

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church
of the Cross
2023

June



Dear LCC family,

Summer is here! How sweet it is to say those words after the long winter that we have all experienced. It is now time to enjoy the warm sunshine and all that the outdoors has to offer. For many of us it means spending time in our yards or gardens, at outdoor events, cruising the lakes, or attending family reunions. For the coming 12 weeks we truly live life to the fullest enjoying all that we can in the Brainerd Lakes Area -before fall and winter come back around, that is!

As the flowers and trees spring forth new life in nature, we too at Lutheran Church of the Cross see new growth - so much so that we are adding a second service to our Sunday morning worship schedule. Beginning June 4th, we will hold an 8 am Summer Sunrise Service. It will be a 30-minute contemplative worship service, much like the Holden Evening Prayer services that we hold during Advent. At 9 am we will hold our traditional worship service with communion, Cross Kids, and staffed nursery. We look forward to having you be a part of one of these worship opportunities throughout the summer.

Together with our Creation Care Team, we will dedicate the four Sundays in June to taking a deeper look at God's creation and thanking God for the beauty that we experience each day. Why do we care for creation? Think of it as *ongoing reformation*. The ELCA document entitled, "Why Lutherans Care for Creation: building on our foundations in the ongoing reformation of the church" (Rhoads, Rev. David, et al.) proposes that Reformation did not end in the 16th century, but is ongoing- and that we are called to rise to the challenges posed by our era. For us, the critical issue is the fate of the Earth – the challenge to protect and restore God's creation from the devastations caused by human activities. Caring for Earth is not just an "environmental cause." It is central to our calling to care for it as our common home and fully integrate creation care into our love of God and neighbor. Perhaps it means looking differently at how we worship, how we organize our church life together, and how we understand ourselves as creatures within creation as a whole.

As we enjoy the beauty of the Brainerd Lakes Area this summer, let us take the time to take care of and advocate for the beauty of God's creation to make sure that the generations that follow will also share in the same beauty. When God created us he created us in his image and called us to take care of his creation. Though we have not always done a great job of it, let's remember that we are called to be stewards of the earth and make the changes necessary for the sake of the world. "Together we may be able to renew and re-form our church to embrace 'the care and redemption of all that God has made.'"

Blessings,

Pastor Drew Bakken



Adult and Teen Challenge here at LCC!

On Sunday, June 18 we will be blessed to have the Brainerd chapter of Adult and Teen Challenge helping us with our 9:00 service.

Adult and Teen Challenge was established in Minnesota in 1983 in Minneapolis. Since then, they have over 11 campuses throughout Minnesota, with multiple programs. Their mission is to assist men, women, and teens in gaining freedom from chemical addictions by addressing physical, emotional and spiritual needs. The treatment and recovery programs they offer include outpatient, Licensed Residential (30-90 days), Long Term Recovery (12-13 months), Teen Residential (6-12 months) and Ongoing Recovery and Alumni Services.

Join us on June 18 to hear the choir and some testimony and be inspired.

The service will be held outdoors in the Memorial Garden, so bring your chairs!

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2023 General Fund

			Annual	% YTD of Annual
	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 72,815	\$ 252,660	\$ 699,490	36.1%
Expenses	\$ 63,756	\$ 241,462	\$ 699,490	34.5%
Difference	\$ 9,060	\$ 11,198	\$ 0	

**In the month of April our income was greater than our expenses by \$9,060.
Thank you for your continued support.**



BAPTISM

Name: Bryer Beau Hohertz
 Born: February 23, 2023
 Baptized: May 7, 2023
 Parents: Zachery & Katelin Hohertz
 Pastor Michelle Ruen, Officiant

INURNMENT

Name: Marilynn Stoxen
 Born: March 9, 1930
 Died in Christ: January 26, 2023
 Inurnment: May 14, 2023
 Lutheran Church of the Cross
 Pastor Michelle Ruen, Officiant

INURNMENT

Name: Barbara Peterson
 Born: May 19, 1935
 Died in Christ: January 10, 2023
 Inurnment: May 17, 2023
 Lutheran Church of the Cross
 Pastor Drew Bakken, Officiant

FUNERAL

Name: Angela "Angie" Johnson
 Born: May 16, 1972
 Died in Christ: January 22, 2023
 Funeral: May 19, 2023
 Lutheran Church of the Cross
 Pastor Drew Bakken, Officiant

FUNERAL

Name: Clark "Corky" Johnson
 Born: February 26, 1938
 Died in Christ: January 3, 2023
 Funeral: May 20, 2023
 Lutheran Church of the Cross
 Pastor Drew Bakken, Officiant



Welcome to our church family,
Bryer Beau Hohertz



CROSS



KIDS





THANKYOU TO
OUR DEDICATED
NURSERY
SUPERVISORS



Route 56!

We are so grateful
for our fantastic kids
and parents for a
great year of
Wednesday
programming—see
you in September!

Have you
registered
forVBX
yet??

It's going to
be a great
four days!



RIVER
OF Life

June 12 - 15
9am - 12n

*We will journey down the
river to learn about God's
gracious gift of water -
from the waters of
baptism to the waters
that sustain life.*

Vacation
Bible
eXperience
Lutheran Church
of the Cross,
Nisawa

For kids Pre-K (must be toilet-trained)
thru gr. 4. Gr. 5 and up are needed to be
Crew Leaders. *All are welcome at this
event which is free of charge.*



REGISTER AT:

<https://tinyurl.com/3bedby65>

Ezekiel



**SUMMER
STRETCH '23**

We are gearing up for some fun and rewarding service work and fun this summer—June 8, 15, 22, 29 and July 6 and 11.

SUMMERTIME



**Kids of all ages excused
during sermon at 9am
worship service**

**for kids message, liturgy
and prayer, then return to
worship for communion.
Nursery also staffed during
9am worship.**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Special worship bags will be available for
take-home Faith Building in June, July & August!**



**Thank you to
our Cross
Kids & Carol
Smith for
providing
music this
year!**

BIRDS IN THE BIBLE

When birds are sold, two small birds cost only a penny. But not even one of those little birds can die without your Father knowing it. Matthew 10:29



Look at the birds. They don't plant, harvest, or save food in barns, but your heavenly Father feeds them. Don't you know you are worth much more than they are? Matthew 6:26



KIDS ART FUN!



Music Notes

June 2023



Great is Thy Faithfulness (FAITHFULNESS)

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm; Music: William M. Runyan

"It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17

Great is Thy Faithfulness

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessing all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Public Domain

The author of this hymn, Thomas Obadiah Chisholm, was born in a log cabin in Kentucky in 1866. At age 16, he began teaching school, despite the lack of his own education. He came to Christ at age 27 under the ministry of evangelist H. C. Morrison. But Chisholm's health was unstable, and he alternated between bouts of illness and gainful employment in which he did everything from journalism to insurance to evangelistic work. Through all the ups and downs, he discovered new blessings from God every morning. The third chapter of Lamentations 3 became precious to him: *"It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."* (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Thomas later admitted there was no dramatic story behind the writing of "Great is Thy Faithfulness." While serving the Lord in Vineland, New Jersey, Thomas sent several poems to his friend, musician William Runyan, who was so moved by this one that he prayed earnestly for special guidance in composing the music. Runyan was in Baldwin, Kansas, at the time, and the hymn was published in 1923 in Runyan's private song pamphlets.

"It went rather slowly for several years," Thomas recalled. Then Dr. Will Houghton of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago discovered it, and would say in chapel, "Well, I think we shall have to sing 'Great is Thy Faithfulness.'" It became an unofficial theme song for the Institute; and when Houghton died, it was sung at his funeral.

Still, it remained relatively unknown until popularized around the world by George Beverly Shea and the choirs at the Billy Graham Crusades.

Thomas spent this retirement years in a Methodist Home for the Aged in Ocean Park, New Jersey, where he was frequently seen walking by the ocean and along town streets. Tom Rich, a resident of Ocean Park, recalls his pleasant demeanor as he dropped by the diner, sat on park benches, and fellowshiped with friends at Ocean Park's summer Bible conference.

Thomas died in Ocean Park in 1960. During his lifetime he wrote 1,200 poems and hymns. In addition to "Great is Thy Faithfulness," he is the author of "O To Be Like Thee" and "Living For Jesus".

From "Then Sings My Soul", Robert J. Morgan

During the month of June, we will be celebrating our creation and all that God has given us. Take time each day to give God all glory for the beauty of our creation.

Praise be to God, and Great is Thy Faithfulness!

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music Ministries

All are welcome to join us for...



**PICK UP
CHOIR**

As in the past few summers, we will offer a chance for anyone to join us for a "pick up" choir to sing at our services.

This is a great opportunity for all of you who cannot join us during the rest of the year, including our summer guests who love to sing. We sing one piece

that can easily be rehearsed by all prior to the service. We always sing on the second Sunday of June, July and August.

Our pick up choir dates will be June 11, then July 9, then August 13. We will meet in the choir room at 8:15 then sing for just the 9:00 service. \

Questions: Cathy Taylor 763-607-4282 or cathy@cathysmusicstudio.com.

Please come join us.

O sing to the Lord a new song for he has done marvelous things. Psalm 98:1

Are you interested in ringing bells with the **Bells of Praise**. We need you. Contact Cheryl Karlgaard at 218-839-0542 if you are interested. Practice Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm and play the fourth Sunday of the month.



WOMEN in the WORD with Pastor Michelle —Tuesday, June 6th

It is good to be in the house of the Lord, and even better to be in God's Word. Come for a Bible Study led by Pastor Michelle in our **Chapel Hall on Tuesday, June 6th at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM**. There is no prior knowledge or homework needed. Just bring your Bible and be ready to be blessed. There will be coffee, tea, lemonade, and tasty treats provided. Bring a friend.

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!

Grub and Games

Is taking a break for the summer months. We will resume sometime this Fall. Stay posted for further updates.

Thursday, June 8th at 12:00 Noon



Come for a wonderful and stimulating program by Jan Kurtz, a former CLC Spanish Teacher, on Thursday, June 8th. Jan Kurtz has authored the book, Northern Shores/Southern Borders: Revelations of a Bilingual Life. She will talk about her travels, the topic of North/South, Medical Missions, multicultural opportunities, and much more. She

is a popular speaker with her bilingual knowledge. Bring a sack lunch at Noon. Coffee and dessert provided. Program will begin at approximately 12:20 PM. Come for another wonderful program!

Camp Yap-A-Lap is starting up again. Join us on Tuesday, June 6th at 9:00 am at the back door of the church. We have a two mile route that you can walk as you can and at your own pace. No sign up needed and bring a walking buddy. A few laughs are guaranteed.



Mark your calendars—join us for **Good Gifts Sunday and the Blessing of the Animals** on Sunday, July 16th at 9:00 am—hosted by Women of the Cross. Watch for more information coming soon.



Gather Magazine Summer 2023 Bible Study: Salvation Now by the Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen

Please plan on joining us in a three-part summer bible study by Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen entitled, “*Salvation Now.*” This three-month study will focus on the gospel of John where we will see that the gospel writer was focused on the here and “now” of Jesus’ ministry.

Due to Luther Crest Bible Camp, our Gather Bible Study is moved to Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in Chapel Hall, Dianne Wermager we will be leading us in *Session One, “Promised Salvation Now—Jesus Brings Wellness.* Together, we’ll note a few instances of the “Now,” and delve into John’s observations about the way John focuses not so much on the “hereafter,” but more on sharing the difference that Jesus makes in people’s lives, straight away. Marilyn Quist will be providing treats.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS---OUR QUARTERLY MEETING HAS ALSO MOVED. IT WILL BE HELD IMMEDIATELY AFTER OUR GATHER BIBLE STUDY ON JUNE 20TH. LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.

Our future sessions are:

Session Two: Tangible Salvation Now—Christians Bringing Wellness

Because Jesus is the bringer of salvation, in his name, so, too, are we.

Where there are wounds and brokenness, we are called to bring Jesus and the salvation he embodied. Together we’ll examine the biblical and theological reasons for not waiting for it to all come out in the wash later, but for us to become faithful ambassadors of Jesus’ salvation now.

Session Three: Needed Salvation Now—A World Wanting Wellness

In this session, we’ll explore John’s commitment to service, how we as Christians see the needs of a hurting world, and how because Jesus is the bringer of salvation, we are compelled to follow Jesus into the need now.

This is going to be a wonderful Bible Study series. Please join us. All are welcome. Gather Magazines are available at the church for all at no charge. No preparation is needed other than coming with an open heart and mind to discuss the gospel of John in a way that may be a totally different point of view for you.

NE MN Synod Women of the ELCA Reflecting God’s Light in the World: Summer Convention—June 12-13 at Zion Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids, MN. Questions, contact Jodi Milli 507-438-4435 or jodiamilli@gmail.com

Women’s Week at Luther Crest is June 25-30. Check out their website and register on-line: <https://www.luthercrest.org/womens-week.html>. Can’t come for the entire week? Come for a day (Mon-Wed) cost is \$60 for one participant or only \$120 for a carload of up to 6 ladies. Call Jodi Milli at 507-438-4435 or Gloria Thomas at 218-963-7951 with questions.

gather
THE FAITH AND ARTS

BUT FIRST
Jesus

**Announcing a mandatory event for
9th graders and their mentors:**

***Affirmation of Baptism Stole
Making and Faith Statement
Writing Workshop***

- **Wednesday, August 16**
- **5:30pm - 8pm**
- **Food provided**
- **Led by Pr. Drew and Kari**

*We will get prepared for our Affirmation of Baptism
and Dessert & Sharing on September 16 & 17.
See you there!!*

A Message on our ELCA Global Missionary

Russian Correspondent– Bradn Buerkle

Further Developments in Online/In-person Education in Russia

In previous newsletters, I have mentioned that theological education in the Russian Lutheran church currently has a seminary-track program for a “full” theological training (though those of you who have had theological training know that it can never be full enough!) and a practical-ministry focused track called “OK Preacher.” (“O” and “K” standing for “Online” “Kourse”).



I am involved in both tracks, occasionally as a teacher and occasionally as part of the team that helps steer the path of program development. And while the seminary-track program is relatively well-established, the OK Preacher project is still at an experimental stage, with the first group set to graduate in May of this year. Their training – weekly, two-hour classes over the course of two school years, in addition to two in-person seminars and practical work in congregations – should

prepare them to be highly-qualified lay preachers for our many congregations without a pastor.

In January of this year, logistical reasons (concretely, the cost of travelling long distances) led to the in-person seminar for 15 students being split into two sites – the church center in Omsk (picture) for participants from Siberia and the church in Saratov (European Russia).

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend, insofar as we consider it unsafe for me to be in Russia at the moment. Still, it is possible to be involved in the program in other ways, and I am pleased that the church has made the effort to develop a program focused on the spiritual formation of ministers. In light of the unpredictable situation in the country and in the church, we find it very important that our training provides not only the necessary theological knowledge to help them competently preach and provide basic pastoral care, but gives them the tools necessary for further development as those who serve the Gospel.

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

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you to Jim and Jean Kraft, Chuck and Mary Klang, and Lee and Nancy Wangstad for volunteering in May for LCC. These fine folks have been volunteering at the Soup Kitchen for years and years and I so appreciate the contribution of their time and talents.

The Soup Kitchen served 1,572 meals in the month of April, averaging 52 meals a day. They also gave out 486 breakfast/lunch bags to the Overnight 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.

Any Questions? Call or text me, Ann Bergin, Soup Kitchen Coordinator, at 218-820-5511.



OPERATION SANDWICH began several years ago, making and delivering peanut and butter sandwich lunches to

locations in Brainerd and Baxter. Just before COVID, Operation Sandwich added a Northern Route and instead of making sandwiches, teams of volunteers assembled grocery bags of lunch food to carry a family through the week – jars of peanut butter & jelly, bread, granola bars, Goldfish, fruit snacks, fresh fruit—to stops in Nisswa, Pequot Lakes, Jenkins, and Pine River. Last year we averaged 1210 lunches per week and an average of 47 families served.

Once again, LCC will be the hub of Operation Sandwich for the Northern Route, beginning June 8 – August 25. It is being coordinated by Bridges of Hope and will be led by staff member, Ann (Hunnicut) Pickar. Past volunteers will be receiving an email from Ann, and anyone interested in getting involved in this neighborhood ministry may contact Ann (ann@bridgesofhopemn.org or 218-825-7682).


I have enjoyed being the “face” of Operation Sandwich for the past years and will be involved, but I also need to step back and act a bit more “retired.” Feel free to ask me questions! Also, keep filling our collection box with food items (regular size jars of peanut butter, granola bars, goldfish cracker, fruit snacks, & fruit/applesauce cups) or making monetary donations throughout the summer.

THANK YOU, church family, for embracing this important ministry!

Jean Kraft



Todd Whipple, Volunteer Coordinator

Sun	Mon	Tue	
facility calendar for:			Ju
			
4 HOLY TRINITY 8:00 Summer Sunrise Worship 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Holden Trip Meeting 1:00 Private Graduation Party 2:00 Cullen Lakes Assoc. Board Mtg	5	6 8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 9:00 Camp Yap-a-lap 10:00 Women in the Word 10:00 Coffee Clutch 7:00 Women in the Word	7 8:30 Text S 9:30 Quilt 5:30 Bells
11 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION 8:00 Summer Sunrise Worship 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship/volunteer appr.	12 VBX 9-noon 12:00 Funeral: Doug Miller	13 VBX 9-noon 9:00 Computer Lab 9:00 Camp Yap-a-lap 10:00 Coffee Clutch 4:00 Lakes Area Food Shelf Board 5:30 Church Council Retreat	14 VBX 9 8:30 Text 5:30 Bells
18 8:00 Summer Sunrise Worship 9:00 Outdoor Worship w/ Communion & Teen Challenge 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Private Baptism	19 7:00 People for Racial Justice	20 8:30 Staff Meeting /Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 9:00 Camp Yap-a-lap 10:00 Coffee Clutch 10:00 Gather Bible Study & WELCA Qrtly Mtg 4:00 Crossroads Annual Mtg 7:00 Good Sam Hospice	21 8:30 Text 9:30 Quilt 4:00 Creat 5:30 Bells
25 8:00 Summer Sunrise Worship 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship	26	27 8:30 Staff Meeting /Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 9:00 Camp Yap-a-lap 10:00 Coffee Clutch 10:30 Novel Ideas Book Club	28 8:00 Good 8:30 Text 5:30 Bells

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ne	2023		
	1 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 A.A. 	2	3
Study ers of Praise	8 8:15 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Summer Stretch 9:00 Operation Sandwich 12:00 PrimeTimers 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.	9 9:00 55+ Driver Improvement	10 9:00 Lake Hubert Board Mtg 9:00 Cullen Lakes Assoc. Board
9-noon	15 VBX 9-noon 8:15 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Summer Stretch 9:00 Operation Sandwich 7:00 A.A.	16 	17
Study ers ion Care Team of Praise	22 8:15 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Summer Stretch 9:00 Operation Sandwich 7:00 A.A.	23	24 8:30 Lake Hubert Assoc. Annual Mtg
Sam Training Study of Praise	29 8:15 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Summer Stretch 9:00 Operation Sandwich 7:00 A.A.	30	<i>Reminder: Before planning any meeting/event/gathering at church, call the church office for availability and scheduling. Thank you.</i>



1. Kari Erickson, Gale Gordon, Dagne Neale, Renee Schwaller, Kellan Timmons
2. Sherrie Kunkel, Ella Oelke
3. Nathan Bakken, Ron Whipple
4. Patrick Goff, Faeth Harms, Tyler Hushagen, Hilary Johnson, Seth Nelson, Paul Wermager
5. Josie Taylor
6. Callista Anderson, Tom Gerrety, Jerry Glendening
7. Riley Pelowski
8. Tess Chase, Kathy Kosobud, Michelle Malmquist
9. Megan Fogarty, Amanda Hintz
10. Ron Rusch, Kaden Teasck
- 11.
- 12.
13. Bonnie Anderson, Karen Lenox, Bridget Ruckdashel, Maureen Schmidt, Mary Suer
14. Abby Bakken, Sarah Fogderud, Kaiden Raske, Kacie Wottreng
15. Randy Hahn, Chuck Klang
16. Mark Boesen
17. Lois Jensen, Pat Tollefsrud
18. Ashley Eisenschenk, Jeff Horn
- 19.
20. Sharon Ingvoldstad, Maggie Prahm
21. Riley Fogarty, Brian Hemish, Dorothy Setterholm
- 22.
23. Liz Brandanger, Lenny Hodgson
24. Kevin Egan, Kristen Ingram, Tony Whipple
25. Randy Avenson, Teresa Carter, Dick Dore, Katelin Hohertz, Julie Raymo, Gabe Wilson
26. Joyce Pierson
27. Anne Kostreba, Mason Kuhn, Brian Stark, Brecken Ubl, Marilyn Walsh
28. Violet Anderson, Whitney Bolt, Shaun Martini
29. Kim Cameron, Brenna Neale
30. Curt Tollefsrud, Alli Whipple



ART & FAITH GALLERY

*A Tribute Exhibition
Celebrating the Life and Art of
Vickie Reph
(1947 – 2020)*

The LCC Art and Faith group is pleased to share this exhibit of Vickie's work from Sunday May 14th, and ending on Sunday, June 25th.

Vickie Reph was an accomplished artist and beloved member of Lutheran Church of the Cross. Her art career goes back many years creating and painting ceramics—figures, pottery and dishes—many of which are still in use today.

More recently Vickie turned to watercolor painting and soon her paintings were reproduced as limited edition prints and notecards and had a wide distribution in the area.

Did You Know?

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

Have you ever wondered what it was like to live as an Indigenous person? It is difficult to know the answer to this question since there is no written history and we are talking about what archaeologists say is prehistoric times. The Mille Lacs region of Minnesota has been home of both the Dakota and Ojibwe tribes since as early as 3000 BCE. Before 1000 BCE Indians were making copper tools. The first known European contact occurred in 1679 when Daniel Greysolon explored the region. Greysolon traded with the Dakota at their thriving community located at Mille Lacs Lake and claimed the land for France. That is one of the first examples of how explorers claimed land for a foreign entity which they had no right to do. The committee on People for Racial Justice recently had the privilege to tour the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading post. The way in which the Indigenous people lived was a part of that tour. Their economy of lifestyle was fascinating to see. If you have further interest, we recommend a tour.

2023 Spring Rummage Sale

FINAL LCC April 2023 Rummage Sale Donation Distributions

LCC Internal Ministries	\$8,900
State/Community	\$14,200
Nation/World	\$7,100
Women of the Cross	\$6,300
TOTAL	\$36,500

LCC INTERNAL MINISTRIES

Art & Faith (Children's art classes & displays)	\$300
LCC Computer Lab (WiFi, Computers, Software Upgrades)	\$600
LCC Creation Care Team (Housing costs for Will Steger)	\$500
LCC Foundation (Help for seminary requests, grants for food)	\$1,000
LCC Kings Kids (Shirts for choir)	\$150
LCC Member Request (Costs to maintain planters in front of church)	\$350
LCC Scholarship Funds (Scholarships for high school youth)	\$1,500
LCC Youth Ministries (Relocation of playground)	\$1,500
LCC Youth Ministries (Luther Crest scholarships)	\$1,500
LCC Youth Ministries (Funds for National Youth Gathering)	\$1,500
TOTAL LCC INTERNAL MINISTRIES	\$8,900

COMMUNITY/STATE

Adult & Teen Challenge (Help covering costs locally)	\$1,000
Alex & Brandon Center (Costs for safety of children to meet with non custodial parents)	\$750
Bluebirds & Blooms (Repurposing flowers for individuals with memory loss)	\$350
Bridge on the Warming Shelter (Provide shelter to homeless)	\$500
Burlington Recovery Home (Help providing food & household items)	\$500
CHUM Corporate Ministry - NE MN Synod (Pastoral Ministry through NE Regional Corrections Center)	\$500
Family Services Collaborative of the Lakes (Gift cards to families in crisis)	\$1,000
Freedom Ranch (Safe homes for girls rescued from human trafficking)	\$500
Lakes Area Food Shelf (Help covering food costs)	\$1,000
Lakes Area United Way (Imagination Library Program)	\$500
Mpls Children's Hospital (Children's needs)	\$600
My Neighbor to Love Coalition (Construction supplies for building housing units for homeless)	\$2,000



at Lutheran Church of the Cross

Operation Sandwich - Bridges of Hope (Help with food costs)	\$1,000
Second Harvest Food Banks (Cover food costs)	\$500
St Vincent de Paul (Helping people in need with food, rent & utilities)	\$250
The Center (Supplies for construction of toys)	\$500
The Outreach Program of Brainerd (Packaging of meals)	\$1,500
VFW DAV Chapter 22 (Veterans Assistance - Brd unit for Disabled American Veterans)	\$500
YMCA (Provide towels/soap for showers to homeless)	<u>\$750</u>
TOTAL COMMUNITY /STATE	\$14,200

NATIONAL/WORLD

ELCA World Hunger - NE MN Synod (World hunger costs)	\$500
Global Health Ministries (Building health care systems)	\$500
Global Missions Team of LCC (Seminary scholarships in India)	\$1,250
Global Missions Team of LCC (PreK school in Honduras)	\$500
He Intends Victory (Cost of teachers at school in Uganda)	\$1,200
Lutheran Immigration Refugee Svc (Resettlement in Afghan & Ukraine)	\$1,000
Lutheran World Relief (Provide safe shelter from war violence)	\$500
Missionary Flights International (Fuel for flights delivering supplies to Haiti)	\$750
Shriners Hospital (Children's care)	\$250
Sonshine Ministries (Provide food & homes for the poor in Mexico)	\$400
St Jude's Children's Hospital (Care for children with cancer)	<u>\$250</u>
TOTAL NATION/WORLD	\$7,100
WOMEN OF THE CROSS	\$6,300

NOTE: ESTIMATED NET RUMMAGE SALE INCOME:	\$42,00
LESS WELCA - WOMEN OF THE CROSS (15%)	- \$6,300
LESS GARAGE ADDITION PAYMENT	<u>- \$5,000</u>
TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR INTERNAL MINISTRIES, STATE/COMMUNITY, & NATIONAL/WORLD:	\$30,700

Thank you to all who contributed time, donated and shopped the Rummage Sale. Donations are planned to be accepted beginning June 1, 2023 pending completion of the garage interior.

Guidelines used were: Internal Ministries = 35%, Community/State = 25% + 15% most needed, National/World = 25%, Women of the Cross = 15% of adjusted gross profit.





Colt & Kara Jenkins
Daxon, Deakon, Drake, Phoebe



Evan & Liz Kuhn
Jaxson & Blake



Alex & Kelsey Kuhn
Mason & Nolan



Travis & Simone Aune
Landon, Myah, Westin



Ryan & Bridget Ruckdashel
Duke & McCoy



Jeff & Angie Olson
Brady & Ella



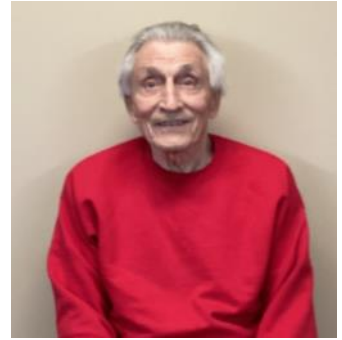
Zachery & Katelin Hohertz
Baylor & Bryer



Brad & Carol Carlson



Debby Snyder



Theodore Merickel



Chris & Cristi Hedtke



Robb & Ann Reid



Deb Van Roy



Tyler & Sarah Verworn
Sam, Brooke, Austin



Allyn Dickie



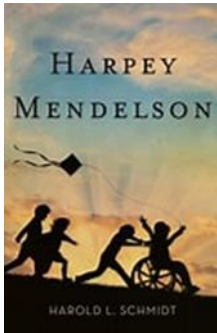
Steve & Mary Suer

NOVEL IDEAS BOOK

WHEN: Tuesday, June 27th at 10:30am

WHERE: Chapel Hall

Please join us for fellowship, treats and discussion.



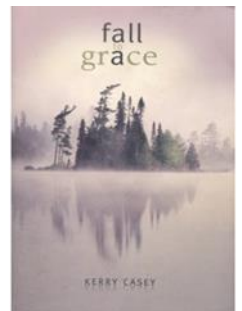
Isaac Harpey Mendelson along with his friend, Nixon Bliss, and a cast of childhood friends, play in their New Jersey cul-de-sac at a time when life was much simpler. Yet beneath the surface, evil reared its ugly head.

Nearly six decades later, Nixon is now a widower and pastors a local church in the same neighborhood. During his summer sermon, he retells the story to his congregation of that iconic time and how it changed their lives.

LIBRARY BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Christian Fiction: Fall To Grace by Kerry Casey, a Minnesota Author

Fall to Grace is a spiritual, and reflective story of two 13-year-old hockey friends whose fathers die suddenly on the same day. Their experience of friendship, self-awakening, and renewal as they journey into adulthood reminds us, none too gently, that only angels fall from grace. The rest of us fall **toward** it.



There are several books currently in the **RECENT ADDITIONS** section. They will be filed in with the other books soon, so please stop by the library and take a look. You will find faith based books, grief and suicide and several fiction books. A number of **Max Lucado** books also came in during the rummage sale. They are older publications, but if you like his writing, please stop by and check them out.

Thank you for using the church library! We are happy to see that a number of books have been checked out. Please remember to return the books when you have finished reading them so others can also enjoy them.

CREATION CARE

Our Solar Journey

LCC's journey to a solar installation began in 2009 when the Creation Care Team began dreaming about what renewable energy could look like at our church. Over the next year we did a lot of research on various renewable energy options, and with approval from Church Council decided to start looking into a solar installation at LCC. We decided to work with the Rural Renewal Energy Alliance out of Pine River (now called REAL Solar) because of their local connection and expertise in designing these types of systems. RREAL completed a site assessment in 2011 and the Creation Care Team began hosting adult forums and presenting updates to Council on the project. In 2015 Church Council granted approval for the project and for a fundraising campaign to install a solar array at LCC. Later that year it became necessary to replace a large portion of the church's roof. In order to avoid over-burdening the congregation with fundraising requests, the Stewardship Committee recommended combining the solar and roof projects into one mortgage proposal to the congregation. This proposal was approved by a vote of the congregation on August 30th, 2015.

The solar installation was estimated to cost \$40,000. The final project cost came in just under that at \$38,718. The majority of the project (just over 80%) was funded through individual donations from both congregation members and non-members in our community, a grant from the Clean Energy Resource Teams, a rebate from Minnesota Power, and in-kind labor for trenching. The Congregation's investment through the mortgage approved in 2015 made up the remaining 19% (\$7,467).

From their installation in May of 2016 through December of 2022, our solar panels have produced 65 megawatt hours of electricity or 9% of LCC's electricity needs. This has resulted in an estimated total savings of around \$8,500 for the congregation over the past 6 years, which has more than fully paid back the portion of the mortgage used to fund the project.

Another important effect of our solar installation is that it has made us more conscious of our energy use and has spurred efforts to upgrade light fixtures and appliances throughout the church. Due to these energy efficiency improvements over the past few years, LCC has reduced our electricity use by over 40% since 2017! This is a major accomplishment and amplifies the impact of our solar arrays.

We are proud to be one of the first congregations in Minnesota to include solar in our efforts to be good stewards of God's creation and are happy to report that many other churches are following in our footsteps. Thank you for your support of this important ministry for our congregation! Some of our goals for the future are to provide more real-time reporting of our solar energy production to the congregation, continue to reduce our electricity use by upgrading lighting and appliances, and explore adding an additional array to increase our solar impact.

Our Solar Impact

65 megawatt hours of electricity is equivalent to:

- 45 metric tons of carbon offset
- 2,000 trees (a mature tree removes 48 lbs of CO2 per day)
- Enough electricity to power the average MN household for 7 years
- Power an Energy Star refrigerator for 108 years
- Light up the Eiffel Tower for 3 days



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 9, 2023

We Assemble in God's Name

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Council President Mike Smith

Present:

Pr. Drew Bakken, Pr. Michelle Ruen, Colleen Both, Rachel Gerhartz, Rob Norgon, Darrell Paske, Dale Peterson, Mike Smith, Bonnie Stevens, Brian Stubbs, Jenny Stubbs, Sarah Tietz and Lyn Underdahl.

Devotion: Colleen Both

Announcements

Todd Whipple: June 11th is Volunteer Appreciation Sunday. Council sign up for various Sunday job spots.

Officer Reports:

Council Minutes (April 2023)

- **Motion to approve by Brian Stubbs ; Second by Dale Peterson. Motion passed.**

Treasurer's Report- (April 2023) -Colleen Both

- **Motion to approve by Darrell Paske; Second by Bonnie Stevens. Motion passed.**

New Business:

1. Welcome Lyn Underdahl as Congregational Life representative.

***(May 3, 2023- Motion to accept Lyn Underdahl as Congregational Life council member to complete the position vacated by Joanie Swanson's resignation by Mike Smith; Second by Pr. Drew Bakken. Motion passed.)** Review: Committees Congregational Life oversees.

2. **Motion to accept list of New members to LCC by Rachel Gerhartz; Second by Bonnie Stevens.**

Old Business:

1. **Playground update:** working on a finalized plan so congregation can meet and approve.

2. **Summer Worship:** Starts June 4th. Two services- 8:00 am and 9:00 am service. Early service will be shorter, featuring a Marty Haugen liturgy, no communion. 9:00 service will have communion.

3. **Rummage Sale:** \$45,000 raised after costs.

4. **Review LCC Bylaws:** for an updated, complete list of Council Members' responsibilities.

June 13th; 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Pastors' Reports

Senior Pastors' Report; Pastor Drew:

- As I reflect back on the month of April one thing that replayed in my mind was that spring never truly came to the month of April. And Yet April was certainly a good month for the Church. Attendance for our Lenten Worship services was strong, along with our Sunday Worship services. Thank you to all of our volunteers who shared their time and talent each and every Sunday to make worship possible.
- We rejoiced on Easter with the sounds of "He is Risen, He is Risen indeed, Alleluia," from 3 full church services. We worshiped with 816 people. I continue to pray that this is a sign that things are improving.
- Once again, I am reminded that we are serving congregation that reaches out into our community and

throughout the world. We once again held a rummage sale with a few changes. We had averaged over 100 volunteers helping out daily to make this ministry event happen. We were able to raise \$45,000. Thank you to Marv and Karen Green, and Liz Brandanger, the core members of the rummage sale team and to all the volunteers made this sale happen. Over and over again I heard from our guests how happy they were to be at this sale. This is a tremendous ministry for our community and I am looking forward to our Fall sale.

- I continue enjoying my time leading our Wednesday morning bible study, teaching confirmation, leading worship at our nursing homes, meeting with prospective members, walking with family members as they plan the funerals for loved ones, and celebrating with families the baptism of their babies, and leading Men's Breakfast.

Associate Pastor's Report; Pastor Michelle:

- Our New Member Sunday was May 7 at 9:00 AM. We had 48 new members, with 16 family units represented. An Informational gathering and sloppy joe supper, put on by the new Member committee, was held on Thursday, May 4 to welcome all the new members. Thank you to the staff and church council members who attended. Thank you to our New Member Committee- Jim and Jean Kraft, Jim and Joan Roberts, Mike and Carol Smith, and Pastor Michelle. Welcome to all of our New Members! We are so excited to have you join our church family!
- Lyn Underdahl will be joining our church council as the Congregational Life representative. Lyn will be overseeing the committees and organizations that serve the life of our congregation. Lyn will also be joining the New Member Committee. Welcome Lyn!
- Pastor Michelle and Erin Anderson have been researching Stephen's Ministry and Befriender's Ministry, both ministries that reach out to those in grief or in need of a friend to come alongside them. Pastor Michelle is hoping to organize a Visitation Ministry this summer using one of the above mentioned programs. Training would take place this Fall, with hopes that visitations would begin soon after. Are you a good listener? Do you enjoy 1-on-1 visits with people? Consider becoming a Befriender or a Stephen's Minister! Please talk to Pastor Michelle.
- Our Nursery will continue to be manned through the summer months at our 9:00 AM service. It is an important ministry! We have one of the nicest nurseries in town. :-) Let Pastor Michelle know if you would be willing to be an occasional nursery volunteer. Thank you very much to our nursery volunteers!
- Small group and Adult programming will continue throughout the summer months. Check out the Sunday bulletin, the bulletin board in the hallway, or the monthly newsletter to see what will be happening this summer!
- Thank you for your energetic presence and Spirit-filled enthusiasm! The Holy Spirit is blowing here at LCC!

Committee Reports:

LCC Property Report: Dale Peterson

No report

Stewardship Report: Rob Norgon

In the process of forming a new committee and looking for recommendations for names.

Worship and Music: Brian Stubbs

W&M met on April 23, 2023

1. Altar Guild - Going well, this morning (4/23/23) set communion for 250, served 230. Will prepare for 280 in future services.
2. King's Kids - there will be a painting featuring kids commissioned as well as a song for the King's Kids to perform for the unveiling, date TBD - possibly Rally Sunday!
3. Bell of Praise - will play on the 4th Sunday of each month throughout the summer.

4. Senior Choir - the last Sunday the Sr Choir will sing for the season will be May 21. We will have a pick-up choir on the 2nd Sunday of each month throughout the summer.
5. Outdoor service will be held on the 3rd Sunday of each month throughout the summer.
6. Sanctuary Decoration - beautiful decorations again this year, suggestion has been made to reduce the number of Lilies and increase Mums for future (allergy concerns, mums more popular for people to take home).
7. Video/Audio - concern that there is an audio delay between live and recorded....it was explained that this is normal and cannot be changed.
8. Volunteer Coordination - Todd has been working on a new system where there would be teams of worship volunteers led by "Usher Captains" (replacing Worship Coordinators). Each team would always work together (with two more team members than needed for each service) and cover 1 month at a time. Meetings will begin in May and the system will go into effect by July.
9. Holy Week Observations - all services went well, attendance not as high as in the past but many utilized live-streaming. Set up for overflow in the narthex and Chapel Hall were not used.
10. Upcoming Special Services - Senior Recognition Sunday, May 21st
Pentecost/Memorial Day Service, May 28th will conclude in the Memorial Garden.

New Business

1. Summer Services - 8AM service, 30 minutes including liturgy (Marty Haugen) and sermon - no communion. Beginning June 4th. 9AM service, live-streamed.
 2. Incorporation of Seasons of Creation in our summer worship - Cathy plans to select a lot of creation hymns.
- Next meeting will be May 21

Social Concerns & Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens

Northeast MN Synod Each year during Synod Assembly, Marketplace sells handcrafted and donated items to benefit World Hunger. Marketplace was done onsite at Cragun's and the Quilt Auction was done online beginning April 27 and ended April 29. Together they raised \$14,350 for ELCA World Hunger, just short of their \$15,000 goal.

Bridges of Hope Bridge On 7th (Warming shelter) closes May 11. Ann Hunnicutt put out a call for volunteers to help staff for the extra weeks that it was open. In June, she will schedule a meeting with volunteer coordinators to talk about plans for the next year of operation. She also asked for volunteers to help clean and ready the site for Operation Sandwich.

Operation Sandwich – Lutheran Church of the Cross will again be the Northern Route beginning Thursday, June 8. Every Thursday throughout the summer, volunteers will work to package a week's worth of lunches for families who will pick up at Nisswa, Pequot Lakes, Jenkins and Pine River. There will be bins at LCC to collect donations of food items. Monetary donations are always welcome for purchase of fresh fruit and other needed items. Families are asked to sign up with Bridges of Hope each week to reserve their meals.

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

- Our Kids Art Event went well and all in attendance had a good time and made some wonderful pieces!
- May 10 will be our last Worship on Wednesday and we will end our programming year with a Messtival for youth.
- Kari will have to reschedule our CYFM meeting due to having to work on funeral prep for her mother in law.
- We will have Blessing Burritos and Mother's Day crafts on Sunday during Coffee Fellowship to celebrate our Cross Kids Connection programming year.
- Holden plans have been finalized.
- Scholarship Committee met and distributed funds for this year's HS Seniors.
- May 21 will be Sr. Recognition Sunday - knitters have prayer afghans all ready to go and gifts have been ordered and have arrived.
- Work on VBX continues - volunteer letters went out.

- Kari completed Rummage Fund sheets for our Playground Project, Camperships, and The Youth Gathering in 2024.
- Registrations are coming in for Summer Stretch.
- We had our last Super Roll Sunday and will need to find coordinators for next year, as Jen and Karen are stepping back. Next year we will be ordering our rolls from Sysco.

7) Congregational Life:

No Report: Welcome to Council, Lyn!

8) Personnel: Darrell Paske

Staff reviews have been completed, except for Pastor Drew. Mike Smith, myself and Pastor Drew will arrange a date when all three are available and complete his review.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion to adjourn made by Brian Stubbs; Second by Lyn Underdahl.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, June 8, 2023, 7 p.m.

Devotions: Brian Stubbs

Submitted by Jenny Stubbs

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

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.

Church Directory Update

The 2023 church directories are here and our staff and volunteers are busy adding new member information to prepare them for distribution.

They will be for sale on June 4 in the Narthex.

Pay by cash or check (make out to LCC with *photo directory* written in the memo line.) Thanks for all of our members for helping with this project.

Recognizing our high school GRADS!





**Congrats to our
scholarship recipients:
Hannah Hayes,
Nathan Bakken,
Maci Martini, Brea
Eckes, Grant Loge, and
Ella Anderson.**

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

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

July 21 (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



Lutheran Church of the Cross

PO Box 29
5064 County Road 13
Nisswa, MN 56468

Main Phone: 218-963-2564
Web: lccnisswa.org
E-mail: lcc@lccnisswa.org

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Address label here

Welcoming all people into
discipleship

STAFF

Pastor	Drew Bakken	218-961-2014
Pastor	Michelle Ruen	218-961-2013
Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry	Kari Erickson	218-961-2012
Director of Music Ministry/Organist	Cathy Taylor	218-961-2053
Financial Secretary	Karen Wiele	218-961-2016
Volunteer Coordinator	Todd Whipple	218-961-2052
Senior Choir Director	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	Lyn Underdahl		
Children/Family	Rachel Gerhartz		
Properties	Dale Peterson		

