or Sue Lyback, LLN Coordinator ([susilyback@gmail.com](mailto:susilyback@gmail.com)).

*The Lutheran Men in Mission and the Lay Leader Network are subsidizing the costs because of the need for a Zoom meeting, thus no registration fee is required. Donations to help us defray the cost, however, are warmly welcome; checks may be made out to the NE MN Synod, ELCA and mailed directly to the Synod office at 1105 East Superior St (Upper Suite), Duluth, MN 55802. Please indicate either "Dr. Root —Lay Leader Network" or "Dr. Root —Lutheran Men in Mission" in the memo line. Thank you!!!*

**ABOUT THE PRESENTER:** Andrew Root (Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary) is the Carrie Olson Baalson professor of youth and family ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Dr. Andrew Root is the Carrie Olson Baalson Professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary, USA. He writes and researches in areas of theology, ministry, culture and younger generations.



Dr. Root's most recent books are *The End of Youth Ministry* (Baker, 2020), *The Pastor in a Secular Age: Ministry to People Who No Longer Need God* (Baker, 2019), *Faith Formation in a Secular Age* (Baker, 2017), and *Exploding Stars, Dead Dinosaurs, and Zombies: Youth Ministry in the Age of Science* (Fortress Press, 2018). He is also a former Young Life staff worker, and he has served in churches and social service agencies as a youth outreach associate and as a gang prevention counselor. For more information about Dr. Root, his work and publications, visit: <https://andrewroot.org>



# FAMILY FAITH FORMATION



*Welcome,  
Bishop Amy!*

## *Family Faith Formation Night on February 3rd*

join us for in-person worship at 6:20pm with our NEMN Synod Bishop Amy Odgren and stay for discussion afterward.

**Topic:** *THE BODY OF CHRIST.*

What is a bishop? A bishop is a pastor called to serve as the senior pastor of a synod. It's a job that demands mental, spiritual, and physical energy. Bishop Amy Odgren was elected on August 29, 2020 to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Northeaster Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (NEMN Synod.) Her election took place at the 2020 online synod assembly. She was installed on October 17 in Walker, MN. She graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College and Wartburg Seminary, has served as a pastor and church redeveloper in Wisconsin, as well as assistant to the bishop and director for evangelical mission in the NWWI synod, and most recently served as assistant to the bishop (Tom Aitkin) and director for evangelical mission in the NEMN synod from 2016 to 2020. Most notable for us is that Bishop Amy (then Assistant to the Bishop) installed our very own Pastor Bakken here at Lutheran Church of the Cross!



On Weds., February 3 we have the special opportunity to get to know her better – ask her questions and hear more about her. Please join us!

### **How can you support Bishop Amy?**

She is not only one of our church leaders, she is our sister in Christ, and she walks her faith journey just as we do – she isn't perfect and yes, she sometimes doubts herself, and she makes mistakes once in a while—just as we do. Don't doubt her love for us and all of our fellow members of the NEMN Synod. Show her that we appreciate her service and have faith in her.

- *Now brothers and sisters, we ask you to recognize the value of those who work hard among you—those who, as followers of the Lord, care for you and tell you how to live. Show them the highest respect and love because of the work they do. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13*
- Pray for her - She needs strength that only God can give, but it can come with our faith and prayers. In fact, our prayers help to sustain her on her faith journey and in her calling.
- *So always tell each other the wrong things you have done. Then pray for each other. Do this so that God can heal you. Anyone who lives the way God wants can pray, and great things will happen. James 5:16*

An Organization working on Climate Solutions Lutheran Church of the Cross has shown concern for God's creation. We are aware that climate change is threatening our earthly home. We have done what we can here in Nisswa with solar panels, looked for ways to use energy efficiently, developed an active Creation Care Team and a wonderful organic garden space. Many of us are doing what we can as individuals to keep our air and water clean and reduce waste. In order to get policies that reduce pollution and reduce the effects of a changing climate we will need to work with legislators.



I am a member of an organization called **Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL)**. CCL is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that empowers people to work together on climate change solutions. Supporters are organized in more than 600 local chapters across the United States. **There are currently 25 chapters in Minnesota and one of them is in St. Cloud.** The organization models behavior we need in our country such as mutual respect, healthy dialogue and faith in the processes and institutions of democracy. In the years before COVID, members went twice a year to Washington, D.C. to talk to their representatives and senators to develop political will to enact policies that will deal with climate change. This year they have had to switch to online conversations. I have attended online conferences that are very informative and encouraging. CCL also has action teams, one of which is the **Faith Action Team**. That team currently has 10 religious groups including Episcopal, Jewish, Evangelical Christian and the United Methodist Church. The Lutheran Church does not yet have an action team. I liked the purpose that was stated by the Evangelical Christian team. Their purpose is to “motivate fellow Evangelicals to learn about and act to address the biblical, moral and justice challenges posed by climate change.” You can learn more about this organization by going on their website **[citizensclimatelobby.org](http://citizensclimatelobby.org)**. We hope to soon have the Lutheran Church be part of the Faith Action Team.

Carol Tack, member of Lutheran Church of the Cross  
member of the Creation Care Team

Fun Fact: the new Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) was effective on January 1, 1988, creating the largest Lutheran church body in the United States. The ELCA has nearly 3.5 million members in more than 9,100 worshipping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. We are known as the church of *GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS*, and we emphasize the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German reformer, Martin Luther.

## January 2021 LCC Council Highlights

### LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS Church Council Meeting Thursday, January 14, 2021

#### **We Assemble in God's Name**

Devotion: Pastor Drew Bakken

#### **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Council President David Grell

#### **Present:**

David Grell, President; Jamie Boesen, Vice President; Colleen Both, Treasurer; Darrell Paske, Secretary; Pastor Drew; Dale Peterson; Mike Smith; Pam Johnson; Jen Henry; Craig Fink; David Endicott, President-Elect; Sarah Fogderud, Vice-President Elect; Joanie Swanson; Kristin Lindholm

#### **Officer Reports:**

Council Minutes by Darrell Paske

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

Treasurer's Report by Colleen Both

- Motion to accept December Financials Mike Smith, Second Craig Fink; Motion Passed

#### **New Business:**

- Phase 3 – Opening the Church – Discussion was had regarding opening church and returning to services in Celebration Center with mandated COVID-19 safeguards, i.e., social distancing, face masks and limited congregational singing to begin on January 31, 2021, 9:00 a.m. Motion to approve David Grell, second Mike Smith; Motion Passed
- Discussion was had to move the Second Half of the Annual Meeting to coincide with the opening of church to January 31<sup>st</sup>. Motion to approve Jamie Boesen, Second Colleen Both; Motion Passed. Second Half of Annual Meeting will occur immediately following January 31<sup>st</sup> service. Meeting will be live streamed.
- Discussion was had regarding the need to replace the audio and visual equipment currently in use in the sanctuary based on its age and inability to meet current needs. Discussion centered around cost of equipment, location and physical modification needed to be made to the sanctuary. No action was taken pending further research and consulting with industry professionals.

#### **Pastors' Reports**

Pastor Drew:

As we look at the beginning part of January. There is a sense of hope and peace with the coming of a new year. Back in November we saw a huge spike in Covid 19 cases in the Brainerd Lakes

area and we made the tough decision to move to online worship and parking lot worship. In spite of the cold weather, we averaged about 60 people in worship. It has been a joy to see people show up every Sunday and for Christmas Eve worship. I will never forget the view of people standing up through the sun roofs holding candles and singing Silent Night.

Hope, that is what I have felt from the members of our church through their notes and emails, and the conversations I have had as people have come to outdoor worship, or drive thru communion. I have found hope through our staff who have gone above and beyond to help. They have helped at every drive thru communion. They have been there supporting one another as we have tried new ways of doing ministry. Throughout this time of Covid, we have grown closer as a staff as we have cooperatively helped each other in ministry.

In consultation with our Smart Team, Church Council and staff, I recommend that we as a church, move back to phase 3 of our reopening plan on Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. That means we will be worshipping back in person in our Celebration Center (masks worn and socially distanced) and stream online at 9 am. We will also resume in person worship on Wednesday evenings at 6:20pm beginning February 3rd. Thank you all for your patience as we waited for a time to safely gather again.

As we move forward I thank David Grell, Jaimie Bosen, Hilary Johnson, and Jason Martinson for their service on church council. This has not been an easy year, but I am grateful for their leadership and help as we continued our mission proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ through the challenges of a pandemic.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Property: Dale Peterson**

No Report

#### **Stewardship: Craig Fink**

No Report

#### **Worship and Music: Mike Smith**

No Report

#### **Social Concerns and Global Missions:**

No Report

### **Children and Family Ministry: Pam Johnson**

- It was truly a busy month, preparing for our "Amazing Christmas Story and Journey", preparing January Religious Release Packets for PL Schools, and January Sunday School packets for our families.
- Kari also prepared kits for children attending LCC Christmas Eve worship services, and got the mom's devotion packages mailed.
- Kari had vacation time that needed to be used up before the end of the year, so she took the week after Christmas off.
- Kari is currently working on February materials for SS and PL Religious Release, as well as prepping for Lent.
- Our Dec. Family Faith Formation and Camp Week were a success, and will start working on our Feb. FFF with Bishop Amy Odgren.
- Kari is working on starting a girls' Book Club using the book, Grace and Grit.

### **Youth and Family Ministry: Jen Henry**

- While December was different, it was wonderful. Christmas was one to remember. The youth were able to connect through extra activities like Tuesday Afternoon Gaming (which saw a spike in interest due to renewing our Minecraft server) and Movie Nights over Christmas break.
- January kicked off with Camp Wednesday and Camp Sunday, which went swimmingly. We had Dave Holtz from Luther Crest join us and preach on Camp Wednesday/Family Faith Formation. Thank you Dave for always being willing to join us in ministry.
- Additionally, we had our Summer 2021 trip meeting on Camp Wednesday. Hannah Damon from Camp Amnicon joined us online to talk about the Voyageur Canoeing Trip to Lake Superior we booked with them. It seems like a great ministry choice, as we have 12 youth registered in 6 days! (One spot remains open on the canoe at the time of writing this, 1/12.)
- Coming up in January, we have a Bob Ross Paint Party! Family Bingo Night! And a look at the remainder of our 9th graders' time in Confirmation.
- February will bring Tubing at Mt Ski Gull, Ash Wednesday, and the 2021 launch of Lenten Mentors.
- Ministry is still happening in new and exciting ways at LCC!

### **Congregational Life: Hilary Johnson**

No Report

### **Personnel: Jamie Boesen**

No Report



Meeting Adjourned: Closing Prayer Pastor Drew

Submitted by  
Darrell Paske, Council Secretary

Next Council Meeting:  
February 11, 2021



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



**Lutheran Church of the Cross Rummage Sale Meeting  
Thursday, February 18th at 4:30 pm**

If you are interested in or have suggestions for the LCC 2021 Rummage Sale(s), please attend this meeting. We will be discussing the future and opportunities of the LCC Rummage Sale.

*All things work together for good to those who love God, who have been called according to his purpose. —Romans 8:28*



Thanks to Dale & Connie Peterson for taking the leftover poinsettias and Christmas trees to feed their son's goats. We hope they enjoyed their festive feast!



Thanks to the "UN"-decorating crew of Mike & Carol Smith, Dick & Maureen Schmidt, Al & Sue Schmidt, Darrell Paske, and Clint Baker who took down the trees and returned the Celebration Center back to normal.

**Did you know? Old Christmas trees are packed with vitamin C and act as a natural de-wormer for goats.**

## EASTER GARDEN



Please fill out the order form below to donate to the Easter Garden to help decorate our church and to memorialize or honor loved ones during this season. Your gifts will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletins. The cost is \$15.00 per tribute. You may drop your form and payment in the offering plate or mail/bring it to the church office. Please write "Easter Garden" on the check memo line.

Thank you!

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print legibly

\_\_\_\_\_ # plants donated at \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

### 2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

President	Dave Endicott	Social Justice/Global	Bonnie Stevens
Vice President	Sarah Fogderud	Worship & Music	Mike Smith
Treasurer	Colleen Both	Youth	Kristin Lindholm
Secretary	Darrell Paske	Stewardship	Craig Fink
Cong. Life	Joanie Swanson		
Education	Pam Johnson		
Properties	Dale Peterson		

