

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church
of the Cross
2023

September



Dear Church,

Jehoshaphat lived a fascinating life. We read in 2 Chronicles 17:3 that the Lord was with him. Jehoshaphat sought to know the Lord and walk in His commandments. His heart was lifted up in the ways of the Lord. After learning about Jehoshaphat's spiritual strengths, it may be surprising to some to find out that Jehoshaphat made some serious errors in judgment throughout his reign. He formed an alliance with King Ahab of Israel – one of the most wicked kings in history, which almost cost him his life. Later, Jehoshaphat tried to form an alliance with Israel through the building of a navy with the wicked King Ahaziah. Ultimately, he confessed and prepared his heart to seek after God. It is encouraging to know that although we falter at times, we too can do that which is right in the sight of the Lord by turning back and seeking after the Lord. As A.W. Tozer said, **"To seek God does not narrow one's life, rather it brings it to the level of highest possible fulfillment."**

The theme for our new church year of programming is **"Prepare Your Heart"**. One of the best ways to prepare your heart to seek after the Lord is to come to worship. Although we are fortunate to have the capability to watch online, it's not the same as sitting elbow to elbow with our brothers and sisters-in-Christ. One of our visitors said, "I watch the service online and it is very good, but when I come in person I am blown away by the power of the Holy Spirit that is blowing here on a Sunday morning." **Beginning on September 10** we will offer two identical worship services on **Sundays at 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM**. Coffee hour is at 10:00, so enjoy coffee and donuts after the first service as usual or treat yourself to a cup of coffee and a donut before the second service. Please spread the word that we are now offering a later service. Your presence in the sanctuary at either service is a powerful gift - for yourself, others that sit around you, and to our church. See you in the pew!

*Sept 3 - 9:00 AM, Labor Day weekend; Blessing of the Backpacks,
1:00 PM - Blanket Exercise

*Sept 10 - 9:00/10:30 AM; Rally Sunday, Sharing Market, Sr. Choir, King's Kids

*Sept 17 - 9:00 AM; 10:30 AM- Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation Service); Sr. Choir

*Sept 21-23 - Rummage Sale

*Sept 24 - 9:00/10:30 AM; 3rd gr Bible Presentations, Bells of Praise

*Sept 27 - Wednesday night Programming BEGINS (check newsletter for programs and times)

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship! See you in church!

Pastor Michelle

Lutheran Church of the Cross

Starting Sept. 10

**JOIN US
FOR SUNDAY
WORSHIP**

**9am
Service**

**10:00am
Coffee Fellowship**

**10:30am
Service**

- Holy Communion, Cross Kids, & staffed nursery at both services
- Pastors Drew Bakken & Michelle Ruen

All are welcome!

**Worship on
Wednesday**

**Resumes
on Sept. 27**

- Bells of Praise @ 5:30pm
- Supper starts @ 5:45pm
- King's Kids @ 6pm
- Worship @ 6:20pm
- Route 56 @ 7pm
- Confirmation @ 7pm
- A Time For Us @ 7pm
- Senior Choir @ 7pm

Congregational Meeting



Special Congregational meeting will be held Sunday, September 10th at 10:00 am following the 9:00 am worship service in Celebration Center. Item to be discussed: replacement of the A/C and furnace units for the sanctuary.

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2023 General Fund

| | <u>July</u> | <u>YTD</u> | <u>Budget</u> | Annual % YTD of Annual <u>Budget</u> |
|------------|-------------|------------|---------------|---|
| Income | \$ 74,357 | \$ 418,665 | \$ 699,490 | 59.85% |
| Expenses | \$ 66,762 | \$ 418,865 | \$ 699,490 | 59.88% |
| Difference | \$ 7,595 | (\$ 200) | \$ 0 | |

**In the month of July our income was greater than our expenses by \$7,595.
Thank you for your continued support.**



BAPTISM

Name: Greta Mae Michaelson
 Born: July 18, 2023
 Baptized: August 5, 2023
 Parents: Kenneth & Mattie Michaelson
 Pastor Michelle Ruen, Officiant

BAPTISM

Name: Thatcher Jon Dale
 Born: March 5, 2023
 Baptized: August 5, 2023
 Parents: Jonas & Emily Dale
 Pastor Michelle Ruen, Officiant

WEDDING

Matthew Wasson & Elizabeth Hill
 Date: August 11, 2023
 Pastor Michelle Ruen, Officiant

We want to express our sincere appreciation for the many cards, prayers and hugs we have received this past month during this difficult time in our lives. Our beloved grandson, Jake, will always be with us. We are truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church family.

John & Carolee Wallin

Thank You

Salt and Light by Kari Erickson

As we begin our 2023 programming year, allow me to reflect on Sunday School post-COVID and in today's world.

It's true, Sunday School does not look like it did in decades past. Not much in our world today does. However, the importance of Sunday School remains – it continues to create places for faith formation to happen. Personally, I am very thankful for the Sunday School teachers I had as a child and all of the adults in my church family that took the time to guide me, pouring faith into me and modeling what living like Jesus means. They unselfishly allowed God to use them in helping form my faith. I ask God each day to use me in the same way – to go and make disciples. Perhaps many of you do, as well – asking God for the ability to think and act as Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. As a youngster, my Sunday School experience included meeting each Sunday morning in a classroom setting. However, there weren't other activities and events competing for my family's time like there are for today's families. In the past, extended families lived closer together and didn't travel as much, either. Sundays were for church, then Sunday Dinner at Grandma's house. Yes, times have certainly changed:-)

Even early Christians realized the importance of connecting and building relationships. They not only gathered in temples to worship and learn in large groups, but also in their homes in small groups, much like we do today. Just as we do, they enjoyed prayer, fellowship, ministry, service and growth together in church worship services, and also in the intimacy of their homes, with their families and other loved ones.

Over the past few years, COVID has taught us the importance of connection and community, and at LCC we have demonstrated this by our willingness and need to return to worship as a community. So much so, that we find ourselves adding back our second service this fall! COVID also taught us to become more comfortable and accustomed to worship at home. We learned to adapt and create materials and opportunities for at-home worship and faith formation, and more importantly, WE EMBRACED IT – we made time for it and we prioritized it. *Perhaps 2023 is a great time to bring both of these ways of worshiping to the forefront and create something even better – something that meets us where we are and allows for our faith to grow comfortably, organically, and relationally.*

We will kick off our programming year with Rally Day on September 10 and will continue to have Cross Kids Worship during our 9am and 10:30am Sunday services, and will send home Take Home Faith bags with activities and a devotion to reinforce the day's lesson and encourage family faith formation. We will be re-introducing our *Growing in Faith* bags that contain items and a suggested 'service' for at-home worship as well. These bags (that were introduced a few years ago when we recognized the need for expanding and supplementing home worship) are for people and families of all ages, so look for this coming on Rally Day. With both Cross Kids on Sunday and worship/faith at home, we are keeping the tenants of Sunday School alive and relevant for life in 2023, as we include Bible study and the Gospel, living God's way, serving others, sharing our faith with others, building our relationship with God and others, and living as Jesus wants us to.



Our Wednesday evening programming will include our 5th and 6th grade group, Route 56, as well as Confirmation classes for grades 7 – 9. We will worship and enjoy a meal communally, then break into our smaller groups for learning and experiences, and end the evening by taking our faith home with us. Worship on Wednesday and programming begins on September 27.

Please join us on this journey of faith as we adapt to the needs of today's families and today's church to provide the best Christian Education we can. If you can support by doing/serving, just let me or one of the Pastors know. If you can support with prayer, please do!

Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 MSG



I'm off to the Blessing of the Backpacks on September 3 during 9am worship.

JOIN ME!



You got this!


From your friends at Lutheran Church of the Cross

Let your light shine!

Matthew 5:16



From your friends at Lutheran Church of the Cross



WHAT DO TOOTSIE POPS HAVE TO DO WITH PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR JESUS?

Find out on RALLY DAY

September 10

Cross Kids at both services, 9am and 10:30am:-)

Dare to prepare with us!

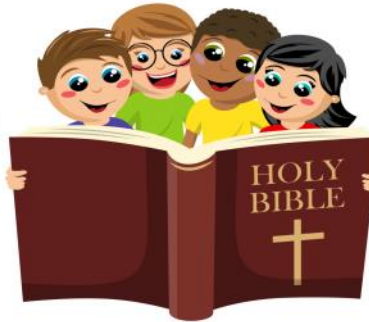


Part of our Rally Day festivities includes a re-introduction to our “Growing in Faith Together” (GIFT) bags since we all know that much of faith formation comes from practicing at home. The bags contain necessary materials and instructions for at-home worship/family time.

Throughout the year we will be supplementing these bags with ideas and activities/ideas. These bags are for families of all sizes and shapes, so EVERYONE is welcome to take one!

Welcome letters and postcards have gone out to our families for the launch of our Fall 2023 programming year! Our schedule is set and we are ready to go—all we need is your presence to make it a successful year. Mark your calendars to join us for Worship on Wednesdays. Information will be coming soon for meal prep and serving opportunities. If you are interested in being a part of this Meal Ministry, please contact Todd at volunteer@nisswa.org.

Third grade bible presentation on September 24 at 9am worship.



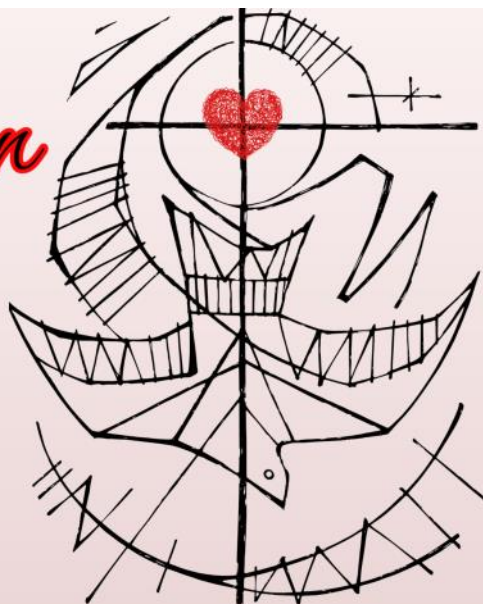
All third graders and parents are welcome and encouraged to attend!



We are looking for volunteers to help coordinate our Super Roll Sundays. See Sarah Tietz or Kari if you are willing to help out with this vital Youth Ministry.

Affirmation of Baptism

Lutheran Church
of the Cross



| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Brayden Anderson</i> | <i>Lukas Lind</i> |
| <i>Callista Anderson</i> | <i>Kaiden Raske</i> |
| <i>Evan Bolt</i> | <i>Sutton Sullivan</i> |
| <i>Carter Erickson</i> | <i>Josie Taylor</i> |
| <i>Avery Gorr</i> | <i>Marcella Timmons</i> |
| <i>Aiden Hernandez</i> | <i>Gabe Wilson</i> |
| <i>James Johnson</i> | |

September 16 & 17, 2023

- Dessert & Faith Statement Sharing, Sept. 16, 6:30pm in Celebration Center
- Affirmation of Baptism, Sept. 17, 10:30am worship service in the Sanctuary

BUT FIRST
jesus

Huge shout out to our mentors and 10th grade Confirmation students for participating in our Workshop on August 16. The relationship building taking place was awesome, with our great adults and kids working together on Faith Statements and making their Affirmation of Baptism stoles. It was great to gather together for one last time before the kids get confirmed on September 17 during 10:30am worship.



**And when you were baptized, it was as though you had put on Christ in the same way you put on new clothes.
Galatians 3:27**



Acolyte Schedule Sept - Oct 2023

| DATE | 9am SERVICE | 10:30am SERVICE |
|----------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sept. 10 | Lola Chase & Addy Gorr | Kolby Clarine & Peyton Clarine |
| Sept. 17 | Kolten Hiles & Jacob Hernandez | Graham Johnson & Noah Johnson |
| Sept. 24 | Anthony Nelson & Alex Pape | Maggie Prahm & Walter Prahm |
| Oct. 1 | Luke Merseeth & Eli Martini | Hazel Schwanke & Jonah Schwanke |
| Oct. 8 | Whitney Bolt & Clara Bolt | Isaac Trees & Kellan Timmons |
| Oct. 15 | Ayla Teasck & Kaden Teasck | Dagne Neale & Aliana Lind |
| Oct. 22 | Emily Smith & Nora Nelson | Presleigh Larson & Violet Anderson |
| Oct. 29 | Lila Nordby & Myra Nordby | Gavin Johnson & Tucker Williams |



The
Blanket
Exercise
is coming
to LCC!

Sept. 3
1pm

You are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to literally walk through U.S. history with facilitators Emily Kematch and Nancy Williams! The Blanket Exercise is an interactive learning experience that raises awareness of the nation-to-nation relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the United States. Based on real-life experiences, this exercise was designed to increase knowledge about the laws, policies and programs used during nation building. Sign up in the church office for the 1pm session, which will be limited to 30 persons. If the 1pm session fills, a second session will be offered at 3:30pm. Refreshments will be served following the 1pm session.

Please make time for this very important educational experience. School-age children are welcome and encouraged to attend with their parents.



September 2023 Hymn of the Month

Earth and All Stars and God's Work, Our Hands (EARTH AND ALL STARS)

Text: Herbert F. Brokering and Wayne L. Wold; Music: David N. Johnson

September is always a welcome back month after a summer of many activities. School starts for many and for many of us we get back on a "normal" schedule. It is also a time for some of us to finish harvesting our gardens, rake leaves and enjoy the beautiful cooler weather of fall.

The tune for this month's hymn is very familiar to us. It was composed by David N. Johnson (1922-1987), a former music department chairman of St. Olaf College. He published some 300 compositions, mostly for church use. I have used many of his organ hymn alterations. His best known vocal/choral work is "The Lone, Wild Bird" using a melody from *The Sacred Harp*.

Earth and All Stars

1. Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorms! Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

God has done marvelous things. I too sing praises with a new song!

2. Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos! Sing to the Lord a new song!
3. Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers! Sing to the Lord a new song!
4. Classrooms and labs! Loud boing test tubes! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band! Loud cheering people! Sing to the Lord a new song!
5. Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son! Loud praying members! Sing to the Lord a new song!

Herbert Brokering, David N. Johnson©1968 Augsburg Fortress; OneLicense#A-704268

Rev. Herbert F. Brokering, writer of the text of Earth and All Stars, was a pastor, author, lyricist, speaker and hymn writer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and lived in Bloomington, MN. He grew up in rural Nebraska where his father was a pastor. He graduated from Wartburg College in Waverly, IA, then went on to earn a Master's in child psychology. He then went on to receive his divinity degree from Evangelical Lutheran (now Trinity Lutheran) Theological Seminary in Columbus, OH. His wife, Lois, was also a writer of children's books and music.

God's Work, Our Hands

1. God's work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world,
Raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and sheltering the cold,
Bless, God, our hands as we work in our name, sharing the good news of your gospel.
2. God's work, our feet: traveling together, following Jesus to places unknown,
Walking as friends, marching for freedom, running the race with God's future the goal.
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way, Sharing the good news of your gospel.
3. God's work, our voice: singing together, praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
Praying for peace, shouting for justice, claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.

4. God is at work in and around us: seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored, gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call, sharing the good news of your gospel.

Wayne L. Wold, writer of God's Work, Our Hands, was born in Fosston, MN and earned his Bachelor of Music degree from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. He then went on to a Master of Sacred music from Wittenberg University in Springfield, OH and Doctor of Musical Arts from Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, VA. He is a retired professor, college organist and chair of the Music Department at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. He currently is Director of Music Ministry at First Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, MA. He continues to compose music, is an author, performer, church musician and clinician. Wold is also composer of the Advent hymn "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah."

Both of these hymns celebrate our work together, our teachers, administrators, students, school staff, and servants of God who continue to volunteer for the many programs in our church that reach out to those suffering hardships of any kind. As Pastor Drew continuously says, we are truly a serving community. Let's sing about it and give all the glory to God, the Almighty.

Have a blessed fall.

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music

Music Opportunities

We will be in full swing for our fall activities and services. We are always encouraging people to volunteer to join us in our multitude of music opportunities.

Senior Choir: Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00-8:00 in the choir room. High School age on up are invited. The choir sings for Sunday services twice a month plus Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve.

Bells of Praise: Cheryl Karlgaard, Director; rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 5:30-6:30 in the sanctuary balcony area. All ages are invited. The bell choir plays on Sundays mornings the 4th Sunday of each month.

King's Kids: Carol Smith, Director; rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 6:00-6:30 in the choir room. Grade 1-4 are invited to join.

Wednesday night worship: Wednesday night worship is in the Celebration Center with a more contemporary service. The service is 6:20-7:00. We would love to invite guitar and bass players, other instruments and of course singers.

Please contact Cathy Taylor – 763-607-4282 if you would like more information on any of these groups, I'd love to chat!

Soli Deo Gloria – To God be All Glory

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music Ministries

KING'S KIDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR

We invite all students grades 1 through 4 to participate in King's Kids Children's Choir. The choir is led by Carol Smith, former educator in the Brainerd Public Schools. The mission of the choir is to provide our young students with an opportunity to serve, to praise God, to learn how to use their voices properly, and to have fun while doing it. They sing in church on the second Sunday of each month. King's Kids will meet in the Choir Room at LCC beginning on **Wednesday, September 6th from 6:00 to 6:30 PM**. If students are involved in sports activities at the beginning of the school year we will warmly welcome them in October when the outdoor sports end. Also, if there are any outgrown T-shirts at your home we could use them. Bring them to the Choir Room anytime. Thanks. If you have questions, call Carol at 218--829-8142. We look forward to a great year!



WOMEN in the WORD Bible Study

DATE CHANGE: *Women in the Word Bible Study* with Pastor Michelle has been moved to Tuesday, SEPT. 12 at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Join in as we dig into God's Word and hear what God has for each of us. Come enjoy coffee and refreshments, and make new friends. See you on Tuesday, Sept. 12!

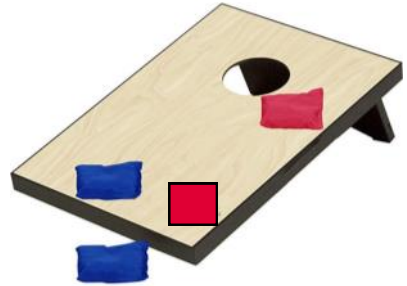


Men's Breakfast

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

Grub and Games - September 15

Yay! Grub and Games is starting back up for the school year on Friday, September 15 at 5:30 - 7:00 PM. We will be serving pizza and fixings. Come for a fun night of Corn Hole, Play Nine, cards, or your game of choice! Open to all ages. Lots of good food and laughs!



NEW MEMBER SUNDAY - OCTOBER 8

We will be welcoming in new members to Lutheran Church of the Cross on Sunday, October 8! We will be having a "Getting to Know You" sloppy joe supper and Informational Meeting for new members on Thursday, October 5th, from 5:30-7:00 PM. Please put these dates on your calendar. Let the office know if you are interested in joining our LCC church family and/or would like more information. We would love to visit with you and get to know you!



Women of the Cross/Women of the ELCA Quarterly Meeting September 26, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

Please plan on attending our quarterly business meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. where we will be discussing our upcoming events and distribution of charitable donations. All women are invited to attend.

Gather Bible Study--September 27, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m. in Chapel Hall

Please join us on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. for “*Holy places*,” a three-session Bible study by the Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni. Dr. Aelabouni writes, “Physical places often shape our identities, relationships, and faith. “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it,” Paul writes. Part of what this means is that faith doesn’t just reside in our thoughts or emotions. Faith resides in our whole bodies, and how our bodies “live and move and have our being” in the sacred places where God encounters us. In this Fall 2023 Gather Bible study, written by an ELCA missionary living in Jerusalem, we’ll explore what holy places mean, not only for the Holy Land of the Bible, but for each of us, wherever we may be. In session one, “*Holy Places: Home*” we will discuss how home can be the place we lay our head, where we live with family, our community or homeland, but it is also found wherever we truly and fully belong. This month, we consider the complexity and the promise of “home” through the stories of Israel’s exile, the ministry of Jesus, and the promises of Revelation. Pastor Michelle Ruen will be leading this timely Bible Study, and Jodi Milli will be providing treats. All are welcome, and no advance preparation is necessary.

Please pray for all facilitators and attendees at:



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2023 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG

LUTHER CREST EVENTS

2023 Online Auction

Go take a look at Luther Crest’s website for information regarding their 2023 Online auction. You may view the items on Tuesday, September 19th. There is a \$5.00 fee for in-person viewing at the camp, but this includes the viewing, snacks, music, and an entry to win a quilt. Online bidding opens at noon on September 20th, and ends at noon, on September 22nd. Items purchased may be picked upon on Saturday, September 23rd from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please help support this very important resource for our community.

Women’s Day—September 30th

Luther Crest Fall Colors Women's Day! Saturday, September 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A no-cost way to experience a great day of the Creator's autumn glory, devotion and fellowship with other women and amazing lunch and snacks. Email Jody at jodyj@luthercrest.org to sign up, names and church if bringing a group. Signup deadline September 20.



Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen News

If you would like to help at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, PLEASE sign up on the calendar next to the restrooms. Or call me so we can talk about it. Ann Bergin, Soup Kitchen Coordinator at 218-820-5511.



Our Friends and Neighbors continue to use our **Lakes Area Food Shelf** heavily. Total visits in 2022=10,978. Total visits from January 1 – July 31, 2023=8,691. At this pace, usage will be the highest ever. Even food providers like 2nd Harvest are having difficulty keeping the shelves stocked with food. The LAFS Board announced an urgent need for breakfast cereal, pancake syrup, peanut butter, Jelly, and low sodium products. Garden produce is appreciated. Donated school supplies fly from the shelves. A collection basket for the LAFS can be found on the shelves in the hallway by Chapel Hall. Please bring garden produce directly to the Lakes Area Food Shelf in Pequot Lakes Tuesday & Thursday mornings and Wednesdays from 3-6pm.
THANK YOU!



QUICK-UPDATE FROM BRIDGES OF HOPE

OPERATION SANDWICH:

This program concludes at LCC on Thursday, August 31 with its summer feeding program. Its efforts continue throughout the school year, especially over school vacations and holidays. In 2022 the Northern Route, including Nisswa, Pequot Lakes, Jenkins, and Pine River, averaged 242 individuals served each week. The first distribution on June 8, 2023, served 434 individuals and numbers served has been around that or higher each week – some weeks as high as 500 individuals! The Northern Route saw 393 individuals on August 18, as numbers usually dip at the end of summer. Pine River continues to be the largest distribution area. Fingers are crossed that our friends at First Lutheran in Pine River, led by Pastor Hans Anderson, will become a host site next summer and lessen the burden on our volunteers for packing and transporting. Thanks to Ann Pickar for coordinating the Northern Route efforts and bringing so many volunteers and families into the program.

THE BRIDGE ON 7TH OVERNIGHT SHELTER:

The Bridge is a low-barrier warming shelter providing a safe place to sleep for individuals 18+ who are experiencing homelessness in the Brainerd Lakes Area.

2021-2022; 76 guests, 942 nights of sleep

2022-2023 177 guests, 3500 nights of sleep

The shelter continues to be successful, safe, and going wonderful. The Bridge will open this season on September 20, 2023, for its 3rd season.

Jean Kraft

On behalf of Bridges of Hope

September Serving Opportunities...

With the addition of the 10:30 full worship service starting Sunday, September 10th, there are many serving opportunities for the two worship services (9 & 10:30am). Signup sheets for the month of September will be available in the Narthex, or contact me via text or call @ 612-810-2201.

Wednesday Eve Worship & Midweek Meal Ministry starts September 27th and requires many hands to successfully prepare and provide a bounty for the body and soul. Volunteers are needed for ushering & assisting communion during worship service. Family units encouraged to volunteer for a given date. We are also seeking volunteers to join the meal teams for food prep, serving, and cleanup. Signup sheets will be available in the Celebration Center, or contact me via text or call @ 612-810-2201.

Many thanks to all those that stepped up to assist with properties responsibilities while I was away traveling Europe. For those interested, I'll be presenting my adventures at the September 14th PrimeTimers @ noon in the Celebration Center. For more details on PrimeTimers, see page 23.

Many Blessings,

Todd Whipple, Volunteer Coordinator



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Sept |
|--|---|---|---|
| facility calendar for: | | | |
| <p><i>Reminder: Before planning any meeting/event/gathering at church, call the church office for availability and scheduling. Thank you.</i></p> | | | |
| <p>3 BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 1:00 Blanket Exercise</p> | <p>4 OFFICE CLOSED</p>  | <p>5</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Coffee Clutch</p> | <p>6</p> <p>8:30 Text S 12:00 Red C 9:30 Quilt 5:30 Bells 6:00 King's 6:00 7th Gr & 7:00 Sr. Ch</p> |
| <p>10 RALLY SUNDAY</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Congregational Mtg 10:30 Worship w/ Communion</p> <p><i>Sharing Market after both services</i></p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting /Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Women in the Word 10:00 Coffee Clutch 4:00 Lakes Area Food Shelf Board Mtg 7:00 Women in the Word</p> | <p>13</p> <p>8:30 Text S 12:00 Hope 5:30 Bells 6:00 King's 7:00 Sr. Ch</p> |
| <p>17</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Affirmation of Baptism Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>1:00 Rummage Sale Setup Begins</p> | <p>18</p> <p>7:00 People for Racial Justice</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> <p>4:00 Creati 5:30 Bells 6:00 Confir 6:00 King's 7:00 Sr. Ch</p> |
| <p>24 THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship w/ Communion 11:00 Lions Chicken Dinner 11:30 Holy Land Informational Mtg</p> | <p>25</p> <p>9:30 MOPS</p> | <p>26</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting /Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Coffee Clutch 10:30 Novel Ideas Book Club 1:30 Women of the Cross Qrtly Mtg</p> | <p>27 WORSH</p> <p>8:30 Text 10:00 Gath 5:30 Bells 5:45 Supp 6:00 King's 6:20 Wors 7:00 Confir 7:00 Sr. Ch</p> |

| Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>ember</p> | <p>2023</p> | | |
|  | | <p>1</p> | <p>2</p> |
| <p>Study  Cross Blood Drive ers of Praise Kids ade Orientation & Acolyte Trng Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>7</p> <p>8:15 Men's Breakfast 7:00 A.A.</p>  | <p>8</p> <p>9:00 55+ Driver Improvement</p> | <p>9</p> <p>9:00 Cullen Lakes Board Mtg 9:00 Lake Hubert Board Mtg</p> |
| <p>Study Lutheran Youth of Praise Kids Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>14</p> <p>8:15 Men's Breakfast 12:00 PrimeTimers 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.</p> | <p>15</p> <p>5:30 Grub & Game Night</p>  | <p>16</p> <p><i>Last day to accept rummage sale donations until 2:00 pm</i></p> <p>11:00 Funeral: Kathy Kline 6:30 Affirmation of Baptism Sharing & Dessert</p> |
| <p>on Care Team of Praise rmation Guide Trng Kids Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>21 RUMMAGE SALE</p> <p>8AM-6PM</p> <p>7:00 A.A.</p> | <p>22 RUMMAGE SALE</p> <p>8AM-6PM</p> | <p>23 RUMMAGE SALE</p> <p>8AM-NOON</p> <p>12:00 Rummage Sale Cleanup until done</p> |
| <p>IP ON WED</p> <p>Study her Bible Study of Praise er Kids ship w/ Comm. rmation/Route 56 Choir/ A Time for Us</p> | <p>28</p> <p>8:15 Men's Breakfast 7:00 A.A.</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1. Brent Campbell, Donald Nelson
2. Maci Martini, Luke Merseth
3. Kari Rihm
4. Brian Aune, Janet Barsness, Jeremy Moddes
- 5.
6. Rebecca McMenimen, Gabbie Smith, Penny Stumvoll
7. Karlton Anderson, Gregg Gerhartz, Mervin Jensen, Lexi Roby, Isaac Trees
8. Kristi Nelson
9. Superior Bachman
10. Rebecca Bakken, Jennifer Bassett, Logan Knutson, Thomas Lewis, Michael Oseland, Kaitlin Ubl
11. Candy Barnack, Carol Moddes
12. Jodi Gerlich, Becky Hahn
13. Vivian Bolt
14. Anthony Nelson
15. Roland Johnson, Aurie Smith, Clinton Strother, Jackson Williams, Wyatt Williams
16. Emily Aga, Serenity Kottke, Ally Oium, Dennis Ricklefs, Marty Schwab, Todd Whipple
17. Sally Hodgson, Caroline Rasinski, Sandy Strom-Gieseke
18. Mindi Brill, Alanna LeBlanc, Fern Schmidt
19. David Maccabee
20. Stephanie Nelson
21. Clark Fillbrandt, Dean Franke, Lisa Martini, Wayne Van Vliet
22. Ceci Boche, Pauline Gustafson, Jan Halvorson, David Smith
- 23.
24. Zaundra Cowger
- 25.
26. Michael Haarstad, John Quist
27. Ann Bergin, Craig Peterson
28. Alex Andrist, Judy Schuna, Hazel Schwanke
29. Julie Fillbrandt, Joe Paulbeck, Elvera Pelkey
30. Stacy Germundson, Aron Hushagen



— *Out for* —



SUPPER

CLUB

The ultimate in food, fellowship and fun! Those interested are organized into groups, with each group member organizing one evening by making reservations for the group at a restaurant of their choice.

Host/hostess then serves dessert at their home.

Sign up for this small group ministry will begin on Sept. 3 and go through Sept. 24.

Groups will be contacted in early October.

Questions? Contact Kate Carlson at 218-851-1277 or Margaret Sommerfeld at 218-825-0576

Did You Know?

From the “People for Racial Justice” Group

Submitted by Marty Halvorson

As the United States expanded westward, treaties became the primary vehicle for acquiring Indian lands. Between 1837 and 1867, Dakota and Ojibwe bands in Minnesota negotiated approximately 16 treaties specifically ceding vast tribal territories to the United States. In exchange, the tribes were promised goods, services, cash payments, and reservations. At times, tribes retained access to resources on lands that were sold.

“I understand what you want...from the few words I have heard you speak. You want land.”
-Flat Mouth, Chief of the Pillager Band of Chippewa, during treaty negotiations with U.S. officials, 1855.

Signing treaties was sometimes the only way for Native leaders to keep their people alive. In negotiations with Native Nations, American officials promised that Indian reservations would always belong to the tribes, and that treaty payments and provisions would be delivered in full and on time. Dakota and Ojibwe people were promised everlasting possession of their reservation lands. However, time would show that these promises were not to be honored.

LCC Rummage Sale Donations

All items must be clean and in working order!

Please place all soft goods in plastic bags:

Clothing, Coats, Hats, Mittens, Bedding, Towels, Etc.

All boxable hard goods should be placed in totes with lids or boxes with flaps that close for stacking:

Bicycles, Books, Crafts, Electronics, Furniture, Hardware, Home Décor, Housewares, Jewelry, Lamps, Lawn/Garden, Office, Pictures, Purses, Rugs, Shoes, Small Appliances, Sporting Goods, Toys, & Miscellaneous

Not Accepting:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Badly Soiled/Broken Furniture | • Tube TVs/Tube Monitors |
| • Hide-a-Beds/Futons | • Reference and Textbooks |
| • Mattresses/Box Springs | • Encyclopedias/Magazines |
| • Car Seats/Car Booster Seats | • VHS & Audio Cassettes |
| • Cribs | • Doors/Windows |
| • Exercise Bikes/Treadmills | • Used Carpet |

Questions?

Call Marv (218-537-0522) or Liz (612-849-1500) - large items/significant volume

Call Lyle (218-330-5110) - electronics (flat screen TVs, computers, monitors, laptops, tablets, phones, cameras, etc.)

Fall Sale: Sept. 21 – 23, 2023

We Appreciate Your Donations!

(Donation deadline – September 16 at 2 P.M.)



Let the camaraderie begin

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

FALL RUMMAGE SALE - Sept. 21 - 23, 2023

Opportunities overflow! Volunteers are needed September 17 – 23 to move boxes, lug clothing bags, prepare food (not to mention fill your belly with yummy lunches), cashier, help shoppers to their cars, etc. It takes a team, and we want you on it. Lunch will be served September 18 – 23. Signup sheets will be available in the Celebration Center hallway as of Tuesday, September 5.

Donations will be accepted through Saturday, September 16 at 2 pm (contact the church office at 218-963-2564 prior to bringing items.) A list of accepted/not accepted items is at the office.

You are appreciated and welcome!



Nisswa Lions will be hosting their annual Chicken & Fixin's Luncheon at Lutheran Church of the Cross on Sunday, September 24th from 11am to 1pm in the Celebration Center. Cost of a ticket is \$15 and you may dine in or take out. All proceeds go to supporting Childhood Cancer Service Project efforts within the Nisswa Lions Club.

Any questions—call Gorges Olson, Committee Chair at 218-963-6402.

Tickets will be available online at

<https://www.nisswalions.org/fundraisers> and at the Nisswa Chamber of Commerce.

The graphic features a yellow background with a red starburst icon in the top left corner. A black silhouette of a person in a wheelchair is shown on a red ramp that is partially completed. The text reads: "We are in need of \$17,000 in funds to complete our accessibility ramp to the back door of the church. Watch our ramp grow with each \$500 donated." Below this, the phrase "RAMP IT UP!" is written in large, bold, red letters. At the bottom right, a white rectangular area contains the text "Need approximately \$11,000 more".



Red Cross Blood Drive will be held Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at Lutheran Church of the Cross in the celebration Center from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Questions? Please call Cheryl Swanson at 218-820-8031.

To schedule an appointment to donate blood call 1-800-733-2767 or go to: RedCrossBlood.org

Thursday, September 14th at
12:00 Noon



The September Prime Timers Program will be "Travels with Todd". This will be a Todd guided visual presentation of pictures and videos of Todd's adventures to several destinations in 7 countries, including Norway, Finland, Estonia, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, & Luxembourg. Bring a sack lunch at Noon. Coffee and dessert provided and served by LCC staff. Program will begin at approximately 12:20 PM. See you there!



August PrimeTimers program by Scarlett Langenfeld from Breath of Life Adult Day Service was followed by singing old time favorite songs. Thank you to Jenny Stubbs for playing the piano and Carolyn & Duane Black for the delicious pies and leading the sing along.

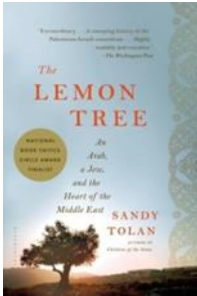


NOVEL IDEAS BOOK

WHEN: Tuesday, September 26th at 10:30am

WHERE: Chapel Hall

Please join us for fellowship, treats and discussion.



In 1967, Bashir Al-Khayri, a Palestinian twenty-five-year-old, journeyed to Israel, with the goal of seeing the beloved old stone house, with the lemon tree behind it, that he and his family had fled nineteen years earlier. To his surprise, when he found the house he was greeted by Dalia Ashkenazi Landau, a nineteen-year-old Israeli college student, whose family fled Europe for Israel following the Holocaust.

This is a tale of a simple act of faith between these two young people that symbolizes the hope for peace in the Middle East.

WHY DOES THE CHURCH HAVE A LIBRARY?



To help enrich the lives and strengthen the faith of our church members of all ages, through books and other media.

- ⇒ Your child can check out books at the school library, but you will find faith based ones at church.
- ⇒ You can check out a book at the public library, but we have a wide assortment of books that don't require a library membership nor have a date return deadline.
- ⇒ You can find books on Devotions/Meditations, Prayer, Caregiving, Family Life, Grief, Biographies/Memoirs, Christian & secular fiction, Christian & secular non-fiction, Social Justice, Nature, Minnesota and America.
- ⇒ We welcome all of your suggestions and appreciate the donations and support that you have shown.

Jean Olson, Susan Boulka, Lori Olson, Karen Clarine and Jan Geiger

CREATION CARE



WILL STEGER

A formidable voice calling for understanding and the preservation of the Arctic, and the Earth, Will Steger is best known for his legendary polar explorations. He has traveled tens of thousands of miles by kayak and dogsled over 50 years, leading teams on some of the most significant polar expeditions in history.

OCTOBER 7 - 1pm

Lutheran Church of the Cross
5064 Co. Rd. 13, Nisswa

Steger will share about his adventures and the drastic effects of climate change on glaciers at both Poles.

***There is no charge for this event,
which is open to the public***

Hosted by Lutheran Church of the Cross Creation Care Team, NEMN Synod/ELCA Ecofaith Network, Lutheran Church of the Cross Rummage Sale Committee, Happy Dancing Turtle, and Roger and Donn Beaubien.



The Sharing Market

Please donate plants, baked goods, jellies, flowers, and other produce and purchase these items so we can help our neighbors at the Lakes Area Food Shelf in Pequot Lakes! **The last Sharing Market date is September 10 and will be set up in the Narthex following both services.**

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
Church Council Meeting
Thursday, August 10, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

We Assemble in God's Name

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Council Vice President Darrell Paske

Present:

Pr. Drew Bakken, Pr. Michelle Ruen, Colleen Both, Rachel Gerhartz, Darrell Paske, Bonnie Stevens, Brian Stubbs, Jenny Stubbs, Sarah Tietz and Lyn Underdahl.

Devotion: Rachel Gerhartz

Officer Reports:

Congregational Meeting (7/9/23)

- **Motion to approve by Lyn Underdahl ; Second by Bonnie Stevens. Motion passed.**

Regular Council Minutes (July 2023)

- **Motion to approve by Rachel Gerhartz; Second by Brian Stubbs. Motion passed.**

Treasurer's Report (July 2023)

- **Motion to approve by Jenny Stubbs; Second by Sarah Tietz. Motion passed.**

New Business:

Choir Director position decision tabled until September.

Old Business:

- 1.) **Motion from Worship & Music Ministry team to increase the fee structure for substitute organists; weddings and funerals; as well as sound booth technicians; when needed for outside events. This update is so that LCC is in line with area churches. Motion second by Bonnie Stevens; Motion passed.**
- 2.) Playground Project- No report
- 3.) Exploration into possible procurement of adjoining land by LCC for future expansion continues.

Pastors' Reports

Senior Pastors' Report; Pastor Drew:

- Today as I walked out my front door, I saw one red leaf on a maple tree. It was a surprising sign to me that Fall is coming. Sometimes that first sign that summer is ending is hard to accept. As much as we try to prolong summer, we know that we cannot stop time. God's ministry doesn't stop either. Thanks be to God for the ministry that we provide to our community here in the Brainerd Lakes area throughout the year.
- As I look at the ministries here at Lutheran Church of the Cross, I am amazed to see how God is working through each and every one of us. This summer we have seen some great things happening. We have seen growth in our Summer Worship, a great week of VBS, Summer Stretch programming, Prime Timers events, Operation Sandwich programming, Sharing Market table, Rummage Sale sorting volunteers, Bible studies, Men's breakfasts, Community Gardens, and so many more ministries. At a time when so many churches are still trying to recover from the downturn in COVID attendance, here at Lutheran Church of the Cross we have heard the call to share and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and continue to answer that call.
- This month I had the wonderful opportunity to join 27 of our members on a journey to Holden Village. It was a wonderful experience. One of the things that Holden promotes, is that we are all a part of the community. A community that eats together, works together, learns together, and worships

together. While I was there, I had the chance to have communion in God's wilderness and listen to the still small voice that cries out from our own hearts. While I was in Holden, I did lots of hiking through the valley of Cascade mountains. As I was hiking, I began to reflect on the future of Lutheran Church of the Cross. My heart told me to trust in the Spirit that is moving through our church. We are doing great things, and we need to celebrate that in the community of God. I am so thankful that is what we are going to do on Rally Sunday.

- Please join me in celebrating all the great ministries we are doing together with our Lord and Savior, and to pray for wisdom and guidance as we move forward together. Growing our community with those who wish to join our church in the future.

Associate Pastor's Report; Pastor Michelle:

- What a joy it has been to see our church flourish this summer! Our attendance at our 9:00 service remained very strong during the summer months. Many visitors and guests graced our doors, with many asking about joining our church. There was great participation in a variety of different summer programming. Over 36 women attended the July *Women in the Word* Bible Study alone. Creation Care held a July Sharing Market and people were gracious and generous. New friendships were begun and solidified during Coffee Fellowship time. Our church has been blessed this summer. Thank you for your part in this blessing.
- Lyn Underdahl, our new Congregational Life council member and myself hosted a Meet and Greet luncheon for all leaders and representatives of our Small groups and Fellowship groups. It was a wonderful time to hear what is happening at LCC in our Small Group ministry. Each group was highlighted and had an opportunity to share what their purpose and goal is. It was suggested we do it again, so we will :-)
- Lutheran Church of the Cross will be taking in New Members on Sunday, October 8. If you are interested in joining our LCC church family or you know of someone who is interested, please direct them to our office, Pastor Drew, or myself. We would love to get to know them and share about our LCC family. On Thursday, October 5, we will have a sloppy joe supper and informational meeting for all future members. Our New Member committee will be hosting. It is a fun evening, usually filled with lots of laughter.
- Thanks be to God for His indescribable good gifts this summer!

Committee Reports:

Youth & Family Ministry/ Children & Family Ministry: Sarah Tietz/Rachel Gerhartz

Verbal report. VBS went well. Plans continue for Rally Day services as well as the Affirmation of Baptism service.

Worship and Music: Brian Stubbs

W&M met on July 25, 2023

Old Business

1. Altar Guild: Darrell reported that he is short 2 months of volunteers for communion set up; has plenty of bread makers. This fall when we go to 2 services, Worship Coordinators will set up communion for 9:00 service, then altar guild will do 10:30 and clean up.
2. Music: Cathy went through September 2023 – August 2024 worship calendar. Specifies which Sundays each choir is on for worship. It will be Senior Choir – 1 st and 3 rd Sundays, both services; King's Kids – 2 nd Sunday, 9:00 service; and Bells of Praise – 4 th Sunday, both services (through December); some changes for special holidays. Wednesday worship will start September 27, hopefully have 2 new musicians in Dan and Evan Kuhn for Wednesdays.
3. Sanctuary Decorations – The Schmidts cannot donate trees any longer. We will need to send out a plea to congregation possibly to see if anyone has pines and birch for use as decorations. Will stay with same flower outlet as last year

4. Video/Audio – Dick reported that we had a lightning strike Saturday, July 22. Took out networking on church computers and livestream equipment. Used Pastor Drew’s cell phone to record service on the 23rd . We also could use more sound volunteers.
5. Volunteer: Todd was not at meeting, but we reported that he did a good job lining people up for while is away.

New Business

1. New pay schedule for organists: (see below) Mike motioned that we accept proposal, Sharon 2nd. Passed. Now it will be brought up to council in August.

Funeral Fees

| | <u>Members</u> | <u>Non-members</u> |
|--|----------------|--------------------|
| Sound tech | \$75 | \$100 |
| Soloist | \$100 | \$125 |
| Organist | \$200 | \$250 |
| (Organist as Soloist also is an additional \$50) | | |
| Clergy | \$250 | \$300 |
| Custodial Fee | \$100 | \$150 |

Wedding Fees

| | <u>Members</u> | <u>Non-members</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Wedding Coordinator ? | | |
| Sound Tech | \$75 | \$100 |
| Soloist | \$100 | \$125 |
| Organist | \$200 | \$250 |
| Clergy | \$250 | \$300 |
| Custodial | \$100 | \$150 |

Sunday Worship Fees

Substitute Organist Fee \$200 for 2 services
 Wednesday Choir rehearsal is an additional \$50

Wednesday Worship Fee \$150

Next meeting will be Sunday, August 20 at 10:00

Stewardship Ministry

Stewardship Sunday is October 15th. Stewardship Ministry Council liaison search continues.

LCC Property Report: Dale Peterson

- The project to replace the north steps with a handicap accessible ramp was approved by the congregation and fundraising is underway. I met with another contractor this week and a contractor will be selected soon. Hopefully this project will be completed this summer or fall. The project includes removing the existing concrete steps and railing and constructing a heated ramp with a handicap compliant railing. We also need to replace the existing wooden exit doors with new handicap accessible doors.
- Anderson Brothers has sealed the cracks in our parking lot.
- Lightning struck close to the church and affected several church systems. The irrigation control panel in the Memorial Garden had to be replaced. Several ground fault outlets in the new garage also needed replacing.
- The dividing wall in the old garage separating the north and south sides was completed. The rummage sale drop-off bay is now divided from the north bay which houses the mowers and other church equipment.
- Other projects on the list include removing the in-ground steps by the pergola north of the kitchen, installing a handrail on the north steps outside the kitchen door, and continuing landscape improvements.

Social Concerns & Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens

Bridges of Hope

Operation Sandwich

Operation Sandwich last day of operation out of LCC will be August 31. Volunteers can still sign up on the Bridges of Hope website.

The Bridge on Seventh

Ann Hunnicutt and staff are working on the volunteer schedule. LCC will be on the rotation for the season beginning in September.

Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service

LIRS of North Dakota spearheaded a project to help New Americans establish self-sufficiency as they carve out a new future. They often face culture shock and language barriers when trying to get settled and gather basic necessities. With the one-acre community garden which opened this spring, operators with the garden teach these individuals fruit and vegetable growing, soil health, harvesting techniques and other methods.

The garden replaced an old hockey rink at Fargo's Village West Park. Coordinator Eric Hegg said while a lot of refugees and asylum seekers have farming experience, many also spent years in refugee camps where they were reliant on others for food. Hegg noted that participants have opportunities to grow varieties that meet their cultural needs.

My Neighbor To Love Coalition- Housing for Homeless near Completion

A Wish List registry has been set up on Walmart. If you'd like to purchase a item for the kitchen, bedroom, or bathroom for the new residents who will be moving in - follow these instructions:

Go to walmart.com - select Services and click on Registry. Under Registry, select Any Occasion - Type in "My Neighbor "- and select MN. This will take you to the My Neighbor to Love Coalition registry. You can purchase and drop off your item or have your item shipped to Melissa Fussy's home: 221 2nd Ave NE, Brainerd MN 56401

If you'd like to help stock the pantry so residents will have basic food staples, etc. available when they move in - **please send in a donation and mark "Groceries" in the check memo (MNTLC - P.O. Box 581, Nisswa, N 56468)** or donate online—mntlc.org/donate The shopping team will make sure each unit will have the basic supplies. Thank you!

7) Congregational Life: Lyn Underdahl

- Tuesday, August 8th, we (Pastor Michelle and me) met with a number of the Congregation Life Committees (which we now call Ministries) at noon in the church. Spokespersons for a good number of the groups attended and we enjoyed talking about each ministry and their focus, strengths, importance of their ministry and what they would like to communicate to the Council.
- Pastor Michelle was instrumental in helping to plan the meeting, personally call those in leadership of the groups, set up the luncheon items and moderate the meeting and discussion. I created a simple paper template asking for their spokesperson contact info, the focus/strengths of the ministry, the importance of the ministry and something they wanted the Council to know about the ministry. I collected these at the end for my reference.
- This meeting was wonderful as it gave me an opportunity to meet those involved within a variety of the group ministries and was a great success!
- All those sharing their ministry details have a common goal to increase their numbers **and include more young families.**
- Did you know? The Library committee is currently in the process of scanning the library books into an online website called Library Thing which allows them to keep track of the books currently in the library and then sort by author, subject, etc. Jean Olson is heading up this big project. There are some options with this program and at some point they hope to be able to allow church members access to this information.

- Carol Smith shared the history and overview of small groups at LCC. Very interesting and informative.
- Both Pastor Michelle and I plan to continue to have this type of meeting more often to stay engaged with their ministries.

8) Personnel: Darrell Paske

1. Rob Norgon has submitted his resignation from council. A replacement for this position is underway. Two individuals have been approached and both have declined. If you have a suggestion to fill this position please advise Pastor Drew or myself.
2. As you saw from Mike Smith's August 6th email, he would like to be considered for the position of Choir Director. I will add this to Thursday's agenda for discussion and possible council action. (Choir director position tabled until September).

Closing Prayer: Pr. Michelle
Meeting Adjourned.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, September 14, 2023, 7 p.m.

Devotions: Mike Smith

Submitted by Jenny Stubbs

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

Church Directory

The 2023 church directories are for sale at \$10 each. Pay by cash or check (make out to LCC with *photo directory* written in the memo line.) Available in the church office during business hours. Thanks for all of our members for helping with this project.

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

4-hour refresher course for returning students

Classes held at Lutheran Church of the Cross

September 8 (4 Hr Refresher) 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

October 20 (4 Hr Refresher) 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

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

Do not call the church to register—call SCSU



Holy Land Pilgrimage

with Rev. Drew Bakken, LCC

REGISTER AT: tinyurl.com/LCCHolyLand24

October 26 to November 4, '24

VISIT: Herzliya, Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Nazareth, Cana, Tiberias, Caesarea Phillippi, Golan Heights, Mt. Arbel, Valley of Doves, Sea of Galilee, Magdala, Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, Jordan Valley, Shepherds Field, Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, Augusta Victoria Hospital, Mt. of Olives - Anns, Pools of Bethesda, Wadi Qelt, St. George Monastery, Baptismal Site, Dead Sea, Holy Speulcher, Church of the Redeemer, Western Wall, Jerusalem.

\$4,390 per person, double occupancy includes:

- Airfare to/from MSP
- 8 nights in 4-star hotels
- Breakfast & Dinner each day
- Entrance fees to all sites
- All ground transport in private tour bus

◀◀◀ ● ▶▶▶

- \$300 deposit due at registration
- \$1000 due on or before April 20, '24
- Balance due on or before August 1, '24

Informational meeting on Sept. 24 at 11:30am



Our first week for volunteering will be October 1-8. Again, new volunteers are asked to do a background check which is a very secure on-line procedure. A training video is provided prior to volunteering.

Please contact Bonnie Stevens with any questions at 218-966-2125 or Ann Hunnicott at The Bridge on 7th Overnight Shelter at 218-892-2400.

Sign up link for Oct 1-8:

<https://whocanbethere.com/SignUp/week-of-october-1lcc/1WXxzYt0m4O>

Morning shift is now 6:30 am to 8:30 am. Evening shift is 6:30 to 10 pm.

**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, 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 | Michelle Ruen | 218-961-2013 |
| Director of Children, Youth 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 |
| Volunteer Coordinator | Todd Whipple | 218-961-2052 |
| Senior Choir Director | | |
| Organist | Laura Raedeke | |
| Bell Choir Director | Cheryl Karlgaard | |
| King's Kids | Carol Smith | |
| Custodian | Todd Whipple | 218-963-2564 |
| ELCA Global Missionary | Bradn Buerkle | |
| LCC Office | Laurie Hemish | 218-961-2011 |

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

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

