

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church
of the Cross
2024

February



Rooted In Christ

Last month my wife Colleen brought home a small aloe plant. This resulted in me watching You Tube videos on how to best take care of it. As I was watching these clips, a suggestion popped up to view a video on how to re-pot a dying orchid. So down the rabbit hole I went, watching as the gardener took the orchid from its pot and began removing the dirt and clipping off the dead roots. With the good roots present, he proceeded to carefully wash them, followed by repotting it with new soil.

That orchid video has stuck with me and I'm not sure why, but when it came time to think about our 2024 theme for the church it became a little clearer – I chose "Rooted in Christ" for this year's theme.

In the Gospel of Luke 13:6-9 it says:

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

How many of us have neglected to tend the roots of our faith? Together as a church, our staff and council is asking the members of Lutheran Church of the Cross to take time in 2024 to reflect on our relationship with God, one another, and ourselves. We are called to take time to look at our roots and to tend to them so that we are grounded in the nourishing word of God and the saving power of Jesus Christ.

As I look over the 22 years that I have been ordained in ministry, I have helped many members of the churches that I have belonged to tend to the roots of their faith. But like the orchid and the fig tree, I have failed to care of the roots of my own faith.

Last year at our Northeastern Synod Assembly one of the area pastors discussed the importance of a sabbatical. The word sabbatical holds its roots in word Sabbath, meaning to take time to one's self to reflect and ponder our relationship with God and one another. Bishop Amy also stood up and talked about the importance of a sabbatical for our church leaders to find time to rest, reflect and to reconnect with God. Our synod and the national church recommends that a pastor look at taking a sabbatical every 7 years of ministry, recommending that a 12 week sabbatical will benefit both the pastor and the congregation.

In my 22 years of ministry, I have not yet taken a sabbatical. I feel that at this time in life I must tend to my roots so that I can be the best pastor to myself, family, and the future of Lutheran Church of the Cross. With approval from the church council, I am looking to take my sabbatical starting from May 1st to the end of July. I have been in conversation with Pastor Michelle and the staff and I am working on logistics and pastoral coverage while I am away.

To the council, staff and the members of Lutheran Church of the Cross, I lift a sincere thank you for the opportunity to tend to my roots so that I can be the best pastor I can be to the members of Lutheran Church of the Cross, our community, and throughout the world.

Blessings,
Pastor Drew





LENTEN WORSHIP

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

WEDNESDAYS

- ◉ Soup & Sandwiches 5:30pm - 6:10pm in CC
- ◉ King's Kids 6pm in Choir Room
- ◉ Worship & "Fifth Gospel" 6:20pm in Sanctuary
- ◉ Lenten Mentors 7pm in Celebration Center
- ◉ Sr. Choir 7pm in Choir Room

Ash Wednesday Baked Potato Bar, 5:15 - 6:10pm. Worship with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at 6:20pm.

Feb. 21st Soup Supper at 5:30pm - Church Council Serving - Evening Service of Light & 5th Gospel at 6:20pm in the Sanctuary.

Feb. 28th Soup Supper at 5:30pm - Creation Care Serving - Evening Service of Light & 5th Gospel at 6:20pm in the Sanctuary.

March 6th Soup Supper at 5:30pm - Music Ministry Serving - Evening Service of Light & 5th Gospel at 6:20pm in the Sanctuary.

March 13th Soup Supper at 5:30pm - PrimeTimers Serving - Evening Service of Light & 5th Gospel at 6:20pm in the Sanctuary.

March 20th Soup Supper at 5:30pm - LCC Staff Serving- Evening Service of Light & 5th Gospel at 6:20pm in the Sanctuary.

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2023 General Fund

	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>% YTD of</u> <u>Annual</u> <u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 99,100	\$ 724,634	\$ 699,490	103.6%
Expenses	\$ 72,149	\$ 716,936	\$ 699,490	102.5%
Difference	\$ 26,950	\$ 7,698	\$ 0	

In the month of December our income was more than our expenses by \$26,950.
Thank you for your continued support.

February 14, 2024

12n - 1pm

ASH

wednesday

**Drive through
imposition of ashes and
Holy Communion**
church main entrance



The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday.

Lent is a time of simplicity—we pray, receive ashes on our foreheads as a tangible reminder that we are mortal, and we recognize our dependence on God. This year, Lent begins on February 14, Ash Wednesday.

Lent spans 40 days, not including Sundays. Jesus spent 40 days praying in the desert to prepare for his public ministry, therefore Lent it is a solemn and reflective time for us as we spend 40 days preparing for the great mystery of Easter. We use it to prepare our spirits for what is to come, much like spring cleaning.

ASH
Wednesday

To help you prepare for the Imposition of Ashes, here's a devotion to do earlier in the day on Ash Wednesday:

*The LORD is kind and merciful. He is patient and full of love.
He does not always criticize. He does not stay angry with us forever.
We sinned against him, but he didn't give us the punishment we deserved.
His love for his followers is as high above us as heaven is above the earth.
And he has taken our sins as far away from us as the east is from the west.
The LORD is as kind to his followers as a father is to his children.
He knows all about us. He knows we are made from dust. Psalm 103:8-14, ERV*

Just as we are marked with the cross of Christ in our baptisms, we receive ashes in the shape of the cross on Ash Wednesday. Why ashes...did you know that ashes have many ritual and symbolic meanings? In the Old Testament, there are many instances of the use of ashes as people turned away from sin and toward God. Ashes remind us that God created us from the earth, and by His grace we live and move and have being - *and*, we are all created from the 'same stuff.' We will also return to the 'same stuff.' May the ashes remind you that in life and beyond life, you belong to God as His beloved child.

*You will work hard for your food, until your face is covered with sweat.
You will work hard until the day you die, and then you will become dust again.
I used dust to make you, and when you die, you will become dust again. Genesis 3:19, ERV*

PRAY: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: May these ashes be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

CONTEMPLATE: Be mindful and notice what you feel upon receiving the ashes. If there is anything you would like to let go of and place in God's hands, offer it to Him in prayer after receiving the ashes. Consider what it means to you to be claimed as God's own, both in life and afterwards.

EVENING PRAYER FOR ASH WEDNESDAY: God of all mercy, you love all that you have made. You forgive the sins of all who are truly sorry. Create and make in us clean hearts, that we, humbly confessing our sins and knowing our brokenness, may receive forgiveness and blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Family Gift Bag Ash Wednesday Devotion

PRAYER: God of mercy, you love everything that you have made. You forgive the sins of all who are truly sorry. Make our hearts clean, that we will tell you what we have done wrong. We know that you will heal us, forgive us, and bless us in Jesus' name. Amen.

READ: Matthew 6:-6, 16-21 (from *The Bible for Children*, retold by M. Watts)

Jesus taught his disciples many things about prayer. "Don't go around telling everyone how much you pray, or draw attention to yourself by praying loudly on a street corner. Go into your own room, shut the door quietly and pray in secret to your Father in heaven. God will see you there and reward you." One day, Jesus told a story about two people who prayed. One was full of himself and his own goodness: "There once was a Pharisee who went into the temple and he prayed like this: 'Thank you, God, that I am not like other people, greedy, dishonest, lying—and I am not like that tax collector over there, who cheats everyone. I fast twice a week and I give a tenth of all my money to the temple.' Meanwhile, the other person lowered his eyes to the ground because he was so ashamed of himself. He could hardly bring himself to say anything. He was wringing his hands and weeping, 'O God, have mercy on me, a sinner!' "Which prayer did God hear?" asked Jesus, as his disciples looked at each other, knowing there were times when they too were proud and thought they were better than others. "I can tell you, Jesus said, "God heard that poor tax collector's prayer and forgave him, but the Pharisee went away without God's forgiveness."

Every year we tell the story of Jesus' last days with his disciples, his death on the cross, and his resurrection. In this season called Lent, we get ready for the great mystery of Easter by looking at our lives to see how we can more closely follow God. We pray, we study the Bible, we reach out to others who need our help, and we focus on what we need instead of what we want.

LENTEN PROCLAMATION: (adult reads dotted points, all reply with bold)

- God of mercy and love, we confess to you and to each other that we have not lived the way you want us to live. We are truly sorry, and we ask you to forgive us.
God, create a pure heart in me, and make my spirit strong again. Don't push me away or take your Holy Spirit from me. Your help made me so happy. Give me that joy again. Make my spirit strong and ready to obey you.
- We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as we love ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as you have forgiven us.
God, create a pure heart in me, and make my spirit strong again. Don't push me away or take your Holy Spirit from me. Your help made me so happy. Give me that joy again. Make my spirit strong and ready to obey you.
- We are proud, impatient, and angry. We envy others who have more than we do. We do not share what we have.
God, create a pure heart in me, and make my spirit strong again. Don't push me away or take your Holy Spirit from me. Your help made me so happy. Give me that joy again. Make my spirit strong and ready to obey you.
- We turn away when others need our help. We are not always kind. Sometimes we do not care.
God, create a pure heart in me, and make my spirit strong again. Don't push me away or

take your Holy Spirit from me. Your help made me so happy. Give me that joy again. Make my spirit strong and ready to obey you.

- Wash us from our wrongdoing, and make us clean from sin.
God, create a pure heart in me, and make my spirit strong again. Don't push me away or take your Holy Spirit from me. Your help made me so happy. Give me that joy again. Make my spirit strong and ready to obey you.

BLESSING: (recited as all are blessed with the sign of the cross on their foreheads) God's blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always. Amen.

PRAY: Dear God, Thank You that You are loving and forgiving. Help us to love people in the same way as You have loved us. Help us do generous things for others because we love You. Amen.

Feb. 4	Emmet Wilson & Jemma Anderson	Sam Andrist & Mac Chandler
Feb. 11	Eli Hayes & Claire Loge	Kolten Hiles & Brady Olson
Feb. 18	Lola Chase & Addy Gorr	Kolby Clarine & Peyton Clarine
Feb.25	Kolten Hiles & Jacob Hernandez	Graham Johnson & Noah Johnson

**ACOLYTES
FOR
FEBRUARY**



FEB 14 **ASH WEDNESDAY** **FEB 14**

BAKED POTATO BAR

Serving 5:15pm - 6:10pm
Worship at 6:20pm

FREE WILL OFFERING
will benefit youth camperships and mission trips

Come enjoy a fun week at Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria, MN

Our 2024 Camp Week is July 14 - 19

All LCC campers receive a generous campership from our Rummage Sale Committee to ensure that all interested children and youth may attend. Full camperships are also available - just see Kari or Pr. Drew and we will make it happen. The Bible Camp Experience is like no other and we want to be sure all those who are interested are able to go! Our goal is that each camper be responsible for no more than \$250 of the total cost.

LCC registration code for Leapers and Witnessis is: CTBLCC24.

The following groups will be at camp during our week:



- Explorers -** For those who have completed K through Gr. 2; one night, July 14-15. Spend the night exploring what camp is all about! Explorers are invited to bring a parent or guardian with them to camp to experience all camp has to offer!
- Seekers -** For those who have completed Gr. 2 through Gr. 4. Seeking a half week camp experience? You've got it! Come to camp for the perfect amount of time to hear about God's love for all!
- Leapers -** For those who have completed Gr. 3 through Gr. 6. Leap into summer camp with our most popular program! Leapers will enjoy all that Luther Crest has to offer by worshipping, participating in Bible Study, swimming in Lake Carlos, doing arts & crafts, exploring God's creation, meeting new friends, playing All Camp Games, team building on the Low Lands Challenge Course, and more!
- Witnesses -** For those who have completed Gr. 6 through 9. Be a witness to God's great love this summer! Make memories with this classic camp experience as you worship with friends, zipline off of the TreeTops Challenge Course, swim in Lake Carlos, study the Bible, sing songs, do arts & crafts, cook outside, and grow in faith! Witnesses will experience a special campout experience at Carlos State Park

**SEE KARI WITH ANY QUESTIONS!
Early Bird Discount if you register
by February 14 - act fast:-)**



Lent is a season in our church that we prepare for. It gives us 40 days to prepare for Easter. The first thing we do is to change the colors of the banners (paraments) to PURPLE. On the first day of Lent, we have worship and we receive ashes in the shape of a cross on our foreheads. It reminds us that we are all made from the same stuff—dust! And, we put away the Alleluias for the season. In other words, we don't use that word during the season of Lent. That way, when Easter arrives and we use it, it will be extra special! One thing you can do at home during Lent is to make homemade pretzels. You see, the shape of pretzels remind us of our arms and hands folded in prayer. When we

make and eat them, it reminds us to be extra prayer-full during Lent.

Kids Lent Prayer: Dear God, help us to prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for this season of Lent, knowing that the joy of Easter is on it's way. Amen.



*Come
& Eat*

There will always be a place for you at the Lord's table...

First Communion Workshop

MARCH 17, 11:30am - 2:30pm

We will start with lunch followed by learning and activities with Kari and Pr. Drew. All Cross Kids who have not yet attended are invited, and must be accompanied by a parent/adult. Part of the workshop includes participating in Maundy Thursday Worship on March 28 at 6:20pm. Sign up on Kari's bulletin board or email her at cfmkarilcc@gmail.com, or call the church office.



**CROSS KIDS, KING'S
KIDS, ROUTE 56,
YOUTH GROUP, AND
CHAT AND CHOW**



Music Notes

February 2024



ACS 927 Christ Is The Life (COE FEN)

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien; Music: Kenneth Naylor

ACS 927 Christ Is The Life

1. Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure creative Word,
Whose pow'r beyond and through all space the worlds to Being stirred.
Christ is the life beyond all time, creation's birth and breath,
Whose labor brings all things to be and brings all things to death.
2. Christ is the death of all that is; a broad and beck'ning tomb,
Who welcomes us from well-worn ways to darkness of the womb.
Christ is the death, the sinking down past all desire and fear,
Whose promise in the gentle dark bids newness to appear.
3. Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, consuming fire,
Whose flames require our prior self as kindling for the pyre.
Christ is the death of dusty days of uncreative strife,
For out from fire we tread upon the threshold of new life.
4. Christ is the life of all that is, Beginning and the End;
Creative force most peaceful death, transforming burning brand.
Christ is the life, in whose wise love creation lives and dies
And thus forevermore shall bless the Source, the living Christ.

Susan Palo Cherwien©1989 Augsburg Fortress; OneLicense# A-704268

Susan Palo Cherwien, as her family refers, was a Poet. Hymnwriter. Thinker. Singer. She grew up in a Finnish community in Ohio as part of a congregation of the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church singing hymns and learning to read music through singing hymns. She loved music and the poetry of the church-music. She went to Berlin, Germany to study where she met her husband, David Cherwien, thus becoming immersed in Lutheran church music. Susan has eight hymns published in our own Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal and another eight in the supplement All Creation Sings, from which this hymn comes. She also has books of poetry. She wrote and delivered meditations as part of Hymn Festivals which she and her husband led. We were fortunate to have been a part of one at Bethlehem Lutheran Church a few years back.

Kenneth Naylor, an English composer, wrote the tune for this hymn. The tune name COE FEN is the name of a small fen or marshland on the outskirts of Cambridge. The Fen Causeway was one the major routes into Cambridge where the prestigious school, The Leys School, was located. Kenneth Naylor was the music master and later Director of Music at Leys School.

I love the text for this Lenten hymn because it addresses life and death. From death comes life, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is the life AND the death, Beginning and End.

Peace be with you during our Lenten journey.

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music Ministries

Finding Your Inner Superhero



What do you do when things don't go as planned? How do you respond when things get tough? Are you prepared for the unthinkable? How do you find the strength to dig deep and keep moving forward?

This session will explore a personal journey through tragedy, lessons learned, and tools used to overcome the challenges encountered. You control your own outcomes.

Bring a sack lunch for yourself at **12:00 Noon on**

Thursday, February 8th. Dessert, coffee, and lemonade provided. Program begins at 12:20 PM. Thank you to Sherrie and Bruce Kunkel for lining up this program. Hosts are Keith & Stacy Grothem and Steve & Mary Suer.

Speaker Bio:

Josh is a Nationally Registered Paramedic and Certified Flight Paramedic with 30 years of EMS experience. He has served for the past 20+ years as a Critical Care Flight Paramedic, Field Training Officer, & Educator. When not at work, he can also be found responding with the local sheriff's office dive & rescue team. Josh has been a dedicated safety professional and advocate his entire EMS career. He is the sole survivor of a medical helicopter crash in 2019. Josh has been an active member in the MN Towards Zero Death campaign and Child Passenger Safety programs on the state & local levels. When not serving communities, he enjoys traveling, camping, and can often be found training for a local triathlon.



WOMEN in the WORD Bible Study Tuesday, February 6th, 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM

Join us for a special time in God's Word with Pastor Michelle on Tuesday, Feb 6 at 10:00 and 7:00. Come for coffee, tasty treats, fellowship with our sisters-in-Christ, and a look into God's Word. The same Bible Study will be done in the morning and evening. Choose the time that works best for you. See you on Tuesday, February 6th!

Men's Breakfast

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

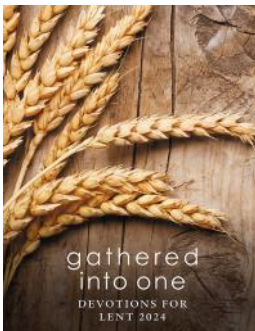
A Time For Us Wednesday - Wednesday, Feb 7, 7:00-8:00 PM

Parents of Confirmation and Route 56 kids, this group is for you! Meet in the old Youth Room from 7:00-8:00 on Wednesday evenings. This is a chance to get to know other parents and share stories and our lives. Right now we are reading a book titled Parenting: Gospel Principles by Paul David Tripp. Because of Lent, we will only be meeting on the 7th in February. Join us in church at 6:20 PM on Ash Wednesday, Feb 14, and our 5th Gospel Lenten services on Feb 21 and 28. Any questions, talk to Pastor Michelle.

StoneHouse Fridays-The Lord's Prayer- Feb 2, 9, 16 @ 12:00-1:00 PM

On February 2, 9, and 16 we are studying the **Lord's Prayer** and discussing the The Lord's Prayer book by Adam Hamilton. This is an hour of rich discussion and fellowship centered around the prayer our Lord Jesus has taught us to pray. StoneHouse Friday meets in the StoneHouse Coffee shop conference room in the RiverWood Bank next to Target. Any questions, talk to Carol Smith or Pastor Michelle.

StoneHouse Fridays-Gathered Into One Lent Devotions- Feb. 23-March 29 @ 12:00-1:00



Join us during Lent on Fridays, 12:00 Noon, at the StoneHouse Coffee Shop conference room in the RiverWood Bank for a time in the **Lent Devotional Gathered Into One** put out by Augsburg Publishing. Our first meeting will be on Friday, February 23. Everyone is welcome. Pick up the small Devotional book in the narthex beginning on February 4. Even if you cannot make it to StoneHouse Friday, please take a copy of the Gathered Into One book to enrich your season of Lent during your own private time. Talk to Pastor Michelle with any questions.



**Gather Bible Study—February 28, 2024,
@ 10:00 a.m. in Chapel Hall**

Please join us on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. for session 2 of the four-part Winter/Spring 2024 series: “*Scripture and nature: Teachers of faith*” by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith. In Session, 2, *Creatures: Our Siblings in Praise and Trust*,” Rev. Olson-Smith says that, “Jesus invites us to consider the birds, but we’ll get to know Biblical critters beyond the sparrows. We’ll look at biblical animals (some adorable, some terrifying) from ravens and lions to a big fish, paired creatures on the ark, and that sneaky serpent in Eden. Stories of human and animal interactions in Scripture help to reorient our relationships with the non-human world, while pulling us into deeper trust in God. Please grab a Gather Magazine while your at church and join us. No advance preparation is necessary.

DONATIONS NEEDED—Local School Personal Care Supplies

With school back in session in the area comes a great need for **travel-size** (NOT HOTEL SIZE) personal care items: shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, and soap as well as **full-size** toothbrushes and feminine regular size pads (not tampons). Please bring to our Gather Bible Studies, or leave in the church office.

**LUTHER CREST BIBLE CAMP
WOMEN’S WEEK
JUNE 23th THROUGH JUNE 28th**

All women. All week. All sorts of fun! Gather at Luther Crest for another great Women’s Week experience at camp this summer! We’ll provide 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.

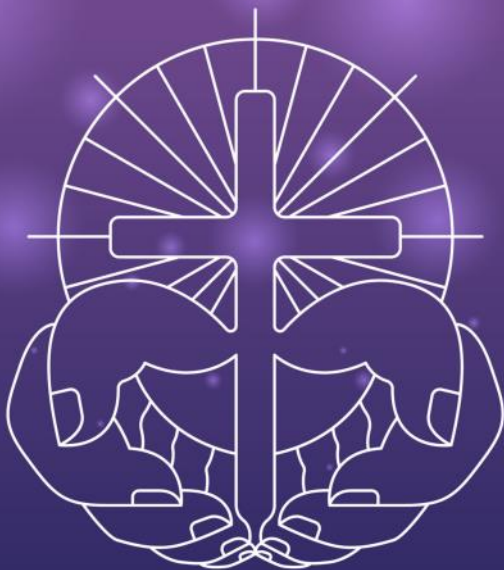
Cost for the full week: Early Bird \$479 | Regular \$659 No cost for babies and preschool age children.

Cost for one day: \$65 **Cost for a carload for one day:** \$130

Early Bird Deadline is: February 14, 2024!

Check out their website and register on-line: <https://www.luthercrest.org/womens-week.html>

Call Jodi Milli (507) 438-4435 or Gloria Thomas (218) 963-7951 if you would like more information.



Lenten Mentors 2024

February 21, 28,
March 6, 13, 20

Adult mentors meet with Confirmation youth one-on-one for 30 min. following each Lenten Worship service. This year's devotions will reflect on what it means to encounter God in experiences of reconciliation, transfiguration, crucifixion, restoration and resurrection.

If you are interested in being a mentor, please see Kari or Pr. Drew.



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.

Groups Serving Suppers:

February 14:	Children, Youth, & Family:	Ash Wednesday Potato Bar @ 5:15 pm
February 21:	Church Council	@ 5:30pm
February 28:	Creation Care	@ 5:30 pm
March 6:	Music Ministry	@ 5:30 pm
March 13:	PrimeTimers	@ 5:30 pm
March 20:	Church Staff	@ 5:30 pm

Sunday, March 24

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

Thursday, March 28

6:20 PM - Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion

(First Communion)

Friday, March 29

6:20 PM - Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Sunday, March 31


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	Wed
facility calendar for:			Febr
			
<p>4</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship w/ Youth Rolls 10:30 Worship w/ Communion 12:00 Game Day Afternoon</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 Women's Bible Study-James 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Women in the Word 7:00 Women in the Word</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30 Text 9:30 Quilt 5:45 Supp 6:00 King 6:20 Wor 7:00 Conf 7:00 Sr. C</p>
<p>11 NOISY OFFERING</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship w/ Communion</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 Women's Bible Study-James 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab</p>	<p>14 ASH WE</p> <p>8:30 Text Stu 12:00 Drive TH 5:15 Potato 6:00 King's K 6:20 Ash We 7:00 Sr. Cho</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship w/ Communion</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:00 Soul Sisters 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group 7:00 People for Racial Justice</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30 Text 9:30 Quilt 4:00 Crea 5:30 Supp 6:00 King 6:20 Lent 7:00 Lent 7:00 Sr. C</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship w/ Communion</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 MOPS 9:30 Women's Bible Study-James 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:30 Novel Ideas Book Club</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30 Tex 10:00 Gat 5:30 Sup 6:00 Kin 6:20 Len 7:00 Len 7:00 Sr.</p>

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
February	2024		
	1 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 7:00 A.A. 	2 12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter	3
Study ters er 's Kids Worship w/ Comm. i./Route 56/HSYG choir/ A Time for Us	8 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 12:00 PrimeTimers 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.	9 12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter	10
WEDNESDAY dy ru Ashes & Comm. Bar ids Wednesday Worship ir	15 8:15 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 7:00 A.A.	16 12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter 	17
Study ters tion Care Mtg er 's Kids Worship w/ Comm. en Mentors/HSYG choir	22 8:15 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 11:30 Nisswa Garden Club 7:00 A.A.	23 12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter	24
t Study her Bible Study pper g's Kids Worship w/ Comm. nten Mentors/HSYG Choir	29 8:15 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 7:00 A.A.		<i>Reminder: Before planning any meeting/event/gathering at church, call the church office for availability and scheduling. Thank you.</i>

Happy Birthday!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1. Ken Arneson
2. William Ingram
3. Mia Woltjer
4. Sam Andrist
5. Rachel Gerhartz, Clint Lindberg
6. Nollie Loge, Bonnie Morris, Cathy Taylor
- 7.
8. Lucille Boche, Mary Frost
9. Mike Larson
10. Lynn Christensen, Denise Hallan, Erica Honowski, Vickie Ottem
11. Terry Frovik
12. Clint Baker, Boyd Maine, Angie Rardin
13. Eli Martini, Sandy Wacker
14. Bradley Clarine, Weston Hiles, Susan Pratt, Nikki Stark, Mary Tyler
15. Joey Helsene, Eric Jaeche
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. Berkeley Landecker
22. Chad Wolter
23. Kristi Dutton, Maria Erickson, Bryer Hohertz, Mike Hushagen, Alexis Lueck,
- George Olson, Thea Strother, Sydney Tietz, Mindy Whipple
24. Derek Maier, Shane Moore, Deb Van Roy
25. Andi Clausen, Rick Harms, Karin Wolter
- 26.
27. Dan Germundson, Beverly Hanson
28. Jarrett Anderson, Patti Oestreich



Did You Know?

From the “People for Racial Justice” Group
Submitted by Marty Halvorson

“Donovan Archambault was 11 years old in 1950 when he was sent from the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in Montana to a government-backed Native American boarding school in Pierre, S.D., where abusive staff forced him to abandon his community’s language and customs.” (Story from the Minneapolis Tribune) He became bitter and used alcohol to ameliorate his anger for nearly two decades before he pulled his life together. Donovan subsequently achieved a master’s degree in education and served as chairman of the Fort Belknap tribes.

For more than 150 years, Indigenous children were taken from their tribes and forced into the boarding schools, which systematically abused students to assimilate them into white society. By 1926 more than 80% of Indigenous school-age children, some 60,000 children, were at boarding schools that were run either by the federal government or religious organizations. We can’t change history but we can learn from the injustices that were done and sensitively engage with our Native brothers and sister with respect and dignity.



Prayer Shawl Group—meets every Monday at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Lounge. If you would like to join or have any questions, please contact Colleen Both at 952-412-8973. If you love to knit, this is your group!

Quilters—meet first and third Wednesdays of the month at 9:30 am in the conservatory (old youth room). If you need more information, call Carol Christofferson at 218-963-2335.

Quilting = piecing it all together

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



Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen News

November and December were busy months at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen. 3,349 meals were served in those 2 months and almost 600 lunch bags were given out to the Warming Shelter on 7th. It doesn't happen without great volunteers. I'd like to thank Nisswa Women's Club with members Stacy Grothem and Marie Olness for serving the month on December, and Tim Bergin and Brad and Joanie Swanson for serving in January.

Lutheran Church of the Cross prepares and serves a meal the first Thursday of every month, for almost 25 years. If this sounds like a service you would like to be a part of, please contact me, Ann Bergin, LCC Soup Kitchen Coordinator, to talk it over. There is also a signup calendar across from the nursery. My contact information is georgiabegin@gmail.com or 218-820-5511.



The Bridge on 7th Overnight Shelter

This mild winter had seen lower numbers at the Bridge on 7th or the warming shelter. They are averaging 18 guests per night. (Full capacity is 30).

Always needed for use at the Shelter are Ramen, fruit snacks, snack bars, individual oatmeal packets and coffee cups. A collection box for the Bridge will be in the LCC Narthex throughout February.

March 3 through the 10 is the next week scheduled for Lutheran Church of the Cross. This is the signup link. If you have questions, contact Bonnie Stevens at 218-966-2125 or Bill Wear, Bridge on 7th Operations Manager, 218-829-7682, Ext 1009 or bill@bridgesofhopemn.org.

<https://whocanbethere.com/BridgesofHopeWarmingShelter/SignUp/week-of-march-3lcc/1w4qeNtB64Q/1wpPjEj54bM>



LCC SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Donation Guide

SOFT GOODS (clean/gently used)

- place in plastic bags

Clothing, coats, hats, mittens, bedding, towels, etc.

HARD GOODS (must be in working order)

- place smaller items in boxes with closed flaps or totes with lids

Bicycles, books, crafts, electronics, furniture, hardware, home decor, housewares, jewelry, lamps, lawn/garden, office supplies, pictures, purses, rugs, shoes, small appliances, sporting goods, exercise bikes, toys, & misc.

NOT ACCEPTING:

Badly soiled or broken furniture, Hide-A-Beds, Futons, Mattresses/Box Springs, Child Car/Booster Seats, Cribs, Treadmills, Tube TVs or monitors, VHS Tapes & Audio Cassettes, Doors/Windows, Used Carpet, Reference or Textbooks, Magazines, Encyclopedia Sets, Frameless Mirrors, Curtain Rods/Window Blinds, & Light Bulbs.

**Sale Dates:
April 25 - 27,
2024**

Donations accepted

Jan. 15 - April 19, 2024

Mon. - Fri., 8:30am - 4pm

and Saturday, April 20, 8:30am - 2pm

QUESTIONS?

Call Marv (218-537-0522)

or Liz (612-849-1500)

Electronics questions?

Call Lyle (218-330-5110)



Meet Friskey the cat. He is getting ready to bring all of his change to church for our Souper Bowl of Caring Noisy Offering



Be like Friskey and help us fight hunger!

Lakes Area Food Shelf Mission: To serve as a trusted community resource by helping our friends and neighbors become hunger free and attain a healthy life.

2023 Statistics:

- The Lakes Area Food Shelf fed **429** new families
- The Lakes Area Food Shelf received **45,859** pounds of donated food from local grocers, businesses, churches, organizations, individuals, and farmers/growers
- The Lakes Area Food Shelf purchased **9,984** pounds of fresh produce from local farmers/growers
- The Lakes Area Food Shelf serves **295** unique households and **1,335** individuals monthly
- The Lakes Area Food Shelf purchased **221,096** pounds of food with donations from our generous donors
- The Lakes Area Food Shelf now has **882** square feet of rack storage in its warehouse for food storage

On January 25 the Lakes Area Food Shelf hosted a community open house to celebrate the completion of its expanded space and resource hub. It was wonderful seeing some LCC members in attendance! *(see pictures next page)*

Jean Kraft, Board Member, Lakes Area Food Shelf

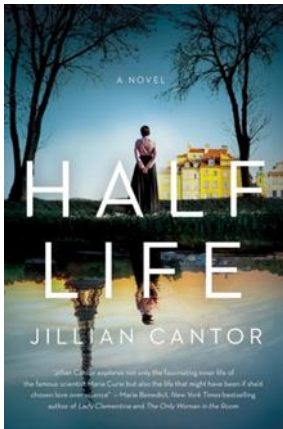


NOVEL IDEAS BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, February 27th

10:30am

Chapel Hall



In Poland in 1891, Marie Curie (then Marya Skłodowska) was engaged to a budding mathematician, Kazimierz Zorawski. But when his mother insisted she was too poor and not good enough, he broke off the engagement. A heartbroken Marya left Poland for Paris, where she would attend the Sorbonne to study chemistry and physics. Eventually she would go on to change the course of science forever and be the first woman to win a Nobel Prize.

Entwining Marie Curie's real story with Marya Zorawska's fictional one, *Half Life* explores loves lost and destinies unfulfilled—and probes issues of loyalty and identity, gender and class, motherhood and sisterhood, fame and anonymity, scholarship and knowledge. Through parallel contrasting versions of Marya's life, Jillian Cantor's unique historical novel asks what would have happened if a great scientific mind was denied opportunity and access to education.

LIBRARY NEWS

If you haven't had a chance yet, please stop by Chapel Hall and the library to see the new painting that is hung on the wall over the children's books. This piece was done by Lake Shore police Sgt. Mike Heldt, commissioned by Jean Olson and was framed by Ron Whipple. Thank you!



Winter is a great time of the year to curl up with a good book, so check out the Recent Additions section! We've recently added a number of books that were donated and purchased.

Please remember to check your bookshelves for any library books that need to be returned. That would also be a good time to box up any other books that you're done reading. They can be donated to the church library and/or the spring rummage sale. Thank you for your continued support.

CREATION CARE

OUR SOLAR IMPACT



CELEBRATING 7 YEARS OF SOLAR AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS



MAY 2016

Solar Panels Installed



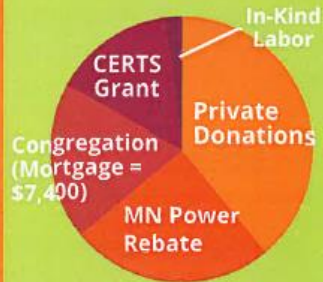
70 mWh
(megawatt hours)
produced since 2016

9%
of the church's
electricity needs

\$8,500
est savings to date

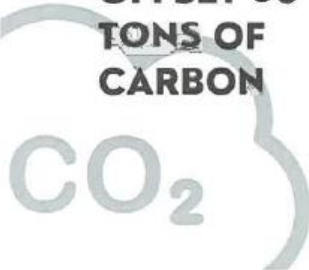
PROJECT FUNDING

Total Cost = \$38,718



Over the past 7 years we've produced enough electricity to power one average Minnesota Home AND...

OFFSET 50 TONS OF CARBON



Equivalent of planting 2,200 TREES



Power your REFRIGERATOR for 115 YEARS



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
Church Council Meeting
Thursday, January 11, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

We Assemble in God's Name

Call to Order/Office Reports/Announcements

Meeting called to order by Council President Mike Smith

Present:

Pr. Drew Bakken, Pr. Michelle Ruen, Colleen Both, Dean Dalzell, Darrell Paske, Dale Peterson, Mike Smith, Bonnie Stevens, Brian Stubbs, Jenny Stubbs, Bryan Trees and Lyn Underdahl, Deb Van Roy.

Devotion: Lyn Underdahl

Officer Reports:

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

- **Motion to approve by Lyn Underdahl; Second by Dale Peterson. Motion passed.**

Treasurer's Report (December 2023) Colleen Both

- **Motion to approve moving the excess surplus of approx. \$7,600 into the VMC fund by Brian Stubbs; Second by Bonnie Stevens. Motion passed.**

New Business: None

Announcements:

Council will serve the Lenten meal Feb. 21st.

Council will be serving at the Soup Kitchen in Brainerd Feb. 1st.

Old Business:

1. Pr. Drew has asked the council to approve a Sabbatical Leave from May 1- July 31st. This is traditionally a "slower" time in the life of our church as regular programming (confirmation, Wednesday night services, etc.) is reduced. He will make arrangements for additional clergy support from our members' roster of past clergy as well as lay members to assist Pr. Michelle while he is on leave.
 - **Motion to approve a Sabbatical Leave from May 1st- July 31st for Pr. Drew by Darrell Paske; Second by Colleen Both. Motion passed.**
2. Playground presentation/passage/Q & A January 14: Adult forum on January 7 was received well. An aerial view of the project was requested by attendees and will be included in the Annual Report for the meeting Jan. 21.
3. Constitution and Bylaws/passage/Q & A January 14: Congregational approval of the Bylaws for the 2024 Annual Meeting has been tabled, for further dialogue. Council discussion continued with a **motion for a closed session by Pr. Drew Bakken, Second by Colleen Both.**
A vote for the passage of the updated Constitution (already assessed and approved by the Synod) will continue to move forward at the January 21st 2024 Annual Meeting.

Pastors' Reports

Senior Pastors' Report; Pastor Drew:

Last month my wife Colleen brought home a small aloe plant. This resulted in me watching You Tube videos on how to best take care of it. As I was watching these clips, a suggestion popped up to view a video on how to re-pot a dying orchid. So down the rabbit hole I went, watching as the gardener took the orchid from its pot and began removing the dirt and clipping off the dead roots. With the good roots present, he proceeded to carefully wash them, followed by repotting it with new soil. That orchid video has stuck with me and I'm not sure why, but when it came time to think about our 2024 theme for the church it became a little clearer – I chose "Rooted in Christ" for this year's theme.

In the Gospel of Luke 13:6-9 it says:

Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?” He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.” ’

How many of us have neglected to tend the roots of our faith? Together as a church, our staff and council is asking the members of Lutheran Church of the Cross to take time in 2024 to reflect on our relationship with God, one another, and ourselves. We are called to take time to look at our roots and to tend to them so that we are grounded in the nourishing word of God and the saving power of Jesus Christ.

As I look over the 22 years that I have been ordained in ministry, I have helped many members of the churches that I have belonged to tend to the roots of their faith. But like the orchid and the fig tree, I have failed to care of the roots of my own faith.

Last year at our Northeastern Synod Assembly one of the area pastors discussed the importance of a sabbatical. The word sabbatical holds its roots in word Sabbath, meaning to take time to one’s self to reflect and ponder our relationship with God and one another. Bishop Amy also stood up and talked about the importance of a sabbatical for our church leaders to find time to rest, reflect and to reconnect with God. Our synod and the national church recommends that a pastor look at taking a sabbatical every 7 years of ministry, recommending that a 12 week sabbatical will benefit both the pastor and the congregation.

In my 22 years of ministry, I have not yet taken a sabbatical. I feel that at this time in life I must tend to my roots so that I can be the best pastor to myself, family, and the future of Lutheran Church of the Cross. With approval from the church council, I am looking to take my sabbatical starting from May 1st to the end of July. I have been in conversation with Pastor Michelle and the staff and I am working on logistics and pastoral coverage while I am away.

To the council, staff and the members of Lutheran Church of the Cross, I lift a sincere thank you for the opportunity to tend to my roots so that I can be the best pastor I can be to the members of Lutheran Church of the Cross, our community, and throughout the world.

Associate Pastor’s Report; Pastor Michelle:

- Our Christmas Eve worship services were beautiful and well attended! Thank you to **all** the volunteers, decorators, singers, musicians, tech room workers, nursery, altar guild, those of you who invited family and guests, and all those who were able to attend or watch online. The candlelit singing of Silent Night was beautiful. The 4:00 PM service overflowed into the narthex and the chapel hall. The 2:00 and 6:00 services were well attended, as well. It was a joy to share the Christmas message and celebrate the birth of Jesus with each of you.
- The new year has brought two new opportunities to fellowship together and look into God’s Word. StoneHouse Friday will be looking at the book, The Lord’s Prayer, by Adam Hamilton, from January 12-February 16 on Fridays from 12:00-1:00 PM at StoneHouse Coffee in Baxter. It will be facilitated by Carol Smith, Ann Lanz, and myself. On Monday mornings, January 22 through March 18 from 9:30-11:30 AM, there will be a women’s Bible Study, James Mercy Triumphs, a Beth Moore Bible Study, led by Marilyn Quist and myself. We will meet in the old youth room, or the Chapel Hall if more room is needed.
- This year during the season of Lent we will be doing the 5th Gospel at our Wednesday night services. I am currently talking to people who would be willing to share their faith story. This is a wonderful time for us to hear each other’s stories and to grow closer as the body of Christ. Let me know if you would like to share your faith story or know of someone who would. These are holy ground moments. Prayerfully consider saying yes.

- New small groups are forming. A small group is a group of 10-12 people who usually meet once a month to fellowship, share life, and talk about faith. If you have interest in hearing more about small groups, talk to Carol Smith or myself. Small groups are a wonderful way to get connected and meet new LCC brothers and sisters-in-Christ.
- During this season of Epiphany may the Light of Christ shine through us.

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music: Brian Stubbs

- Choral risers are being shipped.
- Name tags will no longer come from the Worship & Music budget.

Stewardship Ministry: Dean Dalzell

No report.

LCC Property Report: Dale Peterson

No report.

Social Concerns & Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens

No report.

Congregational Life: Lyn Underdahl

No report.

Personnel: Darrell Paske

Staff reviews need to be scheduled.

Youth & Family Ministry: Bryan Trees

Children & Family Ministry: Rachel Gerhartz

No report.

Closing Prayer: Pr. Drew Bakken

Meeting Adjourned.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, February 8, 2024, 7 p.m.

Devotions:

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.

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
ANNUAL MEETING PART 2
JANUARY 21, 2024**

Call to Order- Meeting was called to order by Council President Mike Smith.

Opening Prayer- Pr. Drew Bakken

A motion from Bob Burns to accept the minutes of the Annual Meeting Part 1, (Nov. 19, 2023); Second by David Smith. Motion passed.

Senior Pastor Drew Bakken and Associate Pastor Michelle Ruen shared their reports. President's Report, Staff, Council and Committee Reports are printed and were left for congregation members' perusal.

Old Business- None

New Business-

1) Treasurer Colleen Both shared new information in regards to the church's property and casualty insurance. LCC was recently informed its premium would be increasing by 40%. LCC will be looking into other carriers.

A motion to approve the 2024 budget was made by Diane Dalzell; Second by Connie Peterson. Motion passed.

2) Kari Erickson, Director of Children & Family Ministry, shared information about the playground project.

A motion to approve the construction of a new playground area at LCC made by Sarah Fogderud; Second by Jean Kraft. Motion passed.

3) LCC's Constitution has been updated as recommended by the national church.

Motion to approve updated Constitution by Carol Smith; Second by Marilyn Quist. Motion passed.

Other Business

2024 Council members in attendance were introduced.

Meeting Adjourned

Closing Prayer- Pr. Michelle Ruen

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Stubbs

**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.



GAME DAY AFTERNOON

FEB. 4, 12PM, CC

JOIN US FOR CHILI & FIXINGS,
ICE CREAM FLOATS, POPCORN,
CUPCAKES - PLUS FELLOWSHIP
AND FUN!

**ALL AGES
WELCOME!**



EASTER GARDEN

Please fill out the order form below to donate to the Easter Garden to help decorate our church and to memorialize or honor loved ones during this season. Your gifts will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletins. The cost is \$15.00 per tribute. You may drop your form and payment in the offering plate or bring it to the church office by **March 27, 2024**. Please write "Easter Garden" on the check memo line.

Thank you!

Your Name: _____

Please print legibly

_____ # plants donated at \$15 = __\$_____

_____ in memory of _____

_____ in honor of _____

Lutheran Church of the Cross

PO Box 29
5064 County Road 13
Nisswa, MN 56468

Main Phone: 218-963-2564
Web: lccnisswa.org
E-mail: lcc@lccnisswa.org

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Address label here

Welcoming all people into discipleship

STAFF

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

2024 CHURCH COUNCIL

President	Darrell Paske	Social Justice/Global	Bonnie Stevens
Vice President	Pam Sandelin	Worship & Music	Sharon Taute
Treasurer	Colleen Both	Youth	Bryan Trees
Secretary	Deb Van Roy	Stewardship	Dean Dalzell
Cong. Life	Lyn Underdahl		
Children/Family	Rachel Gerhartz		
Properties	Dale Peterson		

