

# Cross Currents

Lutheran  
Church  
of the Cross  
2024

# March



Dear LCC Friends and Family,

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a season of prayer and self reflection. But what is the significance of the ashes? First, the prior year's palm branches were kept, dried, and burned to form the ashes for the next year's Ash Wednesday service, signifying the full cycle of the Lenten journey.

Ashes were used for cleaning. Way long ago, before there were scouring pads and Soft Scrub, people would use ashes to rub against metal or wood to remove the rust or dirt and to make the rough smooth. During Lent, we ask God to expose any inner dirtiness that needs to be revealed. We confess it, come clean, and our rough edges are made smooth, so that Christ may be proclaimed and glorified in our lives.

Ashes remind us that we were made from dust and to dust we shall return. When God created Adam, God bent down, gathered a handful of dust and dirt, and breathed His breath, His Spirit into the dust and formed man. Ashes remind us of our fragileness and that we are not meant to live for all eternity here on earth. This is just our temporary home until we are taken to our forever home in paradise for all eternity!

**Join us on Wednesday nights in Lent for a special 5th Gospel message at 6:20 - 7:00 PM.**

The 5th Gospel is a parishioner sharing their faith story or a way they have seen God at work in their life. **Thank you to our 5th Gospel messengers** - Feb. 21- Marty Holmstrom, Feb. 28 - Russ Strachen, March 6 - Liz Brandanger, March 13 - Carol Johnson, and March 20 - Sherrie Kunkel. Join us for a delicious freewill offering soup and sandwich supper at 5:30 beforehand in the CC. We will see you at church on Wednesday evenings at 6:20 PM!

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**PALM SUNDAY - March 24, Sunday, 9:00 & 10:30 AM - Palms, Choirs, and Special music; Scones & Yogurt Sundaes afterwards in the Celebration Center**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY - March 28, Thursday, 6:20 PM with First Communion**

**GOOD FRIDAY - March 29, Friday, 6:20 PM; Tenebrae service**

**EASTER - HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! March 31, Sunday, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM**

Peace and Love to you and yours,

*Pastor Michelle*



# HOLY WEEK WORSHIP



## **PALM SUNDAY MARCH 24**

- ◉ Yogurt sundaes and scones served during coffee fellowship

## **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27**

- ◉ Prayer Labyrinth & Stations in CC  
8am - 6pm

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28**

- ◉ Worship with First Communion 6:20pm in Sanctuary

## **GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29**

- ◉ Tenebrae Worship 6:20pm in Sanctuary

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

- ◉ **Worship in the Sanctuary at  
7:30am, 9am, & 10:30am**

# Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2024 General Fund

	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>	Annual <u>Budget</u>	% YTD of Annual <u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 75,574	\$ 75,574	\$ 764,748	9.9%
Expenses	\$ 54,120	\$ 54,120	\$ 764,748	7.1%
Difference	\$ 21,454	\$ 21,454	\$ 0	

**In the month of January our income was more than our expenses by \$21,454. Thank you for your continued support.**

Daylight savings time begins Sunday, March 10th. Be sure to spring your clocks forward one hour Saturday night.

Also take time to check and/or replace your batteries in your smoke alarms and CO2 detectors.



**Lenten Mentoring has started and we give thanks for all of our mentors for giving of their time and talents toward the faith development of our youth.**





# LENTEN TEA & EASTER BONNET DIY



MARCH 23, 2024  
2PM IN CELEBRATION CENTER

All ages are welcome at this event, which will feature a Lenten Tea - Easter Story readings with foods that match. After enjoying tea, an Easter Bonnet DIY Bar will be available.

*All attendees are urged to create an Easter Bonnet to wear to church on Easter Sunday. All materials will be provided.*

Tickets are required for this event which is hosted by our Women of the ELCA and our Children Youth & Family Ministry. Fifty tickets will be available at \$10 each. Purchase them in the church office during the week or in the narthex on Sundays - see Kari.



**ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE PLHS AND BHS FOOD PANTRIES**



**All Cross Kids are invited to join CYFM and Art & Faith for a morning of Earth Day art projects - parents are welcome!**

**APRIL 13, 9:30am  
Celebration Cntr**

**For Pre-K thru Gr. 6  
Pre-K should be accompanied  
by an adult**

We will make some easy and cool projects that will be on display at church on Sunday, April 28. You will also make a project to take home! We will focus on the importance of caring for creation and have some healthy snacks available (and coffee and tea for the parents & adults:-) There is no charge for this event.

**REGISTER AT: <http://tinyurl.com/37rfcxw3>**

## LENT IS A GOOD TIME TO TEND TO THE GARDEN OF YOUR SOUL



We might think of Lent as a time to get ready for Easter. Lent is about the *transformation* that always comes before new life. It is a time for cleaning, scouring, weeding, shedding, and breaking open to the possibility of something new and wonderful.

The *whole story* of Jesus is about transformation: not just his time in the desert, or his dying and rising, but also the stories he told that opened minds and hearts, and the loving actions that changed so many lives. The story of Jesus invites us to think of Lent as a time to explore the spaciousness, openness, freedom, and expansiveness of divine love. And remember that Jesus told us to love with our heart and soul.

Our heart and soul are just like a garden. We have to be careful what we let grow there. They need to be nurtured and cared for, and we need a master Gardner to guide our way. Tending to our heart and soul means *listening to God's voice and being attentive to the movement of the holy spirit in our lives*.

Winter seems to lull the world to sleep; the woods seem quieter, the gardens are still and the sky grays over. It is a season of rest and stillness. Just as the ground in the garden needs the rest, so does our soul. In gardens, as in life, there are seasons of work, harvest and stillness. To tend means to care for, look after, give attention to, nurture and maintain. Doesn't our soul need that as much as a garden does?

When it comes to tending a garden, we use tools designed for the job. For our soul, the most effective way to tend it is to go to the very Gardener of our souls, the One who created us. He offers us His Word and His Spirit in order to tend our souls towards fruitfulness.

Like any garden that goes untended, the garden of our soul may start to grow weeds which cause the thriving plants start to wither and die. Sometimes bad habits, like gophers or weeds, begin to live there and kill off the good habits. Things like worry and fear, doubt, betrayal, and anger can take root — weeds that if not pulled, will be allowed to deeply root. Each weed needs to be pulled out to make room for something beautiful to take its place; something of God. Something that brings joy—something worthwhile. Worry can be pulled out and be replaced with peace; fear can be replaced with courage; doubt with trust, and anger with self-control. Peace, courage, self control.....things with a good intention and things that bring us more peace.

We draw closer to God when we recognize and acknowledge that in all things he is glorified. God's grace and salvation can be appreciated at any time but perhaps mostly in the spring, when new life reminds us of the promise that we can always begin again.

The darkest days of winter are behind us as we move toward the increasing light of spring — *lecten* in Old English, the lengthening of days. More light permits new growth. What a wonderful analogy for growing anew during Lent, and the unfurling of faith in the light of Easter.

In all of this, we hope this Lenten season helps us to turn to God the way plantings turn to light. Just as there are tasks that must be done in order to maintain a healthy and productive garden so, too, do we live out the metaphor as we attend to garden of our soul. We can tend to and nurture those things that give us peace, and get rid of the things that don't. We can *listen to God's voice and be attentive to the movement of the holy spirit in our lives* and nourish good things like peace, courage, self control and love.

<b>Mar. 3</b>	Anthony Nelson & Alex Pape	Maggie Prahm & Walter Prahm
<b>Mar. 10</b>	Luke Merseth & Eli Martini	Hazel Schwanke & Jonah Schwanke
<b>Mar. 17</b>	Allie Reilly	Isaac Trees & Kellan Timmons
<b>Mar. 24</b>	Ethan & Gavin Trosdahl	Dagne Neale & Aliana Lind
<b>Mar. 31</b>	Emily Smith & Nora Nelson	Presleigh Larson & Violet Anderson

**ACOLYTES  
FOR  
MARCH**

*First Communion  
Workshop*

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

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

**CROSS KIDS CHALLENGE FOR MARCH**

*EACH DAY—think about and practice generosity. EACH DAY—write down three things you are grateful for, then say one of the prayers below:*



*Dear God,*

*Thank You that You provide for all our needs.*

*Thank You that we can trust You to turn the small things we give You into something big that can make a huge difference.*

*Help us to be generous with everything we have, just as You are so generous in giving us these things.*

*Amen.*

*Dear God,*

*Thank You that You are loving and forgiving.*

*Help us to love people in the same way as You have loved us.*

*Help us do generous things for others because we love You.*

*Amen.*



*COMING SOON - mark your calendar!*



# God's New Creation

## VBX

**June 10 - 14**  
**9am - 12n**

Together we'll learn about the many ways that God's creation works together for the benefit of all, and what role animals play.

PreK through 4th grade are welcome to join us for four days of music, bible stories, activities, games, crafts and snacks. ALL ARE WELCOME AT VBX!

*Youth and adult volunteers also needed.*

**REGISTER AT:**

**<http://tinyurl.com/rdvz7x8v>**



# Palm 'Sundae' CELEBRATION

*Hosted by LCC's Children,  
Youth & Family Ministry*

**March 24**

**All are welcome to gather for hot, fresh scones and yogurt sundaes on Sunday, March 24 during Coffee Fellowship!**

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS, NISSWA

2024

## *Labyrinth Walk*

**WEDS,  
March  
27**

**All are welcome to participate in this self-guided event. Labyrinth will be set up in CC and will be available from 8:30am - 7pm. Come simulate the transformative journey of a pilgrimage as part of your Holy Week. A devotional guide will be available.**





*I follow Heather's blog and this article really spoke to me. Sometimes we forget how important our church friends are. Thank you to all of our parents who are doing their best to foster friendships and to all of our members for welcoming newcomers and demonstrating the value of the bonds of "Church Friends!"*

## Church Friends

BLOG - STORYBOARD: Moving Forward in God's Story  
[February 2, 2024](#) / [heatherrothjohnson](#)

Human development studies suggest that people are more likely to make friends until we're in our early 20s. As young people, we trust peers easily, spend more time in places that incubates friendships, and we have more time. Luckily, church is one place that all ages can make friends. Community is one of the reasons a person, or couple, or families join a congregation. Church friends are important to children and youth. By my definition, church friends are friends that people only see at church. That's what makes church friends special!

**Plus, here are 7 reasons on why church friends matter:**

**It's Biblical!** There are several biblical friendships worth mentioning like King David and Jonathan, Elijah and Elisha, and Ruth and Naomi. Even Jesus had close friends known as the disciples. Were any of these relationships perfect? Not at all, but what we learn is that we are made for each other!

**Safe Space:** As parents and caregivers know, school friends and neighbors can ditch their kids. They can fight, turn their backs on each other, or split up. That's why church friends are different; they are always there. Church should be a reliable and safe space for all to feel accepted and loved.

**Start Young Volunteering:** Kids and students love to help! People will learn their names if they are ushering or greeting or serving communion. Parents and caregivers can help their kids and students make church friends by showing up regularly, serving together, and participating in what program is available.

**Support and Comfort:** I was listening to NPR the other day, and the conversation was about the how anxiety and depression has increased in young people. Church friends don't have the same expectations as school friends or neighbors. In fact, in every youth group I have been a part of, the students have been there for each other. They can be a source of comfort and support to this

**Stay on the Path!** I read somewhere that kids and students who are associated with a faith community are at less risk for risky behaviors. Church friends can help kids and student stay on the path of faith, serve God's community, and love one another.

**Church Friends Can Be Intergenerational:** I never said that church friends had to be the same age. Though the most common type of church friends are of similar age, people of all intergenerations can be friends. There are not too many places left where a 3 year old can befriend an 83 year old. Being intergenerational is a gift to the church!



## Music Notes



### March 2024

#### And Can It Be That I Should Gain? (SAGINA)

**Text:** Charles Wesley (1707-1788); English leader of the Methodist movement; wrote other texts to such as “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”, “Love Divine, all Love’s Excelling” and “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

#### **Music:**

#### **Thomas Campbell (1777-1844) Scottish poet and composer**

*But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5*

Charles Wesley was born just before Christmas in 1707. He was premature and neither cried nor opened his eyes. His mother, Susanna, kept him tightly wrapped in wool until his actual due date, whereupon he opened his eyes and cried.

At age eight, he was taken to London to attend Westminster School. At thirteen, he became a King’s Scholar at Westminster, and upon graduating, Charles enrolled at Oxford. He was nineteen and full of life. He later said, “My first year at college I lost in diversions.”

During his second year at Oxford, he grew serious about spiritual things. Neither he nor his brother, John, had yet confessed to be a Christian, but they began seeking to live the Christian life so *methodically* they were dubbed “Methodist” by fellow students.

Their studies completed, the brothers volunteered to go to Georgia, a new colony in America for those in Britain’s debtors’ prisons, founded by Colonel James Oglethorpe. But as a missionary, Charles was an utter failure. He was demanding and autocratic, and he insisted on baptizing infants, not by sprinkling, but by immersing them three times in succession. One angry woman fired a gun at him.

Charles left America ill and depressed. Sometime later, John also returned in low spirits. Finding themselves in spiritual crisis, the brothers began attending meetings led by the Moravian Christian, Peter Boehler. Finally, on Sunday, May 21, 1738 Charles, 31, wrote, “I now found myself at peace with God, and rejoiced in hope of loving Christ. I saw that by faith I stood.”

John came to Christ about the same time, saying, “I felt my heart strangely warmed.”

Wesley wrote this hymn to celebrate his coming to Christ. It is one of the most popular Methodist hymns to this day.

1. And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior’s blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
2. He left His Father’s throne above, so free, so infinite His grace!  
Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam’s helpless race!  
’Tis mercy all, immense and free, for, O my God, it found out me.

3. Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night.  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke the dungeon flamed with light!  
My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
4. No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th' eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

A beautiful and meaningful hymn for us to sing during our Lenten journey the month of March.

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music Ministries



Retired lawyer John Erickson has a long history of community volunteerism. He currently donates his time as the Brainerd Public Schools archivist/curator. From beginning in the vault area of the Washington Educational Services Building, his work has grown to fill several classrooms with memories of the 'days gone by'.

At the March 14 meeting of PrimeTimers, John will guide us through local history and share a few surprising people and places he has discovered through his historian/curator work for the school district. He will also bring a few artifacts for 'show and tell' and share experiences he has had as he has assumed this BPS role. He has found that through this work, the grand landscape of life has opened up to him, and he considers it to be his duty to share his discoveries with others.

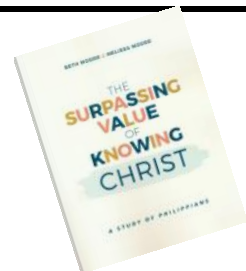
You may recall knowing John from his previous time at LCC; he welcomes the opportunity to chat with you again while sharing some of the unique experiences he has had in his BPS role.

Bring a sack lunch for yourself at **12:00 Noon on Thursday, March 14th**. Dessert, coffee, and lemonade provided. Program begins at 12:20 PM.

Thank you to Sherrie and Bruce Kunkel for lining up this program.

Hosts are Jim & Lollie Schewe and Diane Peukert.

**Coming Up:** the next women's Beth Moore Bible Study, *The Surpassing Value of Knowing Christ*, a study of Philippians. Mondays 9:30 am—11:30 am April 8, 15, 29 and May 6 & 13. Held in the conservatory (old youth room). All are welcome.





## **WOMEN in the WORD Bible Study Tuesday, March 5, 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM**

Our March *Women in the Word* Bible Study led by Pastor Michelle will be on **Tuesday, March 5, at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM**. We will meet in the Chapel Hall. Come for a meaningful time to delve into God's Word, as we enjoy coffee, tasty treats, and fellowship with our sisters-in-Christ. Bring a friend. Hope to see you on Tuesday, March 5!

### **Men's Breakfast**

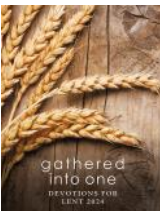
Come join the guys for breakfast and a short Bible Study on Thursday mornings at Side Track restaurant on #371 every **Thursday at 8:15 AM**. All men are welcome. Come when you can.



### **A Time For Us Parents Group on Wednesday nights**

*A Time for Us* will **not** be meeting in March during the season of Lent. Please come to the Wednesday night church service in the sanctuary from 6:20-7:00 PM. Come for a soup and sandwich supper in the Celebration Center beforehand, if you'd like. There will be no Route 56 during Lent. Confirmation students will be meeting with their mentors from 7:00-8:00 PM. *A Time For Us* will resume on Wednesday, April 3.

### **StoneHouse Fridays-Gathered Into One Lent Devotions Every Friday in March @ 12:00-1:00**



Pick up a copy of the *Gathered into One* Lenten devotional book in the narthex. Join us in the StoneHouse Coffee conference room in the RiverWood Bank next to Target in Baxter from 12:00-1:00 PM every Friday in March. Come to soak in and ponder over the Scripture readings and the devotional authors' insight.. A thoughtful time to reflect as we journey to the Cross during Lent. Talk to Pastor Michelle with questions.

**Are you a widow?** Please join Pastor Michelle for a time to be together on Wednesday, March 6th at 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. This will be a special time to join hands, make new friends, and enjoy the company of one another. We hope to make this a warm and safe place to share, and also a place to laugh and learn how to flourish, or at least survive, in this new season of life. I would love for YOU to be there. Invite anyone you think may be interested. Come on March 6th for a light lunch and a special time to gather and glean! If you have questions, ask Pastor Michelle. Please let the office or Pastor Michelle know if you can attend.





## **March 26th--Women of the Cross/Women of the ELCA Quarterly Meeting**

Please join us on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in Chapel Hall for our first 2024 Quarterly meeting. We will be discussing upcoming 2024 events, new leadership changes will

be completed, and future pathways will be explored. All women are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

### **Gather Bible Study—March 27, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m. in Chapel Hall**

Please join us on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. for session 2 of the four-part Winter/Spring 2024 series: *“Scripture and nature: Teachers of faith”* by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith. In Session 3, *Rivers: Springs of life and Hope*. Rev. Olson-Smith says that “Most of life on our planet depends on fresh water, and the story of God’s saving work flows alongside it, through stories of biblical rivers that offer a vision of flourishing creation. Together we’ll journey from the rivers in Eden to the prophetic springs in the desert, and from Jesus’ baptism at the river Jordan to the crystalline river of life in Revelation. We’ll discover how rivers are sites of healing, restoration, identity and imagination.” Please grab a Gather Magazine while you’re at church and join us. No advance preparation is necessary.

### **Women of the ELCA NEMN Synod and Conference Upcoming Events**

“Until All Are Fed” is the theme for the 2024 NE MN Synod Women of the ELCA Summer Convention to be held **June 10-11, 2024 at Zion Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MN**. The scripture verse is Matthew 25:35 “I was hungry and you fed me.” The Convention quilt is being made by Diane Wermager and Margaret Sommerfeld of Lutheran Church of the Cross. In-Kind Gifts are School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Attending the Convention is an educational and uplifting experience. Plan now to attend! First time attendees get a 50% discount on the registration fee. Watch for more details!

Heartland Conference Spring Gathering is **Saturday April 13th at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Pequot Lakes**. The theme is “Jesus, Bread of Life.” The scripture verse is John 6:35 “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.” Jesus is using the crowds’ interest in food to illustrate what he wants them to understand. Bill Wear from Operation Sandwich is the keynote speaker and the day’s offering will be given to Operation Sandwich. The day begins with registration at 8:30 followed by a brunch. Watch for more details and Plan Now to Attend this close by event!!!!!!

### **DONATIONS NEEDED—Local School Personal Care Supplies**

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

## Maundy Thursday and Good Friday (Tenebrae) Services for Parents, Children and Youth



Maundy Thursday was the day that Jesus shared his final meal with his disciples before he was crucified—also known as the Last Supper and the Washing of the Feet, this day signals the ending of the Lenten Season, and is a significant part of the events leading up to Good Friday. Maundy means ‘mandate or command.’ In this case, it refers to John 13:34 where Jesus issues a command with these words: *Love each other. You must love each other just as I loved you.* Jesus said this after washing the disciples feet. In those days, a good host would offer feet washing to their guests (since they wore sandals, their feet were always dusty and dirty), and the lowest servants would do the washing. Jesus performs the washing as a symbol of humility and hospitality, as well as of washing away our sin, and His words encourage us to forgive and love each other. Maundy Thursday was the final meal of wine and bread that Jesus and the disciples shared, and this later became the Sacrament of Communion to remind us of how Jesus gave his body (bread) and blood (wine) as a sacrifice for the salvation of us all—a gift from God. Each year at LCC, our children and youth who have prepared to receive their First Communion will do so at our Maundy Thursday worship service. They will help serve Communion and assist in the Stripping of the Altar at the conclusion of the service, as well. This is a custom that represents how Jesus was stripped of His garments and humiliated when he was abandoned by His disciples and fell into the hands of the Jews on Good Friday. At the conclusion of the Last Supper, less than 24 hours remained in Jesus’ life.

Good Friday is one of the most significant days of the church year. It is marked with a Tenebrae worship service that reflects on Jesus’ Passion Story. Tenebrae means ‘darkness,’ and the service includes a lot of symbolism, including the last words of Jesus, which reveal to us how He was both divine and human. Over the course of the service, the lights and candles in the sanctuary

are gradually extinguished as a symbol of the darkness of sin and the death of Jesus, the ‘Light of the World.’ The only light that is not extinguished is the Christ Candle. It is carried out of the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service and accompanied by a loud noise to symbolize the agony of creation at Jesus; death. The Christ Candle will be returned to the sanctuary on Easter Sunday morning.

Both of these services at LCC will involve our children and youth. It may be helpful to prepare children attending these services for what they will experience and what they may feel. Participating in these services is a good investment of time devoted to our faith journey. It is okay for it to be unsettling and uncomfortable; it is okay for it to be personal, reflective, and perhaps emotional. After all, there would be no Easter or Christmas without Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.







**AN INVITATION FOR MARCH 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 are also sign-up sheets 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 are also sign-up sheets 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 sheets in the narthex. Your help is very much appreciated!

Blessings,

Todd Whipple, Volunteer Coordinator



Sun	Mon	Tue	Mar
facility calendar for:			
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>9:00 Worship w/ Communion</b>            10:00 Coffee Fellowship w/ Youth Rolls  <b>10:30 Worship w/ Communion</b>            1:00 Piano Recital</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>9:30 Women’s Bible Study-James            1:00 Prayer Shawl Group</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting &amp; Prayers            9:00 Computer Lab            10:00 Women in the Word            12:30 PEO Chapter            7:00 Women in the Word</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>8:30 Text            9:30 Quilt            11:00 Wid            5:30 Supp            6:00 King  <b>6:20 Lent</b>            7:00 Lent            7:00 Sr. C</p>
<p><b>10 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS</b></p> <p><b>9:00 Worship w/ Communion</b>            10:00 Coffee Fellowship  <b>10:30 Worship w/ Communion</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>9:30 Women’s Bible Study-James            9:30 MOPS            1:00 Prayer Shawl Group</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting &amp; Prayers            9:00 Computer Lab</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>8:30 Text S            5:30 Supp  <b>6:20 Lent</b>            7:00 Lente            7:00 Sr. C</p>
<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>9:00 Worship w/ Communion</b>            10:00 Coffee Fellowship  <b>10:30 Worship w/ Communion</b>            11:30 First Communion Workshop</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>9:30 Women’s Bible Study-James            11:00 Soul Sisters-off-site            1:00 Prayer Shawl Group            7:00 People for Racial Justice</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting &amp; Prayers            9:00 Computer Lab</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>8:30 Text S            9:30 Quilt            4:00 Creat            5:30 Supp            6:00 King’s  <b>6:20 Lent</b>            7:00 Lente            7:00 Sr. Ch</p>
<p><b>24 PALM SUNDAY</b></p> <p><b>9:00 Worship w/ Communion</b>            10:00 Coffee Fellowship w/ Yogurt Parfaits  <b>10:30 Worship w/Communion</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>1:00 Prayer Shawl Group</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting &amp; Prayers            9:00 Computer Lab            10:30 Novel Ideas Book Club            2:30 WELCA Qrtly Mtg</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>8:30 Text S            8:30 Praye            10:00 Gathe            7:00 Sr. Ch</p>
<p><b>31 EASTER—HE IS RISEN!</b></p> <p><b>7:30 Worship w/ Communion</b>  <b>9:00 Worship w/ Communion</b>  <b>10:30 Worship w/Communion</b></p>			

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>ch</p>	<p>2024</p>	<p>1 12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter Piano Festival</p>	<p>2 Piano Festival →</p>
<p>Study ters ows Group er s Kids <b>Worship w/ Comm.</b> en Mentors/HSYG hoir</p>	<p>7 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 7:00 A.A. </p>	<p>8 12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>Study er <b>Worship w/ Comm.</b> n Mentors/HSYG hoir</p>	<p>14 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 12:00 PrimeTimers 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>15 12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter </p>	<p>16</p>
<p>Study ers ion Care Mtg er s Kids <b>Worship w/ Comm.</b> n Mentors/HSYG hoir</p>	<p>21 8:15 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>22 12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter</p>	<p>23 2:00 Easter Bonnet Tea</p>
<p>Study r Labyrinth &amp; Stations r Bible Study hoir</p>	<p>28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 8:15 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 6:20 Maundy Thursday Worship w/ First Communion 7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>29 GOOD FRIDAY 12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter 6:20 Good Friday Tenebrae Worship</p>	<p>30</p>
			<p><i>Reminder: Before planning any meeting/event/gathering at church, call the church office for availability and scheduling. Thank you.</i></p>



# Happy Birthday!

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1. Bode Owen
2. William Winegar
3. Lola Chase, Jeremiah Eisenschenk, Karla Jensen, Claire Loge, Oscar Prahm, Sarah Verworn
4. Addy Gorr, Denae Harder, Mark Jensen, Mary Panzer, Barb Pisani
5. Jan Halligan, Ethan Johnson, Joshua Stark
6. Kristy Peterson
7. Doris Bergersen, Hannah Hayes, Aiden Hernandez, Phyllis Hill, Karsyn Jacobs, Jean Olson, Linda VanVliet
8. Duane Blanck, Eric Johnson, Jed Klein, Nancy Phillips
9. Nick Evanson, Linda Rasinski
10. Dennis Hins, Pat Sloan
11. Gary Hiles, Al Larson
12. Jim Kottke, Marie Olness, Michael Rude, Norah Ulrich
13. Jacki Kottke
14. Jeff Aga, Diana Heikkila, Alice Moore, Brenda Myers, Steve Osmera, Marc Williams
15. Walter Prahm, Hannah Ulrich, Tucker Williams
16. Emily Bachman, Eileen Holland, Angie Olson, Tracy Olson, Steve Suer
17. Harvey Anderson, Mark Hahn, Dirk Henry, Dylan Paulson, Allison Timmons, Lyn Underdahl
18. Jim Swanson
19. Nonie Stumvoll, Olivia Trosdahl
20. Giina Clarine, Dawn Maine, Peter Nistler
21. Drew Bakken, Mark Hallan, Sandy Hins, Roger Johnson, Pete Mogensen, Jerry Raedeke, Carrie Taylor, Randy Thomson, Louise Warden
22. Brad Carlson
- 23.
24. Gail Anderson, Sharon Endicott
25. Kevin Kosobud, Valdean Lueck, Judy Swenson
26. Karen Clarine, Linda Larson
27. Avery Gorr
28. Ella Anderson, Carol Campbell, Charlee Sullivan
29. Landen Brill, Judith Kuusisto, Sophie Schamber
30. Carolyn Blanck, Kelsey Kuhn, Bryan Trees, Mira Van Vliet
31. Nancy Fischer, Krista Fogarty, Avah Meierding



## Did You Know?

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

Not all issues of racial justice reside with people of color. In the book “Poverty, by America,” Matthew Desmond addresses the issues of poverty among not only the traditional racial groupings but also among the white population. In his analysis of how America has tried and failed to alleviate poverty he describes some interesting concerns. The poor are defined as those who can’t afford necessities, like food and housing. He insightfully suggests that poverty changes how one thinks. The example of a person who does not have a place to live or enough to eat virtually eliminates that person from pursuing education. This is not only true for people of color but the white population, too.

Our government has consistently increased the spending for people who fall below the poverty line. The question is, why has that not decreased the number who live in poverty? Some of the reasons that he suggests includes the following: 1) A fair amount of government aid never reaches those in need. In 2020 only 22 cents on the dollar reached the impoverished. 2) States are not required to spend the money allotment given each year. Arizona spent welfare dollars to pay for abstinence-only sex education. Oklahoma spent more than \$70 million on the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative providing counseling services to everyone in the state and not only the poor.

Did you know that the average white family with a high school education has more wealth than the average black family with a college education? There is so much more that we need to know and that needs to be done in helping people move out of poverty.



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

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

*Quilting = piecing it all together*

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

## Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen News

I'd like to thank Bonnie Stevens, Dale & Connie Peterson, and Jan Rohl for serving in February. Served around 60 guests.

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

My contact information is [georgiabergin@gmail.com](mailto:georgiabergin@gmail.com) or 218-820-5511.



## The Bridge on 7<sup>th</sup> Overnight Shelter

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

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

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







**A Rummage Sale  
volunteer meeting will be  
held Tuesday, April 2 at 4  
pm in the Celebration  
Center. Please come and  
get all the updates!**

## ***Let the camaraderie begin...***

If you've got the time, we have the job for you! Meet new friends, laugh, & sweat as you watch chaos turn into organized displays! Join the close to 200 volunteers that will gather to pull off our

## ***SPRING RUMMAGE SALE - APRIL 25-27, 2024***

Opportunities overflow! Volunteers are needed April 21-27 to move boxes, display clothing and donations,, prepare food (not to mention fill your belly with yummy lunches), cashier, help shoppers to their cars, etc. It takes a team , and we want you on it. Lunch will be served April 22 - 27. Signup sheets will be available in the Celebration Center hallway as of Tuesday, April 2. Donations will be accepted through Saturday, April 20 at 2 pm (contact the church office at 218-963-2564 prior to bringing items.) A list of accepted/not accepted items is at the office.

***You are appreciated and  
welcome!***



RUMMAGE SALE  
PRE-SORTERS  
ARE AWESOME!



# Food Shelf Challenge



Thank you to  
all who  
donated  
during the  
Noisy Offerings  
on Souper  
Bowl Day of  
Caring.  
We raised  
\$941.04 for the  
Lakes Area  
Food Shelf.

*Bring change for noisy offering along with bags of groceries to fill the  
pews for the Lakes Area Food Shelf!*



## MARCH IS MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE MONTH

For 43 years, Minnesota FoodShare has worked to encourage communities throughout our state to battle food insecurity and poverty. In 2023, LCC was proudly a part of an organized effort with area churches that donated over \$60,000 to the Lakes Area Food Shelf (as well as other food shelves in our vicinity) in the month of March. Once again LCC has joined the challenge to rally to the cause for 2024, along with Our Savior's Lutheran and Grace United Methodist churches.

According to Tammy Larson, LAFS Executive Director, 39 new households were first-time visitors at LAFS in January of 2024, and monthly visit numbers continue to rise. The LAFS strives to line its shelves and coolers with healthy food choices, yet food availability continues to be an issue. ***How can we best help reduce food insecurity?***

By **filling our collection boxes** with PEANUT BUTTER, TUNA\*, CHICKEN\*, SALMON\* and other meats. \*cans or pouches. Plant-based protein-rich foods are also welcome. Low-sodium items are also welcome, such as ketchup, soups, vegetables, beans and no salt or less salty snack items.

*When you are shopping, check the labels and make high protein and low sodium a priority.* Do your part in supporting our friends and neighbors in making intentional and more educated food selections. Food and monetary donations are welcome throughout the year but can potentially have a bigger impact during the March campaign.

You can also **fill a grocery bag** with high-protein, low sodium items and bring it to church to add to our March donations. Our Annual **PACK THE PEWS** event will be held on Sunday, March 17 and Wednesday, March 20.

**WANTED**

**FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS FOR MINNESOTA FOODSHARE MONTH 2024**

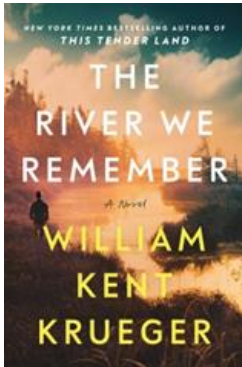
**LET'S FILL OUR DONATION BINS WITH:**

- PEANUT BUTTER
- TUNA\*
- CHICKEN\*
- SALMON\*
- LOW SODIUM ITEMS  
(ketchup, soups, vegetables, beans and no salt or less salty snack items)

*\*cans or pouches*

**MARCH IS MN FOODSHARE MONTH**

## NOVEL IDEAS BOOK CLUB



Tuesday, March 26th

10:30am

Chapel Hall

Both a complex, spellbinding mystery and a masterful portrait of midcentury American life, *The River We Remember* is an unflinching look at the wounds left by the wars we fight abroad and at home, a moving exploration of the ways in which we seek to heal, and a testament to the enduring power of the stories we tell about the places we call home.

## ***RUMMAGE SALE BOOK DONATION REMINDER***

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

*Along with donations, we are always looking for additional help the week of the rummage sale. A few hours, part of a day, whatever you can spare would be much appreciated! Contact Jean Olson, Lori Olson or Karen Clarine with any questions. Thank you!*



# CREATION CARE

## Nisswa Recycling Center Update

By Drey Loge (Waste Partners, Inc.)

### So, What Happened?

If you haven't heard by now, the Nisswa recycling center situated behind the Nisswa Fire Hall will be closed or relocated by May 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. The Nisswa City Council came to this decision after numerous hours of weighing the pros and cons, public comments, and safety considerations. In an effort to minimize impact on local citizens, the council also chose to implement an ordinance requiring all licensed haulers that wish to service the City of Nisswa to provide curbside recycling free of charge. To clarify, this free recycling service is only available to those already utilizing a hauler's trash services. This is not the first time an ordinance such as this has been enacted. The City of Nisswa now joins other communities like Pine River, Pequot Lakes, Crosslake, Baxter, and Brainerd who already require haulers to provide free curbside recycling services to residents.

### What Should I Do Now?

If you already have trash services, contact your current hauler to set up recycling services. Some haulers may start your recycling service right away, while others may choose to wait until the May 1<sup>st</sup> effective date. Also be aware not all haulers offer the same recycling service. Most offer an every-other week collection schedule that may, or may not, fall on the same collection day as your trash. However, Waste Partners offers recycling services every week on the same day as your trash collection!

### How Do I Recycle Right?

Do you look for the "chasing arrows" symbol on packaging to determine if it is recyclable? Unfortunately, that symbol is not an indication of a recyclable product, but rather the type of resin it is manufactured from. Additionally, some products may say they are recyclable, but the truth is that our area or region is not capable of recycling the product (as shown by the toothpaste tube pictured below).



What many folks fail to understand is that recycling wrong can have a dramatically negative effect by creating "load contamination". This occurs when a recycling load contains too many non-recyclable items, often requiring the sorting facilities to dispose of the collected materials. Some major contaminants that are not recyclable include plastic bags, styrofoam, food products, yard waste, household hazardous waste (batteries, bulbs, paints, cleaners, etc.), dishes & glassware, ceramics, and "tangles" (hoses, hangers, cords, wire, etc.). Do your best to avoid "wish-cycling" and help reduce load contamination.



Interested in a quick recycling guide? Visit  
[www.wastepartnersinc.com/services/recycling](http://www.wastepartnersinc.com/services/recycling)



**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**Church Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 8, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

**We Assemble in God's Name**

**Call to Order/Office Reports/Announcements**

Meeting called to order by Council President Darrell Paske

**Present:**

Pr. Drew Bakken (via phone), Pr. Michelle Ruen, Darrell Paske, Colleen Both, Sharon Taute, Dale Peterson, Bryan Trees, Dean Dalzell, Lyn Underdahl, Pam Sandelin (via phone) and Deb Van Roy

**Devotion:** Darrell Paske

**Officer Reports:**

Approval of Last Month's Minutes (January 2024): Deb Van Roy

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

Treasurer's Report (December 2023) Colleen Both

- **Motion to approve by Dean Dalzell; Second by Dale Peterson. Motion passed.**

**New Business: None**

**Old Business:**

Reminder – Council serves and does clean-up for Wednesday supper February 21, 2024, 5:00 PM  
Council devotion calendar has four vacancies to be filled; devotion sign up list distributed

**Pastors' Reports**

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

- I recently had a meeting with a couple of new members here at the Lutheran Church of the Cross, and I want to share each of their experiences with you. In my first visit, this member told me how much she has benefited from the many Bible studies that we offer, the Prime Timers events, and the wonderful worship experiences she has participated in. She states that she has never experienced a place like this and just wanted me to know how appreciative she is of all the hard work from the pastors, staff, volunteers, musicians, and other members of the church for making her feel so welcome.
- In another visit, I spoke with a young mother who has expressed her gratitude for the kind welcome she has received at church with her children. She states that she has never attended a worship service where the kids are welcome to make noise in church. She appreciates Cross Kids, which allows her children to experience their own worship while she can be fed through the sermons. However, she is still looking for more for her kids and has volunteered, along with some other parents, to establish a task force to explore new possibilities with Kari to grow the children's ministry.
- Then I want to share with you a conversation I had with Liz regarding the Rummage Sale presort. She was overjoyed with the volunteers that spend their time sorting through the garages, and how everyone is willing to help and joyful while they sort. She also mentioned that they are receiving new volunteers who are inquiring about how they may get involved.
- We, as staff, love it when people come in to share their stories and their concerns. It is how we grow. It is how we put rumors to rest so that we can grow this church together. As I reflect on these conversations, they remind me that we are the body of Christ and that each and every one of us has a part to play in the ministry of the church. No one member is more important than the other, and we work together as a team, as the body of Christ, to proclaim the good news through our actions.

- I am so grateful to each and every one of you for everything you do to make the atmosphere warm and welcoming for people who walk through the doors for the first time or those who have done so hundreds of times. As a family of Christ, let us cherish our time together with warmth, laughter, and listening ears.

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

- Two new weekly learning opportunities began in January. James: Mercy Triumphs, a weekly Beth Moore Bible Study, led by Marilyn Quist on Monday mornings. Also, a weekly book study on The Lord's Prayer by Adam Hamilton meets at StoneHouse Coffee Shop on Fridays at 12:00 Noon. It is facilitated by Carol Smith. Thank you, Marilyn and Carol.
- Beginning on February 16 through Good Friday, the Lenten Devotional, gathered into one, published by Augsburg Fortress, will be the center of our time at StoneHouse Fridays from 12:00-1:00 PM. Please pick up a devotional from the basket in the narthex and join us whenever you can at StoneHouse Coffee shop in the RiverWood Bank. Regardless if you can come on Fridays or not, please take a Lenten devotional to make your personal time of Lent reflective, prayerful, and more meaningful.
- We will be sharing the Gospel message on Wednesday nights during Lent - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and YOU! The 5th Gospel is a wonderful way to hear, support, and bond with our brothers and sisters-in-Christ. We will be doing the 5th Gospel for our Lenten messages on Wednesday evenings at the 6:20 PM service in the Sanctuary. The 5th Gospel schedule will be Feb 21-Marty Holmstrom, Feb 28-Russ Strachen, March 6-Liz Brandanger, March 13-Carol Johnson, and March 20-Sherrie Kunkel. Thank you to Marty, Russ, Liz, Carol, and Sherrie for sharing their faith stories during the season of Lent. We uphold you in prayer. Thank you! Church, please come to Wednesday evening services during Lent to support these lay people and learn how God is at work in our lives.
- Todd has scheduled different committees in the church to set-up, serve, and clean-up for the Lent Suppers for Wednesday nights during Lent. Feb. 14 - CYFM, Feb. 21 - Church Council, Feb. 28 - Creation Care, Mar. 6 - Music, Mar. 13 - PrimeTimers, and Mar. 20 - Church Staff. Thank you, Todd AND committees!
- Our next New Member Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, May 5. The sloppy joe supper and informational meeting for our new members will be on Tuesday, April 30, at 6:00 PM. Thank you to the New Member committee of Jim and Joan Roberts, Jim and Jean Kraft, Mike and Carol Smith, Lynn Underdahl, and Pastor Michelle. If you know of someone who would like information about joining the LCC family, please let the pastors or the office know. We would be happy to meet them and tell them about Lutheran Church of the Cross!

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Worship and Music: Sharon Taute**

No report

#### **Stewardship Ministry: Dean Dalzell**

No report.

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

- I've been working with 3 additional church insurance carriers to obtain competitive quotes on insurance for LCC business property, workers compensation and commercial umbrella coverage. The first carrier would not quote on this limited coverage, the second company quoted a price well above our current cost, and the third carrier is currently in underwriting. On a related note, we have several non-critical items to address to bring our property into compliance for safety for loss control. I'm working with Todd on these items.

- I contacted the cement contractor that will be installing our handicap ramp at the north entrance. He is currently out of town, but he did call me and assured me that LCC will be one of their first projects. I am pushing for completion early this spring when the weather permits and materials are available.
- We have received some initial general quotes for new carpet in the Narthex and hallways. Commercial grade carpet tiles are under consideration.
- We have numerous additional property projects for 2024. The list includes assisting with the playground installation, creating a family/handicap accessible bathroom, painting the conservatory, addressing plumbing needs, and relocating the garbage container. We also have to include the spring cleanup, landscaping improvements, cleaning the chairs in the Celebration Center, and relocation of the rummage sale pods and garden sheds. I would also like to take care of the burn pile on the east lot. I will call a meeting of the property committee to create a working schedule for this year.

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

### **Bridges of Hope**

LCC week at the Shelter is March 3 through the 10th. There are 14 scheduled volunteer shifts and two are filled. If we continue to do this volunteer work as a congregation, it's my hope that we will be able to have more than half of the shifts filled. If we cannot fill more than half, those of us who do volunteer can take shifts when we are available.

Items needed are Individually wrapped snacks, fabric softener sheets, paper towels and small packaged shaving razors. Through the month of February, these items will be collected at LCC in the narthex and will be taken to the shelter during our volunteer week.

### **Operation Sandwich**

Bill Wear has taken the position of director for Operation Sandwich. He's speaking at the Heartland Conference Women's Gathering on April 13 at Our Savior's in Pequot Lakes.

### **ELCA World Hunger**

This year marks the 50th year of ELCA World Hunger. Please help generate ideas that we as a congregation can do to alleviate hunger and honor the work that has been done for 50 years.

## **Congregational Life: Lyn Underdahl**

### **Touched base with the following church life groups:**

**New Member Committee** – The next New Member meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 30** with the New member recognition on **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**.

**Library** – No report

**Funeral Committee:** No report

**Soul Sisters:** No report

Sharon Endicott leads it. February will be their 10-year anniversary.

### **Recognition ? Your thoughts?**

**Prayers Shawls:** Colleen reports things are running smoothly.

**Supper Club: No report**

**Prime Timers:** Thursday's meeting will be well attended.

**Prayer Chain: *Thought you should know* –**

\***LCC's prayer chain is our ministry** which includes our members who pray for the needs of others as in a chain link. Each link represents one person committed to praying for the needs of others.

\***Ann Lanz is the leader and offers this information** (which is also posted on our website)

\***Our current prayer chain has 29 members praying daily.** It could be popcorn prayers, the whole list at one time, or one that the Holy Spirit especially puts in our hearts to pray for.

\***In our Sunday bulletin**, you will find a prayer list that is open to all to pray for.

\***The prayer chain at LCC is done by email** and also has a private and confidential list that cannot be discussed openly or with family and friends.

\***We honor and respect this.** We take this confidentiality very seriously. This allows comfort and trust in those requesting.



**\*Sometimes requests are for a certain time.** If not, we will continue to pray for a month unless we are notified that we need to continue.

**\* Sometimes we are given the gift of an answer,** most times not, and that's OK as we trust our Lord hears us.

**\*Ann then lists the ways to request prayers.**

1. Prayer cards in the pews to complete and put into the offering plate and given to Ann
2. Contacting Laurie in the office with her phone number and email and hours
3. Contacting Ann herself with her phone number and email address

**The Creation Care:** Spoke with Laura Raedeke after church on Sunday. She offered to be in contact with any work they may be doing that could be highlighted in the future.

**Working with Jodi Milli & Kari Erickson on planning a Lenten Tea – for Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> (Tentative) This would be an event for women and their daughters or loved ones.**

**The Rummage Sale** – Lots of stuff comes in and with the help of our wonderful volunteers, there are sorting events to attend. Amazing group effort!

**Personnel: Darrell Paske**

No report.

**Youth & Family Ministry: Bryan Trees**

**Children & Family Ministry: Rachel Gerhartz**

- We hosted LCBC for Camp Sunday and Weds. and had a very nice group of 8 (so far) campers registered. Hopefully we can get a few more, as well.
- The LWH VBS program is out, and Kari has started prep work. This year it's about how LWR uses animals in helping farmers around the world and is entitled, "God's New Creation." Dates are June 10-14.
- Kari hosted Chat & Chow in January and fed 28 kids, with many LCC kids in attendance.
- Kari found a neat "Lent in a Bag" devotion and adapted the devotions into a pamphlet for the weeks of Lent. These bags will be distributed on Ash Wednesday. Emma is currently putting the bags together.
- Cross Kids lessons/materials are completed through April. Sally Hodgson put together the Jan. and Feb. Take Home Faith bags and Karin Wolter will do the March bags.
- Attendance at Cross Kids continues to be good, as does nursery attendance.
- Our Playground Proposal was approved at the Annual Congregational Meeting and Pr. Drew, Todd and Kari will meet with Jon and the Burke Rep next week, followed by a meeting with the Task Force. Kari has developed a Fund-Raising Letter that will be sent out to the congregation in late February. So far, we have \$26,000 donated and we need a total of approximately \$60,000. We hope to get this project started in May.
- Scholarship materials and Senior Recognition Sunday info was sent out to all graduating seniors, and grade reports have been submitted from our Scholarship recipients from 2023, so their funds are in the process of disbursement.
- Our Scholarship Committee Pasta Fundraiser has been postponed since we are having a hard time finding a date that works for committee members.
- Our Youth Fishing Extravaganza Parking Event was cancelled due to the change in tournament format.
- Ash Weds. Baked Potato Bar is our next big fundraiser event which is slated for February 14.
- Lenten Mentors will begin on Feb. 21 and most youth have made arrangements for a mentor.
- Our High School Youth Group will continue meeting during Lent and they will use the Lenten Mentor materials as study guides.

- Route 56 will go on hiatus during the season of Lent.
- CYFM will host our Palm Sundaes Fellowship after 9am worship, serving yogurt parfaits and scones.
- Kari will be meeting with a small group of our parents of younger children in an effort to begin plans for an extended Cross Kids Sunday experience that will include music, video and whatever else we can come up with. We anticipate that this will occur during Coffee Fellowship time. The parents who are interested are willing to help get this initiative off the ground and keep it going. I am looking forward to seeing what we can add to our Children's ministry on Sunday mornings!

**Next Council Meeting:** Thursday, March 14, 2024, 7 p.m.

**Closing Prayer: Pr. Michelle**

**Meeting Adjourned.**

**Go in Peace**

Submitted by Deb Van Roy

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

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.*

## Easter Prayer

"God made you and God made me, He made the world for us to see. God loves you and long ago, He sent his Son to tell us so. Jesus showed us many things, to love and share and dance and sing. To learn and pray, to help and care, He promised He'd always be there. He died but then came back to life, let's celebrate for He's alive! Amen."

— Unknown

Have a blessed Easter from the staff at LCC.





## EASTER GARDEN

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

Thank you!

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

Please print legibly

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

# Lutheran Church of the Cross

PO Box 29  
5064 County Road 13  
Nisswa, MN 56468

Main Phone: 218-963-2564

Web: [lccnisswa.org](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
High School Youth Director	Emma Trees	
Director of Music Ministry/Organist	Cathy Taylor	218-961-2053
Financial Secretary	Karen Wiele	218-961-2016
Volunteer Coordinator	Todd Whipple	218-961-2052
Senior Choir Director	Mike Smith	
Organist	Laura Raedeke	
Bell Choir Director	Cheryl Karlgaard	
King's Kids	Carol Smith	
Custodian	Todd Whipple	218-963-2564
ELCA Global Missionary	Bradn Buerkle	
LCC Office	Laurie Hemish	218-961-2011

### 2024 CHURCH COUNCIL

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

