Cross Currents

Lutheran Church of the Cross 2023



See I am making all things new

The 2023 theme at LCC is, "See I am making all things new" (Rev 21:5) Reflection on this passage requires looking at the history of our faith with new eyes. We read in the book of Genesis, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and He pronounced that everything was very good" (Genesis 1:31). Because of original sin, we and the world became corrupted. Throughout the bible (Genesis 3 through Revelation 20) the earth and everyone in it experiences sin and death. After sin is eternally judged, God promises a new heaven and a new earth where suffering, pain, sin, and death cease for all eternity. This future creation gives believers hope and affects our lives on earth as we eagerly await for this promise to be fulfilled: "See I am making all things new".

In Revelation 21, John recounts seeing the new heaven and new earth; he sees a magnificent Holy City where God dwells among His people. And here God promises to wipe every tear from His people's eyes - there will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain, as at last all creation will be free from the reign and effects of sin. After observing all this, John views Jesus seated on the throne declaring, "See I am making all things new." This new heaven and earth is what believers long for.

When someone trusts in God for salvation, the Holy Spirit dwells in them, and they become a new creation. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Believers are no longer bound by sin; we become new creations, able to please God and live in His ways. Galatians 2:20 sums up our newness: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." No longer do we live for ourselves, but we live for the One who is life. A transformation occurs in those who surrender to God, and of them it can also be said, "See I am making all things new."

Becoming a new creation affects the way we live. God's Word reminds us to put off our former, sinful ways of life. Instead of living in sin and for ourselves, we are called to "put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator" (Colossians 3:10). Regeneration happens at the moment of salvation, but sanctification continues as we grow in faith and in His likeness. Growing in faith includes studying God's Word, praying, having fellowship with other believers, and suffering. "See I am making all things new" is a statement that affects the way we live when we trust Christ for salvation. This year I invite you to join us at looking at the world, our community, and ourselves with the eye of God and to "See that God makes all things new." May this theme be a reflection on ourselves and our ministry here at Lutheran Church of the Cross.

Blessings, Pastor Drew Bakken

10 Days of Valentine Prayers for Your Kids

Day 1: 1 John 4:16 – Lord, More than anything I want my children to come to know and believe the love that You have for them. Help me today through my patience and kindness to display that love You have for them. I want to dwell with You and in Your love and bless my children today by this example. In Jesus' strength, Amen.

Day 2: 1 John 4:18-19 — Our Father, Thank You that Your love is so unconditional, patient, and forgiving that we can come to You without fear. When my children are afraid, help them to settle into this great love and give You their fears instead of carrying them and striving alone. Perfect our hearts each day as we grow to be more loving and more like You by dwelling on Your example and resting in Your love too. Thank you for loving my child even before they were born. Be near them and remind them of Your love while we are apart today in a meaningful way to them because You know them. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Day 3: 1 John 4:20-21 – Dear Lord, Thank You for Your great, true love toward us! Please help me and my children speak truth with our love today. Help us in those moments when we are tempted to treat those we love without love. Guide me to be a greater example in loving who I can see, training them for perhaps a greater challenge- loving One they cannot see. Love our family, friends, and schoolmates through us this week and help us grow in love toward the ones with whom our love has grown cold. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 4: 1 John 5:1 – Good Father, Open they eyes of my children to the evidences of You all around us that they may believe. My hearts' cry is that they would be born again of You and love You. It is a parent's greatest peace. If my children already believe, help me notice the love they have for others and help me display it too. I know the world will recognize we are Yours by our love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 5: 1 John 2:4-6 – Father, Let us be blessed to see true fruit from our children's belief in You. We humble ourselves to be changed by Your Word and example so it is evident we "know You." Help me to lead them in learning and keeping Your Word. I know Your love is truly perfected in the heart that keeps it. Lord, today I want to walk in the way You walked and lead my children in Your footsteps. Let Your love be alive in our household today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 6: 1 John 3:1-3 – Father, Open our hearts to see more clearly what kind of love You give to us. You gather us from any circumstance and call us Your children! And if we believe in You we are adopted and receive all the rights of a son or daughter. I pray for my children to also accept this perfect love. This relationship will confuse some we know, but help us to share it and explain it compassionately. Holy Spirit, call more into Your family through our story of adoption. Thank You for Your perfect love that purifies us for a new future. Thank You that You offer this to all. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 7: 1 John 3:16 – Thank You, Father, that You taught us just what love is. My heart Knows love because it knows You. In a world of confusing messages about what pure love is, You defined it long ago by laying down Your life for us. Give us an understanding of this and love so intense for each other that we would be willing to lay our life down for another. May You be glorified in our life and our death. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 8: 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 weeks 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 born again of You with our generous and patient love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 9: 1 John 4:11-12 – Lord, Please help me to understand just a little bit how much You love us and the world around us. How would understanding that love change how I could interact with those You have placed in my week? Give me opportunities to speak to open hearts and share what I know to be true of You, even if I can't see You. Thank You that You abide in us and perfect our flawed ideas of love. Help me to see the fruit of your abiding love in my children and bless them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Day 10: 1 John 4: 9-10 – Father, Thank You that Your love is not kept reserved and far from us. What an extension of Yourself to send Your Son down to walk the dirt among us! Thank You for the new life that we may live through You. I pray for that life for my sons (here and around the world); a life of freedom, purpose, and hope, living in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2022 General Fund

% YTD of

Annual

Annual

	<u>December</u>	YTD	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 78,138	\$ 689,719	\$ 688,900	100.12%
Expenses	\$ 84,601	\$ 688,724	\$ 688,900	99.97%
Difference	\$ (6,463)	\$ (996)	\$ 0	

In the month of December our expenses were greater than our income by (\$6,463).

Thank you for your continued support.



FUNERAL

Name: Joy Potthoff

Born: January 12, 1934

Died in Christ: January 6, 2023 Funeral: January 14, 2023 Lutheran Church of the Cross Pastor Drew Bakken, Officiant

BAPTISM

Name: Ava Marie Moody

Born: July 8, 2022

Baptized: January 7, 2022

Parents: Kurtis & Katrina Moody Pastor Drew Bakken, Officiant

BAPTISM

Name: Makenna Lynn Anderson Born: November 10, 2013 Baptized: January 18, 2023 Parents: Brian & Sara Anderson Pastor Drew Bakken, Officiant



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.



SNO FUN

Reserve a ticket at Ski Gull for Feb. 19, 2-4pm. We will have more fun in the sun and snow.-))

Early Registration Deadline for LCBC is Feb. 14!



Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria, MN offers high and low ropes courses, a nature center, beachfront activities, field games, arts and crafts, campfires, and a variety of program offerings in a safe and loving environment for your child to grow in faith. Our members realize the importance of camp ministry and support efforts to do whatever we can to offer the camp experience to our youth.

ASH WEDS. **Baked Potato** They are fresh, hot, & 1 reccommend the baked fluffy! potato! $\mathbf{Weds}.$ Feb. 22 5pm - 6:10

You add your favorite toppings - butter, sour cream, cheese, chili, brocolli, and ham; plus, salad and brownies!

Come and support this CYFM Fundraiserour youth are ready to serve you!

FREE WILL OFFERING benefits our camperships and youth mission trips.

Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes at 6:20pm in the Sanctuary





Thanks for supporting our Youth Super Roll Sundays!

7th—12th gr:
RESERVE YOUR
SUPER ROLL
VOLUNTEER
SPOT BY GOING
TO SIGNUP
GENIUS

Feb. 5 is Super Roll Sunday and thanks in advance to the Merseth's and Erickson's for signing up already. We always have room for more helpers, so if you need some service hours, sign up and join us https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d48a4af2ea0f85-super#/

FIRST COMMUNION



Mark your calendar for April 1, 1— 3:30pm! This workshop will be held in Celebration Center and the Sanctuary, led by Pr. Drew and Kari Erickson. It will include learning & activities using the Daniel Erlander materials, A Place For You. Not only will we learn about Communion, but also create a banner, paint chalices and bake communion bread. There is no age requirement for this workshop; children may commune at any age at LCC. We suggest a thoughtful discussion between you and your child to determine if s/he is ready, and we ask that children attending the workshop be accompanied by a parent/adult. This

event is also for those who have already been communing, but haven't yet attended the workshop, regardless of age. Participants should plan to participate in Maundy Thursday worship on April 6 at 6:20pm to receive and serve communion and help with stripping the altar. Email cfmkarilcc@gmail.com or call 963-2564 to register.

Looking for a great Valentine's dinner option? Our youth cordially invite you to enjoy a relaxing Italian dinner which they will help prepare and serve.

We will offer a limited number of tickets to this event where you will be transported to Italy for a treat.

This event will help sponsor our Youth Ministry events and is our chance to serve you through the ministry of food. Jesus often used meals to engage with people as well as teach lessons. Meals matter, because food is a part of God's good creation and part of God's new creation.

Come gather with your church family and celebrate all that we have to be thankful for!



Welcoming
MaKenna Anderson
into our church
family through
baptism at Weds.
Night Worship:-))



O Sole Mio (My Sunshine) ITALIAN DINNER

Tickets on sale on Sunday mornings or available from Laurie in the church office.

MENU

Pasta Marinara with Meatballs or Pasta Alfredo with Chicken Ceasar Salad Buttered Rosemary & Parmesan Rolls Spumoni & Italian Wedding Cookie

\$18 per ticket February 11, 2023, 5pm All proceeds benefit our Youth Ministry

Get your tickets now from Laurie in the church office or from Kari on Sundays and Wednesdays.

There will be limited seating so act fast! Enjoy a nice Valentine's dinner with live music from our own *LCC Three Tenors*. All proceeds will benefit our Youth Ministry events and trips.

Music Notes

February 2023

ELW 502 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Text: Henry W. Baker, based on Psalm 23; Music: Irish Tune

- 1. The Kin of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.
- 2. Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.
- 3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me, And on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.
- 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me, Thy rod and staff my comfort still; thy cross before to guide me.
- 5. Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; And, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6. And so, through all the length of days; thy goodness faileth never. Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.



This is among the most beautiful of all the renditions of the Twenty-Third Psalm in my mind. It was written by Henry Williams Baker, born in London on May 27, 1821, the oldest son of a Vice Admiral in the British Navy. Henry attended Trinity College, Cambridge, and was ordained in 1844 at age 24. After serving as an assistant pastor for several years, he became the vicar of Monkland, Herefordshire, in 1851. That same year, upon his father's death, he was knighted and became a baronet.

For years Henry worked on a book of hymns that would reflect the grandeur of majestic worship. The first edition was published in 1861, entitled *Hymn Ancient and Modern*. On the British Isles, it was known by its initials: *H, A, and M*. Because Henry had labored so earnestly over every hymn, editing and changing and deleting words, some called it *Hymns Asked for and Mutilated*. But it became the leading hymnbook in the Anglican Church, going through many revisions and selling over 150 million copies. "The King of Love" didn't appear until the 1868 revision, in the appendix.

When Henry passed away in 1877, his friend, John Ellerton, reported that his last words were from this great hymn: *Perverse and foolish oft I stayed, But yet in love He sought me, And on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.*

As some of you know, my mother has suffered from dementia for a few years now. As I am writing this she is in her last stages of dying. She is in Fargo, where we all grew up, safe and well taken care of at Edgewood Vista and Hospice. We have all said our good-byes and that it is OK for her to go see Jesus. We are just waiting now. We have had some wonderful times together as a family, lots of tears, but lots of laughter as well. This is just what she would want. We have all been so fortunate and blessed to spend one on one time with her these last days to talk to her, thank her, sing to her, read scripture, etc. I wouldn't trade those times for anything. I am so thankful that she had such an abiding faith and that she lived that faith. What a witness to us and others!

These words of Psalm 23, though read at many Celebration of Life services, are still some of the most fitting and powerful for us, no matter where we are in life. For me, scripture really comes to life when we sing it, thus why I love this hymn so much.

Thank you, Mom. AND thank you, Lutheran Church of the Cross, for being so supportive and loving. I love you all. Peace be with you.

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music Ministries















WOMEN in the WORD BIBLE STUDY

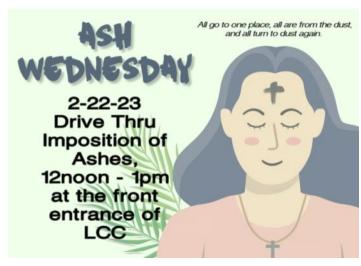
You are invited to the Women of the Word Bible Study on Tuesday, February 7, at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM in the Chapel Hall. Pick whichever time works best for you. Join us for a special time in God's Word, enjoy coffee and pastries, and be in the presence of a wonderful group of women. No preparation or homework needed. Bring yourself and your Bible and be prepared to be blessed. All women invited! See you on Tuesday, February 7. If you have any questions about the Women in the Word Bible Study, call or ask Pastor Michelle.

Pizza and Games

Our next Pizza (or some kind of delicious food) and Games will be on Friday, February 17, from 5:30-7:30 PM. Join us for a fun and free supper and lots of laughs playing a variety of games. We have many games and cards to choose from or bring your favorite game if you would share. Bring a friend. Come join us on Friday, February 17!



A Time for Us is for parents of students in the Wednesday night program - Confirmation, Route 56, and Cross Kids. We meet in the old youth room from 7:00-8:00 PM with Pastor Michelle. We spend time getting to know one another, and finish with prayer. This month we will be doing: Feb. 1 - service project - sending out Valentines cards to our shut-ins; Feb. 8 - cooking and cleaning up for Wednesday night supper; Feb. 15 - watching <u>The Chosen</u>; Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday service. A *Time For Us* is a great way to get to know the parents of your child's classmates at church. Come meet a wonderful group of parents!





February 9, Thursday, 12:00 Noon

Program: The Joy of Ham Radio

Our own Lyle Amundson and Brian Wermager will be sharing their

knowledge on Ham Radios, our local Ham Radio Club, and talking about their Ham Radio experiences. Come for a fun, interactive, and well-prepared program! Bring a sack lunch or sandwich. Coffee, lemonade, and dessert provided. See you Thursday, 12:00 Noon, on February 9!



Hosts: Brian and Diane Wermager, Lyle Amundson, Mary Frost

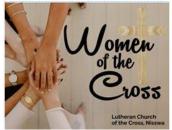
Men's Breakfast

Join the LCC men for coffee, breakfast and good fellowship in the backroom of **SideTrack restaurant** on Hwy 371 **every Thursday** morning at **8:15am**. Pastor Drew will lead a short Bible Study and the reminder of the time is for fellowship and good food! Contact: Pastor Drew

Toning with a Purpose

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





Women of the Cross Gather Bible Study

Please join us on **Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.** for our monthly Gather Bible Study. Revive your soul in 2023 with a four-session study of the 10 commandments. ELCA pastor and Bible study author Christa von Zychlin will help us see how these commandments are more than they may appear at first glance. For example, Martin Luther taught that the commandment, "Do not

kill," means not only refraining from murder, but actively promoting the health and life of others. Get ready to explore old and new interpretations of God's laws, using Luther's Small and Large Catechism and more!

In Session 2, "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy" Exodus 20:8

"Honor your father and your mother so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you" Exodus 20:12

Come explore "if" the above commandments are still relevant today and how they apply to us. Please bring a picture of your parents if you have one handy if not come with an open heart.

Betty Arveson is our Bible Study Leader and Pastor Michelle is our hostess.



Birthday Sunday Celebration sponsored by the Women of the Cross/ WELCA.





Welcoming new members to the LCC family! Sunday, January 29th.

Let's gather for Chamerica Crest at Luther Crest

We'll enjoy an excellent arrangement of meals, goodies, and treats. There'll be daily speakers and presentations as well as nightly entertainment with musicians and entertainers. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate and grow together in a Christ-centered community through discussion and devotion. Separate programming is offered for children and grandchildren of all ages.

June 25 - 30

COST: \$459 if you register prior to Feb. 14 after that date, price goes up to \$639

CAN'T COME FOR THE WHOLE WEEK? Come for a day (M-W)
for \$60 ea or \$120 for a carload of 6:-)

CURIOUS? Call Jodi (507-438-4435) or Gloria (218-963-7951)



https://www.luthercrest.org/womens-week.html

Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen News

Please consider helping at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen. LCC has served the first Thursday of every month for over 20 years. The signup sheet in on the bulletin board next to the restrooms. Or call or text Ann Bergin at 218-820-5511.





We feed hungry people...no questions asked

Our mission is to demonstrate the love of Christ by providing meals to the hungry of our community. We seek to treat each guest as if he or she were Christ Himself. Through this act of love we hope to provide spiritual and emotional as well as physical sustenance. Our ultimate aim is to facilitate within our guests a genuine encounter with Christ.

Did You Know?

From the "People for Racial Justice" Group

The Sad Legacy of American Indian "Assimilation" Boarding Schools in Minnesota Boarding schools in Minnesota started in 1871 and by the 1970s most had shut down. The boarding schools prepared the indigenous boys for manual labor and the girls for domestic work. The government's mission was to restructure individual's minds and personalities by severing child's physical, cultural, and spiritual connections to their tribes.

Seeking to cleanse The American Indian of their culture, the children's names, language, dress, customs, religions, and family ties were erased. The schools immersed native children in the dominant White culture which was derided as superior. They were given English names, clothes, haircuts, and were instructed to abandon their old way of life. The children were abused emotionally, physically and sexually.

Minnesota had sixteen boarding schools that drew students from all eleven of the state's reservations.

Source of information: Be the Bridge by Latasha Morrison and MNopedia created by the Minnesota Historical Society.











MM, MM GOOD!

Faith, family and fellowship— We will be offering a good hearty meal at 5:45 pm for you to enjoy before the Lenten Service at 6:20 pm.

Here's what's on the menu:

- · Healthy Salad & Dressings
- Savory Soups
- Meat & Cheese Choices w/ Dinner Rolls
- PB & J for the kids
- Cookies for dessert
- Lemonade, Milk & Water



All this, plus great fellowship with your fellow LCC members. Free will offering. This will be a great chance for our working families to participate in our Wednesday activities – no cooking and the family will be well fed!

Groups Serving Suppers:

February 22: Children, Youth, & Family: Ash Wednesday Potato Bar @ 5:00 pm

March 1: Music Ministry @ 5:45 pm
March 8: A Time For Us @ 5:45 pm
March 15: Creation Care @ 5:45 pm
March 22: Church Staff @ 5:45 pm
March 29: Church Council @ 5:45 pm

Sunday, April 2

9:00 AM

Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

Thursday, April 6

6:20 PM - Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion

(First Communion)

Friday, April 7

6:20 PM - Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Sunday, April 9

7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 AM

Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion









All Lenten and Holy Week services will be live streamed and can be viewed via our website:

www.lccnisswa.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	
facil	ity calenda	r for:	Febr
			8:30 Text Si 9:30 Quilte 5:45 Suppe 6:00 King's 6:20 Worsh 7:00 Conf./ 7:00 Sr. Cho
9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship/ Rolls 10:15 Cross Kids Connection 11:30 Game Day Afternoon	6 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group	8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Women in the Word 10:00 Coffee Clutch 12:00 Staff Training 7:00 Women in the Word	8 8:30 Text 5 10:00 Gathe 5:45 Supp 6:00 King's 6:20 Wors 7:00 Conf., 7:00 Sr. Ch
9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Cross Kids Connection	9:00 55+ Driver Imp. Class 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group	8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Coffee Clutch 12:00 Staff Training	8:30 Text S 9:30 Quilte 4:00 Creat 5:45 Suppe 6:00 King's 6:20 Wors 7:00 Conf., 7:00 Sr. Ch
9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship & Music Committee 10:15 Cross Kids Connections 2:00 CFYM Tubing & Skiing	9:00 MOPS 11:00 Soul Sisters 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group 7:00 People for Racial Justice	8:30 Staff Meeting /Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Coffee Clutch 12:00 Staff Training	22 ASH WI 8:30 Text St 12:00 Drive 1 5:00 Potato 6:20 Ash W 7:00 Sr. Cho
9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Cross Kids Connection	1:00 Prayer Shawl Group	8:30 Staff Meeting /Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Coffee Clutch 10:30 Novel Ideas Book Club 12:00 Staff Training	

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
uary	2023		
tudy rs r Kids ip w/ Communion Route 56/Cross Kids pir/HSYG/Time for Us	8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 7:00 A.A.	3	4
Study er Bible Study er s Kids hip w/ Communion / Route 56/Cross Kids loir/Time for Us	8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 12:00 PrimeTimers 4:00 Rummage Sale Mtg 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.	10	11 5:00 O Sole Mio Italian Dinner
tudy ers on Care Team Mtg er Kids hip w/ Communion / Route 56/Cross Kids noir/Time for Us	8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 7:00 A.A.	Chat n Chow 5:30 Grub & Game Night	18
EDNESDAY udy Thru Comm. & Ashes Bar ed. Worship Dir	8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 12:00 Nisswa Garden Club 7:00 A.A.	10:00 Lent Devotional 12:00 Lent Devotional at StoneHouse in Baxter	25
		#LOVE	Reminder: Before planning any meeting/event/gathering at church, call the church office for availability and scheduling. Thank you.



- 1. Jorgen Erickson
- 2. William Ingram
- 3. Mia Wolter
- 4. Samuel Andrist
- 5. Rachel Gerhartz, Clint Lindberg
- 6. Mike Dunker, Nollie Loge, Bonnie Morris, Cathy Taylor
- 7.
- 8. Lucille Boche, Mary Frost
- 9. Mike Larson
- 10. Lynn Christensen, Denise Hallan, Erica Hanowski, Vickie Ottem
- 11. Terry Frovik, Tate Oium
- 12. Clint Baker, Boyd Maine, Angie Rardin
- 13. Eli Martini, Sandy Wacker
- 14. Mark Gruebmeyer, Weston Hiles, Sue Pratt, Nikki Stark, Mary Tyler
- 15. Joseph Helsene, Eric Jaeche, Brent Stark
- 16. Cheryl Wermager, Maggie Wolter
- 17. Mary Backlund, Steve Heslop, Courtney Larson
- 18. Reagan Franke, Billie Jo Jaeche, Susan Schmidt, Lisa Trosdahl
- 19. Amy Dirkes, Christopher Klabo, Thomas Niggeler, Grace Whipple

- 20. Pat Bohnet, Darci Martini
- 21. Andy Ogren, Chad Wolter
- 22. Kristi Dutton, Maria Erickson, George Olson, Mindy Whipple
- 23. Hans Anderson, Mike Hushagen, Alexis Lueck, Thea Strother, Sydney Tietz
- 24. Shane Moore
- 25. Andi Clausen, Rick Harms, Karin Wolter
- 26. Grant Kosobud
- 27. Esther Endicott, Dan Germundson, Beverly Hanson, Karlie Larson
- 28. Jarrett Anderson, Patti Oestreich







FEBRUARY 1
YOUTH GROUP
MEETING
ALL 9TH-12TH
GRADERS ARE
INVITED TO
JOIN PR. HANS



Stonehouse Fridays

Are you looking for a way to make the Lenten season more meaningful? Do you desire to grow closer to the Lord during this time of reflection? Come for a time of Lenten Devotions on Fridays! All levels of faith are welcome! All members and community members are invited!

Pick up a devotional in our narthex or the church office. We will meet on Fridays, February 24 through Good Friday, April 7. Discussions led by Pastor Michelle.

Come **10:00 AM** in the LCC **Chapel Hall OR** join us at **12:00 Noon** in the conference room at **StoneHouse Coffee** by Target in Baxter.

Any questions, see Pastor Michelle.
Join us on Fridays during Lent.

Welcome



Ken & Ella Arneson



Paul & Susan Beilfuss



Lynden & Kathy Johnson Bruce & Sherri Kunkel Claus & Diane Peukert







Janice Pietig



Gary & Leslie Severson



Terri Langerud

New Members



Russ & Lynn Underdahl



Pat & Molly Sloan





Cory & Kiersten Kralovetz



Rod & Lora Schneller



Justin & Katrina Franke Maverick, Reagan, Dean



Tom & Stacey Paulbeck
Evelyn & Joe

Church Directory Update

To make it a valuable resource, our mission is to gather photos of as many members as possible as well as update membership data. Tentative deadline to submit your photo and updated information was January 31, 2023. While we have had a great initial response, we still need more pictures of members! Those who have not provided their photo will be get-



ting a call encouraging you to submit your photo and information.

We will be publishing the directory ourselves, so the cost to you will be approximately \$10. Forms are available in the church office and in downloadable form on our church website at www.lccnisswa.org.

LCC Member(s) Photo Submission

Please submit a family/members photo as an email attachment to **lcc@lccnisswa.org**.

PHOTO GUIDELINES:

- Indoor photos only, please!
- Photo background should be neutral, such as a lighter/solid colored blank wall
- If needed, a church staff member can take a photo of you at church; simply
 call the church office to set up a time. We also offer photo session
 opportunities during coffee fellowship on Sundays and Wednesday
 evenings before and after worship until February 12th.
- Note that all photos submitted may be resized, altered, cropped, etc. by church staff to fit portrait format. *Thank you, and smile for the camera!*

Bridges of Hope Warming Shelter

Lutheran Church of the Cross is partnering with other area churches and organizations to help Warming Shelter employees provide a safe and welcoming place for those individuals without a place to sleep. The Bridge on 7th at 1926 South 7th Street has been open since September 15.



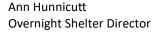
When is it open? The shelter is open from 7 PM - 8 AM -- Walk ins are accepted from 7-11 PM

Thank you to those who volunteered the week of January 22-January 29.

LCC's next and final week for the season begins **March 26 and ends on Palm Sunday, April 2.** The Shelter will close for the season on April 15.

Shelter volunteers and guests need to be 18 years of age. Anyone who would like to volunteer outside of the LCC week could go to the website and leave their contact information. Ann Hunnicutt has a separate list of volunteers who come when needed.

Any questions, please contact Bonnie Stevens 218-966-2125 or see Pastor Drew or Pastor Michelle.







NOVEL IDEAS BOOK

February 28th

10:30am

Chapel Hall

Please feel free to join us even if you haven't read the book. Bring a friend and enjoy fellowship & food!

3 copies of the current book will be purchased and available each month. However, if you have a copy of one of the books on the list or see it at a secondhand book sale, we would appreciate extra copies. After the book discussion, 2 copies will be donated to the library and the others will be donated to the church rummage sale.

Please remember to check the book out and <u>return it in a timely manner</u> so that other members have a chance to read the book before the club meeting. Thank you for your cooperation.



In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms. Warm, wise, and revelatory, *Becoming* is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.

LIBRARY TIDBITS

- NEW BOOKS please leave any suggestions you have on the form that you can find by the book return basket and we will do our best to accommodate your request.
- ◆ <u>LARGE PRINT</u> would you like to see more of these? If so, please leave us a note in the book return basket. Also, if you have any large print bibles that you are willing to donate, we would appreciate those.
- WATCH for a new section of books labeled Social Justice
- ♦ INAPPROPRIATE? while we are familiar with most authors and their style, we are not able to read every book before adding it to the library. If you check out a book and find words and/or sections that you feel are offensive, please leave a note with the book when returning it and please mark the page(s) so we can review the book and make a decision.



CREATION CARE



The first **Creation Care Connections** event was held virtually on January 12, with 48 people online to learn how to access solar energy for churches. Laura Raedeke, a member of the Leadership Team of the EcoFaith Network, was part of the discussion that helped people begin the first steps in developing a plan for solar energy for their churches. Questions came from people and pastors in a wide variety of places and the experience of LCC, **as one of the first churches in Minnesota to build a solar array,** was sought after to learn how we did it. Please look for a full report on the data recording the contributions of our solar array to LCC, which will be published in the next few months by **Sarah Fogderud.**

As LCC members, you can be proud that we have paved the way for these exciting developments. Please note that there are **three more Creation Care Connections** events that are available to all of us as we celebrate the RETURN OF THE SUN: Beyond the Winter Solstice. It would be great to see many of you there!

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS Church Council Meeting Thursday, January 12, 2023

We Assemble in God's Name

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Council President Mike Smith

Present:

Pr. Drew Bakken, Colleen Both, Rachel Gerhartz, Rob Norgon, Darrell Paske, Dale Peterson, Mike Smith, Bonnie Stevens, Brian Stubbs, and Jenny Stubbs.

Devotion: Mike Smith

Announcement:

Officer Reports:

Council Minutes (December 2022)

• Motion to approve by Dale Peterson; Second by Brian Stubbs. Motion passed Treasurer's Report

Discussion under New Business

New Business:

Changes to council budget discussion from January 8; salary expenses were inadvertently overstated by \$30,000, so a new budget with a 3% salary increase would be presented at the congregational meeting. The amended budget still brings LCC's budget under \$700,000. Motion was made for council to recommend this change for the congregation to second the vote on the new budget at the January 22 Annual Meeting, Pt. 2 by Dale Peterson; Second by Bonnie Stevens; Motion passed.

\$2,940 remained from the Sanctuary Project after all balances were paid. Motion made to move an extra \$60 from VMC to make it an even \$3,000, with \$1,250 to be given to the warming shelter; \$1,250 to be given to Second Harvest Food Bank, Grand Rapids; and \$500 given to Pr. Bradn Burkle; by Brian Stubbs; Second by Rob Norgon. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- 1. Budget Information Session; Sunday, January 15.
- 2. Second half Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 22
- **3. Holden Village Trip Info-** 33 spots have been signed up; 7 are left.
- **4. Photos for LCC Directory-** Set up to take pictures in the narthex on Wednesdays and Sundays in January. Also continue to accept photos from members at large online. Once entered into the database, photos will help with lots of other applications at LCC.

Pastors' Reports

Pastor Drew:

What an amazing year that we had. Thank you for your prayers and support as we together go out into the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

For the last several years, after Christmas Day, my brother and I go on a three-to-four-day ice fishing trip to Lake of the woods. It is a time for us to relax, catch up with each other, and to catch some fish. This year was a little different, as the fish weren't biting. So instead of hearing the bell in the rattle reel going off we were serenaded by the hum of the depth finder.

Some may say that ice fishing is like watching paint dry, but for me it is a time to decompress, to reflect on the past year, and listen to where God is calling me. As I watched my lure bobbing up and down on the depth finder, I couldn't help but think about how we at Lutheran Church of the Cross have been bobbing up and down this past year.

As a congregation we have seen an increase in our attendance at both our Sunday and Wednesday worship services. We have welcomed and received 49 new members. Throughout this year I have continued to hear from our members and people throughout our community, that the power of the Holy Spirit is here working through us at Lutheran Church of the Cross.

Through the leadership of Jean Kraft, this summer we were able to once again provide meals to record numbers of the youth in our community. We also rose to the expanding needs of our community through our financial and volunteer support to the Brainerd Warming Shelter. We have continued to meet the needs of those at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, as we have provided a monthly meal there with volunteers from LCC. We have seen growth and support of our volunteers who have helped run two successful rummage sales, along with many volunteers who worked on and expanded our garage to accommodate the growth in donations.

We have seen new projects and initiatives from the Women of the Cross, Creation and Care team, Youth ministry, Children's ministry, Prime Timers, Women of the Word, Men's breakfast, and so much more. We are a church that uses and shares our time and talents in many great ways; we are a congregation that sees a need and fills that need.

This fall I had seven listening sessions to answer three different questions The first question, What is our part in God's Story? I heard you share your part in God's story, from participating in the rummage sale, worship service, bible studies, Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, Operation Sandwich, Care and Creation and a variety of other volunteer opportunities here at LCC. The second question, What aspects of LCC have most supported you? You shared with me how LCC has supported you through pastoral care, the warmth and care from our members, worship services, bible studies, prayer chains, phone calls, postcards, prayer shawls, soup ministry and so on.

But when I asked the third question, What do you want to see grow and flourish here at LCC? You responded by saying our Children and Youth ministry needs to be a priority. You recognized the work that has been done, but know that if the church wants to continue to grow it needs to welcome and provide a place for children and youth.

I found these listening sessions very helpful, and as I reflect on them I specifically recall Terry Frovik sharing that when we look at the church "we are a community that sees a need and fills that need." As we begin a new year here at LCC, we as a church council are going to reflect on your responses, celebrate where we have been, study where we are, and look toward the future so that our budget and mission reflects your voices.

As I close my report, I am reminded of how grateful I am for all of you. Thank you for your warmth, caring, and willingness to serve. I have been blessed to serve here for the last 5 years and I am looking forward to walking with you all into the future. Also, thank you to our staff, Laurie, Karen, Cathy, Todd, Kari, Pastor Michelle, Laura, Cheryl, Brian, Sally and Sheri for your hard work and dedication to this church and to God in sharing your gifts with all of us.

Pastor Michelle:

- The Advent Season brought families lighting our Advent wreath at the Sunday and Wednesday evening services. Services were held in the sanctuary on Wednesday evenings instead of the Celebration Center. The Holden Evening worship service was used. Pastor Drew and I preached an Advent series titled *Breathing, Releasing, Receiving, and Rejoicing* on Wednesday evenings. Pastor Drew preached at our Christmas Eve services, which were Dec. 24 at 2:00, 4:00, and 6:00. I preached at our Christmas Day service on Sunday, Dec. 25 at 9:00 AM.
- On December 8, the PrimeTimers hosted the first ever *Christmas Festival of Tables*. Tickets were sold out! 94 people attended. Twelve tables were beautifully decorated, a ham dinner was cooked and served, and door prizes were given out at the end. The entertainment was the Windfall Choir under the direction of Brian Stubbs. After the big success of this event, it is our hope that it will become an every-year tradition. Thank you to Stacy Grothem for her leadership this year, and to all those who decorated and hosted a table.
- The Musical Extravaganza was Sunday, December 11, at 9:00 AM in the Celebration Center. The

King's Kids, Bell Choir, and Adult Choir shared their gift of music. The children shared the Christmas story to a full crowd in the Celebration Center. Thank you to Kari Erickson, Carol Smith, Cheryl Karlgaard, and Brian Stubbs.

- I performed two funerals and three baptisms in the month of December, and led services at Edgewood Vista Brainerd, Edgewood Vista Baxter, and Northern Lakes.
- Our New Member committee will be meeting again in January. We will be taking in new members on January 29. It looks like it will be another large group of wonderful people. We are excited to welcome them into the LCC family.
- Our theme for 2023 is *Behold, I am making all things new*. Revelation 21:5 I am eager to see what new things God will do in our lives, our church, and our world in 2023.

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music: Brian Stubbs

No report

Stewardship Report: Rob Norgon

No report

LCC Property Report: Dale Peterson

For this month's property report just a couple of things:

- The new water softener system has been installed and is running smoothly.
- Whitney Peterson starts January 16th as part time custodian

Social Concerns & Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens Warming Shelter-Bridges of Hope

Starting December 7th the Bridge on 7 th, from 1-3 PM, will receive drop off of donated individually wrapped snacks, heavy gloves. coffee supplies, and hand/foot warmers. We will be collecting those items in January here at church. Volunteers are needed for the week January 22-29. Shifts to be covered are mornings from 6 am to 8:30 am., and evenings from 6:45 to 10 pm. There is always a full-time staff person onsite during the hours of operation. We have 14 slots to fill and as of Wednesday, only 3 were taken. The used office furniture that was stored in the garage was taken to the Warming Shelter. Thanks to Bob Beck and Mary Green and the Rummage sale committee for organizing the transportation.

Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen

March 2, LCC Council is signed up to prepare and serve a meal at the Soup Kitchen.

ELCA World Hunger

In December, LCC sent our gift to ELCA World Hunger and were able to participate in a matching program which ran through the end of the year.

Congregational Life: Joanie Swanson

Happy New Year!

We are starting January out with a bang! New Member meeting will be held with the committee on Thursday, January 19th at 6:00 p.m.. New Member Gathering with a light lunch will be held Thursday, January 26th at 6:00. If at all possible, it would be great to have the Church Council members that are able to attend that evening for introductions. Staff and Committee would love to see you! New Member Sunday will be Sunday, January 29th.

Groups are thriving and busy.

2023 will be a good year to be a part of LCC!

Personnel: Darrell Paske

Todd Whipple will become the volunteer coordinator, so to offset the custodial duties he will need to
give up, a Motion was made for Whitney Peterson to be hired for two days a week, 12 hours per

week at \$20/hour, by Bonnie Stevens; Second by Rachel Gerhartz. Motion passed.

• Pr. Hans will be helping with pulpit supply in Pine River on Sundays.

Children & Family Ministry: Rachel Gerhartz

(Report combined with Youth & Family Ministry)

- The All Youth Gathering at Cragun's in November was fantastic, as we were able to have 16 of our youth participate and have a great time.
- We had a wonderful Parent's Day Out in early Dec. with lots of great youth helping and lots of younger kids participating. Our parents were very grateful!
- Our Christmas Pageant was again part of the Musical Extravaganza and our kids did great! It was a beautiful service. We served a donut hole bar and yogurt parfaits afterwards.
- With the help of a couple of our younger youth, pew bags for Christmas Eve services were created and handed out.
- Our Christmas Day worship service centered on the 12 Days of Christmas and Kari handed out prayer cards to those in attendance. Many thanks to Mary Hubert for helping with this project.
- Pr. Hans was able to make arrangements for our Summer Youth Trip to Holden Village in Chelan, Washington. We decided to open it up to families and all in the congregation and so far we have 33 people interested in going. We have secured 40 spots for July 28—August 7.
- Our Roll Sundays continue to be successful and we continue to attract great youth and parent helpers. The congregational support for this fundraiser is very much appreciated.
- We ended up having to cancel our Dec. tubing event at Ski Gull but hope to have good participation for the Jan. 15 Sno Fun afternoon at Ski Gull.
- The Luther Crest Interim Directors, Jerry and Carolyn Fritsch and staff member Emily Erickson graciously attended Camp Sunday this past week Carolyn shared about Camp and Emily gave a wonderful sermon. Maddie Elliot will be our preacher and presenter at tonight's worship. Information and specifics about registering for Camp will be on a bulletin insert tonight and next Sunday for folks to take home.
- Our Kids Art Event that we are hosting along with our Art & Faith Committee has been postponed until February 4 due to Joy's funeral and a family matter I have to deal with this weekend.
- Catherine Anderson, our NEMN Synod Youth Minister will be leaving her position in the coming weeks to take on a new position created by the ELCA at the national level. She has been a faithful and inspirational presence for Youth Ministry in our Synod and will be missed.
- It's been four weeks now since we have had Weds. programming due to Christmas and New Year's Scheduling and snow days will be great to be back in the swing. Our CYFM Team will be serving tonight's meal.
- Next on the list is to get the Playground Task Force together again and get that project moving forward now that the holidays are over.
- Cross Kids during worship continues to go very well and I feel blessed to be a part of this important Children's Ministry.

Youth & Family Ministry: Sarah Tietz

(See above report)

Next Council Meeting:

Thursday, February 9, 2023, 7:00 pm

Devotions: Rachel Gerhartz

Adjourn/Closing Prayer: Pr. Drew Bakken

Respectfully submitted by Jenny Stubbs

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





Thank you to the wonderful jazz musicians (under the direction of Chris Fogderud) for the spirited worship on January 29th.





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

4-hour refresher course for returning students
Classes held at Lutheran Church of the Cross
February 13 (4 Hr Refresher) 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
March 13 (4 Hr Refresher) 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
April 21 (4 Hr Refresher) 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
1-888-234-1294 or 1-320-308-1400

Lutheran Church of the Cross

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CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Address label here

Welcoming all people into discipleship

STAFF

PastorDrew Bakken218-961-2014PastorMichelle Ruen218-961-2013Director of Children, Youth and Family MinistryKari Erickson218-961-2012

Youth Ministry Hans Anderson

Director of Music Ministry/OrganistCathy Taylor218-961-2053Financial SecretaryKaren Wiele218-961-2016Volunteer CoordinatorTodd Whipple218-961-2052

Senior Choir Director

Organist

Bell Choir Director

King's Kids

Brian Stubbs

Laura Raedeke

Cheryl Karlgaard

Carol Smith

Custodian Todd Whipple 218-963-2564

ELCA Global Missionary Bradn Buerkle

LCC Office Laurie Hemish 218-961-2011

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

President Mike Smith Social Justice/Global Bonnie Stevens
Vice President Darrell Paske Worship & Music Brian Stubbs
Treasurer Colleen Both Youth Sarah Tietz
Secretary Jenny Stubbs Stewardship Rob Norgon

Cong. Life Joanie Swanson
Children/Family Rachel Gerhartz
Properties Dale Peterson

