

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church
of the Cross
2025

March



Dear LCC Friends and Family,

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a season of prayer and self reflection. What is the significance of the ashes? Ashes were used for cleaning. Long ago before there were scouring pads and Soft Scrub, people would use ashes to rub against metal or wood to remove the rust or dirt and to make the rough smooth. During Lent, we ask God to expose any inner dirtiness that needs to be revealed. We confess and come clean. Our rough edges are made smooth so that Christ may be proclaimed and glorified in our lives.

Ashes remind us that we were made from dust and to dust we shall return. When God created Adam, God bent down and gathered a handful of dust and dirt. God breathed breath, God's Spirit, into the dust and formed man. Ashes remind us of our fragileness. We are not meant to live for all eternity here on earth. This is just our temporary home until we are taken to our forever eternal home in paradise. *For you are dust and to dust you shall return.* Genesis 3:19

There will be two opportunities to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday. We will have a drive-thru Imposition of Ashes with Communion in our parking lot from 12:00-1:00 PM. We'll also have a Ash Wednesday service at 6:20 PM in the sanctuary with Ashes and Communion. Come to dinner at 5:15 for a Baked Potato Bar with all the fixings. It is a freewill donation for our youth.

Join us on Wednesday nights in Lent for a special "5th Gospel" service from 6:20 - 7:00 PM. The 5th Gospel message is given by a parishioner who shares their faith story or a way they have seen God at work in their life. **Thank you to our 5th Gospel messengers . Mar. 12- Gloria Thomas, Mar. 19- Peter Mogenson, Mar 26- Mallory Maine, Apr 2- Robert Brown, Apr 9- Wanita Holsapple.** Come and support these brothers and sisters-in-Christ as they share their stories. Join us for a delicious freewill offering soup and sandwich supper at 5:30 beforehand in the CC. See you in church on Wednesday evenings at 6:20 PM!

ASH WEDNESDAY - March 5th

12:00-1:00 PM - Drive-thru Imposition of Ashes and Communion

5:15-6:10 PM - Baked Potato Bar with all the fixings; freewill donation for the youth

6:20-7:00 PM; Ash Wednesday Service with Ashes and Communion in the Sanctuary

Peace and Love,
Pastor Michelle



ASH WEDNESDAY

*All go to one place, all are
from the dust, and all turn
to dust again.*

**March 5
2025**

**Drive Thru Imposition of Ashes,
12n - 1pm at the front entrance of LCC**



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

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

To register, simply sign up on the sheet on Kari's office bulletin board, email her at cfmkarilcc@gmail.com, or call 963-2564 and ask to be placed on the list.

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2025 General Fund

	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Annual Budget
Income	\$ 77,891	\$ 77,891	\$ 852,322	9.14%
Expenses	\$ 61,847	\$ 61,847	\$ 852,322	7.26%
Difference	\$ 16,044	\$ 16,044	\$ 0	

In the month of January our income was greater than our expenses by \$16,044. Thank you for your continued support.



BAPTISM

Name: Blake Beau Hohertz
 Born: December 26, 2024
 Baptized: February 16, 2025
 Parents: Zachery & Katelin Hohertz
 Pastor: Michelle Ruen, Officiant



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 9th. Be sure to spring your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night. It is also a good time to check/change the batteries on your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Lenten Worship



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

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



The month of March symbolically represents new growth, fertility, and procreation in humans, plants and animals. It's meaning embodies a kind of reigniting of the hearts. Just as some animals hibernate in the winter, some of us may fall into a sort of spiritual slumber during the winter months. When the days grow shorter, it's easy to get into a rut and get a bit disconnected from God. Most of us are oblivious to this phenomenon. Thank goodness Jesus offers us an opportunity to awaken from our lethargy and reclaim the vibrancy of our faith! This month, let's join creation in waking up and reigniting our hearts for Christ.

Jesus proclaims to the people in Sardis in the book of Revelation, *Wake up! Make yourselves stronger before what little strength you have left is completely gone. I find that what you do is not good enough for my God. So don't forget what you have received and heard. Obey it. Change your hearts and lives! You must wake up, or I will come to you and surprise you like a thief. You will not know when I will come.* Rev. 3:2-3. You see, many of the people in Sardis had been slowly dying spiritually and there were only a few faithful believers remaining. While church appeared to be alive, it had lost its spiritual vitality. The church was at a crossroads, and Jesus calls them to finish what they started.

- Imagine receiving a letter from Jesus Himself, encouraging you to reignite your relationship with God. What would He say to you?
- He may ask you to recall your fondest memories of your faith walk—can you recall those special people and events that were important in your faith development?
- Did you have any AHA! moments when you just knew God was at work? How did you feel?

Perhaps Jesus is saying the same thing to us, today; that we must attend to our faith so that we can finish what we started—hear the word and do the things! During the month of March, creation seems at a crossroads—on the verge of change. Are you at a crossroads in your faith? We all are at some time or another.

Jesus calls us to **remember**—we do this each time we join together for corporate worship on a Sunday or Wednesday. We share the Lord's Supper with each other, and we praise Him together. We must let the words we hear and say during worship restore and nourish us. Not only should we remember, but also **keep** the ways of God. Live like Jesus, even when we don't feel like it or we don't understand. We must also **repent**. We all fall short, but the key is to recognize it, repent, and do better.

Jesus promises us that he will return to us as a victor over all sin and death. HE will finish what HE started. And we will celebrate with Him on that day like we've never celebrated before! So if you need to reignite your relationship with God, reach out to Him and finish what you started—after all, Jesus is the best role model of finishing well. Ask God for His priorities for your life, and concentrate on doing your best in those areas. If you feel overwhelmed, give those feelings to God and He will give you strength to persevere.

So now finish the work you started. Then your “doing” will be equal to your “wanting to do.” Give from what you have.
2 Cor. 8:11



People brought their small children to Jesus so that he could lay his hands on them to bless them. Mark 10:13

Lori Swenson shared his beautiful devotion with me and it warmed my heart that words from 1937 are still valid and appropriate for today. Enjoy it as I have:-) - Kari



Of all the many gifts which God has showered upon us, none is greater or more precious than our children. He entrusts us with immortal little human beings, sprung from our own lives and attached to us by the finest and most tender bonds. They fill us, too, with a joy which is higher and purer than any other joy we know.

They set in motion the noblest instincts which we possess. We love them, and we hope, and strive, and suffer, and sacrifice for them.

But the greatest of all is that we can bring them to Jesus, that He may touch them. And to think that we can do this as soon as they are born! He receives them in Holy Baptism, takes them to His heart and fills them with the Holy Spirit, makes them His children and writes their names in the book of life.

The little one grows and begins to understand what we say. New joys fill our lives from day to day. Now we can speak with the little one about Jesus, can see how the little child-heart spreads like a flower to the sun. Have you ever experienced greater riches of joy than those which were yours when your little child folded its tiny hands and prayed its evening prayer, just as though Jesus were standing at its bedside?

But life is not as simple as all that. Not our life in relation to our little ones either. As they grow older, it becomes more difficult to speak with them about Jesus. Their rebelliousness and disobedience become conscious and willful. You try to help your child by disciplining and admonishing it, But you discover that to rear children is a difficult art, one that you have not mastered. At times you become fearful as well as weary.

My friend, it is not harmful either to you or to me to feel impotence in this respect. Do not be afraid. Bring your little ones to Jesus over and over again. He will bless both you and them. *..Do any of you need wisdom? Ask God for it. He is generous and enjoys giving to everyone. So he will give you wisdom. But when you ask God, you must believe. Don't doubt him.* James 1:5-6

**O. Hallesby, Ph.D.*, "God's Word for Today," c. 1937, Oslo, Norway.
*Norwegian Lutheran theologian, author and educator.**

March: A Time for Spiritual Growth

March is a transitional month, symbolizing growth and preparation for what's to come. Lent begins on March 5, which makes this a perfect month to do a bit of interpreting and reflecting on the Bible as we journey to the cross. Some say that we absorb more from each word when we write it down.

Grab a journal and a pen and join me in a new challenge this month!

Below you will find a verse assigned to each day of March. Read the verse and write it down in your journal. Be intentional and pay attention to each word. If any words jump out at you, underline them. Now the fun part—respond to what you wrote. If you feel so moved, write a reflection or prayer after the verse, considering what its message is to you at the particular moment. If thoughts come to you during the day that apply, add them to your journal. Journaling helps you to meditate on God's Word, record what God is communicating to you, and apply His Word more faithfully.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. be to him, now and forever! Amen. 2 Peter 3:18

March 1 Titus 2:11

March 2 Philippians 2:3

March 3 Ecclesiastes 5:2

March 4 2 Samuel 22:28

March 5 2 Chronicles 7:14

March 6 Proverbs 14:27

March 7 Psalm 25:9

March 8 Daniel 10:12

March 9 Ephesians 3:16-21

March 10 John 1:16

March 11 Genesis 1:26

March 12 Malachi 4:2

March 13 2 Samuel 22:4

March 14 Numbers 6:24-26

March 15 2 Corinthians 4:6

March 16 Psalm 1:1

March 17 Proverbs 11:30-31

March 18 3 John 1:4

March 19 2 Thess. 2:15

March 20 Psalm 37:8-9

March 21 Leviticus 20:8

March 22 Psalm 27:4

March 23 Hosea 6:1-2

March 24 Joel 2:12-13

March 25 Matthew 6:14-15

March 26 Daniel 9:9

March 27 Acts 3:19

March 28 James 5:20

March 29 Numbers 14:19

March 30 Psalm 118:14

March 31 Genesis 15:6



Jesus said, "So go and make followers [disciples] of all people in the world...Teach them to obey everything that I have told you to do..."



March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2 & 9 in CC for 30 min. following Lenten Worship.

Have you ever felt called to do this, or is Jesus calling you now? Our youth need adult church members to guide them through five devotions this Lenten season. Are you willing to share what you have learned on your faith journey with one of our youth - someone who is learning how to deepen his/her relationship with God and grow his/her faith? Not only will you help in fulfilling the promises we made at their baptism, but a bonus is that you will develop what could possibly become a lifelong relationship in the process! Let Kari, Liz or Pr. Drew know if you are interested.

Time to make your



EASTER BONNET

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

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

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

WHO IS
my neighbor? **VBX 2025**

June 9 - 12, 9am - 12n

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

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



YOUTH NEWS



I can't believe it's already the middle of February!! Wowie! Time flies when you're having fun!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time for the Ice Fishing Extravaganza car parking fundraiser.

Ash Wednesday is right around the corner on March 5th, 2025. YOUTH grades 5-12 and Luther Crest Campers if you have not signed up to help, we are still looking for volunteers!! Here is the link <http://tinyurl.com/5n75cmp3>.

Confirmation students, let Liz know who your mentor is. Mentors, make sure to check your mail for your Mentor packet. A reminder to students and mentors, you will be meeting on Wednesday evenings during your normally scheduled confirmation or bible study time from 7-8. If you are not able to meet up on the designated night, make sure to come up with an alternate plan. High School Bible Study will continue through Lent.

We continue to learn about Luther and the Catechism with our 7th and 8th grade confirmation students, and the high-schoolers continue to meet for Bible Study on Wednesday evenings.

Our Youth Vision board is starting to fill up and we have had a blast doing these activities! Keep bringing me your ideas for activities to do as a youth group. I am truly blessed to serve God by working with these amazing kiddos and families.

Sunday Funday was a BLAST!! We had 13 kids show up ready to have a great time. The kids played 9 Square, did some coloring, listened to music, ate sloppy joes and french fries and lots of lemonade, and played a riveting 3 hour game of Among Us. I would call it a huge success and look forward to our next Sunday Funday!

Blessings,

Liz Sawdey
Youth Director



Music Notes

March 2025



My Jesus, I Love Thee (GORDON)

Text: William Ralph Featherstone (1846-1873)

Music: Adoniram Judson Gordon (1836-1895)

We love Him because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

1. My Jesus I love Thee; I know Thou art mine.
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou.
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
2. I love Thee, because Thou hast first loved me.
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow,
If ever I love Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
3. I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow,
"If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus 'tis now."
4. In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright.
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow.
"If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus 'tis now."

Public Domain

This story from "Then Sings My Soul", Robert J. Morgan

"The young people of today are utterly dissolute and disorderly," fumed Martin Luther in the sixteenth century. The philosopher Plato agreed. "The youth are rebellious, pleasure-seeking, and irresponsible," he wrote. "They have no respect for their elders." Socrates complained, "Children now love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority. They show disrespect for elders, and love chatter."

A 6000-year-old Egyptian tomb bears this inscription: "We live in a decadent age. Young people no longer respect their parents. They are rude and impatient. They inhabit taverns and have no self-control."

The next time you think the "modern generation" is going from bad to worse, remember that God always has a rich handful of teenage heroes ready to change the world. In Bible times, we read of Joseph the dreamer, Daniel in Babylon, David the giant-killer, and the Virgin Mary (likely still a teen).

As a teenager, Charles Spurgeon, an English Baptist preacher, at a very young began preaching to great crowds. But when they referred to his youthfulness, he replies, "never mind my age. Think of the Lord Jesus Christ and His preciousness."

In our own day, we've been deeply moved by young people like 17-year old Cassie Bernall of Littleton, CO, who was shot for her faith during the Columbine tragedy.

Some of our greatest hymns were also written by young adults. Isaac Watts wrote most of his most memorable hymns at about the age of nineteen. When poet John Milton was fifteen, he wrote the well-known, "Let Us with a Gladsome Mind." The hymn, "Work for the Night is Coming," was written by an 18-year old. And this hymn of deep devotion, "MY Jesus, I Love Thee," was written by William Ralph Featherstone at age sixteen!

Featherstone was born July 23, 1846, in Montreal. He died in the same city 26 years later. His family attended the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and it seems likely that William wrote this hymn as a poem celebrating his conversion to Christ. Reportedly, he sent it to an aunt living in California, and somehow it was published as an anonymous hymn in a British hymnal in 1864.

Composer Adoniram Judson Gordon, was also a Baptist preacher and founder of the Gordon College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Hamilton, Massachusetts. His most famous hymn tune is "My Jesus, I Love Thee".

I love this hymn, not just for the melody, but the words are so personal. One of my favorite bible verses has always been "We love because He first loved us." *1 John 4:19* It is that simple. Jesus taught us how to love one another, everyone, even the unlovable. He shows us His mercy and grace daily.

I also love how the text reminds us of our glorious eternal life given to us by Jesus. We have a lot to feel so blessed about.

I pray that this hymn will speak to you during our Lenten season.

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music

SPRING Rummage SALE



- Volunteer opportunity abounds: LCC's Rummage Sale is a 10-month a year venture. If you have some time, the Rummage Committee can provide a job for you; whether you like to organize and work with others, or prefer doing small projects in the comfort of your own home, your assistance is welcomed! Please contact Connie Peterson @ 612-508-2934 for details on how you can help.
- Rummage Donations are accepted on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays from 8:30am to 4 pm, with our donation site closed Monday & Friday.
- We are grateful that you think of LCC when preparing to donate items. Please review our Donation Guidelines, available in the church office and on our website. Your careful consideration in ensuring that your donations are clean, in working order, and packed appropriately is greatly appreciated. When your items are packed and ready, call Laurie in the church office at 218-963-2564 before driving to church to be sure that storage space is available.
- We are especially seeking donations of children's clothing, as it is in high demand at our sales. Your help in seeking and donating children's clothing is valued by us and our shoppers.
- If you have large items to donate like furniture, bikes, etc. please hold them until April 27 or 28 if possible, as our storage space is limited.
- We are blessed by those who have allowed us to borrow trailers for the Sale. If you know of additional trailer availability or storage space options we can explore, please contact Liz Brandanger @ 612-849-1500 or Marv Green @ 218-537-0522.

We will be setting up from April 27 – 30, so get ready to laugh, have fun, and enjoy the camaraderie – you are welcome and invited to be a part of this crazy, chaotic event that serves our church and community.

Mark your calendar and don't miss our Rummage Sale Volunteer Information Meeting on Tuesday, April 8 @ 4pm in the Celebration Center.

Life is like a rummage sale...you never know what you are going to get!

Men's Breakfast

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

Women in the Word -Tuesday, March 4 at 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM



Join us for a special time in God's Word on **Tuesday, March 4, at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM**. It's a time to gather with sisters-in-Christ as we look into God's Word, share, laugh, enjoy coffee and treats. No homework, just come with your Bible. Bring a friend. See you in Chapel Hall for our monthly *Women in the Word* Bible Study on Tuesday, March 4. Led by Pastor Michelle.

Golden Girls Widow's Group - Wednesday, March 12, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Golden Girls will have their **luncheon and gathering on Wednesday, March 12**, from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. All widows are invited to come for a delicious luncheon and a time of fellowship, safe sharing and laughs. Feel free to invite widows who may want to attend. There is no cost. Please reserve your spot by calling Laurie in the office, 963-2564, or let Pastor Michelle know.



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

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

A Time For Us for Parents - Wednesdays, 7:00—8:00 pm

This is a group for parents of Confirmation and Route 56 students. During the season of Lent we will **not** be meeting since there is no formal Confirmation or Route 56. Confirmation students will be meeting with their mentors during Lent. Parents, we encourage you to come to services at 6:20 PM on Wednesday nights during Lent to hear the 5th Gospel message and to support your child. **A Time For Us will be serving dinner and cleaning up on Wednesday, April 9**. Thank you for putting this on your calendar. More information to follow. Led by Pastor Michelle

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

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

Instructor and Lead Teacher: Gloria Thomas.

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





GATHER BIBLE STUDY, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025, AT 10:00 AM

Please join us on **Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** for our monthly Gather Bible Study. The first four-month Bible Study of the year is entitled, “Faithfulness in these days,” by Denise Rector. Last month, we studied David who testifies that God is God and worthy of praise, even as David is in despair. This month, we are studying Peter and Cornelius. Ms.

Rector writes, “We do not always see eye-to-eye with our neighbor. And yet, we are called to love our neighbor. Peter’s experience with someone different gives the Holy Spirit an opportunity to teach Peter, the church and us to see others as God sees them.” No advance preparation is necessary. Grab a magazine near the office, grab a friend, and join us. Everyone is welcome! Pastor Michelle Ruen is leading our study, and Marie Olness is providing treats.

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

All women. All week. All sorts of fun! Gather at Luther Crest for another great Women’s Week experience at camp this summer! We’ll provide an excellent arrangement of meals, goodies, and treats. There’ll be daily speakers and presentations as well as *nightly entertainment* with musicians and entertainers. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate and grow together in a Christ-centered community through discussion and devotion. Separate programming is offered for children and grandchildren of all ages. Cost for the full week is \$659. No cost for babies and preschool age children in daycare. Cost for one day: \$65 Cost for a carload for one day: \$130 (Available 6/23-25). Check out their website and register on-line:

<https://www.luthercrest.org/womens-week.html>.

RIPPERS, STRIPPERS, AND ROLLERS SUNDAY HELD FEBRUARY 9TH

Women of the Cross/Women of the ELCA thanks everyone who helped rip, strip, and roll bandages. We couldn’t have done it without you!!! Thanks to Sherry Johnson of Aurora, the founder of Rippers, Strippers, and Rollers, for joining us and teaching us about this important ministry.



See page 30 on details for the upcoming Spring Gathering.

Soup Kitchen News

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



Thank you to Mary, Wanita, Gloria, Linda, Brad, Russ, and Pastor Michelle for cooking and serving 64 meals on a very cold Thursday night. Lasagna, warm French bread, salad, and fresh brownies out of the oven were served.



If this sounds like a service you would like to be a part of, please contact me, Ann Bergin, LCC soup kitchen coordinator, to talk about how you can help. There is a sign-up calendar across from the nursery. My contact information is georgiabergin@gmail.com or 219-820-5511.

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The Bridge on 7th is a low barrier warming shelter providing a safe place to sleep for individuals 18+ who are experiencing homelessness in the Brainerd Lakes Area.

LCC's week of Feb. 16th was almost totally filled. Thank you to everyone who took an early morning slot on any one of those cold, cold mornings. If we are scheduled for an additional week this Spring, information will be in the newsletter and/or bulletin.

Top Donation Needs

1. Individual Snacks
2. Sugar
3. Hand Soap
4. Laundry Detergent
5. Coffee Cups
6. Kleenex

<https://www.bridgesofhopemn.org/warmingshelter>



Donations can be dropped off on
Wednesdays from 11am-1pm at the shelter.

AN INVITATION FOR MARCH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY EVE LENT 6:20 PM SERVICES – If you would be willing to help by being a usher, or communion assistant at the services, please give me a call or text at 763-254-6364. There are also sign-up sheets in the narthex.

MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY 6:20 PM SERVICES

If you would be willing to help by being a greeter, usher, worship coordinator, reader or communion assistant (Thursday only) at the services, please give me a call or text at 763-258-6364. There are also sign-up sheets in the narthex.

EASTER SUNDAY 7:30, 9:00 AND 10:30 A.M. SERVICES

Please help us welcome visitors on this special Sunday! We know we will have many visitors coming to these services, and we want them to feel welcome here at LCC. If you can help by being a greeter, usher, worship coordinator, reader or communion assistant at any of the services, please give me a call or text at 763-258-6364. There will also be a sign-up sheets in the narthex. Your help is very much appreciated!

Many Blessings,

Tracy Olson

Volunteer Coordinator

Cell#: 763-258-6364

volunteer@lccnisswa.org



facility calendar for:			
facility calendar for:			Mar
<p>2</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Bible Confidence 10:30 Worship w/ Communion 1:00 Piano Recital</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 1:00 Prayers Shawl Group</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Women in the Word 2:00 Rummage Sale Board Mtg 7:00 Women in the Word</p>	<p>5 ASH WED 8:30 Text S 9:30 Quilter 12:00 Drive T 5:00 Bible in 5:15 Baked 6:00 King's 6:20 Worsh 7:00 Lenter</p>
<p>9 FRIST SUNDAY IN LENT/ DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship/Fresh Scones 10:00 Bible Confidence 10:30 Worship w/ Communion</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 10:00 WBS: Sermon on the Mount 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab</p>	<p>128:30 Text S 11:00 Golde 5:00 Bible 5:30 Lent 6:00 King' 6:20 Lent 7:00 Lente 7:00 Sr. Ch</p>
<p>16 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Bible Confidence 10:30 Worship w/ Communion 11:30 Worship & Music Committee</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 10:00 WBS: Sermon on the Mount 11:00 Soul Sisters 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group 7:00 People for Racial Justice</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab</p>	<p>198:30 Text S 4:00 Creati 5:00 Bible 5:30 Lent S 6:00 King's 6:20 Lent V 7:00 Lente 7:00 CYFM 7:00 Sr. Ch</p>
<p>23 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT/ PACK THE PEWS</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Bible Confidence 10:30 Worship w/ Communion</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 10:00 WBS: Sermon on the Mount 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Novel Ideas Book Club</p>	<p>26 PACK TH 8:30 Text 10:00 Gath 5:00 Bible 5:30 Lent 6:00 King' 6:20 Lent 7:00 Lente 7:00 Sr. Ch</p>
<p>30 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Bible Confidence 10:30 Worship w/ Communion</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting & Prayers 10:00 WBS: Sermon on the Mount 1:00 Prayer Shawl Group</p>		

ch	2025		1 Piano Festival
WEDNESDAY Study s Thru Ashes w/ Comm. n a Year Potato Bar Kids Rehearse Worship w/ Comm. Mentors/ Sr. Choir /	6 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning with a Purpose 7:00 A.A. 	7 OFFICE CLOSE @ NOON 12:00 StoneHouse Friday	8
Study en Girls Widows in a Year Supper s Kids Rehearse Worship w/ Comm. en Mentors/ HSYG choir	13 8 15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning with a Purpose 12:00 PrimeTimers 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.	14 OFFICE CLOSE @ NOON 12:00 StoneHouse Friday 	15
Study ion Care Team in a Year Supper Kids Rehearse Worship w/ Comm. n Mentors/HSYG Team Mtg oir	20 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning with a Purpose 7:00 A.A.	21 OFFICE CLOSE @ NOON 12:00 StoneHouse Friday	22
THE PEWS Study er Bible Study in a Year Supper s Kids Rehearse Worship w/ Comm. en Mentors/HSYG oir	27 8:15 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Toning with a Purpose 1:00 Nisswa Garden Club 7:00 A.A.	28 OFFICE CLOSE @ NOON 12:00 StoneHouse Friday	29 10:00 am Piano Recital
			<p><i>Reminder: Before planning any meeting/event/gathering at church, call the church office for availability and scheduling. Thank you.</i></p>

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

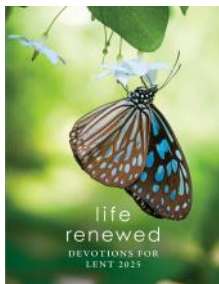
1. Martin Baker, Mickie Deline, Judy Heslop, Bode Owen, Lyle Thell
2. William Winegar
3. Lola Chase, Jeremiah Eisenschenk, Karla Jensen, Claire Loge, Oscar Prahm, Sarah Verworn
4. Nicole Anderson-Hering, Addy Gorr, Denae Harder, Mark Jensen, Mary Panzer, Barb Pisani
5. Janyce Halligan, Alyssa Peterson, Joshua Stark
- 6.
7. Doris Bergersen, Hannah Hayes, Aiden Hernandez, Henry Henderson, Phyllis Hill, Nora Nelson, Jean Olson, Linda Van Vliet
8. Duane Blanck, Jed Klein, Nancy Phillips
9. Nick Evanson, Linda Rasinski
10. Dennis Hins, Pat Sloan
11. Gary Hiles, Al Larson
12. Jim Kottke, Marie Olness, Michael Rude
13. Jackie Kottke
14. Jeff Aga, Diana Heikkila, Alice Moore, Brenda Myers, Steve Osmera, Marc Williams
15. Walter Prahm, Tucker Williams
16. Emily Bachman, Eileen Holland, Angie Olson, Tracy Olson, Steve Suer
17. Harvey Anderson, Mark Hahn, Dirk Henry, Dylan Paulson, Allison Timmons, Lyn Underdahl
18. Renee Boesen, Lucia Broadbent, Jim Swanson
19. Nolan Kun, Nonie Stumvoll, Olivia Trosdahl
20. Cadence Anderson, Giina Clarine, Dawn Maine, Peter Nistler
21. Drew Bakken, Mark Hallan, Sandy Hins, Roger Johnson, Pete Mogensen, Jerry Raedeke, Carrie Taylor, Randy Thomson, Louise Warden
22. Brad Carlson
- 23.
24. Gail Anderson, Sharon Endicott
25. Kevin Kosobud, Valdean Lueck, Judy Swenson
26. Karen Clarine, Sharon Holland, Linda Larson
27. Avery Gorr
28. Ella Anderson, Carol Campbell, Charlee Sullivan
29. Landen Brill, Judith Kuusisto, Sophie Schamber
30. Carolyn Blanck, Kelsey Kuhn, Bryan Trees, Mira Van Vliet
31. Nancy Fischer, Krista Fogarty, Avah Meierding



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

STONEHOUSE FRIDAY

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



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

BIBLE CONFIDENCE – FINALLY PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Sunday Mornings in March at 10:00 in the Chapel Hall

5 Sessions - March 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30

Would you like to feel more confident about your biblical knowledge?

While this fun series is excellent for those new to the Bible, it is especially helpful for those with a lifetime of worship and Bible study but who still don't feel confident in knowing how the Bible all goes together.

Sure, you can carry your Bible in your hand, but imagine if you could carry an organizational understanding of it in your head?

The achievable goal of this course is that you will know and retain a sense of the order and storyline of the books of the Bible, an understanding you can apply whenever you hear or read the Bible.

For those trying to read through the whole Bible, we'll also give special attention to helping you prepare for the harder-to-read parts of the Bible.

Our Goals are to learn and remember:

- 1) How the Bible is organized like a library.
- 2) The overarching storyline to the whole Bible.
- 3) Where to find it in the Bible.
- 4) How different Bible books use different writing styles.

No sign up, just grab your coffee and donut and come to Chapel Hall to join us.

Taught by Luther Swenson.





*Let's help fight hunger and make a lasting difference in our community . Adding to our March drive helps those in need today— while at the same time helping create long-term solutions to poverty and hunger. Your support of the **Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign can do this!***

This campaign brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help keep 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. For 44 years, MN FoodShare has worked to address food insecurity and poverty by engaging communities throughout the state via education and state and federal advocacy efforts. Minnesota FoodShare seeks to educate the community about food insecurity and encourages legislators and community decision makers to lend a compassionate

and objective voice to public policy debates that impact Minnesota families living in poverty.

Did you know that nine in 10 people who have used food shelves want to choose healthier foods? Because they can't always afford these items, they rely on food shelves to help fill the gap. Surveys have also found that people who are food insecure have higher rates of health problems, including diabetes, high blood pressure and other chronic diseases.

Donating to your food shelf is vital, as it:

- Provides essential food items so folks can meet their basic needs for a healthy life
- Gives them a chance to build a better life and not be left behind
- Reduces food waste
- Helps keep pantry shelves stocked
- Supports the LAFS efforts to provide meals and ensure access to healthcare, education and job opportunities

Our local food shelf is the Lakes Area Food Shelf in Pequot Lakes. According to director Tammy Larsen, procuring food is currently problematic for the LAFS as contractual grants are "on pause" and other federally funded food is in question. Therefore all food donations are helpful. ***LAFS distributes food to about 180 households each week and in January 2025 there were 58 new households who had never visited LAFS in the past.***

This is the perfect time for us to help out our hungry neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity. We will be collecting shelf-stable food items and cash donations this month, concentrating on collecting seed and nut butter and canned meats.

We will once again sponsor **PACK THE PEWS on Sunday, March 23 and Wednesday March 26.** For this event we encourage folks to fill a grocery bag with donations and bring them to church to place in the pews as a visual reminder of our compassion and caring and what an impact we can make TOGETHER.



This year we are focusing our collection efforts on seed & nut butters, canned meats, and toiletries.

A donation bin will be available in the narthex and money donations may be placed in the offering plate (be sure to add LAFS to your donation). On March 23 and 26 we will host PACK THE PEWS and have a NOISY OFFERING.

We will also put up a “TOILETREE” and add a leaf for every toiletry or personal care item that is donated.

By donating a food or monetary donation to the LAFS, you are helping to create a brighter future for generations to come. As such, it is an important and meaningful way of making a difference in the lives of those who need it most. Even a small donation of food or money can have an immediate effect on those in need and can help provide them with access to nutritious meals and other essentials that they may not be able to afford.



PRIMETIMERS - MARCH 13, 12:00 Noon—1:30 pm

Our program on March 13 will be **Tim Leagjeld, production set designer and builder for local theater productions.** Tim Leagjeld has been involved with theater for most of his life as a performer and actor. He now builds sets for the CLC, Pequot Lakes, Stage North and other local theater productions. Tim Leagjeld was written up in the Lakes Country Faces in the Echo Journal in the June 19, 2024 edition. We are honored to have him speak to us in person. **Come for a wonderful and entertaining program on Thursday, March 13, at 12:00 Noon.** Bring a sack lunch if you desire. Coffee, lemonade, and dessert are provided. Program will begin at 12:20 PM. See you March 13!



Thank you to Chuck Johnson who performed the one-act play, [The Night Before Gettysburg](#), for our February PrimeTimers program. Chuck has performed the play that he wrote in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania the last three summers. It was an excellent program with a great turnout. Thank you to Chuck Johnson, our hosts- Mike and Carol Smith & Sherrie and Bruce Kunkel, and to everyone who attended!



Let's Talk

From the "People for Racial Justice" Group
Submitted by Marty Halvorson

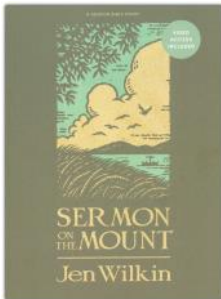
Apocalypse

When I was 3 months old my biological mother gave me up for adoption. I was adopted by my parents in Brainerd. That was a traumatic experience for her and possibly for me at some level but not in my conscious memory. When I was 14 years old my father suddenly died of a heart attack and clearly, in my memory, that was a traumatic series of events. After two years at Augsburg University, I was asked to leave because of poor academic performance. My world was turned upside down. After three years in the Navy, I received orders to report to USNMCB-10 stationed in the Northern I corps of South Viet Nam. You should by now see the theme of how trauma has both come and gone in my life. We all have had these dramatic experiences as a part of our living. Not one of those events has defined me but I have been influenced by them all. What is it that has been the power that carried me from event to event? I would say it is the power of Love. The Love I have from those in my family, community, and the greater ecological culture in which I exist, to be sure. It is the love of The Mystery that goes far beyond my understanding of its reality of which I write. If you have guessed that this Love is also the Love of God, you would be correct. If you guessed that this is the Love of the Great Spirit of the Hopi journey you would also be correct. I am amazed at the parallels between my Christian experience and that which are central to the Native American traditions. God's Love goes way beyond my understanding.

The next Lifeway Women's Bible study begins March 10th

Take a seat on the mountainside!

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



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

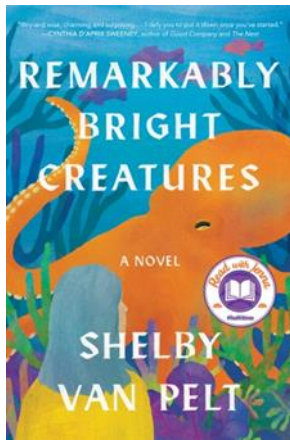
Sessions will be on Mondays in the Conservatory from 10:00 - 11:30 on 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 5/5, 5/12 & 5/19. Sign up in the church office by March 3rd so books can be ordered. The Bible study books are \$25 and include video access. This access allows you to watch any session you may miss or want to watch again and will remain in your digital library indefinitely. Any questions, please contact Marilyn Quist at 614-769-1832.

NOVEL IDEAS BOOK CLUB

March 25, 2025

10:00am

Library/Chapel Hall



After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago.

Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors--until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova.

Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late.

Shelby Van Pelt's **debut novel** is a gentle reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible.

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



Do you still have books that you've read and/or books you've always been meaning to read but never seem to get around to?

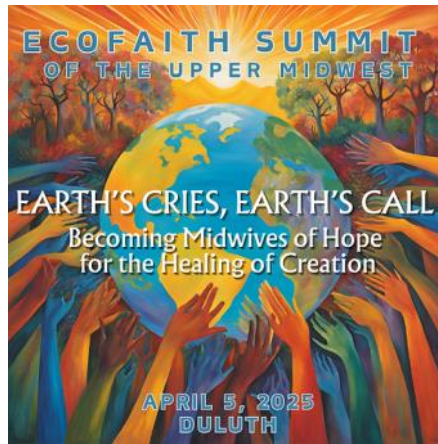
Consider donating them to the spring rummage sale to help raise funds for worthy causes. Here are the guidelines for donations:

- Clean and in good condition
Hardcover, paperback, large print, CD audiobooks, children & teen books
- Relevant and appropriate

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Books that are moldy, mildewed, smoky, falling apart, highlighted, etc. and/or inappropriate
- Text books
- Condensed books
- Magazines
- Reference books/materials that are quickly outdated – medical, computer, etc.
- Encyclopedias
- Audiobooks on cassette tapes

CREATION CARE



EcoFaith Summit 2025

April 5, 2025 – 8:30am-5:00pm

In person at First Lutheran, Duluth & livestream

Free childcare provided

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

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

Registration costs:

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

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

Everyone who registers receives an on-line Summit Booklet.

Scholarships are available.

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
Church Council Meeting
Thursday, January 9, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

We Assemble in God's Name

Attendees: Pr. Drew Bakken, Darrell Paske, Colleen Both, Pam Sandelin, Bryan Trees, Dean Dalzell, Lyn Underdahl, Bonnie Stevens, Dale Peterson, Rachel Gerhartz and Deb Van Roy

Call to Order/Officer Reports/Announcements

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

New Business:

Review and Approve Budget Proposal for 2025

Colleen Both led council review of proposed 2025 budget.

Motion to present proposed budget to Congregation at January 19th annual meeting by Pam Sandelin; motion approved by council.

Old Business:

Office Hours – Holiday hours will be implemented permanently; church office will close at noon on Fridays
Motion to approve change by Pastor Drew; motion seconded by Dale Peterson. Motion carried.

Council Retreat February 8, 2025 9:00 AM arrival

Clearwater Forest Camp

16595 Crooked Lake Rd, Deerwood, MN 56444

Pastors' Reports

Senior Pastor Report: Pastor Drew

Our Theme for last year as a congregation was, "Rooted in Christ." Being rooted is a reminder of where we gather our strength and nourishment from. We as a congregation have seen an increase in our worship attendance. We have seen growth in many of our bible studies and fellowship events. And we have seen the joy in the growth of giving in our church so that we can be a blessing to others in our community, nation and world. Thank you all for your love and discipleship as we gather strength in Christ so that we can grow stronger in our ministry throughout the world.

What I look forward to the most in the coming years is the chance to dream as we listen to God's call together. I look forward to working with our council as we vision a future together. I am look forward to working together with the staff as we come up with new dreams and opportunities for our congregation to come together to share in the ministry of God. The Brainerd Lakes Area is primed for continued growth and expansion, and thus we must prepare and be ready to respond to the needs that will arise with this growth in our church and community. We have done this in the past through starting the Food Pantry, hosting New Pathways and Operation Sandwich, providing and serving meals at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, continuing to host our annual Rummage Sales, and developing and strengthening ministries that serve our members. Ephesians 2:19-22 tells us:

So, then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the

cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Now is the time for us to closely examine our needs and “**Build upon the Rock: The Foundation of Christ.**” In looking at the future needs of our members, I believe that it is time to do a feasibility study on our facility to see if it will meet the needs of our growing congregation. In February, our church council will attend a retreat to review our strengths, weaknesses and opportunities, as well as the challenges that we face (a SWOT analysis). In the spring we will do the same SWOT analysis with the members of the church to help us understand how to “**Build upon the Rock: The foundation of Christ,**” and continue to honor the saints of this church who have gone ahead of us.

Associate Pastor Report: Pastor Michelle

A new year is upon us! Our theme for Lutheran Church of the Cross in the year 2025 is Building on the Rock: The Foundation of Christ. Ephesians 2:19-22 So, then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

How do we build our lives upon the Rock? How do we make sure our foundation is solid with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone? One thing we have ventured to do in 2025 here at LCC is to open the door to reading the Bible in a year. We have over 50 people who have committed to reading the Bible in a year. We are using The Daily Bible in Chronological Order 365 Daily Readings with devotional insights by F. LaGard Smith. It’s not too late to join in. Talk to me if you would like more information. For those that choose to, we gather on Wednesdays at 5:00 PM to discuss, share, and encourage one another as we move through weekly readings.

We are fortunate in 2025 to have so many ways to renew our souls, reinvigorate the Holy Spirit, and deepen our faith through a variety of groups. Pick up an At A Glance brochure to see all our Bible Studies, Interest groups, Servant groups, Prayer groups, Fellowship groups, Healthy Body and Soul groups, and Small groups in homes. These all provide opportunities to connect with others, grow in faith, serve the community and/or celebrate life together.

I attended our NEMN Synod retreat for first call pastors on Friday, January 31 at Camp Onomia in Onamia, MN. It was a wonderful time to gather with other pastors, learn from speakers, hear from our Bishop, and meet incoming rostered candidates.

I continue to preach every other Sunday, visit our saints in the hospital, nursing homes, and home visits, lead or support group ministries, and officiate pastoral duties. A great joy for me is to visit with our guests and members in the church setting or out in the community setting.

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music: Sharon Taute

No report this month

Stewardship: Dean Dalzell

On Dec 17, 2024, the Foundation Fund members meet to introduce the new committee members to the foundation and to resume activities after a dormant period due to covid.

The committee’s 2024 Annual report is available, outlining the committee goal and how the fund gifts are directed. Additionally, the report introduces the new committee members.

The current fund balance is \$195,100 as of the end of 2024.

The church council should expect more frequent updates regarding the Foundation activities.

Property: Dale Peterson

No report this month.

Social Concerns and Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens

Bridges of Hope

Operation Sandwich

In December, 95 families received food through our Christmas distribution. Our next distribution will be held on February 11th in Brainerd and Pine River to support families during the school break.

Bridge on 7th

With the cold weather settling in for the season, many of our neighbors facing housing insecurity are at greater risk. At The Bridge on 7th, we're proud to offer a safe and warm place to sleep during these harsh winter months. In December alone, we served 70 unique individuals and provided 767 nights of shelter.

Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen will be done by the widow's group "The Golden Girls".

Lakes Area Food Shelf

Due to a food distribution site closing in Brainerd, the Lakes Area Food Shelf base of clients has almost doubled. Over 60 household units were served previous to this time, but now 90-100 household units are being served.

Congregational Life: Lyn Underdahl

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

Library Report: Per Jean: We have purchased 12 new books. Novel Ideas begins again in January.

Funeral Committee: Large Kitchen Deep Clean: There will be a deep kitchen cleaning THIS Friday, January 10, 2025, beginning at 9:00 am.

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

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

Prayer Chain Report Per Ann: This past year has been remarkable. We have been gifted with being able to lift so many people in prayer to our Lord. We know and trust that our Lord hears all our prayers. Anyone wanting to have someone lifted up in prayer, please contact the church at 218-962-2564, or Email: lcc@lccnisswa.org, the Pastors or myself (Ann) Email: knitter73@gmail.com. My phone is 218-963-2268.

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

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

Prime Timers: The Committee is actively working on this year's schedule. The January Prime Timer's speaker will be Karl Samp from the Rising Tide Alliance. The Rising Tide Alliance is a new coalition serving our low-income neighbors. This coalition of four faith-based charities are working together to help folks reach toward those potential while having their basic needs of food, shelter, and a support system met.

Creation Care Report: Per Laura Raedeke: We are holding a forum on Solar Energy at LCC on Sunday, February 2 in Chapel Hall following the 9 am service. Simon Eddy from WolfTrack Solar in Pine River and LCC member Mark Smith will be presenting.

Personnel: Pam Sandelin

No report this month

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

We had a great response to our Pew Bags on Christmas Eve.

Our Christmas pageant went well, but next year we will not present the pageant as part of the Musical Extravaganza. We will present it the week prior during the 10:30 am service.

We had our first Wednesday night back after break and we had a GREAT Route 56- the Confirmation kids enjoyed movie night.

Sunday is Camp Sunday, and we will host Riley from LCBC as guest preacher. It is also LIFT Sunday, and our youth will be baking and serving scones.

January Council Meeting: February 13, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Devotion: Pastor Drew

Council Retreat: February 8, 2025

Closing Prayer: Pastor Drew

Adjourn

Submitted by Deb Van Roy

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

NEMN ELCA Synod invites you...

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

WALKIN' TACOS WITH THE BISHOP

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

6:00-7:30pm at each location

April 7, First Lutheran in Brainerd

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

NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD
Visit nemnsynod.org for more information

Update your Information

If you would like to receive weekly eblast notifications, please email the church office at laurie@lccnisswa.org with the email address you wish us to use. Have you changed your phone number, or no longer use your landline, changed your mailing address, etc.? If so, please let us know so we can update our database.

Heartland Conference April 5, 2025

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

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

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

Our tentative schedule will be:

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

More Information/Breakout Presenters/Newborn Kit Drive:



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

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



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

EASTER GARDEN



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

Your Name: _____

Please print legibly

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

_____ in memory of _____

_____ in honor of _____

Lutheran Church of the Cross

PO Box 29
5064 County Road 13
Nisswa, MN 56468

Main Phone: 218-963-2564
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CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Address label here

Welcoming all people into discipleship

STAFF

Pastor	Drew Bakken	218-961-2014
Pastor	Michelle Ruen	218-961-2013
Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry	Kari Erickson	218-961-2012
Youth Director	Liz Sawdey	218-961-2015
Director of Music Ministry/Organist	Cathy Taylor	218-961-2053
Financial Secretary	Karen Wiele	218-961-2016
Volunteer Coordinator	Tracy Olson	218-961-2052
Senior Choir Director	Mike Smith	
Organist	Laura Raedeke	
Bell Choir Director	Cheryl Karlgaard	
King's Kids	Carol Smith	
Custodian	Todd Whipple	218-963-2564
ELCA Global Missionary	Bradn Buerkle	
LCC Office	Laurie Hemish	218-961-2011

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

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

