

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church
of the Cross
2023

April



Dear LCC Church family,

The conclusion of Lent is in view. Over the next week, more and more of the Liturgy will be stripped away. Chanting will cease on Palm Sunday. The organ volume will get softer and softer as it assumes a more supportive role in worship. Maundy Thursday ends with the stripping of the altar while Psalm 22 is read. Good Friday's sanctuary will feature a bare altar for our Tenebrae service, where candles will be extinguished and lights dimmed.

Then things begin to change. On Easter morning the light begins to slowly break in...the darkness scatters until there is no place left for it. Baptisms are remembered; eucharist is celebrated; resurrection is exclaimed!

Our worship during Holy Week reveals that God is Goodness, Truth, and Beauty. These three exist beyond space and time; they are transcendental. They relate to and seek to describe the nature of our reality and our being.

The three: Goodness, Truth, and Beauty- are not subjective, and for good reason. If Truth was subjective, then we can't get angry when politicians lie to us. If Goodness was subjective, then it's fine for people to abuse others for profit and greed. If Beauty is only in the eye of the beholder, then we have lost the right to be offended by obscene art.

The Good, the True, and the Beautiful are central to our concept of God, and all three work together. Philosopher Peter Kreeft explained why when he said, "Goodness is first in value as truth and beauty have the end of good; beauty motivates us most; and, truth trumps both goodness and beauty."

Over the weeks ahead, we are reminded that we are created to know God, receive His gifts, and worship Him. Because He made us, we want to know the Truth. We desire the Good for His salvation on that Friday. We love the Beautiful exemplified by a suffering Savior whose life surrounds us in stained glass on Sundays. Thus, Goodness, Truth, and Beauty are reflections of a perfect God who sent His Son to be born of Mary, commit no sin, suffer, die and rise again on Easter.

The Good, the True, and the Beautiful are found in Jesus Christ, His Word, His Creation, His redemption, His resurrection, and His doing it all for you.

Come and join us for one of our three Easter Sunday worship services at 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 am. Along with our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world together we rejoice: He is Risen, He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Pastor Drew Bakken

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY April 2

- Super Roll Sundae - scones, rolls and yogurt parfaits during coffee fellowship

Wednesday, April 5

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

Maundy Thursday, April 6

- Worship with First Communion 6:20pm in Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 7

- Tenebrae Worship 6:20pm in Sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY

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



Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2023 General Fund

			Annual	% YTD of Annual
	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 62,396	\$ 126,048	\$ 699,490	18.02%
Expenses	\$ 63,678	\$ 116,409	\$ 699,490	16.64%
Difference	(\$ 1,282)	\$ 9,638	\$ 0	

**In the month of February our expenses were greater than our income by (\$1,282).
Thank you for your continued support.**



BAPTISM

Name: Cecilia Jean Trosdahl

Born: December 3, 2022

Baptized: March 19, 2023

Parents: Joel & Lisa Trosdahl

Pastor Drew Bakken, Officiant



APRIL 6, 2023 - 6:20PM

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

FIRST COMMUNION

RUBY DIRKES
VIVIAN BOLT
MAKENNA ANDERSON
JEMMA ANDERSON
DAYNE ANDERSON
OSCAR PRAHM
DAGNE NEALE
ELSIE NEALE
THEA UDE
WILLIAM WINEGAR
GRACE WINEGAR

QUENTIN AKER
BEAU UBL
ELLIOT BARTOW
PRESLEIGH LARSON
QUINN EISENSCHENK
RAE LYNN CAREY
LOLA CHASE
JONATHAN BASSETT
OLIVIA TROSDAHL
BRADY OLSON
LUCAS PAPE
JAXSON KUHN

**THERE'S A PLACE FOR
YOU AT THE LCC TABLE!**



Our First Communion Workshops found us thoroughly enjoying food, fellowship, and fun along with faith formation. We learned why we take communion, and how Jesus is with us when we partake, feeding, loving and forgiving us. We have another workshop on April 1—pics from that one will come in May. Thanks so much to our wonderful Cross Kids and their parents for helping us welcome these younger members to the Lord's Table at LCC. These youngsters will take their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, and will also help serve the bread (which they made!) The chalices they painted and banners they made will be on display for Maundy Thursday worship. Please lift up these kids and their families in prayer as they achieve this Faith Milestone, and join us at 6:20pm on April 6 as we welcome them to LCC's table!

ATTENTION YOUTH



Let's go on a Rainy Lake Houseboat Adventure this summer! We have reservations for up to 20 youth to join us as we will cruise the lake, camp, play, share devotions, and enjoy each other. All youth who are entering 9th—12th grade (and graduating seniors) are welcome to join us on this trip. Let us know if you have a friend to invite. Get a \$50 deposit to us ASAP—total cost of the trip is \$350, but we will do some fundraising to help offset the costs. We also have some 'tripperships' available—just ask Pr. Drew or Kari and we will get you all set.



Thanks for supporting our Youth Super Roll Sundays!

7th—12th gr:
RESERVE YOUR
SUPER ROLL
VOLUNTEER
SPOT BY GOING
TO SIGNUP
GENIUS

***Join us for Rolls,
Scones, and Palm
“Sundaes” on
April 2.***



Welcoming Cecelia Jean Trosdahl into our church family through baptism!

Senior Recognition Sunday

Mark your calendars for May 21. We will honor our graduating Seniors in worship as well as celebrate them during Coffee Fellowship: Ella Anderson, Karlton Anderson, Jayley Andresen, Nathan Bakken, Lucy Boche, Bailey Clausen, Brea Eckes, Nick Evanson, Andy Grell, Hannah Hayes, Tyler Hushagen, Will Ingram, Logan Knutson, Riley Larson, Grant Loge, Maci Martini, Vaughn Petersen, Max Roby and Josh Stark.



Ahoy there! You won't want to miss this year's Vacation Bible eXperience, "River of Life."

Each day we will dock our boat at a different port to learn about how the ELCA is helping folks that live there have plenty of access to clean, safe water to drink and feed their crops. Along the way we will learn about God's gracious gift of water. Our stations include Storytime, Games, Small Group, Snacks, Crafts, and simulations. Each morning we will open with a skit and learn about our theme for the day: God Creates, God Provides, God Claims & Protects, and God Loves, We Love. And of course, there will be singing and dancing! Each day will feature a bible verse and a psalm as well.

Our mascots for the week are Wizer the Owl, Pippin the Raccoon, Ridge the Bear, and Blaise the Deer. The ports we will visit include Cambodia, El Salvador, Milwaukee, WI and Papua New Guinea, and the Central African Republic.

This VBX is open to those who are Pre-K (toilet-trained) through entering Grade 4. For those entering grades 5 and up, we have Crew Leader positions. We will require some adult help to make this week possible, so please consider volunteering if you are able/willing. It's such a fun week and way to show our children that we care for them and support them on their faith journey.

Adults can volunteer here: <https://tinyurl.com/4mv7yy3n>

There is no cost to attend our VBX, and each participant will receive a "River of Life" backpack to carry their belongings back and forth each day.

Register kids and Crew Leaders here: <https://tinyurl.com/3bedby65>.

Music Notes

April 2023



Woman, Weeping in the Garden (CEDARWOLF)

Text: Daniel Charles Damon; Music: Thomas Pavlechko

1. Woman, weeping in the garden, who has pushed the stone aside?
Who has taken Jesus' body, Jesus Christ the crucified?
2. Woman, waiting in the garden, after men have come and gone,
After angels give their witness, silently you watch the dawn.
3. Woman, walking in the garden, Jesus takes you by surprise;
When the gard'ner calls you, "Mary!" faith and joy meet in your eyes.
4. Woman, weeping in the garden, weep for joy, for you have seen
Jesus, the Messiah, risen; Christ, of whom the prophets dream.
5. Woman, dancing from the garden, find the others and proclaim
Christ is risen as he promised; tell the world he knew your name!

The text of this hymn was written by Daniel Charles Damon, an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church and internationally published writer of hymn texts and tunes. His works are included in many current hymnals. He is also the Associate Editor of Hymnody for Hope Publishing Co. in Illinois. He is a jazz pianist and taught church music at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California.

Thomas Pavlechko, composer, was born into a family of organists, pianist, vocalists, and folk dancers. Needless to say, he grew up with music. After just 4 years of piano lessons, he was accepted into the Dana School of Music of Youngstown State University as an organ performance major. His first hymn tune was written at a picnic table after a summer worship meeting in 1982. He now has 73 hymn tunes published in various denominational hymnals. In 2002 he was appointed to serve on the Liturgical Music Editorial Team to assist in choosing liturgical music for the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal that we now use.

I love the text and the tune of this hymn. It describes what transpired at the tomb after Jesus is resurrected. Mary, mother of Jesus, and Mary Magdalene were both at the garden tomb mourning Jesus' death. They were amazed that the stone was rolled away and he was no longer in the tomb. They were faithful to Jesus through everything, even his death, burial, and then to their astonishment and joy, his resurrection.

Have a joyful Easter! He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music Ministries

RUMMAGE SALE

*Hwy. 371 &
Co. Rd. 13*

LUTHERAN
CHURCH
OF THE CROSS
ELCA



Schaefer's Corner, Nisswa

Thurs., Apr. 27: 8am-6pm
Fri., Apr. 28: 8am - 6pm
Sat., Apr. 29: 8am - 12noon
Half price on Sat.!



*Furniture, Clothing, Coats, Shoes,
Home Décor, Collectibles,
Jewelry, Housewares, Electronics,
Toys, Books, Linens, Blankets,
Crafts, Pictures, Tools, Sporting
Goods, Lawn/Garden, and more!*

PROCEEDS BENEFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Questions?

Call 218-537-0522 or 612-849-1500

Spring, 2023

WOMEN in the WORD with Pastor Michelle —Tuesday, April 4

Our April Women's Bible Study is Tuesday, **April 4**, at **10:00 AM and 7:00 PM**. Please join us for coffee, pastries and treats, and a special time in God's Word. No homework or preparation needed. We look forward to your presence! All are welcome! Bring your Bible and a friend!

Grub and Games—Friday, April 21

Our April Friday Night Grub and Games (i.e. Pizza and Games) will be April 21 from 5:30 -7:30 PM. Come for a fun night of good food and entertaining games! Bring your own game or join in on the other games being played. Be prepared to laugh and have a good time! See you at 5:30 on Friday, April 21!

A Time for Us—

A Time For Us will begin again on Wednesday, April 12. **We will be cooking the Wednesday night supper, serving, and cleaning up on April 12.** On April 19 and April 26 we will be meeting as usual from 7:00-8:00 PM during the Confirmation and Route 56 hour. Thanks, Parents. See you then!

Toning with a Purpose

Join us every Thursday from **10:00—11:00am** in Chapel Hall for an hour of toning using bands and weights as we work on our core and balance. You are welcome and encouraged to work at your own intensity level. Instructor and Lead Teacher: Gloria Thomas. All free will donations are sent to *Smile Train*. **April 13th** will be our last session for the season.

Men's Breakfast

Join the LCC men for coffee, breakfast and good fellowship in the backroom of **SideTrack restaurant** on Hwy 371 **every Thursday** morning at **8:15am**. Pastor Drew will lead a short Bible Study and the remainder of the time is for fellowship and good food! Contact: Pastor Drew

Stonehouse Fridays



Thank you to everyone who has participated in the StoneHouse devotions on Fridays during Lent. We will be meeting for the last time on **Good Friday, April 7**, at 10:00 AM in the Chapel Hall and 12:00 Noon at StoneHouse. It's not too late to join in. Start your Good Friday off with a holy time in fellowship with one another!



April 13, Thursday, 12:00 Noon

Creation Care: More Than A Special Interest

The LCC Creation Care Team will present a program on why, as Christians, care of creation is important, and how we can integrate creation care throughout all aspects of congregational life and community outreach and in our

homes, including special attention to water quality in this area. The team will review past activities and outcomes and share plans for future projects.

Bring a sack lunch if you'd like. Dessert and beverages are provided by the hosts: Dick & Kate Carlson and George & Margaret Sommerfeld. See you Thursday, April 13, at 12:00 Noon!

Women of the Cross Gather Bible Study



Our April Bible study will be on the seventh through the 10th commandments... you shall not steal, bear false witness or covet. These are Trail markers for love of God and love of neighbor. **Please join us April 12th at 10:00 A.M.**

Our Bible study leader will be Betty Arveson and treats will be provided by Diane Wermager.

The Gather magazine will be in the narthex for March/April.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS, NISSWA 2023

THE LAST WORDS OF JESUS

REMEMBERING HOW HE LIVED AND DIED

WEDS, APRIL 5

All are welcome to walk our labyrinth and journey through our prayer stations, "The Seven Last Words of Jesus" on the Wednesday of Holy Week.

The Labyrinth and stations will be set up in Celebration Center from 8:30am—7pm. Confirmation students are encouraged to reach out to their mentor and share this experience together. All are welcome!



UPDATE

the Church Council for their approval. After that, our congregation will be given time to view the designs to give their input, after which the project will be put to a congregational vote.

We are happy to report that we have some Rummage Sale funds to use as seed money, along with a generous \$10,000 donation. In addition, Eric Johnson has graciously donated the excavation work for this project.

What an exciting time for our younger members and families and any future families with children who visit us at LCC! We look for this project to make our church even more inviting and accommodating to our church family.



A Message on our ELCA Global Missionary

Russian Correspondent– Bradn Buerkle

As I am writing this, it is one year ago to the day that our family landed in Istanbul.

A month after that, my two youngest sons and I made our way to Germany, with my wife and oldest son joining us just after the end of the school year.

The time since then has flowed in a way that I have never experienced before - as if extremely slow and intensely quick at the same time. I want to apologize to you that I have found it so hard to reach out and share with you while pondering how to put together a newsletter last fall...then winter.... I aspired to say something profound, clear and honest, something that could reflect our family's personal journey, while at the same recognizing that the bigger and more significant stories have to do with the way God's children are suffering because of the war in Ukraine and the churches' witness in these times. Complicating things further still, in the back of my mind I cannot rid myself of the (admittedly slight) possibility that what I write here could in some way be harmful to the people that I care so much for in Russia and/or that it might negatively affect my chances to get back there some day.

But a year has passed now, and I cannot see how to reach these high expectations of myself. So, in the knowledge that saying something is better than remaining silent, in this newsletter I will try to give you snippets of life in the church in Russia in the context of war. I will inform you of the ministries you are continuing to support, and will hopefully give you more concrete ideas about prayer needs. Finally, I will let you know what other opportunities for ministry God has opened up for me as I continue to serve in mission.

Despite the more-than-challenging times, God has continued to accompany congregations as they engage in preaching the Gospel in word and deed. You will read more about their work below. As for me, distance has hindered my ability to contribute as before, though lay ministers and fellow pastors tell me that they still find my weekly sermons for parishes without a pastor and text studies over Zoom to be useful. I continue to accompany the deanery of the Far East, I lead occasional lectures for local study programs, and I support the specialized ministries (pastoral care and men's ministry) that have been close to my heart. All of this use of Russian seems to leave little space in my brain for the German I'm trying to learn! Perhaps, with time, I will get a better idea of how God is leading as one episode of life has closed and another begins. In the meantime, I promise to keep you better informed.

Yours in Christ,

Bradn

I am an ELCA pastor serving with the Evangelical Lutheran Mission of Lower Saxony (ELM). I spent 20 years of ministry in Russia before leaving there in March of 2022. If you have any questions for me, please feel free to write to me at: bradnbuerkle@gmail.com.



Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen News



Big THANK YOU to March volunteers Darrell Paske, Connie and Dale Peterson, Mike Smith and Bonnie Stevens. Connie made cupcakes to end the dinner of meatball stroganoff, carrots, Italian bread, peaches and grapes. Connie and Bonnie cooked enough to send 2 pans of stroganoff and 3 loaves of bread to the Women's shelter.

If you would like to help at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, the signup calendar is on the bulletin board next to the restrooms. LCC has been serving the first Thursday of the month for over 20 years. Any questions? Call or text Ann Bergin, Soup Kitchen coordinator, at 218-820-5511.



Attention Community Gardeners:

Thinking about the joy of gardening is hopefully a warm thought during the recent frigid cold. Soon it will be spring and time to bring new life to our Community Garden. The Creation Care Team would like to know if you plan to retain your current garden plot or if you would like to be a new gardener this summer. Plots will again be \$25 per plot payable by April 21 to the church office. Each gardener is asked to sign an application form and return with payment. For questions, please contact Paula West, westcom@brainerd.net or 218-838-5010. Think spring. Forms available in the church office.





AN INVITATION FOR APRIL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY 6:20 PM SERVICES – If you would be willing to help by being a greeter, usher, worship coordinator, reader or communion assistant (Thursday only) at the services, please give me a call or text at 612-810-2201. There is also a sign-up chart in the narthex.

EASTER SUNDAY 7:30, 9:00 AND 10:30 A.M. SERVICES – Please help us welcome visitors on this special Sunday! We know we will have many visitors coming to these services, and we want them to feel welcome here at LCC. If you can help by being a greeter, usher, worship coordinator, reader or communion assistant at any of the services, please give me a call or text at 612-810-2201. There is also be a sign-up chart in the narthex. Your help is very much appreciated!


MANY THANKS TO OUR MARCH VOLUNTEERS!







LENTEN SUPPERS—It takes many people to come together and make things happen! We couldn't have enjoyed these meals and fellowship without all the volunteers doing their part.

☺ ☺ ☺ Thank you to the food prep teams (Carol Christofferson, Janice Geiger, Nancy Peltier, Arlene & Mike Brodeur, Vicki Edminster, Mary Frost, Jodi Milli, Mary & Steve Panzer, Judy Rickbeil, Dan Olson, & Linda Van Vleit) AND to the serving teams (LCC Youth, A Time For Us, LCC Creation Care, LCC Church Staff, & LCC Church Council). You are all a blessing here at LCC!

Easter Blessing to you,

Todd Whipple, Volunteer Coordinator

Sun	Mon	Tue	
facility calendar for: April			
2 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship/Rolls & Sundaes 10:15 Cross Kids Connection	3 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group	4 8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Women in the Word 10:00 Coffee Clutch 7:00 Women in the Word	5 8:30 PRAY 8:30 Text 9:30 Quilt 7:00 Sr. Ch
9 EASTER—HE IS RISEN! 7:30 Worship w/ Communion 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:30 Worship w/ Communion 	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11 8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Coffee Clutch 4:00 Rummage Sale Mtg	12 8:30 Text 10:00 Gather 5:30 Supp 6:00 King's 6:20 Wors 7:00 Confir 7:00 Sr. Ch
16 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Worship & Music Committee 10:15 Cross Kids Connection	17 9:00 MOPS 11:00 Soul Sisters 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group 7:00 People for Racial Justice	18 8:30 Staff Meeting /Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Coffee Clutch 10:30 Novel Ideas Book Club	19 8:30 Text 9:30 Quilt 4:00 Creat 5:30 Suppe 6:00 King's 6:20 Wors 7:00 Confir 7:00 Sr. Ch
23 9:00 Worship w/ Communion & Baptism 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Cross Kids Connections Rummage Sale Setup	24 Last day to accept donations for rummage sale	25	26 5:30 Suppe 6:00 King's 6:20 Wors 7:00 Confir 7:00 Sr. Ch
30 ROGATE SUNDAY/BLESSING OF THE SEEDS 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Cross Kids Connection —————▶			

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2023		1 1:00 First Communion Workshop
2 ER LABYRINTH Study ers hoir	6 MAUNDY THURSDAY 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 6:20 Worship w/ Communion 7:00 A.A. 	7 GOOD FRIDAY 10:00 Lent Devotional 12:00 Lent Devotional at StoneHouse in Baxter 6:20 Tenebrae Worship	8
Study er Bible Study er s Kids hip w/ Comm rmation/Route 56/Kids hoir/ A Time for Us	13 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 12:00 PrimeTimers 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.	14 8:30 Crow Wing Energized/ Got Plans 	15 12:00 Private Party
Study ers ion Care Team Mtg er Kids hip w/ Comm rmation/Route 56/Kids hoir/A Time for Us	20 8:15 Men's Breakfast 7:00 A.A.	21 9:00 55+ Driver Improvement 5:30 Grub & Game Night Rummage Sale Tent Setup →	22
r Kids hip w/ Comm rmation/Route 56/Kids hoir/A Time for Us →	27 RUMMAGE SALE 8:00 AM—6:00PM 7:00 A.A. 	28 RUMMAGE SALE 8:00 AM—6:00 PM  NEMN Synod Assembly →	29 RUMMAGE SALE 8:00 AM—NOON Noon—done Cleanup 
		Reminder: Before planning any meeting/event/gathering at church, call the church office for availability and scheduling. Thank you.	



1. Jill Hunter, Elsie Neale, Kurt Nelson, Brian Peltier, Mike Smith, Sophie Stubbs
2. Wade Brill, Maverick Franke, Aliana Lind, Sutton Sullivan
3. Julie Helsene, Cheryl Karlgaard, Connie Peterson
4. Jayley Andresen, Ron Halligan, Carol Johnson, Christy Winegar
5. Lyle Amundson, Ryan Gerlich, Marty Urban
6. Pat Birznies
7. Ann Johnson, Karen Johnson
8. Darrell Barnack, Lyle Barsness, Heather Carey, Austin Domino, Ellen Germundson, Tyler Larson, Michael McMenimen, Claire Oseland, Vaughn Petersen, Mark Swenson
9. Sarah Aga, Pam Sandelin, Thomas Teasck
10. Evan Bolt, Mason Fritz, Heidi Larson
- 11.
12. Brighton Bachman, Dan Olson, Gloria Thomas, Pamela Utter
13. Barb Elmquist, Ivan Kraemer, Rick Pratt
14. Dan Bzdok, Elijah Hayes, Daniel Neale, Carol Ricklefs
- 15.
16. Mary Lienke
17. Tim Bergin, Peyton Clarine, Joanie Swanson
18. Kaya Anderson, Wes Anderson, Jana Campbell, Mark Moran, Arlene Rice
19. Kristen Moran
20. Jon Aga, Riley Johnson, Dan Kuhn, Judy Rickbeil
21. Diane Eitrheim, William Erickson
22. Shane Lueck, Jodi Milli
23. Steve Aakhus, Kathy Johnson
24. Sue Beilfuss, Joshua Chandler, Melissa Owen
25. Chloe Baker, Anna Haarstad
26. Bruce Burke, Bill Schmidt, Quincy Strother
27. Betty Arveson, Jonathon Bassett, Jon Wennberg
28. Jack Barsness, Brea Eckes, Carolyn Schley
29. Karen Taylor
30. Jon Henke, Lori Olson, Chip Taylor



Church Directory Update

Thank you to all the church members who submitted photos or had their picture taken for the upcoming church directory. Staff is finalizing the pages of the directory prior to publishing. Lots of information has changed since the last directory was published in 2017. If you did not send in the completed directory information sheet, we will be publishing the information we currently have in our database (address, phone #, email, etc.).

We hope to have the directory for sale in April , so stay tuned!



Rummage Sale Informational Meeting

Tuesday, April 11th at 4 PM

Rummage Sale Volunteers Needed April 23 – 29

The spring Rummage Sale is right around the corner! One final informational meeting will be held Tuesday, April 11th at 4 p.m. in Chapel Hall for all rummage sale volunteers. Please know that you are needed to be a part of this well-known community event! Over 150 people will gather and work together. Opportunities overflow - from moving boxes and items to displaying donations ... from helping in the kitchen to cashiering ... you can be guaranteed you will not get bored! Meet new friends, enjoy the camaraderie of others, laugh, and watch the overall chaos turn into complete organization! Lunch will be served April 24-29. Signup sheets will be available in the Celebration Center hallway beginning Sunday, April 2. Donations will be accepted through Monday, April 24 at 4 p.m. A printed list of what can and cannot be accepted is available at the church office. Thank you all!



Thanks for PACKING THE PEWS with donations for the Lakes Area and Crosslake Food Shelves! Thanks to Jim & Jean Kraft for hauling 1,027 lbs and \$10,130 to the food shelf. We are a serving congregation! Thank you.





LENTEN MENTORS





Announcing a great summer opportunity for youth who have completed grades 5 – 8!

We meet on Thursdays from 9am – 4pm with BLA area Lutheran church youth to do service work, have lunch and devotions, then spend the afternoon having fun.

2023 Dates/Activities:

- * **June 8** Morning service work includes Salem West,
- * **June 15** Northland Arboretum, Camp Confidence, Outreach
- * **June 29** Program of Brainerd Lakes, Brainerd/Baxter Parks & Rec., and a Twins game; Afternoon
- * **July 6** fun includes Games & Ice Cream at LOL, Jack's House
- * **July 11** Bowling, Swimming at Gull Dam, Movie Theater, and Holiday Inn Water Park

\$85 includes all activities and a t-shirt

Registration mailers coming soon, or pick one up outside Kari's office.

Summer Stretch is back and better than ever!!

**If you are entering 5th grade through 9th grade, this is a
FANTASTIC SUMMER OPPORTUNITY!**

**Each summer we partner with area ELCA church youth for weekly
service work in the morning, lunch and devotion, and then FUN
FUN FUN in the afternoon!**

**Fliers were mailed out, but there are extras clipped to the sorter
outside of Kari's office.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME, so bring a friend and join us! \$85 covers all
costs and includes a Twins Game:-))**

Superintendent of the Brainerd Public Schools - What's It Like?

Come and Meet Dr. Heidi Hahn, Superintendent
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM in CHAPEL HALL

You are invited to meet Dr. Hahn in an evening of learning and conversation. There will be time for your questions and comments.

Please come and invite other interested friends who value the important work of education.

If coming as a group, please give us an estimated number of the size of your group by April 10. It will help greatly in our preparations.

Thank you.

Rev. Dr. Terry Frovik, Convener

People for Racial Justice

507-213-9961

Did You Know?

From the "People for Racial Justice" Group

11 Nations of Native Americans

In the state of Minnesota there are 11 sovereign American Indian nations composed of seven Ojibwe (Chippewa, Anishinaabe) federally recognized reservations, and four Sioux (Dakota) communities. A reservation is land which was retained by American Indians after having ceded large portions of it to the United States government via treaty agreements. Most reservations were created by treaties, but some were created through executive order or by other agreements. After the US-Dakota Conflict of 1862 Congress rescinded all treaties made with the Sioux, and subsequently people were forced from their homes. The communities as they exist now are small fragments of the original reservations.



If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. —Romans 10:9

Easter blessings from the staff of LCC:

Pastor Drew Bakken, Pastor Michelle Ruen, Hans Anderson, Cathy Taylor, Kari Erickson, Karen Wiele, Todd Whipple, Laurie Hemish

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS



MUSCLES NEEDED during rummage sale setup days of April 24th – 26th. Any volunteers who could help move and lift boxes in the book room throughout the day so we can sort through them would be greatly appreciated. Volunteer for just a couple of hours, part of a day or whatever works for you. **THANK YOU!**

DONATED BOOKS FOR THE RUMMAGE SALE (AND THE LIBRARY) MUST BE:

- Clean and in good condition
- Relevant and appropriate
- Hardcover, paperback, large print, CD audiobooks, children & teen books

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Books that are moldy, mildewed, smoky, falling apart, highlighted, etc. and/or inappropriate
- Condensed books, text books, encyclopedias, magazines
- Reference books/materials that are quickly outdated – computer, medical, etc.
- Audiobooks on cassette tapes



THANK YOU to Pastor George for donating a copy of his book to the library! It is out on display so please stop by and check it out.



Easter books
Board books
Chapter books
Teen books
Stop by the library and check out our assortment of
books for kids of all ages!



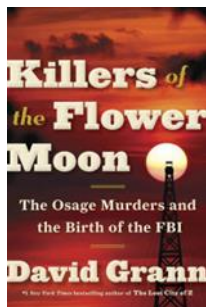
NOVEL IDEAS BOOK

April 18th

10:30am

Chapel Hall

Join us for discussion and fellowship!



In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Indian Nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, the Osage rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe.

Then, one by one, they began to be killed off.

In this last remnant of the Wild West—where oilmen like J. P. Getty made their fortunes virtually anyone who dared to investigate the killings were themselves murdered. As the death toll surpassed more than twenty-four Osage, the newly created F.B.I. took up the case, in what became one of the organization's first major homicide investigations.

A true-life murder mystery about one of the most monstrous crimes in American history.

CREATION CARE



Rogate Sunday April 30
blessing of the plants and seeds
 Our Creation Care Team will hand out seedlings
 to all who enter for worship
 Pr. Amanda Kassow from
 Trinity Lutheran in Cass Lake
 will be our guest preacher
*Push out into deep water and let
 your nets out for a catch.*
 Luke 5:4

Forum—April 30th at 10:30 am in Chapel Hall

Natasha Bartolotta from the National Loon Center in Crosslake presenting
 "Answering the Call: Common Loon Stewardship and Conservation"



The Common Loon is an iconic symbol of northern wildness. It breeds on the freshwater lakes of 14 of our northernmost states during the spring and summer. Common Loons across North America migrate to coastal waters during the winter. Protecting this beloved species requires national and international efforts. A new center to celebrate loons and the groups working to protect them will open in 2024 in Crosslake. With the largest population of Common Loons in the lower 48 states, Minnesota is the Land of 10,000 Lakes and 12,000 loons. The proposed state-of-the-art facility will connect loon and freshwater research, education, and conservation to a wide audience. Learn more about the behavior and biology of the Common Loon as well as the conservation efforts for this species and the freshwater ecosystems they inhabit.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
Church Council Meeting
Thursday, March 9, 2023

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion: Bonnie Stevens

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Council President Mike Smith

Present:

Mike Smith; Colleen Both; Darrell Paske; Pastor Bakken; Pastor Ruen; Dale Peterson; Bonnie Stevens; Rachel Gerhartz.

Officer Reports:

Council Minutes February 2023 by Jenny Stubbs

- **Motion to approve by Dale Peterson; Second by Rachel Gerhartz. Motion passed**
- Treasurer's Report by Colleen Both
- **Motion to approve by Bonnie Stevens; Second by Dale Peterson. Motion passed.**

New/Old Business:

- Playground Taskforce met last on March 2, 2023. Two proposals are being reviewed by the taskforce. The taskforce will meet with the vendors to obtain detailed proposals from each vendor to present to council.
- Handicap Access Assistance for the North entrance to the church is ongoing. Estimates are being sought to include ramp access, heated ramp and handicap door access installation.
- The Holden Village Trip has 33 reservations with seven available to fill.
- The Updated Church Directory project is progressing. If you have not had your photo taken, or if you are submitting a photo, please do so ASAP.
- Pastor Drew made a request of council that in 2023 he be granted an extra week of vacation. Discussion was had amongst council and Pastor Drew resulting in a motion by Darrell Paske to approve the request. Second by Colleen Both. Motion passed.

Pastors' Reports

Senior Pastors' Report; Pastor Drew:

- As we begin our journey into lent, we are once again blessed with having members of the church preaching their stories to the congregation. It is always amazing to hear the stories of how God has led and impacted their life. As we journey to the cross on Good Friday may this be a time for all of us to reflect on how God has walked along side of us and may we have the courage to share our stories with our friends and family.
- For our confirmation students, they have been meeting with their adult mentors. This is an important time for our youth to meet with another caring adult in our church. It is in these conversations with adult members of our congregation that helps to impact their lives and to reinforce that they are important to the church.
- At our Heartland Conference, which is made up of the lakes area churches stretching down to Princeton and over to Mille Laacs, we discussed the need for low income housing. I hope that in the future that this is something that we can look into as a congregation. We have, and continue, to support those with food scarcity needs, and those who are homeless through the warming shelter, and

now is the time to look into what we can do to be a part of a solution. I truly believe that we are a congregation that sees a need and fills that need. One way in which you could be involved is through volunteering at the warming shelter. We need your help-. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Bonnie Stevens.

Associate Pastor's Report; Pastor Michelle:

- Our Ash Wednesday service on February 22 was a powerful and moving service. We served communion and had the imposition of ashes. The music was beautiful. We had 212 in attendance.
- This year for our Wednesday Lenten evening services lay people are giving a 5th Gospel message where they share their faith journey or how they have seen God at work in their life. Thank you to those that are willing to share in this beloved and important 5th Gospel ministry 2023 - Brad Henry, Erin Anderson, Lyn Underdahl, Jon Aga, and Sheri McSherry. Thank you!
- We revived Stonehouse Fridays during Lent. The Lenten devotion, Water and Spirit, was given out to anyone who wished to have one during the Lenten season. Times to meet and gather to discuss the week's devotions are 10:00 AM in Chapel Hall or 12:00 Noon at Stonehouse Coffee in Baxter. Both were well attended on February 24. They will continue every Friday through Good Friday.
- A Time for Us has been a great parent's group which meets on Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:00 PM. They have stepped up to help cook on several Wednesday night suppers. They also sent out Valentine's Day cards to our elderly members in February. Thank you to the parents of Confirmation, Route 56, and Cross Kids students who participate in A Time for Us on Wednesday nights.
- I had a full month of visits in February. We had many members in the hospital, recovering from surgery, or ill at home. Please continue to let Pastor Drew, myself, or Laurie in the office know if you or someone you know is in the hospital or at home and would like a visit. Thank you.

Committee Reports:

LCC Property Report: Dale Peterson

Here is an update of the major LCC Property projects:

1. Painting of Church Building exterior
 - a. Lower Styrofoam areas on the north and west are scheduled to be repaired and painted in spring
 - b. Bell Tower is scheduled to be painted in spring
 - c. The 2 storage sheds to be repaired and painted
2. Seal Cracks in the Parking Lot
 - a. Will be done when frost is out
 - b. Received estimate
3. Handicap Ramp for North Entrance
 - a. Obtaining estimates
 - b. Include heated ramp
 - c. Include handicap doors
4. Addition to Garage
 - a. Electrical inspection was completed
 - b. Walls will be insulated and sheet rocked after rummage sale
 - c. Divider wall will be erected in the old garage
 - d. Door access between the old and new garage will be installed
5. Playground
 - a. Assisting installation
6. Landscape/Yard Projects
 - a. Replace split rail fence along north exit
 - b. Welcome/Exit signs along north exit road
 - c. Remove steps by pergola north side
 - d. Landscape/yard work south side

7. Interior Projects
 - a. Paint conservatory
 - b. Number door entrances
8. Small Kitchen
 - a. Install LED's
 - b. Repair trim
 - c. Remove/replace stove
 - d. Relocate fridge
 - e. Refresh paint
9. Bathrooms
 - a. Paint/refresh
 - b. Replace toilets as needed
 - c. Add Handicap/Family bathroom

Stewardship Report: Rob Norgon

No report

Worship and Music: Brian Stubbs

No report

Social Concerns & Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens

Bridge on 7th

LCC's final volunteer week for the Warming Shelter is March 26 to April 2, Palm Sunday. Please if you have not ever signed up to do this, it's a rewarding experience. The link to "Who Can Be There" is in the newsletter. The Bridge on 7th will close for the season on Saturday, April 15.

Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen

Council served Sharing Bread on Thursday, March 2, the regularly scheduled LCC night for our congregation. Connie Peterson had checked the pantry for what we needed to cook our dinner and we ended up shopping Walmart and Costco for the ingredients we couldn't find on site. Dale and Connie Peterson, Darrell Paske and I were there for setup and Mike Smith arrived in time for dinner and cleanup.

Meatball Stroganoff with fresh mushrooms and onions, egg noodles, carrots, warm Italian bread, peaches mixed with grapes and frosted cupcakes were the menu. Two 9x13 pans of Stroganoff, bread, carrots, and fruit were delivered to the Women's Shelter that night.

Lutheran World Relief

I'll be making a drop-off again of kits and quilts available to take from LCC at the end of March. Our Savior's has quilts and Personal Care kits and Marie Olness and I are working on finishing the Baby Care kits. I put the tracking labels in and on the boxes and hope that we will be able to see where the kits and quilts end their journey.

Operation Sandwich

Volunteers are needed for packing bags for Spring break and upcoming Easter breaks. The signup schedule is at OperationSandwichCrowWingCounty.com.

Children & Family Ministry: Rachel Gerhartz

•Kari attached the latest Playground Task Force Report. They will be meeting again in March to continue to plan their presentation to the council. So far they have a \$10,000 donation to help secure handicapped accessibility and equipment for their installation as well as \$3800 in Rummage Funds that can be allocated for this project.

•Cross Kids is going well - we continue to see new families joining us and checking us out. Kari will be developing a firmer plan to put into place for when we switch to two services. Currently, Kari is considering the continuation of Cross Kids during worship time, and then offer a take-home "kit" for families to continue discussion and projects at home.

•Plans for VBX 2023 are underway using the ELCA World Hunger Program, "River of Life." VBX will run from June 12-16.

- Kari has not been able to attend the youth leaders' coffee meetings the last couple of months but hopes to have a Summer Stretch plan ready for next month's council meeting.
- Our Holden Trip meeting went well, and we almost have a finalized list for those attending. Holden needs this information by the end of the week. Pr. Hans will be driving some folks out in a van, some people are flying, some are driving, and some are taking the train.
- We will be hosting Super Rolls and Palm Sundaes this year in place of an Easter Breakfast. This will be held on April 2, Palm Sunday.
- Our Baked Potato Bar was a success - we fed 180 folks and received compliments. Unfortunately, we didn't realize much fund raising, so may have to look into options for making that part of the dinner a bit more successful. As far as getting youth involved, it was FANTASTIC. Not only did the kids all work hard, but they interacted with our guests, and their parents helped immensely, as did Todd Whipple. Thank you all for supporting us in this event.
- Kari has been approached by a couple of individuals who have graciously donated camperships for those in need. So far, we have 13 campers attending, with some still on waiting lists. Renae from LCBC keeps me updated regularly and has been a huge help.
- On Sunday, our Cross Kids helped with our Bold Believers worship service and many thanks to Pr. Drew for taking over while Kari managed calling 911 and meeting paramedics at the door. Also many thanks to Roger Macy and Leslie Boche for their assistance.
- At this time, we have 20 children/parents signed up for our First Communion Workshops, which will be held on March 26 and April 1. The participants will also help serve communion on Maundy Thursday and help strip the altar.
- Our wintertime Sunday activity events have not been very well attended, due to dance, basketball, hockey, etc. tournaments and games. We will have to do some thinking on this when getting next year's calendar together. Perhaps we put all our efforts into our Friday night game nights instead - maybe expand on them??
- Kari will be getting her team together in April and we will discuss all the above!

Youth and Family Ministry: Sarah Tietz by Rachel Gerhartz

- Lenten Mentors began on March 1 and our first night went very well. I will attach the program we are following this year. I will also be coordinating a Faith Walk, to be held on Weds., March 29. It will involve kids going to stations with their mentor or a parent. As they move through the stations, the kids will receive blessings on their hands, hearts, eyes, feet, and ears, as well as read Psalm 139 and the poem, "Beloved is Where We Begin". I will attach it to this email.
- Freezer update: Todd is helping with the investigation on how to best proceed with this, looking into quotes for commercial freezers. Will keep you posted on this.
- As far as Super Rolls go, we will continue to order and receive them from Schaefers for April and May and switch to Sysco in the fall.
- Pr. Hans has organized a Rainy River Cruise Boat Youth Trip for those entering 9th - 13th grades in the fall. We will have room for 20 youth with four adult chaperones. This trip will take place on June 26 - 30. Pr. Hans, Kari, and Pr. Michelle will be attending.
- Our next Youth Group Meeting is set for the Weds. of Holy Week, so will check with Pr. Hans to see if he plans to keep it that night or move it back one week. We need to reschedule our Italian dinner.
- Todd and I will get the labyrinth and prayer stations set up for the Weds. of Holy Week and we will have it open all day for folks to drop in and walk.
- I tried the texting feature in the church database for our youth and parents and it worked well. I will continue looking at ways to be texting them more regularly.
Please keep Sarah Tietz in your prayers as she recuperates from her foot surgery.

Congregational Life: Joanie Swanson

No report

Personnel: Darrell Paske

Staff reviews are scheduled to begin on Monday, April 17th.

Meeting adjourned

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, April 13, 2023, 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Darrell Paske, Vice-President

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.

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.

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

April 21 (4 Hr Refresher) 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

May 19 (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





EASTER GARDEN

Please fill out the order form below to donate to the Easter Garden to help decorate our church and to memorialize or honor loved ones during this season. Your gifts will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletins. The cost is \$15.00 per tribute. You may drop your form and payment in the offering plate or bring it to the church office **by April 5, 2023**. Please write "Easter Garden" on the check memo line.

Thank you!

Your Name: _____

Please print legibly

_____ # plants donated at \$15 = __\$_____

_____ in memory of _____

_____ in honor of _____

Lutheran Church of the Cross

PO Box 29
5064 County Road 13
Nisswa, MN 56468

Main Phone: 218-963-2564
Web: lccnisswa.org
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
Youth Ministry	Hans Anderson	
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	Brian Stubbs	
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	Rob Norgon
Cong. Life	Joanie Swanson		
Children/Family	Rachel Gerhartz		
Properties	Dale Peterson		

