

# Cross Currents

Lutheran  
Church  
of the Cross  
2021



Dear Good People of Lutheran Church of the Cross,

Christmas celebrates the miracle of God's eternal Son coming as a human baby to live among humankind. Before we get too far into the holiday happenings, let's pause and take a new look at this amazing event we call Christmas. Think of it as an invitation from God delivered by His Son. This gift came wrapped in swaddling clothes instead of colorful wrapping paper. This gift was laid in a manger rather than under a decorated lighted Christmas tree. This gift came in the most unconventional of ways and during a chaotic time. This gift looked like any other Jewish baby boy, but unlike other babies, this baby will be called King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The next time Jesus comes He will come in glory and power with all the mighty angels. I pray that the expectation of Christ's return will draw you to Himself this Advent Season. Christmas is just a foretaste of what awaits us when we will finally see Jesus face to face!

Please join us for **Sunday morning Worship** at 9:00 AM during this Advent Season. Coffee and Fellowship will follow at 10:00 AM in the Celebration Center. Sunday School is at 10:00 AM for preschoolers-4th grade. **Wednesday Holden Evening Worship** is at 6:20 PM with dinner being served beforehand at 5:45 PM. Route 56, Confirmation, *A Time for Us*, and Senior Choir practice begins at 7:00 PM. King's Kids Children's Choir meets at 6:00 PM. *Bells of Praise* meets at 5:30 PM.

Our **Christmas Eve services** will be at 2:00, 4:00, and 6:00 PM. The 2:00 and 4:00 services will be in the Sanctuary with a nursery available. The 6:00 PM service will be an outdoor parking lot service. It was such a big success last year, we will be bringing it back again this year. All three services will be filled with Christmas music, God's promises, and a beautiful time of worship. Invite your family and friends and come join us in celebrating the birth of our Lord and King.

**And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:9-12**

Merry Christmas!

Yours in Christ,  
Vicar Michelle





LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

*Christmas Eve*

CANDLELIGHT  
WORSHIP SERVICES

*Friday, December 24*

2pm in Sanctuary

4pm in Sanctuary

6pm Outdoor Drive In  
in back parking lot

5064 Co. Rd. 13 Nisswa, MN

MORE INFORMATION

[www.lccnisswa.org](http://www.lccnisswa.org)



## Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2021 General Fund

			Annual	% YTD of Annual
	<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 62,227	\$ 533,066	\$ 679,929	78.4%
Expenses	\$ 52,180	\$ 491,470	\$ 679,929	72.3%
Difference	\$ 10,047	\$ 41,596	\$ 0	

In the month of October our income was greater than our expenses by \$10,047.  
Thank you for your continued support.



### BAPTISM

Name: Gracelynn Janice Kubesh  
Born: November 20, 2020  
Baptized: October 30, 2021  
Parents: Austin & Kassondra Kubesh  
Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant

### BAPTISM

Name: Mira Jo Van Vliet  
Born: March 30, 2021  
Baptized: November 14, 2021  
Parents: Shawn & Allison Van Vliet  
Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant

### BAPTISM

Name: Joshua Duane Kangas  
Born: March 4, 2021  
Baptized: November 20, 2021  
Parents: Jamie & Cassandra Kangas  
Vicar Michelle Ruen, Officiant

## YEAR END GIVING

For those of you considering year-end giving which involve retirement accounts (ie: IRS's, 401K's, etc); the normal process can take up to several weeks to convert funds. We suggest you contact your financial institution early December.

Please use the correct mailing address: LCC P O Box 29 Nisswa, MN 56468

All giving dated 12/31/2021 will be credited to statements if received by 1/03/2022.

Please be aware the Postal Service has indicated there will be up to a five day delay in receiving 1<sup>st</sup> Class mail.







Thanks to our kids who have volunteered for speaking parts in our December 12 Pageant. Rehearsals for those kids will continue on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in the Choir Room with Carol Smith—**December 1 and 8.** *Please be there!*



All other Cross Kids are welcome to help us out on Pageant Day by coming forward with stars to decorate Bethlehem. Pick up a star as you enter Celebration Center and wait for the signal to come forward. All you have to do is smile and hold a star!!



Join us each Sunday for a brief message during worship and then activities, video, and music in the Treehouse following the service. **ALL ARE WELCOME!!**



5th & 6th graders are welcome to join us for Route 56 which is held in the Treehouse following Holden Evening Prayer Worship on Wednesday.



JOIN US FOR TACO FAITH ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 AT 11AM IN CELEBRATION CENTER. ALL 5TH AND 6TH GRADERS ARE WELCOME.

We'll talk about how our faith can be like tacos and eat a great taco lunch!!

Let Kari know if you can come.





**Our 7th grade team will be baking and serving cinnamon/caramel rolls on SUPER ROLL SUNDAY, December 5 in Celebration Center. All 7th graders invited to help!**



Families: enjoy your Advent Devotional book, GOD WITH US. Use it along with your Family Worship Bag this Advent.

## January Events

Sunday, December 12: Family Skiing and Tubing at Ski Gull

Sunday, January 9: Family Epiphany Tree Bonfire

in back parking lot

January 9 & 12: LCBC Camp Sunday and Wednesday

January 23: Volleyball Tournament for grades 5-12

in Celebration Center

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO JOIN US FOR FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!**



Lutheran Church of the Cross Children & Family Ministry

# Parents Day Out

## DECEMBER 4

### ATTENTION LCC YOUTH, GRADES 5-12:



**Serve your church family by helping out at this event. Help us provide a wonderful holiday gift to our parents! WE NEED YOU:-)**

**Kids from birth through 4th grade are invited to attend. Our youth & adult volunteers will supervise nursery, activities, devos, games, and mealtime.**

**Drop off at 3pm and pick up at 6:30pm**

## **December 2021 Hymn of the Month**

### **Holy Child within the Manger (JOYOUS LIGHT) – Marty Haugen**

This is a beautiful melody along with a beautiful text. You will recognize the melody when we sing it in December as the same as the Evening hymn in the *Holden Evening Service*.

The text:

1. Holy Child within the manger, long ago yet ever near;  
Come as friend to ev'ry stranger, come as hope for ev'ry fear.  
As you lived to heal the broken, greet the outcast, free the bound,  
As you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.
2. Once again we tell the story how your love for us was shown,  
When the image of your glory wore an image like our own.  
Come, enlighten with your wisdom, come and fill us with your grace.  
May the fire of your compassion kindle ev'ry land and race.
3. Holy Child within the manger, lead us ever in your way,  
So we see in ev'ry stranger how you come to us today.  
In our lives and in our living give us strength to live as you,  
That our hearts might be forgiving and our spirits strong and true.



Marty Haugen wrote this piece and was first published in 1987 by GIA Publications in his “Night of Silence” collection. We have it in our blue hymnal *With One Voice*. Haugen has written other pieces that we have come to love in this congregation and have helped us to worship such as *That We May Have Life, Now the Feast, Holden Evening Prayer, Neither Death Nor Life*, and numerous others that are in our hymnal. Haugen is a composer of liturgical music for both Roman Catholic and Protestant congregations. Haugen holds a B.A. degree in psychology from Luther College and an M.A. degree in Pastoral Studies from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. He has over 400 compositions published by GIA, Augsburg Fortress and other publishers. For the past 25 years he has presented workshops and concerts across North America and in Europe, the Pacific Rim, Asia and Central America for church musicians and anyone interested in the renewal of worship.

(Portions of this article are taken with permission from Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal Companion, Augsburg Fortress, Copyright©2010.)

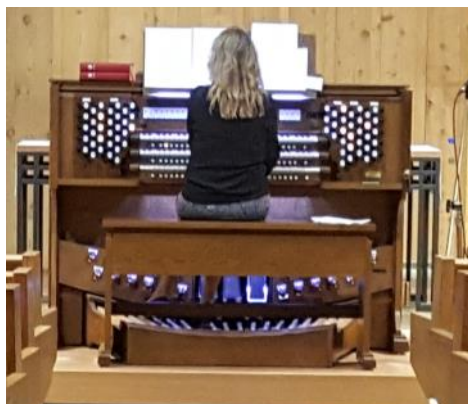
Have a most blessed Christmas season.

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music





If you missed the Christmas in November concert on Nov. 19th, you can still view on our website under video streaming. Over \$500 was raised for the sanctuary flooring project. Thank you! Special thanks to Cathy Taylor, Laura Raedeke, and Emily Smith for the wonderful performance.



### **Ponder and Prayer Group- Every Monday 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary**

Are you looking for a time to sit quietly in the Sanctuary to ponder on God's Word? Would you like to join a group of people who desire to pray together in a non-threatening way? Then think about coming to our Ponder and Prayer group on Monday mornings from 10:00-11:00 AM. We meet in the church narthex at 10:00 and then move into the Sanctuary. Hope to see you there!

### **Men's Fellowship - Every Tuesday at 2:00 PM**

Men's Fellowship meets every Tuesday afternoon from 2:00-3:00ish in the old Youth Room across from the technology office. Enjoy coffee, cookies, and good conversation with Lyle and the guys. All men welcome!

### **A Time for Us - Every Wednesday, 7:00 PM**

*A Time for Us* is for parents who are waiting for their children in Confirmation and Route 56. This is a great way to get to know the parents of your child's classmates here at LCC. We spend time getting to know one another... and this past month we have been watching The Chosen, a show highlighting the life of Jesus through the eyes of the disciples. We hope to do a service project in December. Come check us out. We meet from 7:00-8:00 pm in the old youth room across from the technology lab.

***Women in the Word Bible Study*** - The December Women of the Word Bible Study is on Tuesday, December 7. Join us either at 10:00 AM or 7:00 PM for a special time of studying God's word and cherishing time together during this beautiful season. Come for delectable Christmas treats, fun Christmas surprises, and a special time in God's word. This would be a good Bible Study to invite a friend too!

### **Pizza & Game Night—3rd Friday of the month, 5:30 pm (Dec. 17)**

Come for pizza and dessert and a fun evening of games! Maybe even some Christmas surprises! Meet in the Celebration Center at 5:30 PM. Decks of cards and games provided. Bring your own favorite game if you prefer. Everyone is welcome!

Sunday, December 19th, 9am

## **BLUE CHRISTMAS—Holden Service**

The Christmas season can bring on some heavier memories and emotions for some of us, as well as bring added pressures and burdens. This worship service will aim to provide comfort and be reflective as we celebrate the Fourth Sunday in Advent.

# Musical Extravaganza

Featuring the Senior Choir, Bells of Praise & King's Kids  
Brian Stubbs, Cheryl Karlgaard & Carol Smith, Directors

Cross Kids Present:

## The Way to Bethlehem



Lutheran Church of the Cross  
December 12, 2021  
9am Celebration Center



# BABY SHOWER!

Women of the ELCA present an

Event for all  
LEE Women!

We will gather to make Newborn Kits  
for Global Health Ministries in honor of  
Mary, the mother of Jesus

Saturday, Dec. 4, 10am

Fellowship, food, devotions, music,  
updates, and more!  
(children are welcome at this event)



48" x 52" bath towels  
Washcloths  
Bath-size bars Ivory soap  
(in original packaging)  
Newborn cotton t-shirts  
Newborn stocking hats  
30" x 30" receiving blankets  
Cloth diapers  
Diaper pins



# CHRISTMAS TREE OF SHARING

Sunday,  
November 28 -  
Sunday,  
December 12.



Choose an ornament, purchase the item(s)  
and bring the unwrapped gift(s) along with  
the ornament and place under the tree  
**NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 13.**

Gifts will benefit children of Adult & Teen Challenge clients,  
residents of Hills Crossing, Breath of Life Adult Day Care  
clients, families at Mid MN Women's Center, & ISD 181  
Collaborative Services students in the Nisswa area.

*Checks should be made out to LCC with "Tree of Sharing" written  
on the memo line. Gift cards and checks should be placed in the  
box below.*

**Sponsored by the LCC Women of the ELCA**

# Family Advent Prayers



## **JOY**

May the joy of Christ be felt through us. Luke 1:44

## **LOVE**

Help us see ways to turn love into action this Christmas. Matthew 25:40

## **FAITH**

Increase our faith so we fully trust in Your promises. Matthew 1:24

## **LIGHT**

May the light of Christ shine from within us. Isaiah 9:2

## **PEACE**

May the peace of Christ cover the busyness of this season. Isaiah 9:6

## **PROMISE**

Thank you for the promise of eternal life through Jesus. John 3:16

## **GRATITUDE**

Thank you for all of our blessings, not just the gifts under the tree. Luke 1:49

## **SIMPLICITY**

You came as a baby in a manger, help us find value in the simple things. Luke 2:7

## **OBEDIENCE**

Help us to be obedient to You even when we don't fully understand. Luke 1:38

## **GENEROSITY**

Show us what gifts we have to offer and help us give them generously. Matthew 2:11

## **HOPEFULNESS**

Fill us with hope for the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ. Daniel 2:44

## **TOGETHERNESS**

Thank you that the gift of Jesus makes us one family together in Christ. John 1:12

## **AMEN**

## ***THANKFUL FOR OUR QUIET VOLUNTEERS!***

Behind the scenes of LCC are so many of our wonderful volunteers that a lot of people never see. I would like to say THANK YOU to these dedicated, quiet members that help keep our church going!

**OUR LIBRARY CREW** – A special thank you to Pat Tollefsrud for her many years of work volunteering in our library! She has dedicated many hours to keep our church library in good shape. As she resigns from this position, we thank her and wish her abundant blessings ahead! Our thanks to Jean Olson and Lori Olson who will now take over and keep our LCC Library in good shape!

**BAPTISM BANNERS** – Our thanks to Marilyn Wottreng who has beautifully sewn our banners for all the newly baptized children of our congregation for a long time. These banners go home with the family and are a wonderful reminder of their very special day.

**OUR PEW KEEPERS** – These folks quietly come into the church and tidy up the pews several times a month so they are ready for all of us on Sunday morning. Thank you to Carol Alverson, Jan Halligan and Ron and Teryl Rusch for their commitment.

**CHURCH PARAMENTS** – As our church seasons change, so do our banners and paraments in the Sanctuary. Jerry Raedeke quietly and faithfully takes on this task with every change – Thank You!

**OUR ALTAR GUILD** - Quietly on Saturday, our faithful Altar Guild team comes in several times a month and prepares communion for Sunday morning – Thank You for your dedication!

**HOTDISH MINISTRY** – Thank you to all who have quietly brought in soups and put them in the freezer! These will go to people who are just getting out of the hospital or have an extended illness.

**OUTDOOR FLORAL DECORATIONS** – We continue to have beautiful arrangements created and placed at the front and back entrances of our church – Thank you to the Loon Lake Ladies who quietly do this!

***We are truly blessed with the best quiet volunteers around!***

**THANKSGIVING PIE & COFFEE** – Thank you to a wonderful crew of volunteers who helped prepare, serve and clean up for our Thanksgiving Pie & Coffee evening: Carol Alverson, Connie & Dale Peterson, Joe & Jodi Milli, and the Whipple Family! It's always a wonderful way to gather with our church family!



Advent Blessings,

Sally Hodgson, Lay Ministries Coordinator

Sun	Mon	Tue	
facility calendar for:			Dece
			<div>1</div> <div>8:30 Text</div> <div>9:30 Quil</div> <div>5:30 Bells</div> <div>5:45 Wed</div> <div>6:00 King</div> <div>6:20 Holo</div> <div>7:00 Fam</div> <div>7:00 Sr. C</div>
<div>5</div> <div>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</div> <div>9:00 Worship</div> <div>10:00 Cross Kids Connection</div> <div>10:00 Coffee Fellowship/Youth Rolls</div>	<div>6</div> <div>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers</div> <div>10:00 Ponder &amp; Prayer</div> <div>1:00 Prayer Shawl Group</div> <div>7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group</div>	<div>7</div> <div>9:00 Computer Lab</div> <div>10:00 Women’s Bible Study</div> <div>2:00 Men’s Fellowship</div> <div>7:00 Women’s Bible Study</div>	<div>8</div> <div>8:30 Text</div> <div>5:30 Bells</div> <div>5:45 Wed</div> <div>6:00 King</div> <div>6:20 Holo</div> <div>7:00 Con</div> <div>7:00 Sr. C</div>
<div>12</div> <div>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</div> <div>9:00 Christmas Music Extravaganza w/Communion</div> <div>10:00 Cross Kids Connection</div> <div>10:00 Coffee Fellowship</div> <div>1:00 Piano Recital</div> <div>1:00 HSYG &amp; MS Tubing/Skiing</div>	<div>13</div> <div>8:30 Staff Meeting /Prayers</div> <div>10:00 Ponder &amp; Prayer</div> <div>11:00 Soul Sisters</div> <div>12:00 Staff Christmas Lunch</div> <div>1:00 Prayer Shawl Group</div>	<div>14</div> <div>9:00 Computer Lab</div> <div>2:00 Men’s Fellowship</div>	<div>15</div> <div>8:30 Text</div> <div>9:30 Quil</div> <div>5:45 Wed</div> <div>6:00 King</div> <div>6:20 Holo</div> <div>7:00 Con</div> <div>7:00 Sr. C</div>
<div>19</div> <div>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</div> <div>9:00 Blue Christmas Worship</div> <div>10:00 Cross Kids Connection</div> <div>10:00 Coffee Fellowship</div> <div>1:00 Piano Recital</div>	<div>20</div> <div>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers</div> <div>10:00 Ponder &amp; Prayer</div> <div>1:00 Prayer Shawl Group</div> <div>???? Novel Ideas Book Club</div> <div>7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group</div> <div>7:00 People for Racial Justice</div>	<div>21</div> <div>9:00 Computer Lab</div> <div>2:00 Men’s Fellowship</div>	<div>22</div> <div>8:30 Text St</div> <div>No worship</div>
<div>26</div> <div>SWEATERS &amp; CAROLS</div> <div>9:00 Worship w/Communion</div> <div>10:00 Coffee Fellowship</div>	<div>27</div> <div>OFFICE CLOSED</div>	<div>28</div> <div>9:00 Computer Lab</div> <div>2:00 Men’s Fellowship</div>	<div>29</div> <div>8:30 Text</div> <div>No wors</div>



Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ember	2021		
Study ters s of Praise d. Supper y's Kids <b>Men Evening Worship</b> ily Advent Festival Choir Practice	2  10:00 Toning with a Purpose 12:00 PrimeTimers 7:00 A.A.  	3  9:00 55+ Driver Discount	4  10:00 WELCA Christmas Party 3:00 Parents Day Out
Study s of Praise d. Supper y's Kids <b>Men Evening Worship</b> firmation/Route 56 Choir/Time for Us	9  10:00 Toning with a Purpose 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.	10	11
Study ters d. Supper y's Kids <b>Men Evening Worship</b> /Route 56/Time for Us Choir Practice	16  9:00 MOPS 10:00 Toning with a Purpose 7:00 A.A.	17  5:30 Pizza & Game Night  	18
Study o or programming	23  7:00 A.A.	24 CHRISTMAS EVE  2:00 Candlelight Worship 4:00 Candlelight Worship 6:00 Parking Lot Worship	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!  
Study hip or programming	30  10:00 Toning with a Purpose 7:00 A.A.	31 OFFICE CLOSED  	

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1. Deena Moody, Jesse Sullivan, Bonnie Tangen
2. Autumn Loge
3. Kerry Malmquist, Benjamin Schamber, Emily Smith, Brian Stumvoll
4. Karen Boche, Brett Dutton, Janet Haeg, Andrew Kirzeder, Keith Michelson, Anne Pierson
5. Noah Hanson, Kirk Loge, Kelsi Martini, Kayden Obe
6. Lea Anderson, Lyle Hillman
7. Caroline Martin, Jim Pierson
8. Ryan Fritz, Michelle Johnson
9. Carolee Wallin
10. Kathleen Carlson
11. Mike Brodeur, Mason Green, Jean Kraft, Tony Schwaller
12. Lynn Blanch, Mary Boche, Connie Peterson
13. Colleen Bakken
14. Chris Fogderud, Doug Johnson, Ervin Reuther
15. Shawn Hansen, Chris Olson
16. Kolten Hiles, Bonnie Nygren, Gavin Trosdahl
17. Linda Brandon, Ernie Teie, Missy Trees
18. Benjamin Wermager, Dolores Weibel
19. Bob Beck, Jenna Bergin-Ude, Emma Endicott, Karen Holmen, Greg Tollefsrud
20. Jacob Hernandez
21. David Pelowski
22. Becky MacIver, Sarah Olson, Curt Wohl
23. Rodney Opp, Joseph Reed
24. Alexa Bestul, Brendan Brill, Ayla Teasck
25. Everett LeBlanc, Karen Peterson
26. Jason Gorr, Laurie Hall
27. Julie Anderholm, Aubrie Schamber
28. Ara Anderson, Linda Anderson, Carter Dirkes
29. Stephanie Dutton, Carol Smith, Fred Soukup
30. Brittney Bzdok, Trevor Maier, Joel Mailand
31. Clara Bolt, Rosalie Gulbrandson, Stefanie Ubl, Dick Schmidt, Byron Wacker, Grace Winegar





***King's Kids sharing special music. Join them for fellowship, fun and SINGING!! All 1st—4th graders are welcome to join Carol & Mike Smith on Wednesday evenings at 6pm in the Choir Room.***

**ALL  
SAINTS  
SUNDAY,  
2021**



## A Message from our ELCA Global Missionary

### *Russian Correspondent*

#### ***Ongoing ministry-by-extension***

After an intensive period of travel this spring, the summer months will see fewer in-person events. At the same time ministry continues – not just in terms of planning off-life educational events and participating in meetings related to strategic planning for development in the Asian part of our church, but also through regular, on-line learning opportunities.

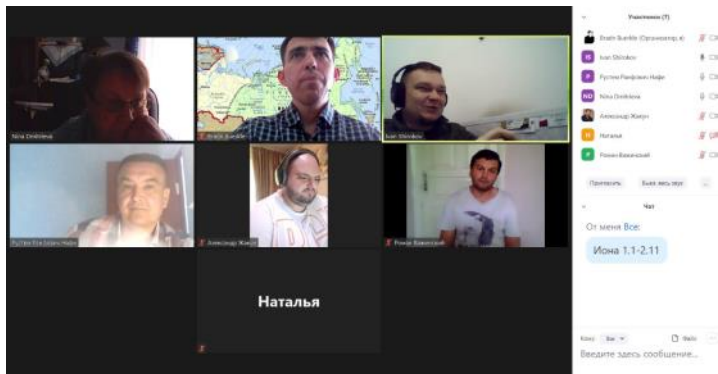
During the past 6 months, the Theological Seminary has begun to host online meetings on Saturdays. This is a very important supplement to the distance education program that the seminary offers, which has very little room for live interaction with teachers and fellow students. These lessons are meant to cover topics that either do not fit in the seminary curriculum or are given only a small place there. This weekend for example, then I will be speaking on the foundations of ecumenism.

Another significant part of my week is dedicated to writing sermons, which are then distributed for adaption by local preachers and use in more than a dozen congregations.

During the Easter season, a new ministry grew out of that need to write a sermon every week – I decided to try an experiment and organize online pericope study meetings, where those who were to preach on the upcoming Sunday would come together to speak about their

ideas. While pastors in the U.S. have probably been doing such things since the beginning of the pandemic, I was not sure if it would be something that would catch on here. As it turns out, though, Easter season is over, and we are still going strong.

Other ideas for online educational ministries are in the works; I will keep you updated.



*Your brother in Christ, Bradn*





The December PrimeTimers is on Thursday, December 2, at 12:00 Noon in the Celebration Center. The program is the Madrigal group from Brainerd High School under the direction of Brian Stubbs. Bring your own brown bag lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. The hosts are Stacy and Keith Grothem and Marie and David Olness. PrimeTimers is for anyone over 55. Come for a great program and a fun time of fellowship! See you on December 2!

Two decorating crews were hard at work on Nov. 23rd. One group was cutting birch braches and hauling to church. Dave Jabas donated the birch branches/trees in memory of Nora Jabas.

The other group was hanging outdoor decorations before it turns bitterly cold.

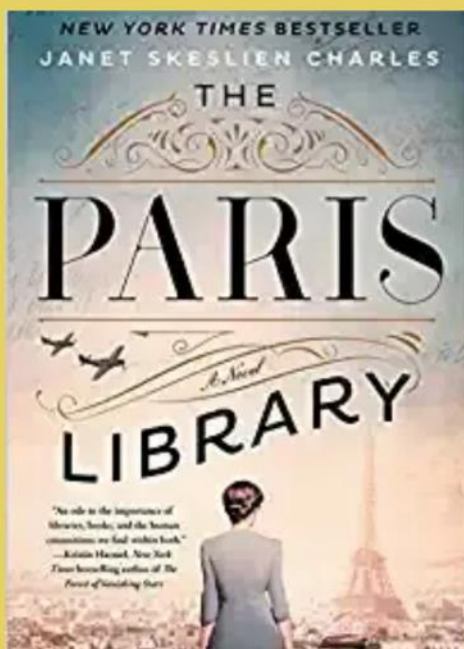


We are **NOT accepting** donations at this time however, if you have working electronics to donate, please contact Lyle at 218-330-5110. Stay tuned for updates.

# Novel

## JANUARY PICK: IDEAS

### "The Paris Library," by Janet Skeslien Charles



Based on the true World War II story of the heroic librarians at the American Library in Paris, this is an unforgettable story of romance, friendship, family, and the power of literature to bring us together - Goodreads

"A love letter to Paris, the power of books, and the beauty of intergenerational friendship."  
- Booklist

**Get a copy of "The Paris Library" and give it a read - then join us on January 24 at 2:30pm in Chapel Hall as Jean Olson leads us in discussion and fellowship!**

*NOTE: we will not be meeting in December*

*All are welcome!*



Christmas will soon be here! Please stop by and check out the bookcase with a wide variety of Christmas themed books for all ages. You will also notice that the books are now displayed by genres such as: Christian Literature, Devotions, Parenting, Minnesota authors, Fiction etc. There is also a great selection of books for our youth of all age groups.

Checking out a book is easy – just fill out the card located in the pocket in the front of the book with the date (m/d/y) and your name. Drop the card in the slot on the plastic stand on the library desk and you are all set!

A special THANK YOU goes out to Pat Tollefsrud for her many years of dedication and service on the library committee.

During this transitional time, we ask for your patience and also welcome any new ideas for the library and book suggestions.

Thank you, Jean Olson & Lori Olson

**ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY  
DRIVER DISCOUNT PROGRAM**

**ARE YOU 55+**

**THIS COURSE WILL SAVE YOU 10% ON  
YOUR AUTO INSURANCE FOR 3 YEARS**

**THERE ARE NO WRITTEN OR  
BEHIND THE WHEEL TESTS!**

**8 HOUR CLASS FOR THE FIRST TIME STUDENTS**

**4 HOUR REFRESHER FOR THE REPEAT STUDENT**

**TO REGISTER FOR THESE OR OTHER CLASSES IN YOUR  
AREA CALL THE NUMBER BELOW OR**

**[www.mnsafetycenter.org](http://www.mnsafetycenter.org)**

**Lutheran Church of the Cross**

**5064 Co Rd 13; Nisswa, MN**

**Dec 3 (4 Hr Refresher) 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

**TOLL FREE**

**1-888-234-1294**

**1-320-308-1400**





## Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen News



On November 4th, Pam, James, and Graham Johnson, Vicar Michelle, Linda Ehlenfeldt, Darrell Paske and Bonnie Stevens served steak bites, salad with fresh tomatoes, chocolate chip bars and ice cream with caramel sauce to thankful guests at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen.

If you would like to help LCC with their volunteer commitment of the First Thursday of every month, contact Ann Bergin at 218-820-5511 or [georgiabergin@gmail.com](mailto:georgiabergin@gmail.com).



*Toning with a Purpose* is held weekly on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am usually in Chapel Hall (may change rooms if necessary). No class on Dec. 23rd. Be sure to bring hand weights and/or bands. Any questions, see Gloria Thomas. Donations will go to SmileTrain.

LCC 2022 Offering Envelopes will be available to pick up in the Narthex beginning Sunday, December 5th. Those who give electronically or only a few times a year do not have offering envelopes. Any questions, please contact Karen Wiele, Financial Secretary at 218-961-2016.





# CREATION CARE



## "BITES FOR LIGHTS" CHRISTMAS LIGHT RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department, in cooperation with Sunrise Sertoma of Brainerd and Crow Wing Recycling, is collecting unneeded Christmas lights and extension cords at select locations throughout Crow Wing County. The copper found in the old extension cords and Christmas lights is recycled through Crow Wing Recycling, keeping these materials out of the county landfill.

Proceeds from the recycled materials are donated to local charities.

The following local partners are participating by providing collection containers at their business, making it easier for citizens to drop-off old Christmas lights and extension cords throughout Crow Wing County.:

Brainerd Ace Hardware, Brainerd—Holiday Store, Mill Ave., Brainerd  
 Carlson Hardware, Nisswa -Holiday Store, Crosslake -Frandsen Bank, Baxter  
 MMFCU, Baxter/Brainerd—Crosby-Ironton Courier, Crosby- Northland Arboretum  
 Crosslake Ace Hardware, Crosslake -Pequot Super Valu, Pequot Lakes  
 Crow Wing County Sanitary Landfill - Todd Wadena Electric Cooperative  
 Emily Ace Hardware, Emily— Ace Hardware, Breezy Point



Dear Friends,  
 Thank you for your prayers for our Mission Trip. We gave away 50 goats, 15 pigs, 1000 hoes, machetes, soap, 1725 pairs of reading glasses besides clothes, medical treatments, etc. The Leon Holmstrom School is doing so well. Thank you for all of the prayers and support from LCC. I miss you all!  
 Love,  
 Marjorie Holmstrom  
 P.S. Go Prime Timers!

# November 2021 LCC Council Highlights

## **LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS** **Church Council Meeting** **Thursday, November 11, 2021**

### **We Assemble in God's Name**

Devotion: Pam Johnson

### **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Council President David Endicott

### **Present:**

David Endicott; Colleen Both; Darrell Paske; Pastor Bakken; Dale Peterson; Mike Smith; Pam Johnson; Jen Henry; Bonnie Stevens; Brian Stubbs

### **Officer Reports:**

Council Minutes by Darrell Paske

- Motion to approve Dale Peterson; Second Pam Johnson; Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report by Colleen Both

- Motion to approve Bonnie Stevens; Second Dale Peterson; Motion Passed

### **New Business:**

- Library: Discussion was had to move library to Chapel Hall. No action taken. Move to return to council for further discussion.
- Playground: Discussion had regarding removal of playground on east side of church building. No action taken. Removal to return to council for further discussion.
- Rummage Sale Ministry: Discussion was had on adding an addition to the garage on the east side of the church building to house rummage sale inventory. Possibly moving of one shed to the Community Garden area. No action taken. Matter to return to council for further discussion.
- Motion was made by Colleen Both that a letter be sent to National WELCA Council to authorize the local WELCA association to transfer all funds not yet distributed and maintained in a savings account related to the WELCA rummage sale be transferred Lutheran Church of the Cross for placement in a dedicated fund account to be distributed from time to time as directed by the Lutheran Church of the Cross Rummage Sale Core Committee. Second by Dale Peterson. Motion Passed.

### **Old Business:**

- Sound Room: See Property Report Below
- Update: Audit - Report is in process of preparation
- Constitution: Three members have been selected for committee; one yet to be added.
- Nominating Committee: Most ballot position are filled. Committee is working to complete the ballot by Sunday, 11-21-2021

### **Pastors' Reports**

#### **Pastor Drew:**

- Since our last council meeting the nominating committee has been hard at work at filling positions on council, ministry teams, and synod conferences. Special thank you to Pam Johnson, Dave Endicott, Colleen Booth and Darrel Paske for being a part of the nominating committee, and for the many phone calls that they are making to fill these positions.

- In October we have also hired Todd Whipple to be our church custodian. He is doing a wonderful job and he fits right into our staff. Please join me in thanking Todd for all that he has done and please introduce yourselves to him.
- Our Wednesday worship and programing continues to grow. Thank you to our kitchen crew, our musicians who help to lead worship, our choir directors, our small group leaders, Kari and Vicar Michelle for all their hard work this year.
- At our All Saints' Sunday we remember the 13 saints from our congregation who have died this year. Our thoughts and prayers go with them and their families as they continue to morn their passing. It was nice to see everyone at worship.
- I was recently contacted by Bishop Amy and was asked if I would be able to help out the synod. Pastor Hans Anderson, who is the Associate pastor at Trinity in Brainerd, Father had died unexpectedly, and they are looking for someone to preach on November 28th. Trinity at this time is in transition from one interim pastor to another and are in need of help. I said yes. So, Sunday November 28th Vicar Michelle will preach and lead worship here at Lutheran Church of Cross, while I will be helping out at Trinity.

### **Vicar Michelle:**

- Prime Timers had another great turn out on November 4 with approximately 50 in attendance. It was a brown bag lunch. Sheriff Goddard came and spoke to the group about how he got his dog, Lincoln, the process of training a dog used in the sheriff's office, and Lincoln's use in the department. Lincoln was on his best behavior! Thank you to Carol Alverson for lining up the program. Thank you to Candy and Darrell Barnack for hosting and the pumpkin pie for dessert. Prime Timers will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be December 2. Program will be the Madrigal group from Brainerd High School under the direction of our own Brian Stubbs.
- Women of the Word Bible Study has been meeting on the first Tuesday of every month at both 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM. There is a different focus and Scripture reading each month, so if you are not able to attend one-month women do not need to fear they will get behind. They are stand-alone studies. There have been close to 30 women attending the last few studies, including both the morning and evening group.
- Men's Fellowship is getting together on Tuesdays at 2:00 PM in the old Youth Room led by Lyle Amundson. Coffee and cookies or bars are provided. Come join in the conversation.
- The Gather Bible Study of Women of the ELCA meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00 AM. In November, the Bible Study focused on the Holy Spirit. The Women of ELCA had a good brainstorming session in October combined with a sub luncheon to talk about ideas and direction for the year ahead.
- Pizza and Game Night met on October 15. It was a fun time for those that could attend. This will be occurring monthly in the Celebration Center on the third Friday of each month. The next Pizza and Game night will be Friday, November 19. Darrell Paske is the organizer for this group. Thank you, Darrell.
- A Time For Us has been a fun way for parents of Route 56 and/or Confirmation students to meet together. The past month we have been getting to know one another, along with watching *The Chosen*, a series that chronicles the life of Jesus through the eyes of the disciples. What a great group of parents!

- My internship is under way. A committee of parishioners led by Mike Smith will be walking with me as I go through the year. I am presently writing my two final papers for this semester's classes. I have two classes left to complete all my Seminary classwork.

### **Committee Reports:**

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

- The Sanctuary media room remodel project is now complete with the installation of the new roll-down window. Nor-Son will seal or stain the wood trim around the new opening.
- I met with Todd Whipple, the new LCC Custodian, about various property items and projects.
- A meeting is being scheduled with the LCC Property Committee to discuss upcoming projects and future property needs.

### **Stewardship:**

No report

### **Worship and Music: Brian Stubbs**

No Report

### **Social Concerns and Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens**

- Several Personal Care Kits and a variety of cookware were delivered this week to Lutheran Social Services in St. Cloud. The kits were put together by several LCC women and some items from the Rummage sale. Another drop-off in St Cloud of is scheduled for November 22. Last week LSS did resettle an Afghan woman in St. Cloud who had completed the Visa process. Since attitudes toward different ethnic groups have changed in the last decades, refugees in Minnesota are being settled in the Twin Cities, Rochester, St. Cloud and Fargo. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has opened the Fargo office to assist in this process according to an article in Living Lutheran.
- Solar Projects in Africa – Pickering Energy Solutions -With 87 solar systems currently installed and operating at hospitals and clinics in Liberia, Pickering Energy Solutions is shifting program priorities from providing power systems to teaching and resourcing local teams with the capability to operate and maintain these systems while developing their indigenous capability to design and install systems independently.
- They've received a donation for their program of 890 First Solar panels from RREAL/Global Health Ministries for use in their programs. These panels will be deployed in the future to enhance the existing clinics and for additional systems. There is a need to have a reserve available for maintenance of these 87 systems (which include Phebe and Curran Hospitals) and to help with salaries and training of the individuals caring for the system. If anyone is interested in donating for that purpose, donations can be sent to RREAL at 3963 8th St. SW, Backus MN 56435. Put Liberia reserve fund on the memo line. RREAL is a 501©3 non-profit and can also receive Thrivent Choice dollars.

### **Children and Family Ministry: Pam Johnson**

- Our big event was Trunk or Treat which turned out to be larger than ever - we hosted 500 or so kids, and families thoroughly enjoyed it. We had members and non-members hosting trunks with the highlight being the Loge's garbage truck!!
- Carol Smith and Kari adapted our Christmas Pageant to "A Kid's Liturgy for Christmas." Bonnie Stevens has donated a Thrivent Grant to provide life sized nativity pieces which will be used at the pageant and again at the outdoor Christmas Eve service.



- We have Taco Faith coming up on Sunday for Route 56- we will explore how our faith can be explained with taco ingredients while enjoying a taco lunch.
- Kari attended the Church-School meeting with Pastor Drew in Pequot on Tuesday. Sounds like Chat and Chow will start up in January and Kari sent home the first Religious Release packets last week.
- Cross Kids continues to thrive - we are attracting more kids each week and we look forward to moving to Chapel Hall to take advantage of more room.
- Kari has an Advent devotion/treat ready to go out to our post-secondary kids - and has submitted a Thrivent Grant to offset costs for this. Acolyte sign up is going well, especially since moving to one service on Sunday.
- Kari is planning for our Advent event on Dec 1 for Confirmation and Route 56, as well as parents' day out on Dec 4. Again, Thrivent grants will help with these events.
- Rachel Gerhartz has agreed to be our CFM rep for Church Council.
- Super Roll Sundays is picking up speed - last Sunday the group collected over \$400 in donations.
- Kari will be working on the Advent Prime Time Press. It will be a Dec - Jan - Feb issue. This is an important ministry -Kari receives lots of comments and thank yous from our folks who receive it.
- Kari traveled to St Cloud with Stacey Grothem and her sister to receive donations of costuming and crafting supplies from a costumer who is retiring. Dixie's generosity was overwhelming, and we will be able to use all of the supplies in the years to come.

**Youth and Family Ministry: Jen Henry**

- Rolls were a success, we had 10 dozen preordered, we sold 12 dozen as singles. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade team was on the ball.

**Congregational Life: Joanie Swanson**

No report

**Personnel: Mike Smith**

No report

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by

Darrell Paske, Council Secretary

Next Council Meeting:

November 9, 2021 7:00 pm

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 David Endicott 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.



*Merry Christmas*

Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas  
from the staff at LCC:

Pastor Drew, Vicar Michelle, Cathy Taylor,  
Sally Hodgson, Kari Erickson, Karen Wiele,  
Todd Whipple, and Laurie Hemish

## Quilting

We meet on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 9:30 am in the Conservatory Room (old youth room). If you would like to be involved but the dates don't work for you, donation of fabric or finished tops (measuring 64"x84") for us to tie and ship would be greatly appreciated. All are welcome. If you have any questions, call Carol Christofferson at 218-963-2335.



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.

## **Christmas Poinsettias**

Remember a loved one or honor someone in your family this holiday season by helping us fill our church with Christmas color! You can contribute \$15.00 toward the purchase of poinsettia plants for our church in honor/memory of a loved one. Complete the form and place in the offering, or mail the form and payment to the church office. Please write "poinsettia" in your check memo. These poinsettia tributes will be listed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve, so please clearly write your tribute on the form, with special attention to spelling of name(s).

We appreciate your help in decorating this  
Christmas season!



### **POINSETTIA ORDER FORM 2021 (due by December 20th)**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Plant(s) donated at \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_ (total)

\_\_\_\_\_ In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to Lutheran Church of the Cross and place in the offering or mail to the church office.*

# 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
Vicar	Michelle Ruen	218-961-2013
Director of Youth and Family Ministry		218-961-2015
Director of Children and Family Ministry	Kari Erickson	218-961-2012
Director of Music Ministry/Organist	Cathy Taylor	218-961-2053
Financial Secretary	Karen Wiele	218-961-2016
Lay Ministry Coordinator	Sally Hodgson	218-961-2052
Senior Choir Director	Brian Stubbs	
Organist	Laura Raedeke	
Bell Choir Director	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

## 2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

President	Dave Endicott	Social Justice/Global	Bonnie Stevens
Vice President	Mike Smith	Worship & Music	Brian Stubbs
Treasurer	Colleen Both	Youth	Jen Henry
Secretary	Darrell Paske	Stewardship	
Cong. Life	Joanie Swanson		
Education	Pam Johnson		
Properties	Dale Peterson		

