

April 21, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:00 & 10:30 am Worship

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 21, 20249:00 & 10:30 AMLutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa, Minnesota
Rev. Drew BakkenRev. Michelle Ruen

GOOD MORNING & WELCOME TO LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS!

Welcome to worship as we come together in praise and thanksgiving to our living Savior! Holy Spirit, blow through our church with power. Open our hearts to follow your call.

INTRODUCTION

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

PRELUDE

Variations on "Lasst uns erfreuen," D. Bédard

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

"The Day of Resurrection"

HYMN #361 vs. 1,3,4

(please stand as you are able)

- The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad, The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
 From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free, Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.
- Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin, The round world keep high triumph and all that is therein. Let all things, seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend; For Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end!
- All praise to God the Father, all praise to Christ the Son, All praise to God the spirit, eternal Three in One! Let all the ransomed number fall down before the throne, And honor, power and glory ascribe to God alone!

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

To you, O God, all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of + Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(please be seated)

READING

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that Jesus Christ laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Word of God, word of life.

 Thanks be to God.
 MUSICAL OFFERING
 "Come By Here," K. Pederson
 Sr. Choir

 CROSS KIDS EXCUSED
 GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
 "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

 (please stand as you are able)
 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
 Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!

 Praise him, all you heav'nly host. Alleluia!
 Praise him, all you heav'nly host. Alleluia!
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GOSPEL

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** (please be seated)

SERMON		"Good Shepherd"	Pastor Drew Bakken	
	DF THE DAY stand as you are able, during	"The Lord's My Shepherd" the last verse)	HYMN #778	
	The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie In pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by. He leadeth me, he leadeth me the quiet waters by.			
	Within the paths of righteou	in, and me to walk doth make sness, e'en for his own name's sake; sness, e'en for his own name's sake.		
	For thou art with me, and th	s dark vale, yet will I fear no ill; y rod and staff me comfort still; y rod and staff me comfort still.		
	My head thou dost with oil a	read in presence of my foes; anoint, and my cup overflows. anoint, and my cup overflows.		
		life shall surely follow me, nore my dwelling place shall be; nore my dwelling place shall be.		
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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(please be seated)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

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Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. Lord in your mercy, *

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. Lord in your mercy, *

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. Lord in your mercy, *

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (please stand as you are able)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen. (please be seated)

COMMUNION

Organ Selections

COMMUNION BLESSING (please stand as you are able)

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

LITANY FOR SABBATICAL SENDING & BLESSING

BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!** The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope \oplus bless you now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

HYMN #619 vs. 1,2,7,8

- 1. I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives! He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my ever-living head!
- 2. He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives eternally to save; He lives exalted, throned above; he lives to rule his church in love.
- 7. He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death; He lives my mansion to prepare; he lives to bring me safely there.
- 8. He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same; What joy this blest assurance gives; I know that my Redeemer lives!

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DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Toccata from "Symphony No. 5 for the Organ," C.M. Widor

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If you are visiting or interested in joining Lutheran Church of the Cross, please leave your contact information on the Welcome to Worship

cards in the pews and place in the offering baskets. If you have questions about LCC, please feel free to call Pastor Drew or Pastor Michelle at 218-963-2564.

Are you wearing your nametag? Please join us in encouraging all members to wear theirs. If you need one, simply send Laurie an email: laurie@lccnisswa.org.

see insert

Dear Families with younger children: we enthusiastically welcome you and your growing family to fully celebrate the worship service with us. *Please relax.* We understand that God put the wiggle in children and we want them to feel welcome—it's their church, too! Be sure to participate in the service, as kids learn how to "do" church by watching you. Quiet activity bags are available in the nursery, please return at end of worship. Our Nursery is staffed and available to children under age 6. Talk about church at home and in the car and address any curiosities children have. Finally, **THANK YOU for joining us**—we know it takes a lot of hard work and effort to get here!

There will <u>not</u> be a 10:30 am service next Sunday, April 28th. Our Pastors will be attending the NEMN Synod Convention this weekend.



FORUM: next Sunday, April 28th at 10:00 am in Chapel Hall

Daren Blanck, who currently is a local high school science instructor, will be re-presenting work by Meteorologist and Climatologist Dr. Mark Seeley, University of Minnesota Professor emeritus in the Department of Soil, Water and Climate, and Guest Presenter on climatology for Minnesota Public Radio. The re-presentation will include measured evidence of climate change occurring in our own backyards, how the consequences of a changing climate is affecting our state's natural resources and societal infrastructure, and what we all can do to slow down the pace of change!"

Attention Community Gardeners: 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. Forms available in the church office.

Lutheran Church of the Cross - News and Notes April 21—April 28, 2024

PRAYER REQUESTS

LCC Members: Arlene Rice, Dave Jabas, Betty Labs, Mike Brodeur, Bonnie Anderson, Lowell Carlson, Diane Eitrheim, Wayne Van Vliet, Jean Larson, Louise Warden, Mark Boesen, John Wallin, David Pederson, Nancy Schmidt, Pete Mogenson, Lois Jensen, Kathleen Warden, Keith Both, Sarah Aga, Rick & Sue Pratt, Sheri McSherry

Friends & Relatives of LCC Members:

Marge Brantner (David Olness' sister), Greg Scheytt (Lori Olson's uncle), Phyllis Coleman (Lori Olson's godmother), Steve Hedtke (Chris Hedtke's dad), Brian Krawiecki (Kelsey Kuhn's father), Sabrina Lewandowski (Tracy Olson's friend), Linda Reid (Carol Alverson's sister), Karla Kepler (Jim Bailey's friend), Tom Anderson (Rena Bolt's dad & Pete Mogenson's friend), Angie Barnack (Darrell Barnack's mom), Tom Smith (Mark Smith's brother), Pr. Erika Foss, Nick (Rob & Loretta Norgon's brother-in-law), Dave Watson (Mark & Kari Erickson's friend), Cheri Axel (Tracy Olson's friend), Merv Johnson (Kerri Nordby's dad), Pastor Tom Peterson (Keith & Colleen Both's friend), Sue Ziegler (Pr. Michelle's friend), Paul Gell (Janet Bedard's brother), Annie (friend of Dave & Marie Olness), Caitlin Deal (Colleen Both's great niece), Tom & Peggy Woog (Missy Tree's dad &mom), Jane Alvis (Marsha Thomson's friend), Greg Arends (Boyd & Dawn Maine's brother-in-law), Ronald Anderson (Jean Larson's husband), Andy Skjod (Dennis & Cynthia Skjod's nephew), Linda Bock (Jim Bailey's sister-in-law), Graham Kluck (Terri Langerud's grandson), Sue Boyd (Pam Johnson's aunt), LCC members in care facilities, all veterans and active servicemen and women, and those struggling with mental health or addiction issues.

Please call the church office to make updates to the prayer list. If you or someone you know is in the hospital or would like a visit, please call the church office at 218-963-2564.



New Member Gathering will be held <u>Tuesday, April 30th at 6:00 pm</u>. See Pastor Drew or Pastor Michelle if you are interested in joining our church family. Sunday, May 5th we will welcome our new members at the 9:00 am service.

Rummage Sale Setup Starts Today! 100+ volunteers needed daily: 1-6 pm today; 8am-6 pm Mon.-Fri.; 8 am -3 pm on Sat.! Come have fun, enjoy the camaraderie, and be a part of turning utter chaos into organized display! Lunch provided Mon. – Sat.! All are welcome. Come for one hour, two hours, whenever you can help. There is a job for everyone! Rummage Sale will be this Thurs – Sat. Large furniture accepted through noon tomorrow. <u>Reminder: Requests for</u> **Rummage Sale Donation Fund forms are located at the church office and are due to Laurie on Tuesday, April 30.** Thank you!

Bible Studies: Men's Breakfast at The Side Track every Thursday at 8:15 AM.

Text Study on Wednesdays @ 8:30 am in Chapel Hall. All are welcome to be a part of this ministry! If you are interested, email <u>laurie@lccnisswa.org</u> and you will be added to the email list to receive the texts each week.

Beth Moore Bible Study, *The Surpassing Value of Knowing Christ*, a study of Philippians. Mondays 9:30 am—11:30 am April 8, 15, 29 and May 6 & 13. Led by Marilyn Quist

StoneHouse Friday—Prayer 101 - April 5, 12, 19 and May 3, 10, 17

A 6-week class on Prayer—Fridays at 12:00 Noon -1:00 pm in the conference room at RiverWood Bank/StoneHouse Coffee by Target. Led by Marty Holmstrom.

Women in the Word—with Pastor Michelle, Tuesday, May 7 at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm; Chapel Hall.

Widow's "May Day" Luncheon—Wednesday, May 1st, 11:00 am to 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.

Spring Outdoor Cleanup Day will be held <u>Thursday, May 2nd at 10:30 am</u>. Bring gloves and tools. Many hands make light work. Lunch will be provided.

Novel Ideas Book Club—Join us Tuesday, April 30th at 10:30 am in Chapel Hall to discuss *Belonging* by Michelle Miller.

"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 23th THROUGH JUNE 28th

All women. All week. All sorts of fun! Gather at Luther Crest for another great Women's Week experience at camp this summer! **Cost for the full week:** \$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.

THIS WEEK AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

April 21—April 28, 2024

SUN,	4-21: 9:00 10:00 10:30 11:30 1:00	B-days: Diane Eitrheim, William Erickson Worship w/ Communion & Online Coffee Fellowship Worship w/ Communion Worship & Music Committee Rummage Sale Set Up begins
MON,	4-22: 8:00	B-days: Shane Lueck, Jodi Milli Rummage Sale Set Up until 6pm
TUES,	4-23: 8:00	<i>B-days: Kathy Johnson</i> Rummage Sale Set Up until 6pm
WED,	4-24: 8:00 6:00 7:00	B-days: Sue Beilfuss, Joshua Chandler, Melissa Owen Rummage Sale Set Up until 6pm King's Kids Sr. Choir
THUR,	4-25: 8:00 7:00	B-days: Chloe Baker, Anna Haarstad RUMMAGE SALE UNTIL 6PM A.A.
FRI,	4-26: 8:00	B-days: Bill Schmidt, Quincy Strother RUMMAGE SALE UNTIL 6PM
SAT,	4-27: 8:00 12:00	B-days: Betty Arveson, Jonathan Bassett, Jon Wennberg RUMMAGE SALE UNTIL NOON SALE CLEAN UP
SUN,	4-28: 9:00 10:00 10:00 10:00 12:30 1:00	B-days: Brea Eckes, Hudson Nokken, Carolyn Schley ROGATE/BLESSING OF THE SEEDS Worship w/ Communion & Online Coffee Fellowship Forum: Climate Change Earth Day Art Event Piano Recital MS/HS Hwy Cleanup Please

Lutheran Church of the Cross **Daily Bible Reading** from Lectionary B Mon., Apr 22, 2024 1 Samuel 16:1-13 1 Peter 5:1-5 Psalm 95 Tues., Apr 23, 2024 1 Chronicles 11:1-9 Revelation 7:13-17 Psalm 95 Wed., Apr 24, 2024 Micah 7:8-20 Mark 14:26-31 Psalm 95 Thurs., Apr 25, 2024 Amos 8:1-7 Acts 8:1b-8 Psalm 22:25-31 Friday, Apr 26, 2024 Amos 8:11-13 Acts 8:9-25 Psalm 22:25-31 Sat., Apr 27, 2024 Amos 9:7-15 Mark 4:30-32 Psalm 22:25-31

Please take your bulletin home with you to use throughout the week as a reminder of upcoming events.

Reminder: Before planning any meeting/event/gathering at church, call the church office for availability and scheduling. Thank you.



Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

CROSS KIDS: save June 10—13 for VBX—sign up at: tinyurl.com/rdvz7x8v. Join us for a week of fun and learning about how animals help our church to help others around the world! We also need youth helpers (grades 5 and up) and adults to help make this week a great experience for all. All are welcome to join us for VBX.

Youth: Highway Clean Up is scheduled for April 28 at 1pm. Please help us out and chalk up some Confirmation Service Hours.

Cross Kids Parents: join us on May 19 for an important meeting regarding plans for "Cross Kids Plus" for 2024-25! We will meet in the Treehouse during Coffee Fellowship.

YOUTH AND ADULTS ARE NEEDED TO HELP WITH SCONE SUNDAY IN MAY. Let Kari know if you can help out on May 5—last one of the programming year.

Check out our Playground Display in the narthex and consider giving to this project join us and our community partner, Copper Creek—in making this project happen. Thank you to our generous donors who have already contributed.



Many serving opportunities available. Especially need worship coordinators and sound room techs. If you can help by being a greeter, usher, worship coordinator, reader or communion assistant at any of the services or contact Todd Whipple via text or call @ 612-810-2201.

Creation Care Green Tip

Submitted by Laura Raedeke, Creation Care Team Changing Our Food and Farming Systems: Making Peace with Nature

We all have to eat. Farmer/author/poet Wendell Berry writes that "eating is an agricultural act," which makes our reliance on agricultural methods that disregard soil and ecosystem health a danger to us and all the living things on whose well-being we depend. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) reports that as complex grasslands continue to be converted to single crops, the loss of biodiversity has accelerated. From 1970 to 2016 there was a nearly **70% average decline in populations of birds, beneficial insects, amphibians, mammals, fish and reptiles.** The intensive use of agro-chemicals, such as **synthetic nitrogen, herbicides, pesticides and fungicides** make their way into the food we eat, the water we drink, and the air we breathe. **Children are the most vulnerable,** because pound for pound, they drink **2.5 times** more water, eat **3 - 4 times** more food, breathe **2 times** more air, and therefore absorb a higher concentration of pesticides than adults. Support efforts to fix our broken food system, which include **renewable energy, regenerative agriculture that replaces or mitigates big, single-crop agriculture, restoration of forests, grass-lands, wetlands, and habitat that supports pollinators.**

Thanks to our Worship Assistants!

Musicians	Laura Raedeke, Jim Roberts, Cathy Taylor		
Greeters	9:00 Joe & Jodi Milli		
Ushers	9:00 Jed & Angie Klein	10:30 Clint & Cheryl Lindberg	
Reader	9:00 Joan Roberts	10:30 Steve Harder	
Worship Coord.	9:00 Todd Whipple	10:30 Darrell & Candy Barnack	
Altar Guild Connie Peterson, Jan Gei		rrell Paske	
Communion Asst.	9:00 Randy & Marsha Thomson 10:30 Cory & Kiersten Kralovetz		
Acolytes	9:00 Jude Anderson, Kyle Christianson 10:30 Jemma Anderson, Emmett Wilson		
Coffee Fellowship	Richard & Linda Carlson, Sarah Verworn		
Tech Support Bonnie Stevens & Brad Carlson			
Nursery	9:00 Sherry Pape	10:30 Emma Trees	

**Assistive Listening Devices are available in the Narthex. If you choose to use one, please leave it on the counter when you exit so it can be sanitized for the next use.



To give with your mobile device, Scan the QR code to the left. Online giving available at www.lccnisswa.org.

DIRECTORY

Pastor

Church of the Cross Office 218.963.2564 Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Email: lcc@lccnisswa.org Web Site: lccnisswa.org Pastor Rev. Drew Bakken Children, Youth & Family Ministry Kari Erickson High School Youth Director Emma Trees Custodians Todd Whipple Whitney Peterson Office Manager Laurie Hemish Financial Secretary Karen Wiele ELCA Global Missionary Pr. Bradn Buerkle

Rev. Michelle Ruen Volunteer Coordinator Todd Whipple Music Ministry/Organist Cathy Taylor Organist Laura Raedeke Senior Choir Director Mike Smith Bell Choir Director Cheryl Karlgaard King's Kids Director Carol Smith

Lutheran Church of the Cross 5064 Co. Rd. 13, PO Box 29 Nisswa, MN 218-963-2564 www.lccnisswa.org lcc@lccnisswa.org