

# Cross Currents

Lutheran  
Church  
of the Cross  
2021



Resilient Together

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Matthew 28:19-20

This passage is called "The Great Commission." We are hearing from Jesus his final hope and wish for the disciples. With his one last command, Jesus tells them to go out into the world and to make disciples. We tend to focus on the *Making Disciples* portion of this text. Our church services and our mission as a church and as Christians, we are to share the gospel message with everyone around us.

But what happens when a pandemic hits? What happens when everything that we know has been turned upside down? What happens when fear and anxiety replace hope and strength? What do we do now? Where do we go when we aren't able to gather together? How do we get past this sense of loneliness?

Jesus also tells us that "he will be with us always to the end of the age." That is our hope, that is our light, and that is our strength. Jesus is reminding us that we are not in this alone, but that God is with us always. Jesus calls us to be resilient. Being resilient means that we have the ability to withstand adversity and bounce back from difficult life events.

I have witnessed how resilient you each have been, these past 9 months. Each one of you have faced difficult times, whether it be online learning, online worship, postponing weddings and funerals, the canceling of family gatherings, loss of work or working from home, to just name a few. This has not been an easy year. And yet even as we have wavered at this difficult time, we have not given up hope.

As I look to the future, I am reminded of our church theme for this upcoming year, "Resilient Together." This reminder helps us realize we are not alone we can get through this pandemic by being resilient together. Just as you offer hope and strength to one another, God is giving you strength to get through this as well. The Bible reminds us that throughout history God has never abandoned his people and God is not abandoning us. God "will be with us through the end of the age."

We will get through this together stronger and more compassionate than before. We will bounce back together. How do I know? Because each one of you have shown your strength at some point throughout this year. Through God we are "Resilient Together."

Pastor Drew



Annual reports due: Please submit your 2020 annual committee reports via email to Laurie by **January 4th, 2021** at [laurie@lccnisswa.org](mailto:laurie@lccnisswa.org). Thank you

Lutheran Church of the Cross Annual Meeting Part 2 and Budget Discussion will be held online January 24th at 11:00am. Please look for further details in the upcoming weeks. If you have any questions, please contact Pr. Drew at 218-963-2564.



# A New Year's Prayer for You

**Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice.**

**—Philippians 4:4**

**Happy New Year from the staff at LCC!**

**Pr. Drew, Cathy, Sally, Zach, Kari,**

**Karen, Clint, Laurie**

## Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2020 General Fund

	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	% YTD of Annual Budget
Income	\$ 44,156	\$ 544,588	\$ 672,326	81%
Expenses	\$ 43,054	\$ 528,528	\$ 672,326	78.16%
Difference	\$ 1,102	\$ 16,060	\$ 0	

**In the month of November our income was more than our expenses by \$1,102.  
Thank you for your continued support.**

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### **DEATH**

Vicki Reph  
Born: May 22, 1947  
Died in Christ: December 12, 2020  
Funeral: date yet to be determined

### **BAPTISM**

Name: Jonathan Paul Ohotto  
Born: May 23, 2020  
Baptized: December 26, 2020  
Parents: Jordan & Natalie Ohotto  
Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant

Dear Pastor Drew, Staff and Friends,  
Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and get well cards.

I continue to watch church online and read emails.  
I hope we can actually see each other soon.

In the meantime, I am not having visitors or taking calls but, I appreciate cards.  
JoAnne Dayton

*Thank you  
for praying!*

# CHILDREN & FAMILY ministry

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Drive In Worship, 2020



Well, here we are in January, and we have journeyed through Advent where we heard the beginning parts of Jesus' story. ***Well, on Christmas Eve, we celebrated the birth of Jesus.*** He was the most special baby in the world. Did you ever see anyone after they've just looked at a new little baby? They look up at everyone who is there and they say, "He looks just like his parents?" Maybe he just looks like a squished up baby to you, but others can see his parents' face in the baby's face. In the same way, we can see God's loving face in the face of Jesus. Jesus shows us what God is like. **AND HE'S HERE!**

When we look at Jesus grown up—what he does, what he says, the way he treats people—we are really and truly seeing what God is like and what God thinks. Not what color his hair is or something like that. We see what God is like in His heart. We see how God loves us, no matter what we do; we see how He wants us to live with each other by watching how Jesus lives with others.

One of God's prophets had said a long time ago that this baby was going to be called "Emmanuel." Emmanuel means "God with us." We are not alone on our journey to figure out how to do things God's way. God sent Jesus to be "God with us" always. Emmanuel! Jesus Christ is with us now in God's Holy Spirit. We always have God with us to help us know the right and good thing to do. That's another reason to be happy that Christmas is here—Happy Birthday, Jesus!

What a great night of worship on Christmas Eve! Many LCC families joined to celebrate the birth of Jesus—**THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!** God does not want us to walk around stumbling through darkness, so He sent Jesus to the world. In the light we experience the wonder of God. Light is so amazing—one of the most amazing things it does is to reveal **COLORS**. God wishes for us to see the beauty of His creation defined by colors and shades of colors. The **LIGHT** also helps us to see the truth more clearly—Jesus is the **LIGHT** and the **TRUTH**. May the lights of Christmas remind you of just how **AMAZING** God is and how much He loves us. So, in this new year of 2021, ***let your light shine unto others.***

# New Year's Family GIFT Bag Devotion

## Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

*There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth:*

*A right time for birth and another for death,*

*A right time to plant and another to reap,*

*A right time to kill and another to heal,*

*A right time to destroy and another to construct,*

*A right time to cry and another to laugh,*

*A right time to lament and another to cheer,*

*A right time to make love and another to abstain,*

*A right time to embrace and another to part,*

*A right time to search and another to count your losses,*

*A right time to hold on and another to let go,*

*A right time to rip out and another to mend,*

*A right time to shut up and another to speak up,*

*A right time to love and another to hate,*

*A right time to wage war and another to make peace.*

*But in the end, does it really make a difference what anyone does? I've had a good look at what God has given us to do—busywork, mostly. True, God made everything beautiful in itself and in its time—but he's left us in the dark, so we can never know what God is up to, whether he's coming or going. I've decided that there's nothing better to do than go ahead and have a good time and get the most we can out of life. That's it—eat, drink, and make the most of your job. It's God's gift.*

**Conversation:** Take turns talking about the Bible passage. What stood out for you in this passage? Why did it draw your attention? What does it mean for your life today?

Pray aloud together this **Family Litany**

One: Heavenly Father, you are able to make all things new in your good time.

**All: Thank you for being the God of our family for our past, our present, and our future.**

One: In Jesus Christ, you are Emmanuel, God with us. You guide us on our journey through life.

**All: We are so glad that our times and our lives are safely in your loving hands.**

One: As we begin this new year, send your Holy Spirit to encourage us to always trust you.

**All: Help us to speak words of grace and treat others with your love. Draw us closer to one another and to you in this new year.**



Cross Kids Worship is on hold for the time being, but join Kari each Sunday morning at 9am on the Cross Kids FaceBook page for a live video which will include a mini worship service and message. Weekly activities will be posted on the Children & Family Ministry page on the LCC website and you will find a link on our FaceBook page, too. Watch for those monthly packets in the US mail as well.

## FROM ZACH'S DESK:

Camp Wednesday and Camp Sunday are January 6th and 10th respectively.

I am so excited. I hope you are too.

We will take a look to remember why we at LCC are so passionate about Camp, why camp makes such a huge difference in the lives of our young people.

I share with you one story today.

Once upon a time, little sixth grade Zach was at Good Earth Village, a Lutheran Camp in Southeast Minnesota. It was the first night. It's a well known fact that no kids sleep well during the first night camp. I was twiddling my thumbs, tossing and turning, looking out at the moonlit sky of my rickety old cabin. I had to go to the bathroom.

But my counselor was sleeping. I didn't want to wake him. I had known him for like 5 hours before we were off to bed. I could hold it till morning. I thought. Nope. I couldn't. I had to wake him up. I shake his shoulder, "Counselor... Can I go to the bathroom?" (Sidenote: the bathrooms are outhouses. About one hundred yards from the cabin. )

"Yeah.. sure..."

"Do I need a buddy?" (That's a camp rule, you always need a buddy when you go somewhere.)

"No, just go."

Thank goodness. I walk out to the outhouses with my little flashlight and across the ballfield. A sign taped to the doors reads, "Out Of Order". No...

I walk back to the cabin, "Timmy..."

"What?!"

"There is a sign that says Out Of Order."

"That's a prank. An outhouse can't be out of order."

"Oh..."

That week was my favorite. It started off weird and rocky, but evolved into something that I would never forget. Timmy, my counselor, has this compassionate heart and ability to welcome us all even as the random collection that we were. His ability to play in the ballfield non-stop was gorgeous.

It's these things that make our time at Camp worth it. I look forward to making more of these memories with our young ones this summer at Luther Crest Bible Camp.

In peace,  
Zach Malecha

**Camp Wednesday and Sunday - Jan 6 and 10** Join us online for my favorite worship of the year, Camp Worship! Kevin Lattu and Crew are heading up the camp band, spreading God's love through meaningful camp songs, and fun skits. And I (Zach) even get the opportunity to preach! We will also hear about why camp matters from Dave Holtz from Luther Crest and our Youth too! This Wednesday is also Family Faith Formation Day, all in one.

**2021 Summer Trip! - Informational Meeting Jan 6 - After Camp** Wednesday join us online for a meeting about our 2021 Summer Trip to the Apostle's Islands on Lake Superior. July 12 - 17. Hannah Damon from Camp Amnicon will join us to talk about all of the details! I am so excited for this trip with you all

**Camp Registration, Luther Crest Bible Camp** - LCC has 24 spots reserved for July 25th - 29th! We hope you will join us for this epic time. A detailed email was sent out with the registration process. Registration now open. January 15 is the final day to register using our group hold. Total cost to you: \$275.



### **Confirmation Upcomings:**

In January we will finish up our 10 Commandment Unit and move back into our Biblical Ancestors.

**Bob Ross Paint Party - Jan 24, 7pm:** Watch Bob Ross online together. Paint together. Laugh together. Happy little trees. If you need paint materials, let me know.



**Snow Fun Day - Feb 15** Celebrate snow and winter fun TOGETHER! We will have an all outside day with a highlight of tubing at Ski Gull! More information to come. :)

# Music Notes

## January 2021 Hymn of the Month

### Brightest and Best of the Stars (STAR OF THE EAST)

This month of January in the new year 2021 we will celebrate Epiphany and the time after Epiphany. One of my favorite hymns is “Brightest and Best of the Stars”. There is a catch, however, I like a different tune than what is in our hymnal. The text is the same, but music different. We will sing it January 3<sup>rd</sup> for our Epiphany service and a couple of Sundays after that as well.

The text:

1. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.  
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant redeemer is laid.
2. Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;  
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and monarch and Savior of all.
3. What shall we give him, in costly devotion?  
Shall we bring incense and offerings divine,  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?
4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure;  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

This hymn references the baby Christ Child, the angels, the star and the wise men finding the babe and giving him gifts. The last verse tells us that our Savior would much rather have our hearts than any material gift.

Reginald Heber, the writer of the text, wrote this hymn sometime before 1823 when he became the Anglican bishop of Calcutta. After he died, his wife put together a book called *Hymns Written and Adapted to the Weekly Church Service of the Year*, all hymns that he had written for each Sunday of the year. He was born in England, studied at Brasenose College in Oxford, became ordained and eventually went to be Anglican bishop of Calcutta.

William Walker (Southern Harmony) compiled a book of tunes, many used in hymns, using shape notes. The beginnings of *Southern Harmony* are found in American colonial era when singing schools convened to provide instruction in choral singing, especially for use in church services. Shape note refers to solfege or Do-Re-Mi. A triangle would be *fa*, circle *sol*, square *la*, etc. Here is an example.

16

## STAR IN THE EAST 10, 11.

Baptist Harmony, p. 35

Hail the blest morn, see the great Mediator, Down from the regions of glory descend! } **Chorus.** Brightest and best of the sons of the morning!  
Shepherds, go worship the babe in the manger, Lo, for his guard the bright angels attend. }

Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid; Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our infant Re - deemer was laid.

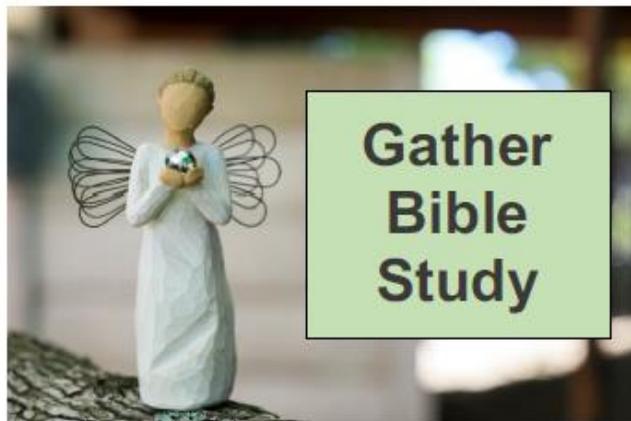
2 Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;  
Low lies his bed, with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore him, in slumbers reclining.  
Wise men and shepherds before him do fall.  
Brightest and best. &c.

3 Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,  
Odours of Eden, and offerings divine,  
Gems from the mountain, and pearls from the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine?  
Brightest and best. &c.

4 Vainly we offer each simple oblation,  
Vainly with gold we his favour secure,  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration:  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor  
Brightest and best. &c.

Prayers for a blessed New Year 2021

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music



## **Winter 2021: “Journeys with angels” by Christa von Zychlin**

**Go on an adventure of noticing and learning from  
God’s heavenly messengers.**

The Bible features numerous encounters with angels who show up on an array of missions, from wielding a sword (Genesis 3:24), to rescuing a child (Genesis 22:11-12), to a mass choir singing, “Glory to God in the highest” (Luke 2:14).

Angels are not a major focus of holy Scripture, nor are they ever mentioned in our Christian creeds. Yet they show up with frequently and at pivotal moments in both Old and New Testaments. Church Reformer Martin Luther is quoted as saying, “If you picture the Bible to be a mighty tree and every word a little branch, I have shaken every one of these branches because I wanted to know what it was and what it meant.”

In Winter 2021, the Rev. Christa von Zychlin will present the four-part study “Journeys with angels” in which we will shake those biblical branches, watch for angels and listen for God’s calls to action.

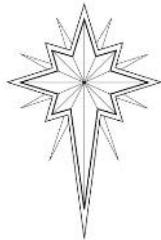
**January 13, 2021 at 10:30 on Zoom.**

**Gather magazines are available at church and online.**

**We will meet on Zoom. Information to connect will follow.**

**We would love to have you join us! Carolyn or Dagny have information.**

**The Amazing Christmas Journey Drive Thru event** was held Sunday, December 13th in the front parking lot with over 130 people attending.





Front Parking Lot -  
use the west entrance

Please enter from the west entrance of the front parking lot follow the sings and directions of staff to get in line to receive the sacrament. Pr. Drew will be wearing a mask and gloves—we ask that all those in your vehicle wear a mask and remain in the vehicle. COME, ALL ARE WELCOME!

## ***LCC HAS THE VERY BEST VOLUNTEERS!***

We had six Parking Lot Worship Services in December, and we had hearty Minnesota volunteers out to brave the cold temps! Thank you to each of you that agreed to bundle up and pass out bulletins, receive offering envelopes, pass out communion cups and park cars on some pretty chilly mornings – we couldn't have done it without you!

For Christmas Eve services, our back parking lot was decorated with small white lights, a beaming star and decorated Christmas tree. Thanks goes to Jim Kraft for heading up this project! He had a great team of Bob Beck, Clint Baker, Lenny Hodgson, Fred Soukup, Mike Smith and Chuck Klang. What a difference you all have made for our 4:00 and 6:00 Parking Lot Christmas Eve services this year!

Our Worship Space in Celebration Center was spectacular this year for our online services. We appreciate Jerry Raedeke who has been so faithful in changing the altar paraments and banners. Mike Smith and Darrell Paske organized all of the Christmas decorations for the altar area. Al and Sue Schmidt again generous donated all the Christmas trees. The Christmas tree crew was Dick and Maureen Schmidt, Al and Sue Schmidt, Darrell Paske, Chuck Trucano and Lenny Hodgson. The poinsettia crew was Mike and Carol Smith, Darrell Paske and Dick and Maureen Schmidt. You have all contributed so much for our online Worship Services!

Volunteer opportunities will come up in the new year; I hope when I call, you will be willing to help out. I so appreciate all of you who answer with a "Yes, I can do that!" There is so much love for this church from all of you!

### A New Year's Prayer

May God make your year a happy one!  
 Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,  
 But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;  
 Not by making your path easy,  
 But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
 Not by taking hardships from you,  
 But by taking fear from your heart;  
 Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
 But by keeping your face bright,  
 even in the shadows;  
 Not by making your life always pleasant,  
 But by showing you  
 when people and their causes need you most,  
 and by making you anxious to be there to help.  
 God's love, peace, hope and joy to you  
 for the year ahead.

~Anonymous

Blessings for the New Year,  
 Sally Hodgson, Lay Ministries Coordinator

To Volunteer, please call:  
 963-6250 (home)  
 218-838-5765 (cell)

Sun	Mon	Tue	
facility calendar for:			
<b>3 EPIPHANY SUNDAY</b> 9:00 Drive In Worship 9:00 Cross Kids Worship—Facebook 10:00 Online Worship 10:45 Praise, Pedal & Pipes—online	<b>4 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group	<b>5</b> 9:00 Computer Lab by appt. 10:00 Facebook Devotions	<b>6 CAMP W</b> 8:30 Text St 10:00 Facebo <b>6:20 Worshi</b> Fo
<b>10 CAMP SUNDAY</b> 9:00 Drive In Worship 9:00 Cross Kids Worship—Facebook 10:00 Online Worship 10:45 Praise, Pedal & Pipes—online	<b>11</b> 8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 MOPS	<b>12</b> 9:00 Computer Lab by appt 10:00 Facebook Devotions	<b>13</b> 8:30 Text 10:00 Face 10:30 Gath <b>6:20 Onli</b> 7:00 Rout 7:00 Conf
<b>17</b> 9:00 Drive In Worship w/Communion 9:00 Cross Kids Worship—Facebook 10:00 Online Worship 10:45 Praise, Pedal & Pipes—online 11:00 Drive Thru Communion	<b>18</b> 8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group	<b>19</b> 9:00 Computer Lab by appt 10:00 Facebook Devotions	<b>20</b> 8:30 Text 10:00 Face 4:00 Crea <b>6:20 Onli</b> 7:00 Rout 7:00 Conf
<b>24 ANNUAL MTG PART 2</b> 9:00 Drive In Worship 9:00 Cross Kids Worship—Facebook 10:00 Online Worship 10:45 Praise, Pedal & Pipes—online 11:00 Annual Mtg & Budget Discussion— Online	<b>25</b> 8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 MOPS	<b>26</b> 9:00 Computer Lab by appt 10:00 Facebook Devotions	<b>27</b> 8:30 Text 10:00 Face <b>6:20 Onli</b> 7:00 Rout 7:00 Con
<b>31</b> 9:00 Drive In Worship w/Communion 9:00 Cross Kids Worship—Facebook 10:00 Online Worship 10:45 Praise, Pedal & Pipes—online			

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Study Book Devotions <b>Worship &amp; Family Faith</b> <b>Information—Online</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Church Council Budget Mtg 7:00 A.A. 	<b>8</b> 10:00 Facebook Devotions	<b>9</b>
Study Facebook Devotions Prayer Study—online <b>Worship</b> Live 56 via Zoom Confirmation & HSYG Online	<b>14</b> 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.	<b>15</b> 10:00 Facebook Devotions 	<b>16</b>
Study Book Devotions Pastoral Care Team <b>Worship</b> Live 56 via Zoom Confirmation & HSYG Online	<b>21</b> 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 A.A.	<b>22</b> 10:00 Facebook Devotions	<b>23</b>
Study Book Devotions <b>Worship</b> Live 56 via Zoom Confirmation & HSYG Online	<b>28</b> 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 A.A.	<b>29</b> 10:00 Facebook Devotions	<b>30</b>
			

# JANUARY birthdays

1. John Hahn, Benjamin Jones, Tyler Lehmann
2. Ryan Heinlen
3. Angie Klein, Alex Pape
4. Del Schmidt, Lowell Liebenow, Paulette Burke, Isaiah Petersen
5. Richard Carlson, Patricia McCleary, Diane Hillman, Laura Hernandez, Denise Aune, Isabelle Olson, Samantha Ciardelli,
6. Michael Macy
7. Sue Whipple, Kara Hansen, Shelby Smith
8. Julianne Koehler, Dakota Glendening, Lucas Pape, Riley Henry
9. Alan Hudalla
10. Austin Lehmann
11. Larry Stark, Diana Verville
12. Robert Marquardt, Joy Potthoff, Randahl Hoghaug, Vivian Panzer
13. Ken Rasinski, Ev Holland, Tom Peterson, Jen Henry
- 14.
15. RoAnn Schroeder, Jenna Rabas
16. Dane Petersen
17. John Taylor, Steve Lienke, Polly Heins
18. Lloyd foster, Allison Kosobud
19. Elaine Haugen, Karlyn Gordon
20. Sandra Potthoff
21. Justin Pape
22. Milton Johnson, Roger Pierson, Curt Evert, Cooper Hiles, Olive Stark, Jim Roberts
23. Bill Weik, Michael Hintz, Elizabeth Sawdey, Betty Bruning, Molly Baker
24. Gaje Germundson, Nancy Peltier
25. Jan Burns, Allyssa Dunlap, Marcus Klein, Hannah McAllister
- 26.
27. Chad Wottreng, Kari Stoxen, Mallory Maine, Teryl Rusch
28. Bill Ingvoldstad, Matthew Oseland, Dianne Wermager, Rena Bolt, Nicole Petersen
29. Everett Robb, Stacey Gorr, Benjamin Anderholm, Hannah Oelke
30. Marsha Thomson
31. Ann Lanz, Jim Raymo, Becky Melby, Janet Skogen



# Thursday Morning Prayer



Morning is God's way of saying—one more time, go make a difference, touch a heart, encourage a mind, inspire the soul and enjoy the day. But in light of the recent COVID mandates we have decided to put "in person" gathering for Thursday Morning Prayer on hold until January 2021. We will plan to meet next on January 14 in the sanctuary at a new time, 9:30 AM. Hopefully we can meet safely then.

*If you have questions contact Candi Barnack: 963-6059, or Carol Smith: 829-8142.*





**Special Thank You:**

**To the decorating crew for the beautiful decorations in our Celebration Center and Jerry Raedeke for hanging all the paraments.**

**To Al & Sue Schmidt for donating all of the great Christmas trees that adorn the church and the watering crew of Al & Sue Schmidt and Dick & Maureen Schmidt.**

**To Dennis and Valdean Lueck for the beautiful lighted outdoor wreath in memory of their son, Troy.**

**To Jim Kraft and crew for decorating the outside with Christmas lights.**

**To Mary Frost & Lyle Amundson for the skirting around the stage in Celebration Center.**

**To Mark Erickson for providing the trailer for Drive In worship services.**

**To all the ushers & parking lot attendants that volunteer for worship .**

**To the wonderful musicians under the direction of Cathy Taylor who provide their talents weekly.**

**To the staff for their creative work during this advent and Christmas season.**

*Christmas Blessings*



## **A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER**

Online Christmas Eve service at 3pm  
Drive In Candlelight Worship  
Services at 4pm and 6pm.  
Temperatures around 0 degrees





**Family Faith Formation Night on January 6—**

join us for worship at



6:20pm followed by a message from Dave Holtz, Executive Director of Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria, MN. Start thinking about joining us at Camp during LCC's Camp Week—July 25-29, 2021. While Covid remains a concern, we are trusting Luther Crest's processes—and hope the vaccine will be available by then). View LCBC's COVID-19 policies here:

<https://www.luthercrest.org/covid-faqs.html>

To be guaranteed a spot at camp, please register by **January 15th** at this link:

<https://bit.ly/LCCcamp2021>

When prompted, please use the GHR ID: **20LCC21** (there's a link to an instruction document on the LCC website)

If you are in grades 5-6 please register for Leapers.

If you are in grades 7-9 please register for Witnesses.

If you are in grades 9-12 please register for Blazers! (Talk to Zach before registering.)

Camp will be \$525 per person. LCC will continue to scholarship \$250 to each of our members who wish to attend. The total cost to you is \$275. If you need a larger scholarship, please talk with Zach or Kari. There is no money due at registration, LCC has already paid the deposit for our 24 slots. (Additionally if you bring a non-member friend, we will give them a \$100 scholarship.)

*We will forfeit our remaining reservations on January 16. Prices will increase dramatically on February 15. So please register on time, if possible.*

Please contact the Camp Registrar, Renae Rush, with specific registration questions.

Phone: 320.846.2431



LUTHER  
CREST





## The Great Monarch Butterfly Decline

Every year monarch butterflies grace the Brainerd lakes area with their beauty as they lay eggs, hatch, eat milkweed, create cocoons and hatch into beautiful butterflies that migrate to Mexico and California. Every year Mexico is seeing less and less butterflies migrating and over wintering in their breeding grounds. The National Geographic posted an article several weeks ago (12/17/2020) indicating an eighty percent decline in monarch butterflies overwintering in Mexico this fall from last year. In the 1980s four million western monarch butterflies overwintered along the California coast, this year fewer than 2,000 have been counted. The monarch butterfly hasn't been put on the threatened species list yet but meets many criteria for a species to do so.

Monarch conservationists encourage creating pollinator gardens, planting milkweed in ditches, restoring monarch habitats and getting involved with the preservation of natural habitats for monarchs and other pollinators. This spring the Creation Care Team is collaborating with other area churches, local schools and city parks with a goal to plant 25 monarch butterfly waystations within a 30-mile radius around the Brainerd Lakes Area. By creating monarch butterfly gardens throughout a 30 mile radius in the Brainerd lakes area along with educating and inspiring people at all those locations we can create a monarch butterfly movement known as the butterfly effect and take small steps to help the monarch butterfly population.

Each garden plot will be approximately 10' x 10' and hold 40 native plants grown specifically for monarch butterflies and other pollinators. Native plants will include but not limited to native milkweed, butterfly milkweed, wild petunias, anise hyssop, sedum, echinacea and other native pollinator loving plants. We will work together to increase the monarch butterfly population in our area while inspiring land owners to create pollinator gardens in their own yards. If you would like to become part of the monarch butterfly movement in the Brainerd lakes area, please contact Alicia, a member of the Creation Care Team today at [mallardlake0806@hotmail.com](mailto:mallardlake0806@hotmail.com)! We can help make a difference!



## December 2020 LCC Council Highlights

### LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS Church Council Meeting Thursday, December 10, 2020

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

Devotion: David Grell

#### **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Council President David Grell

#### **Present:**

David Grell, President; Jamie Boesen, Vice President; Colleen Both, Treasurer; Darrell Paske, Secretary; Pastor Drew; Mike Smith; Pam Johnson; Hilary Johnson; Craig Fink

#### **Officer Reports:**

Council Minutes by Darrell Paske

- Motion to approve, Mike Smith; Second Craig Fink; Motion Passed  
Treasurer's Report by Colleen Both
- Motion to approve, Pastor Drew; Second Pam Johnson; Motion Passed  
The necessary paperwork regarding the use of the PPP Funds has been completed and submitted for review. Final notification will be forthcoming in the next few months.

#### **New Business:**

- Motion made to accept and approve ballots from the first half of annual meeting by Mike Smith and second by Jamie Boesen. Motion Passed
- A draft 2021 budget was presented for discussion by Treasurer Colleen Both. Following discussion and suggested adjustments, a consensus was reached that the draft budget would be modified in line with council suggestions and a council would meet on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to finalize the 2021 budget for presentation to the congregation at the second half of the annual meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- Discussion was had on the financial impact the pandemic is having on Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen as it continues to serve the needs of those in need in the Brainerd area. Motion was made by Hillary Johnson and second by Pam Johnson to contribute \$1,000.00 to support this community ministry. Motion passed

#### **Pastors' Reports**

Pastor Drew:

- Since November 15th, we have moved back down to phase 2 of our reopening plans. What that means for the church is that we are currently not allowing group sizes over 10 into the church. That also means that we have moved to online worship service. Because we have made that move, a recommendation was made to do an outdoor parking lot worship. Thanks to an anonymous donor we were able to have Music General install the FM transmitter for our first outdoor worship service on November 22nd. We had 70 participants at our worship service which was also first communion service for our youth who have been patiently waiting to receive communion since last March.

- Since November 22nd we have has a steady attendance of around 60 people at worship. A special thank you to Sally who is coordinating the parking lot attendants and ushers for this service. Thank you to Lenny for allowing me to use his truck bed for our first service. And a special thank you to Mark Erickson who is bringing up his trailer every Sunday morning for us to use. If you haven't been a part of this worship experience I highly recommend it. Our worship leaders are singing in Celebration Center and I am outside leading worship. You can listen to the service on the radio in the comfort and warmth of your car. We will have communion on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.
- As we move towards Christmas we enlisted the help of Jim Kraft and his crew to help with outdoor lighting and decorations for our Christmas Eve worship service. We felt that we needed something special for that night and they have done a tremendous job. I hope that you are able to attend one of our outdoor worship services at 4 or 6pm, or online at 3pm on December 24th.
- As I begin to think about the year 2021 our theme for next year will be "Resilient Together". I believe that this theme will be important as we thank our members for their resiliency last year as we moved to online, back to in person and then back to online our members have supported us all along the way. As we move into, hopefully, the end of the pandemic and into the post pandemic we are going to be leaning into the strength of our resilient congregation to look at doing ministry together in a new way. And we will need to do this together. Thank you for your continued support and strength as we move together into the dawning of a new day.

### **Committee Reports:**

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

No Report

#### **Stewardship: Craig Fink**

No Report

#### **Worship and Music: Mike Smith**

- Special thanks go out to the following people:
- Cathy Taylor, who works so hard to organize the music, singers and instrumentalists for Sunday worship. Also, for her beautiful and meaningful Organ Praise, Pedals and Pipes musical offering following each Sunday On-line service.
- Jim Kraft, who organized a crew to decorate the back-parking lot area for drive-in services. The special lighting creates a worshipful atmosphere for these services.
- Liz Brandanger and her crew for creating the beautiful seasonal arrangements both at the front and back of the church.
- Jerry Raedeke, who carefully changes the paraments and banners for each season of the church year.
- The LCC Decorating Crew, who set up and lighted the Christmas trees in the Celebration Center.
- Allan and Sue Schmidt, who donated the four beautiful evergreen trees for the Celebration Center.

- Pr. Drew, Kari, Zach, Laurie, Sally, Cathy, and Clint, our wonderful staff, who work tirelessly to keep us connected and growing in our faith walk every day.
- We have so much for which to be thankful. God is at work in our midst.

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

No Report

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

- I got my mom's Cuppa devotions off in the mail, thanks to help from Mary Hubert, Sally Hodgson, and a grant from Thrivent. These devotions were sent to all moms in our congregation with infants through 12th graders.
- Family Faith Formation with Aimee Jambor went very well on Dec. 2. I sent out Advent Calendars and an Advent devotion booklet to go with it (from Lutheran World Hunger) on Thursday to all families with 5th - 12th graders. I also included a Family December LCC Advent Activities newsletter.
- Got a Thrivent grant and ordered supplies for our Amazing Christmas Journey congregational activity on Dec. 13. Our worship service will contain our version of a No Fuss, No Muss Christmas Pageant with our singers reading the parts and our congregation being the characters (holding up masks.) Then our Journey will continue after worship with a Drive Thru experience featuring four stations - communion, innkeeper, angel, wise person and ending at our lighted tree near the bell tower. Advent Prayer Bags will be distributed as well as Advent treat bags for all of the kids. I also put together a Christmas hymn devotional for folks to take home. As part of this activity, families will write a prayer to place in our manger and also pray over an ornament that will be hung on our church tree (we have asked folks to bring an ornament to donate or use one of the many we have here that are left over from Christmas Eve's past! This week we are busy preparing for this event. We have really advertised this and hope to get a good turnout.
- I am currently working on the January Religious Release packets for PLSD and the January Epiphany packets for our Sunday School students.
- I developed and will send out a devotional for watching the movie, "The Star" and will be sending it out along with activities for kids to go with it - this will go out to 2 year olds through 4th graders. I'm thinking of creating a similar one for older kids based on "The Grinch."
- I will be working on a project for Lent with Heather Roth Johnson and we will have it ready to go for our families by the time February rolls around.
- Briefly met with Colleen Both regarding budget - and quite honestly, without knowing what 2021 has in store - we will just have to work with what we have available and continue to provide resources via mail and online. We will continue to do the best ministry with the resources we have!
- I'd just like to thank the Council for support/prayers and wish them a wonderful Advent and Christmas.

### **Youth and Family Ministry: Jen Henry**

- Thank You Jen Henry. For the last four years, Jen Henry has been a staple in our youth ministry. She said "Yes!" to me, immediately, when I asked her to fill in for the vacant

Youth Liaison position. Over and over again she has said to helping our youth ministry, grow, shift and expand. I cannot thank her enough. Jen has not only been on council, but she has helped at just about every Sunday Morning Rolls event of the youth. She has been integral to the development of Hotdish and a Show, keeping an eye on the kitchen, making sure things are moving along well. Easter Breakfast has been another pillar of her ministry. She made the giant Costco trips with me. And spent the full long shifts in the morning in the kitchen. She has continually advocated for our young people to make sure all voices are being heard. Jen, thank you. You are a wonderful gift to the ministry of LCC.

- Additionally, thank you to Brad Henry who continually got roped into most of these events and rocked it. And thank you to the boys, Dirk and Riley for being there every step of the way. The youth ministry at LCC would not be what it is without you.
- Not Dish and A Show! We had a wonderful night of Not Dish and a Show in the middle of November. We are so thankful for the dozen or so performers and techies who shared their time and talents. We were able to raise about \$1000 for our Summer Trips next year. Thank you to everyone.
- Middle School Gathering - After a date shift and some technology issues, I can happily report that we had an awesome Middle School Gathering. About 20 of us tuned in to worship, learn, and grow in our faith. Joe Davis, our mainstage speaker, reminded us that “We are beloved Children of the Most High God”.
- Other - Family Faith Formation continues to go well! We will have a few movie nights over Christmas break, with a new browser plug-in to sync our Netflix accounts. Camp Wednesday and Sunday are coming up quick in January, get ready for some fun!

### **Congregational Life: Hilary Johnson**

No Report

### **Personnel: Jamie Boesen**

No Report

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by

Darrell Paske, Council Secretary

Next Council Meeting: January 14, 2021

Special 2021 Budget Meeting: January 7, 2021

Second Half Annual Meeting: January 24, 2021

Council Reports for Annual Report due January 4, 2021

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 Grell 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.



# Drive In Worship!

**Pr. Drew will be broadcasting worship via FM 97.1 to our back parking lot at 9am on Sundays.**

**Attendants will assist with parking, bulletins and offering.**

**Come and worship from the warmth and comfort of your vehicle, safely surrounded by your church family.**

 218 963 2564  [WWW.LCCNISSWA.ORG](http://WWW.LCCNISSWA.ORG)

Our Sunday 10am worship service and Wednesday evening worship will be streamed on our website and Facebook Live. All worship videos on the website are archived and can be viewed both live or at your convenience. <http://www.lccnisswa.org/live-video-streaming-worship.html>



Update  
your  
Information



If you would like to receive weekly eblast notifications, please email the church office at [laurie@lccnisswa.org](mailto:laurie@lccnisswa.org) with the email address you wish us to use.

Have you changed your phone number, or no longer use your landline, changed your mailing address, went to warmer climates for the winter, etc.? If so, please let us know so we can update our database.

Thank you to all who cast their ballot for the open church council positions.

**2021 Church Council:**

Dave Endicott, Council President\*  
Sarah Fogderud, Vice President\*  
Colleen Both, Treasurer\*  
Secretary, Darrell Paske\*  
Joanie Swanson, Congregational Life\*  
Kristin Lindholm, Youth Chair\*  
Pam Johnson, Children & Family Ministry  
Bonnie Stevens, Social Concerns/Social\*\*  
Dale Peterson, Properties  
Mike Smith, Worship & Music  
Craig Fink, Stewardship

\*newly elected

\*\*appointed



"May the Lord *bless* you  
and *protect* you.

may the Lord smile on you  
and be gracious to you.

May the Lord show you his *favor*  
and give you his *peace*."

Numbers 6:24-26

## 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		
Director of Youth and Family Ministry	Zach Malecha	218-961-2015
Director of Children and Family Ministry	Kari Erickson	218-961-2012
Director of Music Ministry/Organist	Cathy Taylor	218-961-2053
Financial Secretary	Karen Wiele	218-961-2016
Lay Ministry Coordinator	Sally Hodgson	218-961-2052
Senior Choir Director	Brian Stubbs	
Organist	Laura Raedeke	
Bell Choir Director	Judy Rickbeil	
King's Kids	Carol Smith	
Custodian	Clint Baker	218-963-2564
ELCA Global Missionary	Bradn Buerkle	
LCC Office	Laurie Hemish	218-961-2011

### 2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

President	Dave Endicott	Social Justice/Global	Bonnie Stevens
Vice President	Sarah Fogderud	Worship & Music	Mike Smith
Treasurer	Colleen Both	Youth	Kristin Lindholm
Secretary	Darrell Paske	Stewardship	Craig Fink
Cong. Life	Joanie Swanson		
Education	Pam Johnson		
Properties	Dale Peterson		

