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

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	STAFF		
	Pastor	Drew Bakken	218-961-2014
	Pastor	David Stevens	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

2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

Properties

David Grell
Jaime Boesen
Colleen Both
Darrell Paske
Hilary Johnson
Pam Johnson

Dale Peterson

Social Justice/Global Jason Martinson
Worship & Music Mike Smith
Youth Jen Henry
Stewardship Craig Fink
LCC Foundation Dan Halland



Cross Currents

Lutheran Church of the Cross

2020



Dear members of Lutheran Church of the Cross,

The other day President Trump deemed church an essential service. As much as I appreciate the Presidents response and his enthusiasm to return our lives to a pre Covid 19 society we are not ready yet. I know that we all want to return to church, we want to see our friends, we want to celebrate the sacraments together, we want to sing familiar hymns, but in order to love our neighbors we need to be to make sure that we keep our church safe through proper cleaning, social distancing, and

For the last month I have been in consultation with the synod, local congregations, health officials, and our congregational council. We have come up with a 5 phase plan to reopen our church following guidelines set up from the CDC, Minnesota Department of Health, ELCA. The timing for the shifts from stage to stage will be informed by limitations and dates set by the Governor, the State Department of Health, and Center for Disease Control and our own Smart Team (Executive Church Council, Dr. Roger Macy, Dr. Nancy Henry-Socha, and RN Pam Johnson). So this plan is subject to change.

We also recognize that stepping in to these stages might be a "back and forth" process. Depending on recommendations, we may need to move backwards before moving forward again.

The criteria used to develop this plan include:

- Fulfilling the mission to which:
 God has called Lutheran Church of the Cross to welcome all people into discipleship with Jesus Christ through: Prayer, Scripture reading, Worship, Service in Christ's Name, Stewardship, and Hospitality.
- 2. The safety and well-being of our congregation and community.
- 3. The desire of our congregation to be "together" again.
- 4. The stability and sustainability of the congregation.

Stage 1

Effective since March

- Office Manager will work out of the main office
- Other staff will be in the building only as needed
- Volunteers for food ministry in and out as needed
- Otherwise, building still closed and unused areas that have been sanitized will remain sealed off
- Worship will continue via live-streaming
- Members of our community are encouraged to continue personal preparedness, by washing hands, avoiding touching our faces, etc...
- Physically vulnerable individuals are strongly encouraged to stay home
- Staff and parishioners will be expected to wear masks when interacting with others in close proximity
- The staff will create a team to set expectations and a process for moving to Stage 2
- The staff will continue to consult with local medical experts as we move forward, and the Smart Team, staff and Council will make the decision when to move to stage 2

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Stage 2

Lutheran Church of the Cross's office will reopen when:

- Lutheran Church of the Cross's building will reopen on a limited basis
- While staff may continue working from home, they are also welcome to work in their office space
- Small group meetings allowed, up to Governor's limits on group sizes & social distancing
- Members of our community are encouraged to continue personal preparedness, by washing hands, avoiding touching our faces, etc...
- Physically vulnerable individuals are strongly encouraged to stay home
- Staff and parishioners will be expected to wear masks when interacting with others in close proximity (as per the Dept. of Health recommendations)
- LCC's meeting rooms will be sanitized immediately after use
- LCC's outside ministries will resume work on evenings when there are groups scheduled
- LCC's staff will create a team to set expectations and process for Stage 3
- We will continue to consult with local medical experts as we move forward
- LCC congregational council, Smart Team, and staff will make the decision when to move to stage 3

Stage 3

- Face-to face worship resumes (within the limitations of group size & social distancing set by the Governor, including wearing masks)
- We will add a third worship service to enable better social distancing. New times will be 8:15, 9:30
 and 10:45am.
- We will practice social distancing in worship. We will seat the congregation every other row. At the
 first and third services the congregation will sit in the odd rows. And at the second service the
 congregation will be able to sit in even rows. This will allow us to clean and air the pews out before
 the next services.
- Communion is served using strict safety protocols
- Hymnals and Bibles will be removed from Sanctuary. Instead, we will print all necessary materials on paper for one-time usage.
- · Congregational singing would depend on current recommendations from MN Dept. of Health
- We will receive our offering in plates set by the doors, to avoid passing possibly contaminated plates.
- Children are welcome to worship with their families
 - Nursery care will not yet be available
 - A Special Children's church will be available at 9:30 in our Celebration Center
- Those who are physically vulnerable to the virus are asked to continue staying at home and worshipping online
- Members of our community are encouraged to continue personal preparedness, by washing hands, avoiding touching our faces, etc...
- Staff and parishioners will be expected to wear masks when interacting with others in close proximity (as per the Dept. of Health recommendations)
- Other large events in the building may resume (within the limitations of group size & social distancing set by the Governor)
- Food service for these events will not be available yet
- Weddings and funerals can resume (within the limitations of group size & social distancing set by the Governor)

Next Council Meeting: June 11, 2020

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 Grell and delivered to the office manager in the church office no less than one week prior to the monthly Council meeting, the council meets the second Thursday of the month. If the request is submitted less than one week prior to the next Council meeting it will be addressed at the following monthly meeting.

Thank you 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 video streaming, Facebook Devotions and many others are blessed by your Christian love. Thank you! To give with your mobile device, scan the QR code to the right.



important as we are using email to relay letters and messages from Pr. Drew Bakken as the COVID-19 situation changes.

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



address, etc., please let us know so that we can update our database.

We communicate weekly thru an Eblast (email). If you would like to receive these

Please make sure the church has accurate contact information for you. This is very

weekly notifications, please email Laurie at laurie@lccnisswa.org with your preferred email address.

You must request to be put on this list as it uses a database separate from our member database.

If you do not have internet or email abilities, please let us know.



Due to the reduction in revenues during the Covid-19 closure, spending restrictions have been implemented. Please check with Pr. Drew for approval prior to spending any church related funds. Thank you for your continuing to support our integral ministry here at Lutheran Church of the Cross, especially during these

trying times. We appreciate your continued backing of our efforts to pay our bills and keep up our commitments to other community and synod ministry organizations that count on us for support.

creating a sort of Crew Leader/Buddy program for Route 56 and Jr. High kids that we can run through the summer, as well - since we won't have traditional VBS

Youth and Family Ministry: Jen Henry

- As we all know, not a lot has changed in the last month.
- Our program offerings are still very similar to where we were a month ago. We have High School Youth Group on Sunday nights, and now Confirmation Youth Group on Wednesday nights. We gather for some video games online, and I am checking in on different families regularly.
- High School Youth Group is going well. Last night, May 10th, our group voted to continue studying Psalms together, at least through the end of May. We reflected on what we have been doing and made some small modifications to our format. I have seen some leadership new leadership skills in our youth as well. I am looking forward to watching and encouraging this growth.
- Confirmation is officially wrapped up, so it has morphed into Confirmation Youth Group, until the end of COVID. We will be looking into different parables of Jesus for our content. This program is essentially the same as online Confirmation, except it's not "required".
- Talking with other Youth Directors throughout the Synod, we are experiencing a slow down of engagement. We have heard from families that they are thankful for our offerings, but they just aren't sure they can make it to these things every week. And that's ok. I think if we are making a difference in even one youth's life, this is worth it. It is also worth noting, that normally at this time of year, we lose all momentum, and switch to summer mode, and leave Confirmation and HS Youth Group behind. I am glad that we are still gathering, even if it's in smaller groups.
- Our Summer Trip to Idaho has, of course, been cancelled. I hope we can do some local service that week, but of course this is all up to regulations.
- Summer Stretch is evolving for this summer as well. It may look more like a project every Thursday and sharing results online. The Local Youth Directors are working together to create something that will work for a majority of our families.
- Operation Sandwich is changing too. Right now, it looks like we will not be making sandwiches, but offering weekly Lunch food packs instead to hungry people in Nisswa, Pequot Lakes, and Pine River. We do not want to encourage kids to gather in parks. It will use the same supplies as Operation Sandwich normally would.
- Times, they are a changin'. I am glad to be working with this staff through these weird times, and am continuing to dedicate myself to the betterment of our youth and community.

Congregational Life: Hilary Johnson

No Report

Personnel: Jamie Boesen

No Report

Meeting Adjourned: Closing Prayer Pastor Dave; June Devotion Pam Johnson

Submitted by Darrell Paske, Council Secretary

- Sunday school, Route 56 and confirmation resume (within the limitations of group size & social distancing set by the Governor)
- The staff will create a team to set expectations and process for Stage 4
- We will continue to consult with local medical experts as we move forward
- Smart Team, LCC staff and Council will make the decision when to move to stage 4

Stage 4

- Large events that include food service may resume
- Wednesday night dinners may be served face-to-face
- Sunday morning donuts and coffee resume
- The staff will create team to set expectations and process for Stage 5
- We will continue to consult with local medical experts as we move forward
- We will continue to seek input from other community organizations (Brainerd School District and Pequot Lakes School District, other congregations, etc...)
- Smart Team, LCC staff and Council will make the decision when to move to stage 5

Stage 5

- LCC's programming will resume as normal
- Nursery/childcare available during worship

We are excited to see everyone again. In the midst of this planning, however, we need to acknowledge that the world has changed, and that even when we are past this health crisis, our ministry will have moved into a new stage. And while this creates some uncertainty, and maybe even anxiety, we remain firm in our belief that "nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Not life, nor death, nor angels, nor rulers..." nor Covid-19, nor quarantine... "nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

We don't anticipate simply moving back to "what it was," rather we look forward to a new and stronger future.

Thank you for your patience. Thank you for your commitment to the wellbeing of others in the community, and thank you for being the church, wherever you are. In closing I am reminded of a post from Tom Terney:

Our Church is open.

Open to patience and wisdom.

Open to science and common sense.

Open to discovering new ways to connect when it is unsafe to "do it the way we've always done it.

Open to saving lives by giving up some of the traditions and sacraments we hold dear.

Open to wearing masks to show we love our neighbor.

Open to keeping the sanctuary closed so more of us can come back together safely when it is time.

Our church is **open** to following Jesus who, himself, spent time in the wilderness.

We will remain **open**, and someday, by the grace of God, we will be able to worship together again.

Blessings, Pastor Drew

CHILDREN & FAMILY ministry



Meet CRUISING CARL, our new Kids of the Cross mascot. You will be seeing a lot more of him in the weeks and months to come, especially during VBX.

Are you planning a road trip for this summer, or will be boating?

Experts tell us that more families will be vacationing this summer by going on day or weekend trips. If you go anywhere, remember to take CRUISING CARL with you! Print out a CRUISING CARL from the Children & Family Ministry page of our website and share pictures of the adventures you take together this summer!!

WHEN WILL THIS BE OVER? Check out this article for some great tips for parenting during a pandemic from the Sesame Workshop! This article stresses the importance of kids feeling some sense of control and having happy plans to put on the calendar.







Kari has joined the Faith Finders Fun Team for the summer of 2020!! Each day of the week, 5-7 minute video messages/activities are posted on our Facebook Page and You Tube Channel, both named, Faith Finders Fun. Presenters are from all over the US and bring you Marvelous Monday, Treasure Box Tuesday, Creative Wednesday, Magic Thursday, Faithful Friday, Random Saturday, and Sabbath Sunday. Kari will be presenting Marvelous Mondays with Diana Brown. Be sure to like our Facebook page and subscribe to our YouTube channel:-))

Join Kari for Treehouse
Time each Wednesday
and Sunday morning at
9:30 am on Facebook
Live (or check out the
Kids of the Cross
Facebook Page to watch
it later.)





Children and Family Ministry: Pam Johnson

- VBX instead of trying to schedule and organize any kind of event at church, have VBX be a carryout or take home program. Group has made allowances for churches to postpone Rocky Railway until the summer of 2021, so I recommend we do that (we have already purchased many of the supplies needed, so will have them on hand.) I suggest using one of the ELCA created VBS programs, that includes online resources video and music. These programs are also available at no cost, so can easily be adapted for at-home use. I will be working with Dani Strong from Our Savior's in Pequot in developing this program. Hopefully there will be a way to safely involve some volunteers from both churches, too.
- I sent some ideas for graduating seniors to Zach: Delivering the prayer scarves along with balloons, a yard sign, and a treat bucket; Have staff record a video with words of congrats and encouragement favorite bible verses put on thumb drive and add to treat bucket; Create a mile"stone" rock with bible verse on it; Feature their pics/bios on website; Ask church family to shower them with cards; Families "Adopt a Senior". *We should consider doing something for their parents as well since it's such a stressful year and I'm sure they are feeling anxious and stressed, too.
- Over the past few weeks, Sally and I have cleaned, weeded and organized all supplies and storage areas. Still need to have Nursery carpet cleaned and toys disinfected once more. I am sewing a bunch of pouf ottomans with fabric and fiberfill that was in storage for use by my Route 56 kids and can be used in Play and Pray. Thanks again to the Anderson family for their efforts in finishing up the basement. It is an awesome space that we will be able to use A LOT! IDEAS for the coming weeks:
- When we can resume some sort of worship in church, have three services (8:15, 9:30, 10:45), designating the middle service as geared more for families as families enter, kids go to CC, teens and adults to sanctuary. I have developed a kid-friendly worship service for use in CC. We will social distance using carpet squares and/or hula hoops, and display music videos on large screen, etc. Pam and Pr. Drew have copies of the suggested service. I would enlist SS teachers to help facilitate and supervise. This would help keep enthusiasm up with our kids since we haven't had SS in a while, and it would allow for more seating room in the sanctuary.
- WORSHIP ON WEDS: organize Family Table Zoom groups where families join together (families take turns hosting) to do a brief contemporary-style worship around the table, including our family GIFT bags. Incorporate some kind of "SNACK PACKS?" POP (Prayers of the People) written by the host family.
- SUNDAY MORNING GIFT (Gathering in Fellowship Together): call out to church members to see if there is interest in arranging Zoom GIFT meetings and again, folks can take turns hosting "coffee and donuts" and perhaps discuss the theme of the sermon and offer up prayer requests to each other??
- In other news, Holden Village closed before Easter and will remain closed indefinitely. I will be re-applying to be a Partner in Ministry in the fall and hopefully rescheduling my visit for the winter of 2021.
- I am also participating in an ELCA nationwide program called Faith Finder Fun daily video devotions/activities for kids (and parents!) that are posted on several online video platforms. I'm looking forward to it it will be fun!!
- I continue to do Treehouse Time on Weds. and Sun. mornings, as well as Zoom Route 56 meetings on Weds. evening. I will continue both through the summer. I am working on

I have been keeping up with writing our weekly devotionals. I do look forward to getting back in the pulpit and allowing that there are no more health surprises, that will come in due time.

I want to praise the work our church staff and volunteers are doing during this time. Their attitudes and enthusiasm for their tasks is amazing. They are adjusting well to the changes we are having to introduce and have created a very positive and joyful face for LCC to project out into our membership and community. I believe this is an important element of our ministry here, surviving and in fact, thriving, in this new environment into which we will emerge.

It will be the council, also, that has to prepare itself for the decisions that will need to be made as we move forward. The world and the church will not be the same as we cross into the days ahead. We will need to be open and bold in how we do ministry from now on. The discussion that Pastor Drew wants to lead us in tonight, the 24 questions, is what we have to think about before we can think about what LCC will look like after covid19.

Again, thanks to each of you. May the Lord guide us as we work together to bring LCC into the future.

Committee Reports:

Property: Dale Peterson

- Clint and I blew out the leaves and cleaned the parking lot on the east side of the church and blew out leaves on the north side by the community and memorial garderns
- The new gas line has been installed and connected from Co. 13 along the west and north sides of the building
- Eric's Excavating has grubbed the stumps for the parking lot on the south side and dug a hole for the foundation for the relocation of the bell tower
- Marc Hallan has delivered the frame for the new foundation of the bell tower. Plans are underway for pouring the cement for the foundation with volunteer help
- The remaining landscape blocks around the bell tower/parking area have been removed and stored by the gardens for future use. Special thanks to Pastor Drew, Clint, Allen Schmidt, and Mary Green for helping get this done.
- The sign subcommittee continues to research options for design and installation of a future church entrance monument sign

Stewardship: Craig Fink

No Report

Worship and Music: Mike Smith

- The Worship and Music Committee met on Tuesday, May 12 at 4:00 pm via Zoom.
- The committee would like to thank all of the musicians, sound technicians, and Pr. Drew for the streaming worship services that have been provided during this Corona virus pandemic.
- The committee would also like to thank Pr. Drew, Pr. Dave, Kari, Zach, and Cathy for the daily devotions they share each day.
- The committee discussed "24 Questions Your Church Should Answer Before People Return."
- Governor Walz will be speaking this week to give more insight as to when people will be allowed to return to their churches for worship. Many preparations will need to be done by churches prior to that happening. No action was taken by the committee.

Social Concerns and Global Missions: Jason Martinson No Report

Vacation eXperience

On Earth As in Heaven

This at-home ELCA program/theme comes from the Lord's Prayer, with each of the five modules focusing on a different petition from the prayer, plus a related Bible verse. All materials (story, craft, games, music links, snack ideas) will be "in the bag" just add some snack ingredients!

Curbside Pickupl

Church

Lutheran of the

> Follow us online as we guide you through the week!

Pick up materials by the back door to the church during the week of July 13-17.

FROM ZACH'S DESK:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

- Hebrews 12:1-3

I can't get this scripture out of my head this week. Pastor Sarah from Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church suggested it as our theme verse for Summer Stretch, but I think I am going to make it my theme verse for this COVID-19 era.

We are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses. We look to the saints who have gone before us. We look to our mentors. We look to our neighbors and our loved ones. We look to those who have moved away, whom we miss. What a great cloud of witnesses!

These witnesses have seen the world in different lights than we have individually. They have seen the darkness differently than we have too. I think of a past "Church Grandma" of mine. Her name was Alice. She lived in assisted living near a church I served. I can't imagine this pandemic getting her down for too long. She would be calm and thoughtful about it, but then she would persist. Probably calling each of her "Bonus Grandkids", checking in on us. She would say yes to each new opportunity she saw in her apartment. She lived by the slogan "Why not?" She would probably challenge us to a game of cribbage or pea knuckle through her window.

Let us look to Jesus. Jesus doesn't lose heart. Jesus doesn't lose his hope in us. We have the best savior and cheerleader for this race. Jesus wants us to continue running this race set before us, to continue persevering like Alice. Right now, our race seems to be this pandemic. But someday the race will change, and we will keep running with our savior.

Let us not grow weary. Let us not lose heart. For our God is with us wherever we go.

In peace, Zach

ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS

Proceeds from the sale of Columbarium Niches and Memorial Wall Plaques shall be distributed as follows:

- 1. 10% of the full sale price shall be credited to a designated account known as the Perpetual Care Fund to be used for Columbarium and Memorial Wall upkeep.
- 2. 10% of the remaining sale price shall be placed in a designated account known as the Memorial Garden Fund for use in upkeep of the Garden. Memorials, unless otherwise specified, shall be credited to the Memorial Garden Fund.
- 3. The remaining funds from the sale price shall be credited to a designated account known as Columbarium and Memorial Wall Future Construction.

Requests for expenditure of funds from the above accounts shall be presented by the Chair of the Memorial Garden and Columbarium Board for approval by the Church Council.

Further recommended:

Cost of Double Columbarium Niche: \$1,500.00 Cost of Single Niche: \$1,200.00 Memorial Wall Plaque \$ 175.00

• Motion to approve Administration of Funds and cost adjustment Jamie Boesen, Second Hilary Johnson; Motion passed.

These changes to become effective forthwith.

Pastors' Reports

Pastor Drew:

For the last month I have been working with the synod office, area local churches and our own church staff trying to develop a 5 stage plan to reopening up the church. As you have seen in our discussion this is not an easy thing to do. There is a lot that goes into opening the church and to provide a healthy and safe environment. As you can see in the 5 stages it will be awhile before we can safely go back to the way things are. We will need to make changes and sacrifices but we will be back together.

I am so proud of our staff and the work that they continue to do and the new ministry that we are creating. Please keep them in your prayers.

We will be hosting a "Drive Thru" Communion on Sunday, May 17th following online worship from 11:45 until 2:00 pm using social distancing protocols. Please follow signs and directions from the staff.

Pastor Dave:

First let me say thank you for your continued support for me as I deal with my health issues. I thought this would be a time when I could jump in and help Pastor Drew and our church staff as we face some of the biggest challenges in the church's history. Instead, I keep facing setbacks that hinder that work. I am so thankful to Pastor Drew's support and council during this time. I will keep working as I can with those things Pastor Drew needs my help on. He keeps telling me not to worry, just get better. So that is the plan. My health team keeps telling me they will get me through this and that is also reassuring.

Bonnie and I have both been tested for covid19 and that came back negative. At least that worry is alleviated. I am feeling much better today. I slept 9 hours last night and missed our staff zoom meeting. But I guess I needed the sleep.

Council Highlights from May 2020 Lutheran Church of the Cross

Church Council Meeting Thursday, May 14, 2020

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion: Jason Martinson

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Council Vice President Jamie Boesen

Present:

Jamie Boesen, Vice President; Colleen Both, Treasurer; Darrell Paske, Secretary; Pastor Drew, Pastor David Stevens; Dale Peterson; Mike Smith; Pam Johnson; Jen Henry; Hillary Johnson; Jason Martinson; Craig Fink

Officer Reports:

Council Minutes by Darrell Paske

• Motion to amend April minutes to reflect approval of Jim's Electric Quote for Site Lighting Improvements. Motion to approve as amended Pastor Drew, Second Colleen Both – Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report by Colleen Both

• Motion to approve by Craig Fink, Second Mike Smith, Motion passed.

New Business:

LCC Sign: Update provided by Darrell Paske, Pastor Drew and Dale Peterson regarding new sign tentative design and ongoing discussion with vendor.

ELCA Considerations for Returning to In-person Worship; Three Phases Going Forward for LCC; 24 Questions Church Should Answer Before People Return:

These three documents were discussed in depth in order to begin to formulate procedures that will have to be implemented to provide for the safety of our staff and congregation when Governor Walz authorizes churches to reopen.

Sound Room and Video Equipment:

A Research Committee was established to review upgrading our current audio and video equipment and costs involved. Committee members to date are Pastor David Stevens; Bob Olson, Chris and Danny Olson; Lyle Amundson; Kari Erickson

Old Business:

Memorial Garden and Columbarium

The following language is recommended to replace current language contained in Policy and Procedures Document:

Summer Stretch 2020

is here and happening! Summer Stretch is our Summer Program for 6th - 9th graders. On Thursdays this year, we will be doing small service projects, or "Summer Stretch Challenges" in our community, but from our own homes. Six churches in our community will be doing this together each Thursday. (That's a lot of people!) We will use the hashtag #LakesAreaStretch to share about our project on the internet if we like or if you prefer can email me a picture of what you did. I am really digging our theme "In This Together" and our theme verse as noted in my article to the left. There will not be a Mini-Mission Trip this year.

Registration is FREE this year and includes a rad tee shirt! Please use this link to register by June 1 (for your free tee shirt): https://bit.ly/LCCSummer2020



"Throwback to one of our favorite days from last year's summer stretch!"

Senior Recognition

Be sure to check out the awesome section on our seniors in this newsletter. Please continue to hold them in your prayers. We are so proud of them. We will bless them with their shawls like we always do. This will happen on the second Sunday we are back worshiping.

LCC Education Foundation Scholarship Awards

The LCC Education Foundation would like to congratulate the following scholarship winners: Hannah Oelke, Dylan Paulson, and Ethan Sannes. They each showed exemplary work in their community and within LCC. We look forward to watching you succeed at the great adventures before you.

Mission Trip Update

As you heard last month, our trip is not happening in the traditional way. We will continue to look into ways of safely doing some service projects in our community.

Luther Crest Bible Camp Update

Luther Crest has canceled all summer programming. They will offer a free online/at home program the week our youth were supposed to be there. We are grateful for their continued ministry in this new time. More information in this newsletter.

LCC Summer 2020 Forums

All forums for June have been postponed until a later date. Stay tuned to our website for further updates.



Memorial Garden Price Increase as of May 14, 2020

Cost of Double Columbarium Niche: \$1,500.00
Cost of Single Niche: \$1,200.00
Memorial Wall Plaque \$ 175.00

Thank you to the memorial garden committee for cleaning, planting, and sprucing up the Memorial Gardens all while keeping social distancing.









Prime Timers gatherings have been put on hold until further notice.

If you would like more information, pictures of our service, and ways to DONATE, please go to our website at www.sharingbread.com or visit our Facebook page.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The task force continues to work on issues pertaining to the parking lot, utilities, and bell tower. Stumps and parking lot bituminous have been removed thanks to Eric's Excavating and Anderson Brothers.

A big thanks to Mark Hallan and Jeff Oelke on completing the formwork for the bell tower. Rardin Construction will be relocating the bell tower soon.

Minnesota Power has been burying the power lines on the south side of County Road 13.

Jim's Electric has been approved to install the light poles and fixtures.

Stay tuned as we are "Under Construction: God At Work." Any questions, please contact Pastor Drew.

Update from Crow Wing County (as of May 15)

Construction on CSAH 77 is progressing very well. Storm sewer work will be completed on CSAH 77 midweek and then move to CSAH 13. The pavement on CSAH 13 and side streets will be removed on Tuesday, May 19. The temporary mailboxes on CSAH 13 are setup on Smiley Road North. The Contractor will continue grading on CSAH 77 all next week to prepare for the aggregate base and concrete curb & gutter. Traffic on both sides of the road will be shifted accordingly. The majority of the utility work is complete on CSAH 77. There will be utility work on the CSAH 13 side as Minnesota Power prepares to relocate their lines underground. Thanks for your continued patience. The Contractors are doing their best to provide a drivable surface for traffic while completing the necessary construction work. Work is ahead of schedule. The County and Contractor are committed to completing this project as soon as possible.

The County will post construction updates on Facebook, Twitter, and the highway department website at https://www.crowwing.us/149/Current-Projects. With good weather and no serious delays due to unforeseen circumstances, all construction operations are scheduled to be completed prior to Labor Day.



At the present time the upcoming 2020 Fall Lutheran Church of the Cross Rummage Sale is uncertain. Donation acceptance has been suspended through July.

The current heartbreaking and challenging circumstances related to the coronavirus, including the longevity of social distancing being in place, as well as the construction of County Road #13 and the reconstruction of the LCC Parking Lot, which could continue into fall, create an ever changing impact on our regularly scheduled dates for the 2020 LCC Fall Rummage Sale. (The regularly scheduled sale dates for the 2020 LCC Fall Rummage Sale are September 25th and 26th.) Therefore the 2020 Fall Rummage Sale is like our 2020 LCC Theme indicates – under construction. We know that God is here at work with us during this uncertain time creating hope, peace and direction.

When final decisions are made about the Fall Sale we pray that you will continue to support this important ministry and hopefully we will once again enjoy new friendships, have fun and experience the joy of giving to others! We are suspending accepting any donations through July. Please watch for further information regarding the upcoming Fall LCC Rummage Sale.

"Often times God demonstrates His faithfulness in adversity by providing for us what we need to survive. He does not change our painful circumstances. He sustains us through them." ~ Charles Stanley

Hymn of the Month

June 2020

Soli Deo Gioria (SOLI DEO GLORIA) Hymn #878 ELW

Text and Music: Marty Haugen



Marty Haugen wrote this piece in 1999 "as part of a commission for a morning prayer setting to honor Dr. Weston Noble for fifty years of service to the music program at Luther College. Haugen says he "included the hymn even though it is not part of morning prayer or the commission because the phrase "Soli Deo Gloria" (to God alone be glory") so aptly reflects Dr. Noble's life and work. It is the motto of Luther College and, as Weston Noble so often reminded his students, was also the phrase that J. S. Bach often wrote at the end of his manuscripts."

Haugen has written other pieces that we have come to love in this congregation and have helped us to worship such as *That We May Have Life, Now the Feast, Holden Evening Prayer, Neither Death Nor Life,* and numerous others that are in our hymnal. Haugen is a composer of liturgical music for both Roman Catholic and Protestant congregations. Haugen holds a B.A. degree in psychology from Luther College and an M.A. degree in Pastoral Studies from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. He has over 400 compositions published by GIA, Augsburg Fortress and other publishers. For the past 25 years he has presented workshops and concerts across North America and in Europe, the Pacific Rim, Asia and Central America for church musicians and anyone interested in the renewal of worship.

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

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music



Lutheran Church of the Cross 2020 Book Discussion News

Because of the coronavirus restrictions we will not be meeting at the present time. When we do meet we will discuss Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens and the direction we want to take in the future. Watch the newsletter and E-Blast weekly news for updated information.

Blessings and Congratulations to the following young adults of the Senior Class of 2020!



Name: Sara Alcock

Parents: Brad & Kari Alcock

Future Plans: To attend the University of North Dakota for Aviation. **Favorite HS Memory:** My best memories are the overnight Nordic ski

meets where I got to spend time with my friends.

Favorite LCC Memory: VBS

Favorite Bible Verse: Psalm 28:7





Name: Whitney Fink

Parents: Craig Fink and Kim Bakke-Schulte

Future Plans: Attend Gustavus Adolphus College to pursue a degree in biology or business management.

Favorite HS Memory: Every single football game with my friends and going all out for the dress up themes.

Favorite LCC Memory: My first outdoor church service at LCC was one I will never forget! I had never worshiped outside before then, it was beautiful.

Favorite Bible Verse: Isaiah 60:22

Name: Jack Ingram

Parents:

Future Plans:

Favorite HS Memory: Favorite LCC Memory: Favorite Bible Verse:



Gather Summer 2020: "Just love"

by Gladys Moore and Christa Compton

Theologian and public intellectual Dr. Cornel West once said, "Justice is what love looks like in public." Christians often imagine that if we had enough love, we would be able to solve the world's problems. But love by itself has been insufficient in eradicating the manifold forms of injustice that continue to plague our world.



This three-session Bible study invites readers to consider how justice and love intersect. What does "just love" look like? How is this kind of love more than a sentimental or sanitized emotion, but is instead a love-in-action that seeks to dismantle the various systems of sin that damage God's creation and harm God's people?

Session 1: "Just Love" in the Family: What's Love Got to do with it? (John 11:1-6, 17-37)

Session 1 focuses on what "just love" might look like in a family system. Using the story of Mary's and Martha's confrontations with Jesus in the aftermath of their brother Lazarus' death, this session explores the role of anger in the pursuit of justice, including anger directed at God.

Session 2: "Just Love" in the Community: From Tree to We (Luke 19:1-10)

Session 2 views the story of Zacchaeus through the lens of restorative justice. What does it mean to make amends for the harm we have caused? How does Jesus invite us into healing relationships that reconnect us to the communities from which we have been alienated?

Session 3: "Just Love" in the Nation: Giving Birth to Justice (Exodus 1:8-22)

Session 3 challenges readers to examine what "just love" requires when injustice occurs at the highest levels of government. In the book of Exodus the midwives Shiphrah and Puah defy Pharaoh to save the lives of Hebrew babies. This session draws on understandings of formal and informal power and how we can use the power God has given us to effect change.

Gather Bible Study offers a multi-session Bible study for the summer of 2020. Summer studies are free to download at https://www.gathermagazine.org/bible-study/ The above study is scheduled to be available this summer. Past summer studies are already available at this site.

As soon as the coronavirus restrictions are lifted we will joyfully resume our monthly Gather meetings at church. When there is news regarding this and the start of our book group, it will be conveyed in the e-news, bulletins, and newsletter.

A Message from our ELCA Global Missionary Russian Correspondent

In her book What Every Russian Knows (and You Don't) Olga Fedina dedicates a whole chapter to The Twelve Chairs, a satirical novel (later successfully adapted to film in the USSR...and in America by Mel Brooks!) that provides not only many laughs (always a rarity to be valued in this place!), but also significant insight into the mindset of those who grew up in the Soviet Union. The swindler Ostap Bender is the (anti?)hero of the work, and a number of his witty comments became part of the cultural code here. One of these famous sayings is "the ice has broken, ladies and gentlemen of the jury!" Bender utters this phrase at the start of one of his new schemes; in the wider culture it has come to mean that something new has finally begun after a period of stagnation and uncertainty. Of course it was clear that new initiatives are not universally welcomed, and not every idea will turn out to be a good one, as Bender's exploits show. Yet, on the whole the expression is one that points to hope and a certain optimism.

As we stepped into 2020 it seemed that "the ice has broken!" would be an appropriate catch phrase for mission in the Russian church. Many seeds of ideas that had been ripening throughout the years



were about to mature and produce fruit. Or so it seemed. And then we once again saw that our life experience backs up the wisdom of another famous catchphrase in Russia, "if you want to make God laugh, tell Him about your plans." It would have been wise if I had learned to expect what I know from many years watching the ice floes on the Neva - as beautiful as the breaking up of ice can be, just because things have started moving doesn't mean that they won't get frozen up again.

But now here we are in May, and much seems to indicate that our ministry, like the surface of a river, has frozen in place. A number of important initiatives - a seminar to combat burnout for lay and ordained ministers, another for leaders of men's ministries, yet another for leaders of children's ministries, transitioning to new leadership in Moscow and the Vladivostok, synod council and a pastors' meetings, etc. - have been put on hold or cancelled. Like other Christian communities throughout the world, we are dealing with differing opinions about whether open or closed church buildings best serve our neighbor; the lack of clear, consistent or trustworthy information erodes our confidence that the decisions we make are in line with good discipleship.

At the same time, despite all this uncertainty, a sense of frozeness is only superficial, for there is much that is moving. The virus is moving, of course. As is the "infodemic" that is accompanying the pandemic. But that is not all. The Spirit is certainly moving, too, forging new channels when the old ones have been blocked off. We are not meeting together, but these force majeure circumstances are finally helping us to use instruments of technology that will serve us well long after the COVID19 crisis is over. We are finding more time for Bible study and prayer, and we are coming to a deeper sense of the significance and importance of being together (a feeling that, if harnessed properly, will strengthen our central commitments in the long term).

"The ice has broken" in some of your congregations now, and you are able to meet again. With social distancing. Perhaps without singing. Or Holy Communion. Certainly without the sharing of the peace. In this sense spring will come and the last ice will leave the river significantly later in Russian than where you are. In the meantime we will have weeks still of feeling frozen, unsure and rather helpless. In the meantime, though, I am confident that the movement of the Spirit will continue, and I look forward with hope that we will be more attuned to it as we go with the "floe."

Your brother in Christ, Bradn

Name: Andrew Kirzeder

Parents: Chris Kirzeder, Mindy Chandler, Michael Chandler

Future Plans: I intend to major in Applied Physics at Bethel University.

Favorite HS Memory: Every moment where my friends and I really bonded and connected was my favorite, nothing surpasses those

moments for me.

Favorite LCC Memory: I was a group leader for Vacation Bible School in the summer, and I enjoyed every moment of it. All of the kids were so fun to be around and I was really able to grow in my faith.

Favorite Bible Verse: Isaiah 6:8





Name: Jacob Kruger
Parents: Rick & Lisa Kruger

Future Plans: Attending MState in the fall for Electrical Lineworker

Technology

Favorite HS Memory: Being a member of the High School Lacrosse

tean

Favorite LCC Memory: Attending VBS and my confirmation years

Favorite Bible Verse: Luke 12:34

Name: Hannah Oelke Parents: Jeff & Megan Oelke

Future Plans: I am attending CLC in the fall for generals and then finishing the next 3 years at Minnesota Moorhead for ele-

mentary education

Favorite HS Memory: All the pepfests, volleyball games, football

games and homecomings.

Favorite LCC Memory: Probably going to all the Twins games for

Summer Stretch, or volunteering at camp confidence

Favorite Bible Verse: Jeremiah 29:11



Blessings and Congratulations to the following young adults of the Senior Class of 2020!



Name: Dylan Paulson

Parents: Andy Paulson and Estelle Paulson **Future Plans:** Attend St. Johns University

Favorite HS Memory: Breaking the 200 medley school record at

State my senior year

Favorite LCC Memory: Being confirmed **Favorite Bible Verse:** Philippians 4:13





Name: Ethan Sannes

Parents: Jay & Brenda Sannes

Future Plans: I am committed to play baseball and continue my

education at Augustana University.

Favorite HS Memory: Traveling the country playing baseball last

summer.

Favorite LCC Memory: Spending time with my small group during

Confirmation.

Favorite Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:7

Name: Merriam Schmitz

Parents: Patrick & Annie Schmitz

Future Plans: Attend University of Wisconsin-Madison

Favorite HS Memory: 11th Grade Prom

Favorite LCC Memory: Denver Mission Trip and working at the

Bible school.

Favorite Bible Verse: 1 John 4:19





Operation Sandwich has continued to navigate through this pandemic, and has had to make some good changes for the safety of all. Operation Sandwich and our LCC Operation Sandwich team will be collaborating to feed hungry people in Pine River, Pequot Lakes and Nisswa. This summer, we will not be making sandwiches, but instead, offering weekly lunch packs. These packs will be requested in advanced by the community members. On Thursdays, volunteers will gather at LCC in the AM to pack paper grocery bags full of a weeks worth of lunch supplies for a family. These bags will then be distributed by the volunteers to the community parks.

Food request forms will be available here shortly:

https://www.bridgesofhopemn.org/operation-sandwich

While the following needs are necessary, right now, monetary donations are the safest and most efficient.

Our needs are extra high this summer. Please place the following donations in the bin in near the Celebration Center Entrance:

- · Creamy peanut butter (should not separate)
- · Fruit jam or preserves
- Fruit snacks
- · Granola bars (chewy and crunchy; kid friendly)
- · Yogurt covered raisins
- Goldfish
- GoGo Squeeze (Fruit and veggie blend)
- · Fruit cups (in natural juices)
- · Trail Mix
- SuperValu, Schaefer's Foods, Cub & Costco gift cards (for purchase of fresh fruit)
- Checks can be made out to Operation Sandwich and mailed to:
 Operation Sandwich % Bethlehem Lutheran Church 418 8th Ave NE,
 Brainerd, MN 56401

Thank You!

CREATION CARE

Your Creation Care Team at Lutheran Church of the Cross believes that as **people of faith, it is our moral obligation to have strong climate policies to protect future generations.** HOW IS CLIMATE CHANGE ALREADY AFFECTING THE EARTH?

- 18 of the 19 hottest years ever have occurred since 2001, as reported by the National Climate Assessment (www.globalchange.gov). The world is warming, global sea level is rising, and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and more severe.
- Since 1970, U.S. average temperatures have increased by over 2 degrees F, and expected to rise several more degrees over the next few decades, increasing atmospheric concentrations of CO2, methane, and nitrous oxide to levels unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years.
- Extreme weather is overwhelming the capacity of ecosystems like forests, barrier beaches and wetlands to buffer the impacts, with Arctic summer sea ice projected to virtually disappear before mid-century. Human infrastructures (roads, rail lines, airports, port facilities, energy infrastructure and military bases) are affected by extreme heat, sea level rise, and heavy downpours.
- Food and water supplies are at risk as climate disruptions are threatening to diminish the security of America's and the world's food supply. Surface and groundwater supplies in many regions are stressed, in part due to increasing sediment and contaminant concentrations after heavy downpours.
- Oceans absorb about a quarter of human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide annually, making seawater more acidic. This results in damage to the food chain, with poor formation of shells and coral reefs that are the basis of marine life. 75% of the world's coral reefs are threatened, with an increase of pathogens in warming seas that are linked to significant increases in sea life disease and mortality that in turn impacts the human populations which depend on them.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Educate yourself on the issues.
- Write a letter or make a phone call to your representatives; hold them accountable.
- Thank your members of Congress if they support climate change legislation.
- Write a letter to the editor or an op-ed to your local paper about global warming and the need to act
- Gather people from your community of faith to set up a meeting with your representatives; attend a town hall meeting or other events.

This is "love made visible," engaging in the life of our communities in all their various activities to make visible our commitment to care for the earth. Please join us!

Name: Gabbie Smith

Parents: Tommy & Kris Smith

Future Plans: Attend Bemidji State and play hockey

Favorite HS Memory: Making it to the state championship game

in hockey

Favorite LCC Memory: The bonfire we had with all the kids and

conformation!!

Favorite Bible Verse: Joshua 1:9





Name: Nash Tietz

Parents: Kirk & Sarah Tietz

Future Plans: Lying low for about a year then might get a good

paying job

Favorite HS Memory: When I tried out for Mr. BHS in Bemidji

Favorite LCC Memory: Hotdish and a Show **Favorite Bible Verse:** Matthew 25:34-40



A Prayer for our Graduates

May you have WISDOM in heart and mind,
SUCCESS in every challenge you find.
COURAGE to seek life's purpose for you,
BELIEF in yourself to make it come true.
STRENGTH to do your best and endure,
And the guiding light of FAITH to ensure.
That wherever you go, whatever you do,
God's LOVE will always see you through.



Luther Crest Bible Camp Update

As of May 1, Luther Crest has received over \$38,000 in payments/deposits for summer campers at Luther Crest for congregations like yours. These dollars have been put to great use to get the site up and ready, recruit and hire summer staff, keep our year-round staff employed and other expenses to keep us ready to welcome guests.

Our full-time staff are working on developing the

Bold Transformational Faith (BTF) program.

Although we are cancelling our regular programming, we are moving forward with the BTF program. This will be a faith formation experience for you as a camper!

We will be contacting all of our campers to go over the BTF program that will be available to you! This program is our gift to our partnering congregations and will be made available in July and August 2020. We look forward to staying in communication with you and continuing to strengthen our partnership in ministry.

Video Streaming Worship

Please join us for worship on Sundays mornings at 10:30 via video streaming on our website, www.lccnisswa.org. Click on the Live Video Streaming Worship tab. (Services may be viewed at a later date, just click on the service you wish to view.)

View or print the current bulletin to follow along during worship, or join us on Facebook Live at Lutheran Church of the Cross—Nisswa.





I CANNOT CONTROL:

(So, I can LET GO and LET GOD)



June Worship Assistants

June 2020 Birthdays

- 1. Kari Erickson, Gale Gordon, Dagne Neale, Renee Schwaller, Kellan Timmons
- 2. Bill Campbell, Ella Oelke, Leslie Speed
- 3. Nathan Bakken, Shane Dutton, Dylan Smith, Ron Whipple
- 4. Emily Dunphy-Day, Patrick Goff, Faeth Harms, Tyler Hushagen, Hilary Johnson, Alexis Opp, Paul Wermager
- 5. Maren Ortmeier, Josie Taylor
- 6. Joseph Anderholm, Callista Anderson, Jerry Glendening, Gene Lova
- 7. Riley Pelowski
- 8. Emmalyn Boesen, Tess Chase, Kathy Kosobud, Michelle Malmquist
- 9. Megan Fogarty, Amanda Hintz, Marilyn Olson
- 10. Ron Rusch, Amanda Speed, Kaden Teasck
- 11.
- 12. Doug Hansen
- 13. Bonnie Anderson, Karen Lenox, Maureen Schmidt
- 14. Abigail Bakken, Sarah Fogderud, Kaiden Raske,

- Roxanne Soukup, Kacie Wottreng
- 15. Randy Hahn, Charles Klang
- 16. Mark Boesen
- 17. Lois Jensen, Pat Tollefsrud
- 18. Justin Blanch, Ashley Eisenschenk
- 19. Dan Halland, Lauren Meyers, Nathan Ranum, **Audrey Wessman**
- 20. Sharon Ingvoldstad, Maggie Prahm
- 21. Stephanie Castellanos, Riley Fogarty, Brian Hemish, Dorothy Setterholm, Thomas Sullivan
- 22. Brett Nelson
- 23. Liz Brandanger, Lenny Hodgson
- 24. Kevin Egan, Kristen Ingram, Darrell Schreiner, Tony Whipple
- 25. Randy Avenson, Teresa Carter, Dick Dore, Julie Raymo, Gabe Wilson
- 26. Michael Bestul, Mitch Hallan, Catherine Nault, Joyce Pierson
- 27. Justine Campbell, Anne Kostreba, Brian Stark, Brecken Ubl

- 28. Violet Anderson, Whitney Bolt, Logan Ciardelli, Shaun Martini
- 29. Valborg Austin, Kim Cameron, David Cram, Brenna Neale, Susan Scherpelz
- 30. Haley Dunlap, Curt Tollefsrud, Allison Whipple



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ALTAR GUILD								

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

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
facility calendar for:						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions	9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions	8:30 Zoom Text Study 9:30 Treehouse Time 10:00 Facebook Devotions 6:00 Zoom Route 56 7:00 7th & 8th Zoom	10:00 Facebook Devotions 4:00 Young Adult Zoom Chat	10:00 Facebook Devotions	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 Treehouse Time 10:30 Worship –Online Only 7:00 HS Zoom Chat	8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions	9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions	8:30 Zoom Text Study 9:30 Treehouse Time 10:00 Facebook Devotions 6:00 Zoom Route 56 7:00 7th & 8th Zoom	10:00 Facebook Devotions 4:00 Young Adult Zoom Chat 7:00 Church Council via Zoom	10:00 Facebook Devotions	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 Treehouse Time 10:30 Worship—Online Only 11:45 Drive Thru Communion 7:00 HS Zoom Chat	8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions	9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions	8:30 Zoom Text Study 9:30 Treehouse Time 10:00 Facebook Devotions 6:00 Zoom Route 56 7:00 7th & 8th Zoom	10:00 Facebook Devotions 4:00 Young Adult Zoom Chat	10:00 Facebook Devotions	
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9:30 Treehouse Time 10:30 Worship – Online Only 7:00 HS Zoom Chat	8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions	9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions		All items are subject to change during Covid restrictions.	June	2020