

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	Kari Williamson	218-961-2013
Director of Youth and Family Ministry	Zach Malecha	218-961-2015
Director of Children and Family Ministry	Kari Erickson	218-961-2012
Director of Music Ministry/Organist	Cathy Taylor	218-961-2053
Financial Secretary	Karen Wiele	218-961-2016
Lay Ministry Coordinator	Sally Hodgson	218-961-2052
Senior Choir Director	Brian Stubbs	
Organist	Laura Raedeke	
Bell Choir Director	Judy Rickbeil	
King's Kids	Carol Smith	
Custodian	Clint Baker	218-963-2564
ELCA Global Missionary	Bradn Buerkle	
LCC Office	Laurie Hemish	218-961-2011

2019 CHURCH COUNCIL

President	Darrell Paske	Social Justice/Global	Darrell Barnack
Vice President	David Grell	Worship & Music	Mike Smith
Treasurer	Colleen Both	Youth	Jen Henry
Secretary	Jaime Boesen	Stewardship	Craig Fink
Cong. Life	Hilary Johnson	LCC Foundation	Dan Halland
Education	Pam Johnson		
Properties	Jason Martinson		



Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church of the
Cross

2020

January

Dear LCC Friends –

At this time of year, I find myself opening my date book for 2020 with anticipation. As I start to fill in the pages with meetings and appointments, I give thanks for the new opportunities and adventures that await me.

What opportunities and adventures are you looking forward to at the beginning of 2020? Perhaps you have an upcoming family wedding or anticipate the birth of a baby; maybe you will be starting a new job – or you may be transitioning into retirement. For some, it might simply be the opportunity to turn the calendar from 2019 to 2020 and wonder what the new year will bring!

As a church community, it's an exciting time to consider what new opportunities and adventures God will call us to. Our Lutheran Church of the Cross theme for 2020 will be *Under Construction*, and Pastor Drew and I look forward to exploring this theme together with you. Two specific things come to mind that God is calling us to in 2020:

- An event in the forefront for us will be the construction project on County Road 13. Along with the road work, the front parking lot will get a new look - talk about an adventure! I give thanks for County Road 13 Task Force for advising and preparing us for this project.
- An adventure for us as a congregation to learn and pray about in 2020 is hunger-related issues that affect our brothers and sisters around the world. At LCC, how can we be proactive at making a difference in feeding our neighbors who are dealing with hunger and food scarcity issues? As a community of faith, we will look forward to increased opportunities for discussing this issue in 2020.

In my contemplations of the new events and adventures that lie ahead, I'm reminded of Jesus' words in Matthew 28:19-20: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age." I love these words from Jesus; words full of *action* and *promise*. Action, as we are called out into the world to bring the light of God's love which is reflected in each of our lives; and promise, as we hear the guarantee of Immanuel – God with us...always. As we enter into 2020 *Under Construction*, may we at LCC be reinforced with the promise that God is with us and that we are called to bring His light and love into the world.

Happy New Year!
Pastor Kari Williamson

OTHER IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

Jan 1:	HAPPY NEW YEAR!- OFFICE CLOSED
Jan 3:	Committee Reports Due
Jan 4:	Funeral: Nancy Schreiner 11:00; visitation at 10:00
Jan 5:	New Member Sunday & Luncheon
Jan 6:	MOPS 8:30
Jan 6, 13, 20 & 27:	Prayer Shawl Group 1:00
Jan 6 & 20:	Suicide Loss Survivor Group 7:00
Jan 6:	Youth Team Meeting 6:30
Jan 7, 14, 21 & 28:	Computer Lab 9:00am—1pm
Jan 8, 15, 22 & 29:	Text Study 8:30
Jan 8:	Lakes Area Food Shelf 9:00
Jan 8:	Gather Bible Study
Jan 8:	Family Faith Formation 7:00
Jan 9:	Prime Timers 11:30
Jan 9:	Church Council 7:00
Jan 11:	Kid's Art 10:00
Jan 12:	Congregational Mtg Budget Discussion 9:30
Jan 12:	Bowling & Pizza 2:00
Jan 15:	Creation Care Team 4:30
Jan 16, 23 & 30:	Toning with a Purpose 9:45 (walking at 9:30)
Jan 19:	Annual Meeting Part 2 9:30
Jan 23:	Nisswa Garden Club Meeting 12:00
Jan 25:	Youth Car Parking at Fishing Ext. 7:00 am
Jan 25:	Kid's Art 10:00
Jan 26:	Forum: Holy Land Trip Time of Sharing 9:30
Jan 26:	Board Game Day & Lunch 11:30
Jan 27:	Brewing Theology 7:00



**Update your
contact info!**

If you would like to receive weekly eblast notifications, please email Laurie at laurie@lccnisswa.org with your email address you wish to receive notices on.

If you have changed your phone number, only use your cell number, changed your mailing address, etc., please let us know so we can correct your information in our database.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS - 2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

Position	Name and Address	Phone/Email
President (1 year term) (1st term 2020)	David Grell 2301 Cottage Wood Dr SW Nisswa, MN 56468	Home: Cell: 218-831-9374 Email: davidgrellrealtor@gmail.com
Vice President (1 year term) (1st term in 2020)	Jaime Boesen 14601 Springwood Court Baxter, MN 56425	Home: 218-829-9069 Cell: 218-838-1681 Email: cjboesen@msn.com
Secretary (1 year term) (1st term in 2020)	Darrell Paske 2356 Cottage Wood Dr Nisswa, MN 56468	Home: Cell: 218-831-4959 Email: dmpgrdt@msn.com
Treasurer (1 year term) (2nd term in 2020)	Colleen Both 7980 Lost Lake Road Lake Shore, MN 56468	Home: 218-963-4903 Cell: 952-412-8973 Email: johnkboth@aol.com
Congregational Life (3 year term) (3rd year in 2020)	Hilary Johnson 25557 East Clark Lake Rd Nisswa, MN 56468	Home: Cell: 218-330-2403 Email: hilmacliz15@hotmail.com
Children and Family Ministry Chair (3 year term) (2nd year in 2020)	Pam Johnson 29751 Owl Circle Breezy Point, MN 56472	Home: Cell: 218-330-5207 Email: pamandroland@hotmail.com
Social Concerns/Global (3 year term) (1st year in 2020)	Jason Martinson 11315 Gull Rover Road East Gull Lake, MN 56468	Home: Cell: 218-821-1710 Email: jason.martinson42@yahoo.com
Properties Chair (3 year term) (1st year in 2020)	Dale Peterson 5086 Crossroads Nisswa, MN 56468	Home: Cell: 651-600-7932 Email: daalpe@gmail.com
Worship and Music Chair (3 year term) (2nd year in 2020-2nd)	Mike Smith 13229 Homestead Drive Baxter, MN. 56425	Home: 218-829-8142 Cell: 218-851-4357 Email: dmcsmith@charter.net
Youth Chair (3 year term) (3rd year in 20209)	Jen Henry 7557 Fallen Leaf Circle Breezy Point, MN 56472	Home: Cell: 218-232-5491 Email: bhenry7701@hotmail.com
Stewardship Chair (2nd -3 year term) (1st year in 2020)	Craig Fink PO Box 282 Pequot Lakes, MN 56472	Home: Cell: 218-330-6273 Email: craigfink@live.com
Pastor	Pastor Drew Bakken 2146 Cottagewood Dr Nisswa, MN 56468	Cell: 952-451-5628 Work: 218-961-2014 Email: pastordrewlcc@gmail.com
Pastor	Pastor Kari Williamson 12997 Berrywood Drive Baxter, MN 56425	Cell: 651-283-1189 Work: 218-961-2013 Email: pastorkarilcc@gmail.com

2020 Synod Assembly

Bonnie Stevens, Brad Swanson, Joanie Swanson

2020 Heartland Conference

Mike Smith, Carol Smith, Marilyn Wotteng

2020 Nominating Committee

David Grell, Jaime Boesen, Colleen Both, Darrell Paske

LCC Foundation

Dan Halland, Rena Bolt, Marcie Hofmann, Brian Stark

Memorial Garden

Maureen Schmidt, Marie Ohess, Joanie Swanson

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2019 General Fund

			% YTD of	
	November	YTD	Annual Budget	Annual Budget
Income	\$ 58,284	\$ 577,504	\$ 650,397	88.79%
Expenses	\$ 55,047	\$ 594,219	\$ 650,397	91.36%
Difference	\$ 3,237	\$ (16,715)	\$ 0	

In the month of November our income was more than our expenses by \$3,237.

Thank you for gifting our ministry together. You make sure Worship space is provided; pastor, musicians, and staff are compensated; ministry supplies are bought; etc. By your general offering today, you are making sure that such ministries as LCC Library, Prayer Shawl, Hotdish Ministry, Funeral Committee and many others are blessed by your Christian love. Thank you! To give with your mobile device, scan the QR code to the right.



BAPTISM

Colin Jack Stotko Townsend
 Born: November 6, 2003
 Baptized: December 8, 2019
 Parent: Diane Townsend
 Lutheran Church of the Cross
 Pr. Kari Williamson, Officiant

BAPTISM

Caden James Menk Townsend
 Born: October 10, 2008
 Baptized: December 8, 2019
 Parent: Diane Townsend
 Lutheran Church of the Cross
 Pr. Kari Williamson, Officiant

BAPTISM

Henry Rolland Ohotto
 Born: November 17, 2017
 Baptized: December 22, 2019
 Parents: Jordan & Natalie Ohotto
 Lutheran Church of the Cross
 Pr. Kari Williamson, Officiant

FUNERAL

Sandra Jean Sheperd
 Born: October 20, 1940
 Died in Christ: December 15, 2019
 Funeral: December 21, 2019
 Lutheran Church of the Cross
 Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant



Annual reports due: Please submit your 2019 annual committee reports via email to Laurie by **January 3rd, 2020** at laurie@lccnisswa.org. Thank you

HAPPY New Year

The Lord bless you and keep you;
 The Lord make His face
 shine upon you, And be gracious to you...

From the LCC Staff



CHILDREN & FAMILY ministry



Announcing our third Family Faith Formation night on Jan. 8—join us for a BIBLE DIVE!! All families with kids in 5th through 12th grade should plan to attend—bring your BIBLES.

Route 56 Bowling and Pizza Party will be held at Pine River Community Bowl and Pizzeria on Sunday, January 12 at 2pm. Meet at the bowling alley ready to roll a couple of games and chow on some pizza!



Let Kari know if you will be attending our Winter Retreat at Luther Crest Bible Camp on January 24—26. All 5th and 6th graders and parents are invited to attend. \$110 per kid camper, with at least half paid by LCC as a campership. Drivers needed, too. PK and Kari will be in attendance. Email your RSVP and/or questions today: cfmkarilcc@gmail.com



KEEP IT SIMPLE

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18



Pictured is our Rte. 56 group at our KICS (Kids in Christ's Service) event to spruce up our nursery at LCC.

ew Members



Keith & LuAnn Mickelson



Peter Mann & Mary Tyler



Jason & Bec Kubesh
Cole, Beau & Landon

Welcome N!



Jim & Joan Roberts



Lyle & Becky MacIver



Jon & Emily Bachman
Noah, Superior & Brighton



Tom & Jessica Teasck
Ayla & Kaden



ALL AGES ARE WELCOME to join us for lunch and an afternoon of board, dice, and card games in Celebration Center. Bring your favorite game(s) and be prepared to teach and/or learn a game or two. This event is **FREE!!!**



Thanks to Thrivent for sponsoring this event—our 5th and 6th graders are very servant-minded—kudos, kids!!



FROM ZACH'S DESK:

Love Them First.

A documentary just came through my Facebook feed this morning, entitled, "Love them First". The title caught my attention, I assumed it was a youth ministry documentary shared by a youth ministry friend. As I looked closer, I realized it was shared by a friend who I haven't talked to in years, and it had nothing to do with youth ministry.

"Love Them First" is a documentary of an elementary school in North Minneapolis. It is a story about a culture shift, a love shift, of Lucy Laney Elementary Community School in Cleveland Park*. And this school is close to my heart. Before, I was a full time youth director, I was a part-time youth director in the cities. I was also a part-time substitute teacher for the Minneapolis School District.

As someone who knew nothing about the Minneapolis School District (other than they pay their subs \$50 more than any other district near by), I would randomly sub at different schools (there are almost 90 in the district). If I liked the school, I would add it to my "Schools I Like" list. Lucy Laney was the first elementary school to make my list.

I liked to teach Special Ed in elementary schools. The kids would pop in and out at their own pace. We would have dance parties and build things out of blocks, and try to do some math and reading, too. These kids were so easy to love.

I learned a lot about youth ministry from substitute teaching: classroom management, keeping a balance between chill adult and strict adult, but I think subbing really sharpened my skills of *loving unconditionally*. Not knowing what home life was like for these young kiddos, it was my job to be an uplifting spirit in their day. It was my job to love them first. It is still my job to love our youth first.

We love because Jesus loved us first. I am called to love our young people first, right where they are at. On days, when my edges are jagged, I need to remember this. I need to remember that I am capable of tons of unconditional love, because God loved me first. I did it for months on end as a substitute teacher. It's in me now. And it's in you, too.

May you spread this unconditional love wherever you go in this new year, and love the kiddos around you first.

In peace,
Zach

- Play and Pray areas in anticipation of Christmas Eve.
- Advent Candle lighting families have been secured.
- We will be working on Keep It Simple Retreat sign ups - so far have 2 kids and parents committed.
- Kari has worked on budget and started on the Annual Report.

Adjourn / Closing Prayer – Pastor Drew

Next Meeting(s):

Council Budget Meeting, Sunday January 5th, 2020 1:00 p.m.,

Council Meeting, Thursday January 9th, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Informal Congregation Meeting, Sunday January 12th, 2020 9:30am

Congregational Budget Approval Meeting, Sunday January 19th, 2020 9:30am

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 Interim President Paske 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.

God's blessing to all
Jaime Boesen, Secretary
"This Changes Everything"

Annual Meetings

Date	Topic	Presenter	Info
January 12 9:30 am	<i>Budget Review</i>	Colleen Both	Present budget and conversation on the 2020 budget
January 19 9:30 am	<i>Annual Meeting Budget Vote</i>	LCC Church Council	At this meeting, the 2020 budget will be approved and the congregational goals for the coming year will be highlighted.

- **Adult Forum Schedule:** The forum schedule is getting set for January thru May. Some of the highlights will be Holy Land trip recap in January, Hospice Care 101 in March, Bridges of Hope in April and Kicking off LCC's theme for the year – "Under Construction" in February. The Adult Forum committee is always looking for ideas and folks to help plan our adult forums.
- The highlight of the past month was the pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It was a blessing to experience the sights and sounds of the Holy Land with 26 others from our congregation. It is a trip that each and every one of us will continue to reflect upon as we read the bible and read the news. We look forward to sharing our experience on January 26 during an adult forum. Thank you LCC for the opportunity to lead and take this pilgrimage.
- As I reflect on 2019 and look ahead to 2020, my heart is thankful for the LCC staff and all the ways that we partnered in ministry and worked together this past year. I give thanks to the LCC church council for their leadership. I give thanks for each of you as we grow in faith together and walk together. A blessed Christmas and New Year to you.
- I will be gone from December 25 to January 2 to celebrate Christmas and New Year's with my family in AZ.

Committee Reports

Youth and Family Ministry – Jen Henry

- 12/4 Family Faith Formation 2 professionals are coming in to speak to the group. Katie Wiig and Amy Jamber, the Brainerd school nurse. They will discuss mental health and faith. The plan is to have 2 breakout groups after they speak to the large group.
- 12/5 Youth Team serving at the Soup Kitchen. We are planning regular tacos, Spanish Rice, fruit and dessert. We need to arrive by 4:30 PM and doors open at 5PM.
- 12/6 Video Game Partayyy starts at 6:30 PM with video games, Mountain Dew and Doritos.
- 12/7 Parents Afternoon Out - Youth help with games and snacks for younger kids.
- 12/8 Christmas Extravaganza at 10:30 AM Lefse making at 11:30 AM
- 12/15 Citywide Lutheran Youth goes caroling to local nursing and assisted living homes.
- 12/29 Young Adult Reunion – Afternoon after 10:30 service meet at Main Street Ale House for brunch and fellowship.
- 12/29 High School Lock in 6:30 PM – 7:00 AM for grades 9-12.

Children and Family Ministry – Pam Johnson

- The Christmas Pageant went very well!!
- Kari created Giving Manger bags, but church was cancelled due to weather when we planned on handing them out.
- Family Faith Formation nights on Nov. 6 and Dec. 4. were both very successful. The January FFF is planned and being tweaked.
- We got Thrivent Grants for Parents Time Out on Dec. 7 and Kids in Christ's Service (KICS - 5th and 6th graders). KICS will do spruce-up of the nursery, Kids' Corner and

Family Faith Formation - Jan 8. Families please join us for our third Family Faith Formation of the year. This month, we are doing Family Bible Dive! We will take a look into old bible stories and learn and share about them with our neighbors. We did something similar a few years ago in confirmation and we are excited to bring it back with some Luther Crest Bible Camp twists!

School Activities! - January is a great month to go to school events! Please invite me to your basketball, hockey, and dance activities! I will be assisting the Pequot Speech team again this winter, so keep your eye out for me in school! I would especially like to hit up some Thursday activities after speech practice.

Car Park - Jan 25. Going fishing? Park with us! For the 2020 Jaycees Fishing Extravaganza on Jan 25, please park at the LCC lot, just south of Mattson's Lumber. Support our youth on their 2020 Summer Trip to Idaho! We usually make about \$2000 from this event. Thank you to Mattson's Lumber for always supporting us!

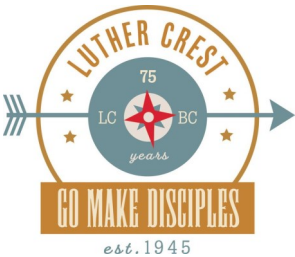
Camp Sunday and Camp Wednesday - Jan 12. Camp Sunday is right around the corner! This year, Camp Sunday will revolve around a youth-led worship! Our youth will lead every part of worship in some way, shape or form. Camp Sunday will be on January 12th, both services, and Camp Wednesday will be on January 15th. We will need quite a few youth to help lead this worship. It is not limited to people who have been to camp, but the worship will be camp themed. If you have been to camp, your participation would make this day extra special!

Ooey Goey Rolls - Jan 5. After a month hiatus, we are back! Thank you for your continued support!

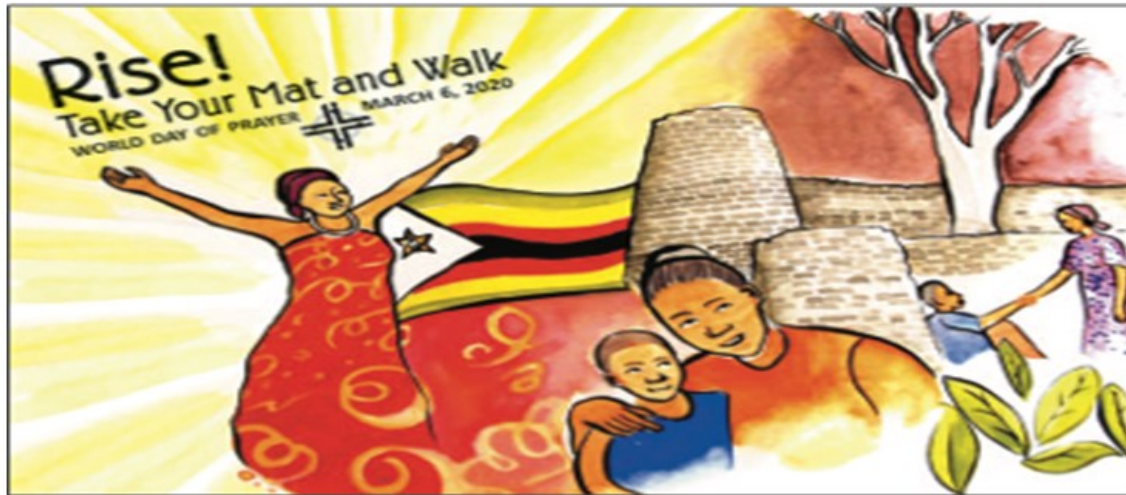
Board Game Day - Jan 26. Join us for the big game! Err board game! Our annual board game gathering is held on the weekend with no football. Bring your favorites, partake in the big game of Settlers of Catan, or a cribbage match! After second service. Sloppy Joe lunch provided.

Meal Packing - Jan 29. All High Schoolers are invited to pack meals for hungry people on January 29th at The Outreach Program of Brainerd Lakes (formerly Kids Against Hunger). Keep your eyes peeled for more details!

Zach to Anaheim - I am excited to take a Continuing Education adventure to Anaheim, CA for the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza! This event always gives me so much life and energy for ministry! I am thankful to work in a church that believes in continuing education, and the ELCA YMNETH.



World Day of Prayer 2020, March 6, 2020-Host: Lutheran Church of the Cross. Theme: "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk". The host country for WDP 2020 is Zimbabwe. The WDP 2020 program is based on Jesus' encounter with a person who, although positioned for healing, had not acted upon the opportunities given (John 5:2-9a). Jesus asked –"Do you want to be made well?...You are faced with this life-changing question....What are you going to do? Prayer and action are what link us together around the globe. Many LCC volunteers are needed! If you are willing to help with World Day of Prayer 2020 here at Lutheran Church of the Cross please contact Carolyn Blanck at 963-7660.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020 MARCH 6
AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Written by the WDP Committee of Zimbabwe

Reminder: As posted, cameras and recordings are in use at Lutheran Church of the Cross. You may read the entire notice of audio/video recording and broadcasting notice posted at the main entrances. Any questions, please see Pastor Drew or Pastor Kari.

of Northern Lake, Edgewater Baxter and Edgewater Brainerd. Our Primetimers ministry is off to a great start. Thanksgiving Eve service was fantastic and the pie social afterwards reminded me of being home with a room full of joy and laughter. We as a congregation are blessed with such musical talents and a special thanks goes out to Brian, Judy and Cathy for their help to make Christmas Musical Extravaganza so successful. Also, a special thank you to Cathy, Carol and Kari for their work getting the kids ready for their part of the program, what a joy it was to see the whole family of Christ leading us in worship that day. We are a blessed congregation and to that I give thanks.

- As I look to the future I have been toying with the idea of "Under Construction" for our theme this upcoming year. I think it fits perfectly as we begin to look at the construction project that will be happening next year in our own parking lot. But I think the theme even goes deeper as we begin to take a look at all the ministries that we have going on at Lutheran Church of the Cross. For instance, we had Shawn Hanson from The Outreach Program of Brainerd Lakes, shared at our temple talk that 37% of the kids that go to Nisswa Elementary are living with food scarcity. The following Tuesday I asked the staff what we could do to help out in our community. I talked about how we birthed the Food Shelf and that it resided here for many years. Maybe it was time to birth an Operation Sandwich location up North. Zach said that he would talk to Pastor Sara at Bethlehem Lutheran to see if this would be possible. Zach has received some promising news regarding this and I would like to see our Social Concern Ministry team look into this. Next, we have some staff safety concerns that we would like the property committee to look at and address along with handicap accessibility. All our ministries could take time to look at themselves for it is a good thing for all of us to be under construction. And I hope to set up listening times with our ministry teams and with our members as we look to the future to build upon our past but to look toward our future.
- As a council we are also under construction because we need to look at having a procedural audit, and financial audit. We need to finish and update our Constitution and Bylaws. We need to create a new sign committee to replace our current sign. In the near future we will be having a congregational council retreat in order to prepare ourselves for these next steps.
- We are a serving congregation reaching out into our community and the world. I can't wait to see what God will build for our church.

Associate Pastor's Report – Pastor Kari Williamson

- Upcoming New Member Events: New Member Gathering is December, 19th and we will welcome new members on Sunday, January 5th and Wednesday, January 8th.
- Family Faith Formation Nights – Thank you to Zach and Kari for their work on the two-Family Faith Formation Nights in November and December. It was a gift to see our families/community come together to grow in faith and talk about the tough topic of mental health. We have two more Family Faith Formation Nights scheduled for January and February.

Council Highlights from December 2019
Lutheran Church of the Cross

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
Church Council Meeting
Thursday, December 12, 2019

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion – Darrell Paske

Call to Order

Meeting called to order Interim President Darrell Paske

Present: Darrell Paske, Interim President, David Grell, Vice President, Colleen Both, Treasurer, Jaime Boesen, Secretary, Pastor Drew, Pam Johnson, Craig Fink, Jen Henry, Jason Martinson, Pastor Kari

Guest

Danae Anderson – Repair Estimates for church basement will be \$700.00 more than previous estimate

- Motion- Jason Martinson, Motion Second- Pam Johnson, Motion Passed

Officer Reports

November 2019 Minutes- Jaime Boesen

- Motion- Craig Fink, Motion Second- Pam Johnson, Motion Passed

November 2019 Treasurer's Report – Colleen Both

- Motion – David Grell, Motion Second- Jaime Boesen, Motion Passed

Old Business:

New Business:

- Outdoor sign committee for parking lot construction
Darrell Paske will chair this committee
- By-laws review and committee
Darrell Paske will chair this committee
- Audit – Financial and Procedural Review
David Grell will be on committee

Pastors' Reports

Senior Pastor's Report – Pastor Drew Bakken

- Once again and I am reminded of how great of a congregation we have. The month of November and December have been a busy time in the life of our church. In a one hour span 142 volunteers packaged over 6,000 meals in one hour for “The Outreach Program of Brainerd Lakes during our Global mission Sunday. We have averaged over 165 for our Wednesday night worship. I had the privilege to lead worship at the Nursing homes

Hymn of the Month

January 2020

Hymn #590 Salvation Unto us Has Come(ES IST DAS HEIL)

Text: Paul Speratus (1484-1551)

Music: *from Etlich christlich Leider* (the “Achtliederbuch; 1524)

This hymn was published in what is sometimes called the first hymnal of the Reformation, *Etlich christlich Lieder*. It is one of the oldest “Lutheran” hymns and written by Speratus when he was jailed in 1523 for his evangelical preaching. In the Achtliederbuch it had 14 stanzas and was called a “hymn of law and faith, powerfully expounded by holy scripture”. Our hymnal, the ELW, has only 6 verses which focus on God and not merely humans. The last two verses, especially bring this out with verse 5 being the Doxology and verse 6 the Lord's Prayer.

Paul Speratus was born near Ellwangen in Württemberg, Germany. He studied at the University of Freiburg, Paris and Vienna, earning doctorates in philosophy and theology. In 1506 He was ordained a priest and served for the next 12 years in Salzburg, Dikelsbühl and Würtzburg. He began to adopt “evangelical” views, was imprisoned and almost burned at the stake for his views. After imprisonment, he went to Wittenberg where he helped Martin Luther with the hymnal “Achtiederbuch”.

We will sing this hymn, varying the verses throughout January-Epiphany season. It truly celebrates the Lord's coming, light, and salvation.

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music

(Portions of this article are taken with permission from Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal Companion, Augsburg Fortress, Copyright©2010.)

**LAKES AREA
MUSIC
FESTIVAL**

Artistic Directors of the Lakes Area Music Festival, John Taylor Ward (baritone) and Scott Lykins (piano), return for their annual recital at Lutheran Church of the Cross on **January 5, 2020 at 2 p.m.** In a program titled 'Tragic Comedy', Scott and Taylor will hit the highest highs and lowest lows, with everything from heartfelt serenades to

silly standards. Kick off the new year with this intimate program of some of our favorites! This concert is the second in a 4-concert Winter Series presented by LAMF and is open to the public; no tickets required.

More at: lakesareamusic.org/winter-series/directors-recital

LCC Winter 2020 Forums

Holy Land Trip Time of Sharing
January 26th 9:30 Chapel Hall

What was it like to walk the streets of Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and float in the Dead Sea? All are invited to see pictures and hear about the pilgrimage to the Holy Land on January 26 during the adult forum. See you on Sunday, January 26.



CREATION CARE



Save the Date- EcoFaith Summit, March 28, 2020

Now the Green Blade Rises

The Easter Gospel for the Whole Creation

Saturday, March 28, 2020

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Brainerd

Sponsored by the EcoFaith Network of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

Registration Cost: \$20/person

Watch for more information and registration in early 2020.

Holiday Waste Prevention

Americans throw away 25% more trash during the Thanksgiving to New Year's holiday period than any other time of year. The extra waste amounts to 25 million tons of garbage, or about 1 million extra tons per week!

If every family reused just two feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet. If every American family wrapped just 3 presents in re-used materials, it would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields. The 2.65 billion Christmas cards sold each year in the U.S. could fill a football field 10 stories high. If we each sent one card less, we'd save 50,000 cubic yards of paper.

Statistics found at www.use-less-stuff.com. Visit this website and use the checklist to reduce your waste next holiday season.

The Story of Stuff

This groundbreaking cartoon take a closer look at how we make, use and toss Stuff and calls us together to create a world that is more sustainable, just and fun. See for yourself at www.storyofstuff.org. There are podcasts to listen to, teaching tools, and an interesting blog to read.

In 2019, consumer spending makes up **69% of the U.S. economy, a whopping \$14.3 trillion a year**. That's trillions of dollars we can direct to **renewable energy, regenerative agriculture, non-toxic products, and good jobs every year**, depending on the choices we make. We can **protect the Earth and her people** by using our economic power to "vote with our dollars." **1) rethink consumption:** repair, swap, buy used, do it yourself, grow your own; **2) buy green:** choose products from Certified Green Business Network members (GreenPages.org) or local businesses instead of from big box stores or Amazon. This puts your money back into green economies and local communities; **3) invest responsibly** by banking at a local credit union or community development financial institution (CDFI), which puts your money to work helping people in your neighborhood and supporting local business, as well as supporting your values; **4) get even more involved:** use your consumer voice to push companies in the right direction and to keep encouraging politicians and regulators to **protect people and the planet**.



ART AND FAITH GALLERY

Those who contributed entries to the **GLOBAL ART** exhibit should pick up their items by January 5th. Thank you for contributing to and visiting the Art and Faith Gallery.



Art classes are coming soon! We plan to explore Christian symbols with sculpture clay, acrylic paint and watercolors.

Classes for kids grades K-6th. Will be held on Saturdays Jan. 11 & 25 and Feb. 1 from 10:00 am until 11:30 am.

Sign up sheets are located in the Narthex (one for each date)
Any questions, please call Kate Carlson or Judy Swenson.

Thursday Morning Prayer



It is hard to believe a New Year is here. We open up our calendars to 12 months of new possibilities and opportunities. We may ask the question this year "how are we going to see God act in our lives and in the world?" Come and start year 2020 on Thursday mornings with prayer and a time to reflect.

See you at 8:30 in the back of the sanctuary.

—Pastor Kari

God's Will in the New Year

Father, I abandon myself into your hands.
Do with me whatever you will.
Whatever you may do, I thank you.
I am ready for all, I accept all.
Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures.
Into your hands I commend my spirit.
I offer it to you with all the love that is in my heart.
For I love you, Lord, and so want to give myself,
to surrender myself into your hands,
without reserve and with boundless confidence,
for you are my Father. Amen.

—Charles de Foucauld, 1858-1916



WELCOME
New Members

New Member Sunday and Wednesday

We will welcome new members on Sunday, January 5 at the 10:30 service and Wednesday, January 8th at the 6:20 service. See photos on pages 32 & 33 of our new members and be sure to welcome them.

If you are interested in joining please see Pastor Kari or Pastor Drew.



The 2020 sign up sheet is posted across from the restrooms. "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one. You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them." Please consider volunteering for this important ministry.

If you are willing to serve at the soup kitchen, please contact Ann Bergin at 218-820-5511.



Christmas Coffee and Scones December 14th



2019 LCC Christmas Sharing Tree, sponsored by LCC Women of the ELCA

Thank you to all who donated gifts to benefit Hills Crossing, Mid MN Women's Center and MN Adult/Teen Challenge. Thank you for sharing with God's children as we celebrate His gift of the Christ Child given for all.



A huge thank you to the LCC Decorating Crew which makes the sanctuary and narthex beautiful every year for Christmas. Wow.....



A Message from our ELCA Global Missionary Russian Correspondent

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgments against you...
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;...
The Lord, your God, is in your midst... he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

Even in Moscow, even many weeks before the majority of the country's residents celebrates (Eastern Orthodox) Christmas, the sounds of the season are everywhere. Mariah Carey is ubiquitous (perhaps not surprisingly), but I do find it rather odd that the infectious "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth" is for some reason more popular here than back home. Mixed in to this secular fare is, thankfully, a healthy serving of some of the most wonderful, joyous hymns that Christian authors have ever written. Even with my far-from-ideal singing voice, I cannot help but at least try to hum along.

While writing my sermon on the given preaching text for Christmas Eve (a selection of which, from Zephaniah 3, you see above) for congregations of the Russian Far East, I was reminded that people of faith throughout the centuries have held on to the hope that they will have a new reason to sing for joy. But the prophet here adds another aspect to the celebration. In his vision (or whatever the audio version of a vision is) *God* sings to and with us.

We would not be too far off base, it seems to me, to think of the Incarnate Word as the song of God among us. In Jesus, God uses words (though not only words) to express Divine love for humanity and to infect us with a new tune, one that will work its way into our heads and our hearts, both for this season and for all the other seasons to come. None of us, even the most talented musicians, can sing along perfectly with the deep and complex tune the Lord sings for us. But we can try to hum along. Why not? Perhaps we will experience joy when we do so. And perhaps we will even find ways to spread that joy to others. Merry Christmas to you!



Yours in Christ,
The Buerkle family
Bradn, Natasha, Matvey, Martin and Lukas



Hills Crossing Christmas Party

Lutheran Church of the Cross Women of the ELCA hosted a Christmas Party for residents of Hills Crossing on December 9th. We provided gifts for everyone, party snacks, Christmas cookies, and sang Christmas Carols. The residents couldn't stop smiling! Thank you to all who made this event a success.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are in need of volunteers for the LCC Kitchen Committee. Sign up for a month or months that work for you. Assist in making sure the kitchen is stocked with supplies. Call or text Marty Sapletal at 218-232-2924 or leave a message at 218-828-4831.

GATHER WINTER 2020 Bible Study

We are called!

by Kathryn A. Kleinhans

Reformer Martin Luther used the word “vocation” or “calling” to refer to all aspects of human life. We are called to respond to God not just in our personal relationship with God but in our relationships with family and friends, in our work, and in our communities. This four-part Bible study will explore stories from both the Old and New Testament. As we reflect on how our biblical forebears heard and responded to God’s call, we will gain insight into how God is calling us—and how God may be calling others through us.



Session 1: Hearing God’s Call . . . Wednesday, January 8, 2020 10 AM

This session focuses on men and women in the Old Testament. Some of them heard and recognized God’s call clearly. Others struggled to realize that it was God who was calling them or exactly what God was calling them to do. What can we learn from their stories?

Session 2: The Call of Jesus . . . Wednesday, February 12, 2020 10 AM

This session focuses on Jesus’ calling of the disciples, on Jesus’ call to Saul (Paul) on the road to Damascus, and on Jesus’ call to all Christians to take up the cross and follow. As Christians, how do we see ourselves in these stories today? How do we respond to the call of Jesus?

Session 3: Called to Serve . . . Wednesday, March 11, 2020 10 AM

Jesus is clear that one of the central ways we respond to God’s call is by serving others. When we serve others, we are recognizing Christ present in their need. When we serve others, they see Christ visible in our loving service. This session engages scriptural texts that help us focus on the questions, “Who is my neighbor, and what does my neighbor need?”

Session 4: Calling Networks . . . Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10 AM

The title of this Bible study, “We Are Called!” reminds us that calling is not something private or individualistic. Our callings are always interwoven with our relationships and our communities. This session focuses on how we support others in hearing and responding to God’s call.

About the author

The Rev. Kathryn A. Kleinhans, Ph.D., serves as dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio.

Thank you to all of our kids for doing a great job sharing the message of Christmas—it was a great way to kick off the holiday season!



Is It Really Christmas? 2019 Christmas Pageant and Musical Extravaganza



Sue and Alan Schmidt and Tess Taylor opened our pageant with a segment from the WLCC Radio Show!

Prime Timers (50+)

Prime Timers next potluck gathering will be
Thursday, January 9th at 11:30 (note date change)

In the Celebration Center

A-I bring a salad

J-N bring a dessert

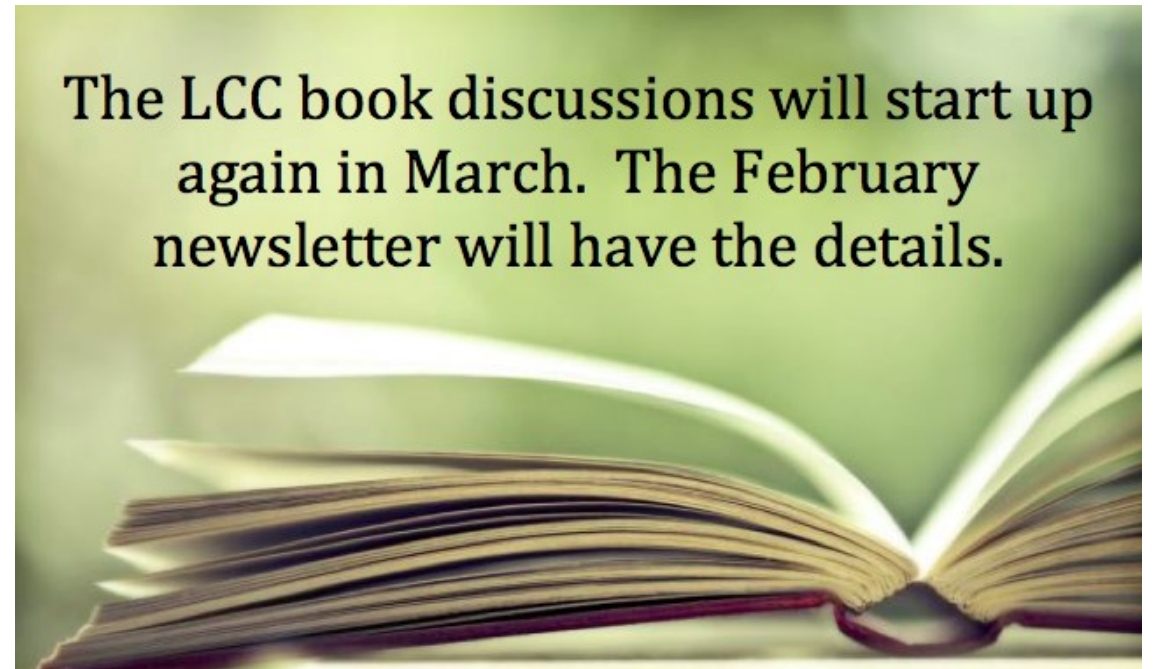
O-Z bring a main dish

Pastor Kari and friends will do a presentation on their
November trip to the Holy Land.

Any questions? Please call a member of the steering committee:
Candy & Darrell Barnack, Marsha & Randy Thomson,
Ron & Sue Whipple, Mark & Judy Swenson



The LCC book discussions will start up again in March. The February newsletter will have the details.



CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS – THANK YOU!

We couldn't have done it without YOU! How wonderful it was to see all of you sign up to assist with our four Christmas Eve Worship Service! Each of you played an important part in making sure everything ran smoothly for all of the services. Thank you for doing your part and for extending a hand of hospitality to our many, many visitors on this special holiday! You are all a blessing!

STAY WARM THIS WINTER - GREAT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT LCC!

No need to sit home this winter and wonder what to do! There are many opportunities here at LCC to keep you busy during these cold, winter months:

- *Serve coffee on Sunday morning! Call some of your friends and volunteer together – always more fun! Sign up on the chart in Celebration Center – many open dates available – please consider serving just one Sunday – you will make a whole room full of Lutherans happy!*
- *Help serve & clean up for our Wednesday night meals. No cooking involved – food is delivered – just set out for all to enjoy! Wednesday meals are served each week in Celebration Center at 5:45. Total clean up time is usually about one half hour! Sign up chart is near the kitchen.*
- *If you love to bake, our Wednesday meals will always appreciate fresh baked goods! Just deliver to the church on Tuesday or Wednesday and mark them for Wednesday supper.*
- *Worship Coordinators – right now we are short on willing people to act as Worship Coordinators on Sunday mornings. This can be done as a single person or a couple. If you are interested, please give me a call at 838-5765.*
- *If you love to knit or crochet, join the Prayer Shawl group in Fireside Lounge each Monday at 1:00 in the afternoon – you will enjoy the fellowship!*
- *Keeping our sanctuary neat and clean is an important task. Looking for one or two more people who would be willing to come in a couple of times a month and straighten up the church pews. If you are interested in doing this, please give me a call at 838-5765.*

Many, many wonderful opportunities here at Church of the Cross to keep you busy and warm all Winter! Thanks for volunteering – together we are better!

Happy New Year!

Sally Hodgson, Lay Ministries Coordinator

JOIN US FOR THIS ALL-CHURCH EVENT



Sunday, Jan. 26 after 10:30 worship

Join us for lunch and then enjoy a couple of hours of board/card games. Bring your favorite games to play and learn to play new ones.

ALL AGES WELCOME!

January 2020 Birthdays




- | | | |
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| <p>1. John Hahn, Benjamin Jones, Tyler Lehmann</p> <p>2. Ryan Heinlen</p> <p>3. Angie Klein, Alex Pape</p> <p>4. Paulette Burke, Lowell Liebenow, Nathan Maier, Isaiah Petersen, Del Schmidt</p> <p>5. Denise Aune, Richard G. Carlson, Samantha Ciardelli, Laura Hernandez, Diane Hillman, Patricia McCleary, Isabelle Olson, Greg Ortmeier, Stewart Sawdey</p> <p>6. Michael Macy</p> <p>7. Kara Hansen, Shelby Smith, Sue Whipple</p> <p>8. Dakota Glendening, Riley Henry, Lucas Pape, Cindy Parker</p> <p>9.</p> <p>10. Brendan Hiles, Austin Lehmann</p> <p>11. Larry Stark, Diana Verville</p> <p>12. Randahl Hoghaug, Robert Marquardt, Vivian Panzer, Joy Potthoff, Gretchen Wittwer</p> <p>13. Jennifer Henry, Everill Holland, Tom Peterson, Ken Rasinski</p> <p>14.</p> | <p>15. Jenna Rabas, RoAnn Schroeder</p> <p>16. Gerald Augustine, Dane Petersen</p> <p>17. Pollyanne Heins, Steve Lienke, Jackie Rosenberg, John Taylor</p> <p>18. Lloyd Foster, Allison Kosobud</p> <p>19. Karlyn Gordon, Elaine Haugen, Mark Mortenson</p> <p>20. Sandra Potthoff</p> <p>21. Lana Jensen, Justin Pape</p> <p>22. Curt Evert, Cooper Hiles, Milton Johnson, Matthew Najjar, Roger Pierson, Olive Stark</p> <p>23. Molly Baker, Betty Bruning, Michael Hintz, Elizabeth Sawdey, Bill Weik</p> <p>24. Gaje Germundson, Nancy Peltier</p> <p>25. Jan Burns, Allyssa Dunlap, Marcus Klein, Hannah McAllister</p> <p>26.</p> <p>27. Mallory Maine, John Manthe, Teryl Rusch, Kari Stoxen, Chad Wottreng</p> <p>28. Rena Bolt, Bill Ingvoldstad, Matthew Oseland, Nicole</p> | <p>Petersen, Dianne Wermager</p> <p>29. Benjamin Anderholm, Stacey Gorr, Hannah Oelke, Everett Robb</p> <p>30. Marsha Thomson</p> <p>31. Ann Lanz, Becky Melby, Jim Raymo, Janet Skogen</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



January Worship Assistants

	JANUARY 5	JANUARY 12	JANUARY 19	JANUARY 26
GREETERS	8:15 Matt & Jenny Oseland Family 10:30 Rob & Loretta Norgon	8:15 Youth Sunday 10:30 Youth Sunday	8:15 Brian & Nancy Peltier 10:30 Ron & Teryl Rusch	8:15 Dennis & Val Lueck 10:30 Open
USHERS	8:15 Brad & Joanie Swanson 10:30 Todd & Eileen Holland	8:15 Youth Sunday 10:30 Youth Sunday	8:15 Lyle Amundson Jon Wennberg 10:30 Open	8:15 Pete Mogensen Open 10:30 Rod & Karen Opp
COMM. ASST.	8:15 Randy & Marsha Thompson 10:30 Mary Backlund Jan Burns	8:15 Youth Sunday 10:30 Youth Sunday	8:15 Colleen Both Mary Wnuk 10:30 Dave & Esther Endicott	8:15 Mike & Carol Smith 10:30 Dick & Maureen Schmidt
SCRIPTURE READERS	8:15 Jerry Raedeke 10:30 Ada Larson	8:15 Youth Sunday 10:30 Youth Sunday	8:15 David Grell 10:30 Dave Stevens	8:15 Carol Smith 10:30 Carolyn Blanck
ACOLYTES	8:15 Andy Grell Marty Timmons Michael Oseland 10:30 Brea Eckes Jake Merseth Will Taylor	8:15 Annie Lindholm Ethan Thomas Charlee Sullivan 10:30 Nick Evanson Josh Stark Clary Erickson	8:15 Elizabeth Knutson Logan Knutson Logan Verville 10:30 Scarlett Anderson Vanessa Anderson Abby Bakken	8:15 Tyler Hushagen Aron Hushagen Weston Hiles 10:30 Kelsi Martini Maci Martini Ella Anderson
BREW CREW	Sr. High Youth Serving fresh baked Sweet Rolls	OPEN - Please sign up In Celebration Center!	OPEN— Please sign up In Celebration Center!	OPEN— Please sign up In Celebration Center!
WORSHIP COORD.	8:15 Roger Macy 10:30 Darrell & Candy Barnack	8:15 Tom Anderson 10:30 Jason Martinson	8:15 David Grell 10:30 Ron Halligan	8:15 Chuck Trucano 10:30 Marv & Karen Green
SOUND ROOM	Nathan Bakken	John Hofmann	Dick Schmidt	Andy Grell
ALTAR GUILD	Kim Cameron Judy Rickbeil	Kim Cameron Judy Rickbeil	Kim Cameron Judy Rickbeil	Kim Cameron Judy Rickbeil

Please contact Sally Hodgson to volunteer: 218-838-5765

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>facility calendar for:</h1>						
<h2>January 2020</h2>			1 OFFICE CLOSED 	2 8:30 Thursday AM. Centering Prayer 7:00 AA 	3	4 10:00 Visitation 11:00 Funeral: Nancy Schreiner
5 EPIPHANY & NEW MEMBER SUN 8:15 Worship w/Communion 9:15 Coffee Fellowship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship w/Communion 11:30 New Member Luncheon 2:00 Lakes Area Music Concert	6 8:30 MOPS 1:00 Prayer Shawl 6:30 Youth Team Meeting 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group	7 9:00 Computer Lab 1:00 Staff Meeting/Prayer	8 8:30 Text Study 9:00 Lakes Area Food Shelf Mt 10:00 Gather Study 5:00 Bells of Praise 5:45 Supper 6:00 King's Kids 6:20 Worship w/ Comm. 7:00 Family Faith Formation 7:00 Sr. Choir	9 8:30 Thursday AM. Centering Prayer 11:30 Prime Timers 7:00 Church Council 7:00 AA	10	11 10:00 Kid's Art
12 CAMP SUNDAY 8:15 Worship w/ Communion 9:15 Coffee Fellowship 9:30 2020 Budget Discussion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship w/ Communion 11:30 Worship & Music Committee 2:00 Bowling & Pizza	13 1:00 Prayer Shawl	14 9:00 Computer Lab 9:30 Good Sam Training 1:00 Staff Meeting/Prayer	15 8:30 Text Study 4:30 Creation Care Mtg 5:00 Bells of Praise 5:45 Supper 6:00 King's Kids 6:20 Worship w/Comm. 7:00 Confirmation/Route 56 7:00 Sr. Choir 7:20 HS Youth Group	16 8:30 Thursday AM Centering Prayer 9:45 Toning with a Purpose 7:00 AA		18
19 8:15 Worship w/Communion 9:15 Coffee Fellowship 9:30 Annual Meeting Part 2 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship w/Communion 7:00 Area Wide Lutheran Youth	20 1:00 Prayer Shawl 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group	21 9:00 Computer Lab 1:00 Staff Meeting/Prayer	22 8:30 Text Study 5:00 Bells of Praise 5:45 Supper 6:00 King's Kids 6:20 Worship w/Comm. 7:00 Confirmation/Route 56 7:00 Sr. Choir 7:20 HS Youth Group	23 8:30 Thursday Am Centering Prayer 9:45 Toning with a Purpose 12:00 Nisswa Garden Club 7:00 AA	24 KEEP IT SIMPLE/ ROUTE 56 AT LCBC	25 7:00 Youth Car Parking at Fishing Extravaganza 10:00 Kid's Art
26 →	27 1:00 Prayer Shawl 7:00 Brewing Theology	28 9:00 Computer Lab 1:00 Staff Meeting/Prayer	29 8:30 Text Study 5:00 Bells of Praise 5:45 Supper 6:00 King's Kids 6:20 Worship w/Comm. 7:00 Confirmation/Route 56 7:00 Sr. Choir 7:20 HS Youth Group	30 8:30 Thursday AM Centering Prayer 9:45 Toning with a Purpose 7:00 AA	31	