

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church
of the Cross
2022



The Year of Invitation

And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Acts 1:9-11

I have been pondering this passage in my personal devotions. As the disciples are saying their final good byes to Jesus, they watch him ascend into heaven, and two men in robes appear standing next to them saying, "why are you standing and looking to heaven?"

During the last two years of the pandemic I have felt like I have been standing still with my eyes and ears glued to the tv, radio, newspaper, social media, and news outlets trying to gather as much information about Covid 19- variants, vaccines, treatments, etc. I will admit that this virus has me nervous at times. But I have also heard the voices of those saying "why are you standing here?"

In the midst of our nervousness, anxiety, and stress about what is going on in the world (protests, school shootings, uptick in crime, and our own patience with one another,) it seems that something is missing. That something is community; it's as though we have forgotten how to live with one another. We have been so careful about loving our neighbor from a distance that it seems that we have forgotten how to be brothers and sister in Christ together.

Our church theme for 2022 is "The Year of Invitation." In the spirit of this theme, I invite you to join us in worship - as nice as it is to watch worship online, we miss you. We miss your presence and your voice as we sing our praises to God. I would also ask that you extend an invitation to your friends, neighbors, and families - to join us in worship on Sunday and/or Wednesday. Come and join us in any and all of our activities that are happening at church. It is hard to be the body of Christ without you; we miss you and need your help.

Together, let's make 2022 "The Year of Invitation," the year that we come back together and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

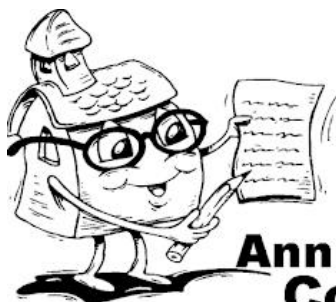
I look forward to seeing you at worship.

Pastor Drew Bakken

Thanks and blessings to all who participated in the Women of the ELCA Tree of Sharing Project! Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide gifts for 110 individuals this Christmas.



Annual reports due: Please submit your 2021 annual committee reports via email to Laurie by January 7th, 2022 at laurie@lccnisswa.org.



**Annual
Congregational
Meeting**

LCC Budget Discussion will be held January 16th at 10:00 am in the Celebration Center. Annual Meeting Part 2 will be held January 23rd at 10:00 am in the Celebration Center.

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2021 General Fund

	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Annual Annual
				% YTD of Budget
Income	\$ 45,242	\$ 578,308	\$ 679,929	85%
Expenses	\$ 48,622	\$ 540,092	\$ 679,929	79.4%
Difference	\$ (3,380)	\$ 38,216	\$ 0	

In the month of November our expenses were greater than our income by \$3,380.
Thank you for your continued support.



BAPTISM

Name: Dawson Bennett LeBlanc
Born: October 18, 2021
Baptized: December 19, 2021
Parents: Alanna & Alison LeBlanc
Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant

FUNERAL

Christopher Endicott
Born: February 16, 1968
Died in Christ: November 20, 2021
Funeral: December 18, 2021
Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant

DECEASED

Marilyn Olson
Born: June 9, 1938
Died in Christ: November 16, 2021
Funeral: to be determined

DECEASED

Curtis Lindelof
Died in Christ: December 6, 2021
Funeral: to be determined

DECEASED

Nancy Hall
Born: February 26, 1941
Died in Christ: December 15, 2021
Funeral: to be determined

all are welcome
CROSS
kids





December has been a month filled with our Musical Extravaganza and Pageant, receiving bibles, and working on Cross Kids Connection activities. Each Sunday the Cross Kids hear a special message during the sermon time, and explore the message further at 10am in the Treehouse with crafts, activities, music, video, etc!!





Our 10-12th grade team will be baking and serving cinnamon/caramel rolls on SUPER ROLL SUNDAY, January 9 in Celebration Center. All High Schoolers invited to help!



January Events

Sunday, January 9: Family Epiphany Tree Bonfire in back parking lot

January 9 & 12: LCBC Camp Sunday and Wednesday

January 23: Volleyball Tournament for grades 5-12 in Celebration Center

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO JOIN US FOR FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!

Route 56, under the direction of Bonnie Stevens and funding from Thrivent —worked hard packaging freshly baked holiday cookies for the Food Pantry at CLC as a service project. We had a great time and they worked well as a team!



**SEE YOU ON JAN.
5 AS SUPPER,
WORSHIP AND
PROGRAMMING
RESUMES!**



**ACOLYTES NEEDED—
SEE KARI FOR LINK TO SIGN UP!!!**

To our
LCC
Youth
from Pr.
Drew &
Kari

NEW YEAR PRAYER

May you KNOW that God is
by YOUR side and may you
FEEL His DEEP tender
LOVE WITH you EVERY
MOMENT of EVERY day.



January 2022

I am beyond grateful and thankful this Christmas season for the gift of our faithful volunteer musicians. They go above and beyond all the time. One of the changes we made during the days of on-line only services was to have singers and musicians help with song leading. When we opened the doors for in-person worship, we decided to keep the song leaders. They have helped immensely with leading the congregation in singing during the services. Their help in song leading has enabled us to try new hymns more regularly and encourage the congregation to sing the older favorites more robustly.

Our musicians include: Mike Smith, Sharon Taute, Jenny Stubbs, Brian Stubbs, Kris Smith, Dave Endicott, Chris Fogderud, Erica Bjelland, Kevin Lattu, Jim Natwick, Kari Erickson, Karla Jensen, Jen Pelowski, Jim Roberts, Sara Smith, and Ned Aga.

Please thank them for their service when you see them. They are a blessing to us all!

I pray that you have a Blessed New Year! God With Us – Immanuel – Always!

Cathy Taylor
Director of Music



JANUARY



A great month to become a member King's Kids children's choir. If you are in grades 1 to 4 and you like to sing join us for supper in the Celebration Center at 5:30pm on Weds. evenings.

Come to the choir room from 6:00-6:30pm for a time of music and fun. The choir practices most weeks and sings on the second Sunday of every month.



King's Kids

**Any questions?
Call Carol Smith-
218-829-8142**

Ponder and Prayer Group-

Ponder and Prayer meets every Monday morning in the sanctuary from 10:00-11:00 am. It's a time of quiet reflection in the Word, followed up by a time of small group prayer. We would love to have you join us. Any questions, talk to Vicar Michelle. "Be Still and know that I am GOD." Psalm 46:10

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

Meet Lyle and the guys for coffee, treats, and good conversation every Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 in the Old Youth Room. Thanks, LCC men!



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

Parents, join us on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm in the Old Youth Room for a time of fellowship, getting to know other parents, good conversation, some laughs, and a time of learning while your child is in Confirmation or Route 56. Try us out. Led by Vicar Michelle.



PIZZA AND GAMES - FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 5:30-7:30 PM

We missed December, so let's all get together for a fun night of fellowship and games on Friday, January 21. Pizza provided. We have all sorts of cards and games, but feel free to bring your own favorite game, if you wish. Come for laughs, a warm cup of cocoa, a bite to eat, and some fast (or slow) gamesmanship!

WOMEN OF THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, January 4, 10:00 AM or 7:00 PM

What better way to start out the New Year! Here's your opportunity to show God that you want to put God first in 2022. If you have never been to our monthly Women's Bible Study, please join in, even if it's for just this month. It's low key, fun, and insightful. Invite a friend. Come at 10:00 AM or 7:00 PM. Come for coffee and treats. No homework. No pressure to talk. Just come. Let's start out the New Year with right living! Led by Vicar Michelle.





Epiphany Bonfire

**Sunday, January 9
10:15 am**

**ALL ARE WELCOME -
Grab a roll and coffee and
meet in the back parking lot!**

Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa



Plan Now to Join Us January 12th at 10am in Chapel Hall for the first session of the Winter 2022 Gather Study “The Kingdom of God” by Rev. Mark Allan Powell

Rev. Powell is a New Testament Scholar and author of the world’s best-selling New Testament textbook and editor of the *Harper-Collins Bible Dictionary*. As Winter 2022 Gather Study leader, he will help us understand the meaning of the phrase Kingdom of God”. He will also share what may be some surprises with us. For example the phrase “*The kingdom of God*” refers to an activity, not a location—and it has nothing to do with God being a “king.” Jesus probably talked more about the kingdom of God than anything else. In scriptures we hear Jesus talk about where it is found, when it will come, how it draws near, to whom it belongs.

At the Winter 2022 Gather Studies we’ll learn a lot about “the kingdom of God”.

January 12th: We will ask, what would it mean for God to be in charge of our lives? And why would that be good news?

February 9th: We’ll consider “kingdom parables” including Jesus parable where he dramatizes the kingdom of God as a banquet and we will also discover (or rediscover) who we should regard as greatest in the kingdom of God.

March 9th: Eternal Life Expression in the Gospel of John is called the “kingdom of God.” We’ll find out this isn’t referring to a long life but rather it’s referring to a life that is eternally deep and endless in value and meaning and marked by love and purpose.

April 13th: We’ll discuss life forever with God and experiencing the kingdom of God in the here and now as well as in the future life.

Gather Studies are Bible studies published by the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in their magazine called “Gather”. Each issue of the magazine contains a Bible Study and stories of hope and comfort from voices throughout the ELCA to help guide women as they live and experience faith in their everyday lives. Monthly copies of the Gather magazine, purchased by LCC Women of the ELCA, are available in the narthex.



Prime Timers Meeting is Thursday, January 6, 12:00 in the Celebration Center. Bring your own bag lunch; desert and beverages will be provided.

Hosts: Jerry and Laura Raedeke and Mike and Carol Smith.

For the first meeting of the new year, come and hear

Pr. Darrell Pedersen talk about race relations in the Brainerd Lakes Area. The title of his talk: *"Bad Day for God's People."*

Darrell Pedersen has spent almost his entire life Northeastern Minnesota. Son of Scandinavian factory worker and full-time homemaker, he grew up in Alborn Minnesota, near the Fon du Lac Indian Reservation. He graduated from UMD and Luther Seminary He served parishes in Outing-Remer, Littlefork, Baxter and Aitkin before retiring three years ago. He has a wife, Jennifer, three married children and two grandchildren. He loves people!



In December the Prime Time crowd enjoyed Brainerd High School Windfall Choir directed by Brian Stubbs sing acapella. What a wonderful group of talented young adults.





**OUTDOOR
ADVENTURES
SNOW TUBING
ALL ARE WELCOME**



JANUARY 16 | 2PM - 4PM
RSVP to Sara Smith by January 9.
612-834-7883



THANKFUL FOR OUR CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS!

We are truly blessed with the best volunteers around! We had many volunteers working behind the scenes to handle the three Christmas Eve services. We thank you.




Sally Hodgson, Lay Ministries Coordinator



*Unto us a child is born,
Unto us a son is given.
And his name is Prince of Peace.*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
facility calendar for:			
January			
2	3	4	5
<p>9:00 Worship 10:00 Cross Kids Connection 10:00 Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers 10:00 Ponder & Prayer 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group</p>	<p>9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Men's Fellowship 7:00 Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>8:30 Text 5:45 We 6:00 Kin 6:20 We 7:00 Con 7:00 Sr. 8:15 You</p>
9	10	11	12
<p>CAMP SUNDAY/EPIPHANY</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/Communion 10:00 Cross Kids Connection 10:00 Coffee Fellowship/Youth Rolls 10:15 Epiphany Tree Bonfire</p>	<p>8:30 Staff Meeting /Prayers 10:00 Ponder & Prayer 11:00 Soul Sisters 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group</p>	<p>9:00 Computer Lab 2:00 Men's Fellowship 5:00 Lakes Area Food Shelf Board Mtg</p>	<p>12 CAMP V</p> <p>8:30 Text 10:00 Gath 5:45 Wed 6:00 King 6:20 Wed 7:00 Conf 7:00 Sr. C</p>
16	17	18	19
<p>9:00 Worship 10:00 Cross Kids Connection 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Budget Discussion 2:00 Outdoor Adventures: Tubing</p>	<p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers 10:00 Ponder & Prayer 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group 7:00 People for Racial Justice</p>	<p>9:00 Computer Lab 2:00 Men's Fellowship</p>	<p>8:30 Text 10:00 Niss 4:00 Crea 5:45 Wed 6:00 King 6:20 Wed 7:00 Conf 7:00 Sr. C</p>
23	24	25	26
<p>9:00 Worship w/Communion 10:00 Cross Kids Connection 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Annual Meeting-Part 2 11:30 Volleyball Tourney</p>	<p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers 10:00 Ponder & Prayer 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group 2:30 Novel Ideas Book Club</p>	<p>9:00 Computer Lab 2:00 Men's Fellowship</p>	<p>8:30 Text 5:45 We 6:00 Kin 6:20 We 7:00 Con 7:00 Sr.</p>
30	31		
<p>9:00 Worship 10:00 Cross Kids Connection 10:00 Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers 10:00 Ponder & Prayer 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group</p>		

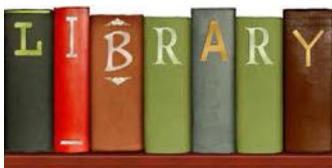
Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
January	2022		1
t Study ed. Supper g's Kids d. Worship nfirmation/Route 56 Choir/A Time for Us uth Summer Trip Mtg	6 10:00 Toning with a Purpose 12:00 PrimeTimers 7:00 Church Council Budget Mtg 7:00 A.A. 	7 9:00 55+ Driver Discount Annual Reports Due	8 Private Baptism
WED. Study er Study l. Supper 's Kids d. Worship nfirmation/Route 56 choir/Time for Us	13 9:00 MOPS 10:00 Toning with a Purpose 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.	14 	15
Study wa Garden Club Board tion Care Team Mtg l. Supper 's Kids d. Worship nfirmation/Route 56 choir/Time for Us	20 9:00 MOPS 10:00 Toning with a Purpose 7:00 A.A.	21 5:30 Pizza & Game Night	22
t Study ed. Supper g's Kids d. Worship nfirmation/Route 56 Choir/A Time for Us	27 9:00 Toning with a Purpose 11:00 Garden Club 7:00 A.A.	28	29 Ice fishing Extravaganza Youth Parking

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1. John Hahn, Benjamin Jones, Tyler Lehmann
- 2.
3. Angie Klein, Alex Pape
4. Paulette Burke, Del Schmidt
5. Denise Aune, Richard Carlson, Laura Hernandez, Diane Hillman, Patricia McCleary, Stewart Sawdey
- 6.
7. Shelby Smith, Sue Whipple
8. Dakota Glendening, Riley Henry, Lucas Pape
- 9.
10. Brendan Hiles, Austin Lehmann
11. Larry Stark, Diana Verville
12. Randahl Hoghaug, Robert Marquardt, Vivian Panzer, Joy Potthoff
13. Jen Henry, Ev Holland, Tom Peterson, Ken Rasinski
- 14.
15. RoAnn Schoeder
16. Dane Petersen, Michelle Ruen
17. Pollyanne Heins, Steve Lienke, John Taylor
18. Lloyd Foster
19. Karlyn Gordon, Elaine Haugen
20. Sandra Potthoff
21. Justin Pape
22. Curt Evert, Cooper Hiles, Milton Johnson, Laurie Larson, Roger Pierson, Jim Roberts, Olive Stark
23. Elizabeth Guderjohn, Bill Weik
24. Gaje Germundson, Nancy Peltier
25. Jan Burns, Marcus Klein
- 26.
27. Mallory Maine, Teryl Rusch, Kari Stoxen, Chad Wottreng
28. Rena Bolt, Bill Ingvaldstad, Matthew Oseland, Nicole Petersen, Dianne Wermager
29. Stacey Gorr, Hannah Oelke, Everett Robb
30. Marsha Thomson
31. Ann Lanz, Becky Melby, Jim Raymo, Janet Skogen





NEW BOOKS



Please stop by and check out these new books that are on display in the church library:

- ◆ *The New Minnesotans: Stories of Immigrants and Refugees* by Greg Aamot
- ◆ *Notes from a North Country Journal* by Barbara A. Mulvaney
- ◆ *Little Minnesota in World War II: The Stories Behind 140 Fallen Heroes from Minnesota's Littlest Towns* by Jill A. Johnson and Diane L. Johnson
- ◆ *Images of America: Brainerd* by Crow Wing County Historical Society
- ◆ *Lives of Wolves, Coyotes and Foxes* by Stan Tekiela
- ◆ *Cardinals* (Backyard Bird Series) by Stan Tekiela

For the youth:

- ◆ *What's Heaven?* by Maria Shriver
- ◆ *Old Turtle* by Douglas Wood

Heading south for the winter and have some of the library books? Please remember to return them before you leave so others can enjoy them.

NOVEL IDEAS book club is reading *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles and will be meeting on January 24th at 2:30 in Chapel Hall.



Quilting

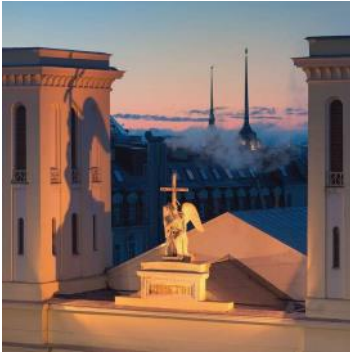
Will not be meeting during the months of January and February. See you in March. Thank you.



We are **NOT accepting** donations at this time however, if you have working electronics to donate, please contact Lyle at 218-330-5110. Stay tuned for updates.

A Message from our ELCA Global Missionary

Russian Correspondent



General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia
 “Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed.” - these words from Jeremiah 17 were the theme of the 5th General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia (ELCR), held October 15-16 on the premises of the Theological Seminary in the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul in St. Petersburg (*photo left*).

This biennial meeting of the western and eastern parts of the Russian church focused on church administration and representation, theological education, confessional identity, public relations, and other common issues of ministry.

Among the items of on the agenda was my presentation of the results of three years of committee work on a new, comprehensive liturgical resource that includes settings for Sunday worship, special holy day worship services, occasional services, commentary, and everything related to the lectionary. All in all, almost 500 pages of materials have been prepared for a “test run” on congregations throughout the country.

At present the materials have been distributed as non-bound hard copies which can be placed into folders (also provided) for use during worship; the resource is also available in electronic format for those who would prefer to print on their own or use a projector. This trial version of the liturgical resource was given to synod delegates so that they might further distribute it and test it out in the “real life” conditions of their congregations. Evaluation forms are to be filled out by the middle of 2022, and the comments and requests made by congregational leaders will be considered for further editing and improvement. If all goes according to plan, the final version will be ready for approval at the next General Synod, followed by publication in book format.

The meeting in St. Petersburg also touched upon one other area related to educational ministries in the ELCR. Rev. Dr. Anton Tikhomirov spoke about the current work of the Theological Seminary, formerly located outside of St. Petersburg in Novosaratovka. Much has changed recently, e.g., the Seminary’s move into the city and on-line meetings become more difficult. (Recently, we have had to deal with a new wave of in-person seminar cancellations in St. Petersburg and Ufa because of another deadly wave of COVID.) However, the involuntary situation of the seminary over the past few years – working almost exclusively online – has prepared the institution to adapt to the new reality relatively painlessly. Currently, 42 students from Russian-speaking churches from around the former Soviet Union are taking part in the extension education program. In addition, new options for educational events and areas of cooperation are being explored now that the seminary is conveniently located in the city.



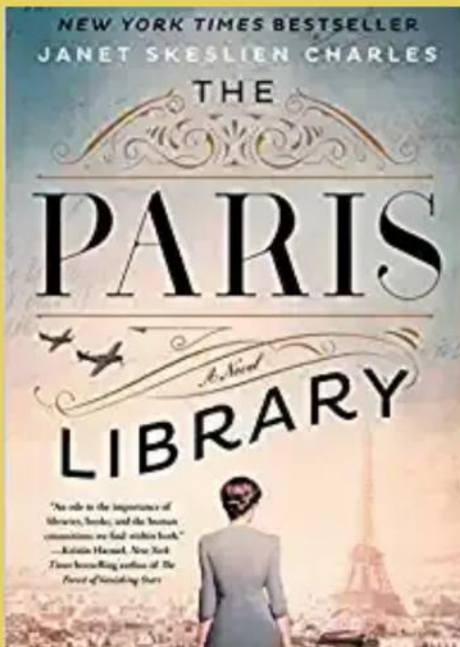
Pastor Viktor Weber (TS '12) was installed as the new area dean of central Russia using the new order of installation the service book.

Your brother in Christ, Bradn

Novel

JANUARY PICK: IDEAS

"The Paris Library," by Janet Skeslien Charles



Based on the true World War II story of the heroic librarians at the American Library in Paris, this is an unforgettable story of romance, friendship, family, and the power of literature to bring us together - Goodreads

"A love letter to Paris, the power of books, and the beauty of intergenerational friendship."
- Booklist

Get a copy of "The Paris Library" and give it a read - then join us on January 24 at 2:30pm in Chapel Hall as Jean Olson leads us in discussion and fellowship!

NOTE: we will not be meeting in December

All are welcome!

Family Advent Night & Lighting Candles



Parents Time Out



Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen News



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

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

A HUGE Thank you to Bonnie Stevens who has helped with preparing meals and finding volunteers. Thank you to The Prahm and Anderson Families for taking December, and many others who have helped.

If you would like to help, please call, email, or text me, Ann Bergin, at 218-820-5511 or georgiabergin@gmail.com.

To learn more about Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen go to: <https://www.sharingbread.com>



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

LCC 2022 Offering Envelopes are located in the bottom drawer of the nametag cupboard in the Narthex. Those who give electronically or only a few times a year do not have offering envelopes. Any questions, please contact Karen Wiele, Financial Secretary at 218-961-2016.



CREATION CARE

CLIMATE CHANGE/GLOBAL WARMING: AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR MINNESOTA

The state of Minnesota has fallen behind in its promise to cut the greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the planet, and the results of that are becoming painfully clear when it comes to our lakes and rivers. Consider the following:

- Climatologists have analyzed up to 100 years of ice and water temperatures on some lakes and rivers across the state, and have found that **lakes have lost an average of two weeks of ice coverage over the last 50 years** as temperatures have risen. Northern lakes have been hit the hardest, with **water temperatures increasing about 4 degrees since 1967**.
- The loss of ice affects aquatic life by causing **algae blooms** that deplete oxygen and make it impossible for some species to survive. Toxic algae blooms are a key reason why **walleye, cisco, lake trout and other cold water-loving fish** have struggled to keep territory that increasingly is inhabited by species such as bass.
- Loss of ice and snow levels will increasingly affect the state's recreation by cramming winter hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and ice skating into a shorter season.
- The American Geophysical Union has found that as carbon dioxide levels rise, winter storms and tornadoes will have **nine times more power by the end of the century** due to unstable stormy weather and increased wind shear. Minnesota just recorded the **first-time-ever highest temperatures, highest dewpoints and highest winds (fifteen tornadoes)** in mid-December.
- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and DNR report that Minnesota has not only failed to cut carbon emissions to **less than 40 million tons by 2050**, the state has actually increased emissions, which will hasten and amplify the negative effects of climate change/global warming.

Solutions proposed include: **1)** protect and restore peatlands, forests and prairies that can store vast amounts of carbon and keep it out of the air (which affects water); **2)** build up infrastructure for electric vehicles and commit to more clean energy production.

These developments give us much to think about in regard to our concerns for caring for our Earth.



December 2021 LCC Council Highlights

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS Church Council Meeting Thursday, December 9, 2021

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion: Dale Peterson

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Council President David Endicott

Present:

David Endicott; Colleen Both; Pastor Bakken; Vicar Ruen; Dale Peterson; Mike Smith; Pam Johnson; Jen Henry; Bonnie Stevens; Joanie Swanson; Brian Stubbs

Guests:

- Presentation by Core Rummage Sale Group.
Committee is recommending that council approve an addition to the church garage of 40 x 26. This would necessitate removal of the playground area to the south of the garage. After discussion of the proposed project, it was the recommendation of council that the Core Committee return to council on January 13 with a cost estimate and suggested method of payment for the addition.
- Audit Report.
Kathy Kosobud presented the completed Audit of the church financial accounts. It is the opinion of the Auditors that the financial statements and reporting for LCC properly reflects the activity of the Operating Fund as well as the Designated activity funds. It is recommended that an audit occur every two years. Motion to accept the Audit by Mike Smith; Second by Dale Peterson; Motion Passed.

Officer Reports:

Council Minutes by Darrell Paske

- Motion to approve Bonnie Stevens; Second Dale Peterson; Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report by Colleen Both

- Motion to approve Mike Smith; Second Bonnie Stevens; Motion Passed

New Business:

2022 Budget. Draft of 2022 budget presented by Treasurer Colleen Both. Following discussion, suggestions and recommendations, further action toward developing a final proposed 2022 budget was continued to January 6th, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. with a view of adopting a final budget document for presentation to the congregation at the second half of the annual meeting in January.

Old Business:

- Sound Room: Remodel of Sound Room is complete.
- Constitution Update: No Report

Pastors' Reports

Pastor Drew:

- The LCC Foundation board met once again, after a year and a half break during covid 19. Those present reviewed the financials and discussed what is next for our team. We were excited to welcome Betty Arveson and Sharon Endicott onto our team. One of the purposes of the LCC Foundation, is to help the future leaders of the church. We are excited to be able to give a scholarship to Vicar Michelle as she finishes her last semester in Seminary.
- A very special thank you to Jen and Brad Henry for giving of their time and talents to prepare and make the cinnamon rolls for our youth ministry fundraisers each month. We have sold out the last two months. Thank you for all who have purchased the rolls to help our youth ministry, and the youth and families who have helped prepare and serve them.
- I have recently meet with Dave Holtz at Luther Crest and Pastor Sarah Marshall, as we continue to look at the Luther Crest land on Upper Gull. Things are progressing as we begin to look at the vision, ministry and purpose for this new ministry opportunity here in the Brainerd Lakes area.
- A note from Pastor Hans Anderson, "Thank you for your partnership and collegiality as I took some time to mourn the passing of my Dad. Thank you sharing Pastor Drew with our Congregation as he preached here at Trinity on the 1st Sunday in Advent. Blessings to you and your ministry."
- We once again had a successful Christmas in November Organ Recital. I am always in awe of the talent of our organists. Thank you to all that helped make that event happen. From the music to cider, cookies and bars, it was truly a magical night.
- We are a very blessed congregation, and I have enjoyed my time making visits to our members and listening to their stories. We continue to see growth and excitement in our ministries whether it is in worship, Bible Studies, Confirmation, youth events or service projects. The year 2021 has been a roller coaster ride, I look forward to seeing what God has in store for us in the year 2022.

Vicar Michelle:

- Visitation Ministry is going well. I continue to visit members in their homes, offering communion and prayers, and often bringing soup that has been donated by our wonderful cooks at LCC, including the Soul Sisters and George Olson. Thank you to the knitters group for the prayer shawls delivered on my visits.
- The Wednesday parent group, A Time For Us, did a service project in December. We wrote a message, addressed, and mailed Christmas cards to a variety of members of LCC with an ornament inserted to spread Christmas cheer. Thank you, Parents.
- Two Christmas Trees of Sharing were set up in the Narthex and Celebration Center. Purchased items will go to MN Adult/Teen Challenge, Mid MN Women's Shelter, Hills Crossing, Breath of Life, and Nisswa ISD181 Collaborative Services. Thank you, WELCA..
- The Women of ELCA had a Baby Shower for Mary on Saturday morning, Dec. 3. There was great participation, and 25 baby layettes were put together. Thank you to Marie Olness for the wonderful Bible Study, and to Danae Anderson, Jace and Jude, and Cheryl Karlgaard for providing music for the event.

- The December Women of the Word centered on Luke 2:1-20. We tried to put ourselves into the Christmas Story. It was a great turn out. We enjoyed Christmas cookies, coffee, and hot apple cider. The morning group helped to decorate God's Attribute Christmas tree. Thanks, Ladies.
- Presided at my first rite of baptism here at LCC on Nov. 20 for Joshua Duane Kangas. Joshua is the infant son of Jamie and Cassy Kangas. Cassy is the daughter of Bill and Maria Erickson and the granddaughter of Nancy Erickson.
- Participated in my first Thanksgiving Eve service at LCC. Looking forward to experiencing and helping with Advent and Christmas Eve services. I'll be preaching on the Sundays of December 19 and December 26.

Committee Reports:

Property: Dale Peterson

- Reviewing annual property insurance coverages and costs.
- Met with the LCC Rummage Sale core group to discuss the proposal to add on to the garage for future rummage sales.
- Measured the library shelves for planned future relocation to Chapel Hall.

Stewardship:

No report

Worship and Music: Brian Stubbs

- Organ recital in November - online quality really high - new equipment is obvious upgrade
- Advent decorations ongoing - huge thank you to Mike Smith and his volunteers
- Music extravaganza next Sunday (12/12).
- Christmas Eve services will be at 2 and 4pm in the sanctuary. 6pm service online and in parking lot.
- Attendance at services will be monitored continuously - new 9AM Sunday time is initially getting positive feedback. (Last Sunday's storm affected attendance)
- Nov. Meeting was cancelled due to conflict with the congregational meeting. Next meeting will be in January, to prepare for Lent.

Social Concerns and Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens

- Habitat for Humanity—The Habitat Home for the Svoboda family has been completed and dedicated in November. Thank you as Faith Partners for your prayers and support.
- ELCA World Hunger/Lutheran Disaster Relief—With the Afghan crisis, the need for food assistance is more pressing to aid those in the Middle East and still continues even as urgently throughout the world. Please remember this need in this Season of Giving.
- Homeless Coalition—My Neighbor to Love is a coalition of people in the Brainerd Lakes area who hope to end homelessness in our area. LCC's New Pathways Coordinator has agreed to attend the January 13 meeting at First Lutheran in Brainerd. Brainerd Lakes Community Foundation has agreed to accept donations on their behalf.

Children and Family Ministry: Pam Johnson

- In November, we continued Route 56 lessons/meetings with 12-14 in attendance each week.

- Cross Kids Connection numbers continue to grow, so we are looking to move into Chapel Hall for our 10am activity time.
- Will be scheduling a CFM Team meeting soon to plan before our Council rep switch.
- Got the speaking parts for the Kids Christmas Liturgy assigned and Carol Smith has been working with the kids on Weds. evenings and on Sunday mornings.
- Used a Thrivent Grant to purchase Illustrated Ministry Advent materials and files for nativity scene characters, along with a Christmas Eve children's bulletin.
- With Todd Whipple's help, got the nativity characters ready for the Musical Extravaganza.
- Prepped materials for our Weds. evening Advent night and with Pastor Drew's help, we presented to our kids and parents and ended with cookie decorating.
- Got out Religious Release packets to Eagle View twice in November and will do the same in December.
- Got the Advent/Epiphany issue to Prime Time Press published and out with help from Sally Hodgson.
- Getting materials ready for Christmas Eve for all kids in attendance.
- Continue to contact families and kids for acolyting. Lenny Hodgson has generously stepped up to help with acolytes each Sunday morning.
- Continue to coordinate Super Roll Sundays with Jen Henry and have been successful at selling out each month. Thanks to all the families who have helped out.
- On Dec. 15 Route 56 will be doing a Thrivent project with Bonnie Stevens to package holiday cookies for CLC students.
- We had a very successful Parents Time out with 25 children in attendance and 8 or so youth and adult helpers. It was a fun time for everyone involved!!

Youth and Family Ministry: Jen Henry

- Rolls went exceptionally well, 1 family was on hand, plus one bonus helper. We made 18 dozen rolls, brought in \$353. A big thank you to Pastor Drew and the congregation for your love of the rolls and our Youth.

Congregational Life: Joanie Swanson

No report

Personnel: Mike Smith

No report

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by

Darrell Paske, Council Secretary

Next Council Meeting:

January 6, 2022 7:00 pm for budget discussion

January 13, 2022 7:00 pm regular council meeting

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

Women in the Word

Vicar Michelle provided treats and a very special devotion book by Max Lucado, *Because of Bethlehem: Love is Born, Hope is Here.*



Update
your
Information.



If you would like to receive weekly eblast notifications, please email the church office at laurie@lccnisswa.org with the email address you wish us to use.

Have you changed your phone number, or no longer use your landline, changed your mailing address, etc.?
If so, please let us know so we can update our database.

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Lutheran Church of the Cross: Masks required

Jan 7 (4 Hr Refresher) 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

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

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Minnesota Highway and Safety Research Center
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Saint Cloud, MN 56304
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Welcoming all people into discipleship

STAFF

Pastor	Drew Bakken	218-961-2014
Vicar	Michelle Ruen	218-961-2013
Director of Youth and Family Ministry		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	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

2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

President	Dave Endicott	Social Justice/Global	Bonnie Stevens
Vice President	Mike Smith	Worship & Music	Brian Stubbs
Treasurer	Colleen Both	Youth	Jen Henry
Secretary	Darrell Paske	Stewardship	
Cong. Life	Joanie Swanson		
Education	Pam Johnson		
Properties	Dale Peterson		

