

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church
of the Cross
2021

MAY

SOON AND VERY SOON

What is it about the month of May? It's the time of year when students, teachers, and parents know the *exact* weeks, days (and for some, hours!) when school is out and summer begins. As I write this article I find myself right there with them. I am tired of the intermittent rain and snow. Yes, I know that creation is in desperate need of the water, but *I* am in need of sunshine!

It brings to mind the Hymn, "Soon and Very Soon" (*we are going to see the King*). What if we revise the lyrics to, *Soon and Very Soon we will feel the warmth of the Sun?* Perhaps if we all joined together in this praise song, we could bring about a change! Realistically, we know that this weather will not last, just as we know that COVID will not last. But the countdown to warmer weather and COVID-safe life seems to be taking forever. And as we move to our summer worship schedule, how about the lyrics, *Soon and Very Soon we will have Donuts again?!*

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we will have donuts again! Starting May 30th, our worship schedule will be modified to the following:

Indoor worship at 9am in Celebration Center

10am Donuts to Go (bring your own coffee/tea) in the back parking lot

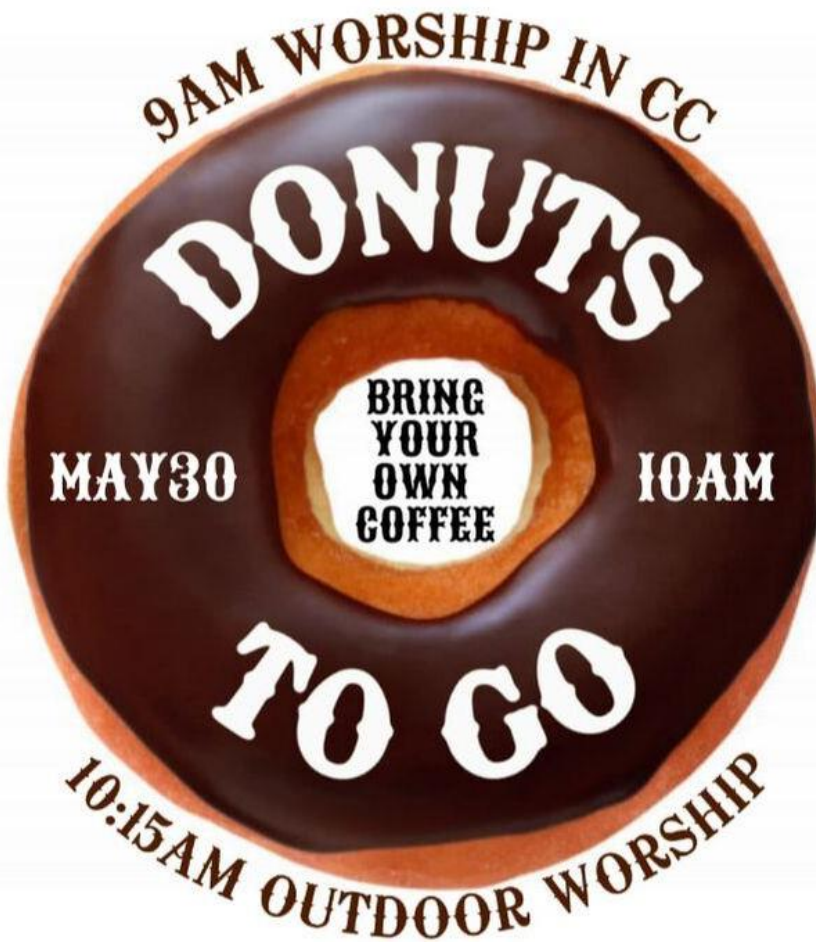
10:15 Outdoor Worship in the Memorial Garden, weather permitting.

Many of us have missed our donuts and fellowship time; I myself am looking forward to seeing you all and spending some time together in-between our worship services this summer, enjoying a donut!

Blessings,
Pastor Drew



coming soon



It's our youth fundraiser too! Your generous donations will support us on our adventure with Camp Amnicon this summer.

Join us May 30th for our first Outdoor Worship for the summer at 10:15 am in the Memorial Gardens (weather permitting). If there is inclement weather, we will move worship into the Celebration Center.

Please bring your own chair or blanket and set up your chairs to be socially distant.

At 10AM, BYOC (bring your own coffee/cocoa) and we will provide individual donuts to enjoy. Juice boxes will also be available for kids.

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2021 General Fund

	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>	Annual <u>Budget</u>	% YTD of Annual <u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 44,536	\$ 175,752	\$ 679,929	25.85%
Expenses	\$ 50,430	\$ 144,971	\$ 679,929	21.32%
Difference	(\$5,894)	\$ 30,781	\$ 0	

In the month of March our expenses were more than our income by (\$5,894).
Thank you for your continued support.



INTERMENT

Beryl (Jack) Warden

Born: March 9, 1932

Died in Christ: April 12, 2021

Internment: April 21, 2021

Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant



Update
your
Information



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

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

CHILDREN &

FAMILY ministry

We have had a wonderful “year”! Thanks to our parents for their work in helping our kids grow in faith—no matter if it’s at home participating in online worship, taking time for Sunday School packet work, doing family GIFT time, coming to Cross Kids, or bringing kids to worship. **CHILDREN OF ALL AGES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT LCC** and are a vital part of our church family. In June, July, & August, we will continue with in-person worship at 9am in Celebration Center. New for this summer will be “Donuts to Go” at 10am in the back parking lot (juice boxes will be available for kids; parents bring your own coffee/tea:-) and EVERY Sunday we will have Outdoor Worship at 10:15 in the Memorial Garden, weather permitting (bring your own chairs/blankets.)



Celebrating Children

Dear Parents,

I've worked with and prayed for your flower and helped it to grow.

I'm returning it for the summer, but I want you to know—this flower is precious: as dear as it can be. Love and take care of it this summer, and you will see a bright new bloom with every day.

It grew and blossomed in such a wonderful way!

In August just a bud—then January, a bloom, now a lovely blossom I return to you. Remember, this flower, as dear as it can be—though rightfully yours, part will always be with me! —Kari Erickson



- Dear Parents, LCC enthusiastically welcomes your growing family to fully celebrate the worship service with us.
- We suggest you:
- RELAX. We understand that God put the wiggle in children and we want them to feel welcome - it's their church, too!
- SIT toward the front if you want - sometimes being closer to the action helps hold children's attention.
- QUIETLY EXPLAIN what is happening
- SING, PRAY, and RESPOND - children learn how to "do" church by watching you
- REMIND children to use whisper voices if they need to speak.
- FEEL FREE to leave the service if it's best, but please try to come back.
- QUIET ACTIVITY PACKS are available (these are one-time use, so take the pack and contents home with you after each worship service.)
- TALK ABOUT CHURCH at home and address any curiosities children have.
- THANK YOU for joining us - we know it takes a lot of work to get here!

- Look for your May Sunday School packet coming via USPS. Packets will continue coming over the summer months
- Rogate Sunday on May 2—join us in Cross Kids for a special planting activity.
- May 5 will be our last meeting of Route 56—your help is needed for VBX Week in the evenings—watch the USPS mail for details.
- May 9—Mother's Day DONUTS TO GO and we will make a really neat take home Mom's Day Celebration kit at Cross Kids
- May 16—last day of Cross Kids Worship for the summer.
- First 2021 Outdoor Worship on May 30 at 10:15am—10am DONUTS TO GO and BYOC (Bring Your Own Coffee/Cocoa) - also bring your own bag chairs and/or a blanket to sit on.
- VBX Week is June 21—24. Carry Out packs will be ready for pick up on June 7. We will host Family Outdoor Evening Activities from 6—7:30pm that week as well.



We've created a new LCC Summer Programming Brochure that includes all Children, Youth & Family Ministry events and details in ONE PLACE!!

They will be available on May 5, and we will be mailing them as well. When you receive yours, put it on your fridge (with the enclosed magnet) for easy access to our summer schedule for 2021. We'll even include a special summer devo for parents:-)

**JUST
WANNA...**



**...BE A
SHEEP!**

Book Ends Club

Attention Girls in grades 3 and 4! Our first meeting on Saturday, May 22 at 10am in Chapel Hall. Email Kari if you'd like to be a part of this club. Books are here and ready to be picked up.

We will be discussing Chapters 1 & 2 at our first meeting. Have your parents check the email for more details. If you would rather not meet in-person, we can Zoom you in!

FROM ZACH'S DESK:

Covid Reflections.

I was chatting with some youth director friends a few weeks ago and we kind of realized that we haven't stopped to reflect in a while. I remember being intentional last summer with thoughts like these; I even remember writing a different newsletter about it, but when fall came, it seemed like everything came at full force and we didn't take moments to pause anymore.

We took a moment to pause at High School Youth Group this week, to lay aside some traditional content, to reflect back and learn about our year.

Would you like to join me in this reflection? Let's do it.

Take out a blank piece of paper and a pen.

Think about where you were a year ago. Covid had just started. Draw a smiley face that reflects how you felt in those early days of the pandemic. Add a symbol or two that represent things you did during the first shutdown.

Remember your first zoom meetings or hangouts? Who were they with? Did they bring you joy? Did they bring you sadness? Add their names to your sheet of paper.

Think back to last summer. What was a highlight of it? What was tough about it? Add a few words to your paper.

School started in the fall, in a hybrid manner, did any of this effect you? How?

How was Thanksgiving? How did you gather?
How was Christmas? How did you gather?

Have you had a moment when you thought, "Huh, things may start to feel normal again..."? Name that moment.

What did you miss most last year?
What did you learn and hope to take with you into The New Normal?

Where did you see God in this last year?

Peace,
Zach Malecha

Senior Sunday

Join us in blessing our 2021 Senior Class on May 23rd! We are so proud of each and everyone of them. Following worship, we will have an outside informal reception line. Our graduating seniors are:

Cecilia Boche, Briston Domino, Taeana Evanson, Julia Goralksy, Lauren Goralksy, Katherine Henke, Riley Henry, Jim Johanneck, Morgan Lueck, Riley Pelowski, Erik Stoxen, Emma Trees, and Mia Wolter.



Thank you to our knitters for their generous donation of the afghans.

2022 National Youth Gathering HYPE Meeting

Join us on May 12 after worship to get HYPED for the 2022 National Youth Gathering and Synod Journey! All youth currently in grades 8, 9, 10, and 11 are invited to come and learn more. This experience is faith shaping over and over again. We really hope all LCC youth will join us on this adventure!

Summer Program Meeting

Join us on May 5th following worship for our Summer Program Meeting! We are excited to be offering a summer full of activities for all youth! We will cover the details of all upcoming events and more.

Summer Stretch/Summer of Service

Summer Stretch/Summer of Service is service together with other local ELCA Congregations. Summer Stretch will take place on Thursdays throughout the summer. We will gather in the AM at a site to serve, and then move into a fun activity together in the afternoon. This is for grades 6, 7, 8, and even 9! Cost is \$10. Register here: <http://bit.ly/BLASummer2021>

Summer Somethin'

Weekly on Wednesdays, High School Youth are invited to Summer Somethin'! Each week we will gather in community to do Somethin'! Some weeks we will have a campfire and some weeks we will play disc golf, and more! Keep an eye out in your email and on social media for more information.

Donuts To Go!

Join us for our first Youth Fundraiser of 2021! The LCC Youth will be serving donuts on Memorial Day through June 27. These funds will help send us on our adventure with Camp Amnicon in the 16 person Voyageur Canoe this summer, 2021.

May 2021

Hymn of the Month

Hymn 396 Spirit of Gentleness (SPIRIT), written by James K. Manley

On May 23, we will celebrate Pentecost. It is actually the birth of the early church. The Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples and many other followers of the risen Jesus Christ with tongues of fire. The people were amazed and asked the disciples what this all meant. The Peter then instructed them all to repent and be baptized, they would then receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Lord increased the number of saved and hence the early church was born and grew.

This hymn, Spirit of Gentleness, describes the Spirit as gentle, but restless as well, doing restless things – blows, stirs, calls, frees, moves, coaxes, creates, awakens, sweeps, stings, goads, speaks, sings, cries, whispers, and breaks all forms of bondage. A very *active* Spirit in our lives. A Spirit who encourages us to be active in our faith and spread the good news.

Spirit of Gentleness

Refrain

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

1. You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."
2. You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.
3. You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.
4. You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.



James Manley wrote this hymn in 1975 when he was a student at Claremont School of Theology. He wrote the tune and it was first used at a church in Honolulu when he was a chaplain and teacher at the Mid-State Institute in that city. He also served as a Pastor in Northern California.

We will be singing this hymn on Pentecost Sunday and more throughout the season. Use this text as a prayer of thankfulness to our loving God the Father, His Son and the Holy Spirit as we go through the Pentecost Season.

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music



Easter 2021



Thank you to the LCC Decorating Crew! ➡



Enjoy Spring!

Join us for the

May Gather Study

by Violet Cucciniello Little

“The Journey of Generations”

**Wednesday, May 12, 10:30am in the pergola area of
LCC’s back parking lot near community gardens.
(We will zoom if the weather is inclement)**

Criss Jami, a young philosopher, poet and founder of his own line of clothing, said, “We often hear about stepping outside ourselves, but rarely about stepping outside our generation.”

In the May 2021 devotional, “The journey of generations”, we will look at the shared blessings that intergenerational relationships might bring. There will be scripture passages to guide us, stories that might spark your own recollections, and questions for your reflection.

May this devotional be your invitation not only to step outside your generation, but to bring the wonder of who you are to someone of another generation!

Call Carolyn Blanck, 963-7660, if you need a connection to Zoom or have questions regarding the study. Gather magazines are available in the LCC Narthex.

Gather Study is a ministry of Women of the ELCA
<https://www.gathermagazine.org/may-2021-the-journey-of-generations-by-violet-cucciniello-little/>

We look forward to seeing you in May!



Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen News

Exciting things are happening at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen. Since Covid hit we have been acting as a food shelf handing out weekly bags of food every Wednesday, and then adding on a Saturday of two takeout meals. During that time the soup kitchen has handed out more than 155,000 pounds of food.

We have a new walk-in refrigerator/freezer that we share with a coalition of food shelves in the lakes area to recue food that would have gone to waste.

Now that Spring is finally here, we are going back to our original groups of volunteers and serving daily to go meals starting April 14th.

Lutheran Church of the Cross will serve the first Thursday of every month. May 6th will be LCC's first date and the Klangs and Krafts have volunteered. Please let Ann Bergin know if your group would like to make and serve a takeout meal on any of these dates. June 3rd, July 1st, August 5th, September 2nd, October 7th, November 4th, or December 2nd. This gets us to the end of the year. Ann will explain how it works and even be there for support if needed. 218-820-5511 call or text me.

Serving at the Soup Kitchen is one way to demonstrate God's Love. When you feed others, you are feeding Christ.

Ann Bergin, LCC soup kitchen coordinator.



At the March 11, 2021 LCC Rummage Sale meeting the decision was made to contribute all clothing donated for our rummage sales and in storage for sometime at LCC to ministries that can distribute the clothing to God's people who are in need.

Thank you to those of you who donated clothing in anticipation of the LCC 2020 Spring Rummage Sale that was canceled due to COVID 19 and those of you who helped sort and distribute the clothing to ministries that are aware of where the clothing is needed most. The Lord truly has blessed

our collective efforts. A total of 261 bags of clothing were delivered to the following ministries so that they could distribute the items to our neighbors in need: Mid MN Women's Center, Brainerd (for women and children in crisis), Central Lutheran Restoration Center Free Store, Minneapolis (for distribution to the homeless), Goodwill, Brainerd (for distribution to 13 Goodwill Stores) and Disabled American Veterans, Brainerd (to help build better lives for disabled Minnesota veterans and their families).

At the present time all donations for LCC Rummage Sales are suspended until definite plans can be made for future sales. Thanks again for your participation and support in serving our neighbors! Please watch for more information regarding a planned parking lot miscellaneous sale sometime this summer. Together we can do great things for the Lord!

Romans 12:13, "When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. NIV

Operation Sandwich at Lutheran Church of the Cross! We are excited to announce that Jean Kraft will be our Northern Route Director this Summer! Her gifts and passion for this program and feeding hungry people will surely continue to make this program a success. She will be directing and coordinating all food distribution on the northern route as well as volunteers.

Our food drive is going to look a little bit different this year, we are targeting core foods for the month of May only, please see ad for specifics. In 2021, the Northern Route (based out of LCC) will add a fourth drop location in Jenkins! Volunteer opportunities will be available, keep an eye out for more information.



Food Drive, May 1-31



Supplies Needed

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Granola Bars

Fruit Snacks



*Serving Cass, Crow Wing,
Hubbard, Wadena Counties
& The City of Staples*

Habitat Project

LCC's Council has agreed to partner in a Thrivent Faith Build through Habitat for Humanity in Brainerd. The house is being built in SE Brainerd for the Svoboda family of eight, with six children, currently living in a two bedroom apartment.

As a Faith partner we commit to:

1. Pray for this project.
2. Communicate with our members and other faith communities to make a life-changing impact for this family through home ownership.
3. Work with Habitat to plan volunteer days and recruit volunteers. (10 person per day limit.) To volunteer, please contact Cathy Wells at 218-454-8517 or email cathy.wells@lakesareahabitat.org
4. Raising funds through the Faith Builds Generosity Challenge.

Thrivent has committed \$62,500 or half the cost of the project. There are currently 9 churches participating in the Faith Build project. If you would like to donate to this Faith Build, please make checks to LCC with Habitat House on the memo line.

Habitat will keep us informed about other opportunities for fundraising for the Svoboda home. Please watch the newsletter and the Eblasts from church for upcoming events.

+++++++ SAVE THE DATE ++++++

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SUNDAY!

June 27, 2021 between services

THE GIFT OF TIME IS PRICELESS

*Valuable is the work you do
Outstanding is how you always come through
Loyal, sincere, and full of good cheer
Untiring in your efforts throughout the year
Notable are the contributions you make
Trustworthy in every project you take
Eager to reach your every goal
Effective in the way you fulfill your role
Ready with a smile like a shining star
Special and wonderful – that's what you are!*

-Anonymous

We are excited to celebrate our awesome LCC volunteers outdoors (weather permitting) on Sunday, June 27th between services. Thanks to a Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Grant, we will have treats for everyone! We hope you will be able to join us for this special Sunday!

Your heartfelt commitment shows every time you volunteer! The gift of your time is priceless – thank you for sharing yours!

Blessings,

*Sally Hodgson
Lay Ministries Coordinator*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Ma
facility calendar for:			
<p>2 ROGATE SUNDAY</p> <p>9:00 Worship 9:00 Cross Kids Worship 10:00 Forum: Hidden Costs of Fossil Fuels 10:00 Youth Team Meeting 5:00 Citywide HSYG</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab by appt 10:00 Facebook Devotions 1:00 Property Committee Mtg</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30 Text St 10:00 Facebo 6:20 Worsh 7:00 Confir HS</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion 9:00 Cross Kids Worship 10:00 Praise, Pedal & Pipes—online 12:00 Piano Recital</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 11:00 Soul Sisters 1:00 Funeral: AnnaMarie Haberer 7:00 MOPS</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab by appt 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:30 Text 10:00 Face 10:30 Gath 6:20 Wo 7:00 HYP</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:00 Worship 9:00 Cross Kids Worship 10:00 Praise, Pedal & Pipes—online 1:00 Piano Recital</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab by appt 10:00 Facebook Devotions 1:00 Nisswa Garden Club Board</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:30 Text 10:00 Face 4:00 Crea 6:20 Wor</p>
<p>23 PENTECOST & SR. RECOGNITION</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion & Sr. Recognition 9:00 Cross Kids Worship 1:00 Mini Gathering #2</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab by appt 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:30 Text 10:00 Face</p>
<p>30 HOLY TRINITY</p> <p>9:00 Worship 10:00 Donuts & BYOC 10:15 Outdoor Worship</p>	<p>31 MEMORIAL DAY/ OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>		

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ay	2021		1 NEMN SYNOD ASSEMBLY
Study Facebook Devotions Worship w/ Communion Location/Route 56 YG	6 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 3:00 TAG 7:00 A.A.	7 10:00 Facebook Devotions	8 1:30 Private Baptism
Study Facebook Devotions Men's Bible Study Worship E meeting	13 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 3:00 TAG 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.	14 10:00 Facebook Devotions 	15 10:00 Private Baptism
Study Facebook Devotions Pastoral Care Team Worship w/ Communion	20 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 3:00 TAG 7:00 A.A.	21 10:00 Facebook Devotions	22
Study Facebook Devotions	27 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 11:00 Garden Club Meeting 3:00 TAG 7:00 A.A.	28 10:00 Facebook Devotions 10:00 White Pine Villa Assoc.	29



1. Don Anderson, Tara Jones, Tami Lueck
2. Jason Bassett, Sarah Tietz, Marcella Timmons
3. Emily Hansen, Bill McGrath, Carly Rasinski, Paula West
- 4.
5. John Poston
6. Pat Larson, Herman Schley
7. Marilyn Wottreng
8. Jude Anderson, Scarlett Anderson, Vanessa Anderson, Peter Dunphy, Jacob Hemish, Jacob Kruger, Benjamin Stubbs
9. Matthew Green
10. Emma Whiteman
11. Kaitlyn Kruger, Donna Salfer
12. Marty Halvorson
13. Carolyn Johnson, Lyle Kline, Morgan Lueck, Karen Raguse
14. Marlene Perkins, Midge Shaw
15. James Gerlich, Gabriel Gibson, James Johnson, David Olness, Pam Osmera, Erik Stoxen, Marion Town, Chuck Trucano
16. Georgette Lewis, Cheryl Lindberg, Laura Raedeke
17. Brenna LeBlanc, Pam Poston
18. Cliff Hess, Kristin Neale, Jenny Stubbs
19. Jack Grell, Kris McGrath, Julie Owens
20. Todd Holland, Jack Ingram, Carla Whiteman
21. Timothy Helsene, Kieran Stunek, Vickie Sullivan
22. Kolby Clarine, Logan Fogarty, Jennifer Oseland, Mary Wnuk
23. Brad Alcock, Linda Carlson, Bailey Clausen, Diane Fogarty, Brad Myers, Kathleen Warden
24. Toby Bassett, Quinn Eisenschenk, Paxton Smith
25. Clay Erickson
26. Keith Andersen, Keith Grothem, Mary Hubert, Lila Moen, Bob Trafas
27. Angie Kotila, Dane Smith
28. Nicholle Dean, Ty Lehmann, Luann Mickelson, Emery Wottreng
29. Don DeLine, Briston Domino, Mindi Scott
30. Danae Anderson, Sara Crabb-Erickson, Lisa Kruger, Daniel Olson, Emma Trees
31. Marilyn Lindberg, Martin Timmons, Mary Lou Weegman



Thursday Morning Prayer



The question always comes up, where can I go to find inner peace, or why even pursue inner peace? It is widely known, that prayer has great health benefits, because stress contributes to many diseases and dysfunctions.

Our digestive systems, sleep, ability to concentrate are all easily damaged by inner turmoil. Prayer provides inner peace, allowing us to be still and know the mystery of God, to listen to the conversation that God is having with our hearts. Developing an inner sanctuary of calm can refresh our spirits and help us to focus our engagement with the struggles of life. You are invited to join us for prayer on Thursday mornings at 9:30 in the Sanctuary. *If you have questions contact Candi Barnack: 963-6059, or Carol Smith: 829-8142.*



Thank you to Michelle Ruen, a second-year seminary student in the TEEM Program (Theological Education in Emerging Ministries) at Wartburg Seminary located in Dubuque, Iowa shared the "Proof is in the Pudding" message on April 11th at LCC. Michelle was an elementary school teacher in the Brainerd School District for 29 years. She grew up in Decorah, Iowa where she enjoyed picnic lunches under the Martin Luther statue on the campus of Luther College. Michelle's mentor pastor while attending seminary and exploring ministry is LCC's Pastor Drew Bakken.

A Message from our ELCA Global Missionary

Russian Correspondent

The Word Present and Future

Despite the challenges and risks we were able to organize a few, important in-person meetings over the past few months. This includes two trips to the Russian Far East and another to the church center in Omsk.

Vladivostok/ Ussuriysk, August and September

While we unable to gather our people together for our annual deanery-wide seminar for adults and youth, in late summer, it was safe enough for me to travel that I did go to the Far East. While I limited to Vladivostok and its surroundings, this fit well with my first priority – being with the St. Paul Lutheran in Vladivostok as it is undergoing a transition in pastoral leadership. Thanks to a good group of lay leaders assisted by retired pastor Manfred Brockmann and occasionally by their nearest “neighbor” (Pastor Alexander Lapochenko, a 5 hour bus-ride away), the congregation has made it through the difficult period of vacancy. Now, starting literally today (January 6), their new pastor has arrived. I will write more about Pastor Vitaly Mohr in upcoming newsletters, but for now I will say that Vitaly grew up in Siberia, immigrated with his family to Germany as a teenager, and, having completed his theological education there, returned to serve in the Russian Lutheran Church. For the past few years he has been pastor in Tomsk and several other cities in eastern Siberia. We had hoped to celebrate his installation in Vladivostok this coming Sunday, but personal circumstances (again, see prayer requests below) have made me delay my trip. This change in plans, however, will not affect the enthusiasm with which he will be welcomed by the members of the congregation.

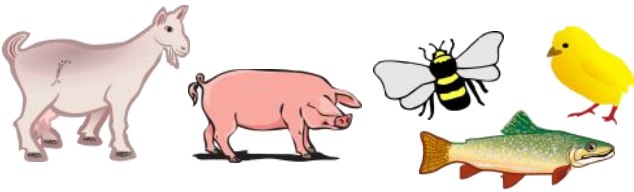
Synod Assembly / Seminar

In the late summer the leadership of the ELCUSFE (...Urals, Siberia and Far East) decided that they would work to minimize health risks, but would, all the same, host an in-person synod assembly in the fall. Delegates from high risk populations were asked to send their alternates instead, while other safety measures were taken for those who would attend. It must be acknowledged that there was a tendency at that time not to take the threat of COVID seriously enough; the first wave had not hit Siberia very hard, and many had the sense that being less-densely populated did wonders to slow down the spread of the disease. As we were to learn, we were not cautious enough. There were a number of positive cases that can be connected directly to the synod assembly and seminar; thankfully, however, none of the participants or their loved ones was fatally infected by the virus.



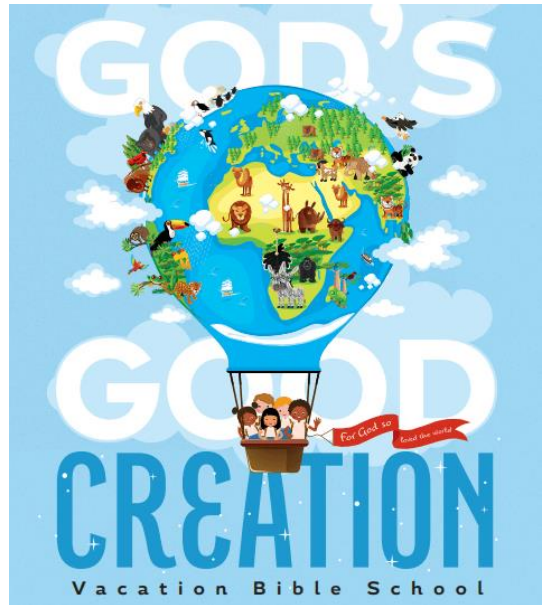
Sister Sabine Mattisin in the foreground. I am on the far right, with the new pastor for St. Paul in Vladivostok, Vitaly Mohr, sitting next to me. ELCUSFE Synod Assembly, October 2020.

Your brother in Christ, Bradn



VBX IS COMING— June 21-25, 2021

Join Glory the Goat, Charlie the Chick, Honey the Bee, Freddie the Fish and Percy the Pig for a week filled with learning, fellowship, and fun— all centered around the theme of *God's Good Creation*. This will be a take-home *and* in-person event. Kids will work on their kit at home, then join us here at church in the evenings for outdoor, socially distanced family activities from 6—7:30pm. Plans may change as COVID-19 restrictions are modified, but for now this is our schedule.



HELPERS ARE NEEDED!

- Kids who have completed grades 5 - 12 are encouraged to sign up as Crew Leaders for our evening activities.
- Adults are needed to help supervise stations in the evening as well.
- Email Kari at cfmkarilcc@gmail.com if you can help

Snack donations are also appreciated:

- Instant chocolate pudding mix
- Whipped Topping
- Oreo Cookies
- Gummy Worms
- Miniature Marshmallows
- Sunflower Butter
- Almond Butter
- Berry Blue Jello
- Vanilla Wafers
- Swedish Fish
- Butterscotch Chips
- Chocolate Chips
- Chow Mein Noodles

Please email Kari or call Laurie in the church office if you can donate any of the items at the left. We can share details (like amount and date needed) with you when you contact us.
Thanks in advance!



I am excited! In June, I will again have the opportunity to travel with the *He Intends Victory Mission Team* to Uganda and Kenya—and of course to visit the Leon Holmstrom School. My son Murry, and daughter Jennifer and her husband Rusty will also be on the team.

Little did we know that our first trip in 2007 would change our lives. With support from our churches and friends, we were able to establish the Leon Holmstrom School that has thrived over the years. Also, many goats have been given to the families. If you would like to make a contribution towards this mission, make the checks out to *He Intends Victory* and put Leon Holmstrom School in the memo—drop off or mail to the church office. Most of all, we need your prayers!!

I thank you,
Marjorie Holmstrom

GLOBAL MISSIONS



Global Mission Sunday is scheduled for June 6th with Rev. Doug Cox, Executive Director of Global Health Ministries as our guest presenter/preacher. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.



BLESSING OF THE PLANTS AND SEEDS SUNDAY, MAY 2 at 9AM

The LCC Creation Care Team is hosting our annual Blessing of the Plants and Seeds (Rogate Sunday) on May 2. We are offering our complementary plant seedlings at tables outside of the Celebration Center to maintain safe social distancing, so select yours as you come in for the worship service.

Pr. Jerry Raedeke will officiate at this service, and we are pleased to welcome our guest preacher, **Pr. Daren Blanck, Lutheran pastor and former LCC member**, whose sermon title is "The Reconciliation of All Creation."

Following the service, please stay for a forum presented by **Daren Blanck** on "The Hidden Environmental and Societal Costs of Fossil Fuels." The hidden costs of continuing to extract, transport, and burn fossil fuels are staggering. But a green transportation revolution is possible. Daren will discuss these eco-justice impacts and why getting on board matters from a Biblical perspective. After the forum is concluded, we will be able to go outside to see Daren and Michelle's new electric car. They will be able to answer questions we may have and dispel some of the fear many of us have about moving toward non-fossil fuel transportation.

JOIN US, please, for a Sunday of uplifting worship, learning, and joy in the gift of this wondrous creation.



March 2021 LCC Council Highlights

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS Church Council Meeting Thursday, April 8, 2021

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion: Mike Smith

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Council President David Endicott

Present:

David Endicott; Sarah Fogderud; Colleen Both, Darrell Paske; Pastor Bakken; Dale Peterson; Mike Smith; Pam Johnson; Kristin Lindholm; Bonnie Stevens; Joanie Swanson

Officer Reports:

Council Minutes by Darrell Paske

- Motion to approve Mike Smith; Second Joanie Swanson; Motion Passed
- Treasurer's Report by Colleen Both
- Motion to approve Pam Johnson; Second Bonnie Stevens; Motion Passed

New Business:

Quarterly Council Retreats: Second Quarter Retreat June 17, 2021, 6:00 p.m. @ David Endicott's.

Thrivent Investment Program discussion is ongoing. Further discussions to be had.

Old Business:

New proposed redesign submitted for audio/visual room. Final cost estimates for construction remodel and equipment due at May Council Meeting.

Pastors' Reports

Pastor Drew:

The month of March was a busy month here at Lutheran Church of the Cross. A special thank you to our staff and all the volunteers who helped to make Lent and Holy Week worship possible this year. Once again Easter was different and yet the same. The Easter flowers, decorations and music were beautiful this year. It was fantastic to hear the Pipe Organ ring out with "Jesus Christ is Risen Today", and we had great attendance at all three of our worship services.

On March 27, we had our council retreat in which we got a chance to know one another, review our assigned ministry roles, and to look at the future of LCC. I really appreciated everyone's openness and willing to share. As we move out of this time of COVID, we need to start looking at where God is calling us and how to grow in our faith and membership. This meeting was just the start as we look towards the future. I hope that we can try to make this a quarterly event so that we do not lose momentum.

Some of the items we discussed:

- how to safely move worship back into the sanctuary and the need to update the camera and sound system so that we can continue to provide our online worship presence
- the need to update our constitution
- work on strengthening our ministry teams

- summer worship times such as 9am indoors and online worship and 10:15 outdoor worship with a donut fellowship

This was just the start of our discussions, but I am excited to see where this will lead us.

Our Lenten Devotional this year was from the book “A Story to Tell” and we had averaged over 20 people both in-person and online. We had some great discussions as we made our way through the book of Mark. I look forward to next year’s Lenten discussion.

Toward the end of April, we will finish up our staff reviews, and prepare for spring and summer activities.

Committee Reports:

Property: Dale Peterson

- **Sound Room:** An estimate was received to remodel the sanctuary sound room. Following the estimate, the sound equipment company recommended expanding the opening to the sound room to improve visual and audio access to the sanctuary. A second consult with the construction company followed and it is possible to expand the opening into the sanctuary to 7 feet if we relocate the door to the sound room. They produced a sketch of the proposed changes. With council approval to move forward, they will revise the cost estimate and the council can make a decision next month to move forward with the project. With an approval decision in May this project can be completed this summer. This remodel is in conjunction with the installation of new sound equipment.
- **Butterfly Garden:** The committee met with the Soil and Water Conservation District staff at LCC on March 24th. They were pleased with the planned location for the Butterfly Garden in the main lawn area in the southeast section of the parking lot, in from the bike path and east of the monument sign. The Green Corps is scheduled to be on site May 13th to take up the grass, put the biodegradable weed suppressant down, and lay the block out in the design formatted in the design layout. I will coordinate moving the landscape blocks back to this area by May 13th. Selection of appropriate plantings is also underway.
- **Landscaping:** Planned for spring. Plans need to get underway. Repairing/reinstalling the underground irrigation is also part of the landscape project.
- **Sanctuary Flooring:** An estimate has been requested to replace the sanctuary floor. It will be presented at the May council meeting. If approved, this project could also be completed this summer since the sanctuary is not being used at this time.
- **Signage:** I recommend installing signage on the north exit road indicating this is an LCC exit/entrance and not for through traffic. I spoke with the Crossroads Board about Crossroads residents using the road as a through road to County 13 and Highway 371. They again reminded residents to use Smiley Road unless going the church. Really the bigger problem is the delivery and utility trucks that use the road. The Board agree that since the road is owned by the church, any signage would be up to the church.
- **Exterior Painting:** Painting the exterior of the church is a budgeted and approved project for 2021. However due to scheduling conflicts, it will be completed in 2022.
- **Additional future property concerns** include security cameras, automatic entry doors, and possible relocation of the church office.

Stewardship: Craig Fink

No Report

Worship and Music: Mike Smith

- The organ pipes in the sanctuary were repaired, tuned, and re-voiced in March. Cathy is very excited to have every pipe working again and the organ correctly balanced.
- It was very exciting to have the organ used for Easter Sunday!
- A special thanks to: Sally and Lenny Hodgson, Maureen and Dick Schmidt, Clint Baker, Darrell Paske, and Carol Smith for decorating the Celebration Center with a wonderful array of colorful flowers for Easter Sunday worship.
- Thanks to Liz Brandanger for decorating the flower pots in front of the church for Easter Sunday morning.
- Jerry Raedeke is working on getting the banners for the front entrance of the church ready for Rally Sunday, 2021.
- We are blessed to have so many talented singers and instrumentalists willing to lead in worship on Wednesdays and Sundays. Thank you, Cathy Taylor, for contacting, picking the music, and rehearsing these musicians. Your effort makes our worship services interesting and meaningful.

Social Concerns and Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens

- Habitat Project: LCC has been asked to partner in a Thrivent Faith Build through Habitat for Humanity in Brainerd. The house will be built in SE Brainerd for the Svoboda family of eight, with six children, currently living in a two bedroom apartment.

To become a Faith partner we commit to:

1. Pray for this project.
2. Communicate with church and other faith communities to make a life-changing impact for this family through home ownership.
3. Work with Habitat to plan volunteer days and recruit volunteers. (10 person per day limit)
4. Commit to fundraising efforts through the Faith Builds Generosity Challenge.

Thrivent has committed \$62,500 or half the cost of the project. There are currently 8 churches participating in the Faith Build project. Permits have been granted and construction will begin as soon as road restrictions are lifted.

- Operation Sandwich

The Operation Sandwich Team (with Zach's direction) has developed a job description for the Northern Route Director's position which will be funded by Bridges of Hope. This person will work from LCC approximately 15 hours per week.

The Food Drive for the Northern Lakes Route will take place ONLY during May. The goal is to have 5 drop-off locations, one of which will be LCC.

Food items requested will be peanut butter, jelly, fruit snacks and granola snacks.

The team is developing a volunteer model to include new volunteers while keeping the core base groups which have worked well. The focus will be educating more volunteers about food scarcity in our area.

Northern Route Operation Sandwich begins the week of June 7 and ends the week of August 30.

Motion by Pastor Drew and Second by Colleen Both that LCC partner in a Thrivent Faith Build through Habitat for Humanity in the Brainerd Lakes Area. Motion Passed.

Children and Family Ministry: Pam Johnson

- Kari got the April Sunday School packets out as well as the Pequot Lakes Religious Release packets delivered.
- Kari mailed out a Holy Week devotional for grades 5-12 that included The Way to the Cross, a finger labyrinth and a Palm Sunday devotion.
- Kari created a Holy Week outdoor scavenger hunt bulletin insert.
- First Communion Workshop and service on Maundy Thursday went really well. We were so very proud of our kids. We used the new Erlander materials and Kari made up take-home bread baking and banner making kits. Ten kids completed the workshop and attended Maundy Thursday worship.
- On Good Friday we added the element of physical objects presented to the congregation during the readings. Jace and Jude Anderson, Rebecca Bakken, and Dane and Emily Smith helped with this.
- Easter crosses were put up and outside for Easter Morning.
- Easter Quiet Activity Bags were put together and handed out on Easter Sunday - Laurie Hemish helped Kari with this.
- April/May edition of PrimeTimers was mailed out and from now on Kari will publish quarterly, beginning with June - July - August.
- Route 56 resumed meeting on Wednesday and will meet through May 5.
- We will have a special planting activity on Rogate Sunday during Cross Kids Worship, and will have a special Mother's Day activity as well.

Youth and Family Ministry: Kristin Lindholm

- The escape room was enjoyed by a dozen or so folks in mid-February. It was a lot of work to create and was worth every minute. I look forward to recycling it annually at the 7th Grade Retreat.
- Lenten Mentors wrapped up in the last week of Lent. It was great to hear from many mentors how meaningful their conversations were during Lent. I am excited to see how these relationships continue to grow.
- Our 9th graders are wrapping up their Confirmation Credo Capstones, or their Confirmation Projects. The few I have seen so far have been very well done. Next year, the project will be in a tighter window so it doesn't linger on as long.
- High School Youth Group Mental Health Practices in Lent were good. Some nights were just a good time catching up and some nights were great conversation around mental health best practices. Both of these are valuable for our youth group.
- Summer planning is in full-swing! Looking forward to getting details on paper about Confirmation Family Camp, Summer Stretch and Citywide Lutheran Youth this next week. The Amnicon Trip lost a few folks this week, but we are actively seeking out new youth to fill the slots.
- Wednesday programming wraps on May 5th. We have a few more biblical ancestors to in Confirmation and will be doing a "Tough Questions" unit in High School Youth Group.

Congregational Life: Joanie Swanson

No Report

Personnel: Sarah Fogderud

No Report

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by

Darrell Paske, Council Secretary

Next Council Meeting:

May 13, 2021

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



June
July
August

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Each Sunday at 10:15 in the
Memorial Garden

10am Donuts to go and
[bring your own]
coffee

Bring chairs/blankets to worship

Lutheran Church of the Cross
Nisswa, MN

Lutheran Church of the Cross

PO Box 29
5064 County Road 13
Nisswa, MN 56468

Main Phone: 218-963-2564
Web: lccnisswa.org
E-mail: lcc@lccnisswa.org

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Address label here

Welcoming all people into discipleship

STAFF

Pastor	Drew Bakken	218-961-2014
Pastor		
Director of Youth and Family Ministry	Zach Malecha	218-961-2015
Director of Children and Family Ministry	Kari Erickson	218-961-2012
Director of Music Ministry/Organist	Cathy Taylor	218-961-2053
Financial Secretary	Karen Wiele	218-961-2016
Lay Ministry Coordinator	Sally Hodgson	218-961-2052
Senior Choir Director	Brian Stubbs	
Organist	Laura Raedeke	
Bell Choir Director	Judy Rickbeil	
King's Kids	Carol Smith	
Custodian	Clint Baker	218-963-2564
ELCA Global Missionary	Bradn Buerkle	
LCC Office	Laurie Hemish	218-961-2011

2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

President	Dave Endicott	Social Justice/Global	Bonnie Stevens
Vice President	Sarah Fogderud	Worship & Music	Mike Smith
Treasurer	Colleen Both	Youth	Kristin Lindholm
Secretary	Darrell Paske	Stewardship	Craig Fink
Cong. Life	Joanie Swanson		
Education	Pam Johnson		
Properties	Dale Peterson		

