

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church
of the Cross
2025

April



He Is Risen! Embracing the Joy of Easter

As we step into April, our hearts are filled with the joyous message of Easter: **Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!** This season of renewal and resurrection reminds us of God's boundless love and the victory of life over death. Easter is not just a day but a celebration of the hope and promise we have in Christ.

In Matthew 28:6, the angel declares, *"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said."* These powerful words echo throughout history, reassuring us that through Christ, we are given new life. His resurrection is a testament to God's faithfulness, and as believers, we are called to walk in this light, spreading the good news to all.

This month, let us reflect on the meaning of the cross and the empty tomb. Let us open our hearts to renewal, forgiveness, and the joy that comes from knowing we serve a living Savior. As we gather for worship, fellowship, and service, may we be reminded of the love that conquered sin and the grace that makes us whole.

We invite you to join us for our Holy week worship services. Palm Sunday 9:00 and 10:30 am, Maundy Thursday worship service at 6:20 pm and Good Friday service at 6:20pm. Then join for the celebratory Easter Sunday services at 7:30, 9:00, and 10:30 am. May this season be one of reflection, gratitude, and unwavering faith.

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Blessings,

Pastor Drew



Lenten Worship



All are welcome to join us in the Sanctuary for our Lenten Service of Light on Weds., March 5, 12, 19, 26 & April 2 and 9. Come for soup supper served by various LCC ministries, and hear Fifth Gospel messages from Gloria Thomas, Pete Mogensen, Mallory Maine, Robert Brown, & Wanita Holsapple.

Sr. Choir will rehearse, Sr. High Bible Study will be held and Lenten Mentors will meet in CC following worship. King's Kids rehearse at 6pm. No Route 56 during Lent.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY April 13

- LIFT 'Sundae' - scones and yogurt parfaits during coffee fellowship; Easter Bonnet DIY bar

Wednesday, April 16

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

Maundy Thursday, April 17

- Worship with First Communion 6:20pm in Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 18

- Tenebrae Worship 6:20pm in Sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY, April 20

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



We need your help! Worship assistants are needed for Easter.

Sign up sheets located on board in the narthex or call or text

Tracy Olson, Volunteer Coordinator

Cell#: 763-258-6364

Email: volunteer@lccnisswa.org

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2025 General Fund

	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Annual Annual <u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 66,852	\$ 144,743	\$ 852,322	16.98%
Expenses	\$ 69,003	\$ 130,851	\$ 852,322	15.35%
Difference	(\$ 2,151)	\$ 13,892	\$ 0	

**In the month of February our expenses were greater than our income by (\$2,151).
Thank you for your continued support.**



GRAVESIDE SERVICE

Name: LaMerna Olson
Graveside: March 21, 2025
Camp Ripley Cemetery, Little Falls
Pastor Michelle Ruen, Officiant

FUNERAL

Name: Betti Labs
Born: June 16, 1947
Died in Christ: March 5, 2025
Funeral: March 22, 2025
Lutheran Church of the Cross
Pastor Michelle Ruen, Officiant

FUNERAL

Name: Arlene Brodeur
Born: August 27, 1950
Died in Christ: March 10, 2025
Funeral: March 19, 2025
Lutheran Church of the Cross
Pastor Michelle Ruen, Officiant

Easter Prayer

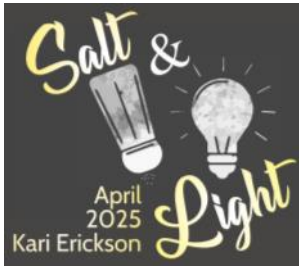
May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year bring peace and happiness to you and those you hold most dear.

And may Christ, Our Risen Savior, always be there by your side to bless you most abundantly and be your loving guide.

— Author Unknown

Have a blessed Easter from the staff at LCC.





In my search for a timely topic for this month, I considered April Fools Day. *Certainly I won't find any devotions based on April Fools Day*, I thought. Google to the rescue! My search resulted in clicking on a hit from guideposts.org, posted by Dianne Neal Matthews. She recounts an April Fools prank from her childhood that provided her a faith lesson. As her family enjoyed a tour of Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, she described entering a huge open space called "Methodist Church." This piqued my interest, as I grew up listening to stories of my father. As a young boy he accompanied his grandfather the Rev. Howard Robinson on his Methodist Circuit Preaching trips. (Dad recounted the amazing 'Fire and Brimstone'

sermons his grandfather delivered as they travelled from town to town in their horse-drawn buggy). The Methodist preachers of the time were infamous for adding a bit of 'spectacle' to their services, and Rev. George Slaughter Gatewood of Kentucky was no exception. According to the National Parks Service,

The Methodist Church is located about a quarter of a mile in the cave from the Historic entrance. This is a large canyon room; the ceiling is about 50 feet high. Reverend George Slaughter Gatewood would hold special church services in the 1830's. It has been said that the preacher and his parishioners would carry open lanterns into the cave, once reaching the Methodist Church the preacher would collect the lanterns and place them on the pulpit, thus creating a captive audience for the duration of his sermon [without their lamps, parishioners were unable to navigate their way out of the cave!]. Facing the church, you are looking at a breakdown of large rocks. To the left is a prominent ledge 15 feet high called the pulpit. Along the ledge of the pulpit, the walls are blackened with the soot of lanterns used by the preacher to light up the room.

Now back to Dianne's story: as the tour group entered "Methodist Church," the tour guides extinguished all lights except for one single oil lantern—to demonstrate how little illumination a single lantern provides in the dark cave (in the 1800's, oil lanterns were the only option for navigating the tunnels.) The guides then instructed the group that the remainder of the tour would be guided by the single lantern. Dianne noted that as soon as the electric lights switched off, ***the entire group of tourists crowded as close as possible to the guide holding the solitary lantern.*** She goes on to explain the relief the tour participants felt when they realized they had been 'April Fooled' as the electric lights came back on and the tour resumed. However, her thoughts kept returning to that instinctive movement the group members made the instant the lights went off, the entire 50-person group crowding close to the guide holding the solitary lantern. She pondered on how the same thing might happen in everyday life. When we can't seem to find my way out of a problem or trial, ***do we automatically draw near to the One who called Himself the Light of the World?***

Jesus promised that as long as we follow Him, He will provide all the light needed to guide us on our journey. While this journey will take unexpected turns that we won't understand, we have the certainty of Jesus' words and His life portrayed in the Scriptures, as well as His continuing presence to lead us. There is no need to stumble around in the darkness when we can draw near to His light!

**If you are struggling with a difficult problem or situation,
ask Jesus to shed His light on that area of your life.**

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Psalm 119:105



The Ten-Day Sleep: The Story of April Fools Day



All over the world, children go to sleep at night. Some crawl into soft beds, others lie down on mats on the floor or climb into bunk beds. Some children have a bedtime story first, while other parents might sing their children a song to help them fall asleep.

No matter what the differences are in how children go to sleep, one thing is the same. All the children expect that when they wake up in the morning, it will be the next day. But read on for a story about some children who went to bed one night, but when they woke up, it was ten days later! A long time ago, in the year 1582, the wise men and scientists who served Pope Gregory XIII discovered that the calendar everyone had been using wasn't quite right.

A year is the amount of time it takes the Earth to travel around the sun one time. Scientists now know that it takes 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 49.7 seconds for that to happen. Since there are only 365 days in a year, we adjust our calendar by adding a day in February every few years. The old calendar used in Pope Gregory's day (it was called the Julian Calendar) didn't have all this figured out quite right. By 1582, the dates were off by about 10 days. Pope Gregory decided that after everyone went to sleep on October 4th he would flip the calendar pages ahead ten days to correct the error. When everyone woke up on the day they expected to be October 5th, the calendar said October 15th. It was as if they'd slept for ten days!

Everyone's birthday and anniversary dates were changed. If your birthday was on June 2nd before the change, after the change you'd celebrate it on June 12th. Gregory also moved New Years day from April 1st to January 1st, but some people still celebrated on April 1st. They didn't like the new system and refused to change along with everyone else. Others thought those who wouldn't change were dreadfully old-fashioned. They called the old-fashioned people "fools" and played tricks on them. That's why we celebrate April Fools day on April 1st.

Changes are hard sometimes, like when a friend moves away or you go to a new church or school. Like those first "April Fools," sometimes we try to stay away from changes and we wish everything could always be the same. But the Bible tells us that will not happen. It says that life is like a vapor. Do you know what a vapor is? It's like the steam that comes out of the teakettle when it's whistling, or smoke from a fire. Vapor is always changing in shape. Our life is like that, too, from God's point of view. Things are always changing.

Life may be always changing, but God never changes! The Bible says He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We can trust God to take care of us when things are changing all around us, and we know-because the Bible says it's true-that He has good things planned for those who love Him.

When we go to sleep tonight we don't need to worry. No matter what day it is when we wake up, God will still be in charge and He will still be planning good things for those who love Him.

The LORD is good! There is no end to his faithful love. We can trust him forever and ever! Psalm 100:5
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8

Time to make your

EASTER BONNET

A DIY Easter Bonnet bar with all the trimmings & supplies will be available during Coffee Fellowship on Palm Sunday, April 13.

Join us to create a hat to wear to church on Easter Sunday morning!

All ages are welcome at this Children, Youth & Family Ministry event.

Cross Kids in action!



Summer opportunities for all ages!

**All are welcome at
VBX 2025**

**WHO IS
my neighbor?**

Using the story of the Good Samaritan, we will explore what it means to be a good neighbor!

June 9 - 12, 9am - 12n

For preK (toilet trained) and those who have completed grades K through 4-5th graders and up welcome to be crew leaders and adults needed, too!

Registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/4u62p426>



**SUMMER
stretch**

We will meet on Wednesdays,
June 11, 18 & 25; July 9, 16 & 23.
Registration packets will be
mailed to all youth who meet the
age requirements. Cost is \$65 &
scholarships are available.

*...making a
difference...*

**For youth who have
completed grades 4 - 7**

Mark your calendars and join us as we team up with youth from Cross Lake Lutheran for service projects in the morning, lunch and FUN in the afternoon! We will be helping with VBX, working at the Cross Lake Community Center, packing food at the Outreach Program of BLA, volunteering at Babinski, working with LCBC staff at CCL, and do highway clean up. Fun will include zip lining at Ski Gull, Mini Golf, fun & games, water park fun, and pizza & bowling. Grow in faith, enjoy working with others, make new friends and MAKE A DIFFERENCE this summer!



**YOUTH SUMMER
MISSION TRIP**

Exciting opportunity for graduating Seniors & students entering gr. 9-12

WEEK OF JULY 13

St. Gabriel's Camp at Standing Rock Indian Reservation in Solen, North Dakota

**Join us for a great opportunity
to serve and grow in faith!**

**Meet with Liz on April 9 following Lenten
Mentors if you are curious or interested!**

YOUTH NEWS from Liz

Can I just start by saying, **HOORAY FOR SPRING?**! March has been a great month with a lot on the calendar. For starters, I want to give a huge shout out to all of the families that helped put together, serve and clean up our Ash Wednesday Baked Potato Bar. Everything went without a hitch—thanks to our wonderful church family for continuing to support this fundraising event.

On Ash Wednesday, our confirmation kids and their mentors began devotions and things are going well—we lots of neat relationships developing. Students and mentors meet on Wednesdays after the church service is finished from 7-8pm. REMINDER: if you are unable to meet any certain week, please communicate with each other so that you both know the plan. We have 3 more Wednesdays to meet: 3/26, 4/2 and 4/9.

LIFT/SCONE Sunday is April 6, with the Sullivans, Trees', Merseths, and Nelson's (Tony) hosting. Be sure to meet me in the kitchen at 8am, bright-eyed and bushy tailed:-)

Another reminder to check your Acolyte Schedule to make sure you know when it is your Sunday to help out—find someone to switch with if you are unable to fulfill your duties on the assigned date.

Our next Sunday Funday is officially scheduled for April 27th at 1pm at the Community Bowl and Pizzeria in Pine River. Please contact Liz at 218-251-4862 or email at youth@lccnisswa.org for more info and to sign up!

A meeting regarding the **Summer Youth Mission Trip** will be held on April 9th at 8pm. Join me as we will discuss this AWESOME opportunity to serve God by “running camp” at St. Gabriel’s Camp at Standing Rock in Solen, ND. Come to find out all of the details, — what the week will look like, costs, fundraising opportunities and get answers to any questions you may have. I am really looking forward to this event!

YOUTH TAKE OVER THE CHURCH BASEMENT

I am in the planning stages of how to utilize the space we have in the basement as our youth hangout. This area will be used for Confirmation, High School Bible Study, and any other small group meetings. Not only will this will open up more space in the main level of the church, but it will provide YOU(th) with your very own place. If you would like to be a part of the planning process with me, please text or email me at the contacts above!

Blessings,
Liz Sawdey, Youth Director





**LCC Youth
working hard
preparing,
serving and
cleaning up the
Ash Weds.
Potato Bar.**



Music Notes

April 2025



I Need Thee Every Hour

Text: Annie Sherwood Hawks; Music: Robert Lowry

I Need Thee Every Hour

1. I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.

Refrain

I need Thee, O I need Thee; every hour I need Thee!
O bless me now, my Savior I come to Thee.

2. I need Thee every hour, stay Thou near by;
Temptations lose their power when Thou art nigh.
3. I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain;
Come quickly, and abide, or life is vain.
4. I need Thee every hour, teach me Thy will,
And Thy rich promises in me fulfill.

Public Domain

Annie Sherwood Hawks was a thirty-seven year old mother of three children. She had no formal education, but was a homemaker living in Brooklyn, New York. From a young age she loved to write poetry. It was from this love of writing that came this hymn. It is the most significant one that she wrote and most remembered.

She wrote, "One day as a young wife and mother of 37 years of age, I was busy with my regular household tasks during a bright June morning in 1872. Suddenly, I became so filled with the sense of nearness to the Master that, wondering how one could live without Him, either in joy or pain, these words were ushered into my mind, the thought at once taking full possession of me---'I Need Thee Every Hour.'"

She took the hymn to her pastor at the time, Pastor Robert Lowry, who was an accomplished hymn writer himself. He wrote the music and a chorus for it and it caught on. Eventually it was translated into more languages than any other Christian hymn at that time.

Incidentally, Robert Lowry was composer of two most famous hymns "Shall We Gather at the River" and "How Can I Keep From Singing".

When Annie's husband died she wrote "I did not understand at first why this hymn had touched the great throbbing heart of humanity. It was not until long after, when the shadow fell over my way, the shadow of a great loss, that I understood something of the comforting power in the words

which I had been permitted to give out to others in my hour of sweet serenity and peace. Now when I hear them sung, as I have sometimes, by hundreds of voices in chorus, I find it difficult to think they were ever, consciously, my own thoughts or penned by my own hand.”

I love this story in the fact that she wrote it in a peaceful time of her life, expressing how much she needed the love of Christ. Then tragedy struck with the death of her husband and it was then she realized how poignant those words really were.

What a blessing this hymn is to us. Think on Jesus and his sacrifice for us, especially as we wrap us Lent and go into Easter! O how we need Jesus, every hour, we need Him.

Happy Easter to all!

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music




April 6
9am & 10:30am

JAZZ
WORSHIP

Lutheran Church of the Cross - Nisswa


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.

NEMN ELCA Synod invites you...

-no charge for this event-let the Synod Staff serve you!



Visit nemnsynod.org for more information

WALKIN' TACOS WITH THE BISHOP

Join Bishop Amy Odgren and Synod Staff for conversation, fellowship, and walkin' tacos! Hear updates regarding the new Emmaus Fund endowment, the upcoming Synod Assembly, and other ministries.

6:00-7:30pm at each location

April 7, First Lutheran in Brainerd

March 31, Our Savior's in Duluth
April 1, Lutsen Evangelical Lutheran
April 3, Hope Lutheran in Moose Lake
April 22, Hope Lutheran in Walker
April 24, Gethsemane Lutheran in Virginia

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.

Women in the Word –Tuesday, April 8 at 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM



The April ***Women in the Word*** Bible Study is **Tuesday, April 8, 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM**. Come for a special time in God's Word with wonderful ladies, tasty treats, and strong coffee. Doesn't get any better than that! Choose whichever time works best for you. Come and be blessed! See you in the Chapel Hall on Tuesday, April 8.

Led by Pastor Michelle.

Golden Girls Widow's Group - Wednesday, May 21, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM A Spring Fling Luncheon

Golden Girls will meet on **Wednesday, May 21**, for a Spring Fling Luncheon, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Come for a delicious luncheon, laughs and giggles, a safe space to share, and the making and renewing of friendships. All widows are welcome. Led by Pastor Michelle. Call the office to reserve your space.



Bible in A Year - Devotional Bible in Chronological Order by F. LeGard Smith

There is a group from LCC reading the Bible in a year. We are using the Devotional Bible in Chronological order with commentary by F. LeGard Smith. Join us for a discussion on each week's readings on Wednesdays from 5:00-5:45 PM in the Conservatory. Come when you can.

A Time For Us for Parents - Wednesdays, April 23; Serving supper on April 9;

A Time For Us, a time for parents of Route 56 and Confirmation students to meet together while their children are in Confirmation or Route 56 on Wednesday evenings. We meet in the Conservatory on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00 PM. This year we are watching The Chosen, Season 2. Because Route 56 does not meet during Lent and Confirmation students meet with their mentors during Lent, we will meet again **on April 23**. A Time For Us WILL be serving supper on Wednesday, April 9. Parents, **please come to the kitchen at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, April 9 to help serve and clean up**. Thank you!

Toning with a Purpose—Thursdays from 10:00—11:00 am in Chapel Hall

Join us for an hour of toning using bands and weights as we work on our core and balance. You are welcome and encouraged to work at your own intensity level.

Instructor and Lead Teacher: Gloria Thomas. Last day for season is April 24th.

All free will donations are sent to *Smile Train*.





GATHER BIBLE STUDY, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025, AT 10:00 AM

Please join us on **Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** for our monthly Gather Bible Study, "Faithfulness in these days," by Denise Rector. Last month, we examined how the Holy Spirit taught Peter, Cornelius, and David. In April our focus will be on Jairus and the woman who is bleeding. Denise Rector writes, "[A]s they reach out in their pain

and disappointment, Jesus meets them with compassion. Jesus is present in our actions as well, when our listening and grace make us stand out from the world around."

No advance preparation is necessary. Grab a magazine near the office, grab a friend, and join us. Everyone is welcome! Jodi Milli will facilitate our study, and Stacy Grothem will provide treats.

LUTHER CREST BIBLE CAMP WOMEN'S WEEK JUNE 22th THROUGH JUNE 27th

All women. All week. All sorts of fun! Gather at Luther Crest for another great Women's Week experience at camp this summer. An excellent arrangement of meals, goodies, and treats will be provided by LCBC. Each day there will be speakers and presentations as well as *nightly entertainment* by musicians and entertainers. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate and grow together in a Christ-centered community through discussion and devotion.

Separate programming is offered for children and grandchildren of all ages. Cost for the full week is \$659. No cost for babies and preschool age children in daycare. Cost for one day: \$65 Cost for a carload for one day: \$130 (Available 6/23-25). Check out their website and register on-line: <https://www.luthercrest.org/womens-week.html>.

See page 30 for Heartland Conference information - April 5, 2025



*Welcoming Blake Hohertz
into our church family*

Soup Kitchen News

Our mission is to demonstrate the love of Christ by providing meals to the hungry of our community.



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 about how you can help. There is a sign-up calendar across from the nursery. My contact information is georgi-obergin@gmail.com or 219-820-5511.

The Bridge on 7th is in need of donations, which are accepted at Bridges of Hope on Wednesdays from 11 AM—1 PM. Top 5 Needs:

1. Cleaning Supplies
2. Individually Wrapped Snacks
3. Plastic Utensils
4. Men's & Women's Clothing
5. Coffee Supplies



Learn more at <https://www.bridgesofhopemn.org/warmingshelter>

SETUP:
April
27 - 30



SALE:
May
1 - 3

Let's get together for the Rummage Sale Volunteer Meeting **Tues., April 8 at 4pm in Celebration Center**

All are welcome, whether you are new to LCC's rummage sale or an experienced volunteer, we hope you can attend. Service opportunities await, such as: setup, display product, prepare food to keep volunteers on the move, cashier, fold clothing/bedding, assist shoppers and ENJOY THE CAMARADERIE. Over 150 volunteers are needed to run this well-known community event - this information-packed meeting welcomes your ideas and will provide the latest updates.

"The gift of time is the most precious gift you can give."



**MANY,
MANY
THANKS
TO OUR
FANTASTIC
WORSHIP
BAND!**



YOU ARE INVITED... 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 complete online by scanning the QR Code (RIGHT), Or sign up on the sheets in the Narthex. In addition to Worship Assistants, I am in need of Pew Keepers, please let me know if this is something you would be interested in helping out with. I welcome any inquiry calls or texts at 763-258-6364. ***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 (Steve & Pam Osmera, Jan Geiger, Diane Dalzell, George Olson, Judy Rickbeil, Bonnie Morris, Dan Olson, Mary Frost, Bonnie Stevens, Margaret Sommerfeld) AND to the serving teams (LCC Youth, LCC Creation Care, LCC Music, LCC Church Council, A Time for Us, & LCC Church Staff). You are all a blessing here at LCC.

Spring Blessings to you, Tracy Olson, Volunteer Coordinator
Cell#: 763-258-6364 Email: volunteer@lccnisswa.org



Chat & Chow

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
facility calendar for:			April
		1 9:00 Computer Lab	2 8:30 Text Study 9:30 Quilters 5:00 Bible in 5:30 Lent S 6:00 King's 6:20 Lent W 7:00 Lenter HS
6 JAZZ WORSHIP 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship w/ Communion 11:30 First Communion Workshop	7 8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 10:00 WBS: Sermon on the Mount 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group	8 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Women in the Word 4:00 Rummage Sale Volunteer Mtg 7:00 Women in the Word	9 8:30 Text S 5:00 Bible 5:30 Lent 6:00 King' 6:20 Lent 7:00 Lente 7:00 Sr. Ch
13 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship/ Scones 10:30 Worship w/ Communion & Baptisms 11:30 Private Luncheon 3:00 LAMF Quartet	14 8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 10:00 WBS: Sermon on the Mount 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group	15 9:00 Computer Lab	16 NO WO 8:30 Text S 4:00 Creati 5:00 Bible 7:00 Sr. Ch
20 EASTER—HE IS RISEN! 7:30 Worship w/ Communion 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:30 Worship w/ Communion	21 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 People for Racial Justice	22 8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Novel Ideas Book Club <i>Last day accepting RS donations</i>	23 8:30 Text 10:00 Gath 5:00 Bible 5:45 Supp 6:00 King' 6:20 Wors 7:00 Rout 7:00 Sr. Ch
27 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship w/ Communion 1:00 Sunday Fun Day—Grades 5-12 1:00 Rummage Sale Setup	28	29	30 5:00 Bible in 6:00 King's s 7:00 Sr. Cho



Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
il	<h1>2025</h1>		
Study in a Year Supper Kids Rehearse Worship w/ Comm. Mentors/ Sr. Choir/ SYG	3 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning with a Purpose 7:00 A.A. 	4 OFFICE CLOSE @ NOON 12:00 StoneHouse Friday	5 8:30 WELCA Spring Heartland Conference
Study in a Year Supper Kids Rehearse Worship w/ Comm. Mentors/ HSYG Choir	10 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning with a Purpose 12:00 PrimeTimers 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.	11 OFFICE CLOSE @ NOON 12:00 StoneHouse Friday 	12 9:00 Lake Hubert Board Mtg 9:00 Church Council Retreat
WORSHIP/PROG. Study in a Year Choir	17 MAUNDY THURS 8:15 Men's Breakfast 6:20 Maundy Thursday Worship w/ First Communion 7:00 A.A.	18 OFFICE CLOSE @ NOON/ GOOD FRIDAY 12:00 StoneHouse Friday 6:20 Good Friday Worship	19
Study er Bible Study in a Year er Kids Rehearse Worship w/ Comm. e 56/Conf/HSYG Choir / A Time for Us	24 8:15 Men's Breakfast 7:00 A.A.	25 OFFICE CLOSE @ NOON 12:00 StoneHouse Friday	26
a Year Kids Rehearse ir Rehearse →			<p><i>Reminder: Before planning any meeting/event/gathering at church, call the church office for availability and scheduling. Thank you.</i></p>

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1. Jill Hunter, Elsie Neale, Kurt Nelson,
Brian Peltier, Mike Smith, Sam Verworn
2. Wade Brill, Maverick Franke, Aliana Lind,
Sutton Sullivan
3. Julie Helsene, Cheryl Karlgaard,
Connie Peterson
4. Ron Halligan, Carol Johnson,
Christy Winegar
5. Lyle Amundson, Ryan Gerlich
6. Pat Birznieks
7. Karen Johnson
8. Darrell Barnack, Heather Carey,
Ellen Germundson, 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
14. Dan Bzdok, Eli Hayes, Daniel Neale, Carol
Ricklefs
- 15.
16. Robert Brown, Evan Kuhn, Mary Lienke
17. Tim Bergin, Peyton Clarine,
Joanie Swanson
18. Kaya Anderson, Wes Anderson,
Pam Evenson, Jaxson Kuhn
- 19.
20. Jon Aga, Dan Kuhn, Judy Rickbeil
21. Bill 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. Terry Hagen, Jon Henke, Lori Olson,
Chip Taylor



The LCC Quilters meet the 1st Wednesday of every month at 9:30 am (or when you can arrive). Quilting skills are not necessary. If you can tie a knot, your help is needed. Please join us and pack a lunch if you can stay until early afternoon. The quilts primarily go to Lutheran World Relief and occasionally to local needs. Rolled bandages are used by Global Health Missions.

Russian Correspondent **Lent 2025**

Dear friends in Christ,

I keep waiting for that moment when I can write to you with special insight into the situation surrounding the war in Ukraine and how our fellow Christians in the former Soviet Union have entered into a new situation, one in which a just peace has been established for all. I await the moment to celebrate when healing can begin. Tragically, the waiting continues, with no clarity on when it will come to an end.

Waiting is an important spiritual discipline. It keeps us humble, reminding us that at the most basic level we are dependent on God; this acknowledgement leads us to confess the centrality of God's mercy, which is and will always remain at the core of our faith. At the same time, in this Lenten season our attention shifts slightly, and we more deeply come to appreciate the price our Lord paid in order to bring us into the family of grace. This seeds within us a renewed commitment to follow in Christ's way of self-giving love.

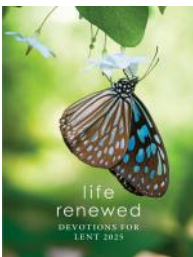
Thank you for your patience with me as I (once again) was too focused on waiting for great insight and less focused on being in touch with you, even if I had nothing revolutionary to reveal. I truly do enjoy being in touch with you, and I hope that this year might bring the opportunity to visit some of you in person. In the meantime, I write you here with updates from the past months...just as I am gathering material for my next newsletter, on a work-related trip to Brazil. (More about that in April).

Yours in the Lord, Bradn Buerkle

The basics.... 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 in March of 2022. If you have any questions for me, please feel free to write to me at: bradnbuerkle@gmail.com. Please pray for peace, both among nations and within each of us.

STONEHOUSE FRIDAY

***life renewed* Lenten Devotional - StoneHouse Friday - 12:00-1:00, March 7-April 18**



Please pick up the **Lenten Devotional, *life renewed***, in the narthex to accompany you on your Lenten journey: Ash Wednesday - Easter. Come for a peaceful time in God's Word at the **StoneHouse Coffee shop in Baxter next to Target on Fridays** as we travel through the season of Lent leading up to Easter. Bring your devotion book. Come for a coffee and a scone. Discussion led by Pastor Michelle. Fridays, March 7-April 18, 12:00 Noon - 1:00 PM

Coming soon! "Learning to Hear the Voice of God." Stonehouse Fridays 12-1 p.m., May 9-30.
Led by LCC's Marty Holmstrom



Answering the call to love and serve our neighbors...



*Thank you to our Church Council for serving
Lenten Soup Supper on March 26!*



First Communion Workshop
April 6, 2025 - 11:30am - 2:30pm

To register, email Kari Erickson
at cfmkarilcc@gmail.com,
or call 963-2564 and ask to be
placed on the list.

Announcing our annual faith milestone workshop for children who are ready to start communing with their church family (it is also for those children/youth who have started communing but haven't yet attended the workshop.) There is no age requirement for communing at LCC - when child and parents decide together that they are ready, they may attend this workshop. Children participating must be accompanied by an adult and are expected to participate in Maundy Thursday Worship on April 17 at 6:20pm, where they will partake in the Lord's Supper together, help serve the congregation, and strip the altar.

**Volunteers
needed for
setup on
April
27 - 30**

FUN-FILLED CHAOS IS COMING!!
**MAY
1 TO 3**

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Rummage Sale donations are accepted on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30am to 4:00pm. Our donation site is closed on Monday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Detailed lists of acceptable donations and guidelines are available at the LCC office or on our website. Please call 218-963-2564 prior to bringing donations.





PRIMETIMERS - THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 12:00 Noon

April PrimeTimers program will be the Cross Lake **National Loon Center**. The speaker will be **Maddi Nistler, the director of the Loon Center**. Please come to learn more about the National Loon Center, hear about our state bird, the Loon, and what to look for his Spring. The program will start at 12:20. This will be another fantastic program! Bring a sack lunch if you would like.

Dessert and coffee and lemonade are provided. See you on Thursday, April 10.



NATIONAL
LOON CENTER

Thank you to our March program speaker, Tim Leagjeld, who designs and builds sets and props for all the local theater productions at Brainerd Community Theater at Central Lakes College, Pequot Lakes Community Theater, and Stage North. It was an excellent program. We all walked away excited to go to the next musical or local theater production! Thank you to our hosts, Carol Alverson, Gloria Thomas, and Marv and Karen Green.



Let's Talk

From the "People for Racial Justice" Group

Submitted by Marty Halvorson

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

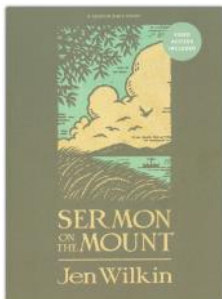
These words roll off my tongue so easily. Why is that? These three concepts are a part of our everyday life even before they became political footballs. Diversity is a part of our very family and all the systems in which we live. We have gender, age, intellect, financial, educational, age, culture, class and so many diverse relationships. And it is good. Equity is much the same. It refers to fairness and justice. Although we may disagree with what fairness and justice entail most people would say those are important for everyday living. In fact, they are a part of the founding fathers mandate for our country. They are also included as important in all religions. Inclusion is much the same. Isolation is bad for the soul and can destroy humanity. Inclusion is a necessity for healthy childhood development as well as living a mature life. Again, all religions focus on building a community.

So, if these words roll off my tongue so easily why do they get stuck in the throat of a vocal minority? DEI has become a political football. It is easy to see that at a national level policies are being developed that exclude women, minorities and the disabled. When individuals are singled out as murderers and rapists, when they are not that the whole conversation is destroyed. The original agenda for DEI is good when it promotes those with equal qualifications. When it has become the whipping post for petty grievances we are in trouble.

Lifeway Women's Bible study started on March 10th

Take a seat on the mountainside!

Everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. -Matthew 7:24



Join us for this 9-session Bible study with Jen Wilkin to navigate the Sermon on the Mount as it was originally heard. Most of us have heard and possibly studied fragments of this sermon - a study on blessedness; a reflection on the Lord's Prayer; a discussion of religious devotion, ambition, wealth and relationships. In this study we will navigate these three chapters in Matthew as they were originally heard: as one cohesive, well-ordered message that is intended for us to think differently about what it means to be a follower of Jesus, a citizen of the kingdom of heaven. Come and learn from Jesus, just as His disciples did!

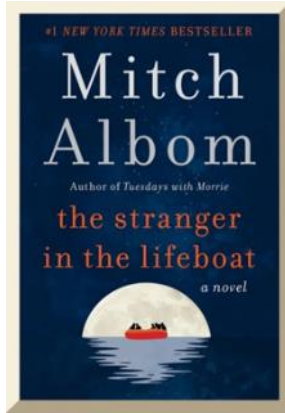
Sessions are on Mondays in the Conservatory from 10:00 - 11:30 on 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 5/5, 5/12 & 5/19. Any questions, please contact Marilyn Quist at 614-769-1832.

NOVEL IDEAS BOOK CLUB

April 22, 2025

10:00am

Library/Chapel Hall



Adrift in a raft after a deadly ship explosion, ten people struggle for survival at sea. Three days pass. Short on water, food and hope, they spot a man floating in the waves. They pull him in. "Thank the Lord we found you," a passenger says. "I am the Lord," the man whispers. So begins Mitch Albom's most beguiling novel yet.

Albom has written of heaven in the celebrated number one bestsellers "The Five People You Meet in Heaven" and "The First Phone Call from Heaven". Now, for the first time in his fiction, he ponders what we would do if, after crying out for divine help, God actually appeared before us? A fast-paced, compelling novel that makes you ponder your deepest beliefs, "The Stranger in the Lifeboat suggests that answers to our prayers may be found where we least expect them."

Everyone is invited to attend, whether you have read the book or not, for a thought provoking and often amusing discussion. Beverages and morning treats are provided. Bring a friend, or come alone – you'll be glad you joined us.

LIBRARY

Easter related books that you can find in the library in the Christian Literature section:

He Chose The Nails by Max Lucado

No Wonder They call Him the Savior by Max Lucado

And the Angels Were Silent: Walking With Christ Toward the Cross by Max Lucado

Six Hours One Friday: Living in the Power of the Cross by Max Lucado

The Passion of The Christ by Mel Gibson (DVD)



Easter books for children are also available and can be found on the table with the other children's books.



CREATION CARE

EcoFaith Summit 2025

April 5, 2025 – 8:30am-5:00pm

In person at First Lutheran, Duluth & livestream

Free childcare provided

Keynote speaker Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, author, organizer, and theological ethicist, will lead us in naming the powers that are destroying the earth and introducing us to midwives of hope today.

Special presenter Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy, member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, dynamic storyteller, poet, scholar, and the first Native woman to earn a PhD in theology within the ELCA, will invite us to share our stories, creation's stories, God's stories to inspire, equip, and empower one another in our labor.

Registration costs:

- Individual - \$30
- Carpool Rate - \$25
Come as a group of three or more and get a discount on each individual's ticket. Care for Creation, save gas, and enjoy the company!
- Under 30 years old register free
- Livestream Registration - Free

In-person registration includes lunch, coffee, reception, and folder of information

Everyone who registers receives an on-line Summit Booklet.

Scholarships are available.



For More Information and to Register for the EcoFaith Summit of the Upper Midwest 2025 see our website at ecofaithnetwork.org/



Attention Community Gardeners:

The LCC Creation Care Team invites members and interested community residents to garden in LCC's Community Garden this summer. Reservations are now being taken. If interested contact Paula West at 218-838-5010 or westcom@brainerd.net or mention to the office. Garden forms and guidelines are available at the church office. Plots are \$25 each. Think spring and healthy produce.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
Church Council Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

We Assemble in God's Name

Attendees: Pastor Michelle, Darrell Paske, Dean Dalzell, Lyn Underdahl, Bonnie Stevens, Dale Peterson, Sharon Taute and Pam Sandelin by Zoom. Laurie Hemish was a guest.

Call to Order/Officer Reports/Announcements

1. Call to Order
Meeting called to order by President Darrell Paske
2. Devotion: Pr. Michelle
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes: Bonnie Stevens
Motion to approve minutes by Dean Dalzell; motion seconded by Lynn Underdahl.
Motion carried.
4. Treasurer's Report: Sent by Colleen; motion to approve postponed to March meeting when Colleen is available to present to the council. Motion postponed.

New Business:

Purchase of 4-Wheeler: Dale Peterson presented several used models of 4 wheeler ATV's which we are being asked to consider for use by the church and the Rummage sale. Dean Dalzell offered to check into the purchase of a new ATV which would include warranty. Rummage sale may help with the purchase.

Old Business:

Council Retreat has been moved to March 8, 2025 9:00 AM arrival
Clearwater Forest Camp
16595 Crooked Lake Rd, Deerwood, MN 56444

Following council meeting, Council Retreat moved to April 12th to increase attendance and availability of council members.

Pastors' Reports

Senior Pastor Report: Pastor Drew

Pam Sandelin and I are in the process of reviewing of our Employee Handbook and will make updates where they are needed, i.e. Northeastern Minnesota Synod guidelines. After contacting area churches, it was brought to my attention that last year the State of Minnesota passed a bill requiring all businesses (including religious organizations) to participate in the "MN Paid Leave Act".

Paid Leave benefits will start for Minnesotans on January 1, 2026.

Paid Leave is a new program launching for Minnesotans in 2026. It provides paid time off when a serious health condition prevents you from working, when you need time to care for a family member or a new child, for certain military-related events or for certain personal safety issues.

There are two main types of leave:

- Family Leave to care for a family member with a serious health condition, or if you're bonding with a new baby or child in your family.
- Medical Leave when your own serious health condition prevents you from working.

Additionally, you will be able to take leave to support a family member called to active duty, or if you or a family member are facing a significant personal safety issue.

More information is available on the Minnesota Paid Leave website: [Minnesota Paid Leave / Minnesota Paid Leave](#)

This will affect our budget for 2026. Laurie is currently submitting necessary the information to the state, and she and I will be attending an information event on Friday February 28 to gain more knowledge. We hope to have more concise details and answers to any questions that may arise in this process after attending the event.

Unfortunately, our council retreat had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions; we have rescheduled it for March 8th.

Last week Karen has submitted her resignation, effective in June or September, once we are able to secure a suitable replacement. She has graciously offered to help train the new person. We have been blessed these past 19 years having Karen on staff. Please join me in thanking here for her work here at LCC.

Associate Pastor Report: Pastor Michelle

Lutheran Church of the Cross will host the NEMN Heartland Assembly on Sunday, February 23, in our Celebration Center from 2:00-4:00. It is for pastors and church representatives from all the churches in the Heartland Assembly. At one of our prior Heartland pastor gatherings, we elected new officers for the Heartland Conference. Pastor Erika Nilsen is president, Pastor Patty Bjorkland is treasurer, and I am the new secretary. I am glad that LCC can host the Assembly this year on Feb. 23.

The February PrimeTimers program is Chuck Johnson, who is performing a one-act play about Abraham Lincoln. Carol Smith, Sherrie Kunkel and I will be meeting to plan the rest of the 2025 PrimeTimers programs. Thank you to everyone who has given us excellent ideas. We feel we have a wide variety of excellent programs. Please join us for these wonderful programs on the second Thursday of each month at 12:00 Noon.

We have over 50 people reading the Daily Chronological Devotional Bible with commentary by F. LeGard Smith in 2025. Anyone who is reading the Bible and would like to come to hear the discussion on each week's readings is welcome to join us on Wednesdays at 5:00-5:45 PM in the Conservatory. Stay encouraged and inspired. Many more people are reading it at home. May

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on March 12 this year. We will be distributing ashes in the parking lot by drive-thru as we have done in past years. Lenten services will be on Wednesday evenings at 6:20 PM in the sanctuary. We will be doing the 5th Gospel as our message. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and you! I am in the process of lining up five people who are willing to share with the congregation their faith story and/or how they have seen God in their life. Thank you to those that have shared their 5th Gospel in the past. Thank you to those who are sharing their story this year. We look forward to this year's 5th Gospel messages.

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music: Sharon Taute

- Altar Guild - need a couple of people to help with wine set-up.
- Music - all are happy with the Christmas music, volunteers and festivities. Had 960+ in attendance for Christmas Eve services.
- Decorations - Thankful for volunteers who helped with setting up the Christmas decor. We also thank the family who took the poinsettias and pines to feed to their goats so they don't go to waste. The birch trees will come down on March 3 & 4th (before Ash Wednesday). Dave Jabas plans to supply us with birch trees next year. Al and Sue Schmidt are unable physically to help with pines any longer, Dick Schmidt will talk to them to see what they are thinking for next year.
- Audio/Video - Dick Schmidt and John Quist had a meeting with Dan Kuhn about the sound board. Dick stated that John Quist has done some tutorials on the sound so learning a lot about it. We have two new sound techs - Roger Macy & Dan Davidson. There is concern about sound issues in the nave and the choir reports that it's difficult to hear the organ in the balcony. Pastor Drew will contact Dan Kuhn to work out a solution for these issues.

- Volunteers - Tracy Olson is joining our committee now that Todd has resigned. WELCOME TRACY!! and THANK YOU TODD!!

Stewardship: Dean Dalzell

No report this month

Property: Dale Peterson

Property and Workers Compensation Insurance:

- The Property, Workers Compensation, and Blanket insurance review has been completed, and our insurance coverage has been renewed through January 31, 2026. Insurance is provided by the Hanneken Insurance Agency with coverage through Grinnell Mutual Insurance company.
- Over the past year I have contacted six insurance companies or agencies. Three companies did not want to quote or did not reply to my inquiries. Three agencies wanted to provide insurance quotes, but ultimately only two agencies were able to complete the process to produce a quote.
- In January Laurie Hemish and I met with the agents from both final companies to compare quotes. The final two quotes were similar in coverages and costs, so we chose to continue with our current provider.
- The current marketplace for property and workers compensation coverage for many businesses, including churches, has been challenging under the stresses of insurance claims for the past several years. Many insurance carriers are restricting or non-renewing their clients. Lutheran Church of the Cross is fortunate to have insurance coverage and options in this economic climate.

Handicap and Family Bathroom:

- The kitchenette and bathroom in the Fireside Room have been demolished. The old counter, cupboards, sinks, toilet, walls, ceiling and lights have been removed. New electrical and plumbing have been installed. New walls, ceiling, insulation, and a new door are being installed in the new bathroom. New flooring, lights, sink, toilet, and baby changing station will be installed as the project is completed.

Social Concerns and Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens

Bridges of Hope LCC volunteer week is next week. There are still a few slots not filled.

March is the MN Food Share Campaign provided by the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC). This initiative raises funds and donates food to Minnesota food shelves. Every monetary and food donation received by the Lakes Area Food Shelf (LAFS) from March 1st to April 6th will be used to determine the share of the GMCC that LAFS will receive. The larger our community donations, the larger the donation received from GMCC. Several local organizations and individuals are providing a match for this year's campaign. To make a donation through Lutheran Church of the Cross, make the check payable to LCC and mark the Food Shelf in the memo. Food and monetary donations can also be dropped off at the Lakes Area Food Shelf, 29316 Patriot Avenue, Pequot Lakes.

Congregational Life: Lyn Underdahl

New Member Committee: The New Member committee reports that the next new member Sunday will be in the Spring. LCC takes in new members twice a year - Spring and Fall. Joanie and Brad Swanson are joining the New Member committee replacing Jean and Jim Kraft on the committee.

Library Report: Per Jean: No report for this month.

Funeral Committee: No report

Prayers Shawls Report: Group meets Mondays in the Fireside room. Those who like to knit and chat will enjoy friendship within this group.

Supper Club: Per Margaret: "WELCA is going to have a demonstration on rolling bandages for Global Health Ministries on February 9th during coffee hour. The group is organizing and hosting the Heartland Conference in the spring. Gather Bible study continues on the 4th Wednesday every month."

Prayer Chain Report Per Ann: No report for this month.

Anyone wanting to have someone lifted up in prayer, please contact the church at 218-962-2564, or Email: lcc@lccnisswa.org , the Pastors or myself (Ann) Email: knitter73@gmail.com. Her phone number is 218-963-2268.

This is a confidential prayer chain, which means what is asked of us, stays with us.

May God continue to bless Lutheran Church of the Cross's prayer chain."

Prime Timers: Carol Smith and Pastor Michelle met and worked on the Prime Timer's schedule of programming for 2025. Programs are set through May. Sherrie Kunkel will be joining them to fill out the rest of the year's programs. Thank you to those that are stepping up to help host the coffee and dessert time. A couple more Small groups have begun to meet in homes. The friendships, fellowship, and connections that form in Small groups are so valuable.

Creation Care Report: Per Laura Raedeke The Creation Care Team sponsored a forum on Solar Energy for LCC on Sunday, Feb. 2. Presenters were Sarah Fogderud, who spoke on what our current solar array has provided for us, and Mark Smith, who showed proposals from three area contractors who specialize in solar arrays for churches. At least 51 people attended, so interest was high. Our pastors and church council will hear concrete proposals in the near future, and then decisions can be made as to whether we want to move forward.

Personnel: Pam Sandelin

No report this month

Youth and Family Ministry: Bryan Trees / Children and Family Ministry: Rachel Gerhartz

- Cross Kids continues to go well with limited numbers, but the moms helping are doing great!
- Kari is currently fine tuning VBX for June, "Who's My Neighbor."
- We have 2 signed up for First Communion Workshop.
- Lenten Mentor materials are all ready to go and we will be nailing kids down on mentors this week.
- We've had some baptisms and have a few coming up.
- Will be starting to push Food Share month for March, along with Pack the Pews.
- Our CYFM team served supper on Weds. and we served Chat and Chow in Pequot in Jan. and will again in Feb.
- LCBC registration has had some hiccups with their new system, but we are working together to get kids signed up.
- Ash Wednesday Baked Potato Bar sign up is going well - just need a few more for first shift.

March Council Meeting: March 13, 2025

Devotion: Rachel Gerhartz

Council Retreat: April 12, 2025

Closing Prayer: Pastor Michelle

Adjourn

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 meeting it will be addressed at the following monthly meeting.

Heartland Conference April 5, 2025

Theme: Rejoice in the Lord—Reach out to those in need.

Theme Scripture, Matthew 20:28 (LB): Jesus said: Your attitude must be like my own for I did not come to be served but to serve.

Join us for our **SPRING GATHERING** on **Saturday, April 5, 2025**, hosted by Women of the Cross/Women of the ELCA at **Lutheran Church of the Cross in Nisswa**. (Link: <https://g.co/kgs/NjAxvu8>) We have a great day planned that includes faith, friends, and fun educational activities. Join us to make newborn kits, learn to help God's creation through pollination, and learn what our brothers and sisters are going through in Ukraine and how we can help. Sprinkled in will be time to catch up with one another after a long winter over coffee/good food and maybe even a gift or two!

Our schedule will be:

8:30 to 9:00 am	Registration and Coffee/Treats (Celebration Center)
9:00 to 9:15 am	Brief Business Meeting (Celebration Center)
9:15 to 9:30 am	Break
9:30 to 10:00 am	Worship with Communion – LCC Pastor Michelle Ruen Presiding (Sanctuary)
10:00 to 10:45 am	Keynote Speaker, Mariia Kharytonova (Sanctuary) (see more information below)
10:45 to 11:00 am	Information regarding other Breakout Sessions (Sanctuary) Overview by Kim Dickey of GHM Newborn Kit Initiative Overview by LCC Creation Care Team on NE MN Synod Pollinator Project
11:00 to 12:00 pm	Breakout Sessions with Mariia, Kim, and Creation Care Team (Locations TBD)
Noon	Good Food (lunch) and Good Conversation (Celebration Center)



Keynote Speaker and Breakout Presenter, Mariia Kharytonova. Author of “24.” Ukraine was invaded on February 24, 2022. The number 24 is embodied in this book's collection of 24 stories where 24 strangers inevitably collide in the time of great war and grief. Mariia is a talented writer, musician, and artist who will share her stories of Ukraine through word, music, and art. Her book will be on sale at the conference for \$24.00.

Pollinator Project of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod ELCA. Sponsored by the NE MN Synod EcoFaith Network and presented by Lutheran Church of the Cross' Creation Care Team. Pollinators are endangered by the loss of natural habitat. They need us and we need them. Come learn how you can help.



Join **Kim Dickey, Global Health Ministries Communications Director**, in putting together Newborn Kits. These kits are a blessing that provide help to care for a child, motivation for future health care, and celebrate a new life! GHM's goal is to send **10,000 Newborn Kits** overseas. This is a Newborn Kit Drive as well. Bring your already assembled newborn kits to the Gathering. We'll see how many kits we can send to Global Health Ministries from the Gathering. That's exciting!! We'll let you know the number!!!

EASTER GARDEN



Please fill out the order form below to donate to the Easter Garden to help decorate our church and to memorialize or honor loved ones during this season. Your gifts will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletins. The cost is \$15.00 per tribute. You may drop your form and payment in the offering plate or bring it to the church office by **April 16, 2025**. Please write "Easter Garden" on the check memo line. Thank you!

Your Name: _____

Please print legibly

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

_____ in memory of _____

_____ in honor of _____

Lutheran Church of the Cross

PO Box 29
5064 County Road 13
Nisswa, MN 56468

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

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Address label here

Welcoming all people into discipleship

STAFF

Pastor	Drew Bakken	218-961-2014
Pastor	Michelle Ruen	218-961-2013
Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry	Kari Erickson	218-961-2012
Youth Director	Liz Sawdey	218-961-2015
Director of Music Ministry/Organist	Cathy Taylor	218-961-2053
Financial Secretary	Karen Wiele	218-961-2016
Volunteer Coordinator	Tracy Olson	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

2025 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		

