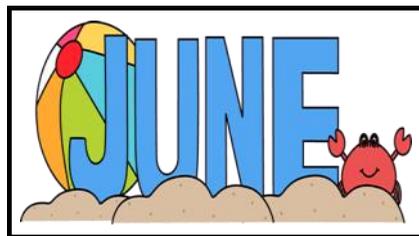


Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church
of the Cross
2021



Dear Friends in Christ:

It gives me great pleasure to make three big announcements -

First, we welcome Vicar Michelle Ruen to our church staff as a Pastoral Intern! Vicar Michelle is currently a second year student in the TEEM Program (Theological Education in Emerging Ministries) at Wartburg Seminary in Decorah, Iowa. Prior to attending seminary she taught at Baxter Elementary for 29 years. I have been Vicar Michelle's pastoral mentor for the past 18 months and I am excited to have her join us at Lutheran Church of the Cross for her internship year. Her primary responsibilities will include Adult Ministries, Small Groups, Visitation, Evangelism, and Contemplative Prayer (along with other pastoral duties). We will officially welcome Vicar Michelle Ruen at our May 30th worship service – please plan to attend.

Secondly, we have moved to Stage 4 of our COVID-19 reopening plan! As a church council, Smart Team, and staff we are following state and federal recommendations as we lift restrictions to allow for the following:

- Large events that include food service
- Wednesday night dinner service
- Sunday morning donuts and coffee

The staff will create a team to set expectations and a process for moving to Stage 5, noting that:

- ◇ We will continue to consult with local medical experts as we move forward
- ◇ We will continue to seek input from other community organizations (Brainerd School District and Pequot Lake School District, other congregations, etc...)
- ◇ LCC staff and Council will make the decision when to move to Stage 5.

As we have maneuvered Stages 1 through 4, the importance of our online worship service has become more and more evident. Currently we have people from all over the United States tuning in to watch our services that are broadcast from Celebration Center! Once we move to Stage 5, we will resume normal programming, which means that worship services will move back to the Sanctuary. Unfortunately, we are not equipped to broadcast the same quality of sound and video from the Sanctuary as we can from Celebration Center. In response, together with the church council and stewardship and property committees, I present to you a recommendation that we renovate our Sanctuary to upgrade the sound system, speakers, and video capability. This will include remodeling of the current Sound Room to allow for technicians to see and hear happenings in the Sanctuary. And as long as we are remodeling, it would be prudent to replace the Sanctuary flooring, which is in bad shape and becoming unsafe.

Note: a favorite memory of my first Easter Sunday morning worship was when Pastor Kari was leading the children's sermon - one of the young boys pulled pieces of broken tile out of the center aisle and then attempted to put it back together like a puzzle.

After consulting with *Music General*, Danae Anderson from *ID Your World*, and contractors at *Nor-Son*, we have determined that this Sanctuary renovation project will cost \$95,000 and could be completed by the end of August. To fund this project, \$33,000 has been obtained through various contributions, and we hope to raise the remaining funds through generous contributions from our members. In the meantime, we plan to take a short-term loan from ourselves to cover the \$62,000.00 remaining cost. On June 20th, congregational meetings are scheduled after each of our worship services with the purpose of discussion and voting on this renovation project. Please consider a donation so that we can maintain our vital online ministry presence and safely move back into our Sanctuary for worship services. Our goal would be to return to worship in the sanctuary on September 12 for a joyous Homecoming celebration!

I close with a post from Tom Terney which I referenced in a letter to you *one year ago*:

Our Church is **open**.

Open to patience and wisdom.

Open to science and common sense.

Open to discovering new ways to connect when it is unsafe to "do it the way we've always done it."

Open to saving lives by giving up some of the traditions and sacraments we hold dear.

Open to wearing masks to show we love our neighbor.

Open to keeping the sanctuary closed so more of us can come back together safely when it is time.

Our church is **open** to following Jesus who, himself, spent time in the wilderness.

We will remain **open**, and someday, by the grace of God, we will be able to worship together again.

Thank you for doing your part in keeping Lutheran Church of the Cross **open**. Our hard work has paid off as we look to our Homecoming in September!

Blessings,

Pastor Drew

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, returned from a warmer location, etc.? If so, please let us know so we can update our database.

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2021 General Fund

	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Annual Annual
				% YTD of Budget
Income	\$ 48,836	\$ 224,588	\$ 679,929	33.03%
Expenses	\$ 44,000	\$ 188,971	\$ 679,929	29.79%
Difference	\$ 4,836	\$ 35,617	\$ 0	

**In the month of April our income was more than our expenses by \$4,836.
Thank you for your continued support.**



BAPTISM

Name: Hazel Kay Henderson
 Born: August 14, 2020
 Baptized: May 8, 2021
 Parents: Brandon & Kayla Henderson
 Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant

FUNERAL

Anna Marie Haberer
 Born: May 27, 1933
 Died in Christ: February 27, 2021
 Funeral: May 10, 2021
 Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant

BAPTISM

Name: Myah Grace Aune
 Born: August 30, 2020
 Baptized: May 15, 2021
 Parents: Travis & Simone Aune
 Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant

FUNERAL

Lowell Liebenow
 Born: January 4, 1942
 Died in Christ: May 6, 2021
 Funeral: May 12, 2021
 Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant

BAPTISM

Name: Mason Henry Kuhn
 Born: June 27, 2020
 Baptized: May 23, 2021
 Parents: Alex Kuhn & Kelsey Krawiecki
 Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant

BAPTISM

Name: Boden Gaines Larson
 Born: March 13, 2021
 Baptized: May 30, 2021
 Parents: Brandon & Karlie Larson
 Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant

CHILDREN & FAMILY ministry

LAST CROSS KIDS WORSHIP FUN!!



CFM TEAM 2021—Pam Johnson, Kari Erickson, Stacey Gorr, Dagny Trucano, Rachel Gerhartz, Colleen Bakken, Kristin Neale and Rachel Merseth. Here we are enjoying a little Rafferty's at our meeting:-)

On July 21 our 5th and 6th grade group and Kari Erickson (Route 56) will be packing Lutheran World Relief School Kits.

If you are out and about shopping, note that we are accepting donations of supplies for this project. Better yet, if you are a Thrivent member, consider applying for an Action Grant to help support our efforts (or donate a Target or Walmart gift card or cash and we will purchase supplies.) As well as packing kits for LWR, we hope to pack a few backpacks with supplies to donate to our area schools too.

Lutheran World Relief School Kit



LWR SCHOOL KIT SUPPLIES:

14" x 17" string backpack
 70-sheet notebooks (4 per kit)
 Box of 16 or 24 crayons
 Pencil sharpener
 30-centimeter ruler
 Blunt scissors

Unsharpened #2 pencils
 Black or blue ballpoint pens (5 per kit)
 2.5 inch eraser

Please bring items to church—bins will be by the front door and in the Celebration Center. Deadline is July 18.

FROM ZACH'S DESK:

Summer. Summer. Summer.

It's time. It has been a year. A few times lately, I hear people talk about going "back to normal" and I shudder. Not much of my being wants to go back to the way things were. This past year has taught me a lot, and I want to use it as I move forward in life. Can you relate?

Sure, I won't miss masks, or punting plans right at the last minute. But I have gained knowledge and strength as an individual that I would not have obtained otherwise. I think this whole world did.

Our 2021 LCC theme is "Resilient Together". We were resilient together during the pandemic and we will continue to be resilient after the pandemic. The question that I have asked most lately is: "What will you take with you?"

In the early pandemic, we talked about how much we enjoyed the intentional family time, board games, meals, sitting outside and watching the stars. Are we taking this with us?

When we missed holidays with our extended families, we said that we'd never take that time for granted again. Are we taking this with us?

When we got back to school and activities, we realized how much we actually really enjoy these things. Are we taking this with us?

One thing the youth group is taking with us is the Wednesday night activities that were so meaningful last year. Last year, each Wednesday, we got together for Disc Golf, Campfires, and of course Ice Cream. This year, we are calling them "Summer Somethin'"! It will be an opportunity to get together to do somethin' each week, inspired by, but not limited to last summer's activities.

Operation Sandwich did another good take on this question. This summer Operation Sandwich will continue with the model we developed last summer. Not because of the remainder of the pandemic that we have left to face, but because last summer's systems fed more people than ever before. We fed 11,000 meals on the Northern Route alone, almost 20k total.

Today, I encourage you to take a moment to pause and think back on the last year. Think about the good times, and the tough times, and then ask yourself, "What am I going to take with me?"

The good news is that Christ will be walking with us, no matter what we take with us.

In peace,
Zach

Donuts are Back!

The LCC youth are so hyped to be bringing donuts back (and coffee too)! This is only the second fundraiser of the school year for our young people, so any extra generosity is greatly appreciated! Join us in the Narthex after worship to pick up some goodies. We will even have juice boxes for the little ones. The youth will serve through June 27 and regular volunteers will be needed to help thereafter.

Summer Stretch

We are so excited for the return of our classic program: Summer Stretch! This summer venture for grades, 6, 7, and 8 offers service opportunities in the morning and fun in the afternoon. Check out our awesome June lineup:

Schedule:

June 3 - Arboretum Help; Fun: Group Games at Arboretum* **

June 10 - Highway Clean Up; Fun: Nisswa Water Park

June 17 - Cuyuna Help; Fun: Cuyuna Fun**

June 24 - LCC Community Love; Fun: TBD

Summer Something

We are excited to evolve last year's impromptu Wednesday nights into something consistent for our high school youth. Join us at 6:20 every week!

June Schedule:

June 9 - Highway Clean Up!

June 16 - Disc Golf at Breezy

June 23 - Campfire at Church

June 30 - Nisswa Scavenger Hunt

Amnicon Mini-Gathering 3:

Our Amnicon goers should join us on Sunday June 27th for some more epic shenanigans. Parents are invited if they have any last minute concerns. Don't forget to get your doctor's signature on your health form!

Spring Highlight:

Being back at youth school activities has been the highlight of my spring! Everything from spring plays to softball made it awesome. Here is a great pic from a game where our Pequot Girls Softball crushed it! Morgan struck out 16 batters and homered over the fence! (Maci M, Kelsi M, Zach, Brea E, and Morgan E.)



June 2021

Hymn of the Month

ACS 1068 The Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe SOMMARPSALM

This month of June, we will celebrate songs of creation, including this new one from a new hymnal supplement "All Creation Sings" published by Augsburg Fortress.

This hymn references these two Psalm passages.

Psalm 24:1-2 NRSV

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;
For he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

Psalm 65:11-13 NKJV

You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance.
They drop on the pastures of the wilderness, and the little hills rejoice on every side.
The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered with grain;
They shout for joy, they also sing.

The text for the hymn:

1. The earth adorned in verdant robe sends praises upward surging,
While soft winds breath on fragrant flowers from winter now emerging.
The sunshine bright gives warmth and light to budding blossoms tender,
Proclaiming summer splendor.
2. From out the wood, the birds now sing and each its song now raises,
To join with all the universe in voicing thankful praises.
With hope and joy their songs employ a rapturous exultation
In praise of God's creation.
3. O God, amid these joys of life, creation's glory beaming,
Grant us the grace to keep your word and live in love redeeming.
All flesh is grass, the flowers fade, and time is fleeting ever,
God's word remains forever.

Sommarpsalm or Summer Hymn was written by Swedish poet, Carl David af Wirsén and translated into English by Carolyn and Kenneth Jennings. It is one of Sweden's best loved summer hymns. The tune was written by Waldemar Ahlen, a Swedish organist, music teacher and organist. This was his most popular piece.

We will be singing this hymn in church this summer to celebrate our creation, God's love and God's Word.

God's peace and blessings to you.
Cathy Taylor, Director of Music





Congratulations to our 2021 Seniors! We are so proud of each of you. Our prayers go with you as you continue to discern who God is calling you to be in this world. You are beloved children of God, no matter what, and you always have a home here at LCC.

Back row: Pastor Drew Bakken, Briston Domino, Riley Henry, Jim Johanneck, Erik Stoxen, Zach Malecha

Front Row: Morgan Lueck, Mia Wolter, Riley Pelowski and Kate Henke.

Not pictured: Emma Trees, Lauren Goralsky, Julia Goralsky, and Tae Evanson

Thank you again to our LCC knitters and crocheters for creating these beautiful prayer afghans for our seniors each year.



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, June 20th immediately following both worship services.

Purpose is discussion and voting on Sanctuary renovation project.



Gather Summer 2021 Study: Just Love, Part 2

Welcome to the “Just Love Part 2: Just L.I.F.E. (Liberation Is For Everyone!)” *Gather* Bible study by Angela Khabeb. This three-session summer Bible study series is inspired, in part, by Jesus’ proclamations: “If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36) and “I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10)

Session 1, “Just Wisdom,” delves into how God can open our hearts and minds to a spiritual understanding that is not bound by our human comprehension. Just Wisdom comes to us through reverence for our awesome God. Our key verse for the first session informs us: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 9:10). Together we will consider our faithful response to Wisdom’s invitation.

Session 2 explores “Just Truth.” We will travel with Paul on the road to Damascus and experience his life-changing transformation. We will also take a closer look at how our Savior chose to share difficult truths with God’s people, and we will witness his boldness in speaking truth to power.

Session 3, “Just Hope,” looks at our role as the body of Christ. How are we called to be co-creators with God in transforming our communities into a more just society? Filled with resurrection hope, we’ll look to the prophet Ezekiel and his miraculous encounter in the valley of dry bones, and we’ll share how God’s amazing activity continues to unfold in our own lives. Angela Khabeb is a pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

She has an amazing husband, Benhi, and three spectacular children, Konami, Khenna and Khonni. More information on this study will be available soon. In the meantime, check out Khabeb’s presentation on “just love” from [Women of the ELCA’s “Just love: A virtual preview.”](#)

Session 1: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 10:30 AM

Session 2: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 10:30 AM

Session 3: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 10:30 AM

Gather magazines are available at LCC if needed.

We will meet at the LCC Pergola near the LCC Community Garden, weather permitting. In inclement weather we will meet indoors at LCC. Watch for additional information. We look forward to you joining us this summer! If you have any questions, call Carolyn Blanck at 963-7660.

Gather Study is a ministry of LCC Women of the ELCA

Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen News



Lutheran Church of the Cross volunteers serve the first Thursday of every month. May 6th the Klangs, Krafts, and Bergins served 41 guests Chicken Enchiladas, salad, garlic toast and homemade cake. Please let Ann Bergin know if your group would like to make and serve a takeout meal on any of these dates: June 3rd, July 1st, August 5th, September 2nd, October 7th, November 4th, or December 2nd. Ann will explain how it works and even be there for support if needed. 218-820-5511 call or text. Sign up sheet located in the hallway near the nursery.



How does your garden grow?

Community Gardeners - Several plots are still available.

Plots are \$25 per plot payable to the church office. Each gardener is asked to sign an application form and return with payment. For questions, please contact Jan Halligan at 218-568-4480. Forms available in the church office.

Operation Sandwich is a grassroots program that exists to end childhood hunger by feeding kids when free and reduced meals are not accessible at school.

Operation Sandwich will be distributing weekly lunch supply bags on Thursdays throughout summer. Each bag contains 5 days of lunch supplies for the family based on family size, including bread, peanut butter, jelly, granola bars, fruit snacks, an additional snack of some kind, and fresh fruit and/or vegetables. All are welcome-no one is turned away. Weekly sign up for families is on the Bridges of Hope/ Operation Sandwich website. The Northern Route, originating from LCC, begins Thursday, June 3 and runs until Thursday, September 2. Lunch supply bags will be packed and distributed to Pine River, Jenkins, Pequot Lakes, and Nisswa. We also need persons with larger vehicles to help bring up food supplies from Brainerd on Wednesday. If you are interested in becoming involved or volunteering, contact Jean Kraft at jean.kraft@icloud.com or 218-838-9646.

We will continue to collect the listed supplies all summer long. (Check expiration dates, as outdated or near outdated foods cannot be distributed.)

Check out the Operation Sandwich Facebook page or church eblasts for on-going information and needs.



Supplies Needed

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Granola Bars

Fruit Snacks



*Serving Cass, Crow Wing,
Hubbard, Wadena Counties
& The City of Staples*

Habitat Project

We have exciting news from Habitat! Site work is underway at the Svoboda home in Southeast Brainerd. The Groundbreaking celebration with Travis and Mary and their kids was held Thursday, May 13. COVID restrictions are still limiting in-person participation, so please watch the LCC newsletter and Eblast for opportunities to volunteer for the build. The restrictions limit the number of volunteers on site to 10.

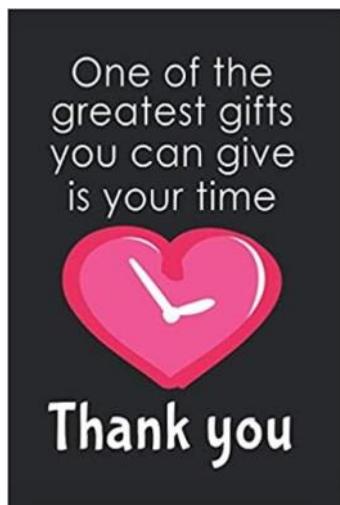
There are now **16 churches** who have agreed to partner in this Thrivent Faith Build project! Thrivent has committed \$62,500 or half of the building cost of this home. Habitat (along with the other local faith community) has already raised over \$12,500 of the additional \$62,500 needed to build the home.

Working to raise funds for the Faith Build is important, but please continue to pray for the Svoboda family, Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity and all of our Faith Build partners. Volunteers will be needed soon, so watch for updates as construction begins. We look forward to partnering with Habitat and others in the Faith Community working together to assist in building the Svoboda family home

THANK YOU LCC VOLUNTEERS!

A huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers who have stepped up to help during these past months of Covid! You have all been so willing to give of your time when called, and we appreciate you very much! Slowly but surely we are getting some normalcy back to our Sunday schedule and look forward to seeing all of you here at LCC.

Please mark the date on your calendars for:



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SUNDAY ***June 27th between services***

We will celebrate our awesome LCC volunteers and say
THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF YOUR TIME!

Thanks to a Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Grant, we will have treats for everyone!

We hope you will be able to join us for this special Sunday! Your heartfelt commitment shows every time you volunteer!

The gift of your time is priceless – thank you for sharing yours!

SUMMER HELP NEEDED: Since we will start having two services each Sunday, some help will be needed between services for setting up in the Memorial Garden. The table (altar), speakers and keyboard will need to be carried down to the garden area right after the 9:00 service. And then we could use help getting everything back into the church after the 10:15 service. This isn't a big time commitment, but will be most appreciated. If you would be willing to help in this way, please send me a text or give me a call at 218.838.5765.

DONUTS, DONUTS, DONUTS! Oh, it will be good to have our coffee and donuts back! Our Youth Group will be selling them as a fundraiser during the month of June. Starting in July, I will be calling for volunteers to brew coffee and pick up the donuts each Sunday. There will be a sign up chart in the hallway outside of Celebration Center for you to sign up. Talk to your friends and have fun doing this together!

*Summer Blessings,
Sally Hodgson
Lay Ministries Coordinator*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<h1 style="color: #f4a460; font-family: cursive;">facility calendar for:</h1>			<h1 style="color: #f4a460; font-family: cursive;">Jun</h1>
		1 8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions	2 8:30 Text 10:00 Face
6 GLOBAL MISSION SUNDAY 9:00 Worship 10:00 Donuts & Coffee 10:00 Forum: Global Ministry	7 8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group	8 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions	9 8:30 Text 10:00 Face 10:30 Gath 6:20 Sum
13 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Donuts & Coffee 10:15 Outdoor Worship w/ Comm. & Baptism	14 8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 11:00 Soul Sisters	15 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions 4:30 Crossroads Annual Mtg	16 8:30 Text 10:00 Face 4:00 Crea 6:20 Sum
20 9:00 Worship 9:45 Congregational Mtg 10:00 Donuts & Coffee 10:15 Outdoor Worship 11:00 Congregational Mtg	21 VBX 8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 10:00 Facebook Devotions 6:00 VBX 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group	22 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions 6:00 VBX	23 8:30 Text 10:00 Face 6:00 VBX 6:20 Sum
27 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Donuts & Coffee/Vol. Apprec. 10:15 Outdoor Worship w/ Comm. 1:00 Mini Gathering #3	28 8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions	29 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions 3:00 IN Person TAG	30 8:30 Text 10:00 Face 6:20 Sum

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ne	2021		
Study book Devotions	3 Operation Sandwich 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 A.A.	4 10:00 Facebook Devotions	5 9:00 Clark Lake Assoc. Mtg
Study book Devotions mer Bible Study mer Somethin'	10 9:00 Summer Stretch Operation Sandwich 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 A.A.	11 10:00 Facebook Devotions 1:00 9th Grade Conf. Retreat 	12 11:00 Private Baptism
Study book Devotions tion Care Team mer Somethin'	17 9:00 Summer Stretch Operation Sandwich 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 6:00 Church Council –offsite 7:00 A.A.	18 10:00 Facebook Devotions	19
Study book Devotions mer Somethin'	24 9:00 Summer Stretch Operation Sandwich 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 11:00 Garden Club Meeting 6:00 VBX 7:00 A.A.	25 → 10:00 Facebook Devotions 6:00 VBX	26 9:00 Lake Hubert Annual Mtg
Study book Devotions mer Somethin'			



1. Kari Erickson, Gale Gordon, Dagne Neale, Renee Schwaller, Kellan Timmons
2. Bill Campbell, Howard Luick, Ella Oelke, Leslie Speed
3. Nathan Bakken, Dylan Smith, Ron Whipple
4. Emily Dunphy-Day, Patrick Goff, Faeth Harms, Tyler Hushagen, Hilary Johnson, Jessica Scott, Paul Wermager
5. Josie Taylor
6. Joseph Anderholm, Callista Anderson, Jerry Glendening
7. Riley Pelowski
8. Emmalyn Boesen, Tess Chase, Kathy Kosobud, Michelle Malmquist
9. Megan Fogarty, Amanda Hintz, Marilyn Olson
10. Reid Niggeler, Ron Rusch, Kaden Teasck
- 11.
12. Doug Hansen
13. Bonnie Anderson, Karen Lenox, Maureen Schmidt
14. Abigail Bakken, Sarah Fogderud, Kaiden Raske, Roxanne Soukup, Kacie Wottreng
15. Randy Hahn, Charles Klang
16. Mark Boesen
17. Lois Jensen, Pat Tollefsrud
18. Ashley Eisenschenk, Jeff Horn, Isaac Manthei
19. Dan Halland, Nathan Ranum
20. Sharon Ingvoldstad, Maggie Prahm
21. Riley Fogarty, Brian Hemish, Dorothy Setterholm, Thomas Sullivan, Alaina Westin
22. Brett Nelson
23. Liz Brandanger, Lenny Hodgson
24. Kevin Egan, Kristen Ingram, Darrell Schreiner, Tony Whipple
25. Randy Avenson, Teresa Carter, Dick Dore, Julie Raymo, Gabe Wilson
26. Michael Bestul, Laurie Campbell, Joyce Pierson
27. Justine Campbell, Anne Kostreba, Brian Stark, Brecken Ubl
28. Violet Anderson, Whitney Bolt, Logan Ciardelli, Shaun Martini, Todd Sunde
29. Kim Cameron, David Cram, Brenna Neale
30. Curt Tollefsrud, Allison Whipple



Thursday Morning Prayer



Have you ever tried to spend an hour or even 10 minutes doing nothing but listening to the voice that dwells deep in your heart? When there is no TV to watch, no book to read, no person to talk to, no Facebook or Twitter to engage with how does that make you feel? It is not easy to enter the silence, to reach beyond the many demanding voices of our world, and to discover the still small voice saying: "You are my Beloved Child, on you my favor rests." Perhaps this is what the world needs right now. You are invited to join us for quiet meditation and prayer on Thursday mornings at 9:30 in the Sanctuary.

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

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Thank you to Pequot Lakes High School Day of Caring youth: Mitchell, Chase, Braeden, Jaden, Cooper, and Jacob along with LCC's Clint, Zach, and Dale. They did an awesome job moving paver blocks AND yardwork around the community gardens and church property. Thanks for caring!

A Message from our ELCA Global Missionary

Russian Correspondent

The Word Present and Future (continued from last month)

That said, while questions of health affected the atmosphere, the actual work of the assembly and of the seminar went well and, in my assessment, might have even been more productive than usual. The theme of the synod assembly was “The Church in 2021-2025,” and for the first time the synod assembly really tried to work on strategic planning. Small groups worked in the areas of church structure, education, types of ministries, and stewardship. Each made concrete suggestions to the church’s leadership about goals and plans of action that might be taken in these areas. While we do not yet know the effective this will turn out to be, pragmatic goal-setting and planning was a fresh approach that engaged participants in a more intense way.

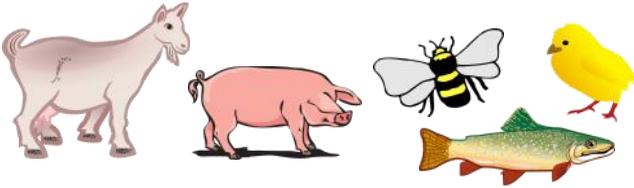
Afterwards, during the following week, the church hosted its traditional seminar for congregational leaders; its theme flowed quite naturally from that of the synod assembly - “Striving forward (Phil. 3.13)” Because the guest teachers that had been invited were unable to attend, I and other pastors in the church took their place. Pastor Evgeny Lukinov from the Ural region spoke about new ideas for liturgy, while a Pastor Stanislav Mikula from the Omsk region spoke about increasing offerings as a spiritual practice. Sister Sabina Mattis introduced a program for small-group Bible study in congregations, while Bishop Alexander Scheiermann led daily Bible study. As for my part in teaching, I will “hand over the mic” to one of the participants, Ardak Kashkeev: “The largest part of the seminar was led by the Dean of the Far East, Pastor Bradn Buerkle. He brought up a very important aspect of congregational life - its history and ‘personality.’ We tried to look at ourselves as others might see us, to carefully analyze everything from our buildings to our people. On the one hand this all seemed like marketing; on the other hand, it speaks to a very important part of our common life and activity. It seems to me that such analysis is something like what we do with an automobile - good diagnosis helps us explain the reason for various problems and helps us to avoid a complete overhaul...or even a fatal accident. And this is even more important when we consider that we are speaking about God’s chosen people.” One of the numerous tools for analysis that I gave participants was the idea of a congregational timeline, about which Ardak said: “I am certain that the idea of a congregational timeline was very helpful to many people. In

particular it can help the younger congregational members feel connected to the older members and their common history.” During seminars, the time outside of the classroom is almost always just as important as what takes place inside it. This motivated Ardak to write: “I had the chance to spend some time with Bradn in private conversation. He is a great conversation partner, a sensitive brother in Christ, and his ‘Russian soul’ always encourages us to aspire for new goals.” In short, Ardak and many others found the seminar to be a success insofar as it “pointed to the direction of the future development of our congregations.”



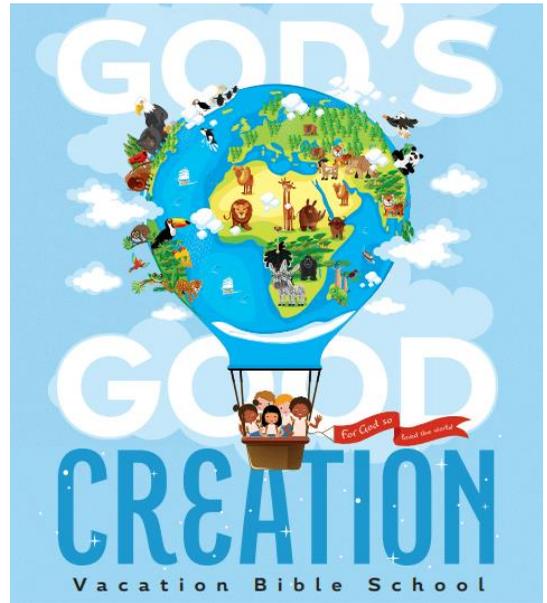
Ardak and his family

Your brother in Christ, Bradn



VBX IS COMING— June 21-25, 2021

Join Glory the Goat, Charlie the Chick, Honey the Bee, Freddie the Fish and Percy the Pig for a week filled with learning, fellowship, and fun— all centered around the theme of *God's Good Creation*. Join us here at church in the evenings for outdoor, socially distanced family activities from 6—7:30pm. On Thursday, plan to come at 5pm for supper provided by LCC.



HELPERS ARE NEEDED!

- Kids who have completed grades 5 - 12 are encouraged to sign up as Crew Leaders for our evening activities.
- Adults are needed to help supervise stations in the evening as well. Thanks to those who have already responded!
- Email Kari at cfmkarilcc@gmail.com if you can help

Snack donations are also appreciated:

- Instant chocolate pudding mix
- Whipped Topping
- Oreo Cookies
- Gummy Worms
- Miniature Marshmallows
- Sunflower Butter
- Almond Butter
- Berry Blue Jello
- Vanilla Wafers
- Swedish Fish
- Butterscotch Chips
- Chocolate Chips
- Chow Mein Noodles

Please email Kari or call Laurie in the church office if you can donate any of the items at the left. We can share details (like amount and date needed) with you when you contact us.

Thanks in advance!

GLOBAL MISSIONS



Sunday, June 6th 9:00 am worship

Forum following worship

Our guest Preacher and Forum Presenter for Global Mission Sunday will be Pastor Doug Cox Executive Director of Global Health Ministries with headquarters in Minneapolis, MN. Pastor Cox is a Lutheran Pastor, ordained by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). He has served congregations in the U.S. and as an ELCA missionary to Madagascar before joining Global Health Ministries in 2015. He will be sharing stories of the impact of Global Health Ministries' partnerships and the many challenges of the past year in providing COVID19 relief to remote areas. To help raise awareness of the global church there will also be emphasis on LCC's missionary, Pastor Bradn Buerkle, as well as the three companion synods of the NE MN Synod."

How can we help?

NEWBORN KITS

As part of Global Missions Sunday, purchase the following items, assemble the kit, and bring to worship service on June 6th.

One Newborn Kit contains these new or gently used items:

- 1 regular-size bath towel (approx. 52" long)
- 1 washcloth (not microfiber)
- 1 bath-size bar white Ivory soap (in original packaging)
- 1 newborn cotton t-shirt or "onesie" (size 0-3, or newborn)
- 1 newborn stocking hot (small size, a newborn's head is about 14" circumference)
- 1 baby receiving blanket (approx. 30" x 30" - cotton or light flannel)
- 2 cloth diapers
- 2 diaper pins

1. Lay items on the towel and fold towel to enclose everything inside.
2. Tie your bundle securely with twine, ribbon, even a rolled bandage. Or, wrap your bundle in a pillowcase, fold over the extra fabric and ties as above. The pillowcase helps protect the kit during shipping, and becomes an extra gift!



CREATION CARE

The Project “Monarch Butterfly/Pollinator Demonstration Gardens” spawned from the interest of the Creation Care Tem of LCC. The idea was to create several demonstration gardens to attract monarchs and other pollinators, which will then serve as a model for the creation of 25 additional gardens at churches, schools, and parks within a 30 mile radius of Brainerd.

Our vision in creating the project was collaboration with other community groups, i.e. Master Gardeners, Audubon Society, etc. to eventually attract participation by other churches, parks and schools in the Brainerd Lakes Area.

See poster board of information (located in the Celebration Center) highlighting the plantings and project.

Thank you to LCC volunteers, CWC SWCD, and MN Conservation Corp for installing/planting the butterfly garden on May 13th and Julie Helsene for designing the plan. Signage for the project will be installed in the upcoming months describing the project. Stay tuned!



May 2021 LCC Council Highlights

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS Church Council Meeting Thursday, May 13, 2021

We Assemble in God's Name

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Council President David Endicott

Guests: Danae Anderson, Sanctuary Flooring Presentation
Michelle Ruen, Meet and Greet with Council

Present:

David Endicott; Sarah Fogderud; Colleen Both, Darrell Paske; Pastor Bakken; Dale Peterson; Mike Smith; Pam Johnson; Kristin Lindholm; Bonnie Stevens; Craig Fink, Joanie Swanson

Officer Reports:

Council Minutes by Darrell Paske

- Motion to approve Pam Johnson; Second Bonnie Stevens; Motion Passed
- Treasurer's Report by Colleen Both
- Motion to approve Craig Fink; Second Bonnie Stevens; Motion Passed

New Business:

- Proposal was presented to Council for the hiring of Michelle Ruen to serve as Vicar of Word and Sacrament to Lutheran Church of the Cross commencing effective June 1, 2021. Motion to approve, Mike Smith; second Colleen Both; motion passed.
- Discussion was had regarding finalization of cost estimates for replacement of the sanctuary flooring, purchase and installation of updated audio and visual equipment for the sanctuary and remodeling of the sanctuary sound room. Cost estimate for the three projects is \$90,000.00. This cost could increase dependent on what repairs, if any, that may be required to the subflooring upon removal of the old flooring.
 - Motion was made by Mike Smith that we proceed with this project at a cost not to exceed \$95,000.00; second by Colleen Both; motion passed.
A special congregational meeting will be scheduled and notice given to seek approval of the congregation to proceed with the sanctuary remodel at a cost not to exceed \$95,000.00
- Council was presented with a proposal for the 2021 lease of a new copier located in the church office. Following discussion of the four options available, motion was made to enter into a lease with Marco for lease of a Konica Bizhub C659. Also a proposal was made to replace the current copier in the library with the purchase of a HP Laser jet. Repair of the current unit exceeds the value of the copier. Motion was made by Mike Smith to lease the Konica Bizhub C659 copier and purchase the HP Laser jet for the library; second by Bonnie Stevens; motion passed.
- Recommendation was put forth by Pastor Drew that we move to a modified Phase 4 in line with Governor Walz's decision regarding the requirement of use of face masks by vaccinated individuals effective May 16, 2021. First outdoor service would be June 13, 2021, @ 10:30 a.m. Motion to approve recommendation by Craig Fink; second by Sarah Fogderud; motion passed.

Pastors' Reports

Pastor Drew:

This past month has been busy, as we transition from Easter into summer. Speaking of Easter, we had great attendance for all three of our Easter services. I offer a special thank you to Cathy, our musicians, our decorating crews, and all the volunteers who helped to make the Easter services so special. It was great to have everyone together for worship.

I was nominated to be on the Synod Consultation Committee and voted in at our last Synod Assembly. That means I currently serve on the Discipline Committee and now the Synod Consultation Committee. I am honored to serve the great church and to provide help and counseling when needed.

These past few months I have been in consultation with the Bishop's office regarding LCC becoming a teaching congregation for future leaders in the church. I am happy to announce that we have received a name of a candidate from Wartburg Seminary to be our Pastoral Intern this upcoming year, if approved by the council. I have met this candidate and I am happy to have them be on our staff. Thank you to our council, staff and congregation for all your help this past year as we worked our way through the COVID Pandemic. I am excited to welcome a new member to our staff.

As people continue to be vaccinated and new state and federal guidelines are being lifted, I propose that we move to Stage 4 of our Reopening plan. Stage 4 is:

- Large events that include food service may resume
- Wednesday night dinners may be served face-to-face
- Sunday morning donuts and coffee resume
- The staff will create team to set expectations and process for Stage 5
 - We will continue to consult with local medical experts as we move forward
 - We will continue to seek input from other community organizations (Brainerd School District and Pequot Lake School District, other congregations, etc...)
 - LCC staff and Council will make the decision when to move to stage 5

As things continue to move forward we will be watching what the Federal, State and CDC recommend before moving in to Stage 5, which would be a complete reopening of the church.

Committee Reports:

Property: Dale Peterson

- Property Committee: I met with the Property Committee on May 4th. We discussed the 5-year LCC Property Projects Outline (separate attachment). Several property maintenance needs were also discussed. We also considered options for future storage for the LCC Rummage Sale.
- Sound Room: I'm waiting for the revised cost estimate so Council can approve and move forward with the project. With an approval decision in May this project can be completed this summer. This remodel is in conjunction with the installation of new sound equipment.
- Butterfly Garden: With the help of high school volunteers from Pequot Lakes High School and Zach and Clint, the landscape blocks were moved up front for the Butterfly Garden and the Monument Sign. The Green Corps will be on site May 13th and with help from the Creation Care team the Butterfly Garden will be created and planted.
- Landscaping: Front of the church landscaping is planned for this spring. Plans are underway. Reinstalling the underground irrigation is also part of the landscape project.
- Sanctuary Flooring: An estimate to replace the Sanctuary flooring will be presented at the May council meeting. If approved, this project could also be completed this summer since the sanctuary is not being used at this time.
- Signage: I recommend installing signage on the north exit road by the Community Gardens indicating this is an LCC exit/entrance and not for through traffic.
- Exterior Painting: Painting the exterior of the church is a budgeted and approved project for 2021. However due to scheduling conflicts, it will be completed in 2022. Repairs will be coordinated with the painting project.

- Additional future property concerns include security cameras, automatic entry doors, and possible relocation of the church office.

LCC Property Projects 5-Year Outline

- 2020
 - o Lower-Level Classrooms (completed)
 - New flooring installed
 - Classrooms and hallway painted
 - o Redo Front Parking Lot (completed)
 - Removed trees and stumps
 - Removed divider and middle entrance
 - Relocated Bell Tower
 - Removed and replaced pavement
 - New handicap signs and pavement markings
 - New parking lot lighting
 - o New Monument Sign (completed)
- 2021
 - o Front Landscaping (in process)
 - Butterfly garden
 - Plantings around monument sign
 - Plantings around Sanctuary entrance
 - Reinstall front irrigation system
 - o Sanctuary Sound and Video Room (estimates in process)
 - Install window opening to sanctuary
 - Relocate door
 - Install new counter
 - Install new sound and video equipment
 - o Sanctuary Flooring (estimates in process)
 - Remove and reinstall pews
 - Remove and install new flooring throughout sanctuary
 - Remove and install new flooring in alter/pulpit area
- 2022
 - o Repaint exterior of the Buildings (approved and scheduled)
 - Repairs as needed
 - Secure railings by southeast entrance
 - o Handicap Accessible Doors
 - Install equipment to automate Sanctuary entrance doors
 - o Install security cameras at entries (in process)
 - o Rummage Sale Storage Building
- 2023
 - o Relocate Church Office/Library
 - o Update restrooms as needed
 - o Sanctuary interior walls resealed
- 2024
 - o Update/replace carpet as needed
 - o Repaint interior areas as needed

Stewardship: Craig Fink

- Discussed options and ideas to support a campaign to raise funds for flooring in the Sanctuary.
- Discussed trends and opportunities in online giving.

Worship and Music: Mike Smith

No Report

Social Concerns and Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens

- Habitat: There are now 16 churches who have agreed to partner in the Svoboda Thrivent Faith Build project. Thrivent has committed \$62,500, and Habitat (along with the local faith community) has already raised over \$12,500 of the additional \$62,500 needed to build the home. Groundbreaking May 13.
- Operation Sandwich: Jean Kraft is now Northern Lakes Route Director. Jenkins has been added to the Northern Route which will be Nisswa, Pequot Lakes, Jenkins and Pine River. She met with Bridges of Hope and Brainerd Operation Sandwich groups. LCC's next Operation Sandwich meeting is May 18.
- The May Food donation supply at LCC is growing. The requested food items are peanut butter, jelly, fruit snacks and granola snacks. Collection boxes located throughout our service area, including LCC, are Our Savior's Pequot; Grace UMC, Pequot; Riverview Church Pine River; First Lutheran Pine River and Pequot Lakes Supervalu.
- In process of organizing core crews of regular volunteers on alternating week schedule & "casual" volunteers to help, as needed. This summer we want to encourage more people to get involved. More complete info will be in the June LCC newsletter.
- Northern Route Operation Sandwich begins the week of June 7 and ends the week of August 30.
- Global Missions: Global Health Director Doug Cox will be guest preacher/presenter on June 6 for Global Mission Sunday at LCC.

Children and Family Ministry: Pam Johnson

- Our programming YEAR calendar is completed with all major events listed - thank you Pr. Drew, Zach, and Kari - they attended a NEMN Synod PlanIt workshop together and created the calendar.
- We had our first meeting with our new CFM team: Dagny Trucano, Rachel Gerhartz, Rachel Merseth, Kristin Neale, Sherry Pape, Stacey Gorr, Colleen Bakken, Pam Johnson and Kari Erickson. It was a great meeting!! Pam provided pizza and Kari provided DQ.
- Betty Arveson has volunteered to help out with Wednesday night programming next year. Thank you, Betty!
- Kari will be starting her 3rd and 4th grade girls book club on May 22.
- We were able to firm up plans for VBX in June. Kari has the daily schedules completed and has sent out volunteer recruitment letters. Registration is open and families have been signing up. An email with details was sent to all families yesterday. This will be an outdoor event if at all possible, from 6pm - 7:30pm. Each evening will start with an Opening and end with a Closing, with station rotations in between.
- Our Summer programming brochure will also be mailed out this week. It was presented at May 5 Confirmation night to the families that were present.
- Dagny Trucano volunteered to be in charge of Busy Bags, so Kari will complete the Thrivent Grant for those supplies. Thank you, Dagny!
- Kari has been working on the June Religious Release and Sunday School packets.
- Kari will also send July and August Sunday School packets during the summer.
- We had our last Sunday of Cross Kids and made some really neat cards and sent home cinnamon roll kits with participants for Mother's Day.
- Backyard Bonanza in August: we are hoping we will be able to run this during the day in the mornings, IF the Covid restrictions are lifted. Might not advertise this to the community to keep numbers manageable.

- We discussed plans for Fall Programming and will offer a Cross Kids Bible story and activity craft time between services, along with a Cross Kids Worship time during the late service (kids will leave at Children's Message time for Confession & Forgiveness, video message and music time) and return to Sanctuary worship to take communion with their families.
- Rally Day will be based on the theme of Welcome Back - and perhaps feature an outdoor concert and picnic with a few yard games.
- Route 56 will continue, with the addition of 9th and 10th grade mentors for each student.
- Kari also presented the team with a list of additional programming ideas for the next year.

Youth and Family Ministry: Kristin Lindholm

- The Youth Team, consisting of Kristin Lindholm, Stephanie Eckes, Sara Crabb-Erickson and Zach Malecha met in person on May 2nd to reflect, plan and dream together.
- We spent quite a bit of time on our “Why do we do Youth Ministry?” thoughts. When boiled down, our answer was something like this: “It is our goal to provide a safe community for young people where they can continue to develop their relationship with God and their neighbors and be their full selves.”
- Some other highlights of our time together were talking about Peer Ministry Leadership (a high school leadership training to begin this summer), Confirmation development, Family Faith Formation and the 2022 National Youth Gathering.
- Coming up we are looking forward to Senior Recognition Sunday, Amnicon Trip Mini-Gatherings, Donuts to Go - as a small summer trip fundraiser, Summer Stretch, Summer Somethin', and more.
- It was good to sit down with Kari and Pastor Drew last month to make some hopeful plans for 2021 - 2022.

Congregational Life: Joanie Swanson

- Memorial Garden cleanup was on May 3rd with many volunteers and Committee members.
- Planting will take place week before Memorial Day in preparation for the outdoor service.
- Prayer Shawl group are not meeting in person yet. But, they are busy! Presentation of Afghans to Seniors will be Sunday, May 23rd.

Personnel: Sarah Fogderud

- Staff reviews are complete.

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by
Darrell Paske, Council Secretary

Next Council Meeting:
June 17, 2021 6:00 pm at David Endicott's

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

2021

LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE CROSS, NISSWA

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 13 - August 29

9AM IN-PERSON SERVICE IN
CELEBRATION CENTER

10AM DONUTS & COFFEE

10:15AM OUTDOOR SERVICE
IN MEMORIAL GARDEN

-bring your own chairs

HOLY COMMUNION ON
2ND & 4TH SUNDAYS

ALL ARE
WELCOME
AT LCC!

Lutheran Church of the Cross

PO Box 29
5064 County Road 13
Nisswa, MN 56468

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

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Address label here

Welcoming all people into discipleship

STAFF

Pastor	Drew Bakken	218-961-2014
Vicar	Michelle Ruen	
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		

