

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church
of the Cross
2020



It's November in Minnesota and a fresh coat of fallen snow has blanketed everything around us, which can encourage us to hunker down and get lost in our own thoughts. However, I propose that November be a great month to pull back the covers, to meet creation and be thankful for all that God has done for us!

I recently saw a Facebook post of a beautiful picture of the new snow, with some leaves peeking from underneath. The caption below it read, *We need to see the beauty all around us and not just focus on the negative...* words to remind us that even while we are in the midst of things that we cannot control, there is beauty all around us. We just need to be willing to open our heart, mind and soul to see God's beauty.

The month of November begins with *All Saints Sunday*, when we remember the saints of our church and the saints in our lives that have shown and shared their faith with us. This year we celebrate the lives of 14 Saints in our congregation who have entered the church triumphant. On Sunday, November 1, we will light candles before the worship service for those who have been a light in our lives. Please join us - online or in person, for this special All Saints Worship Service. As we move through the month, November 22nd brings us to *Christ the King Sunday*, marking the end of our church calendar year. It causes us to pause for reflection and celebration that we have a King who shows us how to live, love, and serve one another.

As we continue with our month of celebrating and giving thanks, we will have our *Thanksgiving Eve* worship service on Wednesday the 25th at 7:00 p.m. We ask that you make a reservation if you plan on attending in-person worship so that we know how many chairs to set up and can be sure that everyone is social distanced and safe.

On November 29th we move into a new church calendar year, with the *First Sunday in Advent*, an exciting time of anticipation. This year's theme of *Watch, Wait, and Wonder* reminds us of whose we are, and of the light and life that God has given to the Lord.

Come and join us online or in-person for worship on Sunday and Wednesday. Let's celebrate together all that we have to be thankful for. May this month be a reminder of all of our blessings, and let us give thanks for all that God has done for us.

Blessings,
Pastor Drew



Starting November 11th, you can reserve your seats for Thanksgiving Eve Worship by going to our SignUpGenius link below (which will be posted on our website and on our Facebook page). Link will also be sent via Eblast. Choose to reserve a group of 2, 4, 6, or 8 seats (whatever works for you/ your family group). If you cannot attend the worship service, be sure to watch it online on our website lccnisswa.org or on our Facebook page.

<http://bit.ly/LCCThanksgiving>



Be sure to set your clocks back one hour Sat. night October 31st. Be sure to change the batteries on your smoke detectors as well. Enjoy the extra hour of sleep before worship on Sunday, November 1st.

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2020 General Fund

	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Annual Annual
				% YTD of Budget
Income	\$ 37,648	\$ 449,358	\$ 672,326	66.84%
Expenses	\$ 41,783	\$ 442,890	\$ 672,326	65.87%
Difference	\$ (4,141)	\$ 6,468	\$ 0	

In the month of September our expenses were more than our income by **(\$4,141)**.



FUNERAL

Sharon Baker

Born: March 21, 1937

Died in Christ: October 11, 2020

Funeral: October 17, 2020

Lutheran Church of the Cross

Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant

BAPTISM

Jamison Tomas Kellner

Born: January 23, 2020

Baptized: October 4, 2020

Parents: Jake Kellner & Samantha Sand

Pr. Bill Ingvoldstad, Officiant

FUNERAL

Ausma Birznieks

Born: February 17, 1923

Died in Christ: October 17, 2020

Funeral: October 31, 2020

Brenny Funeral Chapel

Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant



All Saints Sunday, November 1st at 9:00 am. Join us as we remember those who have died in Christ this past year and are now held in our Lord's Easter promise. While the prelude is playing, you may go forward and light a candle in honor of a saint who has gone before you.

CHILDREN & FAMILY ministry



Wednesday evening programming has begun—6:20pm—7:30pm! Pastor Drew gives us a teaching sermon during worship, then we meet afterwards to make connections and get to know each other. Remember that ALL 5th and 6th graders are welcome to join us. We meet in Chapel Hall immediately following worship—don't forget to bring your bible and complete a worship experience sheet. Join us via Zoom, too—link is on the LCC website.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our first

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION night of the fall.

NOVEMBER 4, 2020

We will be exploring the topic, “Striving for Justice & Peace: our Baptismal Covenant” with Colleen Bernu, an ELCA Mission Developer and Deacon Candidate. Parents and kids are encouraged to attend. We will hear the teaching message from Colleen and stay in Celebration following worship for reflection and discussion. **PLEASE BRING YOUR FAMILY GIFT BAG** that evening.



Sunday School kids—be on the lookout for your November packet coming soon in the mail! It's entitled, “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart,” and includes some really neat activities for you and your family to help you celebrate Thanksgiving.

If you don't receive one, let Kari know.

KIDS OF THE CROSS WORSHIP

SUNDAYS
9:00am in the Sanctuary

Check us out each Sunday!
—for kids in Kind. thru Gr. 6:

- Wear a mask
- Find a yellow spot in a pew
- Sit quietly
- Breathe and prepare

We have been having a wonderful time at our new worship service—all kids are invited! Parents can worship with adults in Celebration Center while we kids worship in the Sanctuary! We are practicing social distancing and require masks. Come and worship with us!

NOV. 22, 2020 9AM

FIRST COMMUNION



KOLTEN HILES
EMILY SMITH
AYLA TEASCK
BENNETT WOTTRENG

Join us for worship on Sunday,
November 22 at 9am worship
where these kids will be
receiving their first Holy
Communion!

2020
"No fuss, no muss"



**CHRISTMAS
PAGEANT**

**December 13, 9am,
Celebration Center**

A retelling of the Christmas
Story with audience
participation—NO
PRACTICE OR
PREPARATION NEEDED—
just join us for a great
morning of worship!!

FROM ZACH'S DESK:

Snow Day In October???

I'm writing this while working from home on the Snow Day in October. I have seen a lot of posts along the lines of "2020 is broken - let's unplug it and plug it back in." This Snow Day seems to add more conversation to this mentality.

2020 has been extremely difficult. We've all lost what would have been our summer. Our school year has started out weird. We've lost loved ones. We've lost important events. Many things have been pushed online - and let's be honest, it is challenging to sit in online conversations. It's challenging to host online conversations. It's tough to worship like this. It's a tough year.

This Snow Day feels like insult to injury. But at the same time, how can we take advantage of it? We have spent the last eight months trying new things, being spontaneous, changing what we think is the normal. And we have done a great job. So today, or on days like these, we are flexible; we can do great things.

I attended a bible study online today and we talked about the Road to Emmaus. I can't help but see myself in the story. These last eight months have felt like the three day journey Cleopas and his partner were walking. The heaviness of our loss, seems like losing a friend, or rabbi as Cleopas had. Their conversations probably kept coming back to the same things, "What now?", "Why?" and "I'm so sad" just to name a few.

It feels like our lives keep doing this too. We rightfully get stuck on these tough and draining conversations. But life continues to evolve.

I am proud to be a part of a staff that has continued to dream and think outside of the box throughout these months. Today, because of this, I am able to host an impromptu gaming afternoon on our new communication app, Discord. This is evolving our "Ministry of availability" as Pastor George called it. It is a casual afternoon where youth can pop in and out and we can build relationships and see where God is working in this world. A good handful of youth will connect with each other before this day is over.

Christ is showing up in community, just like he does in the Road to Emmaus. At the end of the bible study, we were asked to bless each other, we had multiple choices for the blessing, but most of us chose to say: "Bless and remind me that... I am renewed in hope each day." Through the promise of Christ showing up in our lives. We can be assured that there is hope today, and there is just as much hope tomorrow.

In peace,
Zach

Not Dish and a Show!

Join us for what is going to be an event to remember, the first ever Not Dish and a Show! (The fourth annual Hotdish and a Show! Can you believe it!?) We will have a live show, with many safety measures in place: required masks, social distancing, RSVPs - limited to 100 people, 10 acts/1 hour. To donate this year: Please donate as you wish at the door - no big envelopes required. Please RSVP on the bulletin board in the hall.

Middle School Gathering

We will host our own Middle School Gathering here at LCC on Saturday Nov. 21 from 1pm-5pm (provided it is still safe). All 7th-9th graders should gather for an afternoon of worship, games and more! We really get to make this an event that works for us. Shoutout to the 8th Grade Girls who made a quick video for the Synod worship video for this event! High School Helpers Needed.

October Highlight: Fall Hike Day!

Thanks to the great crew who came out to hike! Here are a couple of pictures from the day.



Up up and away we go at the Pequot Lakes Fire Tower.



Boardwalk at the Veterans Trail in Jenkins.



Music Notes



November 2020

“This Is My Song” (FINLANDIA)

Text: Lloyd Stone and Georgia Harkness; Music: Jean Sibelius

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating with hope and dreams as true and high as mine.
2. My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.
3. This is my prayer, O God of all earth’s kingdoms,
Your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you, and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations; myself I give you; let your will be done.

Lloyd Stone (1912-1993) wrote the first two stanzas of this hymn between WWI and WWII. It was published in 1934 in *Sing a Tune*. Georgia Harkness (1891-1974) wrote verse three between 1937 and 1939 for the Wesleyan Service Guild of the Methodist Church at the request of its executive secretary, Marion Norris. Norris said the Wesleyan Service Guild had been singing the first two stanzas, but “wanted something with a more distinctly religious note”. All three verses were then included in *The Book of Hymns* of the United Methodist Church. Since then the hymn has been included in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal (the cranberry hymnal)*.

Lloyd Stone was born in California and studied at the University of Southern California. He moved to Hawaii in 1936 and taught in the public schools and at the University of Hawaii. He was president of the National Society of Arts and Letters and wrote ten books of poetry and two books for children.

Georgia Harkness was born in Harkness, NY, a town named after her grandfather. She earned degrees from Cornell University and Boston University, where she earned her Masters and PhD. She did additional studies at Harvard, Yale and Union Theological Seminary in New York. She was then ordained a Methodist minister. She wrote three books of prayers and poems, some set to music for hymns. One of her hymns was “Hope of the World” in the *Lutheran Book of Worship (the green hymnal)* for the World Council of Churches in 1954.

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957) wrote a piece for a tableau in a nationalistic pageant to support the Finnish press against Russian repression. In 1900 he revised it into an orchestral tone poem called *Finlandia* which we now use as the tune for this hymn. Sibelius is Finland's most famous composer. He studied law at Helsinki University but soon gave it up for the Helsinki Conservatory. His music became a symbol of Finnish patriotism and nationalism.

This hymn has become one of our favorites, not just for the music but the text. I thought it so appropriate this time of year of unrest with elections looming and many uncertainties. It speaks of how every nation is precious in God's sight, how we all have the same hopes of peace, how we pray our hearts be united and learn to live as one people.

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music



Streaming video on Sunday mornings following 9am worship...



Grateful!!

We are so blessed and grateful to have such a faithful group of musicians help out each week for our worship services. Each week we need anywhere from 3-10 musicians to offer their talents in leading our two services. That's a lot of volunteering on their part and we are so thankful. Their names: Chris and Kristin Lindholm, Kevin Lattu, Erica Bjelland, Danny Olson, Kris Smith, Dave Endicott, Jim Natwick, Mike Smith, Sharon Taute, Karla Jensen, Jen and Riley Pelowski, Brian and Jenny Stubbs, Laura Raedeke, Judy Rickbeil and Chris Fogderud. Please reach out to them and let them know how grateful you are. Thanks be to God for all blessings!!

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music

<http://www.lccnisswa.org/live-video-streaming-worship.html>
<https://www.facebook.com/lccnisswa>



Thank you to all who have donated funds for our new church sign!

We will continue fundraising efforts for the new sign, which is to be installed by the end of October (weather permitting).

If you are interested in contributing to the cost, please mail your donation to LCC at PO Box 29, Nisswa (*LCC New Sign* in the memo line.) Please call or email the church office with any questions.

We have currently raised over \$18,950 of the \$24,550 needed.



Please enter from the west entrance and follow signs and directions of staff to get in line to receive the sacrament. Pr. Drew will be wearing a mask and gloves—we ask that all those in your vehicle wear a mask and remain in the vehicle.

The table of our Lord is set for all those who need grace, forgiveness, strength, and wisdom for ministry and mission to the world.

Come, all are welcome.

GATHER WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



It has been such a joy to "gather" together in September and October. All women at LCC are invited to attend; we would love to have you join us even if you were unable to attend Sessions 1 or 2. We will be meeting the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10 AM in Chapel Hall.

The lessons are found in the *Gather* magazine. (Some copies are available at church, but subscriptions can be ordered at the Gather website; the price is very reasonable and the whole magazine is excellent!)

Our priority is to remain safe. When we meet we will ask everyone to wear a mask, sit apart, and sanitize our hands. Chapel Hall will be sanitized both before and after we meet.

We look forward to "gathering together in person" with you!

Fall 2020: "Holy time" by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni

In this three-session Bible study, the Rev. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni invites us to remember the past, recognize the present and reimagine the future.

These topics are so timely now as we are navigating a global pandemic. Particularly during these days we need frequent reminders that God loves us and even now is creating us into the people He intended us to be.

Session 1: Holy time: Remembering the past (September 9, 2002)

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19, Luke 22:18-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Themes/Questions: What is faithful memory? How do we remember the past—good and bad? How do we embody memory in our worship through Word and Sacrament, and why is this important? How does faithful memory put us back together (re-member us) as faithful people?

Session 2: Holy time: Recognizing the now (October 14, 2020)

Scriptures: Mark 14:3-9, Luke 4:16-21, Luke 12:54-56, 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

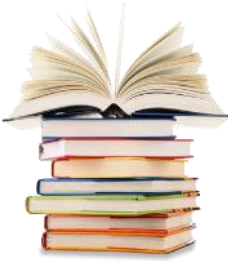
Themes/Questions: How do we grasp the times we are living in? How did Jesus, the woman who anointed him, and Paul all recognize "kairos" time—and what is it? What does it mean to recognize our calling to "be present"?

Session 3: Holy time: Reimagining the future (November 11, 2020)

Scriptures: Isaiah 55, Revelation 21-22

Themes/Questions: How do we faithfully look to the future? What does it mean to reimagine the future in light of the promises of God's reign? How do we live now in hope and active expectation, and how does this open us (individuals, churches, communities) to transformation?

BOOK DISCUSSION UPDATE

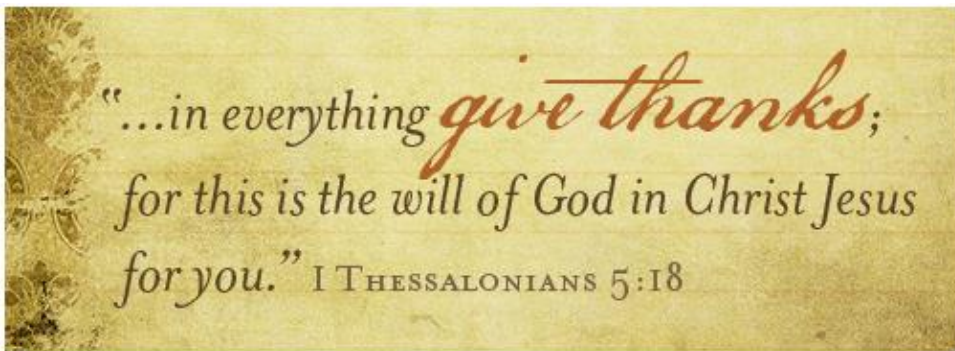


In November Pastor Drew will finish leading the discussions on *White Fragility* by Robin DeAngelo.

Chapters 9 & 10 November 3rd

Chapters 11 & 12 November 10

If you are interested in purchasing this book, we still have three copies available for purchase in the church office for \$10.50 each.



The **LCC Christmas Tree of Sharing** that gifts children and adults whose lives are touched by violence, abuse or addiction and also brightens the lives of the elderly, will have a different approach this year due to COVID 19. Contact has been made with the ministries that LCC has supported in the past through the Christmas Tree of Sharing. All of them indicated that, due to the pandemic, monetary gifts would be preferred rather than the purchasing of gifts as LCC members have done in the past. They were enthusiastic with this approach since it would also provide an opportunity for clients to be involved in online gift selection for their children.

The 2020 Christmas Tree of Sharing monetary gifts will be provided by LCC Rummage Sale and LCC Women of the ELCA. (See details on next page of the Cross Currents)



With both 2020 rummage sales having been canceled, the Rummage Sale Core Group met to discuss how to respond in a different and reduced manner to our neighbors in the community, state, nation and world with critical needs during this pandemic. The new ways to reach out included a small furniture and miscellaneous sale, individuals selling garden produce

and other items and some individuals giving financial donations. A special thank you to everyone who participated in our COVID 19 reaching out endeavors. We also thank the Lord for blessing our efforts. The ministries that will receive monetary gifts are listed below.

Outreach Program of Brainerd Lakes Area-Food packs that feed family of 4 for 1 week -\$40 per pack, food packs can be labeled "Given to you by Lutheran Church of the Cross"	\$2,000
Christmas Tree of Sharing – to gift children and adults whose lives are touched by violence, abuse or addiction and brightening the lives of the elderly. MN Adult and Teen Challenge \$700, Mid MN Women’s Center \$600, & Hills Crossing \$200 (In Addition, Crow Wing County Jail inmates children - \$300 in gift cards will be provided by LCC Women of the ELCA)	\$1,500
Operation Sandwich - Christmas break food packs	\$ 500
Breath of Life Adult Day Care - Medical gloves	\$ 200
Pill Bottles to the Rescue - Shipping recycled pill bottles to provide for medical pill storage in many developing countries including Puerto Rico, Guatemala, & Haiti where pills people receive are wrapped in paper scraps.	\$ 100
Riverside Assisted Living - Assorted greeting cards to provide residents the opportunity to communicate with their friends and loved ones during this pandemic.	\$ 100
Lakes Area Pregnancy Support Center - to provide funds for purchase of baby and children’s clothing to restock their free children’s store.	\$ 100
NE MN Companion Synod (South Andhra Synod- India) - Scholarships for Seminary Students	\$1,000
NE MN Companion Synod (Honduras Synod) - Pre-K School in LaCanada, Honduras	\$ 500
York Landing, Manitoba, Canada - First Nation Peoples - General support as they are experiencing a severe Covid-19 outbreak	\$ 300
ELCA Covid-19 Response - Gifts to the ELCA’s Covid-19 Response Fund will provide funds to the ministries of the ELCA most in need and best positioned to help during this pandemic including U.S. congregations helping with COVID 19 aid, ELCA Churchwide ministries such as Lutheran Disaster Response, World Hunger.	\$ 700
Lutheran World Relief-COVID 19 Response - funds to provide masks to our neighbors in the world’s most vulnerable locations. \$25 sends 25 masks	<u>\$ 200</u>
Total	\$7,200

WE GIVE THANKS FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS!

In November we give thanks and celebrate Thanksgiving. Since we were unable to recognize and thank our volunteers in June, we are saying 'THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS' in November.


*Even though the church has been open on a limited basis during this year, many of you have stepped up and helped out in many ways during this time. But prior to that (January, February and March), you volunteers were out in full force! The church was bustling with your energy: making and serving meals for Lenten suppers, serving Sunday coffee & donuts, ushering, **Scripture reading, acolyting, serving communion, working the sound system, worship** coordinating, preparing communion for Sunday worship services, serving at the Soup Kitchen in Brainerd, being a mentor or guide for our confirmands, organizing the library, taking down Christmas decorations, planning and working on our new parking lot and sign, painting downstairs classrooms, hauling furniture downstairs, planning, decorating and serving at Pastor Kari's farewell party, singing and playing for worship services, organizing our rummage sale garages, assisting in youth activities, teaching Sunday School, planning and working on World Day of Prayer, knitting and crocheting prayer shawls and baby blankets, changing banners and paraments, planning and implementing Operation Sandwich and the list could go on and on.*



WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

Since we are not able to have a Sunday coffee hour and special treats for our volunteers, we will take the opportunity during the month of November to say THANK YOU with a little popcorn take home treat. There will be baskets by the doors on Sunday, November 22nd and Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 25th. If you are unable to make it to church, ask a friend or neighbor to pick one up for you. Just a small token to say a HUGE THANK YOU!

*Thanksgiving Blessings,
Sally Hodgson
Lay Ministries Coordinator*

Sun	Mon	Tue	
<h1>facility calendar for:</h1>			
<p>1 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</p> <p>9:00 Worship & Online Worship 9:00 Kid's Worship 7:00 HSYG—ZOOM</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 1:00 MN Driver's Training 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Book Study: White Fragility</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:30 Text St 9:00 Lakes 10:00 Faceb 1:00 Nissw 6:20 Wors 7:00 Route 7:00 Confir 7:00 Adult E</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 Worship & Online Worship 9:00 Kid's Worship 10:00 Drive Thru Communion 7:00 HSYG—ZOOM</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 11:00 Soul Sisters 7:00 MOPS</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Book Study: White Fragility</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30 Text 10:00 Face 10:00 Gath 6:20 Wors 7:00 Rout 7:00 Conf 7:00 Adul 7:30 Not</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00 Worship & Online Worship 9:00 Kid's Worship 7:00 HSYG—ZOOM</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30 Text 10:00 Face 4:00 Creat 6:20 Wors 7:00 Rout 7:00 Conf 7:00 Adul</p>
<p>22 FIRST COMMUNION</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion & Online Worship 9:00 Kid's Worship 10:00 Annual Meeting Part 1 7:00 HSYG—ZOOM</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 MOPS</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:30 Text 10:00 Face 7:00 Thar</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reserv</p>
<p>29 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT</p> <p>9:00 Worship & Online Worship 9:00 Kid's Worship 7:00 HSYG—ZOOM</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>		

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Study Area Food Shelf Board Book Devotions Garden Club Board Ship 56 Confirmation & HSYG Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30 Thursday Morning Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 A.A.</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>Study Facebook Devotions Bible Study Ship ite 56 Confirmation & HSYG Bible Study Dish Skit Practice</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:30 Thursday Morning Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 Notdish & A Show</p>
<p>Study Book Devotions ion Care Team Ship e 56 Confirmation & HSYG Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:30 Thursday Morning Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>21</p> <p>1:00 Middle School Youth Gathering</p>
<p>Study Book Devotions Thanksgiving Eve Worship— ations Required</p>	<p>26 OFFICE CLOSED</p> 	<p>27 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>28</p>
		<p>2020</p>	



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1. Charles Geiger, Carly Maine, Ethan Troisdahl
2. Barbara Thell
3. Dave Hoelmer, Eunice Wiebolt, Michael Baker, Keaton Brill, Allyson Smith, Alexander Hernandez
- 4.
5. Eugen Schroeder, Dennis Skjod
6. James Kuusisto, Roger Johnson, Michael Scott, Colin Stotko
7. Joseph Milli, Nash Tietz, Mitchell Rude
8. Pamela Johnson, Jonah Schwanke
- 9.
10. Jody Rasinski, Betty Huseby, Eva Oium, Ronin Martinson, Ellie Malecha
11. Joe Winegar
12. Dennis Lueck, Lowell Carlson, Heather Grell, Jane Johnson, Mac Chandler
13. Sharol Rude, Amy Peeters
14. Matthew Hintz, Carter Loge
15. Greg Larson, Roger Salfer, Claudette Tollefsrud, Peggy Beck, Rachel Sullivan
16. Rick Skogen, Violet Anderson
17. Loni Hiles
18. Morgan Hintz
19. Daniel Fiebelkorn, Brad Henry, Gavin Johnson
20. James Wing , Bob Burns, Michelle Nelson
21. Greg Nygren, Mark Owens, Tami Evanson, Alexander Jones, Jerrett Tietz
22. David Pederson, John Wallin, Brian Wermager, Garrett Westin
23. Deborah Fiebelkorn
24. Connie Nelson
25. Aron Anderson, Taunya Loge, Lee Oseland, Taeana Evanson
- 26.
27. Diane Anderson, Marcie Hofmann, Jan Peterson
28. Holly Olson, Jack Holland, Cooper Jacobs, Russ Doering
29. Bill Baker
30. Carter Fritz, Sara Alcock, Ruby Dirkes



Thursday Morning Prayer



Centering Prayer is a method of contemplative prayer in which we rest silently in the presence of God. It is a very simple method that is easy to learn. Join us Thursday mornings at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary as we turn to God's presence.

All are welcome to come together and pray.

"Whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." Mathew 6:6

If you have questions contact Candi Barnack: 963-6059, or Carol Smith: 829-8142.



Wednesday Night Programming Update— Family Faith Formation Nights for 2020-2021 are set. We will gather with all of our 5th - 12th graders and their families on November 4th, December 2nd, January 6th, and February 3rd at 6:20pm in the Celebration Center. These nights offer faith building for the whole family as well as how to live out our faith in today's world. Our topics this year are: *Striving for Justice & Peace, Mental Health, Camp!, and Meet Our New Bishop, Amy*

Odgren. Families—mark your calendars so you don't miss this continued adventure in our Children, Youth and Family Ministry Program at LCC!

November 4—Striving for Justice & Peace: our Baptismal Covenant - Join us for a great evening of learning and growth as we start to learn more about Justice and Peace. Colleen Bernu, an approved Deacon candidate in our Synod, will walk with us in this conversation. She is the lead on the *Together Here Initiative*, which helps diverse communities come together. We will look into Micah 6:8 " And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." And how it corresponds to our baptism. We are excited to get back in the groove of Family Faith Formation!

Welcome New



Karen Taylor



Clint & Cheryl Lindberg



Roger & Jean Olson

Our Members



Dennis & Cynthia Skjod



**Welcome
to Our
Church
Family**



Jeff & Janet Horn

Prayer as a mother

In an ever-changing world, I think that our prayer life is constantly in flux. We all wrestle and grow with our faith. We move forward in contemplation only to fall backward again when nothing seems to make sense. Sometimes we scream and shout our prayers. Sometimes we whisper and yearn to be heard. We pray and we doubt. We doubt and we pray. Prayer changes and reflects the seasons of our lives.

As a mother, my prayers have changed.

My prayers during pregnancy and delivery sounded much like pleas for health and safety.

My prayers during the first few weeks at home with my daughter were full of exhaustion figuring out how to read her cries.

My prayers while listening to the news were full of yearning for justice and peace for a safe world for my daughter to grow up in.

The prayers each night sitting with my daughter were full of thanks.

When Charlotte was 7 weeks old we developed a nightly routine. It started with feeding, then pajamas, diaper change, story time and finally, prayer. Prayer time consists of my naming thanks for the day and lifting up people and places who could use extra support. It's been a way for me to pause and reflect on the day while giving thanks for everyone Charlotte and I encountered. It's been a way to keep our family and friends who live far away near our hearts. This time is a way for me to model to Charlotte the power of prayer.

As Charlotte has grown our time together at night has changed. Early on I'd say our prayers while she nursed, her eyes looking at me as they slowly opened and closed as she drifted to sleep. As she became more alert, she'd squirm a bit more, grab the blanket or fidget.

Now that she's a toddler, I have to work at keeping her on my lap during prayer time. I keep saying our prayers as she reaches for more books, as she points to the dresser wanting her shoes or socks, as she pushes her legs against mine standing up and smiling.

But I keep praying. I keep naming names. I keep praying for the places of this world.

Who knows what words and prayers she hears amid her squirming and grunting to get out of my arms? Who knows if she connects this time of prayer with a deepening connection to God and this world?

I then say the Lord's Prayer and mark the sign of the cross on her head. I tell her that she is a loved child of God, and that I love her.

When I notice her squirming and trying to get away and I wonder: Could this be how God prays for us? Could this be how God holds us?

I imagine God holding us and reciting the immeasurable love and mercy God feels toward us over and over again. As I wrangle my daughter to my chest, I hear God's words embracing us: You are loved; you are enough; you are more than enough; you are mine. I hear God's words of gratitude and forgiveness. I hear affirmations. I hear God's call to love and serve.

Then I look at my daughter and I feel her moving and fidgeting and see her distracted.

And I hold her.

Just as I, too, am being held. <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/11/prayer-as-a-mother/>

Mother's/Caregiver's Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

When I am uncertain about choices in life, show me Your faith and fill me with Your presence (Psalm 16).

When I am anxious, guard my heart and mind (Philippians 4:4-9).

When I am afraid, wipe my fears away (Romans 8:31-39).

When I grow tired and discouraged, fill me with the fruits of Your Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23a) and help me not to give up (6:9).

When I am confused, help me to know Your perfect love (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

When I am worried for my family, be a guide (Matthew 6:25-34).

When I fail, forgive me (1 John 2:12) and help me start over.

When I begin to wonder if You really care, take away all my doubts (Psalm 103).

Amen.

(adapted from *Not Alone*)



Mindfulness and Gratitude—here's an excerpt from a blog about the power of a grateful heart:

- It gets our eyes off ourselves, and helps us to focus back on God.
- It reminds us we're not in control, but that we serve a Mighty God who is. It keeps us in a place of humility and dependency on Him, as we recognize how much we need Him.
- It helps us to recognize we have so much to be thankful for, even all of the little things, which often we may forget to thank Him for...but they really are the biggest, most important things in this life. It takes our attention off of our problems and helps us instead to reflect on, to remember, the goodness of His many blessings.
- It reminds us that God is the Giver of all good gifts. We were never intended to be fully self-sufficient in this life. A grateful heart reminds us that ultimately God is our Provider, that all blessings and gifts are graciously given to us by His hand.
- A heart of gratitude leaves no room for complaining. For it is impossible to be truly thankful and filled with negativity and ungratefulness at the same time.
- It opens up the door for continued blessings. It invites His presence. Our spirits are refreshed and renewed in Him. God loves to give good gifts to His children. He delights in our thankfulness and pours out His Spirit and favor over those who give honor and gratitude to Him.

Debbie McDaniel



All LCC moms and caregivers : A package is coming your way....

a devotion that includes chocolate, tea and coffee. You supply the cup and hot water—put your feet up and enjoy some quiet time with God.

You've earned it!!

A Message from our ELCA Global Missionary

Russian Correspondent

What Might Have Been / What May Still Be

What date will work as an alternative date for the church-wide men's ministry seminar? Will foreign visitors be able to come to events planned for August? For September? When can we

meet again and what might that look like? As you can imagine, many of the questions we are asking are similar to ones that arise in your congregations... with the added caveat that there is probably even less predictability and probably even greater distrust of those in power here than there.

That said, many of the instruments being tested out by churches worldwide have

been found to be useful here... Actually, more than useful; it is clear from our experiences using technology (not without glitches, but certainly better than the alternative) will strengthen us for mission as we constantly try to overcome the challenges related to enormous distances. Good attendance numbers for online worship services and Bible studies together with new ideas about how to add to these ministries is a convincing argument that many congregations will come out of the process stronger than they were when the COVID19 crisis began.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for the Russian health care system and all essential workers here as we begin to move toward peak infection rates; for the Russian church as it takes important steps towards becoming self-supporting; for our family - the boys (Matvey 15, Martin 13, Lukas 6) have not been able to leave the apartment at all for 7 weeks now, and we ask for prayers for spiritual, mental and physical health; for discernment in regard to my expiring (Aug 31) mission contract; for the Spirit's guidance for all congregations that continue to explore ways to maintain spiritual life without meeting physically.

Your brother in Christ, Bradn

The basics....

I am a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serving through the Evangelical Lutheran Mission of Lower Saxony (ELM) in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia, where I am in charge of the "Equipping for Service" educational project and serve as Dean of the Far East. If you have any questions for me, please feel free to write to me at: bradnbuerkle@gmail.com. I am open for conversations over Skype, Zoom, etc.



CREATION CARE TEAM'S FRESH PRODUCE FOR FOOD SHELVE A BIG SUCCESS

During this pandemic summer, the LCC Creation Care Team was not able to conduct its usual **Sharing Market** on Sunday mornings. But thanks to many of you who contributed fresh garden produce, **we were able to deliver many pounds of garden goodies to the Lakes Area Food Shelf.** Clients were delighted, and deeply appreciative. A special thank you to Creation Care Team members who picked up the produce and delivered it: **Paula West, Carol Tack, Ron and Janyce Halligan, and Duane and Carolyn Blanck (who donated nearly 150 pounds of their own produce!).**

SEPTEMBER 2020 WARMEST ON RECORD

The Copernicus Climate Change Service, an intergovernmental agency supported by the European Union (EU), announced that **September was the warmest U.S. September on record, topping a record set just a year before in 2019.** It was also the hottest September on record in Europe, while Northern Siberia, western Australia, the Middle East and parts of South America also recorded above-average temperatures. At the same time, **Arctic sea ice plunged to its second-lowest levels on record, driven by record temperatures in late June.** According to many scientists, **Arctic sea ice could melt completely during the summer by 2050.** IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY to work for the necessary policy changes in how we produce and use energy - so **contact your representatives.**



BETTER ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING LEAVES

- Mulch up the leaves into your back yard. Your lawn will absorb the mulched up leaves and convert it into fertilizer.
- Compost your leaves to use in your gardens.

Smoke from burning leaves contains toxic or irritating particles and gases that can increase the risk of respiratory infections.

When burning leaves you could expose yourself to potential liability should your fire get out of control and cause smoke damage to neighbors homes, fines from the fire department, or even worse, start a forest fire.



October 2020 LCC Council Highlights

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS Church Council Meeting Thursday, October 8, 2020

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion: Jamie Boesen

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Council President David Grell

Present:

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

Officer Reports:

Council Minutes by Darrell Paske

- Motion to approve Drew Bakken, second Craig Fink. Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report by Colleen Both

- Motion to approve September financials and continue current Gold Plan Health Care Coverage through Portico for staff by Hilary Johnson, second Mike Smith. Motion passed.

New Business:

Nominating Committee meeting to be set.

Associate Pastor – Tabled

Council Retreat – Postponed to February 2021

Outreach Request for funding for the York Landing Community, Manitoba, Canada – Motion by David Grell to approve \$500.00, second by Hilary Johnson. Motion passed

Old Business:

Payroll Protection Program – Action Tabled

Pastor's Report

Pastor Drew:

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of

my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

For the last couple of weeks this psalm has been going over and over in my head. It was my confirmation verse, it is my go to verse when I sit and pray with someone at their bedside, but is also a psalm that will pop in my head when things are not going right. And when it does pop up I know that God is calling me to sit, listen and pay attention to what is going on around me.

As I sit here and reflect of this past month of September we opened back up to worship, we started our Wednesday night programs. Our attendance for the month of September has been down 2/3's of where we were a year ago. Our Wednesday morning bible study is down a quarter from where we were, and yet our first book study on "White Fragility" we had 17 people in attendance with another three set to join.

When most people look at the statistics of attendance it causes us to be concerned. And yet we need to remember that this is not normal times. We are in the midst of the deepest darkness of Covid-19. I have been in conversations with the other Lutheran churches our size and they are seeing the same statistics. Our people are not ready. They are walking in the deepest darkness and do not feel safe to gather yet. So what do we do?

We lean on the rod and staff of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who reminds us that we are not alone. We keep pressing on. We as a church have never been more visible with a daily devotion on Facebook, worship on Facebook Live, Wednesday worship online, leading book studies through in person and zoom followers. Kari has developed monthly packets that are mailed out to families with bible stories and activities. Zach has started a new online gaming ministry with our youth, and Sunday zoom bible study. Zach has also been instrumental in our sound and recording of our worship on Sundays and Wednesdays. Operation Sandwich was birthed during this pandemic and over MEA break we have been asked to serve 400 meals to those in need in Pine River. And financials have remained solid during this pandemic. Our members have and continue to give generously and have seen the work of the staff.

We can sit here and wallow in the deepest darkness wishing we were still lying in the fields of green grass or we can go where our lord is leading us in new and challenging ways. I for one have put my faith in God and God has not let me down and will not let me down. It doesn't mean there have not been bumps in the road but God has led me through them. And God will get us through this. We need to have faith, and to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Committee Reports:

Property: Dale Peterson

- Utility Peds near east entrance – Charter and Century Link.
- Final amounts for the parking lot project have been submitted.
- Lighting in the LCC northwest parking area was adjusted.
- The new LCC monument sign is in production and installation is planned for this month. Only one monument sign is allowed by city ordinance so the old sign will not be used at the north entrance road from Crossroads.
- Outside yard work is basically done until spring. Black dirt and seed was spread on the lawn areas around the new parking lot and the bushes near the entrance were trimmed.

- Landscaping of LCC grounds is a planned 2021 project. The sprinkler system will be part of the landscape plan.
- Also planned for 2021 is painting of the exterior of the church.

Stewardship: Craig Fink

1. October is Stewardship Month
 - A. This year's theme is "Gratitude".
 - B. An annual letter and pledge form is being mailed to our congregation.
 - C. Due to COVID, we will not be able to have our annual Stewardship Breakfast.
 - D. A video to share and celebrate our year of accomplishments & successes will be played during a service.
2. As our finances are stable, there is not a need at this time for a year-end fundraising campaign.
3. The Stewardship Committee will follow the direction of Council for a formal fundraising campaign to address future capital requirements when the time is right.
4. Regarding time & talents, our congregation continues to be generous in volunteering. Special thanks to Sally for her on-going efforts!

Worship and Music: Mike Smith

No Report

Social Concerns and Global Missions: Jason Martinson

No Report

Children and Family Ministry: Pam Johnson

- Back to School Blessing packs were mailed to all K-6 kids/families and I have received a lot of positive feedback from it.
- I sent out a Sunday School workbook to each Sunday School student ("Digging Into Faith") and have another one in the works to send out in January that is based on LOVE - love God with all your heart, mind, and soul and love your neighbor as yourself. <https://paththroughthenarrowgate.com/gods-love-notebook/>
- Kids of the Cross Worship is rolling each Sunday at 9am in the Sanctuary and is going well - of course, it would be great to have better attendance, but we will worship with whoever shows up each week.
- Zach has contacted Luther Crest on my behalf to have them work on production of camp songs/motions for us to use in Sunday School, worship and any other programming. For now, I am using You Tube videos according to Fair Use policies.
- Weds. programming for Route 56 is also rolling - and I will keep our Zoom meetings going as well as meeting in person for the time being.
- I have signed LCC up for Pequot Elementary's Religious Release program - the school will send home materials once a month with kids who sign up - so I put our name in to be included and will let our families know to sign up - excited about this!!

- I have developed a "Cuppa Coffee or Tea, Chocolate and God" devotion pamphlet for our LCC moms which will go out soon with a tea bag and square of chocolate and the devotions. So far I have two written and will keep working on these as the year progresses - perhaps send out quarterly - just a way to reach out and support faith formation for them during these stressful times.
- I'm getting our Pumpkin Faith Family devotion packets ready for mailing to our families for next week since we won't have our Trunk or Treat this year.
- I am working on a Thanksgiving packet/devotion for families that will go out for November which focuses on 26 Days of Gratitude.
- For Advent, I plan to get GIFT devotions ready, as well. This will be a four week devotion along with family activities. Week One: Hope, Week Two: Love, Week Three: Joy, Week Four: Peace, Christmas Day: Jesus. <https://kidsministry.lifeway.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2018/11/Family-Advent-Guide.pdf>
- I found a really neat interactive Christmas program to use this year that will embrace social distancing and still include the Christmas story with the characters - and it will involve kids as well as congregants. It has six reading parts and a song to go with each part and can be part of our worship service - it is fairly short, too.
- I assisted Bonnie Stevens in applying for a Thrivent Grant to help with purchase of one-time use battery operated tea lights and glow sticks for kids, as well as nativity stickers for kids for our Christmas Eve worship.
- I will be assisting Carol Alverson in applying for Thrivent Grants for Family Faith Formation.
- Our first Family Faith Formation night will be on November 4 and we will host Colleen Bernu, ELCA Mission Developer. She is currently working with our NEMN Synod and is a deacon candidate. The topic is "Implicit Bias and Race".
- Upcoming goal would be to coordinate my Route 56 group in an effort to reach out to our members who are homebound, in nursing care facilities, or are in quarantine. Any ideas are welcome on how we can achieve this.
- I am working on "Enrich Your Prayer Life with Yoga" devotion/activity.

Youth and Family Ministry: Jen Henry

No Report

Congregational Life: Hilary Johnson

No Report

Personnel: Jamie Boesen

No Report

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by

Darrell Paske, Council Secretary

Next Council Meeting:

November 12, 2020

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



ANNUAL MEETING PART I

November 22: the meeting is called for the purpose of electing people to Lutheran Church of the Cross Council, Heartland Conference, Synod Assembly, LCC Foundation, Nominating Committee and Memorial Garden committee. The annual meeting will be held in the Celebration Center at 10:00 following worship.

Thanksgiving Prayer

This Thanksgiving, let those of us who have much and those who have little gather at the welcoming table of the Lord.

At this blessed feast, may rich and poor alike remember that we are called to serve one another and to walk together in God's gracious world.

With thankful hearts, we praise our God for the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and his truth endures Amen



HAPPY
Thanksgiving!

From the staff at Lutheran Church of the Cross: Pr Drew, Cathy, Sally, Kari, Zach, Karen, Clint, & Laurie

Reminder that the church offices will be closed Nov. 26th and 27th.—Blessings

HOW YOU CAN HELP

THRIVENT provides its members with a unique opportunity to help support LCC through Thrivent Action Teams. All Thrivent members are eligible to apply for two ACTION TEAM GRANTS and receive \$250 in funds (per grant) to help with a fundraiser, service activity or educational event.

See one of our staff members if you belong to Thrivent and would like to apply!

thrivent[®]

In person and live worship broadcasts will continue on Sundays in November at 9:00am via the LCC website and our LCC Facebook page. Prayer requests may be texted via Facebook Live during the service—if you haven't tried this yet, we encourage you to do so.

Our Wednesday evening worship will be streamed on our website, as well. All worship videos on the website are archived and can be viewed both live or at your convenience.

<http://www.lccnisswa.org/live-video-streaming-worship.html>



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.

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

2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

President	David Grell	Social Justice/Global	Jason Martinson
Vice President	Jaime Boesen	Worship & Music	Mike Smith
Treasurer	Colleen Both	Youth	Jen Henry
Secretary	Darrell Paske	Stewardship	Craig Fink
Cong. Life	Hilary Johnson	LCC Foundation	Dan Halland
Education	Pam Johnson		
Properties	Dale Peterson		

