

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church
of the Cross
2022



Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCC,

God is love! The full understanding of God's love for you doesn't happen in a day. It's an ongoing process. There is no end to God's love for you, and there ultimately will be no end to your ability to experience it. When you concede all your self-efforts, you will discover that your gracious Lord has been loving you unconditionally all your life. *"I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is."* Ephesians 3:19

We are calling 2022 - *The Year of Invitation*. Most people try a club, team, or church because of a personal invitation. We want people to feel warm and welcomed here at Lutheran Church of the Cross. It is our mission to bring people to Christ. Will you help us with this mission? Invite a friend, co-worker, or neighbor to our Sunday church service at 9:00 AM, a Wednesday night dinner at 5:45 PM, Wednesday night church at 6:20 PM, a Bible Study or text study, a fellowship group, a youth activity, PrimeTimers, a weekly Toning class, or a prayer group. Pick up a small group brochure in the narthex to see all we have going on here at LCC. Join in yourself, and remember to extend an invitation to someone else if you're able. There is power in a personal invitation.

Upcoming Dates:

- Feb. 1, Tues, begin accepting donations for spring rummage sale, see posted requirements
- Feb. 3, Thurs, 12:00 - PrimeTimers Brown bag luncheon. Program by Dick and Kate Carlson.
- Feb. 6, Sun, 11:30-2:00 PM - Game Day for families. Corn Hole, Volleyball, games, Sloppy Joes
- Feb. 9, Wed, 10:00 AM - Gather Bible Study, Women of ELCA
- Feb. 15, Tues, 10:00 AM and/or 7:00 PM, *Women of the Word* Bible Study with Vicar Michelle
- Feb. 18, Fri, 5:30-7:30 PM Pizza and Game Night in Celebration Center
- Feb. 20, Sun, 1:00-3:00 PM - Ski Gull Tubing for Route 56, Middle & High School
- Feb. 22, Tues, 10:00-11:30 AM - A Novel Idea Book Club, [Where the Crawdads Sing](#)

God's blessings on your month of February!

In God's Love,
Vicar Michelle

Your love, O Lord, surpasses all other loves in life. To sacrifice Your Son as an offering for our sins is the greatest love gift of all. Words cannot describe our heartfelt thanks - for giving us new life here on earth and eternal life in heaven with You. We are so honored and humbled, blessed and filled with nothing but praise for You. We exalt Your name. AMEN.



2022 is *The Year of Invitation* at LCC. How will you invite others to join LCC?...via worship, bible studies, small groups, Confirmation, Route 56, Cross Kids, etc.?

Read the letter below to see how one LCC member took our theme to heart and invited a family member to worship with LCC online. This is but one way of reaching out.

So, let's continue to come to worship and invite others to join us however they are able.

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11



Dear Pastor Bakken, Vicar Ruen, and congregation,

I just wanted to express my appreciation for the access to your services via the internet. I am not a member there but have a family member who is and directed me to the site. It has been such a blessing being able to virtually attend your services during this Covid pandemic. My husband is immune suppressed, so attending church in person right now is not a good idea. When you mention people viewing your services online from all parts of the country, we are included. We are snowbirds and spend winters in Arizona.

Your services are always uplifting and delightful. Messages are profound. The musicians are so talented, and my compliments to the decorators for the Christmas season.

Thank you for including those of us that are missing church services while we wait for Covid to subside. You are truly spreading God's love.

God bless you!

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2021 General Fund

	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Annual % YTD of Annual <u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 40,880	\$ 619,188	\$ 679,929	91.1%
Expenses	\$ 64,909	\$ 605,001	\$ 679,929	89%
Difference	\$ (24,029)	\$ 14,187	\$ 0	

**In the month of December our expenses were greater than our income by \$24,029.
Thank you for your continued support.**



FUNERAL

Clarence Carlson
Born: September 5, 1924
Died in Christ: January 10, 2022
Funeral: January 14, 2022
Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant

FUNERAL

Joyce "Jo" Zaiser
Born: August 23, 1928
Died in Christ: January 21, 2022
Funeral: January 27, 2022
Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant

BAPTISM

Name: Willow Ann Hanson
Born: October 25, 2019
Baptized: January 8, 2022
Parents: Luke & Ashley Hanson
Vicar Michelle Ruen, Officiant

BAPTISM

Name: Evelyn Nicole Barsness
Born: January 14, 2021
Baptized: January 16, 2022
Parents: David & Megan Barsness
Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant



The Endicott family would like to thank our LCC family for all of their prayers, love and support during our time of loss. We have been enveloped by God's love thanks to you and we are forever grateful. A special thank you to Pastor Drew, Laurie and Todd for all of their work in making the funeral happen. It was a beautiful service thanks to your efforts.

With thanks,
Sharon, Esther and Dave Endicott



Volleyball net will be up in Celebration Center and Cornhole will be set up in hallways!



Join us for Cross Kids each Sunday during worship to hear the Gospel "kid-style" - then join us after church for fun activities, video, & music to start your week off on a great note!



Family Valentine's Day Devotion

Have kids wash their hands. Say: **Valentine's Day is a day when we tell others how much we love and appreciate them. We might do this by sending our friends cards, giving people candy, or telling others how we feel about them. Let's see what the Bible says about expressing our love for others.**

Have kids form a circle. Pour the candies into a large bowl and place it in the center of the circle. Explain to kids that every time they hear the word *love* in the passage, each child can take one piece of candy from the bowl. But every time they hear the word *not*, everyone has to put one piece of candy back in the bowl.

Read aloud [1 John 4:7-12](#), pausing to allow kids time to take candy or put it back in the bowl. When you're done reading the passage, each child should have 10 candies.

Ask:

- **Put one piece of candy back, and tell about a time you needed God's love.**
- **Eat one of your candies, and tell how God has shown his love for you.**

What do these verses teach us about *real* love?

Writing Love Letters

Say: **On Valentine's Day we focus on loving others. It's important that we express our love for others; that pleases God. Most important, we want to show our love for the One who loves us most—God. He shows us his love in so many ways. So let's create a Valentine's Day card to tell God how we feel about him.**

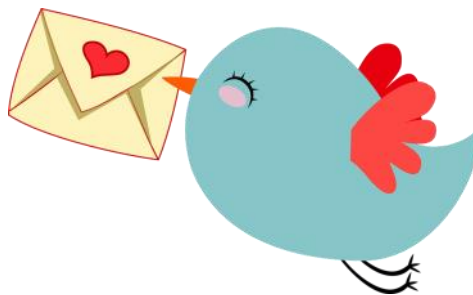
Give each child a pen and a sheet of paper. Encourage kids to fold the paper in half to create a card. Then have kids write a love letter to God while finding a creative way to include their conversation candy hearts into the letter. Rather than writing the words, kids can set their candy conversation hearts on the appropriate parts of the letter.

Once kids have each completed a love letter, encourage them to read theirs aloud to the group. Then have everyone enjoy the candy as you discuss the following question.

Ask:

- **What are some ways you can show your love for God this week?**

Say: **Just as you expressed your love for God in a letter, God tells us how he feels about us in his love letter, the Bible. That's where we can read about how he showed his love for us by sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sins. This Valentine's Day, let's celebrate God's love by remembering what he's done for us and by loving those around us.**





Our 10-12th grade team will be baking and serving cinnamon/caramel rolls on SUPER ROLL SUNDAY, February 6 in Celebration Center. All 8th graders invited to help!



5pm - 6pm

Fresh, hot, fluffly baked potatoes - you add your favorite toppings - butter, sour cream, cheese, chili, brocolli, ham, chicken alfredo.

Come and support this Children, Youth, & Family Ministry Fundraiser for camperships!

FREE WILL OFFERING



ON SUPER BOWL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13- HELP US TACKLE HUNGER BY BRINGING YOUR SPARE CHANGE FOR OUR SOUPER BOWL OF CARING NOISY OFFERING!!

All proceeds will benefit the Lakes Area Food Pantry in Pequot Lakes.

PEQUOT LAKES MIDDLE AND SR. HIGH SCHOOL

Religious Release

music
devotions
speakers
door prizes
fellowship
fun

February 16

Pequot Lakes Baptist Church



Here's the link to register for Luther Crest this summer—register by Feb . 14 to get the Early Bird Discount! LCC's week is July 24-28. Register for LEAPERS if you have completed 3rd thru 5th grade, WITNESSES if you have completed 6th—8th grade, or BLAZERS if you have completed 9th—12th grade (there is NO COST to be a Blazer!). Pr. Drew and Kari will accompany our group for the week. It's a great experience—come join us!! No money due until July, and each LCC camper receives a campership ON TOP of the Early Bird Discount!

LCC's Group Hold Code is 2022LCC.

https://www.luthercrest.org/uploads/8/0/5/9/8059210/2022_registration_form.pdf

Hymn of the Month



February 2022

The Light of the World is Jesus (LIGHT OF THE WORLD), text and music by Philip Bliss(1838-1876)

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.” Matthew 5:14

“I am the Light of the World.” John 8:12

Philip Bliss was an American writer of hymns and bass-baritone Gospel singer. He wrote many hymns, such as “Hallelujah! What a Savior!”, “Wonderful Words of Life” and the tune for “It is Well With My Soul”. He sang and wrote hymns for the Moody/Sankey Revival Meetings of the mid to late 1800’s. He chose this hymn of his because of its theme of Light. We are in the season after the Epiphany now, so “Light” hymns directing our attention to the Light that is Jesus is totally appropriate.

The story goes that On the last Thursday of 1876, Philip Bliss prayed with his boys, Paul, two, and George, four, and explained that he and Lucy-his wife- were leaving by train for Chicago to sing at D. L. Moody’s Tabernacle at year’s end. “I would far rather stay than go if it were God’s will,” he told them, “but I must be about the Master’s work.” The boys were left in the care of relatives. Another passenger on the Chicago-bound train, Mr. J. E. Burchell, later told the story: “There were eleven cars on the train that left Buffalo at two o’clock Friday afternoon...in a blinding snow-storm. We neared the bridge (over the Ashtabula River in Ohio) at about 7:45...We ran on the structure at a rate of about ten miles an hour, and the whole train was on the bridge when it gave way. The bridge is about 200 feet long, and only the first engine had passed over when the crash came...The first thing I heard was a cracking in the front part of the car, and then the same cracking in the rear. Then...a Sickening oscillation and a sudden sinking, and I was thrown stunned from my seat...The iron work bent and twisted like snakes, and everything took horrid shapes. I heard a lady scream in anguish...then I heard the cry of fire... The crackling of the flames, the whistling wind, the screaming of the hurt, made a pandemonium of that little valley, and the water of the freezing creek was red with blood or black with the flying cinders...The fire stole swiftly along the wreck, and in a few moments the cars were all in flames. The sight was sickening. The whole wreck was then on fire, and from out the frozen valley came great bursts of flame...”

According to Mr. Burchell, Philip initially survived the wreck but crawled back through a window to save his wife. Both perished together.

Among Philip's last hymns was "**The Light of the World Is Jesus**". The text:

1. The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin; the light of the world is Jesus;
Like sunshine at noonday his glory shone in, the light of the world is Jesus.
Refrain
Come to the light, 'tis shining for thee! Sweetly the light has dawned upon me;
Once I was blind, but now I can see; the light of the world is Jesus!
2. No darkness have we who in Jesus abide; the light of the world is Jesus;
We walk in the light when we follow our guide; the light of the world is Jesus.
3. No need of the sunlight in heaven, we're told; the light of that world is Jesus;
The lamb is the light in the city of gold; the light of the world is Jesus.

The last verse that Philip wrote is almost prophetic. Soon after composing this hymn is when he and his wife perished in that tragic train derailment.

Information for this article found on the Web and "Then Sings My Soul", Book 2 by Robert J. Morgan

Cathy Taylor
Director of Music

University of
JAMESTOWN

The University of Jamestown Concert Choir will be touring Minnesota from March 5th-11th, 2022. UJ Concert Choir has a long-standing tradition of excellence. Students from all academic disciplines participate in the choir. In order to achieve its mission,

each member demonstrates unwavering dedication to the musical goals through exemplary attendance, rehearsal discipline, and individual vocal development.

The Concert Choir has distinguished itself in performances throughout the United States and Canada, the People's Republic of China, and in several tours throughout Europe – most recently to Italy during the summer of 2018.

The University of Jamestown Concert Choir is directed by Dr. Aaron McDermid who is the Director of Choral Activities at University of Jamestown. In addition to conducting Concert Choir and Chapel Choir, McDermid teaches applied voice, conducting, ear training, and other related classes. McDermid is also an active composer, having written 25 commissioned works for ensembles throughout the United States, including the National Lutheran Choir and The Dale Warland Singers.

The UJ Concert Choir will be performing at Lutheran Church of the Cross on March 7th, 2022 at 7:30pm.



Ponder and Prayer Group-

Join us every Monday morning from 10:00-11:00 AM for a quiet time of meditating on God's word in the sanctuary, followed by a time of conversation and prayer. Please join us or let Vicar Michelle know if you have any prayers you would like our group to pray for. We would consider it a privilege and an honor to lift your prayer request up to the Lord. *For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matthew 18:20*

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP - EVERY TUESDAY AT 2:00 pm

Join Lyle and the guys every Tuesday afternoon in the old Youth room for coffee, cookies, and conversation. Last Tuesday was the biggest gathering yet! Yahoo! Come any Tuesday that you are able!



A Time for Us - Every Wednesday, 7:00—8:00 PM

Join in with other parents on Wednesday evenings while your child is in Confirmation or Route 56. This is a time to fellowship with other parents, share some stories and laughs, and grow in your own faith while your children are in their Wednesday night programming. See you Wednesday at 7:00. This is a time for you! Led by Vicar Michelle.

PIZZA AND GAMES - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 5:30-7:30 PM

Our February Pizza and Games will be Friday, February 18, from 5:30-7:30 PM. Join us for a free supper and fun games! There's bound to be a game that you will thoroughly enjoy! If you have a favorite game you'd like to play, bring it along! Feel free to invite friends and family! Come, eat, and play games!

WOMEN of the WORD BIBLE STUDY -

CHANGED to FEBRUARY 15

Join us for the Women of the Word Bible Study on Tuesday, February **15**, at either 10:00 AM or 7:00 PM. Come for a very special **February Valentine's Bible Study** on God is Love! Invite and bring a friend! No preparation needed. **Please come** and join in on this heartwarming stand-alone Bible Study! See you on the 15th!



Thank you to Dale & Connie Peterson for managing the Epiphany Bonfire on a very cold Sunday (January 9th).



Brrrrr!



Dale & Connie Peterson's grand-goats enjoyed LCC's Christmas trees & poinsettias.





**Plan Now to attend the
second session of the
Winter 2022 Gather Study
“The Kingdom of God” by
Rev. Mark Allan Powell**

**Winter 2022 Gather Study
Session 2: Parables, Banquets and Children
February 9th at 10am in Chapel Hall**

When Jesus talks about the kingdom of God in his parables he indicates that “God being in charge” can be Good News! In the February Session of the Gather Magazine’s Winter 2022 Study, “The Kingdom of God” by Rev. Mark Allan Powell, we’ll consider Jesus’ parables relating to the “Kingdom of God” and who benefits most when God rules! Many of Jesus’ parables reveal secrets about life under God’s rule and the obstacles needing to be confronted in our lives to make being “Under His Rule” a reality!

**Join us February 9th to discover possible new
meanings for you regarding “The Kingdom of God!”**

Rev. Powell is a New Testament Scholar and author of the world’s best-selling New Testament textbook and editor of the Harper-Collins Bible Dictionary.

Gather Studies are Bible studies published by the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in their magazine called “Gather”. Monthly copies of the Gather magazine, purchased by LCC Women of the ELCA, are available in the narthex.



Prime Timers Meeting is Thursday, February 3, 12:00 in the Celebration Center. Bring your own bag lunch; dessert and beverages will be provided.

Hosts: Jim & Jean Kraft, Jerry & Sharon Leese.

“Creative Traveling off the Beaten Path”

Starting with a 1963 summer in Peru, Columbia and Ecuador and ending with an abrupt return from Greece in Mid March 2020 because of the Covid19 pandemic, Dick and Kate Carlson have traveled the world, on the ground and as affordable as possible.

This month’s Prime Time program will provide you with details on some of their adventures and how they did it; affordably.

LCC Share the Love for the Warming Shelter – Bridges of Hope

Bridges of Hope, in partnership with law enforcement, Crow Wing County, nonprofit organizations, church partners, and community members recognized the need for a safe place for homeless adults (ages 18+) to sleep in our community. This group has come together in a collaborative effort to address homelessness by providing a low-barrier warming shelter that offers a safe place for individuals to rest for the night.

LCC Congregational Life and Social Concerns are requesting donations from LCC members for the following items on the Bridges of Hope Wish List:

Hand warmers

Gloves & mittens

Sweatpants & sweatshirts

Coffee & small paper cups

Kleenex & toilet paper

Hand soap & garbage bags

Twin sheet sets & twin blankets (no heavy comforters)

LCC collection bins are located in the hallway outside Celebration Center during the month of February.

For more info:

<https://www.bridgesofhopemn.org/warmingshelter>



REMEMBER YOU
ARE DUST

AND TO DUST YOU
SHALL RETURN

But your
soul
lives on...

March 2



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

...LET THE LENTEN JOURNEY BEGIN...

Drive-Through
ASHES & COMMUNION
12noon - 1pm

Worship
w/ ASHES & COMMUNION
6:20pm

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS, NISSWA



NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD, ELCA

Lay Leader Network

2022 Annual Gathering

Online via Zoom and

In-person at Bethlehem Lutheran, Brainerd

February 26, 2022 – 9:00 AM--2:00 PM

Plan to join us for a day of inspirational learning about lay leader ministries and going deeper to hear and answer the call the Lord has for you!




No cost to attend - Free-will offering for lunch
(recommended donation of \$7)

Registration and additional details at: <https://nemnlln2022.eventbrite.com>

QUESTIONS? EMAIL: LLN@NEMNSYNOD.ORG - CELL: 515.708.1412



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
facility calendar for:			Febr
		1	2
		9:00 Computer Lab 2:00 Men's Fellowship	8:30 Text 5:45 We 6:00 Kin 6:20 We 7:00 Cor 7:00 Sr.
6	7	8	9
9:00 Worship 10:00 Cross Kids Connection 10:00 Coffee Fellowship/Youth Rolls 10:00 Worship & Music Committee 11:30 Game Day & Volleyball Tour.	8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers 10:00 Ponder & Prayer 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group	9:00 Computer Lab 2:00 Men's Fellowship 5:00 Lakes Area Food Shelf Board Mtg	8:30 Text 10:00 Gath 5:45 Wed 6:00 King 6:20 We 7:00 Con 7:00 Sr. C
13 SOUPERBOWL DAY OF CARING	14	15	16
9:00 Worship w/ Communion & Baptism 10:00 Cross Kids Connection 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	8:30 Staff Meeting /Prayers 10:00 Ponder & Prayer 11:00 Soul Sisters 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group	9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Women's Bible Study 12:30 PEO Chapter 2:00 Men's Fellowship 7:00 Women's Bible Study	8:30 Text 4:00 Crea 5:45 Wed 6:00 King 6:20 We 7:00 Con 7:00 Sr. C
20	21	22	23
9:00 Worship 10:00 Cross Kids Connection 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 1:00 Tubing—Ski Gull	8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers 10:00 Ponder & Prayer 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group 7:00 People for Racial Justice	9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Novel Ideas Book Club 2:00 Men's Fellowship	8:30 Text 5:45 We 6:00 Kin 6:20 We 7:00 Cor 7:00 Sr.
27	28		
9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Cross Kids Connection 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers 10:00 Ponder & Prayer 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group		

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
February	2022		
t Study d. Supper g's Kids d. Worship nfirmation/Route 56 Choir/A Time for Us	3 10:00 Toning with a Purpose 12:00 PrimeTimers 7:00 A.A. 	4 9:00 55+ Driver Discount	5
Study ner Study l. Supper 's Kids d. Worship nfirmation/Route 56 Choir/Time for Us	10 9:00 MOPS 10:00 Toning with a Purpose 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.	11 	12
Study tion Care Team Mtg l. Supper 's Kids d. Worship nfirmation/Route 56 hoi/Time for Us	17 9:00 MOPS 10:00 Toning with a Purpose 7:00 A.A.	18 5:30 Pizza & Game Night	19 10:00 Private Baptism
Study d. Supper g's Kids d. Worship nfirmation/Route 56 Choir/A Time for Us	24 10:00 Toning with a Purpose 12:00 Garden Club 7:00 A.A.	25	26
			

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1. Jorgen Erickson
2. William Ingram
3. Dayle Vettleson, Mia Wolter
4. Samuel Andrist, Emma Bestul
5. Rachel Gerhartz, Clint Lindberg
6. Mike Dunker, Nollie Loge, Bonnie Morris, Cathy Taylor
- 7.
8. Lucy Boche, Mary DeVahl, Mary Frost
9. Mike Larson
10. Denise Hallan, Erica Hanowski, Vickie Ottem
11. Terry Frovik, Tate Oium
12. Clint Baker, Boyd Maine, Angie Rardin
13. Eli Martini, Sandy Wacker
14. Bradley Clarine, Weston Hiles, Sue 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, Nicolle Speed
18. Billie Jo Jaeche, Susan Schmidt, Lisa Trosdahl
19. Amy Dirkes, Thomas Niggler, Grace Whipple
20. Patricia Bohnet, Darci Martini
21. 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. Kristin Hansen, Corky Johnson, Grant Kosobud
27. Esther Endicott, Dan Germundson, Beverly Hanson, Karlie Larson
28. Jarrett Anderson, Patti Oestreich



LOOKING FOR A GOOD BOOK TO CUDDLE UP WITH ON A COLD WINTER DAY?



The library has several good books and here are some of the authors that you will find:

Max Lucado

Billy Graham

Kent William Krueger

Lorna Landvik

Jan Karon

Louise Erdrich

Tony Dungy

C. S. Lewis

Be sure to also explore the books available to our youth of all ages!

If you have any special requests for books/authors that you'd like to see added to the library, please leave a note in the book return basket and we will consider those with the next book order. Thank you for supporting the church library.

Beginning February 1st, we will be accepting donations for the LCC Spring Rummage Sale. Much appreciated if you can hold your donations until Rummage Sale week in April due to limited storage space.

All items donated must be in clean, ready to sell condition:

- Clothing, Shoes, Bedding, Linens etc. must be placed in plastic bags.
- Housewares, books, games, puzzles, toys, etc. and breakable items must be placed in stackable boxes or totes.
- Furniture and large items and any questions, please call Marv Green at 218-537-0522.

List of what can and cannot be accepted available at church.

If you have working electronics to donate, please contact Lyle at 218-330-5110.

Stay tuned for more details!



A Message from our ELCA Global Missionary

Russian Correspondent

ELCSUFE Synod Assembly and Seminar

The 30th annual synod assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Urals, Siberia, and the Far East (ELCUSFE) was held from October 22 to 24 in Christ Church Center in Omsk. The theme of the assembly was taken from Isaiah 58.11: "The Lord will guide you continually." Synod delegates and guests spent the days together listening to one another's stories, praying with and for one another, and thinking and planning together in response to God's continuing guidance in these uncertain times.



Reports by Archbishop Brauer and Bishop Scheiermann brought encouragement to approach ministry holistically and in accordance with the universal aspects of the church's call; this was supplemented by discussions in small groups that dove deeper into the key components (church structure, new ministries, education, staffing, and financial independence) of the church's strategic plan through 2025. Continued work in these areas will be done, in part, together with the

accompaniment of church partners in Germany (Hermannsburg Mission; Hannover Church). It is important that this process continues and intensifies as the end of current funding agreements rapidly approaches.

Bishop Scheiermann's desire to follow up the synod assembly with a seminar that would continue to explore the area of motivation for ministry led to 5 days of lessons that examined this theme from various points of view. I, Pastor Jacob Rueb (Saratov region), Pastor Martin Weingaertner (Brazil), and Sister Sabine Mattis (Ural region), worked with over 15 participants from over a dozen cities on these issues with the hope that this might stimulate positive changes for those involved in congregational ministries.

These annual fall events in Omsk were once again an important opportunity to revitalize the church's sense of unity over long distances. In addition to the practical issues of ELCUSFE that were resolved by official delegates, participants of both the assembly and the seminar were able to provide spiritual, personal, and professional ministry support to one another for the good of spreading the Gospel.

Your brother in Christ, Bradn

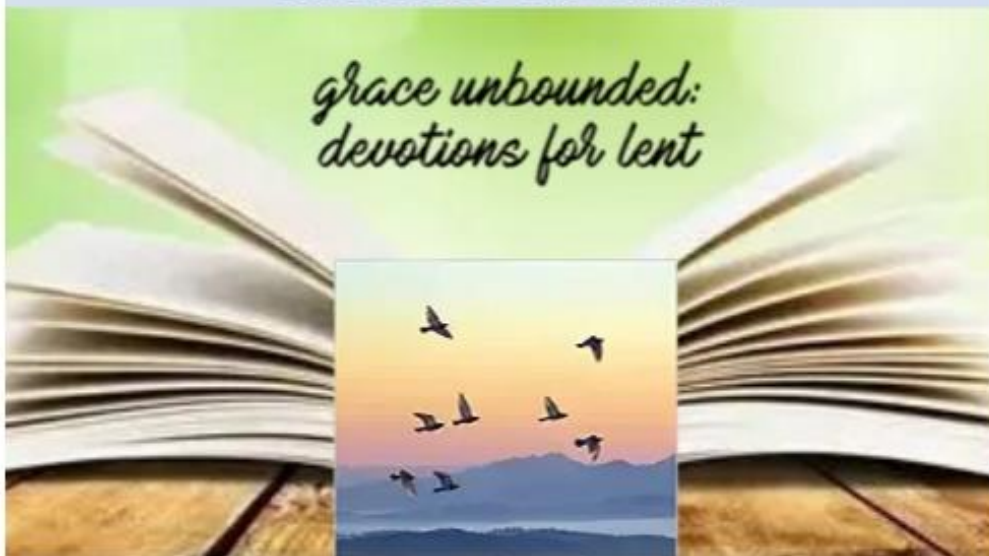
LENTEN *Study*

JOIN VICAR MICHELLE
MARCH 4 - APRIL 8

Every | **12**
Friday | **noon**

IN CHAPEL HALL AT LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF THE CROSS

*grace unbounded:
devotions for lent*



CALL OR EMAIL CHURCH OFFICE TO SIGN UP
DEVOTIONAL COPIES AVAILABLE
FOR PICK UP AT CHURCH

All of you together are the body of Christ.

Each one of you is a part of that body. 1 Corinthians 12:27

MENTORING



Why is mentoring so important? Consider the verse above. It is vital to teach our youth that we are not independent Christians, but part of an interdependent body of Christ. Mentors can help younger people claim their full participation in the body of Christ that enriches the faith lives of the entire church family. Our youth need to see spiritual behaviors (compassion, forgiveness, devotion, etc.) modeled by older people whom they trust and have relationships with. For adults to live out their baptismal call, share their lives, stories and brokenness with youth is essential for a healthy congregation. And it's the lasting relationships that are formed that strengthens the church. Youth need loving adults to speak love, truth, and affirmation over them; to be reminded who they are and whose they are.

At Affirmation of Baptism, our youth claim their discipleship—and in order to do that, they require mentors to walk with them to help them realize that their discipleship is an invitation to enter into a fuller relationship with God and others. After all, Jesus' life was devoted to discipleship and equipping people to worship Christ and live out a real, effective and impactful Christian life. Jesus entrusted His people to care for everyone—to replicate themselves to others.

Jesus...went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

By being a mentor, you help create a safe place for youth to learn and grow, to love and be loved well. Then as our youth become mature, they will go to share and do for someone else what has already been done for and shared with them. This is God's work of grace, and this is the community we need to foster in our church.

Our youth crave for someone to come alongside them, to teach them, and to guide them. Guess what—you can be that person! If you feel led, volunteer to be a Lenten Mentor. Be present in the lives of our youth and actively listen when they share their heart with you. Challenge them to overcome obstacles in their life, and follow-up to encourage growth.



Lenten Mentors 2022

Meet with a confirmation student following Lenten worship for guided discussion, prayer and getting to know each other.

Time commitment: four, 30-minute meetings in Celebration Center—you and your mentee choose the dates you will meet.

Pastor Drew, Vicar Michelle and Kari Erickson will be available to guide you and give assistance.

Being a teen isn't getting easier, so reach out and volunteer to be a part of this essential ministry!

Let Pr. Drew or Kari know if you are interested.

<https://ftc.co/resource-library/blog-entries/we-need-you-why-mentorship-is-need-in-the-church/>

<https://churchanswers.com/blog/four-reasons-your-church-needs-a-mentoring-program/>

<https://www.faithventures.com/a-guide-on-how-to-mentor-youth/>

<https://www.faithward.org/how-mentoring-can-change-todays-narrative-of-young-people-and-the-church/>

<https://orangeleaders.com/2017/07/06/when-two-worlds-collide-why-the-church-needs-less-volunteers-and-more-mentors/>

<http://intothyword.org/apps/articles/default.asp?articleid=42724&columnid=3844>

<https://buildfaith.org/mentoring-key-confirmation/>

Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen News



The Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen continues to serve meals 7 days a week with Lutheran Church of the Cross preparing and serving a meal the first Thursday of every month for over 20 years.

An added commitment of the Soup Kitchen has been providing bagged "to go" breakfast and lunch for the newly opened Warming Shelter in Brainerd. The Warming Shelter is such a gift to the community. We now have a place to refer our guests who are homeless and need shelter for the night.

If you would like to help, please call, email, or text me, Ann Bergin, at 218-820-5511 or georgiabergin@gmail.com. Sign up sheet located on bulletin board across from nursery. To learn more about Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen go to: <https://www.sharingbread.com>

"One of the greatest feelings in the world is knowing that we as individuals can make a difference. Ending hunger in America is a goal that is literally within our grasp." Jeff Bridges



Toning with a Purpose is held weekly on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am usually in Chapel Hall (may change rooms if necessary). Be sure to bring hand weights and/or bands. Any questions, see Gloria Thomas. Donations will go to SmileTrain.



Praise the Lord!

**Dear Lord,
Let me get back up.....
Uff da.**



CREATION CARE



EcoFaith Summit 2022 Save the Date
*Holy Ground, Holy Table: Regenerative Agriculture
for the Wholeness of Creation*

Saturday, March 26, 2022
9:00a.m. - 12:30p.m.

Via Zoom with watch party options

Presented by the EcoFaith Network NE MN Synod and the St. Paul Area Synod Care of Creation Work Group

Join us for these upcoming EcoFaith
Events via Zoom!

Climate Change and Jesus' Three Temptations

Energy in Human History,
As Viewed through the
Lens of Luke 4:1-12

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022 6:30-8:00

Fredric L. Quivik, PhD

Professor of History (retired), Michigan Tech
Saint Paul Area Synod Care of Creation

A Zoom forum sponsored by EcoFaith
Network, NE Minnesota Synod, ELCA

To register, please send email to:
ecofaith@nemnsynod.org



THE ECOFAITH NETWORK
ACCOMPANIMENT OUTREACH TEAM
INVITES YOU TO

CREATION CARE TRAINING

FIVE ZOOM BASED GATHERINGS
TO ENGAGE CONGREGATIONS
IN GOD'S CALL TO BE
STEWARDS OF THE EARTH
FOR THE SAKE OF THE WHOLE CREATION

THURSDAYS 7-8PM

MARCH 3
MARCH 10
MARCH 17
MARCH 24
MARCH 31

Register Here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/creation-care-training-gatherings-tickets-244795549077>

You may make a freewill donation for attending this training when you register.

For more information, contact John Sippola at
johnsippola2@gmail.com

January 2022 LCC Council Highlights

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS Church Council Meeting Thursday, January 13, 2022

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion: Mike Smith

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Council President David Endicott

Present:

David Endicott (Via Speaker Phone); Colleen Both; Darrell Paske; Pastor Bakken; Vicar Ruen; Dale Peterson; Mike Smith; Pam Johnson; Jen Henry; Bonnie Stevens; Joanie Swanson; Brian Stubbs; Jenny Stubbs; Rachel Gerhartz; Sarah Tietz;

Guests:

Topic: People for Racial Justice Task Force

A presentation was made to council by Terry Frovik and Ray and Betty Arveson from People For Racial Justice including written materials provided to council. It is the committee's hope that LCC can be identified and known by all as a justice seeking church community. No action taken at this time. David Endicott, Council President, will meet with Terry, Ray and Betty to discuss what formal action the committee is seeking and report back to Council in February.

Officer Reports:

Council Minutes by Darrell Paske (December 2021)

- Motion to approve Dale Peterson; Second Bonnie Stevens; Motion Passed
- Treasurer's Report by Colleen Both (December 2021)
- Motion to approve Pam Johnson; Second Bonnie Stevens; Motion Passed

New Business:

- Proposal from WELCA – Moved to February Council Meeting

Old Business:

- Staining will be done on Tuesday January 18th by Nor-son Construction and video/sound room project will be complete.
- Still seeking one member for the Constitution Update Committee.

Pastors' Reports

Pastor Drew:

- As we begin our first steps in the New Year, we have much to be thankful for. We were and are able to meet for in person worship on Sunday's and Wednesday's. We once again are hearing the joyous noises of youth in our buildings whether they are in Sunday School, Route 56, Confirmation, King's Kids and various other youth activities.
- We were open for two in person worship services on Christmas Eve along with an outdoor parking lot worship service. We celebrated with 611 in worship attendance. A special thank you to all the those that set up the trees and poinsettias. Thank you to those that came in daily to water the plants in order to keep them looking their best for our worship service. Thank you to our volunteers, musicians, and

sound/video technicians who helped make our Christmas worship possible. It was truly a wonderful and meaningful Christmas worship as we were able to gather together again.

- This year I am excited to be working with Kari as our new Children, Youth and Family Director. She has such amazing and creative gifts as she works with our children and now with our youth.
- I have been active with leading worship at our nursing homes, pastor's text study, leading Wednesday morning bible study, and working on the Luther Crest visioning team for the land on Upper Gull Lake. Also, I have been enjoying my time teaching confirmation, celebrating the sacrament of Holy Baptism and meeting with our young families.
- We have been resilient together through this past year. Now is the time for us to come and gather once more and share that invitation with our friends and neighbors by letting them know they have been missed.

Vicar Michelle:

- PrimeTimers met on December 2. We had a brown bag lunch and decorated sugar cookies for dessert. People were entertained by the wonderful BHS Madrigal Choir under the direction of Brian Stubbs. Thank you to the hosts - Stacy and Keith Grothem and Dave and Marie Olness. Christmas Carol trivia games were on the table, and all participated in the fun table games. Answers provided by Stacy Grothem. Next PrimeTimers will be on January 6.
- Pizza and Games was canceled since it landed the weekend before Christmas. The next Pizza and Games gathering will be Friday, Jan 21.
- A Time for Us which meets on Wednesday evenings is growing. There is a camaraderie between parents who have recently gotten to know one another. It's neat to see. We are watching *The Chosen* series, which depicts the life of Jesus through the eyes of the disciples.
- Women of the Word led by Vicar Michelle did a Bible Study taken from Max Lucado's book, *Because of Bethlehem* on December 7. Extra copies of the book were given to the church library.
- A Novel Idea was moved to Monday, January 24, because of the Christmas holiday. The book *The Paris Library* will be discussed. Discussion will be facilitated by Jean Olson.
- I preached at the Blues Christmas service, December 19, and at the Carols, Lessons, and Sweaters service, December 26. Christmas Eve services were held on Dec. 24 at 2:00 and 4:00 PM in the sanctuary, and 6:00 PM in the parking lot. Pastor Drew preached and I presided at the 2:00 and 4:00 services. At the 6:00 service, Drew preached and presided, and I was inside singing. They were all beautiful services and I felt privileged to be a part of them.

Committee Reports:

Property: Dale Peterson

No report

Stewardship:

No report

Worship and Music: Brian Stubbs

No report

Social Concerns and Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens

- Warming Shelter – Bridges of Hope
The goal is to provide a safe, warm, decent place for people to sleep. No pressure to do anything. They are asking for items to be donated and if Council agrees, Joanie Swanson, Congregational Life, and Social Concerns will initiate a request to LCC members for these items.

Wish list – Hand warmers, gloves & mittens, pants & sweatshirts, Kleenex, toilet paper, coffee & small paper cups, hand soap, garbage bags, twin sheet sets & twin blankets (no heavy comforters)

- Lutheran Social Services Resettlement
The LSS Circle of Friends joint project through NE MN Synod & Women of the ELCA is fully funded. LCC provided \$500 as seed money for this project.
- Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services has opened another office in Northern Virginia. The goal is to help the Afghan people acclimate and provide support for them to reach self-sufficiency. There were unaccompanied Afghan children in need of foster parents and programs are being launched by LIRS to provide additional mental health services to help them heal.
- Homeless Coalition
My Neighbor to Love is a coalition of people currently meeting at First Lutheran in Brainerd, hoping to end homelessness in our area. Brainerd Lakes Community Foundation has agreed to accept donations on their behalf until Non-profit status is granted.

Children and Family Ministry: Pam Johnson/Rachel Gerhartz

- In December Religious Release packets went out to kids at Eagle View on the 1st and 15th.
- Parents Day Out was a great success - we had 25 children in attendance with 10 adults and youth helping. We had a great afternoon of devotion, songs, activities, crafts, and games. We wrapped up with supper - all of the parents were very grateful.
- The family snow tubing event had to be cancelled due to lack of snow at Ski Gull.
- Cross Kids continued to meet during the church service with great attendance. Cross Kids Connection meets following church and attendance is gaining. We have seen some new families this month, too.
- The Christmas Pageant was performed as a part of our Musical Extravaganza worship service and the kids did a wonderful job - Kari received many compliments from members - they seemed to really enjoy it. She felt it was a good compromise having a more limited/abbreviated program to keep it as safe as possible. The message was still delivered in a touching manner and all kids that were interested were able to participate.
- Route 56 enjoyed our cookie packaging activity for CLC - with Bonnie Stevens' guidance and help, it was a fun and rewarding experience
- For Christmas Eve services, Illustrated Ministry's Christmas bulletin and sticker sheet were distributed to kids along with a nativity activity book, and kids who attended our drive-in service received a bag

including an ornament and a couple of other activities to supplement the bulletin and book.

- Pastor Drew discussed the possibility of modifying Kari's job duties to absorb some of the Youth Ministry responsibilities and she has agreed to this. Kari will be moving down to the Youth Ministry Office and will assume title of Children, Youth and Family ministry in 2022. She is happy to assume these responsibilities working with Pastor and continue to build and strengthen my relationships with our youth.
- Super Roll Sunday went well - we ended up moving the January rolls to the 9th.
- Kari was able to take a couple of vacation days at the end of the month to care for her visiting grandsons, which was greatly appreciated. Karen has informed Kari that she needs to use more accrued days soon.
- Kari was called for Jury Duty for January but was able to postpone it until May of 2022. Kari and her husband will be attending a destination wedding in Cozumel later this month.

Youth and Family Ministry: Jen Henry

- No rolls, no report.

Congregational Life: Joanie Swanson

No report

Personnel: Mike Smith

No report

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by

Darrell Paske, Council Secretary

Next Council Meeting:

February 10 2022 7:00 pm for budget discussion

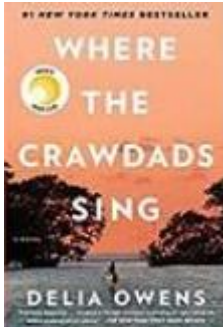
All are welcome at Council meetings. Approved minutes and approved financial reports are available in the church office to any member upon request. If you would like to have something on the Council meeting agenda, please submit it in writing addressed to President David Endicott and delivered to the 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.

MINUTES ADDENDUM

- Subsequent to Council Meeting a request was received from Vicar Ruen that in the year 2021 50% of her salary be deducted from her salary and identified as Housing Allowance. Request approved by council by written e-mail response.

I would like to thank the LCC Family for the prayers, cares and cards. Thank you all very much.

Nonie Stumvoll



The NOVEL IDEA Book Club is CHANGING DATES and TIMES. It will now be held on the last Tuesday of the month from 10:00-11:30. The February Book Club will be Tuesday, February 22, at 10:00 AM in Chapel Hall. We will be talking about the novel, Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. There are copies in the church library for you to check out. Come join us for coffee, treats, and a fun conversation around this book! See Jean Olson with any questions.

CONCORDIA COLLEGE, MOORHEAD, MN ON TOUR

Experience one of America's finest choirs seen nationwide on public television and heard in Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, and across the country in concert at the Gichi-Ziibi Center for the Arts. The Concordia Choir will perform in Brainerd, Minnesota on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022 at 7 p.m.

All tickets are general admission. Adult tickets are \$20 and student tickets are \$5. In addition, seniors (65+) and Concordia alumni receive a discounted price of \$15 per ticket.

More information is available at www.TheConcordiaChoir.org.

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.

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Lutheran Church of the Cross: Masks required

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

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

Minnesota Highway and Safety Research Center

1-888-234-1294

1-320-308-1400

Minnesota Highway and Safety Research Center
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Saint Cloud, MN 56304
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CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Address label here

Welcoming all people into discipleship

STAFF

Pastor	Drew Bakken	218-961-2014
Vicar	Michelle Ruen	218-961-2013
Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry	Kari Erickson	218-961-2012
Director of Music Ministry/Organist	Cathy Taylor	218-961-2053
Financial Secretary	Karen Wiele	218-961-2016
Lay Ministry Coordinator	Sally Hodgson	218-961-2052
Senior Choir Director	Brian Stubbs	
Organist	Laura Raedeke	
Bell Choir Director	Cheryl Karlgaard	
King's Kids	Carol Smith	
Custodian	Todd Whipple	218-963-2564
ELCA Global Missionary	Bradn Buerkle	
LCC Office	Laurie Hemish	218-961-2011

2022 CHURCH COUNCIL

President	Dave Endicott	Social Justice/Global	Bonnie Stevens
Vice President	Mike Smith	Worship & Music	Brian Stubbs
Treasurer	Colleen Both	Youth	Sarah Tietz
Secretary	Jenny Stubbs	Stewardship	Darrell Paske
Cong. Life	Joanie Swanson		
Children/Family	Rachel Gehartz		
Properties	Dale Peterson		

