

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church
of the Cross
2021

March 

When I was a young boy, I remember riding in the car with my mom, windows down and radio tuned into KS95, then the 60's, 70's and 80's music station. Every once and a while The Byrds song "Turn, Turn, Turn" would come on and Mom and I would sing along as it played on the radio. I liked the song and the lyrics, but it wasn't until I got older that I realized that 95 percent of that song comes straight out of the Old Testament - from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8:

*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, a time to reap that which is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to gain that which is to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time of love, and a time of hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.*

The Biblical text suggests there is a time and place for all things: birth and death, laughter and sorrow, healing and killing, war and peace, and so on. Over the years, the lyrics have been open to a myriad of interpretations, but when Bob Seeger wrote this song in the 50's, the intent was that they be a plea for world peace, which you will notice in the closing line: *a time for peace, I swear it's not too late*. Interestingly enough, this line and the title phrase *Turn! Turn! Turn!* are the only parts of the song that were written by Seeger himself.

We are coming up on the one year anniversary of COVID-19 and the impact it has had on our lives and our world. What began with shutting down businesses, schools, and isolating ourselves from one another in an effort to curb the spread of the virus has become a way of life for now. And just as when Bob Seeger penned his plea for world peace and the world kept moving on, we keep moving on today - we adapt and we comfort and support each other as we walk through the COVID-19 pandemic together.

One year later, and the world has kept turning. We have become resilient, we have grown stronger, we have learned what is important in our lives, and have changed our focus. As the writer in Ecclesiastes tells us, life is full of ups and downs, but in midst of it all - *God is there*. God is with us now; He has not left us or abandoned us. All we have to do is look at the Cross and see the love that God has for us. And as you journey through Lent, may your focus be on the cross and God's love for you.

Blessings,
Pastor Drew

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS, NISSWA
RESILIENT TOGETHER

March 28th

palm
**SUNDAY
WORSHIP**

WITH PR. DREW BAKKEN

9:00am in-person service
with Holy Communion

10:15am Drive In FM service
with Holy Communion

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2021 General Fund

	January	YTD	Annual Budget	% YTD of Annual Budget
Income	\$ 72,204	\$ 72,204	\$ 679,929	10.62%
Expenses	\$ 41,200	\$ 41,200	\$ 679,929	6.06%
Difference	\$ 31,004	\$ 31,004	\$ 0	

In the month of January our income was more than our expenses by \$31,004 due in part to members donating their entire pledge for the year.
Thank you for your continued support.



BAPTISM

Name: Reagan Jo Franke
Born: February 18, 2020
Baptized: February 13, 2021
Parents: Justin & Kristina Franke
Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant

FUNERAL

Michael Bingham
Born: December 5, 1955
Died in Christ: February 6, 2021
Funeral: February 12, 2021
Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant

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, went to warmer climates for the winter, etc.? If so, please let us know so we can update our database.

CHILDREN & FAMILY ministry

FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOPS

March 13th or 20th
1:00—3:00pm

Mark your calendar! These workshops will be held in Celebration Center and the Sanctuary, will be led by Pr. Drew, and Kari Erickson, and will include learning & activities. There is no age requirement for this workshop; children may commune at any age at LCC. We suggest a thoughtful discussion between you and your child to determine if s/he is ready, and we ask that children attending the workshop be accompanied by a parent/adult. **This event is also for those who have already been communing, but haven't yet attended the workshop, regardless of age.** Participants should plan to attend **ONE** of the workshops and plan to participate in Maundy Thursday worship on April 1.

Email cfmkarilcc@gmail.com, or call 963-2564 to register.



MARCH SUNDAY SCHOOL PACKETS ARE ON THE WAY!



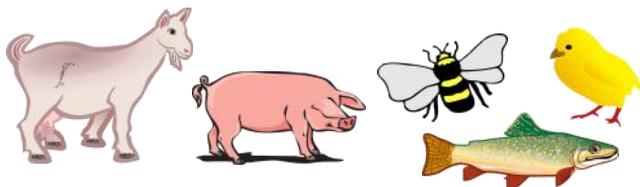
February flew by, and it's time to break out something new for March. You will learn about

St. Patrick, The Way to the Cross, try some fun Easter crafts, discover a cool way to pray, how to make an easy kite, and paint some neat spring flowers. The temps are rising and spring is on it's way!! Celebrate God and His wonderful and amazing creation this month: -)

Jelly Bean Prayer

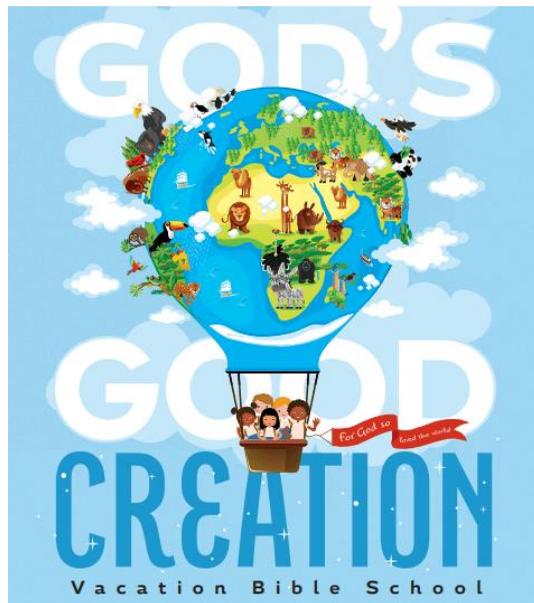
Red is for the blood He gave.
Green is for the grass He made.
Yellow is for the sun so bright.
Orange is for the edge of night.
Black is for the sins we made.
White is for the grace He gave.
Purple is for His hour of sorrow.
Pink is for our new tomorrow.

A bag full of jellybeans,
colorful and sweet
Is a prayer, is a promise,
is an Easter treat!



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*. This will be a take-home *and* in-person event. You will work on your kit at home, then join us here at church in the evenings for outdoor, socially distanced family activities.



When birds are sold, two small birds cost only a penny. But not even one of those little birds can die without your Father knowing it. ³⁰ God even knows how many hairs are on your head. Matthew 10:29-30

Can you guess how many jelly beans are in this jar?



Wouldn't it be amazing if someone could take one look at this jar and tell you exactly how many jelly beans are in the jar? That would be pretty amazing, but let me tell you something more amazing than that! The Bible tells us that God knows exactly how many hairs are on your head. Look around the room, some of us have a lot of hair and some don't have very much. It doesn't matter how much or how little hair you have, God knows how many hairs are on each person's head!

The Bible also says that God knows exactly how many birds are in the air and if one of them dies and falls to the ground, God knows it! If God cares when a little sparrow falls to the ground, can you imagine how much he cares for you? Well, I'll tell you how much God cares for you -- He cares for you so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that you could have everlasting life. Now, that's amazing love!

Dear Father, we are thankful that we have a God who knows everything about us and loves us so much that He sent His Son to die for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

FROM ZACH'S DESK:

One year.

On the 15th of this month. It will have been one year, at least the way I mark it.

Normally when there is something of this nature, we define what it is the anniversary of a wedding, a death, a birthday. This year, we all know what it means.

We are one year older.

We are one year stronger.

We are one year more resilient.

We are one year more conscious.

We are one year sadder.

We are one year grieved.

But yet... we are.

Maybe someday, we won't write about Covid in every newsletter. Maybe someday we will be able to look at Covid in the rearview mirror. Maybe? Someday?

We know this isn't over yet. Many of us aren't even on vaccine waitlists. We still have to have patience. We still have to lean into God.

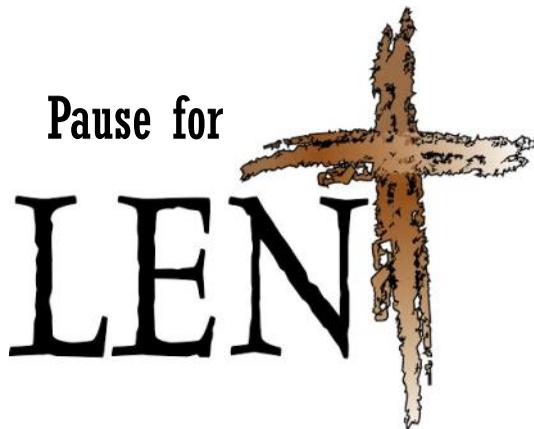
In this Lenten season, I invite you to pause. Stop. Look back at your year. How have you changed? How have you grown? How have you used your God-given skills to make a difference in this world? What is your next step to continue to do so?

Or maybe you just need a break. That's ok too. We know our God rested, and that we can rest too. Take care of yourselves, beloveds. You are whole. You are special.

For our High School Youth in this Lenten season, we will look at our own mental health practices within this pandemic. Some topics will include sleep, movement, creating, asking for help and practicing gratitude. We will learn from each other and take time to just be.

Check in on yourself. You got this.

In Peace,
Zach



Escape Room: "The Literal Lock-In" - Mar 14 "Oh no! The Lock-In went astray. We are literally locked in the church and there is no way to escape. Or is there?" Join up with your friends to search the church to solve the mystery and get out of The Literal Lock-In. 7th and 8th grades will work together from 1pm - 2:30pm and High School will collab from 3pm - 4:30pm. Please let Zach know if you are attending.

Tuesday Afternoon Gaming - In-Person Edition - Mar 23rd 3pm. Join us in person to play some video games! All are welcome! We will play Mario Kart, Smash Bros, Just Dance and whatever else you think would be fun! As a Covid precaution, please bring your own controller if you have one. Let Zach know if you need to borrow one. It's PL's Spring Break, so that makes it extra rad.

Lenten Mentors - Join us each Wednesday of Lent for a conversation with your mentor/mentee. Zach will continue to offer conversation pieces each week for in-person and online pairs. 9th grade should be working on your CCC's with your mentors. Please let Zach know if you have any questions.

High School Youth Group - Join us each Wednesday in Lent after worship for our Lenten Bible Study on Mental Well-Being: Back to Basics. We will read about habits that are good for our well-being as well talk about and practice them together. Topics will range from nutrition to asking for help.

Ski Gull - We had a blast at Ski Gull together on Feb 21st! Over 20 LCCers hit the slopes and the tubes for the afternoon. Check out this pic of us on top of the tubing hill! Thanks to all who attended to make it such a great day



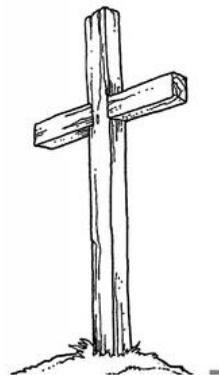
Music Notes

March 2021 Hymn of the Month

The Old Rugged Cross (OLD RUGGED CROSS)

The Old Rugged Cross, definitely a timeless hymn. It is called the most popular hymn in some circles.

An anecdote from “Songs in the Night”, compiled by Henry Gariepy. Colonel Henry Gariepy is National Literary Consultant for The Salvation Army in the United States. Retired now, he has published exclusive interviews with such as Billy Graham and Robert Schuller. He is author of many books as well.



Pollsters report that “The Old Rugged Cross” is the most frequently requested hymn, Songbook editors have designated it as the most popular of all hymns. Within thirty years of its publication in 1913 more than twenty million copies had been sold, outselling every other musical composition to that date.

“The Old Rugged Cross” declares in simple and yet sublime words the central truth of the gospel, and it speaks to the need of every believer.

George Bennard, its composer, made a personal commitment to Christ while attending a Salvation Army revival meeting in Lucas, Iowa. As a young man George entered the ranks of Salvation Army officer-ship. He initially served alone, and then with his wife, for eight years. Resigning his position with the Army, he became an evangelist in the Methodist Church.

A trying experience caused him to reflect seriously on the meaning of the cross and of Paul’s writing of entering into the fellowship of Christ’s suffering. We do not know what Bennard’s trial was, but out of it came his conviction that the cross is not just religious symbol but the very heart of the gospel.

Bennard later recorded, “The words of the hymn were put into my heart in answer to my own need.” Out of Bennard’s night of pain and prayer came the song that has blessed a worldwide fellowship of God’s soldiers of the cross.

In 1958, at the age of eighty-six, George Bennard exchanged his cross for a crown.

1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain

So I’ll cherish the old rugged cross, ‘til my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.

2. O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above to bear it to dark Calvary.

3. In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died to pardon and sanctify me.
4. To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away, where His glory forever I'll share.

This hymn reminds us of the promise of salvation that is told us in the gospels. We also call our church the Lutheran Church of the CROSS for that reason. May we know the salvation that comes by faith in Jesus who made the supreme sacrifice for us on that old rugged cross.

God's peace and blessings to you.

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music

SINGING IN CHURCH?

As we move forward during the Covid -19 pandemic, research is showing how we can safely return to singing. According to studies that are being used by our MN Dept. of Health, congregational singing in church can safely happen if we follow some basic protocols:



1. The number of participants must be no more than 1/2 of the capacity of the room, as rated by our Fire Marshall. (Our Celebration Center is rated for 240, so we can have no more than 120 in the room).
2. Well fitting masks, covering the nose and chin, must be worn at all times.
3. 6' distancing between familial groups must be maintained, with participants all facing the same direction.
4. Air circulation in the room needs to be at a minimum of 3 cycles per hour (room air exchanged with fresh every 20 minutes)

Since we are able to accomplish all of the above - we can sing for up to 30 minutes before the room needs to be cleared and the air system given a chance to catch up. An average hymn is 2-3 minutes in length... we can SING about 10 hymns and easily stay below 30 minutes!

Our average service has 3 or 4 hymns, and we have EVERY other listed protocol already in place. Feel free to SING during our services!

We are so glad that the research is showing us how to safely move forward. It is said that to sing is to pray twice - what better time than now to sing?



**“Loneliness, Abandonment and Holy Comfort”
The March Session of Journeys with Angels
Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 10:30 on Zoom**

The Gather Winter 2021 Study, Journeys With Angels, by Christa von Zychlin, is taking us on an adventure of noticing and learning from and about God’s heavenly messengers, his angels. If we look and listen for angels, the spirits of God’s heavens, we’ll find out that they have much to teach us! In January we explored various kinds of angels, their place in God’s cosmos and their relationship with humans. In the February session, we looked at angels who confront and accompany people to a change of direction in their lives.

You are cordially invited to join members of LCC for the March session of Gather on Zoom March 10th at 10:30 am as we search and discover angels who brought comfort to God’s people in scriptures and remember and realize the comfort angels have given us during difficult times in our lives as well. Encourage someone else to join us also!

Videos done by the author of this study are available at the gather magazine site-
www.gathermagazine.org/winter-2021-journeys-with-angels-by-christa-von-zychlin/

Gather magazines are available at church and online. Contact Carolyn Blanck at 963-7660 if you would like to be sent the Zoom connect information prior to our March meeting.

BLUEGRASS WORSHIP



What a wonderful service to return to in person worship on January 31st and February 3rd. A big thank you to Jim Natwick, Erica Bjelland, Kevin Lattu, Chris Fogderud, Kris Smith, and Cathy Taylor for their musical talents.

Following the Sunday worship, the annual congregational meeting was held. The 2021 church budget was unanimously approved by the congregation. LCC is truly blessed.



WRAPPING OUR QUILTS AROUND HUNGER 2021

(A quilt auction for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal)

NEMN Synod quilters,

Below you will find information about the Synod Assembly Quilt auction 2021.

- The quilt auction will be **on-line only** since the Synod Assembly will be on-line as well.
- The quilt auction will be in early May, shortly after our virtual Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly is completed. We don't have a firm beginning and ending date for the auction yet but will know and advertise that in the next few weeks.
- We are excited that we will be using the same auction site as last year, provided graciously again by Voyageur's Lutheran Camp Ministries!
- Those of you who donated a quilt last year will be very familiar with how the auction works, but if you are did not...don't worry - it's straight forward and non-threatening. There will be an information sheet with all you need to know mailed out in March/April to each congregation, plus it will be posted on the synod web site. For now, please note **you do not need to send us your quilt, what we will need are pictures and information about your quilt.** Those pictures and that information are what will go up on the auction site. You also will not need a bid card, just an ID card for the winning bidder (you will receive one included in the Synod Assembly packet coming in early March).
- After the auction is over, we will let you know who won your quilt; send you all their contact information and work with you to figure out the best way to get the quilt to them. Winning bidders may be from within the synod and live close enough to come and pick it up, but some will not, since we will be reaching bidders from across the United States now. If you do have to ship your quilt, we will reimburse your expenses. We hope this does not sound too burdensome. The feedback we received after the 2020 auction was that it was not, and it was fun to meet, probably by phone, the person who had the winning bid on your quilt. Last year we had winners from as far away as the state of Washington, Montana, New York, etc.



**FAMILY
FAITH
FORMATION**

Appreciation and thanks to our Northeast Minnesota Synod Bishop Amy Odgren her message on Family Faith Formation Night in February.

Each one of us has one body, and that body has many parts. These parts don't all do the same thing. In the same way, we are many people, but in Christ we are all one body. We are the parts of that body, and each part belongs to all the others. Romans 12:4-5





Holy Week & Easter Schedule 2021

March 28 Palm Sunday

9:00 am worship in Celebration Center & online

10:15 am Drive In Worship—back parking lot

87.9 FM

April 1 Maundy Thursday

6:20 pm worship in Celebration Center &

First Communion & online

April 2 Good Friday

6:20 pm worship in Celebration Center & online

April 4 Easter Sunday (reservations required)

7:45 am worship in Celebration Center

9:00 am worship in Celebration Center & online

10:15 am Drive In worship—back parking lot

87.9 FM



Sun	Mon	Tue	
facility calendar for:			
	1 8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group	2 9:00 Computer Lab by appt. 10:00 Facebook Devotions	3 8:30 Text St 10:00 Facebo 6:20 Lent W 7:00 Lenter HSYG
7 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 9:00 Cross Kids Worship 10:00 Praise, Pedal & Pipes—online	8 8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 MOPS	9 9:00 Computer Lab by appt 10:00 Facebook Devotions	10 8:30 Text 10:00 Face 10:30 Gath 6:20 Lent 7:00 Lent HS
14 Noisy Offering Sunday 9:00 Worship 9:00 Cross Kids Worship 10:00 Praise, Pedal & Pipes—online 1:00 Escape Room –7th & 8th 3:00 Escape Room—HSYG 7:00 Concert –Wittenberg Doors+ Unruly Rhubarbs	15 8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group	16 9:00 Computer Lab by appt 10:00 Facebook Devotions	17 Noisy C 8:30 Text 10:00 Face 10:00 Niss 4:00 Crea 6:20 Lent 7:00 Lent HS
21 9:00 Worship 9:00 Cross Kids Worship 10:00 Praise, Pedal & Pipes—online	22 8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 MOPS	23 9:00 Computer Lab by appt 10:00 Facebook Devotions 3:00 In Person Gaming	24 8:30 Text 10:00 Face 6:20 Lent 7:00 Lent HS
28 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 Worship 9:00 Cross Kids Worship 10:00 Praise, Pedal & Pipes—online 10:15 Drive In Worship w/ Communion	29 8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions	30 9:00 Computer Lab by appt 10:00 Facebook Devotions	31 8:30 Text 10:00 Face No

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Study Facebook Devotions Worship Men Mentors Lenten Study	4 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 A.A. 	5 10:00 Facebook Devotions 12:00 Lent Devotions: A Story to Tell	6 Private Piano Festival
Study Facebook Devotions Men Study—online Worship Men Mentors YG Lenten Study	11 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.	12 10:00 Facebook Devotions 12:00 Lent Devotions: A Story To Tell 	13 1:00 First Communion
Offering Wed. Study Facebook Devotions Wa Garden Club Board Men Care Team Worship Men Mentors YG Lenten Study	18 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 A.A.	19 10:00 Facebook Devotions 12:00 Lent Devotions: A Story to Tell	20 1:00 First Communion
Study Facebook Devotions Worship Men Mentors YG Lenten Study	25 9:30 Thursday Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 A.A.	26 10:00 Facebook Devotions 12:00 Lent Devotions: A Story to Tell 4:30 Wedding Rehearsal	27 9:00 Council Retreat 4:30 Wedding
Study Facebook Devotions Worship/Program			



1. Martin Baker, Mickie Deline, Judy Heslop, Bode Owen, Lyle Thell
2. Alexander Evanson, Kinley Obe, William Winegar
3. Lola Chase, Mike Cowger, Jeremiah Eisenschenk, Claire Loge, Oscar Prahm
4. Blake Anderson, Addison Gorr, Jason Martinson
5. Kaitlyn Anderholm, Janyce Halligan, Ethan Johnson, Joshua Stark
6. Jeanyne Hess, Christopher Macy, Kristy Peterson
7. Doris Bergersen, Phyllis Hill, Craig Fink, Karsyn Jacobs, Hannah Hayes, Aiden Hernandez, Jean Olson
8. Jon Avenson, Nancy Phillips, Duane Blanck, Eric Johnson, Jed Klein
9. Beryl Warden, Connie Meyers, Nick Evanson, Linda Rasinski
10. Dennis Hins, Abe Mrsosla
11. Dave Endicott, Gary Hiles, Al Larson, Joseph Haeg
12. Michael Rude, Jim Kottke, Marie Olness, Heather Jaeche, Isaac Boesen, Norah Ulrich
13. Karen Lara, Jackie Kottke
14. Jeff Aga, Carol Heidmann, Diana Heikkila, Brenda Myers, Zane Gromer, Steve Osmera
15. Lori Rich, Jessica Teasck, Walter Prahm, Hannah Ulrich
16. Emily Bachman, Eileen Holland, Daniel Macy, Elise Carlson
17. Harvey Anderson, Allison Timmons, Dylan Paulson, Mark Hahn, Dirk Henry
18. Jim Swanson, Stephanie Marquardt, Renee Boesen, Tom Anderson
19. Ramona Stumvoll, Olivia Trosdahl
20. Peter Nistler, Chris Lindholm, Dawn Maine, Maria Clarine
21. Roger Johnson, John Erickson, Jerry Raedeke, Peter Mogensen, Mark Hallan, Mike Gromer, Jane Erickson, Sandy Hins, Louise Warden, Carrie Taylor, Barrett Campbell, Josephine Nistler, Drew Bakken, Randy Thomson
22. Andrew Whiteman, Meghan McAllister
23. Casey Gromer
24. Gail Anderson, Sharon Endicott, Katharine Mitchell
25. Kevin Kosobud, Chuck Carlson, Val Lueck, Judith Swenson
26. Karen Clarine, Sharon Holland, Linda Larson, Evelyn Helsene
27. Avery Gorr
28. Carol Campbell, Ella Anderson, Charlee Sullivan
29. Judith Kuusisto, Landen Brill, Sophie Schamber
30. Bryan Trees, Carolyn Blanck
31. Krista Fogarty, Avah Meierding, Nancy Fischer

Thursday Morning Prayer

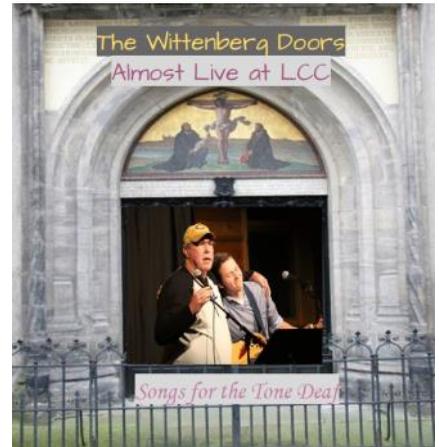


What is wisdom? Proverbs calls it skill, the skill of living in a way that honors God. Proverbs also reminds us that the first step to wisdom is silence; the second is listening. You are invited to join us for Thursday Morning Prayer where we strive to make time for quiet moments as God whispers and the world is loud. We meet every Thursday morning from 9:30-10:30 in the Sanctuary. All are welcome.

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

Concert

The *Wittenberg Doors* will be in concert with special guests *The Unruly Rhubarbs* - live from Lutheran Church of the Cross on **Sunday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m.** We will be celebrating Food Shelf Month and raising funds for the Lakes Area Food Shelf and Pine River Area Food Shelf. Join us in person or online! This is part of *The Dysfunctional Guy Podcast* and will be broadcast live on our LCC website and on Facebook at *The Dysfunctional Guy Podcast Facebook Page*. There will be limited seating available at the church for those wishing to attend live! Please consider donating to the food shelf of your choice and support their work in curbing food insecurities in our communities.



<https://www.facebook.com/randomguyinjenkins> - Facebook Live link

<https://www.prbfamilycenter.org/food-shelf> - Pine River Area Food Shelf link

<https://lakesareafoodshelf.org/> - Lakes Area Food Shelf link



Lenten Devotional Journey is back: join us as we walk together during the season of Lent. We started Friday, February 19th and continue every Friday through the month of March from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. in Chapel Hall in-person or online through Zoom. We will be using the Lenten devotional book titled “A Story to Tell”.



A Message from our ELCA Global Missionary

Russian Correspondent

Word of the Year 2020

Following the trend of their colleagues in English-speaking countries, the Pushkin State Russian Language Institute recently determined a “word of the year” for 2020. The experts who determined the “winner” were themselves surprised to find that their choice was not “quarantine” or “lock-down” or “pandemic,” but instead found an alternative that better represented the year as a whole - обнуление, or “zeroing out.” The immediate context for the word becoming so popular this year was that it was used to speak of a crucial component of the new Russian constitution; under its rules, President Putin’s former terms in office have been “zeroed out,” and he is eligible to run again for new, 6-year terms in office in 2024 and 2030. At the same time, the experts said, “zeroing out” points to a wider reset, a starting over from scratch in many aspects of the economy and culture in the context of the “new normal.”



2020 made all of us make many resets. My ministry (largely based around traveling to regions of our church that need attention in order to teach, preach, and provide pastoral care) was challenged in many ways. Starting in March in-person events were rescheduled and rescheduled again or (more frequently) postponed indefinitely. Dealing with the unknown and unfamiliar, as you all know, sapped a lot of energy. At the same time, I hope that you saw in your lives and ministries that a forced “zeroing out” has made us more aware both of the essential aspects of our common discipleship to Christ and of new possibilities for living life together (sometimes, apart/together).

Please accept my apologies for not being in touch with you as much as I should have over these past months. There were personal reasons for this (see prayer concerns at the end of the newsletter), but much was related to a sense (or rather, a hope) that we were moving toward the end of “quarantine time” and that I would write to you as we move into the next phase. Despite the growing availability of the vaccine, however, it is clear that we are not there yet. In the meantime, below you can read about a few of our experiences here in the Russian Lutheran Church...which might help you reflect on all that God has done in and through you during this “reset.” May we all move forward with the Spirit’s guidance, being thankful for the ways God has worked through each of us in these unusual and challenging days.



Your brother in Christ, Bradn



Celebrate the 40th MN Food Share Campaign!

Mark your calendar for Sunday March 14th and Wednesday, March 17th.

In worship, we will be taking a NOISY OFFERING and collecting funds to provide area individuals and families with meals. In the past, as a church family we have been very generous in our efforts to build a toilet paper tower and

packing the pews with bags of groceries. However, this year, due to the change in conditions for food shelves resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are asking for monetary donations rather than food donations for the 2021 campaign.

Did you know that for every \$5 donation, the food shelf can provide up to 15 meals for an individual? Funds in the hands of Second Harvest Heartland and the Lakes Area Food Shelf have more purchasing power than we have as individuals at a grocery or discount store. Besides that, money can be used to purchase specific items that are needed most.

This year, we'd like to fill a "tree" with leaves—leaves of \$5 bills!! The tree will be up in Celebration Center, with clothespins available for you to clip on your donation. If you'd like to donate by check, don't forget to add Food Shelf Donation to the memo line.

So join us in our efforts to fill our tree with \$5 leaves!



ASH WEDNESDAY



By the sweat of
your brow
you will eat
your food
until you return to
the ground,
since from it
you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you
will return.”
Genesis 3:19
(NIV)





CALLED TO ARISE

**STANDING AT THE INTERSECTION OF
RACISM, INEQUALITY, AND
THE ENVIRONMENT**

SPRING WORKSHOP SERIES

**WHAT IS OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSE
AT THE INTERSECTION?**

Tuesdays March 2, 9, 16, & 23
6:30 - 8:00p.m. via Zoom

HOSTED BY



Register and learn more at
<http://bit.ly/calledtoarise>



Attention Community Gardeners:

Thinking about the joy of gardening is hopefully a warm thought during the recent frigid cold. Soon it will be spring and time to bring new life to our Community Garden. The Creation Care Team would like to know if you plan to retain your current garden plot or if you would like to be a new gardener this summer. Plots will again be \$25 per plot payable by May 1 to the church office. Each gardener is asked to sign an application form and return with payment. For questions, please contact Paula West, westcom@brainerd.net or 218-838-5010 or Jan Halligan at 218-568-4480. Think spring. Forms available in the church office.

February 2021 LCC Council Highlights

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS Church Council Meeting Thursday, February 11, 2021

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion: David Endicott

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Council President David Endicott

Present:

David Endicott, President; Sarah Fogderud, Vice President; Colleen Both, Treasurer; Darrell Paske, Secretary; Pastor Drew; Dale Peterson; Mike Smith; Pam Johnson; Bonnie Stevens; Kristin Lindholm

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 Accept January Financials Michael Smith; Second Sarah Fogderud. Motion Passed

New Business:

- Council Retreat: March 27, 2021, 9:00 a.m., Chapel Hall
- Call Committee: Putting together of a Call Committee to recruit an associate pastor is in the discussion stage and moving forward.
- Staff Recognition: Discussion was had by council of a way of saying thank you to staff for their dedication and commitment above and beyond their job description, to continuing the mission of LCC during this time of pandemic. The consensus of council was that a financial stipend should be granted to staff in recognition and appreciation for their efforts. Motion to approve Michael Smith; Second Pam Johnson. Motion Passed

Pastors' Reports

Pastor Drew:

By the end of January we moved back into in person worship. We had people in attendance for our worship and our annual meeting. Thank you to Colleen Booth for her help presenting the budget and for our members to help us have a successful financial year. In spite of the pandemic and online worship we were able to pay off our debts and fulfill our benevolence commitment to the synod and local agencies. Thank you for making what could have been a tough year a year of support strength and we tried something new. Once again thank you to the staff and council for all their hard work.

On February 3rd we hosted Bishop Amy Odgren as our quest speaker for our family faith formation. We had a great turn out as we went back to in person Wednesday worship. Bishop Amy talked about being the body of Christ and what that means as the being a part of the larger

church. She spent time after worship to answer questions from those that were gathered.

Lent is on the horizon, and our theme for lent is *Community* and I am grateful for Kari and Zach who will be joining me in preaching this Lenten season. For Ash Wednesday we will be hosting three opportunities for our members to receive the ashes of imposition. From noon to 1pm and 7pm-8pm we will be hosting “Ashes to Go.” There will be a blessing and we will have containers of ashes available for our members to self-impose the ashes. Then at 6:20pm in our Celebration Center we will hold in person worship and our members will receive container of ashes for their own self imposition of ashes. Then starting on February 19th at noon I will be leading a Lenten devotion from the book “A Story to Tell.” It will be held in Chapel Hall and also online.

As we continue to look to the horizon, we as a staff and council need to discuss what is next. My hope is that within the next month that we look towards having a staff and council retreat. We need to start forming a 5 year and 10 year plan. This pandemic will not be here forever but now is the time to start to evaluate and focus on what is needed next for the future here at Lutheran Church of the Cross.

Committee Reports:

Property: Dale Peterson

- An estimate was received to remodel the sanctuary sound room. This project includes creating a large window opening to the sanctuary, new secure overhead window closure, installing a new door to switch the door swing, new counter, relocating ventilation, adding electric outlets, and other items. Project would be in conjunction with installation of new sound and video equipment.
- A request has been made to install a butterfly garden plot or possibly 2 garden plots in the area between the south edge of the new parking lot and the new bike path. One garden could be installed at no cost, the second garden will require funding. The Creation Care Team is working with Prairie Restorations and Brainerd Soil and Water and would like to obtain permission to move forward with this project. This will be coordinated with the overall LCC Landscape plan for 2021. Repairing/reinstalling the underground irrigation is also part of the landscape project.

Motion by Sarah Fogderud to approve Creation Care Team request to explore the installation of two butterfly garden plots in conjunction with the LCC Landscape Plan for 2021 and return to council with a final plan and cost estimates. Second to motion by Mike Smith. Motion Passed.

- Painting the exterior of the church is another planned and approved project for LCC for 2021. I contacted the painting contractor and gave them the go ahead. We are on their schedule, but at this time it looks like this will be a 2022 project.
- Additional future property concerns include security cameras, automatic entry doors, sanctuary flooring, and possible relocation of the church office.

Stewardship: Craig Fink

No Report

Worship and Music: Mike Smith

- Flowers have been ordered to decorate the altar area in the Celebration Center for Easter. Donations for flowers are being accepted at this time. The suggested donation for each plant is \$15.00.
- Cathy Taylor is preparing small groups of musicians to lead in Wednesday night Lenten services. We will be using Marty Haugen's "That You Might Have Life" as our liturgy.
- To make the Celebration Center seem more like a "worship area," long, cloth banners representing the colors of the church year have been purchased and hung on the east wall on either side of the altar.

Social Concerns and Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens

No Report

Children and Family Ministry: Pam Johnson

- I've been very busy getting the Prime Time Press that will be mailed out by Friday. This is for our older members to be used/read during Lent.
- Attendance at Cross Kids Worship has been down, but we still get kids each week and it's been so fun and rewarding. I'm looking for this ministry to keep growing and want to keep it going. I have received positive comments from parents and as COVID guidelines ease, we will be able to bring the children down for communion with their families, and bring Kevin and Erica in for music.
- I've got a start on the March Sunday School packets and the March Religious Release packets.
- We had a wonderful Service Night last night and wrote notes of encouragement to go into the Prime Time packets. I sent home a Lenten Pretzel project for families along with a Praying in Color activity and Shrove Tuesday Pancake info/suggestion.
- I'm working on a Stations of the Cross outdoor route/scavenger hunt (kinda) for families to do here at church as the weather gets a bit better and we get further into Lent.
- Working on VBX and will incorporate evening family outdoor activities for the week.
- Our camp numbers are down, but I have 10-11 signed up so far, so looking forward to that.
- I'm checking out some books to be used for a tween girls book club - perhaps in the spring or summer.
- I will be sure to keep abreast of what Creation Care is doing with the Butterfly Garden to keep kids and families as involved as possible.
- I'm also working on a Lenten devotion to send out to my Route 56 alums to let them know I still think of them often. Also getting a Lenten packet ready for current Route 56-ers.
- I will be delivering the Lenten message on the first and fifth weeks of Lent, so have started compiling some notes/ideas.

Youth and Family Ministry: Kristin Lindholm

- In January we had Camp Wednesday and Camp Sunday. It was a wonderful two services led by our awesome band with Camp Music and even Camp Staff. Dave Holtz visited from Luther Crest Bible Camp to continue to strengthen our relationship with them, he even preached on Wednesday night for us. There were many comments that this service was life-giving to the congregation.
- Also in January, we continued our Old Testament adventures in Confirmation. We wrapped up the 10 Commandments and learned about Ruth and David as well.
- On January 24th, we had a Bob Ross Paint Party via Zoom. A handful of people attended and we all were able to paint something we were proud of. The following Sunday, we had a BINGO night via Zoom and had about 30 people online playing BINGO in community. Our ages ranged 2 - 70. Another great night of ministry.
- Worship started back in person on Jan 31, and Feb 3 for Wednesdays. Bishop Amy Odgren joined us for Family Faith Formation, talking about the Body of Christ.
- On the weekend of February 5, Zach and Kristin Lindholm attended the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza. We worshipped and learned together. We are looking forward to building a Peer Ministry program here at LCC.
- On Feb 10, we had a Service Project night with a letter writing campaign. The youth wrote over 50 letters to our young adults and homebound members. An exciting note: we had 25 people in our youth group circle on Feb 10! Thank you to our adult leaders, Sara Crabb-Erickson, Sarah Baker, and Rachel Sullivan for hanging out with us.
- We are looking forward to the Lenten Season with the revival of our Lenten Mentor program. **Our 9th** graders will be working on their revamped Confirmation Credo Capstone, or CCC, with their mentors, which will give them an opportunity to create a project that really reflects them and their faith. Our 7th and 8th graders will meet weekly with their mentors to do some get to know yous and reflecting on the Lenten Message.

Congregational Life: Joanie Swanson

No Report

Personnel: Sarah Fogderud

No Report

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by

Darrell Paske, Council Secretary

Next Council Meeting:

March 11, 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.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
Second Half Of Annual Congregational Meeting
January 31, 2021

We Assemble in God's Name

Opening Prayer – Pastor Drew

Meeting called to order by President David Grell
Quorum Verified

Motion to Approve Minutes from Second Half of 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting.
Motion to approve Connie Peterson; second Marlow Strand. Motion passed.

Motion to Approve Council Acceptance of Congregational votes cast through US Mail
and hand delivery to Church Office necessitated by COVID-19 restrictions. Motion to
approve Dan Halland; Second Bill Campbell. Motion Passed

End of Year 2020 Financials presented by Treasurer Colleen Both. Motion to approve
2020 End of Year Budget Final as presented Marlow Strand; second Carol Smith.
Motion passed.

Annual Report to Congregation by Pastor Drew. (Text of report contained in the 2020
Annual Report along with those of staff, council and committees)

Proposed 2021 Budget. Presentation of proposed budget provided by Treasurer Colleen
Both. Council's motion to approve the 2020 proposed budget presented to congregation.
Second by Connie Peterson. Motion passed.

Closing prayer Pastor Drew

Meeting Adjourned.



The next Rummage Sale Planning Meeting
will be Thursday, March 11th at 4:30 in
the Celebration Center.

*Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be
established. — Proverbs 16:3*

EASTER GARDEN



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

Thank you!

Your Name: _____

Please print legibly

_____ # plants donated at \$15 = _____

_____ in memory of _____

_____ in honor of _____

Please make checks payable to Lutheran Church of the Cross and place in the offering or mail to the church office.

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		

