

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church of the
Cross

2020



Dear Friends,

It is hard to imagine the bitter cold of the January and the snow mounds that lined the streets and in our yards. Now the season of new life is upon us. The trees are starting to bud, the grass is greening, and the flowers are pushing forth from the ground, and construction season is upon us.

As we all are aware this spring is different for many of us. Our youth do not have the opportunities to say goodbye to teachers and classmates. The Seniors in High School do not get to play their final spring games or attend prom and maybe not even walk across the stage to get their diploma. I know you all join in with me and wish that things were different.

I am writing today to let you know that we will continue to suspend in-person gatherings through the end of May and suspend in-person worship through at least May 17, making a decision about the rest of the month early in May. According to recommendations outlined by the President, the first of three phases for states to begin easing restrictions on gatherings is to begin only once the number of new cases of COVID-19 have dropped for two consecutive weeks. While we have done a very good job in Minnesota in slowing the spread of the disease, we continue to see increases in new cases, hospitalizations, and deaths every day. If we were to turn the corner by the end of the Governor's stay-at-home order on May 4, two weeks later would put us at May 18. And if we have not yet reached the peak and continue to need to suspend our gatherings to reflect our love and concern for our neighbors, we will do so.

All of the decisions regarding worship and other gatherings reflect our commitment to follow the best advice of our medical and civil authorities in order to help us move together through this critical and fragile time. Please believe me when I say that no one longs for the opportunity to worship together in person more than I do. Please also believe that I will not recommend gathering until I know we can do so safely and not put our members, neighbors, and larger community at risk.

Although we are unable to meet in person, I hope that you will and have been joining us online for worship each and every Sunday at 10:30am either on our website or on Facebook. Our staff have done a wonderful job with our daily 10am weekday devotions on Facebook. We have Zoom Route 56 at 6pm and confirmation at 7pm Wednesday evenings and Wednesday mornings we have a Zoom Bible Study at 8:30am. We may not be gathered in person but we are finding ways to gather through technology. I realize that this is not a perfect system but this too shall pass. Until then, may God continue to bless you and keep you.

Blessings,
Pastor Drew



OTHER IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

Due to the “Stay at Home” recommendations by Governor Walz, Lutheran Church of the Cross will be closed thru May 16th. In person gatherings are suspended thru the month of May.

****On Sunday, May 17th at 11:45 am, we will be offering “Drive Thru” Communion in the front church parking lot. Watch Facebook and eblasts for upcoming info.**

If there is an emergency, please call Pastor Drew Bakken at 952-451-5628.

Staff will be working remotely during this time and will be checking and responding to messages as they are able.

We will continue with our streaming of worship services on Sundays at 10:30 am, our Facebook Live devotions M-F at 10:00 am, and Treehouse Time with Kari Erickson on Sundays and Wednesdays at 9:30 am.

If you would like to be a part of Zoom Text Study on Wednesdays at 8:30 am, please contact Laurie at laurie@lccnisswa.org to receive the login code and password and weekly texts.

For you during this difficult time:

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

— Isaiah 40:29-31



**Update your
contact info!**

Please make sure the church has accurate contact information for you. This is very important as we are using email to relay letters and messages from Pr. Drew Bakken as the COVID-19 situation changes.

If you only use your cell number or have changed your phone number or mailing address, etc., please let us know so that we can update our database.

We communicate weekly thru an Eblast (email). If you would like to receive these weekly notifications, please email Laurie at laurie@lccnisswa.org with your preferred email address.

You must request to be put on this list as it uses a database separate from our member database.

If you do not have internet or email abilities, please let us know.

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2020 General Fund

| | March | YTD | Annual Budget | % YTD of Annual Budget |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Income | \$ 53,202 | \$ 168,226 | \$ 672,326 | 25.02% |
| Expenses | <u>\$ 64,015</u> | <u>\$ 174,146</u> | <u>\$ 672,326</u> | 25.9% |
| Difference | \$ (10,813) | \$ (5,920) | \$ 0 | |

In the month of March our expenses exceeded our income by (\$10,813).

Thank you for gifting our ministry together. You make sure Worship space is provided; pastor, musicians, and staff are compensated; ministry supplies are bought; etc. By your general offering today, you are making sure that such ministries as video streaming, Facebook Devotions and many others are blessed by your Christian love. Thank you! To give with your mobile device, scan the QR code to the right.

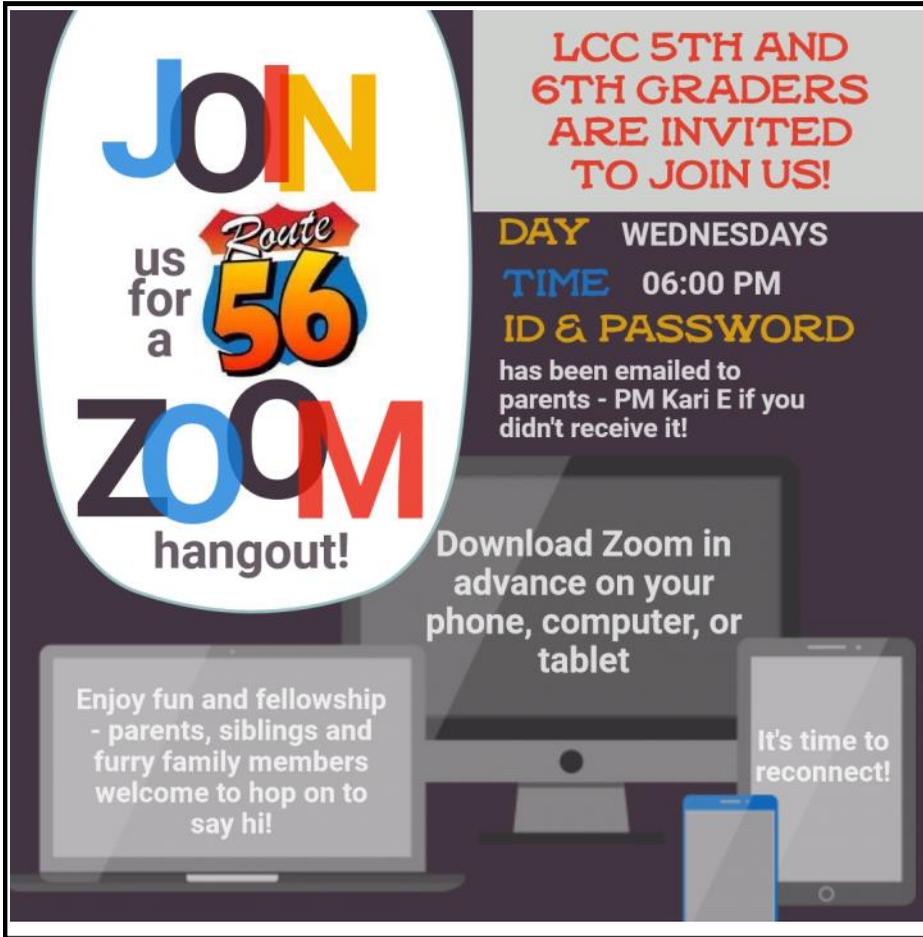


New Member Gathering and New Member Sunday

The new member gathering will be rescheduled for sometime in June. The New Member gathering is an opportunity for new members to get to know each other, as well as some LCC members and simply learn more about Lutheran Church of the Cross. New member Sunday will be Sunday, June 21st at the 10:30 service followed by a luncheon. If you are interested in joining please see Pastor Drew.



CHILDREN & FAMILY ministry



JOIN
us for a
Route 56
ZOOM
hangout!

LCC 5TH AND 6TH GRADERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US!

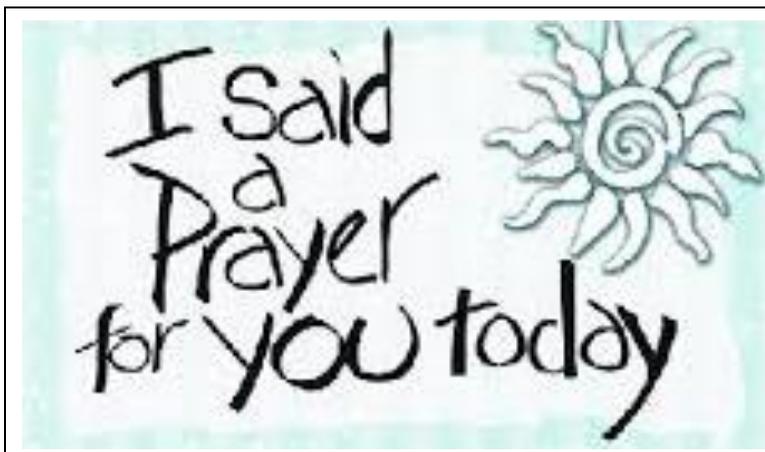
DAY WEDNESDAYS
TIME 06:00 PM
ID & PASSWORD
has been emailed to parents - PM Kari E if you didn't receive it!

Download Zoom in advance on your phone, computer, or tablet

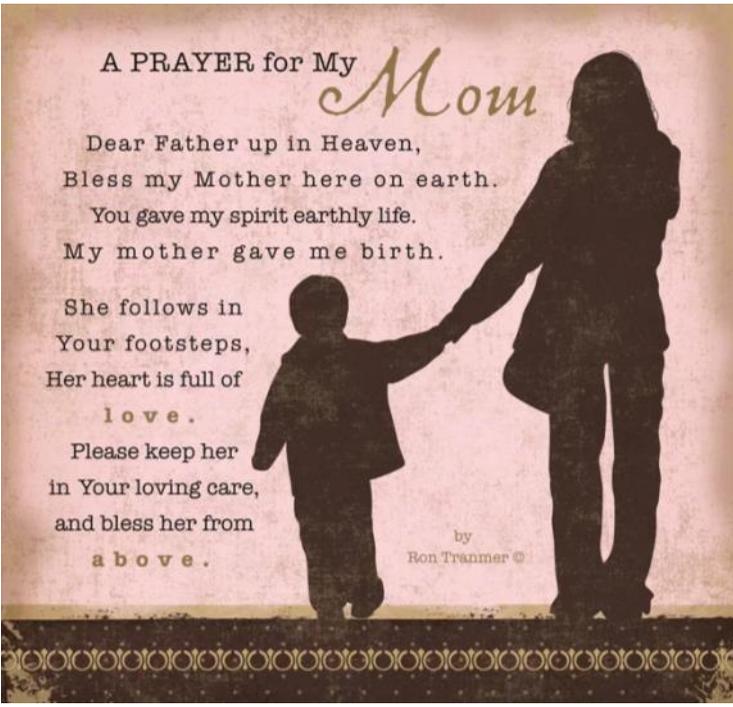
Enjoy fun and fellowship - parents, siblings and furry family members welcome to hop on to say hi!

It's time to reconnect!

5th & 6th graders will receive USPS mailings with materials for our meetings.



Who have you prayed for today? Write them a note, call or text them to let them know!



Join us online at the Kids of the Cross Facebook page for *Treehouse Time* each Sunday and Wednesday morning at 9:30am. Activities will be posted after each live video so that you can be reminded of the day's message and continue to talk about how it relates to your faith.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

SUMMER



VACATION BIBLE EXPERIENCE

WATCH FOR UPDATES - TENTATIVELY RESCHEDULED FOR JULY 13-17

OUR FRIENDS FROM OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN IN PEQUOT WILL BE JOINING US THIS YEAR!

FROM ZACH'S DESK:

Hey!

Thanks for tuning into this month's newsletter. As you can imagine, it's hard to write a perfectly awesome, life giving and forward looking reflection for the upcoming month. So instead, let us look back. We will take a gander into what our youth have been up to in this COVID era.

A month and a half ago, on the second day there was no school, we launched a Discord Server, aka an online thing that lets you communicate on a message board and use voice chat in large groups. We also got to exchange some memes. It was crafted by gamers, but now many people use them to run book clubs, knitting clubs, businesses and more.

The youth taught me how to play Minecraft. Lots of you know that I am a gamer, but I had never played Minecraft until this last month. Minecraft is kind of like Legos, except you have to mine the legos to use them. It's complex if you want it to be, and open ended. We spent A LOT of hours on the game building our village. It's a pretty darn sweet village now. (Pic on next page.)

The High School Youth started doing ZOOM Youth Group about a week into COVID. We have played games together such as In Home Scavenger Hunt and Reverse Charades. We have also taken time to dive into the Psalms together. Last week, Grace W even picked a Psalm and led us in a conversation on it. Thanks Gracie! We check in with each other and make sure we cover all of the prayer requests. Lisa M has been joining me as another adult leader in these chats as well. Thanks Lisa!

Confirmation booted back up last week. We were in Mentor Mode for Lent. Thank you to all of you who were Mentors for our young people during what was going to be a regular new experience and ended up being a COVID new experience. After Easter, Confirmation went online. We gathered with over 25 Seventh and Eighth graders plus adults last week! (Pic on next page.)

Other than that, I have really been enjoying listening to and leading our Facebook Live devotionals. Thank you for being a part of them. I have been checking in with our youth on a personal level and a regular basis.

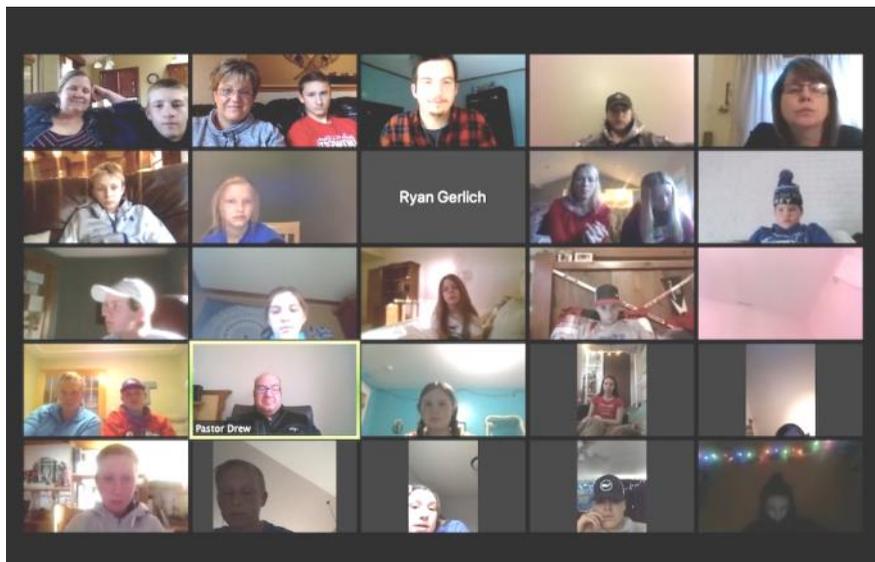
This youth ministry continues to be special and vital to our community and world. Thank you for continuing to make it happen. May you be able to see God's presence daily during this weird time.

In peace,
Zach Malecha



Part of our elaborate Minecraft Village, thanks to Nathan B, Andy G, Tyler H, Aron H, Briston D for really making this a fun adventure!

Over 25 computers and youth connect to ZOOM for our first online Confirmation session!



Idaho Update: Due to COVID-19 our trip to Idaho in June will not be happening. Idaho Servant Adventures canceled on April 15th. It is unfortunate, but it is the right choice. Please keep our young people in your prayers. We hope to have an alternative function at some point this summer. Thank you for your continued support of our Summer Trip Ministries.

LCC Spring 2020 Forums

All forums for May have been postponed until a later date. Stay tuned to our website for further updates.

Thursday Morning Prayer

Be Still

“Be Still and Know that I am God” Psalm 46:10

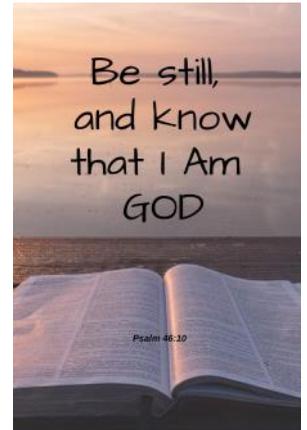
And

Mark 4:39, where Jesus orders the wind and waves, “Peace, be still”

By **Being Still** with God –giving God what is on our hearts can lighten our loads. We find in **Peace** by reflecting and sharing as a community of faith. We are not in this alone.

On Thursday mornings at 10 am we combine Being Still in God and the joys and benefits of being Community. Please come join us when church programming resumes.

If you have questions about Thursday morning prayer contact Carol Johnson, Carol Smith and Maren Ortmeier.



Thank you to Jarrett, Danae, Jace, and Jude Anderson for the awesome job on the basement project. You went above and beyond what was discussed. Your help, skills, and attention to detail are much appreciated!



The Teie Family Concert originally scheduled for **Saturday, May 2, has been postponed** due to the COVID19 pandemic. A new date has yet to be determined, so stay tuned for further updates.

Hymn of the Month

May 2020

Hymn #785 When Peace Like a River-It is Well With My Soul (VILLE DU HAVRE)

Music: Philip P. Bliss; Text: Horatio G. Spafford

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD recues them from them all. Psalm 34:19

A story from “Then Sings My Soul”, Robert J. Morgan

When the great Chicago fire consumed the Windy City in 1871, Horatio G. Spafford, an attorney heavily invested in real estate, lost a fortune. About that time, his only son, age 4, succumbed to scarlet fever. Horatio drowned his grief in work, pouring himself into rebuilding the city and assisting the 100,000 who had been left homeless.

In November of 1873 he decided to take his wife and daughters to Europe to visit friend D. L. Moody and attend their evangelistic meetings and then a vacation.

When an urgent matter detained Horatio in New York, he decided to send his wife, Anna, and their four daughters on ahead. He got them settled into a cabin close to the bow of the ship, then said goodbye, promising to join them soon.

During the small hours of November 22, 1873, as the *Ville du Havre* glided over smooth seas, the passengers were jolted from their bunks. The ship had collided with an iron sailing vessel, and water poured in like Niagara. The *Ville du Havre* tilted dangerously. Screams, prayers, and oaths merged into a nightmare of unmeasured terror. Passengers clung to posts, tumbled through darkness, and were swept away by powerful currents of icy ocean. Loved ones fell from each other’s grasp and disappeared into foaming blackness. Within two hours, the mighty ship vanished beneath the waters. The 226 fatalities included the Spafford’s four children. Mrs. Spafford was found nearly unconscious, clinging to a piece of the wreckage. When the 47 survivors landed in Cardiff, Wales, she cabled her husband: “Saved Alone”.

Horatio immediately booked passage to join his wife. En route, on a cold December night, the captain called him aside and said, “I believe we are now passing over the place where the *Ville du Havre* went down.” Spafford went to his cabin but found it hard to sleep. He said to himself, “It is well; it is well with my soul.” He later wrote his famous hymn based on those words.

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.

He lives, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul.

May this hymn give you comfort and hope.

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The task force continues to work on issues pertaining to the parking lot, utilities, and bell tower. We have agreed to allow staging of equipment and materials on our church property and have already received a donation.

The task force recommended to the Church Council to accept the bid from Anderson Brothers for the front parking lot. It was approved. We are still hoping for work to begin sometime in July. Mark Hallan has agreed to do the formwork for the bell tower relocation and we appreciate it. Eric's Excavating will be removing stumps from the church property once road restrictions have been lifted.

Xcel Energy has been installing/rerouting new gas lines to the church to tie into the new lines along CR13 at no expense to the church.

A big thanks to all who have been helping relocate blocks, signs, etc.

Stay tuned as we are "Under Construction: God At Work."

Any questions, please contact Pastor Drew.



April 24 2020

Press Release from Crow Wing County

Re: SAP 018-613-007 (CSAH 13) & SAP 018-677-007
Construction Schedule

Crow Wing County has entered into a contract with Anderson Brothers Construction for the intersection improvements on County State Aid Highways (CSAH) 13 & 77 at the intersection of State Highway 371 in Nisswa. The construction work will consist of new traffic signals, ADA improvements, right and left turn lanes, storm sewer, concrete curb & gutter, and bituminous surfacing. The construction corridor will remain open to traffic for the duration of the project. Please exercise caution when traveling through the construction zone. Temporary traffic signals have been installed in preparation for the reconstruction work. The existing pavement on CSAH 77 will be removed on April 27 followed by grading work on the north side of the road. Through traffic will be directed to use the south half of the road. Storm sewer work will begin on May 4. Pavement on the CSAH 13 portion of the work will be removed after Memorial Day dependent on the progress of construction work on CSAH 77. The County will post construction updates on Facebook, Twitter, and the highway department website at <https://www.crowwing.us/149/Current-Projects>. With good weather and no serious delays due to unforeseen circumstances, all construction operations are scheduled to be completed prior to Labor Day.



Prime Timers gatherings have been put on hold until further notice.

THANK
YOU

Thank you for supporting the Lakes Area Food Shelf. Thanks to you, households with food insecurities in Jenkins, Ideal Township, Pequot Lakes, Breezy Point, Nisswa and Lake Shore are able to eat. In 2019, gifts like yours provide over 200,000 pounds of nutritional support to 4,701 individuals.

With gratitude,
Tamara Larsen, Director
Lakes Area Food Shelf, Inc.

Thank you for your donation. Our community needs us more now than ever before. Thank you for feeding families.

Shawn Hansen
Executive Director



Dear LCC family & friends,

I woke up this last Sunday morning realizing that nothing and no one can stop Easter. Even though I have had some troubling times, God is still on the throne. He will guide each of us in the path He has chosen for us. And, He will continue to be with us no matter what happens.

I thank Him & you for loving & caring for me,

Karen Wiele

Dear LCC Community –

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! A very belated thank you to each and everyone of you for the cards, notes and other ways that showed your love and thankfulness for the ministry that we shared together. It was a blessing to be of service to you all.



Thank you to the staff, church council and all who put together the wonderful gathering on our last Sunday together. It was a gift to see many of you, share stories, and spend time together. I will treasure the beautiful stole always. When I wear it, I will give thanks and say a prayer for each of you. You will always hold a very special place in my heart.

As I have said, I now have the opportunity to pray for each of you, the ministry and staff of LCC from a distance. May you continue to share God's love and be a beacon of God's love and hope.

God's love and peace be with you!

God's peace - Pr. Kari Williamson



Thank you volunteers. As we have canceled in person worship for the first couple weeks of May, we are giving our volunteers a break. Please contact Sally if you are willing to help. Thank you to our sound room/Facebook Live, musicians, singers, and Pastors for continuing our worship via streaming on our website and Facebook Live. Looking forward to the day we can safely come together for worship in church.

Video Streaming Worship

Please join us for worship on Sundays mornings at 10:30 via streaming on our website www.lccnisswa.org. Click on the *Live Video Streaming Worship* tab. (Can always be viewed at a later date, just click on the service you wish to view.)

View or print the current bulletin to follow along during worship.

Or join us on Facebook Live at Lutheran Church of the Cross—Nisswa

May Worship Assistants

| | MAY 3 | MAY 10 | MAY 17 | MAY 23 | MAY 31 |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| GREETERS | 8:15 | 8:15 | 8:15 | 8:15 | 8:15 |
| | 10:30 | 10:30 | 10:30 | 10:30 | 10:30 |
| USHERS | 8:15 | 8:15 | 8:15 | 8:15 | 8:15 |
| | 10:30 | 10:30 | 10:30 | 10:30 | 10:30 |
| COMM. ASST. | 8:15 | 8:15 | 8:15 | 8:15 | 8:15 |
| | 10:30 | 10:30 | 10:30 | 10:30 | 10:30 |
| SCRIPTURE READERS | 8:15 | 8:15 | 8:15 | 8:15 | 8:15 |
| | 10:30 | 10:30 | 10:30 | 10:30 | 10:30 |
| ACOLYTES | 8:15 | 8:15 | 8:15 | 8:15 | 8:15 |
| | 10:30 | 10:30 | 10:30 | 10:30 | 10:30 |
| BREW CREW | | | | <i>Coffee hour will not be held during May</i> | <i>Coffee hour will not be held during May</i> |
| | 8:15 | 8:15 | 8:15 | 8:15 | 8:15 |
| WORSHIP COORD. | 10:30 | 10:30 | 10:30 | 10:30 | 10:30 |
| | Andy Grell Nathan Bakken | Andy Grell Nathan Bakken | Andy Grell Nathan Bakken | Andy Grell Nathan Bakken | Andy Grell Nathan Bakken |
| SOUND ROOM | | | | | |
| ALTAR GUILD | | | | | |

PENDING

CHURCH CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19

CHURCH CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19

| Sun | Mon | Tue | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <h1>facility calendar for:</h1> | | | |
| <p>3</p> <p>9:30 Treehouse Time 10:30 Worship—Online Only 7:00 HS Zoom Chat</p> | <p>4</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> | <p>5</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> | <p>6</p> <p>8:30 Zoon 9:30 Tre 10:00 Fac 6:00 Zoon 7:00 7th</p> |
| <p>10</p> <p>9:30 Treehouse Time 10:30 Worship—Online Only 7:00 HS Zoom Chat</p> | <p>11</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> | <p>12</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> | <p>13</p> <p>8:30 Zoon 9:30 Tree 10:00 Face 6:00 Zoon 7:00 7th</p> |
| <p>17</p> <p>9:30 Treehouse Time 10:30 Worship—Online Only 11:45 Drive Thru Communion 7:00 HS Zoom Chat</p> | <p>18</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> | <p>19</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> | <p>20</p> <p>8:30 Zoon 9:30 Tree 10:00 Face 6:00 Zoon 7:00 7th</p> |
| <p>24 <i>subject to change</i></p> <p>8:15 Worship w/Communion 9:30 Treehouse Time 10:30 Worship w/ Communion 7:00 HS Zoom Chat</p> | <p>25 OFFICE CLOSED</p>  | <p>26</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> | <p>27</p> <p>8:30 Zoon 9:30 Tree 10:00 Face 6:00 Zoon 7:00 7th</p> |
| <p>31 <i>subject to change</i></p> <p>8:15 Worship w/Communion 9:30 Treehouse Time 10:30 Worship w/ Communion 7:00 HS Zoom Chat</p> | | |  |

| Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|-------------|
| | | <p>1 CHURCH CLOSED → 2 →</p> <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> | |
| | 7 | 8 | 9 → |
| <p>om Text Study ehouse Time eacebook Devotions om Route 56 & 8th Zoom</p> | <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>  | <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> | |
| | 14 | 15 | 16 → |
| <p>n Text Study house Time book Devotions m Route 56 & 8th Zoom</p> | <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Church Council via Zoom</p> | <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>  | |
| | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| <p>n Text Study house Time book Devotions m Route 56 & 8th Zoom</p> | <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> | <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> | |
| | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| <p>n Text Study house Time book Devotions m Route 56 & 8th Zoom</p> | <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> | <p>10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> | |
| <p><i>May</i></p> | <p>2020</p> | <p>Church is closed thru May 16th and no in person gatherings until June.</p> | |

May 2020 Birthdays

1. Donald Anderson, Tara Jones, Tami Lueck
2. Jason Bassett, Julie Evert, Laura Haeg, Sarah Tietz, Marcella Timmons
3. Marissa Bjerckness, Emily Hansen, Bill McGrath, Harold Moen, Carly Rasinski, Paula West
- 4.
5. John Poston
6. Pat Larson, Herman Schley
7. Marilyn Wottreng
8. Scarlett Anderson, Vanessa Anderson, Jude Anderson, Peter Dunphy, Jacob Hemish, Jacob Kruger, Tyler Mortenson, Benjamin Stubbs
9. Matthew Green
10. Emma Whiteman
11. Kaitlyn Kruger, Donna Salfer
12. Marty Halvorson
13. Carolyn Johnson, Lyle Kline, Morgan Lueck, Karen Raguse
14. Mary Miller, Marlene Perkins, Midge Shaw
15. James Gerlich, Gabriel Gibson, James Johnson, David Olness, Pam Osmera,
16. Erick Stoxen, Marion Town, Chuck Trucano
17. Georgette Lewis, Laura Raedeke
18. Brenna LeBlanc, Pamela Poston
19. Cliff Hess, Kristin Neale, Jenny Stubbs
20. Jack Grell, Kris McGrath, Julie Owens, David Stevens
21. Todd Holland, Jack Ingram, Carla Whiteman
22. Timothy Helsene, Aron Stumvoll, Kieran Stunek, Vickie Sullivan
23. Kolby Clarine, Logan Fogarty, Jennifer Oseland, Vickie Reph, Mary Wnuk
24. Brad Alcock, Linda Carlson, Bailey Clausen, Diane Fogarty, Brad Myers, Kathleen Warden
25. Toby Bassett, Quinn Eisenschenk, Paxton Smith
26. Clay Erickson
27. Keith Andersen, Keith Grothem, Mary Hubert, Lila Moen, Bob Trafas, Jaime Yundak-Olson
28. Anna Marie Haberer, Angie Kotila, Taylor Ohotto,
29. Dane Smith
30. Nicholle Dean, Ty Lehmann, Luann Mickelson, Noah Smith, Emery Wottreng
31. Don Deline, Briston Domino, Mindi Scott
32. Danae Anderson, Sara Crabb-Erickson, Lisa Kruger, Daniel Olson, Emma Trees, Joe Trucano
33. Marilyn Lindberg, Shawna Reed, Martin Timmons, Mary Lou Weegman





JOIN
LUTHER CREST
TONIGHT
FOR

CAMPFIRE WORSHIP

*Wednesdays &
Sundays* | *Facebook Live* | *7:00PM*

- **Like their Facebook Page**
- **Facebook Live Daily Campenings at 11am**



BLESSING

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

CREATION CARE



CELEBRATING EARTH DAY'S 50th BIRTHDAY

On April 22, 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson of WI, in response to a devastating oil rig blowout in the Santa Barbara Channel in California and the burning Cuyahoga River in Ohio, organized the **first Earth Day**, in which an estimated **20 million people worldwide took action** to protect Earth's water and air from the ravages of fossil-fueled disasters. U.S. citizens' uproar was significant enough to prompt President Nixon to propose the **Environmental Protection Agency** that same year, with further pioneering legislation protecting clean air and water shortly thereafter. Naysayers forecast economic gloom and doom, but the **major economic effects of cleaner water and skies** are now apparent to all.

American citizens 50 years ago took action and did not despair, and today, in the face of forecasts that **2020 will be the hottest year on record**, following 2019's record fires, floods and storms, we must again act with urgency. Nearly every day, the **global economy still dumps the heat equivalent of 40,000 Hiroshima atomic bombs into the atmosphere**, hastening the melting of the ice caps and glaciers, with **90 American cities experiencing some flooding**.

But there is **good news**: the green energy economy, in the form of **wind and solar energy**, is happening at a **scale and cost unimaginable even a few years ago**. Meanwhile, the global fossil-fuel industry is suffering from falling demand, a price war, and a **divestment movement that has surpassed \$12 trillion in public commitments** to divest from fossil-fuel stocks and investments. Earth, the "beautiful blue marble" floating in space, first photographed from Apollo 17, has the **water, air and renewable energy we need** to do the right thing. **"There is no Planet B,"** we are told, and thus **it is up to us** to help renew the life-giving Earth God so lovingly gave to all living creatures.



Community Garden

Community Gardeners be sure to sign up for your garden plot in the community garden. Forms can be emailed to laurie@lccnisswa.org and payment mailed in. Each plot just \$25. Some lots are still available.

When you are at your garden plot, please practice social distancing. Any questions, please call Janyce Halligan at 218-568-4480.





Operation Sandwich is still moving along well. Like the rest of the world, we are continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation and how it will influence our program. We are definitely now in need of monetary donations to make this possible. Please keep an eye out for more information on how to donate food for this program this summer. Please keep us in your prayers as we discern the best way to be God's hands and feet in this world. Thank you!

Special thanks to our wonderful team!

Jean Kraft - Jean has been a blessing as she is so informative and knows how the system works. Her energy and enthusiasm for this project inspire the rest of the team.

Liz Brandanger - Liz has been working on advertising and informing the community.

Anne Kostreba - Anne has been working on advertising as well, and has been a key player in our conversations with the city of Nisswa.

Pam and Steve Osmera - Pam and Steve have been working on our kitchen to get it approved by the state and stocked in the ways we need it.

Steve and Judy Heslop - Steve and Judy are our boots on the ground! They have been in contact with the cities of Pine River and Pequot Lakes and our friend churches.

Jason Martinson - Jason is the Social Concerns Council Liaison, and has been working with the Lions to secure some money to fund this project this summer.

Kristin Lindholm - She is one of our lenses into the Pine River area and keeps us in perspective. She is excited to help more when summer comes.

Pastor Drew - Pastor Drew has been a great guide in logistics for this program: checking in and making sure things are moving well.



Soup Kitchen News



The Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen has had many changes in the last few weeks due to Covid 19 and our Social Distancing rules.

The first week of social distancing lead us to serve meals to our guests from the outside doorway in to go boxes, but this was still putting our volunteers at risk. In the meantime schools were closing and Operation Sandwich was thinking of ways they could get food to families without getting 30 volunteers together and going to parks. After the Shelter in Place order went into effect we teamed up with Operation Sandwich to hand out weekly bags of food every Thursday from 5:30-6:00 at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen Building. This was the best way to protect our guests and volunteers along with collaborating resources.

Every Thursday at least 120 weekly bags of food are handed out to anyone who is in need along with hot soup from The Woods. We are also delivering many bags to Lutheran Social Service, School Collaborative workers, and the Community Service group that is providing shelter for homeless people right now. If anyone else is in need of a weekly food bag and has no transportation they can call Bridges of Hope and they will have someone drop off food.

200 hundred masks were also donated and handed out to anyone in need.

We buy our food items from Second Harvest Food Bank at a great discount and have gotten donations from stores and restaurants. If you would like more information, pictures of our service, and ways to DONATE, please go to our website at www.sharingbread.com or visit our Facebook page.

Peace, Ann Bergin, Soup Kitchen Coordinator.



Lutheran Church of the Cross 2020 Book Discussion News

Because of the coronavirus restrictions we will not be meeting at the present time. When we do meet we will discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens and the direction we want to take in the future. Watch the newsletter and E-Blast weekly news for updated information.

gather
FOR FAITH AND ACTION



Our May 13th Gather Study is cancelled due to the coronavirus restrictions. A review version of the study, an intergenerational devotional on hospitality, is included in this newsletter. The study is appropriate for all.

Drawing Generations Together - The church is a place where people of differing ages have a chance to celebrate, interact and pray for one another. Our shared bond of faith and prayer gives these relationships an extra level of meaning. The relationship of Eli and Samuel found in scriptures highlights the blessings of intergenerational relationships. Their relationship helped both of them to grow in connecting with and trusting God. Intergenerational relationships change lives and allow people to see and receive God's love in and through one another. The gifts we give flow through generations. We all have something to add to a conversation rather we are old, young or in between if we only take time to sit still and listen to one another. We can all learn from each other, regardless of our generation. We can see God's fingerprints in everyone. Jesus broke bread with all kinds of people in his brief time among us. He saw people for who they were. Jesus valued everyone. Lord, teach us to trust your welcome. Help us to value others in their entirety, whether they look like, believe like, act like or talk like us. In Jesus name. Amen

Since so many groups need to stay home from Bible study for the foreseeable future, Gather leaders are experimenting on Gather's Facebook page with "virtual" Bible studies. To participate go to: [Facebook.com/gathermagazine](https://www.facebook.com/gathermagazine)

May 2020 Gather Study: Plenty Good Room

How do we offer generous hospitality? (The title that is used for this study is the title of an American spiritual "Plenty Good Room" whose words speak of the inclusivity so many people yearn to know in the body of Christ.) Most of us would describe our congregations as "welcoming." What does "All are Welcome" actually mean? It may be time for us to examine the differences between being welcoming and being inclusive. Scripture offers many examples of hospitality.

The Road to Hospitality-Luke 24:13-35 Two devastated disciples of Jesus walked on the road to Emmaus on that first Easter. Jesus had been crucified and their hopes and dreams had been put to death with him. Jesus joins them on their journey and walks and talks with them about the scriptures but the disciples didn't recognize him. When they reach Emmaus Jesus walks ahead and the disciples offer hospitality to this stranger and ask him to stay with them. They all sit down at the table and the disciples recognize Jesus when he takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it and gives it to them. They recognize Jesus in an act of hospitality and respond by sharing the resurrection reality with others.

Angels, Unaware-Hebrews 13:1-2 The writer of Hebrews encouraged early believers to consider that they might entertain angels unknowingly and to respond to them with generous hospitality. Hospitality is a gift that carries great responsibility. We all know how challenging it can be to offer genuine hospitality in real time.

The Lord is My Shepherd Psalm 23 The imagery of this psalm provides the most beautiful description of God's presence among us. God of the universe creates space for us in the garden, brings us to living waters for restoration, becomes our faithful companion through tragedy and heartbreak, nurtures us with rich and abundant food for our souls and welcomes us to dwell with him forever.

This Day, You Will Be With Me Luke 23:32-43 Luke's Gospel tells us Jesus was rejected by the very people who should have known better because he was not what religious folks expected. Throughout his ministry, Jesus experienced mistaken identity. One of the criminals crucified with Jesus recognized Jesus' divinity and pleaded that Jesus would remember him. Jesus offered a staggering welcome to the criminal, someone who today probably would be deported from the in U.S., saying "Today you will be with me in paradise." This is powerful hospitality!

To Prepare a Place for You Jesus tells his disciples in John 14:1-3 that he is going away and the reason is "to prepare a place for you." He sets the disciples and us at ease urging us not to worry, but believe and promises that he will prepare a place for us. God's hospitality is active, compassionate and transformative. In 1 Peter 4:8-11 Peter connects the work of "constant love for one another," not "complaining" and "being good stewards" with the hospitality we offer. Hospitality isn't just hard work; it's also heart work. Gracious hospitality is the heartbeat of community and an act of worship that glorifies God. True hospitality does not come from us but through us. Hospitality is a gift of the Holy Spirit. We are merely the conduit for this gift that keeps on giving-blessed to be an instrument of God's bottomless hospitality.

Prayer: Loving God, thank you for being patient with us, strengthen us to practice bottomless hospitality to all your good creation and empower us to maintain love for one another. In Jesus' name, Amen

Jesus came to reconcile us to God and each other. In basketball terms Jesus says, "Come and see," no one is locked out of the game. No one watches from the stands. No one warms the bench. Jesus put all of us in the actual game. All are welcome. All belong.

Council Highlights from April 2020
Lutheran Church of the Cross

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
Church Council Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2020

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion: Mike Smith

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Council President David Grell

Present:

David Grell, President; Jamie Boesen, Vice President; Colleen Both, Treasurer; Darrell Paske, Secretary; Pastor Drew, Pastor Dave Stevens; Dale Peterson; Mike Smith; Pam Johnson; Jen Henry; Hillary Johnson; Craig Fink; Jason Martinson

Officer Reports:

Council Minutes by Darrell Paske

- Motion to approve Mike Smith, Second Jamie Boesen. Motion Approved
- Treasurer's Report by Colleen Both
- Motion to approve Darrell Paske, Second Mike Smith. Motion Approved

New Business:

Anderson Brothers Parking Lot Contract

Recommendation by parking lot task force to approve and sign contract with Anderson Brothers for reconstruction of parking lot.

- Motion to approve Jamie Boesen. Second by Dale Peterson. Motion Passed

Old Business:

Columbarium/Memorial Garden

Recommended price increase tabled until new language is drafted for policies and procedures document reflecting price of units and allocation of proceeds.

Pastors' Reports

Pastor Drew:

- It is hard to believe a month ago we were just beginning Lent and saying good-bye to Pastor Kari. Then covid-19 hit. I have always been proud of our staff, but this time they have gone above and beyond to do ministry unique and life changing ministry during this time. When the Governor enacted the stay at home proclamation I met with the staff to discuss what we need to do in order to provide ministry to our members. I have been so pleased at the staff's willingness to provide a 10am staff devotion on Facebook live, and many other outreach ministry. A special thank you to Pastor Dave Stevens for writing our daily staff devotions and contacting our shut-in members.
- Zach has stepped up to be our Facebook live worship videographer, and he and Kari have become our Zoom meeting guru's. Zach has created a gaming site for our kids to meet and converse; there has been zoom youth group meetings and confirmation along with getting Operation Sandwich moving forward.

- Kari has working has been putting children's activities for parents and children on our website and providing a Children and Family devotional on Wednesdays and Sundays. She had been instrumental in updating our website and has been a big help with our technology. Along with singing in our pick-up choir on Wednesday nights. She will also be doing a 5th and 6th grade zoom meeting group on Wednesday nights.
- Clint has been instrumental in getting the church cleaned from top to bottom along with getting our outside cleaned up. Clint, Marv Green and Dave Jabas were instrumental in getting our sign out front moved as we prepare for construction this spring.
- Special thank you to Cathy for putting together our Lenten and Sunday worship, Holy week and Easter coordinating singers, video tech, sound tech, rearranging the worship service in order to provide our members with a meaningful worship. Special thank you to our singers Brian and Jenny Stubbs, Mike Smith, Pastor Dave, Kari Erickson, Lizzie Ortmeier, Mallory, Dave Endicott, and Chris Fogderud. Our sound and video Andy Grell, Nathan Bakken and Dick Schmidt. And our Lenten speakers, Betty Arveson, LuAnn Mickelson, Tim Bergin, Carol Smith, and Carol Johnson. And a special thank you to Lyle Amundson for being our power point tech.
- Sally has been instrumental in being in contact with our members and organization of records and clean up in our basement classrooms.
- Laurie has been our rock throughout this ministry redesign as we have had to send out multiple letters and emails to the congregation about canceling programs and worship. She has been adjusting our calendar, bulletins, and contacting each group to talk about rescheduling events along with keeping up with the parking lot construction.
- We would not be where we are without our fantastic staff. Please make sure to thank them for all their hard work throughout this time and their willingness to explore new avenues to worship and ministry.
- Beside the everyday ministry at church we are continuing progress on being a hosting site for Operation Sandwich. Our committee has focused in on locations in Nisswa, Pequot Lakes, and Pine River. We are finalizing a job description for site coordinator and hope to have someone hired for the position soon. We do need to have an inspection of our kitchen, but we need to find out what ministry account it can come out of.
- Thank you to each and every one of our members for your generosity, your prayers and your love to your church and community. We are doing amazing work.

Pastor Dave

- Dear FRIENDS ON Lutheran Church of the Cross Congregational Council, first let me say thank you for you and Pastor Drew giving me this opportunity to serve LCC as Interim Associate Pastor. I told Pastor Drew I had been asking the Lord to show me if there was something He wanted me to do yet if He allowed me more time other than just twiddling thumbs at home.
- It seems this was all working on God's time to be available after Pastor Kari's leaving. It will be hard to fill her shoes, but I pray that I can at least help get us through this time of great change in our church and in our world. I appreciate the trust you have put in me to help do this.
- It has been a difficult time to try and undertake getting to know the congregation as we are now pretty much having to isolate and keep contacts to a minimum. Pastor Drew and the church staff have been most welcoming and understanding of my situation as we begin this new adventure together. I hope all will be patient with me as we explore duties and responsibilities.

- Early on I volunteered to facilitate a cancer care group and have worked with Pastor Drew to get that underway. We have had to suspend that meeting as these are among the most vulnerable folks medically. But got a good start.
- I joined the choir, but that too was short-lived but made some contacts there. I helped with our beginning attempts at online worship. Helped with singing.
- Have participated in staff meetings and volunteered to write the daily devotionals our staff does on Facebook Live each weekday morning.
- Last week I went for chemo and ended up admitted to hospital for five days with an infection, fevers and chills. (Was not covid19) Got out Wednesday and back to ER Thursday evening with extreme edema which they got under control and sent me home by midnight. Wednesday started new chemo which I seem so far to be tolerating well so hope to be getting back to new normal soon. Will preach this Sunday. We are thinking of doing commissioning for Assoc. Pastor in late May depending when we can get congregation back together. Pastor Drew can maybe think of a few more things. I know he has a lot on his plate and I hope I can be of some help to ease that as things move along. Again, thank you for your giving me this opportunity and as the Lord gives me strength, I will do my best.

Committee Reports:

Property: Dale Peterson

Work continues on the Front Parking Lot/County 13/77 Project:

- LCC sign has been moved to a temporary location on the southwest edge of the parking lot
- The main gas line to the church will be replaced and relocated
- Bell Tower relocation details are under development
- The former parsonage area on the east side of LCC is temporarily being used as a construction staging area
- County 13/77/MN 371 temporary traffic lights have been installed
- Signs are up indicating County 13/77 construction will start April 20th, County 77 on the west side will happen first, County 13 in front of LCC will happen the 2nd half of the summer
- Grubbing tree stumps will take place as soon as weather permits
- Parking lot lighting estimate was reviewed and sent to council along with costs for the bell tower relocation, irrigation system, and drainage
- Parking lot asphalt replacement estimates were reviewed and sent to council
- Subcommittee on future LCC monument sign is researching options
- Landscaping plans will follow later, likely next year

Lower Level Project: Painting and finishing work is now complete. Classrooms will be cleared out and reassembled. Carpet in the north area will be cleaned this week. Many thanks to all who have helped. This area looks great!

Stewardship: Craig Fink

No Report

Worship and Music: Mike Smith

No Report

Social Concerns and Global Missions: Jason Martinson

No Report

Children and Family Ministry: Pam Johnson

- It's been an interesting few weeks!
- Kari has been doing Friday staff Daily Devotions, and helped with Lenten Worship music on Weds evenings.
- Kari hosts Treehouse Time every Weds. and Sun. morning at 9:30, sharing a Children's Message.
- Lots of family activities have been posted on the Kids of the Cross Facebook Page, as well as on the Children and Family Ministry page of lccnisswa.org
- Kari developed and posted a Holy Week Almanac for families.
- Kari had a great convo with Dani Strong at Our Savior's in Pequot and we'd like to proceed with combining VBX efforts this summer, perhaps trying an evening program, a bit abbreviated from what we are used to. We are looking at July 13-17, but of course, dates and plans need to remain fluid. We may be looking at providing some sort of take-home programming if needed.
- Kari had a great email exchange with Dave Holtz, Director of Luther Crest - he and his staff are interested in helping provide some sort of campfire worship on Weds. evenings this summer. Plans for camp are still up in the air at this time, but the staff is working hard on alternative programming for this summer.
- With the basement project completed, Sally and Kari will be organizing and moving supplies back into our storage room in the basement on Friday.
- Route 56 will start Zoom meetings next week - cards have gone out to all kids and cards have been written and sent to all Sunday School moms - note of encouragement and a way to stay in touch.
- Postcards have gone out to all families with a Treehouse Time reminder and the tentative date for VBX.

Youth and Family Ministry: Jen Henry

- 4/7 - Covid Reflections - Zach Malecha, Director of Youth and Family Ministry. Ministry sure has been different lately. Can I be honest? The first two weeks of COVID-19 were tough. I was trying to do multiple new things, and the rhythm of it all just didn't work for me. I am someone who appreciates repetition in my days to find the right groove.
- There were some positives that came out of the first two weeks of COVID-19. Through sharing ideas with Pastor Drew, we saw an opportunity to create a platform for our youth to come together through the internet to play video games, share memes, do some devotions together and just hang out. We created a Discord server for communication and launched a Minecraft server for something for our youth to do.
- I also got to use my gifts of social media to help our church launch our Facebook Live Stream and get ZOOM chats up and running. I find it really rewarding to be able to utilize gifts that you have built up elsewhere in the world for ministry.
- By week 3-ish of this COVID thing, I hit a groove. In the Morning I have been working on digital communication, help with FB Live devotions, making sure my News-N-Notes and E-Blast are good to go, checking in with youth individually via text and messages, writing letters and more. At noon, I eat a quick lunch followed by a walk, often checking in on LCC neighbors. In the early afternoon, I wrap up whatever I had on my list from the AM and I play some Minecraft with our crew in the late afternoons.
- Right now, on Sundays at 7pm, we have High School Youth Group on ZOOM. On

Wednesdays at 7pm, 7th and 8th grade have Youth Group/Confirmation. Our young adult group has been meeting at 4pm on ZOOM on Thursdays.

- I have been working on getting some Operation Sandwich details into place. The need for this program to exist has only multiplied with COVID-19. We are planning on hiring a position to be the summer coordinator for this program. We hope to launch on the first Monday of June.
- I have also taken more intentional time to check in with other youth workers from different circles of my life. The Synod hosts weekly ZOOM calls for Youth Directors, a peer group of youth director friends from college has started up, and I have been checking with our local youth directors on a more regular basis.
- This has been a challenging yet rewarding time in ministry. We are learning new skills for ministry that will be useful even beyond COVID-19. I wouldn't wish for this, but in some way, I am thankful for it.

Congregational Life: Hilary Johnson

No Report

Personnel: Jamie Boesen

No Report

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by

Darrell Paske, Council Secretary

Next Council Meeting: May 14, 2020

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.



Due to the reduction in revenues during the Covid-19 closure, spending restrictions have been implemented. Please check with Pr. Drew for approval prior to spending any church related funds.

Thank you for your continuing to support our integral ministry here at Lutheran Church of the Cross, especially during these trying times. We appreciate your continued backing of our efforts

to pay our bills and keep up our commitments to other community and synod ministry organizations that count on us for support.

Lutheran Church of the Cross

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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 | David Stevens | 218-961-2013 |
| 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 |

2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| President | David Grell | Social Justice/Global | Jason Martinson |
| Vice President | Jaime Boesen | Worship & Music | Mike Smith |
| Treasurer | Colleen Both | Youth | Jen Henry |
| Secretary | Darrell Paske | Stewardship | Craig Fink |
| Cong. Life | Hilary Johnson | LCC Foundation | Dan Halland |
| Education | Pam Johnson | | |
| Properties | Dale Peterson | | |

