

# Cross Currents

Lutheran  
Church  
of the Cross  
2023

March 

Dear LCC Church family,

We have now entered into the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday, February 22, was the first day of Lent. Its official name is “Day of Ashes” so called because of the practice of rubbing ashes on one’s forehead in the sign of the cross. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent - our 40-day journey to Jerusalem, a journey to the cross with Jesus.

During the time of Lent we are called to reflect, repent, and return to the Lord. The Lenten season is a time when we’re called to closely examine our lives and seek to be more faithful followers of Christ. As we examine our lives and our attitudes, we may find aspects about ourselves that need to be changed or set aside. When these are revealed to us, we repent and return. Don’t be afraid for we come before a God of love. *Return to the Lord your God for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.* Joel 2:12,13. God loves us even in our dustiness. We return ourselves to the One who created us from nothing, and loves us through anything.

This year we will be bringing back the **5th Gospel** for our Lenten messages on Wednesday evenings. Each week a different lay person will share a message about their faith journey or how they have seen God at work in their life. Please support these dear brothers and sisters-in-Christ who are willing to share their stories with us. Come to our **Wednesday evening Lenten service in the sanctuary from 6:20-7:00 PM**. Join us for a delicious free will donation *soup and sandwich supper* beforehand from 5:30-6:10 PM. We pray we will see you on Wednesday evenings to share in this holy season of Lent.

The 2023 Lenten Devotional *Water and Spirit* is in a basket in the narthex. Please take one home with you and enjoy meditating on it at home. If you are able, join us for an hour on Fridays in March at 10:00 AM in the chapel hall or 12:00 Noon at Stonehouse Coffee in Baxter to talk about the week’s devotions. It is a beautiful time to gather.

Peace and Love to you and yours,

*Pastor Michelle*

**An Ash Wednesday Prayer.** Gracious God, thank You for the words of the prophets that point us to You. Thank You that even when You call us to repentance You do it with compassion, renewed hope, and abundant love. May the ashes placed on our foreheads remind us of our fragileness and our complete dependence upon You, and may the cross remind us that we have been marked with the cross of Christ forever. In the Name of Jesus we pray. Amen.





# Lent and Holy Week at Lutheran Church of the Cross



## LENT AT LCC:

- Each Weds. soup and sandwiches will be served in the Celebration Center from 5:30 - 6:10pm, March 1 through April 5.
- King's Kids will rehearse at 6pm in the Choir Room.
- Worship at 6:20pm in the Sanctuary will feature the service, "That You May Have Life" by Marty Haugen. Messages will feature various church members sharing their "Fifth Gospel."
- Confirmation students will meet with their Lenten Mentors in Celebration Center following each worship service, from 7pm - 7:30pm.
- A Time For Us, Route 56, & Cross Kids will not meet during Lent.

## HOLY WEEK AT LCC:

- Apr. 2: Palm Sundaes and Super Rolls after worship
- Apr. 5: Prayer Labyrinth and Stations in CC, 8am - 6pm; No worship or programming.
- Apr. 6: Maundy Thursday worship at 6:20pm in the Sanctuary with First Communion.
- April 7: Tenebrae worship at 6:20pm in the Sanctuary.
- Easter Sunday Worship Services at 7:30am, 9am, & 10:30am.

## Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2023 General Fund

	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>	Annual <u>Budget</u>	% YTD of Annual <u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 63,652	\$ 63,652	\$ 699,490	9.1%
Expenses	\$ 52,731	\$ 52,731	\$ 699,490	7.5%
Difference	\$ 10,920	\$ 10,920	\$ 0	

**In the month of January our income was greater than expenses by \$10,920.  
Thank you for your continued support.**



### **BAPTISM**

Name: Dean James Franke  
 Born: September 21, 2022  
 Baptized: February 19, 2023  
 Parents: Justin & Kristina Franke  
 Pastor Michelle Ruen, Officiant



### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS**

Sunday, March 12

Be sure to spring your clocks forward one hour Saturday night March 11th.

Good time to replace your smoke detector batteries as well.

***BELOVED HYMN SUNDAY will be on March 19*** at our 9am worship service—we welcome all to join us in lifting our voices to God with some familiar hymns. Not just “old songs we used to sing” - hymns are meant to be sung corporately as we are gathered together. We will feature hymns that have wonderful poetry and beautiful tunes that are simple and pure. Hymns that are so true that they have survived the years (sometimes centuries) through all sorts of fads and trends. Let’s join together and sing our hearts out!



All ages - kids, adults, families— ANYONE— is welcome to join us for our first ever Cornhole Tournament! Watch out, as Pr. Michelle is QUITE good—you may want to challenge her! Challenge a friend or couple or family and join us for fun, food, fellowship, and **CORNHOLE!**

# HEY, CROSS KIDS:



Join Kari during our worship service on March 5 to lead our congregation in our Confession and Forgiveness and Creed - we will be leading our members in "I Am A Child of God! Kari will call you forward when it is time, so listen carefully!

## Dinnertime Lent Devos

*Pick up a copy of our LCC Dinnertime Lent Devos and use them as you wish at home to keep Christ a part of your routine this Lent. These devos can be used by singles, couples, families, teens, kids, you name it—copies available in the narthex for all:-)*

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

# Youth Group

## MARCH 1

### MEETING

How does a Rainy Lake Houseboat summer adventure sound to you? Join us to find out details and MORE!

*PLHS Jr. and Srs. Are invited to join us each Friday during lunch hour for CHAT & CHOW—thanks to our youth who joined us in February for Walking Tacos!*

Mar. 3 - St. Alice's Spaghetti Bake???  
Mar. 10 - OSLC Make Your Own Sub  
No C & C on Mar. 17 or 24



# SUPER ROLL SUNDAYS



## NEED YOU!

The gift of your time is priceless to your church family!

Check your calendar and go to the SignUpGenius link (below) as soon as you can!

<https://tinyurl.com/4fcs5rjm>

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH



### Thanks for supporting our Youth Super Roll Sundays!

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

March 5 -we always have room for more helpers, so if you need some service hours, sign up and join us <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d48a4af2ea0f85-super#/>

## FIRST COMMUNION



Mark your calendar for March 26, 12n—2:30pm or April 1, 1—3:30pm! This workshop will be held in Celebration Center and the Sanctuary, led by Pr. Drew and Kari Erickson. It will include learning & activities using the Daniel Erlander materials, *A Place For You*. Not only will we learn about Communion, but also create a banner, paint chalices and bake communion bread. There is no age requirement for this workshop; children may commune at any age at LCC. We suggest a thoughtful discussion between you and your child to determine if s/he is ready, and we ask that children attending the workshop be accompanied

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





Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa



Welcoming Dean Franke into our church family through baptism!



GAME  
DAY  
FUN



## Music Notes

### March 2023



#### **“Beneath the Cross” Keith Getty and Kristyn Getty**

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus, I find a place to stand;  
And wonder at such mercy that calls me as I am.  
For hands that should discard me, hold wounds which tell me, “Come.”  
Beneath the cross of Jesus, my unworthy soul is won.
2. Beneath the cross of Jesus, His family is my own.  
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams, now one, through grace alone.  
How could I now dishonor the ones that You have loved?  
Beneath the cross of Jesus, see the children called by God.
3. Beneath the cross of Jesus, the path before the crown,  
We follow in His footsteps, where promised hope is found.  
How great the joy before us to be His perfect bride.  
Beneath the cross of Jesus, we will gladly live our lives.

During Lent, we will sing this new-to-us hymn written by Irish contemporary composers Keith and Kristyn Getty. It is loosely based on our “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”, written by Elizabeth C. Clephane (1830-1869) found in our hymnal #338. Keith says of this hymn:

While it is true that through the cross we have been given unbelievable promises for the future, its implications for how we live our lives here and now are equally radical. One such implication is how we live together as a community. We are not saved for ourselves; disassociating ourselves from the rest of the body (regardless of how difficult they can be) is simply not an option.

In a concert in 2007, Kristyn Getty summarized the message of the hymn in this way:

The first verse considers the individual coming to the cross and realizing that though they are so desperately unworthy, yet Christ has forgiven them. Then in verse 2, it’s as if the camera pans back and we see not just ourselves standing there before the cross, but thousands and thousands of other people there in need of the same gospel, the same Savior, the same grace, and so it asks the question, “How can I then dishonor the ones that you have loved when I consider what Christ has done for me.” And then verse 3 pushes us all out together, out the front door if you like, onto this path, beneath the cross, to follow the footsteps of our Lord, where one day it will lead us to be his perfect bride, praising him at his throne.

Kristyn Getty (b. May 22, 1980) is a world-renowned modern hymn writer. Kristyn studied English Literature at Queen’s University of Belfast. She writes and performs with her husband, Keith Getty, and they regularly tour the United States and the United Kingdom.




Keith Getty (b. December 16, 1974) is a world-renowned modern hymn writer. Keith developed a passion for writing good songs for the church in his twenties, and began writing for his small Baptist church. He writes and performs with his wife, Kristyn and they regularly tour the United States and the United Kingdom.

Another hymn that Keith co-wrote with Stuart Townend is “The Power of the Cross”, a favorite of our congregation.

I love how these coteremporaries write in that they are very similar in style to our traditional hymns, so very singable. The texts are also very relevant to us.

I hope you enjoy the wonderful music and text of “Beneath the Cross” here at Lutheran Church of the **Cross** during Lent.

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music Ministries

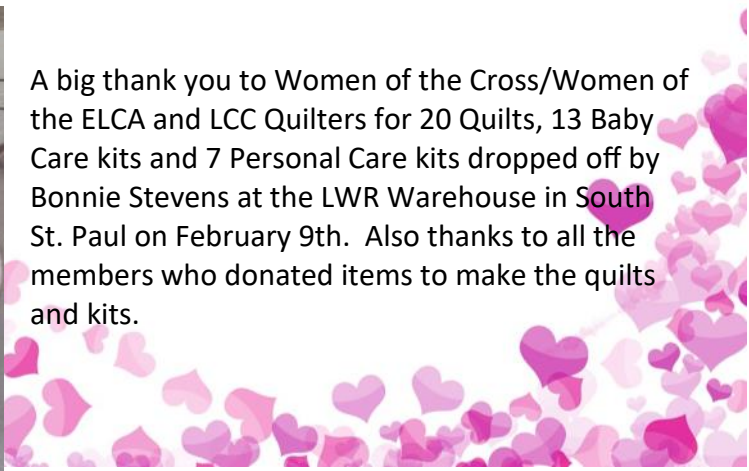


My family wishes to express our thanks to all of you here at LCC for the condolences, words of support, cards, and monetary gifts. All funds that you gave will go as a memorial to our organ fund. My mother would approve. She was a force in her church – the new member/volunteer coordinator for years. Her beautiful smile touched many. Her years of service to her church and reach out touched many. She is missed but we are all so comforted knowing she is with God. Thank you again.

Cathy and John Taylor and Family



A big thank you to Women of the Cross/Women of the ELCA and LCC Quilters for 20 Quilts, 13 Baby Care kits and 7 Personal Care kits dropped off by Bonnie Stevens at the LWR Warehouse in South St. Paul on February 9th. Also thanks to all the members who donated items to make the quilts and kits.



## **WOMEN in the WORD BIBLE STUDY—Tuesday, March 7**

The March *Women in the Word* Bible Study with Pastor Michelle will meet on Tuesday, **March 7, at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM** in the Chapel Hall. Come for a special time with Sisters-in-Christ to look into God's Word and enjoy coffee, tea, and refreshments. No preparation and prior knowledge needed. Bring your Bible and a friend for a wonderful time in God's Word. Hope to see you on March 7!

## **Grub and Games—Friday, March 17**

Come for a free and yummy supper and a fun night of cards and games on Friday, March 17 from 5:30-7:30. There are lots of games to choose from or bring your own favorite game. Meet in the Celebration Center at 5:30 PM and join in on the fun!

## **A Time for Us—serving Lent supper on March 8**

*A Time for Us* will be serving and cleaning up for the Lent soup and sandwich supper on March 8. *A Time for Us* will return to meeting in our classroom after Easter on March 12. We will be cooking this Spring on Wednesday, April 12 and May 10. Thanks for putting these dates on your calendar!

## **Toning with a Purpose**

Join us every Thursday from **10:00—11:00am** in Chapel Hall for an hour of toning using bands and weights as we work on our core and balance. You are welcome and encouraged to work at your own intensity level. Instructor and Lead Teacher: Gloria Thomas. All free will donations are sent to *Smile Train*. April 13th will be our last session for the season.



## **Men's Breakfast**

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

**Spring break is upon us Lord. Families may be enjoying staycations and be at home - may they find comfort in a different pace and routine and truly rest. Some may be traveling together to new places. Give these families your grace to find peace in the midst of any stress and anxiety they might encounter, and rejoicing in new joys and experiences . We pray that love, joy and peace would prevail over all of our families during their spring break. Help this time to bring families together in love. Amen**



### March 9, Thursday, 12:00 Noon

The March PrimeTimers will meet on Thursday, March 9, at 12:00 Noon. Come for a great program presented by our own Jon Aga, who is the Executive Director of the United Way in Crow Wing County. Jon is a native of Nisswa, a 2009 graduate of Brainerd High School, and was confirmed at Lutheran Church of the Cross. Jon and his wife, Shaina, and two little ones, Eli and Ruby, are members of LCC after recently moving back to the Brainerd Lakes area. Come learn about the United Way in Crow Wing County from our own Jon Aga! Bring a sack lunch if you'd like. Dessert and beverages are provided by the hosts: Ray and Betty Arveson and Mike and Carol Smith. See you Thursday, March 9, at 12:00 Noon!



Lakes Area  
United Way



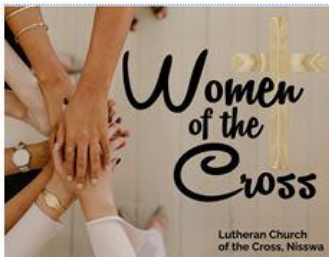
### Stonehouse Fridays

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

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

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

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



## Women of the Cross Gather Bible Study

Please join us on **Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.** for our monthly Gather Bible Study. Revive your soul in 2023 with a four-session study of the 10 commandments. ELCA pastor and Bible study author Christa von Zychlin will help us see how these commandments are more than they may appear at first glance. For example, Martin Luther taught that the commandment, “Do not kill,” means not only refraining from murder, but actively promoting the health and life of others. Get ready to explore old and new interpretations of God’s laws, using Luther’s Small and Large Catechism and more!

In Session 3 we will discuss the Sanctity of life and love (Commandments 5 & 6) and we will review some of the major murders of the Bible. We’ll also delve into the scriptural witness to the spirituality of sex and the covenant of marriage.

Marie Olness is our Bible Study Leader and bringing treats.

Women of the Cross/Women of the ELCA quarterly business meeting will be held Tuesday, March 21st at 1:30 in Chapel Hall.

Let's gather for

# Women's Week

at Luther Crest

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

**June 25 - 30** <https://www.luthercrest.org/womens-week.html>

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

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

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



*All women  
...all week  
...all sorts of fun!*

Becoming Who God Created You to Be



**Heartland Conference  
Women's Spring Gathering  
SATURDAY, MARCH 25  
8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

First Lutheran Church (107 2nd St. SE, Aitkin)

The program, presented by Georgia Larson, will inspire and equip us to take care of our physical and spiritual health.

8:30-9:30 a.m.

Registration/Coffee Fellowship

9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Program & Lunch

Registration \$10 (includes lunch)

**Did you know?**

*Silent auction & marketplace items are welcome!*



Women of the  
**ELCA**

## Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen News

Big THANK YOU'S to January volunteers Sheila Avenson and Tim Bergin who helped with a great meal, served, and cleaned up.

Another big THANK YOU to our February volunteers Candy and Darrell Barnack, Mike and Carol Smith, Marie Olness, Mary Klang, and all the members of their small group who contributed for the meal.

The Soup Kitchen has been serving between 35-60 people every night.

Sharing Bread also hosted a Super Bowl Party to view the big game with prizes and lots of treats.

If you would like to help at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, the signup calendar is on the bulletin board next to the restrooms. LCC has been serving the first Thursday of the month for over 20 years. Any questions? Call or text Ann Bergin, Soup Kitchen coordinator, at 218-820-5511.



## Recap of 2022

This isn't just a building. This is a place where individuals and families come 7 days a week to be fed. A place of nourishment, community, and hope. As we reflect on this past year, we continue to be in awe of the way our community shows up to love on others. The fact that we can run the Soup Kitchen primarily by donations and volunteers is absolutely amazing. Thank you to those that have given of their time and talents and have been the hands and feet of Jesus in 2022! "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

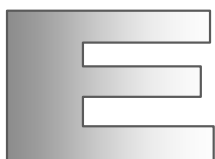
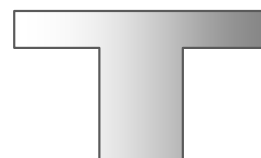
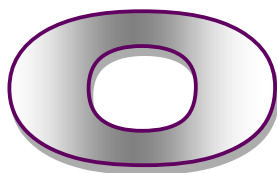
Romans 8:28



## Did You Know?

From the "People for Racial Justice" Group

It is important to acknowledge Indigenous land; to appreciate the longstanding history that has brought us to reside on the land, and to seek to understand our place within that history. Mary Lyons (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe) has said, "When we talk about land, land is part of who we are. It's a mixture of our blood, our past, our current and our future. We carry our ancestors in us, and they're around us. As you all do."



### **AN INVITATION FOR MARCH & APRIL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

WEDNESDAY EVE LENT 6:20 PM SERVICES – If you would be willing to help by being a usher, or communion assistant at the services, please give me a call or text at 612-810-2201. There is also a sign-up chart in the narthex.

MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY 6:20 PM SERVICES – If you would be willing to help by being a greeter, usher, worship coordinator, reader or communion assistant (Thursday only) at the services, please give me a call or text at 612-810-2201. There is also a sign-up chart in the narthex.

EASTER SUNDAY 7:30, 9:00 AND 10:30 A.M. SERVICES – Please help us welcome visitors on this special Sunday! We know we will have many visitors coming to these services, and we want them to feel welcome here at LCC. If you can help by being a greeter, usher, worship coordinator, reader or communion assistant at any of the services, please give me a call or text at 612-810-2201. There will also be a sign-up chart in the narthex beginning March 5<sup>th</sup>. Your help is very much appreciated!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
facility calendar for:			Mar
			<b>1</b> 8:30 Text S 9:30 Quilte 5:30 Suppe 6:00 King's <b>6:20 Lent V</b> 7:00 Lente 7:00 Sr. Ch
<b>5 BOLD BELIEVER SUNDAY</b>  <b>9:00 Worship w/ Communion</b> 10:00 Coffee Fellowship/ Rolls 10:15 Cross Kids Connection 11:30 MS & HS Cornhole Tourney 1:00 Piano Recital	<b>6</b>  1:00 Prayer Shawl Group	<b>7</b>  8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Women in the Word 10:00 Coffee Clutch 12:00 Staff Training 7:00 Women in the Word	<b>8</b>  8:30 Text S 10:00 Gathe 5:30 Supp 6:00 King's <b>6:20 Lent V</b> 7:00 Lente 7:00 Sr. Ch
<b>12 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS</b>  <b>9:00 Worship w/ Communion</b> 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Cross Kids Connection	<b>13</b>  9:00 55+ Driver Imp. Class 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group  <b>ISD 181 Spring Break</b>	<b>14</b>  8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Coffee Clutch 12:00 Staff Training 4:00 Lakes Area Food Shelf Board Mtg	<b>15</b>  8:30 Text S 9:30 Quilte 4:00 Creati 5:30 Suppe 6:00 King's <b>6:20 Lent V</b> 7:00 Lente 7:00 Sr. Ch
<b>19 BELOVED HYMNS SUNDAY</b>  <b>9:00 Worship w/ Communion &amp; Baptism</b> 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship & Music Committee 10:15 Cross Kids Connections	<b>20</b>  9:00 MOPS 11:00 Soul Sisters 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group 7:00 People for Racial Justice  <b>ISD 186 Spring Break</b>	<b>21</b>  8:30 Staff Meeting /Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Coffee Clutch 12:00 Staff Training 1:30 WELCA Qrtly Mtg	<b>22</b>  8:30 Text St 5:30 Suppe 6:00 King's <b>6:20 Lent V</b> 7:00 Lente 7:00 Sr. Ch
<b>26</b>  <b>9:00 Worship w/ Communion</b> 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Cross Kids Connection 12:00 First Communion Workshop  <b>LCC at Warming Shelter</b>	<b>27</b>  1:00 Prayer Shawl Group	<b>28</b>  8:30 Staff Meeting /Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Coffee Clutch 10:30 Novel Ideas Book Club 12:00 Staff Training	<b>29</b>  8:30 Text S 5:30 Supp 6:00 King's <b>6:20 Lent V</b> 7:00 Lente 7:00 Sr. Ch



Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ch	<h1>2023</h1>		
Study Men's Kids <b>Worship w/ Comm.</b> Men's Mentors/HSYG Choir	<b>2</b> 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 5:30 Playground Committee 7:00 A.A. 	<b>3</b> 10:00 Lent Devotional 12:00 Lent Devotional at StoneHouse in Baxter Piano Festival →	<b>4</b>
Study Men's Bible Study Men's Kids <b>Worship w/ Comm</b> Men's Mentors Choir	<b>9</b> 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 12:00 PrimeTimers 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.	<b>10</b> 10:00 Lent Devotional 12:00 Lent Devotional at	<b>11</b>
Study Men's Men's Care Team Mtg Men's Kids <b>Worship w/ Comm</b> Men's Mentors Choir	<b>16</b> 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 7:00 A.A.	<b>17</b> 10:00 Lent Devotional 12:00 Lent Devotional at StoneHouse in Baxter 5:30 Grub & Game Night  →	<b>18</b>
Study Men's Kids <b>Worship w/ Comm</b> Men's Mentors Choir	<b>23</b> 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 12:00 Nisswa Garden Club 7:00 A.A.	<b>24</b> 10:00 Lent Devotional 12:00 Lent Devotional at StoneHouse in Baxter →	<b>25</b>
Study Men's Kids <b>Worship w/ Comm</b> Men's Mentors Choir	<b>30</b> 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 7:00 A.A.	<b>31</b> 10:00 Lent Devotional 12:00 Lent Devotional at StoneHouse in Baxter	<b>Reminder: Before planning any meeting/event/gathering at church, call the church office for availability and scheduling. Thank you.</b> →

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1. Martin Baker, Mickie Deline, Judy Heslop, Bode Owen, Lyle Thell
2. Erin Anderson, Kinley Obe, William Winegar
3. Lola Chase, Claire Loge, Mike Cowger, Jeremiah Eisenschenk, Karla Jensen, Oscar Prahm
4. Addison Gorr, Mark Jensen, Barb Pisani
5. Jan Halligan, Ethan Johnson, Joshua Stark
6. Jeanyne Hess, Kristy Peterson
7. Doris Bergersen, Hannah Hayes, Aiden Hernandez, Phyllis Hill, Jean Olson, Linda Van Vliet
8. Duane Blanck, Eric Johnson, Jed Klein, Nancy Phillips
9. Nick Evanson, Linda Rasinski
10. Dennis Hins, Pat Sloan
11. Dave Endicott, Gary Hiles, Al Larson
12. Jim Kottke, Marie Olness, Michael Rude, Norah Ulrich
13. Jackie Kottke
14. Jeff Aga, Diana Heikkila, Alice Moore, Brenda Myers, Steve Osmera, Marc Williams
15. Walter Prahm, Jessica Teasck, Hannah Ulrich, Tucker Williams
16. Emily Bachman, Eileen Holland, Tracy Olson
17. Harvey Anderson, Mark Hahn, Dirk Henry, Dylan Paulson, Allison Timmons, Lyn Underdahl
18. Renee Boesen, Jim Swanson
19. Ramona Stumvoll, Olivia Troisdahl
20. Giina Clarine, Dawn Maine, Peter Nistler
21. Drew Bakken, John Erickson, Mark Hallan, Sandy Hins, Roger Johnson, Peter Mogensen, Jerry Raedeke, Carrie Taylor, Randy Thomson, Louise Warden
22. Bradley Carlson
- 23.
24. Gail Anderson, Sharon Endicott
25. Kevin Kosobud, Valdean Lueck, Judy Swenson
26. Karen Clarine, Sharon Holland, Linda Larson
27. Avery Gorr
28. Ella Anderson, Carol Campbell, Charlee Sullivan
29. Landen Brill, Judith Kuusisto, Sophie Schamber
30. Carolyn Blanck, Bryan Trees, Mira Van Vliet
31. Nancy Fischer, Krista Fogarty



# Church Directory Update

Thank you to all the church members who submitted photos or had their picture taken for the upcoming church directory. Staff will be working on formatting the directory in the next few weeks prior to publishing. Lots of information has changed since the last directory was published in 2017. If you did not send in the completed directory information sheet, we will be publishing the information we currently have in our database (address, phone #, email, etc.).

We hope to have the directory for sale by the end of March, so stay tuned!

## LCC SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

### Donation Guide

**Sale dates:**  
**April 27-29**

#### **SOFT GOODS (clean/gently used)**

- place in plastic bags

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

#### **HARD GOODS (must be in working order)**

- place in boxes with closed flaps or totes with lids

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

#### **NOT ACCEPTING:**

Badly soiled or broken furniture, Hide-A-Beds, Mattresses/Box Springs, Child Car/Booster Seats, Cribs, Exercise Bikes/Treadmills, Tube TVs, Tube Computer Monitors, Doors/Windows, Used Carpet, Reference or Textbooks, Magazines, Encyclopedia Sets.

***Donations are greatly appreciated!***

**QUESTIONS? Call Marv (218-537-0522) or Liz (612-849-1500)**  
Electronics questions? Call Lyle (218-330-5110)



Minnesota FoodShare's March Campaign generates half of all the groceries distributed at Minnesota food shelves each year.

# MARCH 23 & 26

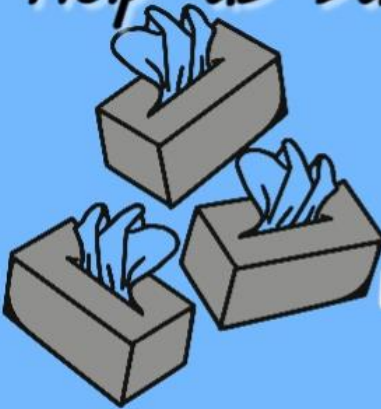
**PACK THE PEWS**



**FILL A BAG  
AND  
PLUNK IT  
IN THE  
PEW!**

- Applesauce
- Crackers
- Oatmeal
- Pasta Sauce
- Laundry soap
- Body Wash
- Disposable Razors
- Toothpaste and brushes
- Antiperspirant/Deodorant
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Peanut butter
- Soup - cans & mixes
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fish
- Canned beans
- Pasta
- Rice
- Cereal
- 100% juice boxes
- Granola bars

Help us build a



# TOWER OF TISSUES

for the Lakes Area Food Shelf

**BRING TISSUE BOXES TO THE NARTHEX AND  
ADD TO THE TOWER FROM MARCH 1 - 26**

# Noisy Offering 2023

**WOWIE:-))  
You gave  
\$3479.14**



**Thanks for supporting our offering!**

**We look for your continued support of our March Pack the Pews event and building our TISSUE TOWER!**

It's that time again—*the Lenten Food Shelf Challenge is on!* This year we are collecting boxes of facial tissues to build a TISSUE TOWER for the Lakes Area and Crosslake food shelves, as well as Packing the Pews on March 23 and 26. You will find a shopping list in the March newsletter and in the narthex. Groceries may be brought ANYTIME to our collection area in the narthex. Cash donations are always welcome—be sure to indicate that you are giving to the March Food Drive. *Joining us in this challenge is Grace United Methodist, Crosslake Presbyterian, St. Alice Catholic, Crosslake Lutheran and St. Christopher's Catholic in Nisswa.*

# KIDS IN CHURCH? YOU BETCHA!



## Bridges of Hope Warming Shelter

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



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

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

Link to volunteer LCC's week:

<https://whocanbethere.com/SignUp/week-of-march-26lutheran-church-of-the-cross/1Ka92nlwb43>

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

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

Website: <https://www.bridgesofhopemn.org/warmingshelter>



### Attention Community Gardeners:

Thinking about the joy of gardening is hopefully a warm thought during the recent frigid cold. Soon it will be spring and time to bring new life to our Community Garden. The Creation Care Team would like to know if you plan to retain your current garden plot or if you would like to be a new gardener this summer. Plots will again be \$25 per plot payable by April 21 to the church office. Each gardener is asked to sign an application form and return with payment. For questions, please contact Paula West, [westcom@brainerd.net](mailto:westcom@brainerd.net) or 218-838-5010. Think spring. Forms available in the church office.

## NOVEL IDEAS BOOK

March 28<sup>th</sup>

10:30am

Chapel Hall

Join us for fellowship and fun!



Elsa is seven years old and different. Her grandmother is seventy-seven years old and crazy—as in standing-on-the-balcony-firing-paintball-guns-at-strangers crazy. She is also Elsa’s best, and only, friend. At night Elsa takes refuge in her grandmother’s stories, in the Land-of-Almost-Awake and the Kingdom of Miamas, where everybody is different and nobody needs to be normal.

When Elsa’s grandmother dies and leaves behind a series of letters apologizing to people she has wronged, Elsa’s greatest adventure begins. Her grandmother’s instructions lead her to an apartment building full of drunks, monsters, attack dogs, and old crones but also to the truth about fairy tales and kingdoms and a grandmother like no other.

## LIBRARY UPDATE

The April rummage sale will be here before you know it and that also means spring! Along with donations, we are always looking for additional help, especially during setup days (April 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>). A few hours, part of a day, whatever you can spare would be much appreciated!

Donated books for the rummage sale (and the library) must be:

- Clean and in good condition
  - ◊ Hardcover, paperback, large print, CD audiobooks, children & teen books
- Relevant and appropriate

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Books that are moldy, mildewed, smoky, falling apart, highlighted, etc. and/or inappropriate
- Text books
- Condensed books
- Magazines
- Reference books/materials that are quickly outdated – medical, computer, etc.
- Encyclopedias
- Audiobooks on cassette tapes

The library committee is currently in the process of adding the books in the church library to an online database – more information will be shared as this project gets closer to completion and what benefits it will have for you as a church member.

Thanks to Karen Clarine & Jan Geiger for joining the library committee! WELCOME! 😊





# CREATION CARE



2023 EcoFaith Summit

## The Pollinator Plot

Cross+Pollination in a Time of Ecological Crisis

**Saturday, April 15, 9:30 – 3:30p.m., in the Twin Ports and on-line  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Duluth and on-line**

Co-presented by:

- EcoFaith Network NE MN Synod
- Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Creation Care
- St. Paul Area Synod Care of Creation

Keynote speaker: Margot Monson, entomologist and beekeeper

Partners: TBD

In a moment of deep ecological crisis, this year's EcoFaith Summit calls us to become part of the Holy Spirit's subversive plot to pollinate an alternative way of being human for the sake of life. In this plot, we find our model and hope from pollinator species. These tiny, apparently powerless, often overlooked and disregarded creatures, whose drastic decline endangers so much we depend upon, are a key to the regeneration of life itself.

In this great plot, faith communities of every size and place can be demonstration plots, pollinating alternative ways of living. We all steward plots of land, even tiny ones, which can become pollinator habitat. In this critical and decisive time, a 'Kairos' moment, what we do with our specific plots wherever we are, matters. How we live the Gospel paradox that God's power is shown in weakness can engage us in active hope amid the growing crisis we face.

Through worship, keynote presentation, diverse storytellers, conversations, and engagement sessions, together we will be empowered to be participants in this unfolding plot.

### Goals

- Awaken a shared sense of urgency and hope in this Kairos moment of ecological crisis
- Equip us to take bold action in demonstrating faithful stewardship of the earth.
- Engage congregations across the region in supporting pollinator habitat.
- Cross-pollinate relationships and collective responses among three upper Midwest synods and beyond.

### Shape of the day

- 9:30a.m. Registration and coffee
- 10:a.m. Opening
- 10:15a.m. Keynote presentation
- 11:10a.m. Storytelling presentations (6-10 minutes)
- Noon Lunch and time to visit table exhibits
- 1:00-1:45p.m. Engagement session 1
- 2:00-2:45p.m. Engagement session 2
- 3:00p.m. Sending worship
- 3:30p.m. Reception and networking

To register:

<https://tinyurl.com/273y8cms>

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**Church Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 9, 2023**

**We Assemble in God's Name**

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Council President Mike Smith

**Present:**

Pr. Drew Bakken, Pr. Michelle Ruen, Colleen Both, Rachel Gerhartz, Darrell Paske, Dale Peterson, Mike Smith, Brian Stubbs, and Jenny Stubbs.

**Devotion:** Rachel Gerhartz

**Announcement:**

**Officer Reports:**

Council Minutes (January Regular Council Mtg; January 22 Annual Mtg. Pt. 2)

- **Motion to approve by Darrell Paske; Second by Rachel Gerhartz. Motion passed**
- Treasurer's Report
- **Motion to approve by Brian Stubbs; Second by Dale Peterson. Motion passed.**

**New Business:** None

**Old Business:**

1. **Holden Village Trip**
2. **Photos for the LCC Directory**
3. **Playground Project.**
4. **Council Devotions sign up for Aug. 10, Dec. 14 and Jan. 11, 2024.**

**Pastors' Reports**

**Senior Pastors' Report; Pastor Drew:**

Our theme verse for 2023 is "See I am making all things new." I think this is fitting for us as we continue to reflect and grow the ministries here at Lutheran Church of the Cross. I was amazed at the generosity of our congregation at the end of the year; because of that generosity we were able to share in abundance with local agencies in need of help such as The Bridges of Hope, Second Harvest Heartland, and our missionary Pastor Bradn.

As I look at the upcoming year, I see growth in all of our ministries - from the Women's Bible Study, Men's Breakfast Bible Study, Confirmation, a Time For Us, and many more. I thank you for sharing your time together as we build this amazing community.

In January we received 31 new members to our congregation, thanks be to God! And, thanks be to you for warmly welcoming them – just as you welcome our visitors each and every Sunday. It is because of you and God that we are a growing church.

I continue to love my time teaching Confirmation and working with Kari and Pastor Hans as we walk alongside our youth. We had a successful fundraiser parking cars on the upper lot of Mattson's Lumber. We extend a very special thank you to Bill Mattson for plowing and allowing us to use the property for this fundraiser.

Presiding over nursing home worship services and visiting our shut ins has been a true blessing to us as pastors. It allows us to not only share in Holy Communion together, but also strengthens the bond of our community. If you would like to be a part of our visitation ministry, please speak to Pastor Michelle.

As a staff, we have been spending our Tuesday lunch hours learning about our church management software. The biggest discovery so far is our need to update our database files. Laurie, Todd and Rob have willingly taken on the challenge of updating our files and also developing a new church directory. We are three quarters of the way there (if you haven't turned in your picture of updated information please do so immediately.)

### **Associate Pastor's Report; Pastor Michelle:**

Our theme for 2023 is "See I am making all things new." Revelation 21:5. This is a wonderful verse for our church to ponder on as we look with expectancy on what new things God will do at LCC in 2023. I see exciting opportunities ahead to proclaim the Name of Jesus, involve our members in faith-building endeavors, and serve in our church and community. The Holy Spirit is blowing here at Lutheran Church of the Cross.

Thirty-one people joined our LCC church family on New Member Sunday on January 29. We had an "Information & Getting to Know You" gathering with a sloppy joe supper on Thursday, January 26th, for the new members. It was a wonderful evening filled with good conversation, information, and laughs. Staff and council members that were present introduced themselves and explained their role at LCC. Thank you to our New Member committee - Jim and Jean Kraft, Jim and Joan Roberts, Joanie Swanson, Carol Smith, and Pastor Michelle. What a wonderful and great group of new members! We are excited to have you join us in ministry here at Lutheran Church of the Cross.

The nursery schedule has been filled until the end of May. Thank you to our nursery volunteers. Plans are being made for Lent. We will be having the 5th Gospel on Wednesday evenings at the 6:20 PM service in the sanctuary. The 5th Gospel is where lay people speak of their faith journey or the way they have seen God in their life. Please come to the Lent services on Wednesday evenings and support these people who will be sharing their faith with us. Every Friday I will be leading a Lenten devotional time at 10:00 AM in our Chapel Hall and also at 12:00 Noon at Stonehouse Coffee Shop in Baxter in the RiverWood Bank.

Please pick up a Water and Spirit Devotion book from church or call me for a copy. I hope to see you on Fridays during Lent for this very special time. I know it will enrich your Lenten season! I continue to lead chapel once a month at Edgewood Vista Brainerd, Edgewood Vista Baxter, and Northern Lakes. It is a joy to bring the Gospel message to these saints. I have begun to set up a visitation ministry. If visiting a dear member is a way you could see yourself serving, please see me. I would love to visit with you about an opportunity that will bless you as well as the person you visit. Thank you.

Small groups are going very well. I appreciate your enthusiastic participation! May God bless you and keep you and may His face shine upon you!

### **Committee Reports:**

**Youth and Family Ministry:** Sarah Tietz (see Children & Family Ministry report)

### **Worship and Music: Brian Stubbs**

W&M met on January 15, 2023

1. Special services were discussed in Epiphany and Lent
2. Easter Services times were discussed. We will have 3 services, 7:30, 9:00, and 10:30.
3. Attendance seems to have tapered off lately. It remains strong but it is not necessary to go to 2 services at this time.

Our next meeting will be February 19.

### **Stewardship Report: Rob Norgon**

No report

### **LCC Property Report: Dale Peterson**

No report

### **Social Concerns & Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens**

A two year Commitment Agreement has been sent to ELCA Global Missions as a pledge of support for our missionary Pastor Bradn Buerkle. Colleen Both, LCC Treasurer and Karen Wiele, Financial Secretary, will see that the payments for Pastor Buerkle's support are sent quarterly over the next two years.

### **Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen**

LCC's day to serve Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen is the first Thursday of each month. Ann Bergin asked and I agreed to sign up the LCC Council to serve on March 2. Please let me know if you will be able to help. If you've never done this, it is suggested you try it. You may want to organize your own team to plan, cook and serve.

### **Warming Shelter**

At last count, over 120 individuals from the surrounding area have made use of the *Bridge on 7th* or the overnight shelter. The staff at the shelter is an amazing group of people. The next scheduled week for LCC will be Sunday, March 26 to April 2. Please watch for the links to do the Background checks and insert your name on the schedule for either a morning shift from 6 am to 8:30 or an evening shift from 6:45 to maybe 10 pm.

I'll be taking 5 boxes of 20 quilts, two boxes of 13 Baby Care kits and one box of 7 Personal Care kits to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in South St. Paul on Thursday.

### **Congregational Life: Joanie Swanson**

No report

### **Personnel: Darrell Paske**

Annual staff reviews will be scheduled with completion by the end of March.

### **Children & Family Ministry: Rachel Gerhartz**

- January found us attempting to return to 'normal' programming after the holidays.
- Alanna LeBlanc has been able to help me out with Cross Kids and Cross Kids Connection, which has been a great help - we continue to see good numbers each Sunday!
- Camp Sunday and Wednesday went well and we were able to meet the interim LCBC directors and since that time, Maddie Elliot has been named Executive Director!
- We have a few kids registered for Luther Crest and will make a push for this week and next week as the registration deadline approaches.
- Holden trip has 40 people signed up and Pr. Hans says we are waiting for word from Holden as to the exact cost of stay. He has lined up two 15 passenger vans for those wishing to drive out with the group. Our actual dates of stay will be Sunday, July 30 through Friday, August 4.
- Super Roll Sunday in January was great with lots of kids showing up to help and all rolls sold.
- Our Jan. Youth meeting had to be canceled due to weather:-(
- Our family tubing event at Mt. Ski Gull garnered the Bakken and Anderson families.
- Our Ice Fishing Extravaganza parking fundraiser was a success - thanks to the hearty individuals who braved the cold!!! Thanks to Pastors Drew and Hans, Nathan, Abbie and Rebecca Bakken, Karlton and Kaya Anderson, Jesse and Lukas Lind, Eric and Evan Bolt, Brayden Anderson and Aiden Hernandez.
- Our Volleyball tourney was cancelled due to no sign ups:-(
- We have postponed our "O Sole Mio" Italian dinner event due to scheduling conflicts. We want to wait for our snow birds to come back and be sure our entertainment can attend to make it the best experience possible.
- The Playground Task Force meets this Thursday. Jon has received some updated plans to show us.
- Our Children, Youth and Family Ministry Team served Weds. supper on Jan. 11.
- Todd and Kari met with Shane from Sysco to discuss possibilities for placing regular orders for food and supplies. It was a great meeting and personally Kari is excited to be able to use this service in the future!

**Next Council Meeting:** Thursday, March 9, 2023, 7:00 pm

**Devotions:** Bonnie Stevens

**Adjourn/Closing Prayer:** Motion to adjourn by Brian Stubbs; Second, Colleen Both. Closing Prayer by Pr. Michelle Ruen.

Respectfully submitted by Jenny Stubbs

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

Update  
your  
Information



If you would like to receive weekly eblast notifications, please email the church office at [laurie@lccnisswa.org](mailto: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.

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

4-hour refresher course for returning students

Classes held at Lutheran Church of the Cross

**March 13 (4 Hr Refresher) 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

**April 21 (4 Hr Refresher) 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

**May 19 (4 Hr Refresher) 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

**1-888-234-1294 or 1-320-308-1400**

Do not call the church to register—call SCSU





Thanks for supporting our campers and trippers!

# Thanks for supporting our **ASH WEDS.** **Baked Potato Bar**

**Special thanks  
to our youth and  
parents for  
helping out!**

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to add almost \$500 to our fund!

*\*Our youth/parents were pleased to serve you\**  
**Thanks for your support of our CY&F Ministry**

YOUR OFFERING supported our camperships and youth mission trips.





## EASTER GARDEN

Please fill out the order form below to donate to the Easter Garden to help decorate our church and to memorialize or honor loved ones during this season. Your gifts will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletins. The cost is \$15.00 per tribute. You may drop your form and payment in the offering plate or bring it to the church office **by April 5, 2023**. Please write "Easter Garden" on the check memo line.

Thank you!

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print legibly

\_\_\_\_\_ # plants donated at \$15 = \_\_\$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Lutheran Church of the Cross

PO Box 29  
5064 County Road 13  
Nisswa, MN 56468

Main Phone: 218-963-2564  
Web: [lccnisswa.org](http://lccnisswa.org)  
E-mail: [lcc@lccnisswa.org](mailto:lcc@lccnisswa.org)

**CURRENT RESIDENT OR**

Address label here

## Welcoming all people into discipleship

### STAFF

Pastor	Drew Bakken	218-961-2014
Pastor	Michelle Ruen	218-961-2013
Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry	Kari Erickson	218-961-2012
Youth Ministry	Hans Anderson	
Director of Music Ministry/Organist	Cathy Taylor	218-961-2053
Financial Secretary	Karen Wiele	218-961-2016
Volunteer Coordinator	Todd Whipple	218-961-2052
Senior Choir Director	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

### 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

President	Mike Smith	Social Justice/Global	Bonnie Stevens
Vice President	Darrell Paske	Worship & Music	Brian Stubbs
Treasurer	Colleen Both	Youth	Sarah Tietz
Secretary	Jenny Stubbs	Stewardship	Rob Norgon
Cong. Life	Joanie Swanson		
Children/Family	Rachel Gerhartz		
Properties	Dale Peterson		

