

# Cross Currents

Lutheran  
Church  
of the Cross  
2024

# May



Dear LCC Friends and Family,

May is here and if you are like me, you are ready for Spring! Welcome to all our snowbirds who are coming back to us from every direction and all parts of the country. It is wonderful to have you back worshipping with us again in person! We missed you. Thank you to all the hearty Church of the Cross family members who stayed here and braved the Minnesota winter (as mild as it was) and kept us on track and moving forward so well! As I look out into the congregation on Sunday mornings, it brings back the warm memories of beloved family reunions.

A huge thank you for your part in another successful Rummage Sale. Whether you donated, volunteered, and/or shopped, we are grateful. Once again our volunteers were phenomenal, our leadership was stellar, friendships were formed, and those that came through our church were given a warm welcome and a wonderful shopping opportunity. The frosting on the cake is the money raised will go out to bless our community and world. A special thank you to the Rummage Sale co-chairs - Liz Brandanger, Marv Green, and Connie Peterson. Thank you again for YOUR part in this enormous undertaking!

Are you interested in joining Lutheran Church of the Cross or know of someone who may want to learn more about LCC? Let Laurie in the office know. We will be having a sloppy joe supper and informational meeting on Tuesday, April 30th. New Member Sunday with a coffee and cake reception will be on Sunday, May 5th. Please come to welcome our new LCC family members on May 5th!

Pastor Drew begins his sabbatical from May 1-July 31. Keep Pastor Drew in your prayers, that he will have a well-deserved time of rest, renewal, and a special time of being in God's Word. We have wonderful services planned for the month of May and into the summer. Thank you for your attendance and presence!

**May 5, 9:00 & 10:30 AM** - New Member Sunday; Cake, Coffee, Scones Reception, Sr. Choir

**May 12, 9:00 & 10:30 AM** - Mother's Day, Burrito Blessings Breakfast, King's Kids sing

**May 19, 9:00 & 10:30 AM**- Pentecost, Sr. Choir w/ liturgical dance, Senior Recognition @ 10:30

**May 26, 9:00 & 10:30 AM** - Holy Trinity Sunday, Memorial Day, Honoring our Military, Taps

Holy Spirit, blow through our church with power. See you in church!

Faithfully yours,

*Pastor Michelle*





## Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2024 General Fund

	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Annual Annual <u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 78,117	\$ 215,880	\$ 764,748	28.23%
Expenses	\$ 68,320	\$ 186,000	\$ 764,748	24.32%
Difference	\$ 9,798	\$ 29,880	\$ 0	

**In the month of March our income was more than our expenses by \$9,798.  
Thank you for your continued support.**

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### **FUNERAL**

Name: Darlene Evanson  
 Born: November 22, 1943  
 Died in Christ: March 19, 2024  
 Funeral: April 5, 2024  
 Lutheran Church of the Cross  
 Pastor Drew Bakken, Officiant

### **INURNMENT**

Name: Carol Waldor  
 Born: December 23, 1932  
 Died in Christ: April 5, 2024  
 Inurnment: April 19, 2024  
 Lutheran Church of the Cross  
 Pastor Drew Bakken, Officiant

### **FUNERAL**

Name: Jana Campbell  
 Born: April 18, 1969  
 Died in Christ: December 18, 2023  
 Funeral: April 20, 2024  
 Lutheran Church of the Cross  
 Pastor Michelle Ruen, Officiant

Update  
your  
Information



*If you would like to receive weekly eblast notifications, please email the church office at [laurie@lccnisswa.org](mailto:laurie@lccnisswa.org) with the email address you wish us to use. Have you changed your phone number, or no longer use your landline, changed your mailing address, etc.? If so, please let us know so we can update our database.*



## ATTN: Cross Kids Parents...

You are invited to a very important meeting on May 19 during Coffee Fellowship in the Treehouse. At this meeting you will hear from Katelin, Kristin, Alanna & Kari on some exciting new programming that will be coming in the fall. We need your input, so mark your calendars and we will see you there!



We are in the church season of Easter and during the past weeks we have heard a lot about how Jesus served the disciples through washing feet and breaking bread and sharing wine with them. Sharing a meal in Bible times was a very special thing. It got me thinking about The Love Feast, or Agape Meal, a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry and expressing the *koinonia* – or fellowship, participation, partnership, a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution – all of which is enjoyed by the family of Christ. It includes gifts from the Holy Spirit who embraces and

empowers you to do all things. An Agape Meal is not a dinner party, it is an extended family meal about changing the world; enjoying food that nourishes our body and our relationship with others, and the peace meal meaning a space to reflect, feed the hungry, work for reconciliation and connect with nature. Agape love is pure, selfless and self-sacrificing. It always seeks the best for others — even enemies —, at all costs. A beautiful description of agape love is found in the Bible verses of 1 Corinthians 13. Look it up and give it a read, savoring the words and the emotions they evoke. Agape love is not based on any circumstances or feelings. It is unconditional love, acted upon on a regular basis, with no expectation of love in return.

***Simply put, it is love in action.***

#### **AGAPE LOVE IS:**

- The love God has for us and the love that he asks us to show Him and other people.
- Loving others because they are children of God like ourselves even if we don't like them. This means we love a person despite his or her flaws or shortcomings.
- Giving to others, sacrificing our time, energy and resources for someone else without expecting anything in return.
- Responding calmly when faced with difficulties, sacrificing without complaining, and waiting patiently.
- Selfless, and preserves relationships and the growth of another person.
- Not easy, and does not come naturally to most of us.
- A choice we make to serve others with humility, without expecting anything in return. This type of love enables us to love the unlovable and serve people at their deepest need, whether they deserve it or not.
- The second of Jesus' greatest commandments.
- More than a feeling; *it is an act of the will.*

For me, the really neat thing about God's love is that it's not really a feeling for Him—he can't fall out of love with us! Yep, He even loves us when we are grumpy to messing up. He loves us no matter what. What is challenging for us is to loving others that same way. We are to love God, ourselves, our family, our friends, our neighbors, and yes, even our enemies.

Learning to live with Agape Love takes a long time and also takes God's help. So, let's learn and grow in God's special love together!

Thanks to our LCC generosity , we were able to donate \$14,414.44 and 843 pounds of food for the Lakes Area Food Pantry for FoodShare Month!!  
**WAY TO GO, LCC!!!**



*What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like. —Saint Augustine*



**Thanks to our youth for helping with our Tenebrae Worship Service.**



**FIRST**



**COMMUNION**



**FINAL  
WORSHIP ON WEDS.  
FOR**

**2024**

- February
- March
- April

**MAY 8**

**BLESSINGS**

**Mother's Day  
May 12**

**Burrito Breakfast**

**In CC for  
Coffee Fellowship  
All are welcome!**



**Recognition  
Sunday**

**May 19, 9am**

**FOR OUR  
GRADUATING  
SENIORS:**

**CLASS  
OF 2024**



**SCARLETT ANDERSON**    **JAKE MERSETH**  
**VANESSA ANDERSON**    **PAYTON SCOTT**  
**CLAY ERICKSON**        **CHARLEE SULLIVAN**  
**LOGAN FOGARTY**        **WILL TAYLOR**  
**RYAN GERLICH**         **ETHAN THOMAS**  
**WESTON HILES**         **MARTY TIMMONS**  
**ARON HUSHAGEN**      **LOGAN VERVILLE**  
**KELSI MARTINI**         **MAGGIE WOLTER**





## HERE'S 6 WAYS:

*It's spring - a great time to share God's word with your kids &/or grandkids!*

### 1. Grow as a Christian:

Read 1 Peter 3:18. Talk about watching our kids grow, not only in age, but in Christ. Maybe plant some sunflowers and discuss how we need to tend to them and they will grow up high to show the world their beauty, just as we tend to our spirituality and grow to show the beauty of Christ to others.

### 2. God can use YOU to help others! Read

Matthew 6:25-34 and talk about how God takes care of His creatures. Single out birds and ask how we can help them. Then build, create and fill a bird feeder. Sometimes God uses US to help take care of the birds. We can also take care of each other by looking for ways to help those who are hurting. We can for sure keep them in our prayers!

### 3. God cleans us from our sins:

Read 1 John 1:9 and talk about how we all sometimes mess up. Go outside after a rain (or take the hose and make your own) and play in some mud puddles. Think of your sins as the mud you are playing in. When you are finished with your fun, wash all the mud away., remembering that Jesus washes away our sins—all we need to do is ask for forgiveness.

### 4. God pours blessings into our lives:

Read James 1:17 and share the blessings you have received from God. Together, make a list of your blessings. Put some water in a basin and use sponges to 'soak up' water like blessings and love from God.

### 5. God helps us SOAR!

Read Isaiah 40:28-31. Discuss what it says about soaring, then go outside and do some running. Note how we get tired when we run and we need to rest. Life can be like that, too—we can get tired when we hear bad news or get stressed or anxious. But the good news is that God promises to renew our strength—not only does He help us run, He helps us soar!

### 6. God wants us to serve others:

Read John 13:5-17. Take a look at your feet and talk about how dirty people's feet got during Jesus' time. Washing feet was for the lowest servants because it was a yucky job. But Jesus took the time and care to wash his disciples' feet. He set an example for us—the best way to show love to others is by serving. Take a walk and pick up some trash as a way to serve those in your neighborhood.

## Music Notes



May 2024

### ELW #879 For the Beauty of the Earth (DIX)

**Text: Folliot Stanford Pierpoint; Music: Conrad Kocher**

#### ELW 879 For the Beauty of the Earth

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:  
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
2. For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:  
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:  
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
4. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild:  
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
5. For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;  
For thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n.  
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

Public Domain

Folliot Sandford Pierpoint is the author of this great hymn. Folliet was born October 7, 1835 in Bath, England. After graduating from Cambridge, he taught at Somersetshire College in his home area of Bath.

One day when he was 29, Folliot found himself walking in the countryside on a beautiful spring day near Bath. He saw the ocean of green, the blue dome of heaven, and the winding Avon River cutting through the flowery landscape. Overwhelmed with God's creative brilliance, he wrote this poem. He intended it primarily for Communion service in the Anglican Church, but when it jumped the Atlantic, it quickly became associated with the American Thanksgiving holiday.

Little else is known about Folliot Sandford Pierpoint. He resigned from his position at Somersetshire, and apparently moved from place to place, teaching some, writing hymn, and publishing his poetry. He died in 1917.

"For the Beauty of the Earth" is one of only a few songs devoted purely to giving thanks. One of the strange things about the "attitude of gratitude" is that we tend to exhibit it in reverse proportion to the number of blessings received. The more we have, the less thankful we are. This hymn reminds us of the immense beauty of the earth that God created for our use and enjoyment. And too, a reminder to be thankful for all of our blessings, large and small.

Conrad Kocher was a German composer (1786-1872). He was a musician who started a School of Sacred Song in Stuttgart in 1821, where they encouraged part-singing in congregations. It was also influenced by Haydn, Mozart, Clementi, and Palestrina. In addition to hymn tunes, he composed instrumental music, and oratorio, two operas, and a written work on church music called *Die Tonkunst in der Kirche* (1823).

Be thankful and happy spring!

Cathy Taylor  
Director of Music

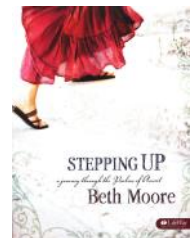


**Thursday, May 9, 12:00 Noon**

The May PrimeTimers program will be Jill McKenzie, the Community Relations Manager from the Mid-Minnesota Women’s Center. Learn about both the Women’s Shelter and the Brandon and Alex Safety Center where children have supervised visits in a safe manner. Come to hear and learn about this vital and crucial service in our community. Bring a sack lunch if you desire.

Coffee, lemonade, and dessert is provided. Hosts: Ray and Betty Arveson & Dick and Kate Carlson. The program will begin at 12:20 PM. PrimeTimers is an open event for all to attend. Please come to the LCC Celebration Center for this program!

Coming up: The next women’s Beth Moore Bible Study, *Stepping Up: A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent*. Mondays 9:30 am - 11:30 am June 17, 24 and July 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29. Held in the conservatory. All are welcome!



You are invited to another informational meeting with the Solar Tech Team on **Wednesday, May 15 at 3:00 pm in Chapel Hall**. A representative of Wolf Track (formally know as REAL Solar) Solar will be present to enlighten us on all things solar. Come with your ideas and questions. What is the future for solar at Lutheran Church Cross? Thank you.

## 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.

## Women in the Word Tuesday—May 7, 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM

The May *Women in the Word* Bible Study led by Pastor Michelle will be on Tuesday, May 7, at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Come for an enlightening study in God's Word, strong coffee and tasty treats, and wonderful fellowship with beautiful ladies. Everyone is welcome. No preparation needed. Bring your Bible and a friend. See you on May 7!



## A Time For Us - Wednesday, 7:00-8:00 PM, May 1 and May 8

*A Time For Us* is a gathering for Confirmation and Route 56 parents, meeting in the Old Youth Room with Pastor Michelle. This year we have been discussing the book, *Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles that Can Radically Change Your Family*. May 8th will be the final night of Confirmation, Route 56, A Time For Us, supper and worship. *A Time For Us* hopes to get together in June to have our final book discussion and enjoy an evening out. Watch for further details.



## StoneHouse Friday - PRAYER 101—Fridays, 12:00-1:00 PM

LCC member Marty Holmstrom is leading a Bible-based teaching on prayer. The final three classes are May 3, 10, and 17th from 12:00-1:00 PM in the conference room at StoneHouse Coffee in the RiverWood Bank next to Target. We hope to hold this 6-week class again next year. Thank you to all our faithful followers and participants at StoneHouse Fridays throughout the year!

## Widow's MAY DAY Luncheon - Wednesday, May 1, 11:00 AM -1:00 PM

Widows - please join Pastor Michelle for a time to be together on Wednesday, May 1, at 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. This will be a special time to join hands, make new friends, and enjoy the company of one another. We hope to make this a warm and safe place to share, and also a place to laugh and learn how to flourish. I would love for YOU to be there. Invite anyone you think may be interested. Come on May 1 for lunch and a special time to gather and glean! There may even be May Day baskets! If you have any questions, ask Pastor Michelle. Please RSVP to Pastor Michelle or Laurie in the office if you can attend.





## **Gather Bible Study/Lunch/Kit Party—May 22, 2024, Beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Chapel Hall**

Please join us on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m. for a fun, jam-packed day. We will start with our May Gather lesson entitled, “*Compassionate Companions,*” by Elise

Seyfried. Looking particularly at biblical people and passages that relate to living with mental illness, the May 2024 devotional reminds us of Jesus’ compassionate care for those who struggle. Together, we’ll learn how congregations can become “stigma-free” zones, welcome and support those with mental health issues and their loved ones and provide opportunities for all ages to learn more about a topic that affects us all.

The Bible Study will be followed by a wonderful lunch before we begin our kit party. We’ll be making school kits for the NE MN Synod Women of the ELCA Summer Convention as well as Infant Kits for Global Health Ministries. We share stories and laughter as we put these kits together for children around the world. Please come and be a part of this very important ministry. Can’t come for the entire time? You may come and join whenever you are able and leave whenever you must.

## **Good Gifts Sunday with Blessing of the Animals**

Good Gifts Sunday and Blessing of the Animals is coming in July! Stay tuned!!

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

## **LUTHER CREST BIBLE CAMP WOMEN’S WEEK—JUNE 23<sup>th</sup> THROUGH JUNE 28<sup>th</sup>**

All women. All week. All sorts of fun! Gather at Luther Crest for another great Women’s Week experience at camp this summer! We’ll provide an excellent arrangement of meals, goodies, and treats. There’ll be daily speakers and presentations as well as *nightly entertainment* with musicians and entertainers. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate and grow together in a Christ-centered community through discussion and devotion. Separate programming is offered for children and grandchildren of all ages.

**Cost for the full week:** Early Bird \$479 | Regular \$659 No cost for babies and preschool age children. **Cost for one day:** \$65 **Cost for a carload for one day:** \$130

Check out their website and register on-line: <https://www.luthercrest.org/womens-week.html>  
Call Jodi Milli (507) 438-4435 or Gloria Thomas (218) 963-7951 if you would like more info.

## Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen News

A huge Thank You those who have helped at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen for LCC. Thank you to Brad and Joanie Swanson and Tim Bergin for January, LCC church council for February, Marie Olness and Nisswa Women's Club for March, and David and Julie Anderholm for April.



It is our mission to demonstrate the love of Christ by providing meals to the hungry in our community. In the last 3 months 5000 meals have been served to anyone who is hungry with no questions asked or forms to fill out.

Lutheran Church of the Cross prepares and serves a meal the first Thursday of every month, for almost 25 years. If this sounds like a service you would like to be a part of, please contact me, Ann Bergin, LCC soup kitchen coordinator, to talk about how you can help. There is a sign-up calendar across from the nursery. My contact information is [georgiabergin@gmail.com](mailto:georgiabergin@gmail.com) or 218-820-5511.

To learn more about the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, or donate, go to [sharingbread.com](http://sharingbread.com).

Operation Sandwich will again be asking for volunteers to help with packing and distributing for the summer (June-August). Please check the website at [bridgesofhopemn.org](http://bridgesofhopemn.org) for the latest information, summer schedule and volunteer sign-up.



Thank you for giving to Bridges of Hope and Compassion in Our Community! Your donations support Operation Sandwich and provide much-needed meals weekly to students facing hunger over the summer and school holidays. We appreciate the difference you make in the lives of children and families by giving them the gift of nourishment they need to thrive.

THANK YOU to our generous LCC family and the entire Brainerd Lakes Area for donating overall \$129,000 and 12,208 pounds of food to the Lakes Area Food Shelf during the March Food Share Campaign. Of that, our congregation donated \$14,404.44 and 843 pounds of food to the shelves. It was heart-warming to watch our youngest members passing the Noisy Offering kettles on a few occasions. Included in our total March amount, with a Sunday and Wednesday offering, our coins and dollars brought in \$610.08 Our efforts of providing healthy, high protein and low sodium foods were much appreciated by shoppers. Let's keep this going throughout the year, as school vacation is just around the corner. Families need to fill hungry stomachs when school lunches end with help from the LAFS and Operation Sandwich.



## MANY THANKS TO OUR END OF MARCH & APRIL VOLUNTEERS!

**Easter morning**, and the sanctuary is filled with the amazing voices of our senior choir! What dedication and commitment these folks have for Lutheran Church of the Cross, singing at all 3 services. Thank you to each and every one of you who contributed your beautiful gift of music to enhance our Easter morning services. You are all a blessing!

Thank you to our Decorating Crew for coming in on Saturday morning and arranging all the beautiful flowers for our sanctuary! Thank you to Jerry Raedeke for displaying all of our beautiful white paraments for our altar area. What a grand setting to celebrate Easter morning!

Many thanks to all the children, ushers, greeters, acolytes, communion assistants, altar guild people, Scripture readers and sound techs who participated in our Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday worship services. It takes a village!

Planning & preparation drove one of the best set up days for **Rummage Sale** in recent memory, as noted by many people. Thank you to the everyone that contributed there time and talents in so many ways! The dedication to this ministry is simply awesome!



## AN INVITATION FOR APRIL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Mark May 2nd on your calendar for the LCC Properties Spring Clean Up Day! 10:30am—2:30pm with lunch served at noon. Bring your rake and strength!

LCC is seeking volunteers to help plant flowers under our sign by county road 13. If interested, please contact Todd @ 612-810-2201.

It takes more than 24 Worship Assistants for a typical week of worship services. Please consider occasionally serving in one or more capacities such as Usher, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Worship Coordinator, or several others. Simply sign up on the sheets in the Narthex. I also welcome any inquiry calls or texts at 612-810-2201. I serve to help you serve!

Blessings,

Todd Whipple, Volunteer Coordinator

Sun	Mon	Tue	May
facility calendar for:			May
			<b>1</b> 8:30 Text 9:30 Quilt 11:00 Wid 5:45 Supp 6:00 King <b>6:20 Wor</b> 7:00 Conf 7:00 Sr. C
<b>5 NEW MEMBER SUNDAY</b>  <b>9:00 Worship w/ Communion</b> 10:00 Coffee Fellowship w/ Youth Scores <b>10:30 Worship w/ Communion</b> 1:00 Piano Recital	<b>6</b>  9:30 Bible Study-Value of Knowing 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group	<b>7</b>  8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Women in the Word 12:30 PEO 7:00 Women in the Word	<b>8 LAST</b>  8:30 Text S 5:30 Bells 5:45 Supp 6:00 King' <b>6:20 Wors</b> 7:00 Conf 7:00 Sr. C
<b>12</b>  <b>9:00 Worship w/ Communion</b> 10:00 Coffee Fellowship/Burrito Blessings <b>10:30 Worship w/ Communion</b> 1:00 Piano Recital	<b>13</b>  9:30 Bible Study- Value of Knowing 9:30 MOPS 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group	<b>14</b>  8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab	<b>15</b>  8:30 Text S 9:30 Quilt 3:00 Solar 4:00 Creat 5:30 Bells 7:00 Sr. Cl
<b>19 PENTECOST/SR. RECOGNITION</b>  <b>9:00 Worship w/ Communion</b> 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Cross Kid Parent Mtg <b>10:30 Worship w/Communion &amp; Sr. Recognition</b> 11:30 Worship & Music Committee	<b>20</b>  11:00 Soul Sisters 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group 1:00 Lazybrook Townhome Assoc. 7:00 People for Racial Justice	<b>21</b>  8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab	<b>22</b>  8:30 Text S 10:00 Gathe L 5:30 Bells c
<b>26</b>  <b>9:00 Worship w/ Communion</b> 10:00 Coffee Fellowship <b>10:30 Worship w/ Communion</b> 1:00 Funeral: Diana Ledin	<b>27 OFFICE CLOSED</b>  	<b>28</b>  8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:30 Novel Ideas Book Club	<b>29</b>  8:30 Text 5:30 Bells



Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<h1>2024</h1>		
Study eters ows Group er s Kids <b>Ship w/ Comm.</b> /Route 56/HSYG Choir/A Time for Us	<b>2</b>  8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:30 Spring Cleanup Day 7:00 A.A.  	<b>3</b>  12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter	<b>4</b>  9:00 Love Lake Assoc. Mtg
<b>W.O.W.</b> Study of Praise er s Kids <b>Ship w/ Comm.</b> /Route 56/HSYG Choir/A Time for Us	<b>9</b>  8:15 Men's Breakfast 12:00 PrimeTimers 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.	<b>10</b>  12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter	<b>11</b>  9:00 Lake Hubert Assoc Board
Study ers Tech Team ion Care Mtg of Praise Choir	<b>16</b>  8:15 Men's Breakfast 7:00 A.A.	<b>17</b>  12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter  	<b>18</b>  9:00 Cullen Lakes Assn Board
Study r Bible Study & uncheon of Praise	<b>23</b>  8:15 Men's Breakfast 11:00 Nisswa Garden Club 7:00 A.A.	<b>24</b>  12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter	<b>25</b>
Study of Praise	<b>30</b>  8:15 Men's Breakfast 7:00 A.A.	<b>31</b>  5:00 Wedding Rehearsal	<b>Reminder: Before planning any meeting/event/gathering at church, call the church office for availability and scheduling. Thank you.</b>

# Happy Birthday!

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1.
2. Jason Bassett, Sue Kuhn, Sarah Tietz, Marcella Timmons
3. Stacey Paulbeck, Diane Peukert, Paula West
- 4.
- 5.
6. Pat Larson, Herman Schley, Shawna Williams
7. Marilyn Wottreng
8. Jude Anderson, Scarlett Anderson, Vanessa Anderson, Jacob Kruger, Benjamin Stubbs
9. Leslie Severson
10. Alex Kuhn, Mack Landecker
11. Donna Salfer
12. Marty Halvorson
13. Lyle Kline, Morgan Lueck, Karen Raguse
14. Mary Miller, Marlene Perkins, Midge Shaw, Shawn Van Vliet
15. James Gerlich, James Johnson, David Olness, Erik Stoxen, Marion Town, Chuck Trucano
16. Georgette Lewis, Cheryl Lindberg, Laura Raedeke
17. Susan Boulka, Brenna LeBlanc, Nicole Nelson, Pamela Poston
18. Cliff Hess, Kristin Neale, Jenny Stubbs
- 19.
20. Ronnie Evenson, Todd Holland, Jack Ingram, Carla Whiteman
21. Timothy Helsene
22. Kolby Clarine, Logan Fogarty, Jennifer Oseland, Mary Wnuk
23. Linda Carlson, Bailey Clausen, Diane Fogarty, Brad Myers
24. Toby Bassett, Quinn Eisenschenk
25. Clay Erickson, Nora Van Vliet
26. Oakley Aune, Keith Grothem, Mary Hubert, Lila Moen, Bob Trafas
27. Dane Smith
28. Luann Mickelson, Emery Wottreng
29. Don DeLine, Briston Domino, Mindi Scott
30. Danae Anderson, Sara Crabb-Erickson, Lisa Kruger, Emma Trees
31. Shawna Reed, Martin Timmons



## Let's Talk

From the "People for Racial Justice" Group  
Submitted by Marty Halvorson

When you look at your life what would you say is your most significant accomplishment? For many of us who have had successful jobs we might think of our work as at the top of the list. But what often comes first is that we have given our best at raising children, guiding them as best we could. I know in our family we have had all kinds of advantages with quality day and health care, educational opportunities and advantages with home and church. We never had to worry about whether our children would be taken from us and disappear.

Archeologists in Nebraska, at a remote boarding school, are trying to find the bodies of dozens of children who died there and have been lost for decades. Crews with shovels are searching for unmarked sites where ground-penetrating radar suggested a possible location for the cemetery of the Genoa Indian Industrial School. Genoa was part of a national system of more than 400 Native American boarding schools that attempted to integrate Indigenous people into white culture. This was done by separating children from their families and cutting them off from their heritage.

The school, about 90 miles west of Omaha, opened in 1884 and at its height was home to nearly 600 students from more than 40 tribes across the country. Newspaper clippings, records and a student's letter indicate at least 86 students died at the school, usually due to diseases such as tuberculosis and typhoid. You will not find these statistics recorded in any of our history books. The raising of our children had it's bumps and problems, but we never had to be concerned in the way Indigenous families had to be.



**Toning with a Purpose** has been a wonderful way to share the mission of Smile Train with others. This season, my toning partners have donated \$620 = 2.5 cleft surgeries. Since "Toning With a Purpose" began in December 2016, participants have donated \$3,341.00 = 13+ surgeries. If we were included in all matched funds, that number would go to 41 children whose lives have been changed forever. Thank you, Lord, for Smile Train, their mission, and this opportunity to share.  
Gloria Thomas



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

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

*Quilting = piecing it all together*

COMING SOON - mark your calendar!



# God's New Creation VBX

June 10 - 13  
9am - 12n

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

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

Adult and youth volunteers are also needed for this fun-filled week - use the link below to register/volunteer:

**REGISTER AT:**

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

# INVEST IN OUR CROSS KIDS PLAYGROUND

Be a part of  
this vital  
ministry  
project!

To donate funds, please make checks payable to LCC with Playground Fund on the memo line, or designate electronic funds to the Playground Fund. If you are interested in volunteering time/talent, please email Todd Whipple at [volunteer@lccnisswa.org](mailto:volunteer@lccnisswa.org).



## LCC's Playground Task Force

*Dale Peterson, Jean Kraft,  
Maureen Schmidt, Pastor  
Drew, Julie Helsene, Jon  
Henke, Kari Erickson,  
Laura Raedeke, Sherry  
Pape, Danae Anderson,  
Todd Whipple*



*As of April 15, we have received  
\$45,090.00 in donations; and we have a  
\$5000.00 matching grant offered up for  
those wishing to donate toward the  
rubberized chips. We are on our way,  
but need your help to reach our  
\$55,000.00—\$60,000.00 total.*

**Let the little children come to  
me. Don't stop them, because  
God's kingdom belongs to  
people who are like these little  
children. Luke 18:16, ERV**

# Our Rummage Sale Volunteers are:

**A** mazing  
wesome  
ppreciated



## **You work hard-**

- Presorting, hauling boxes, and creating a mountain of clothing.
- Providing new-found treasures from the castaways of others.
- Removing trees and moving storage sheds/PODS to facilitate the playground installation.

## **You create beautiful sounds-**

- Laughter
- "My feet hurt!"
- "Is it time to eat?"
- "Trailer is here to unload ... Where is everyone going?"
- The lunch bell ... truly a beautiful sound!

## **The ripple effects you provide:**

- Camaraderie and friendships.
- Providing local charitable organizations with useful products that didn't meet our shoppers needs at this time.
- Touching the lives of many in our church, community, and world through mission giving.

## **THANK YOU FOR:**

- your selflessness. caring and passion.
- Making life a little better for people you do not even know
- Creating a wonderful sense of community for LCC.
- Being the face, hands and feet of Jesus!

**Thanks be to God! -Pr. Drew & Pr. Michelle**

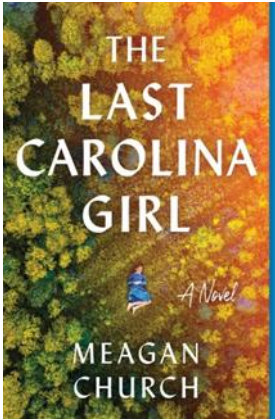


## NOVEL IDEAS BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, May 28th

10:30am

Chapel Hall

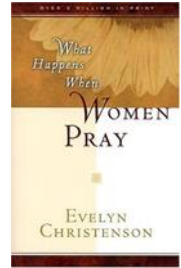
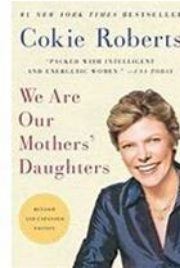
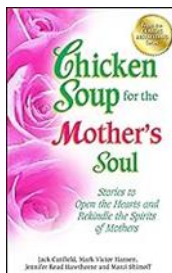
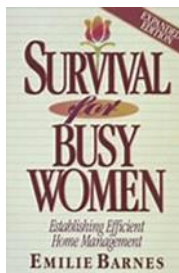
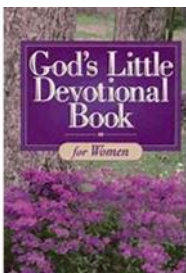


For fourteen-year-old Leah Payne, life in her beloved coastal Carolina town is as simple as it is free. Devoted to her lumberjack father and running through the wilds where the forest meets the shore, Leah's country life is as natural as the Loblolly pines that rise to greet the Southern sky.

When an accident takes her father's life, Leah is wrenched from her small community and cast into a family of strangers with a terrible secret. Separated from her only home, Leah is kept apart from the family and forced to act as a helpmate for the well-to-do household. When a moment of violence and prejudice thrusts Leah into the center of the state's shameful darkness, she must fight for her own future against a world that doesn't always value the wild spirit of a Carolina girl.



Here are a few books you can find in the church library that you may enjoy:



There are several excellent fiction (secular and non-secular) books as well to choose from. Also, just a reminder that you can look up library books online and search by topics.

[www.library.cat.org/lib/lccnisswa](http://www.library.cat.org/lib/lccnisswa)

Thank you for using your church library. Please remember to return books in a timely manner. Thank you.



# CREATION CARE

"America's first Earth Day was on April 22, 1970, and it led to the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act. But LCC celebrated it on Sunday, April 14, reminding us that we are connected to and dependent on all of nature - God's creation. Earth Day honors its founder, the late U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, Gaylord Nelson, who said, **"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."** In recognition of Earth Day at LCC, displays were creatively arranged in the narthex to give information on plastic waste, recycling dos and don'ts, and several of our young people engaged people in conversation and handed out informational flyers.

Standing in front of Drey Loge's display of typical plastic waste are Birdie Morsch and Rula Morsch, granddaughters of LCC members Rod and Lori Schneller, holding up examples of unrecyclable plastics and handing out flyers. Lola Chase is shown with the poster she created depicting the various single-use plastic waste clogging our oceans. She feels sad that turtles and birds are dying from ingesting the plastic that breaks down into small pieces, and wants to do something about it. Birdie and Rula like to pick up trash that people dump, and want everyone to be encouraged to recycle and reuse things. Outside, the big attraction was Rory Stumvoll's dump truck, accompanied by a sign that read THE AMOUNT OF PLASTIC THIS TRUCK COULD HOLD ENTERS OUR OCEANS EVERY 60 SECONDS. Rori and his family are standing in front of the truck. The visuals of this were shocking, and made for some good conversation among the congregation.

We are thankful to Drey Loge, CEO and President of Waste Partners, Inc. and to Rory Stumvoll, owner of Stumvoll Excavating, for their help in educating all of us about plastic waste.



**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**Church Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 11, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

**We Assemble in God's Name**

**Attendees:** Pr. Drew Bakken, Pr. Michelle Ruen, Darrell Paske, Colleen Both, Bonnie Stevens, Sharon Taute, Dean Dalzell, Lyn Underdahl, Bryan Trees, Rachael Gerhartz, Dale Peterson and Deb Van Roy

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

1. Call to Order  
Meeting called to order by President Darrell Paske
2. Devotion: Rachell Gerhartz
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes: Deb Van Roy  
Motion to approve minutes by Dale Peterson; motion seconded by Sharon Taute.  
Motion carried.
4. Treasurer's Report: Colleen Both  
Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Bonnie Stevens; motion seconded by Lyn Underdahl.  
Motion carried.

**New Business: None**

Requests for new business should be emailed to Darrell Paske (dmpdrdt@msn.com)

**Old Business:**

Meals for Ukraine Proposal – Packing and Shipping

Request tabled due to recommendation from our Ukrainian contact. They have requested any contributions be made in a way to bolster the local economy. This item is tabled until a new recommendation can be developed.

**Pastors' Reports**

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

He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed Alleluia!

As I reflect on the past month, I am impressed at how well our Lenten Worship services went. We had wonderful music, life changing messages from our "Fifth Gospel" speakers, and caring support from the congregation as people opened themselves up to the Holy Spirit. We are so blessed here at LCC with such amazing individuals who are willing to take a chance and share their experiences of where they have seen God.

The snow and the cold threatened to turn away people from coming to church on Easter, but they still came to worship together. And here they were welcomed by so many volunteers, lots of flowers, wonderful music, and a celebratory service. Which reminded us that Jesus is risen, He has risen indeed.

We have so much to be thankful for here at LCC. Each Sunday I say that we are a servant congregation reaching out into our community and throughout the world, and it is so true. This congregation of believers truly do go above and beyond to share their faith by giving generously and serving with all their hearts. I received a call from Taryn, with the Northeastern Minnesota Synod. She reached out to ask if we at Lutheran Church of the Cross would be willing to host the annual "Walking Together" event on Oct 12th. The theme is "ELCA World Hunger". This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of this important ministry. At this event we will have staff from ELCA World Hunger present, and hopefully Lutheran Advocacy - MN as well.

As the month of May approaches, I am so grateful for the opportunity to begin my Sabbatical. I am thankful for the prayers of the council and congregation as I take this time to rest and reflect. A special thank you to Pastor Michelle, Pastor Brian, Pastor Lori, Pastor Luther, and Pastor Ray for preaching,

teaching, and stepping in to help during there next three months.

Motion to approve hosting “Walking Together” event on October 12<sup>th</sup> by Lyn Underdahl; motion seconded by Colleen Both. Motion carried.

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

- Holy Week and Easter services went very well and were a blessing to all who could attend in person or online. Thank you to everyone who assisted, sung in the choir, or volunteered in some way. A special thank you to all our 5th Gospel speakers who shared from their heart through the power of the Holy Spirit. We were all inspired and blessed!
- Prayer 101 has begun on Fridays at 12:00 Noon-1:00 PM. It’s held in the Conference Room at StoneHouse Coffee in Baxter. Thank you to Marty Holmstrom for leading this wonderful study on Prayer. There were 12 people in attendance at the first gathering on April 5. Marty said this class on prayer is for anyone who is “humble, hungry, and teachable” and wants to learn more about prayer. Does that sound like you? Come join us.
- The second Widow’s luncheon led by Pastor Michelle will be on Wednesday, May 1, from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. We had a large gathering of over 20 widows at our first gathering. The group will enjoy a time of sharing, a spring lunch, some words from either myself or a guest speaker, cry, laugh, and renew friendships. Please spread the word to all widows who would like to attend. All widows are welcome.
- Habitat for Humanity, through their site person Cathy Wells, has contacted me in hopes that LCC would like to be involved in a Faith Build beginning in late summer with hopes of completing the home by year's end. They are asking local churches to consider being a part of building this home. I have helped with Women Build and Thrivent Build’s in the past and I personally would love for LCC to consider being a part of this worthy project. The initial meeting will be held on April 25.
- We will be welcoming in new members on New Member Sunday, May 5 at our 9:00 AM service. A sloppy joe supper and informational meeting will be on Tuesday, April 30, at 6:00-7:30 PM where new members, staff and council members will introduce themselves. It is a fun, informal way of getting acquainted and sharing what we offer at LCC. Right now there are approximately 20 people wanting to join our church family.

### **Committee Reports:**

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

- Earth Day (April 14)...Drey Loge and Lola Chase will have a display set up in the Narthex.
- Rogate Sunday (April 28)...The adult forum following the 9:00 service will be presented by Darrin Blanck.
- Dick Schmidt is looking into the best way to keep service recordings saved long term, they are not on livestream indefinitely and there have been numerous requests for copies.
- We hope to improve the lighting for the risers and the worship leaders singing space.

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

No report this month.

#### **Property: Dale Peterson**

Here is an update on the 2024 LCC property projects currently underway:

- I contacted four insurance agencies to obtain competitive quotes on insurance for LCC business property, workers compensation and commercial umbrella coverage. Two of the companies were not able to provide quotes in this current insurance claims environment. I am still working with two companies to finalize and present competitive quotes. Our current insurance coverage continues at an increased cost for 2024.

- The Property Committee met in February to prioritize the property projects and timeframes for 2024.
- This week I met onsite with the contractor who will be removing the steps at the north entrance and installing the handicap accessible ramp. He assured me that the ramp will be completed as early as possible this year. This is a complex project to assure handicap accessibility compliance, adequate spacing, proper railings, and installation of the in-ground heating system.
- LCC spring property clean-up day is scheduled for Thursday, May 2nd. This includes the monument sign plantings, south shrubbery, church grounds, old parsonage lot, and the Memorial Garden.
- A group of volunteers built a new floor under one of the rummage sale storage sheds. Both storage sheds were moved to an area behind the garage. This week volunteers helped grind several tree stumps north and east of the garage. Fill will be brought in and rock from the old parsonage lot will be used to level the ground north of the garage. All this is in preparation to move the two rummage sale pods during the rummage sale set-up week.

## **Social Concerns & Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens Bridges of Hope**

### Bridge on 7th –

Warming Shelter will remain close at 8 am on April 22. Sunday, April 21 will be the last night of sleep. Donations of snacks, and cleaning supplies will be received on Wednesday, April 17.

Operation Sandwich- Dates are in the process of being formalized. Bill Wear will have an update when he speaks at the Heartland Women's Conference at Our Savior's in Pequot Lakes on Saturday, April 13. Registration and brunch is \$10.

## **ELCA WORLD HUNGER**

Vicki Schmidt of our Synod is a new member of the Synod Hunger, Justice and Rural Life committee. She will be a World Hunger presenter at Synod Women's Convention in June at Zion, Grand Rapids. She'll be leading a Bike tour for Hunger sometime in the late summer or fall. Details will be available later for this event.

NE MN Synod is planning Walking Together: 50 Years of World Hunger on Saturday, Oct 12 at a location still to be determined. This will involve a morning worship, plenary with guest speaker from ELCA World Hunger, lunch, and a small number of breakout sessions in the afternoon.

Each of these sessions will incorporate both a synod ministry and issues of hunger. For example, perhaps we invite EcoFaith to lead a session on how climate change is impacting hunger. Or Sumud Northland (formally Peace Not Walls) speaks to how the situation in Gaza (and whatever that looks like in October) is certainly lending itself to a hunger crisis. These are just two possibilities. The idea is to keep the focus on hunger, while still lifting up synod ministries and educate our folks on not only what is going on, but how they can be involved.

## **Congregational Life: Lyn Underdahl**

Re: Report on Activity with Life of the Church Ministries

See the following church life groups:

- New Member Committee – The next New Member meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 30** with the New member recognition on **Sunday, May 5th**.
- Library – No report
- Funeral Committee: No report
- Soul Sisters: No report
- Prayers Shawls: No report
- Supper Club: No report

- Prime Timers: No report
- Creation Care: (Per Laura)
  - a. The Creation Care Team is working on an Earth Day at LCC display in the narthex for Sunday, April 14.
  - b. Blessing of the Seeds and Plants Sunday is on April 28, with Pr. Jerry Raedeke officiating and Pr. Luther Swenson preaching. Free flowering plants will be given out for our blessing ceremony following the sermon. A forum in Chapel Hall follows the service, with Darin Blanck re-presenting work by Meteorologist and Climatologist Dr. Mark Seeley, University of Minnesota emeritus in the Department of Soil, Water and Climate that includes measured evidence of a changing climate occurring in our own backyards, and what we can do to slow down the pace of change.
- Prayer Chain: (Per Ann) We know through prayer that our Lord and Savior hears us. We are constantly receiving requests from our congregation and our community. We know that our congregation will ask, but what is special is that our community is reaching out to us. Some prayers are signed, some have no names, just requests, some are anonymous, and God knows them all. We are called to pray, ask and be thankful.

### **Personnel: Pam Sandelin**

No report.

### **Youth & Family Ministry: Bryan Trees**

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

CYFM Report Joint Report

- April 28: 10am Kids Art Event during Coffee Fellowship in the Tree House
- May 5: Scones for Coffee Fellowship (didn't have any volunteers for rolls in April, so Kari made this decision based on input from her team.)
- Kari will be teaching Confirmation on May 1. She has asked Emma Trees to take Route 56, as Betty Arveson is not available. They will do a scripture-based Escape Room activity that evening.
- May 8: Last Wed. Supper - Confirmation Team Building activities to follow worship for last meeting.
- May 12: Burrito Blessings Event and Mother's Day crafts during Coffee Fellowship
- May 19: Senior Recognition Sunday (coffee fellowship & 10:30 service), Cross Kids parent meeting
- June 10-13: VBX (Vacation Bible School Experience), 9am - 12noon
- Summer Stretch: June 6, 13, 20, 27, July 11 - 9am - 3pm
- Luther Crest Week: July 14 - 18
- Youth Trip??? July 21 - 26 - not much interest yet...
- Kari is waiting for info from Pine River and Pequot Lakes regarding Summer Stretch plans/details.
- Kari will get out a request for parent/family help with the Rummage set up and tear down.
- Kari purchased a yard sized Connect Four Set for youth events and will get on the Gaga Ball pit.
- VBX materials are 95% ready - volunteer letters to go out this week. Some kids have registered and Kari sent info to be put in Pequot Lakes community ed. brochure.
- Kari has a mailing about ready to go out to moms of infants and preschoolers as a way of keeping in touch.
- Playground: Pr. Drew signed contract with Copper Creek so we should be able to get set ordered as soon as Burke and Copper Creek communicate.
- Scholarship applications are in so Kari will be forwarding them to the scholarship committee this week.
- Sally Hodgson has picked up Cross Kids supplies and bags for end of April through June. Still working on options for Outdoor Worship bags.
- At our CYFM meeting after worship on April 3, we discussed bibles for 3rd and 7th grade and changing Super Roll Sundays to Scone Sundays for 2024-25. We will be assigning families for those duties just as we did for acolytes this year.

**Next Council Meeting:** Thursday, May 9, 2024, 7 p.m.

**Devotion:** Dale Peterson

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Michelle

**Meeting Adjourned.**

Submitted by Deb Van Roy

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

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## RUMMAGE SALE SETUP WORDS OF WISDOM



“How much are you going to pay for that \$20 bag of goodies?”



“Did you get enough to eat?”

“Don’t forget  
your nametag.”



“Kitchen gadgets  
galore, who knows  
what some of them  
are for.”



“So much  
stuff, so  
little  
time.”

“Whew!”



# Lutheran Church of the Cross

PO Box 29  
5064 County Road 13  
Nisswa, MN 56468

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

**CURRENT RESIDENT OR**

Address label here

## Welcoming all people into discipleship

### STAFF

Pastor	Drew Bakken	218-961-2014
Pastor	Michelle Ruen	218-961-2013
Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry	Kari Erickson	218-961-2012
High School Youth Director	Emma Trees	
Director of Music Ministry/Organist	Cathy Taylor	218-961-2053
Financial Secretary	Karen Wiele	218-961-2016
Volunteer Coordinator	Todd Whipple	218-961-2052
Senior Choir Director	Mike Smith	
Organist	Laura Raedeke	
Bell Choir Director	Cheryl Karlgaard	
King's Kids	Carol Smith	
Custodian	Todd Whipple	218-963-2564
ELCA Global Missionary	Bradn Buerkle	
LCC Office	Laurie Hemish	218-961-2011

### 2024 CHURCH COUNCIL

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

