

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church
of the Cross
2024

April



Dear LCC Friends and Family,

Many quotes and adages that have become popular over the years have come from television shows or movies. Allow me to indulge you with a few of my favorites: “Put one foot in front of the other and soon you will be walking out the door.” – from *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*; “Just keep swimming, just keep swimming.” – Dory from *Finding Nemo*. And one of my favorite sayings is “Life’s a marathon and not a sprint.” These are the phrases that come to my mind when, for example, I am on a long portage in the BWCA and I don’t think I can make it. These phrases can also be helpful when I just feel stressed and overwhelmed with life. But what happens when the weight you are carrying prevents you from moving forward. *What do you do?*

My brother recently used an old adage to help my nephew when he was frustrated during a family Group Solitaire game. In this game you play on your own hand but the aces are free for everyone to use. During our game, my nephew couldn’t place any cards in the middle, and was unwilling to put any of his discards on his own hand - and he became frustrated, not knowing what to do. My brother told him, “Sometimes you have to go backwards in order to go forward.” After considering his dad’s words, my nephew then started playing on his own hand, which opened up new cards for him to place in the middle. Hearing those words from his dad helped him regroup and move forward in the game.

Jesus used this adage many times in the Bible. He went up a mountain, into the wilderness, or into the garden to pray and meditate after major events like his baptism, the feeding of the five thousand, transfiguration, Palm Sunday, and Maundy Thursday. Instead of pushing forward after these significant events, Jesus took a step back to reflect, pray, collect his thoughts, and gather strength so that He could move forward. These instances are in the front of my mind as I prepare and approach the beginning of my sabbatical on May 1.

For the last 7 years at Lutheran Church of the Cross we have accomplished many amazing things together. We have purchased a new organ, paid off the roof replacement, redesigned the parking lot and added new lights, designed and installed a new outdoor sign, replaced the flooring in the sanctuary, added handicapped accessible doors, and relocated the main office to a central location between the front and back doors. Along with these facility changes, we have started many new ministry programs, like Operation Sandwich, Cross Kids, King’s Kids, hired Emma for Wednesday night high school bible study, created and sent care packages to our post-secondary kids, and added adult bible studies and social events. We have said goodbye to some

people on staff, and welcomed new members to our staff. We made it through a pandemic and now we are stronger than ever. These accomplishments are because of you, the congregation; you have never given up on Lutheran Church of the Cross.

Now I ask you to join me in stepping back to reflect and pray for LCC over the next 3 months. When we once again gather in the fall, together we can share our experiences, reflections and guidance that we have received through our prayer and reflection. During my sabbatical, I will take a step backwards so we can move forward together as a church family. I plan to dive back into God's words, focus on prayer and listen to where God is calling us to go next as a church; to envision what the next five years will look like here at Lutheran Church of the Cross. This step backwards will help me, and all of us, move forward into the future together. I am grateful to you for this time to rest and reflect so that I may continue to be a strong leader and guide us together as a congregation.

Blessings,

Pastor Drew Bakken



An excerpt from “Rest and Pray,” from Our Daily Bread:

Prayer is a relationship with God. True prayer is about approaching God simply because we love Him, with no specific request other than to spend some unhurried time with Him. God knows our hearts and the motivation behind our prayers. What joy it would bring to His heart, if He heard us say something like that!

When we go to Jesus in prayer, we go to the One who is our rest. If we leave Him, we would become restless again. Knowing this truth will produce the desire to abide with Him and pray, just so we can remain by His side.

Christian writer C. S. Lewis gives some wonderful advice about starting each day in prayer: “The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists in shoving it all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in.”

How true! We must go to Jesus first before we go anywhere else; otherwise, the day will either remain static and meaningless or unravel into spiritual chaos.

CONSIDER THIS: Assess the direction that your life is taking, and reflect on the key aspects — your walk with God, your family life, your involvement in the Christian community, your witness in society, and your thoughts, emotions, and relationships. What do they say about where your life is going? Where might you need to make changes?

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2024 General Fund

	February	YTD	Annual Budget	% YTD of Annual Budget
Income	\$ 62,188	\$ 137,763	\$ 764,748	18%
Expenses	\$ 63,559	\$ 117,680	\$ 764,748	16.4%
Difference	\$ (1,371)	\$ 20,083	\$ 0	

**In the month of February our income was less than our expenses by (\$1,371).
Thank you for your continued support.**

**May 5, 9am
LCC is
welcoming
new members**

New Member Gathering on Tues, April 30. See Pr. Drew or Pr. Michelle if you are interested in joining our church family!

DID YOU KNOW...that service hours are a requirement of our youth Confirmation Program? That's right! Here is a list of events you can volunteer for service hours this year—last chance, so **ACT FAST!**



- April 3 Weds. evening worship assistant—contact Todd Whipple
- April 7 Super Roll Sunday, 9am—contact Kari
- April 10, 17, 24 Weds. evening worship assistant—contact Todd Whipple
- Rummage Sale Set Up/Tear Down: week of April 21-27 (various times available—sign up on sheets in CC hallway in April)
- Highway Clean Up April 28 at 1pm.
- May 1 & 8 Weds. evening worship assistant—contact Todd Whipple
- May 5 Super Roll Sunday, 9am—contact Kari
- May 12 Blessings Burrito Breakfast, 9am
- June 10—13 VBX, 9am—12n—contact Kari



**ATTN:
Cross Kids
Parents...**

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

YOU ARE A GIFT



Church is the most fascinating of entities. For example, our membership is for a lifetime. On any given Sunday, you will find members from birth through age 80+ in the pews, all worshipping together. EACH GENERATION IS A GIFT TO THE OTHERS. Read that sentence again and let the words settle in your heart. We all stand together (regardless of age) as equal recipients of God's grace and love in His family. And this is by God's design. By engaging with members of all ages, we learn and grow in faith.

TOGETHER WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST:

A person has only one body, but it has many parts. Yes, there are many parts, but all those parts are still just one body. Christ is like that too...But we were all baptized to become one body through one Spirit. And we were all given the one Spirit....if each part of the body were the same part, there would be no body. But as it is, God put the parts in the body as he wanted them. He made a place for each one. So there are many parts, but only one body...God put the body together and gave more honor to the parts that need it. God did this so that our body would not be divided. God wanted the different parts to care the same for each other. If one part of the body suffers, then all the other parts suffer with it. Or if one part is honored, then all the other parts share its honor. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 18-20, 24-26, ERV

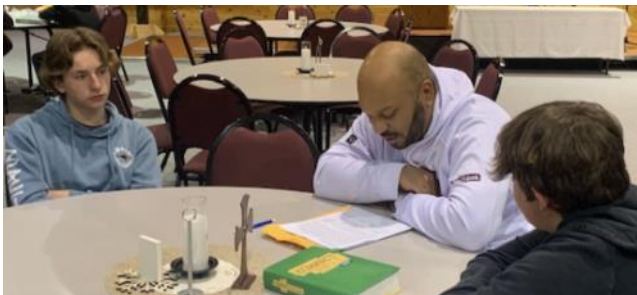
One body through one spirit; we develop relationships between any generational gaps as we worship, live and serve together. No matter our age, we are all teachers and learners. In God's family there is no hierarchy of power. God calls us to guide one another in love and humility. Children and youth need adult members of church to help them learn to persevere in their faith and learn the wonderful things that God has done and continues to do for us. Adults and elderly members need children and youth to continue their growth as fruitful and courageous members. Read Psalm 78:3-4:

We have heard the story, and we know it well. Our fathers told it to us. And we will not forget it. Our people will be telling this story to the last generation. We will all praise the LORD and tell about the amazing things he did.

At LCC we embrace this idea as we are instructed in the Bible (In the second chapter of Titus, older members are told to "live the way those who serve the Lord should live...Teach what is good...By doing this they will teach [younger members] to be kind and to be willing to serve...") Do those of you who are our more seasoned members realize that you play a key role in partnering with parents to nurture the growth and development of our youngest believers? YOU DO—and developing relationships with younger parents is an investment worth making—in fact, *they seek it.*

So I encourage you to intentionally engage with each other whenever you can—extend a welcome, a warm smile and get to know each other. Start small—ask each other your names and make a point to use and remember them the next time you see each other. LET'S GIVE EACH OTHER THE GIFT OF OURSELVES. We each bear God's image, and as we form relationships with each other; we plant seeds in each other's hearts and minds. Seeds that sprout and grow. It's how we can be the best church family we can be. It's living like Jesus!







Exciting opportunity for graduating Seniors & students entering grades 9 - 12 in fall of 2024...

WEEK OF JULY 21-26

Two options:

**Mpls/St. Paul
Lake Traverse Reservation, SD**

Let us know where you want to go to serve and grow in faith!



- RECOGNITION SUNDAY**
May 19, 9am
FOR OUR GRADUATING SENIORS:
- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| SCARLETT ANDERSON | JAKE MERSETH |
| VANESSA ANDERSON | PAYTON SCOTT |
| CLAY ERICKSON | CHARLEE SULLIVAN |
| LOGAN FOGARTY | WILL TAYLOR |
| RYAN GERLICH | ETHAN THOMAS |
| WESTON HILES | MARTY TIMMONS |
| ARON HUSHAGEN | LOGAN VERVILLE |
| LONDON KUBESH | MAGGIE WOLTER |
| KELSI MARTINI | |

Apr. 7	Lila Nordby & Myra Nordby	Gavin Johnson & Tucker Williams
Apr. 14	Emersyn Sullivan	Ethan Trosdahl & Gavin Trosdahl
Apr. 21	Kyle Christianson & Jude Anderson	Emmet Wilson & Jemma Anderson
Apr. 28	Sam Andrist & Mac Chandler	Eli Hayes & Claire Loge

**ACOLYTES
FOR
APRIL**



**7th - 12 th gr.
HIGHWAY
CLEAN UP ON
APRIL 28
1:00pm**

Meet in the narthex to head out and clean up our section of Hwy 371 (from Mattson Lumber up to Schaefer's Corner. Gloves and vests provided. Wear weather appropriate gear.



Music Notes

April 2024



O Blessed Spring (BERGLUND) ELW 447

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien(1953-2021); Music: Robert Buckley Farlee (b. 1950)

1. O blessed spring, where word and sign embrace us into Christ the Vine:
Here Christ enjoins each one to be a branch of this lifegiving Tree.
2. Through summer heat of youthful years, uncertain faith, rebellious tears,
Sustained by Christ's infusing rain, the boughs will shout for joy again.
3. When autumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their heavy harvest hold,
Then through us, warm, the Christ will move with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.
4. As winter comes, as winters must, we breathe our last, return to dust;
Still held in Christ, our souls take wing and trust the promise of the spring.
5. Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree, be praised for this blest mystery:
That word and water thus revive and join us to your Tree of life.

The hymn "O Blessed Spring" is found in the first collection of hymns with text written by Susan called "O Blessed Spring". This is what she said about the hymn:

Above the baptismal font at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Minneapolis, [where she was a member and her husband, David, was director of music], hangs a bronze sculpture by Paul Granlund titled LIFE -TREE. This hymn was shaped by the seasons of life portrayed in the sculpture and was written for the baptismal life of Good Shepherd parish. It is based on the scripture verse Granlund chose: "I am the vine, you are the branches" (John 15:5).

Susan Palo Cherwien, as her family refers, was a Poet. Hymnwriter. Thinker. Singer. She grew up in a Finnish community in Ohio as part of a congregation of the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church singing hymns and learning to read music through singing hymns. She loved music and the poetry of the church-church music. She went to Berlin, Germany to study where she met her husband, David Cherwien, thus becoming immersed in Lutheran church music. Susan has eight hymns published in our own Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal and another eight in the supplement All Creation Sings, from which this hymn comes. She also has books of poetry. She wrote and delivered meditations as part of Hymn Festivals which she and her husband led. We were fortunate to have been a part of one at Bethlehem Lutheran Church a few years back.

The tune BERGLUND, written by Robert Farlee was named after his mother's family. It was first published as an anthem then in the hymnal *With One Voice*. Robert, one of the editors of our hymnal *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, has written parts of the musical settings of Holy

Communion Setting One and the Service of the Word. He was born in California, and studied at Concordia College in Nebraska and Concordia Seminary and Christ Seminary in St. Louis, MO. Since 1981 he has been at Christ Church Lutheran in Minneapolis and at Augsburg Fortress. He taught at Gustavus Adolphus College and has written pieces for choral, service worship and organ music.

As we hopefully enter the season of spring, I hope you all find this hymn worshipful for spring and all seasons.

Happy Easter and spring!

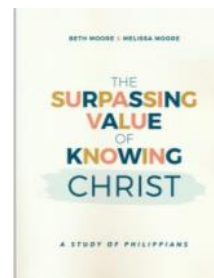
Cathy Taylor, Director of Music



Dr. Gary and Ann Hendricks /
Dental Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic

Come to our April PrimeTimers on Thursday, April 11, at 12:00 Noon. Hear how a dental team from MN and WI travel to a very remote mountainous area of the Dominican Republic to perform dentistry on those in need of dental work. They also visit schools to provide dental education in the Dominican Republic. Dr. Gary and Ann Hendricks are friends of Midge Shaw, a member of LCC. Bring a sack lunch if you would like. Dessert, coffee, and lemonade are provided. The program starts at 12:20. Hosts are Gail Goble and Dave Jabas. Come for another great program!

Join us as we learn about “The Surpassing Value of Knowing Christ,” The apostle Paul was an amazing person who relentlessly pursued Christ from the time he was introduced to Jesus in a blinding light until his death. Discover in this five-session study of Philippians the mindset of a person like Paul: his unstoppable love, faith and good works amid conflict and opposition. Paul’s letter to the followers in Philippi invites us to join in, imitating his joyful pursuit of Christ! This Beth Moore Bible Study, will be led by Marilyn Quist Mondays 9:30 am—11:30 am on April 8, 15, 29 and May 6 & 13. Held in the conservatory (old youth room). All are welcome. The book is \$17. See Marilyn Quist, Pastor Michelle, or Laurie in the office with questions.



Women in the Word will not be meeting in April. We will see you on **Tuesday, May 7**, at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM for a wonderful time in God's Word as we enjoy coffee, treats, and the fellowship of our sisters-in-Christ. I can't wait to see you all on May 7 for a **special** time in God's Word!

Men's Breakfast

Come join the guys for breakfast and a short Bible Study on Thursday mornings at Side Track restaurant on #371 every **Thursday at 8:15 AM**. All men are welcome. Come when you can.

A Time For Us, a Wednesday night parent group during the Confirmation and Route 56 hour, will resume meeting in April now that Lenten mentorship is completed. See you Wednesday April 3 from 7:00-8:00 PM in the old youth room. We are reading the book, Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles that can Radically Change Your Family. We will be discussing Chapter 10 on April 3. We have some extra books if you would like to join in. Let Pastor Michelle know if you need a book. Come join us!

StoneHouse Friday - PRAYER 101. Join LCC member Marty Holmstrom and Pastor Michelle for a six-week teaching starting April 5, the first Friday after Easter. We will meet in the Conference Room at StoneHouse Coffee in the RiverWood bank by Target for six Fridays from 12:00-1:00 PM. Marty will lead a Bible-based teaching on Prayer. Topics to be covered are: Why Should I Pray? How Do I Pray? Intercessory Prayer. Healing Prayer. Listening Prayer. Praying God's Promises. Dates: April 5, 12, 19, (not 4/26 for Rummage Sale), May 3, 10, 17. Come to learn about prayer and have fun at the same time. See you there!

If you are a widow, please join us for our **second luncheon and get-together on Wednesday, MAY 1, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**. It is a time to share, cry, laugh, make new friends, and glean from one another. We had a wonderful group meet for our first time together in March. All widows are welcomed and invited. We would love for you to join us. See Pastor Michelle with any questions. Hope to see you on **May 1** for a May Day spring luncheon!



Toning with a Purpose - Join us for our last Thursday of the season on April 4, 2024 from **10:00—11:00am** in Chapel Hall for an hour of toning using bands and weights as we work on our core and balance. You are welcome and encouraged to work at your own intensity level. All are welcome! Instructor and Lead Teacher: Gloria Thomas.



**Gather Bible Study—April 17, 2024,
10:00 a.m. in Chapel Hall**

Please join us on **Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** for session 4 of the four-part Winter/Spring 2024 series: *“Scripture and nature: Teachers of faith”* by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith. In Session 4, *Food: Daily Bread*

for the Health of the World, Rev. Olson-Smith says that “Most of us hunt, harvest and forage in grocery store aisles. We’ve forgotten the ways our food first comes to us—from fields, flocks, forests, and farms. Considering our relationship with creation and our faithful stewardship of the earth means paying attention to the ways we eat. In this final session, we’ll see how stories of food in scripture offer us ways of faithful eating that are responsible, celebratory, and delicious. Locust and wild honey, anyone? Please grab a Gather Magazine while you’re at church and join us. No advance preparation is necessary.

Women of the ELCA NEMN Synod and Conference Upcoming Events

Heartland Conference Spring Gathering is **Saturday April 13th at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Pequot Lakes**. The theme is “Jesus, Bread of Life.” The scripture verse is John 6:35 “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.” Jesus is using the crowds’ interest in food to illustrate what he wants them to understand. Bill Wear from Operation Sandwich is the keynote speaker and the day’s offering will be given to Operation Sandwich. The day begins with registration at 8:30 followed by a brunch. Watch for more details and Plan Now to Attend this close-by event.

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

Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen News

Lutheran Church of the Cross prepares and serves a meal the first Thursday of every month, for almost 25 years. If this sounds like a service you would like to be a part of, please contact me, Ann Bergin, LCC Soup Kitchen Coordinator, to talk it over. There is also a sign up calendar across from the nursery.

My contact information is georgiabergin@gmail.com or 218-820-5511.



Thank you to those of you who filled volunteer shifts during LCC's week at The Bridge on 7th warming shelter. The last day for the shelter may be sometime in April, but it will depend on weather.

The average number of guests per night has been in the mid 20's throughout February and March. Capacity is 30. There were several nights where guests were turned away but were provided with sleeping bags or bedding. Morning volunteer tasks no longer include making lunches. Open Arms Day Center in Baxter now provides transportation and food for those homeless individuals without a place to go during the day.



WHAT A GREAT RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR DONATIONS DURING MARCH FOODSHARE MONTH!!

Totals will be published in the May Cross Currents.







AN INVITATION FOR APRIL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

It takes more than 24 Worship Assistants for a typical week of worship services. Please consider occasionally serving in one or more capacities such as Usher, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Worship Coordinator, or several others. If you haven't recently completed a Time & Talent form (since last fall) please do so [HERE](#). Or simply sign up on the sheets in the Narthex. I also welcome any inquiry calls or texts at 612-810-2201. I serve to help you serve!

MANY THANKS TO OUR MARCH VOLUNTEERS!

LENTEN SUPPERS—It takes many people to come together and make things happen! We couldn't have enjoyed these meals and fellowship without all the volunteers doing their part. 😊😊😊 Thank you to the food prep teams (Carol Christofferson, Janice Geiger, Mary Frost, George Olson, Bonnie Stevens, Pam Osmera, Mary & Steve Panzer, Dan Olson) AND to the serving teams (LCC Youth, LCC Church Council, LCC Creation Care, LCC Music, LCC PrimeTimers, & LCC Church Staff). You are all a blessing here at Lutheran Church of the Cross!

*Spring Blessing to you,
Todd Whipple, Volunteer Coordinator*

Sun	Mon	Tue	
facility calendar for:			
	1 OFFICE CLOSED 	2 8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:30 Novel Ideas Book Club 4:00 Rummage Sale Mtg	3 8:30 Text 9:30 Quilt 5:45 Supp 6:00 King 6:20 Wors 7:00 Conf 7:00 Sr. C
7 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship w/ Youth Rolls 10:30 Worship w/ Communion	8 9:30 Bible Study-Value of Knowing 9:30 MOPS 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group 1:30 WELCA Qtrly Mtg	9 8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab	10 8:30 Text S 5:45 Supp 6:00 King' 6:20 Wors 7:00 Conf, 7:00 Sr. C
14 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship w/ Communion	15 9:30 Bible Study- Value of Knowing 11:00 Soul Sisters 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group 7:00 People for Racial Justice	16 8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab	17 8:30 Text S 9:30 Quilt 10:00 Gather 4:00 Creat 5:45 Supp 6:00 King's 6:20 Wors 7:00 Conf/ 7:00 Sr. Cl
21 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship w/Communion 11:30 Worship & Music Committee Rummage Sale Set Up	22	23	24 6:00 King's 7:00 Sr. Cl
28 ROGATE/BLESSING OF THE SEEDS 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Forum: Climate Change 10:00 Earth Day Art Event 12:30 Music Recital 1:00 MS/HS Hwy Cleanup	29 9:30 Bible Study- Value of Knowing 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group	30 8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:30 Novel Ideas Book Club 6:00 New Member Gathering	

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>l</p>	<h1>2024</h1>		
<p>Study ers er s Kids hip w/ Comm. /Route 56/HSYG Choir/A Time for Us</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning w/ a Purpose 7:00 A.A.</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter 3:00 Funeral: Darlene Evanson</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>Study er s Kids hip w/ Comm. /Route 56/HSYG Choir/A Time for Us</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:15 Men's Breakfast 12:00 PrimeTimers 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter</p> 	<p>13</p>
<p>Study ers er Bible Study ion Care Mtg er s Kids hip w/ Comm. /Route 56/HSYG Choir/A Time for Us</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:15 Men's Breakfast 7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:00 Stonehouse Fridays at Stonehouse in Baxter</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:30-2:00 cutoff for accepting donations for rummage sale</p> <p>12:00 Funeral: Jana Campbell</p>
<p>s Kids Choir</p> <p>→</p>	<p>25</p> <p>RUMMAGE SALE 8-6</p>  <p>7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>RUMMAGE SALE 8-6</p> 	<p>27 NEMN Synod Convention</p> <p>RUMMAGE SALE 8-NOON 12:00 Rummage Sale Cleanup</p> 
			<p><i>Reminder: Before planning any meeting/event/gathering at church, call the church office for availability and scheduling. Thank you.</i></p>

Happy Birthday!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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



Let's Talk

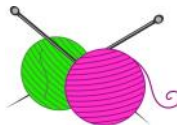
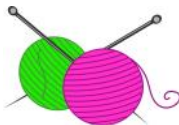
From the "People for Racial Justice" Group

Submitted by Marty Halvorson

Wouldn't it be nice if we could get together and talk about politics? Not under the guise of a particular party or leader but under the banner of the Cross. That might sound a bit strange but let me clarify what I mean. In his exhaustive study Tim Alberta addresses just this issue. His book: The Kingdom, The Power, And The Glory explores how the interplay between politics and faith is influencing our contemporary dialogue. When we begin with our focus on a particular world leader we have made a major mistake, according to Alberta. Then we end up with an argument sounding like: "my leader is better than yours". However, when we are grounded in the Gospel the discussion takes on a very different tone. What are some of the core Christian values that would influence this discussion, you might ask? Care for the poor and disadvantaged, worship the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and your neighbor as yourself, accept the grace of God as a gift for ALL people and I could go on. Disagreements and differences of opinion would still exist but the respect we would have for one another would not deteriorate into name calling. Maybe I am just dreaming but wouldn't it be nice?



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



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

Quilting = piecing it all together



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.

COMING SOON - mark your calendar!



God's New Creation VBX

June 10 - 13
9am - 12n

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

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

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

REGISTER AT:

<http://tinyurl.com/rdvz7x8v>

Rummage Sale Meeting

At our April 2 meeting we will share the latest sale plans and information. Please consider being a part of this adventure - new volunteers welcome as are veteran workers.

Volunteers are needed to move boxed donations and bags of clothing, prepare food in the kitchen for the workers, display and price donations, cashier, and help shoppers to their cars with their purchases. Service opportunities await you at this well-known annual community event!

You are invited to the Spring Rummage Sale Volunteer Meeting on Tues., April 2 at 4pm in the Celebration Center.

Sign up sheets available in CC hallway starting April 2.

**SPRING
SALE WEEK
IS APRIL
21-27.
YOUR HELP
IS NEEDED &
VALUED!**



5th Gospel THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to Marty Holmstrom, Russ Strachen, Liz Brandanger, Carol Johnson, and Sherrie Kunkel for sharing the 5th Gospel message with us during this Lenten season. Each one of these dear brothers and sisters-in-Christ courageously shared their faith story and how they have seen God walk beside them. Thank you Marty, Russ, Liz, Carol, and Sherrie for sharing from your heart and for your faithfulness to our Lord Jesus Christ. We are all richer and deeper because of it.



**THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU**





What a great morning of Hosannahs and music, Palm Sundaes, Scones and Donuts, and Easter Bonnet Creation. Thanks, LCC!



NOVEL IDEAS BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, April 30th

10:30am

Chapel Hall



Though Michelle Miller was an award-winning broadcast journalist for CBS News, few people in her life knew the painful secret she carried: her mother had abandoned her at birth. Los Angeles in 1967 was deeply segregated, and her mother--a Chicana hospital administrator who presented as white, had kept her affair with Michelle's father, Dr. Ross Miller, a married trauma surgeon and Compton's first Black city councilman--hidden, along with the unplanned pregnancy. Raised largely by her father and her paternal grandmother, Michelle had no knowledge of the woman whose genes she shared. Then, fate intervened when Michelle was twenty-two. As her father lay stricken with cancer, he told her, "Go and find your mother."

Belonging is the chronicle of Michelle's decades-long quest to connect with the woman who gave her life, to confront her past, and ultimately, to find her voice as a journalist, a wife, and a mother.



We are continually refreshing the shelves of the library through donations and purchases. Take a minute to check out the 'Recently Added' shelf. New books purchased in February are:

- ***The Woman They Could Not Silence*** by Kate Moore: A true story of a forgotten woman who courageously fought for her own freedom - and in doing so freed millions more. Elizabeth Packard's refusal to be silenced and her ceaseless quest for justice challenged medical science of the day and led to a giant leap forward in human rights.
- ***Under the Overpass*** by Mike Yankoski: A journey of faith on the streets of America. By his own choice, Mike Yankoski's life went from upper-middle class plush to scum-of-the-earth repulsive overnight. With only a backpack, a sleeping bag and a guitar, Mike and his traveling companion, Sam, set out to experience life on the streets in six different cities—from Washington D.C. to San Diego. For more than five months the pair experienced firsthand the extreme pains of hunger, the constant uncertainty and danger of being homeless, exhaustion, depression, and social rejection. They wanted to find out if their faith was real, if they could actually be the Christians they said they were apart from the comforts they'd always known.
- There are also several new Christian fiction editions by Minnesota author, Margo Hansen, who enjoys writing about the north woods. Her genre is Christian Fiction Romance, and she adds to that a touch of mystery, lots of adventure, and a few twists and turns to keep her stories alive. Her joy is to share the Gospel of the Grace of God with her readers.

CREATION CARE



Regate Sunday

APRIL 28, 9am worship (only)

*Pr. Jerry Raedeke officiating &
Pr. Luther Swenson preaching.*

*10am Forum by Daren Blanck
10am Kids Earth Day Art Event*



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

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

Attention Community Gardeners:

The Creation Care Team would like to know if you plan to retain your current garden plot or if you would like to be a new gardener this summer. Plots will again be \$25 per plot payable by April 21 to the church office. Each gardener is asked to sign an application form and return with payment. For questions, please contact Paula West, westcom@brainerd.net or 218-838-5010. Forms available in the church office.



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
Church Council Meeting
Thursday, March 14, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

We Assemble in God's Name

Attendees: Pr. Drew Bakken, Pr. Michelle Ruen, Darrell Paske, Colleen Both, Sharon Taute, Bryan Trees, Lyn Underdahl, Bonnie Stevens, Rachael Gerhartz, Pam Sandelin (via phone) and Deb Van Roy

Call to Order/Office Reports/Announcements

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

New Business:

1. Meals for Ukraine Proposal – Packing and Shipping
Proposal from Global Mission team for packaging meals event at LCC reviewed and discussed by the Council. The Council will be sending a response back to Global Mission team.
2. Request for additional funding of 4th riser in sanctuary
Request to purchase additional riser was reviewed. Council allocated funding \$500 of the riser cost. Council will share the allocation with the Worship and Music committee at their next meeting.
3. Request to implement summer hours during June, July and August. Church offices would close at 12:00 noon on Fridays.
Motion to approve summer hours by Rachael Gerhartz; motion seconded by Lyn Underdahl. Motion carried. Please see Personnel Committee Chair report (report #6 below) for additional context.
4. Rogate Sunday
Creation Care Committee hosts Rogate Sunday on April 28th. Council discussed benefit of doing one service that Sunday, allowing time for the full service and a forum with the Creation Care Committee following the service. Motion to approve one service at 9AM by Colleen Both; seconded by Lyn Underdahl. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Bylaws revisit
Council review and made recommended changes to the bylaws. The changes will be presented to the congregation at the next congregational meeting.

Pastors' Reports

Senior Pastors' Report; Pastor Drew:

- Once again, I am in awe at how God is at work in this church and in the people in our community. Again this year during lent we have heard about the "5th Gospel" from our members, and how God has been at work in their lives. Martin Luther said that, "we are a part of the priesthood of all believers," and sometimes the most powerful messages that we hear are from members of our congregation.

- Another great way we have seen sharing one's stories, is through our Confirmation students and their adult mentors. Statistics have shown that what keeps kids coming back to church is not the pastors or the parents, but other caring adults in the congregation. These adults are recognizing and noticing the youth, and developing authentic and caring relationships with them. Great conversations are being had! Thank you to all the adult mentors who are sharing their faith and time with our confirmation students.
- Our playground task force continues to move forward. Next week a letter will go out to the congregation. It will be an update on the playground, and an invitation to financially support the building of the playground here at Lutheran Church of the Cross. Our hope is to have it built sometime this summer. A special thank you to those on the task force, for their hard work and dedication to help to make this project happen.
- A couple of weeks ago I met with the Brainerd Lakes Area pastors to discuss the worship coverage for the area nursing homes. Pastor Michelle and I have been leading worship at Edgewood Brainerd and Baxter on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. We also lead worship on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Northern Lakes Nursing home. After this meeting we will be sharing the worship service at Edgewood Brainerd and Baxter. First Lutheran will have the 2nd Thursdays of the Month and we will lead worship on the 4th Thursdays. We will continue lead worship at Northern Lakes on the 3rd Wednesdays.
- I also met with the Pastors from Pequot, Pine River and Cross Lake to discuss summer youth programming. For the last 10 years we have been a part of the Brainerd Lakes Area youth Summer Stretch program. This year we are looking to coordinate with Pine River and Pequot. Each church will be in charge of planning 2 events for our youth. Cross Lake will be joining us next year.

Associate Pastor's Report; Pastor Michelle:

- The Wednesday evening Lenten services at 6:20 PM have been appreciated. The soup suppers are delicious. The music is meaningful. The 5th Gospel messages have been Spirit-filled. Thank you to Marty Holmstrom, Russ Strachen, Liz Brandanger, Carol Johnson, and Sherrie Kunkel for sharing so beautifully how they have seen God at work in their lives. We are all better because of it. On Fridays in Lent, we have enjoyed talking about the Lenten Devotional, Gathered Into One, at StoneHouse Coffee on Fridays at noon.
- We had a large first-time gathering of widows for a delightful luncheon on March 6. It was requested and decided that this will be a new monthly group where widows can gather and glean from one another, giving each a safe place to share, cry, and laugh. There will be occasional themes and speakers, but mostly a time for enjoying the fellowship of sisters-in-Christ who have something in common.
- Marty Holmstrom will be leading a 6-week class called Prayer 101 on Fridays at 12:00 Noon -1:00 pm. It will be held at the StoneHouse Coffee conference room in the RiverWood Bank in Baxter. Marty has taught this class down in the cities at his former church. There will be a different theme each week: Why Should I pray? How Do I Pray? Intercessory Prayer. Healing Prayer. Listening Prayer. Praying God's Promises. The dates are April 5, 12, 19, and May 3, 10, 17. Please join us for this wonderful opportunity to enhance and grow our prayer lives.
- PrimeTimers has been very well attended in 2024. The January program was on Scams and Frauds and how to protect ourselves. February program was Josh Duda speaking about the resiliency to go on after the Medical Helicopter crash. The March program was John Erickson talking about the history in the Brainerd Lakes area and the archives room at Washington Administrative Building. The April program will be Dr. Gary Hendricks and his wife, who are dental missionaries in Africa. Thank you to all of our wonderful hosts and program speakers. Thank you to our attendees!
- Bible Studies are continuing to grow with even more choices of Bible Studies to attend. A church that is in the Word will be blessed. Thank you for considering joining in on one of these studies. See the bulletin for choices and times.

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music: Sharon Taute

Plans are set for Holy Week:

- Palm fronds and Easter flowers have been ordered.
- Palm Sunday will have Kings Kids singing with the senior choir.
- Maundy Thursday service with first communion.
- Good Friday Tenebrae service.
- Easter services at 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30, music will include a brass choir.

Mike Smith has reached out to Sue Kuhn at Music General to get liturgical dancers for our Pentecost service.

The Bell choir will start the first week of May and play on the fourth Sunday of each month through the summer and into the Christmas season.

Stewardship: Dean Dalzell

No report this month.

Property: Dale Peterson

No full report this month. However, the Property Committee had a meeting to discuss this year's projects. A group of volunteers removed an oak tree, built a new base for one of the storage sheds, and then relocated both storage sheds in preparation for moving the storage pods.

Social Concerns & Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens

LCC Shelter week March 3 to 10 was staffed by 9 volunteers from LCC. Thank you to all of you who helped staff through that week. The average number of guests is now in the mid 20's. Bridges of Hope staff is meeting this week to determine when they will close for the season.

Open Arms Day Center is open in Baxter and provides transportation and a place during the day to rest and have internet access as well as food. The Shelter no longer uses the City transportation.

Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen provides lunches at Open Arms and serves an evening meal at their site 6 days a week. On Sundays, a brunch is provided, and First Lutheran serves an evening meal.

March is Food Share Month

We are participating in a friendly competition with Grace United Methodist and Our Savior's in Pequot to bring food items and donations to the Lakes Area Food Shelf. March 17 and March 20 are the days at LCC to "Pack the Pew" with grocery bags.

Operation Sandwich

A food distribution is scheduled from the Pine River Family Life Center on March 26 over the Easter break. After the Bridge on 7th closes for the season, the shelter site will be cleaned and converted to provide the distribution site for Baxter and Brainerd pickups.

Bridges of Hope Staff is meeting this week to finalize the summer plans for Operation Sandwich. Please watch the newsletter for more information. Bridges of Hope will have a flyer we can use to promote Operation Sandwich in our area.

Congregational Life: Lyn Underdahl

See the following church life groups:

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

- Prayers Shawls: No report
- Supper Club: No report
- Prime Timers: No report
- Prayer Chain: No report

Personnel: Pam Sandelin

Two topics for discussion at council meeting

1. Change in work schedule:

After review of a staff request, I recommend for council consideration an alternate work schedule for the summer months of June, July and August. The proposal is to shorten the Friday workday by closing the church office at noon. The recorded message will provide callers how to get immediate help if needed just like other after-hours support works currently. Staff would complete their required weekly hours before ending at noon on Fridays.

Other supporting context:

- The staff will ensure they have properly supported any Friday afternoon or weekend events as they normally would before they leave at noon.
 - If there are extenuating circumstances, they will stay longer on Friday.
 - This is a common practice for other churches and businesses in the Brainerd Lakes area.
 - I also checked with a friend of mine in Edina and their ELCA church staff have this same flexible Friday schedule.
 - Most of the staff work well over 40 hours already so allowing them the ability to enjoy additional summer afternoons in appreciation seems very fitting.
 - We look to them to fulfill their responsibilities and not to log specific hours. We should trust them as such.
 - If a staff member takes a Friday as a vacation day during these months, it will be logged as four (4) hours of vacation time. Since, the expectation is 36 hours were worked earlier in the week.
- Thank you for your consideration and potential agreement to this summer schedule.

2. Compensation review

Council review salary of staff member, Karen Wiele, and approved an hourly increase. This increase recognizes her contribution and expertise.

Motion to increase Karen's salary by Bonnie Stevens; motion seconded by Sharon Taute. Motion carried.

Youth & Family Ministry: Bryan Trees

Children & Family Ministry: Rachel Gerhartz

Joint committee report

- Kari has purchased a jumbo indoor/outdoor Connect Four game for the children & youth.
- All of the beanbag chairs in the Refuge have been inserted into denim covers to prevent foam from escaping.
- Lenten Mentors is going well - lots of connections being made and relationships built.
- Devotion and registration packet for Summer Stretch North have been written and Pr. will share with Pr. B and Pr. A.
- Cross Kids lessons and Take Home plans are written through June.
- Kari hasn't had much response from our HS youth letter regarding a summer mission trip.
- Had a great meeting with three moms on Sunday regarding fall programming for CYF ministry. Notes attached - we will host a meeting for all parents on May 19 to raise awareness and get input.
- Playground Fundraiser letter will be sent this week. Still waiting for quotes from landscapers.
- Served Chat & Chow to 30 kids - serve next on April 12.

CROSS KIDS MEETING, March 10, 2024 (Alanna L., Kaitlyn H., Kristen N., Kari)

Enhance—Boost—Raise—Complement—Heighten—Strengthen—Amplify—Exalt—Lift (**we used the acronym LIFT for Living in Faith Together in the past—perhaps we could have LIFT Sundays?**)

When we say that God lifts us up from the earth, we are really saying that he takes us out of the limited philosophies that are prevalent in the world. He lifts us out of our narrow self-focused concerns and gives us a sense of his grandeur, his power, and his love. John 12:32, MSG

I, as I am lifted up from the earth, will attract everyone to me and gather them around me.

Once a month having an overall umbrella ‘theme’ of (words above) for Sunday Worship. On this Sunday we would include some slightly contemporary songs into the service, King’s Kids would sing, perhaps have youth readers and communion assistants? This would be our Super Roll Sunday in an effort to involve all ages of youth as well.

Cross Kids would be *Cross Kids Plus* on this Sunday, with our time extending through the end of the service (maybe beyond?) These Sundays would provide opportunities for special CK events to be held during Coffee Fellowship. We would stress intergenerational involvement.

Cross Kids Plus Outline:

- GIFT Bag Devotion
- Stone Confession & Forgiveness
- You Tube Songs with motions/dance
- Kids Apostles Creed
- Gospel Video
- Communion Blessing—snack sharing? End with Pastor Blessing.

On this Sunday we would encourage/recruit older elementary and youth to help out as worship or prayer mentors for littles. This would also provide an avenue for youth seeking babysitting jobs to meet children/parents, and could be a Confirmation Service option. We would recruit adult/parent volunteers that would simply have to follow the outline and not prepare anything or do any crafts, simply participate with the children.

We will host an all-parent meeting on May 19 during Coffee Fellowship to provide increased feedback and information sharing. We would continue teasers throughout the summer, especially during VBX.

LIFT your voice/heart/soul/prayers...?

This new program would be implemented on Rally Sunday:

Hebrews 10:24-25, MSG:

So let’s do it—full of belief, confident that we’re presentable inside and out. Let’s keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let’s see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out...spurring each other on.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, April 11, 2024, 7 p.m.

Devotion: Rachel Gerhartz

Closing Prayer: Pr. Drew

Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by Deb Van Roy

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

SPRING OUTDOOR CLEANUP DAY

**THURSDAY
MAY 2
10:30AM**

*Bring tools -
lunch will be
provided!*



These LCC Youth participated in the POLAR PLUNGE to help raise funds for Special Olympics— KUDOS to Emily, Peyton and Walter!!



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
High School Youth Director	Emma Trees	
Director of Music Ministry/Organist	Cathy Taylor	218-961-2053
Financial Secretary	Karen Wiele	218-961-2016
Volunteer Coordinator	Todd Whipple	218-961-2052
Senior Choir Director	Mike Smith	
Organist	Laura Raedeke	
Bell Choir Director	Cheryl Karlgaard	
King's Kids	Carol Smith	
Custodian	Todd Whipple	218-963-2564
ELCA Global Missionary	Bradn Buerkle	
LCC Office	Laurie Hemish	218-961-2011

2024 CHURCH COUNCIL

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

