

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church
of the Cross
2020



At the August 20 meeting, our Church Council, along with recommendations from the LCC Smart Team and staff, approved the move to Phase Three of our reopening plan. Therefore, Sunday worship services and Wednesday night worship & programming will resume at Lutheran Church of the Cross on September 6, 2020.

We have implemented some changes as we enter this phase:

- Anyone entering our facility must sign in (non-members will need to provide contact information) and must wear a mask or face shield.
- Drinking fountains will not be available, with the exception of the touchless dispenser near Chapel Hall (bring your own bottle.)
- Restrooms use will be limited to those in the SE corner of the building, near the Choir Room and Celebration Center.
- Our Nursery will remain closed until further notice.

Sunday Worship at 8:15am and 9:30am will be moved into Celebration Center. This will allow for social distancing, take advantage of greater air circulation, and help increase efficiency of sanitizing between services. Wearing masks will be required, with various types available for those who need them. Automatic hand sanitizer stations will also be available, with their use encouraged. Our worship service will be shortened, as there will be no call and response or singing by the congregation. Bulletins and any other worship materials will be distributed in hard copy form for one-time, individual use.

At the conclusion of each of the worship services, *ushers will direct* worshippers to leave the building in an expedient manner; we will not be hosting any fellowship time in the facility. For those wishing to, we suggest visiting in the parking lot (following social distancing and masking guidelines.)

At 10:30 our worship service will continue to be broadcast from the Sanctuary by Pr. Drew, Cathy Taylor, and a small group of musicians. This service will be available ONLINE only, via our website and Facebook page.

In addition to holding Sunday services in Celebration Center, we will be implementing a special *Kids Worship Service for children ages Kindergarten through Grade 6 in the Sanctuary. This service will run concurrently with the 9:30am service in Celebration Center and will replace Sunday School for the time being.* As with the regular worship service, social distancing and masking will be enforced. This service will be led by our Director of Children & Family Ministry, Kari Erickson and will include the use of video projected onto a large screen for participants to follow.

Currently, all call and response and songs will be motion-based only, with no singing by participants (all music will be pre-recorded.) Any worship materials will be available for each child for one-time individual use, with a Take-Home Worship/Activity included each week for use with our Family GIFT bags.

On Wednesday evenings, supper will no longer be served. Family Worship (Holden Evening Prayer) will be held in Celebration Center at 6:20pm with *all members welcome*. Pastor Drew's sermons will be teaching-based; therefore, all worshippers are encouraged to bring their own bible and stay for Bible Study following the service. Immediately following worship our restructured programming for grades 5-12 & adults will take place, with all meetings wrapping up by 7:30pm.

Wednesday schedule will be as follows:

6:20pm

- Family Worship for all in Celebration Center

7:00pm

- Route 56 (grade 5 & 6) in Chapel Hall
- Confirmation Small Groups in Basement
- High School Youth Group in Sanctuary
- Adult Bible Study (for anyone interested) in Celebration Center
- There will be a supervised area available for children Kindergarten through Grade Four from 7 -7:30pm in the Sunday School classrooms (social distancing and mask requirement will apply)

Following this new schedule essentially means that Route 56 and Confirmation will start when worship starts. After worship, Route 56 and Confirmation Small Groups will meet and discuss the lesson as well as check in with each other. As with our Kids Worship, a Take-Home Worship Activity will be sent home each week (for use with the Family GIFT bags.) High School Youth Group will meet in the East Transept of the Sanctuary during this time (NOTE: High School Youth Group will continue to meet online on Sunday evenings. Wednesdays evenings will be utilized for relational ministry and group building, while Sunday evenings will be bible-study focused.)

I know that this has been a challenging time in our lives and in the life of the church. At times, I have felt that we have been walking "through the deepest darkness" voiced in Psalm 23; not knowing the direction to go. But throughout this time, God has been with us..."His rod and staff have been there to comfort and protect us."

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. Thank you to our staff - they have risen to the challenge and found new ways of ministering to our church family. Thank you to our Council who have continued to focus on the best interest of our members in a heartfelt manner. And thank you to God, who continues to bless us and watch over us.

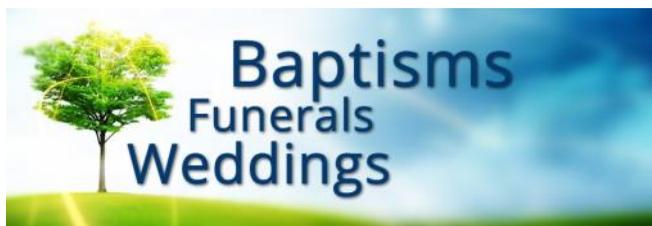
I look forward to seeing you at one of our in-person worship services!

Blessings, *Pastor Drew Bakken*

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2020 General Fund

	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Annual Annual
				% YTD of Budget
Income	\$ 54,464	\$ 366,520	\$ 672,326	54.52%
Expenses	\$ 50,897	\$ 361,179	\$ 672,326	53.72%
Difference	\$ 3,567	\$ 5,342	\$ 0	

In the month of July our income was more than our expenses by \$3,567.



FUNERAL

Nancy Erickson
 Born: August 3, 1939
 Died in Christ: April 12, 2020
 Graveside: August 1, 2020
 Evergreen Cemetery
 Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant

FUNERAL

Rev. Dr. David Stevens
 Born: May 19, 1949
 Died in Christ: June 12, 2020
 Funeral: August 15, 2020
 Lutheran Church of the Cross
 Pr. Drew Bakken, Officiant



**Update your
contact info!**

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.

CHILDREN & FAMILY ministry

Thanks to our families for participating in our VBX program this year, *On Earth As In Heaven*. Paula West and her grandsons had a fantastic week together using our Curbside Pickup kit. Each day they watched the ELCA videos and songs, and worked through the Bible activities, games, and crafts. They each took home a bag of extra crafts, as well. According to Paula, over the course of the week the boys perfected the Lord's Prayer and could recite it completely—much to the delight of their mother:-) The boys even created a *MineCraft* video of a church doing communion, with the Pastor reading the Lord's Prayer! And after thoughtful conversations throughout the week, the boys decided to donate a box of snacks to Operation Sandwich (a box their mom had sent for their own snacks for the week). Even though it was not our traditional VBX week at LCC that the boys have come to know, they had a wonderful experience.

Thanks to Paula, for sharing!!



Praying with Ritual

Use this prayer with your child, grandchild, and children you care for as you prepare for school this month:

Adults read the words in **BOLD**. Instructions are in *ITALICS*.

Before we begin, let's draw some faith symbols on the palm of your hand:

- *Draw a Cross:* **This represents faith.**
- *Draw a Wave:* **This represents hope.**
- *Draw a Heart:* **This represents love.**

Hold your hand in a tight fist.

We have faith; we have hope; we have love; and the most important thing is love

Caring adult, wrap your hands around your student's fist and speak these words:

Like my hand around your hand, God's love is wrapped all around us.

God's love is holding us.

God's love is right here with us, and I am right here with you.

No matter what happens with school this fall:

We have faith; we have hope; we have love.

And that is the most important thing.

Amen.

<http://www.nemnsynod.org/faithformationcovid.html>



Dear Lord, we pray for our students and teachers going back to schools this month. We pray for their health and safety as classrooms and schools have been modified to allow for proper social distancing and hygiene. We pray for the custodial staff and cafeteria workers, as well as the office staff who are essential employees; we pray that you would keep them safe and protected from the virus. Please protect the families of the students and teachers as they return home each day; please slow the spread of the virus so that it will not infect these families. Lord, we also pray for energy and rest for the teachers so that they would be able to plan their lessons and effectively teach all

their students, and that the students would be rested and able to learn and keep up with their lessons. We also pray for their spiritual growth, in Your name, Jesus. Amen.



Starts Sept. 6

—for kids in Kind. thru Gr. 6:

- **Wear a mask**
- **Find a yellow spot in a pew**
- **Sit quietly**
- **Breathe and prepare**

FROM ZACH'S DESK:

Here we go.

September is here, whether we want it or not. It's time for us to make the hard decisions. It's time to put the pen on the paper. It's for us time to make things happen.

I have been procrastinating on this newsletter article (sorry Laurie), because committing to a September Schedule is super daunting. I think I have been under the idea of "Ignorance is Bliss". It's easier to not worry about things which we have not planned.

But now, we need plans, and we need to work through our worries. So here are our September plans:

Confirmation will take on a new structure year; the large group teaching moment of the evening will take place during worship! This means Confirmation starts when worship starts. After worship, Confirmation Small Groups will meet and discuss the lesson a little bit, as well as check in on each other. The groups will meet in the newly renovated basement rooms.

High School Youth Group will meet after Wednesday worship as well as continuing to meet online on Sunday evenings. Wednesdays evenings will be utilized for relational ministry and group building. We will meet in the east transept of the sanctuary. Sunday evenings will continue to focus on bible studies.

Worship will continue as usual at 6:20pm. Route 56, Confirmation Small Groups, and High School Youth Group will follow at 7:00pm.

Parents of youth should keep their eyes on their email for more specific information.

This year will continue to evolve in shape and form, and we kindly ask for your prayers and patience as we navigate this together. Thank you for all of your support so far through this time.

Peace and Love,
Zach

One of our many camp-fires. This one burned HOT. We enjoyed s'mores and Kevin Lattu led us in a little camp style worship.



A little Summer Covid Reflection.

It is with joy and thankfulness that we wrap up this summer of youth ministry. We spent many weeks together in new ways. On Sunday evenings you could find a chunk of us hanging out on Zoom, doing bible studies and checking in on each other. On Tuesday afternoons, we were super chill and playing video games and joking around. Wednesday evenings you could find us playing disc golf, hanging out at campfires, or even goofing around downtown Nisswa.

Throughout this summer, we have had a core group of youth step up and claim this program to be their own. I am so proud of them and the community we are creating. We eagerly look towards fall as we welcome folks back, and new folks into the group.

Kart Kountry Extravaganza!

Join us on September 27th for some go-karting! We will tear up the track at Kart Kountry at 12:30pm. I will buy your first race!



Pretty much a pro disc golf team! What a blast! Upper picture.

Lindholm tees off on the lower picture.

Music Notes



September 2020

His Eye Is On The Sparrow

Text: Civilla Durfee Martin; Music: Charles Gabriel

Jesus must have been a bird-watcher. The reason I say that is that there are multiple verses in the Gospel where Jesus refers to the birds as a symbol to us that we should not worry. God will take care of us.

“Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will”. Matthew 10:29

“Do not fear...you are of more value that many sparrows.” Luke 12:7

“Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value that they?” Matthew 6:26

The following is taken from a favorite book of mine “Then Sings My Soul” Hymns and anecdotes compiled by Robert J. Morgan.

It was the theme of birds that caused the author of “God Will Take Care of You” to write, a year later, another great hymn on God’s care: “His Eye is on the Sparrow”. Civilla Durfee Martin was a Canadian by birth, born on August 21, 1869, in Nova Scotia. She became a school and music teacher, but when she married Dr. Walter Martin, an evangelist, she gave up teaching to travel with him and assist in his meetings.

This is her account of the writing of this song:

Early in the spring of 1905, my husband and I were sojourning in Elmira, New York. We contracted a deep friendship for a couple by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle---true saints of God. Mrs. Doolittle had been bedridden for twenty years. Her husband was an incurable cripple who had to propel himself to and from his business in a wheel chair. Despite their afflictions, they lived happy Christian lives, bringing inspiration and comfort to all who knew them. One day while we were visiting with the Doolittle’s, my husband commented on their bright hopefulness and asked them for the secret of it. Mrs. Doolittle’s reply was simple: “His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.” The beauty of this simple expression of boundless faith gripped the hearts and fired the imagination of Dr. Martin and me. The hymn “His Eye is on the Sparrow” was the outcome of that experience.

The day after writing the text for this hymn, Civilla mailed it to the famous Gospel composer, Charles Gabriel, who wrote the now famous music.

The text:

1. Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven's home
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.
2. Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
When song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to him; from care he sets me free;
His eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me.

Refrain

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free!
His eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me.

When we think about the carefree sparrow and the life of freedom from worry, we can try to emulate that and truly be free, truly depend on God to care for us amidst all of our cares and trials. Worry does not get us anywhere but heart sick, anxious, and afraid. We will keep our eyes on Jesus, and we know that He watches over all of us.

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music

BLUEGRASS WORSHIP, Sunday, September 13

Sunday, September 13, we will have a bluegrass worship service featuring some of our favorite bluegrass/gospel songs.

Musicians will be Erica Bjelland on bass, Kevin Lattu on guitar, Chris Fogderud on fiddle, Jim Natwick on banjo, Murry Holmstrom on piano and myself, Cathy Taylor on vocals.

We will have the same format of service as we are all used to, however, the music will have more of a bluegrass feel to it. A couple of the songs will be "I'll Fly Away" and "This Little Light of Mine".

We are so blessed to have such a wonderful group of talented musicians that are so willing to help us out in many different musical styles. We look forward to seeing you then!

Cathy Taylor, Director of Music





Thank you to all who have donated funds for our new church sign!

We will continue fundraising efforts for the new sign, which will be installed in October.

If you are interested in contributing to the cost, please mail your donation to LCC at PO Box 29, Nisswa (*LCC New Sign* in the memo line.) Please call or email the church office with any questions.

We have currently raised over \$14,000 of the \$24,550 needed.

Drive thru Communion



**SEPTEMBER 13,
2020
11:45AM - 2PM
REAR PARKING LOT**

Follow signs and directions of staff to get in line to receive the sacrament. Pr. Drew will be located near the Memorial Garden entrance and wearing a mask and gloves—we ask that all those in your vehicle wear a mask and remain in the vehicle.

*The table of our Lord is set for all those who need grace, forgiveness, strength, and wisdom for ministry and mission to the world.
Come, all are welcome.*

GATHER WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Unfortunately we've had to miss our Gather monthly Bible studies lately. We hope to start up as soon as possible. All women at LCC are invited to attend when they are able; we would love to have you join us! We had been meeting the 2nd Wednesday each month at 10 AM in Chapel Hall.



The lessons are found in the Gather magazine. (Some copies are available at church, but subscriptions can be ordered at the Gather website; the price is very reasonable and the whole magazine is excellent!)

Our priority is to remain safe. When we meet we will ask everyone to wear a mask, sit apart, and sanitize our hands. Chapel Hall will be sanitized both before and after we meet.

If we start in September there will be a notice in the LCC bulletins and EBlast. If we have your email we will send you a notice as well. We look forward to “gathering together in person” with you!

Fall 2020: “Holy time” by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni

In this three-session Bible study, the Rev. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni invites us to remember the past, recognize the present and reimagine the future.

These topics are so timely now as we are navigating a global pandemic. Particularly during these days we need frequent reminders that God loves us and even now is creating us into the people He intended us to be.

Session 1: Holy time: Remembering the past

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19, Luke 22:18-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Themes/Questions: What is faithful memory? How do we remember the past—good and bad? How do we embody memory in our worship through Word and Sacrament, and why is this important? How does faithful memory put us back together (re-member us) as faithful people?

Session 2: Holy time: Recognizing the now

Scriptures: Mark 14:3-9, Luke 4:16-21, Luke 12:54-56, 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

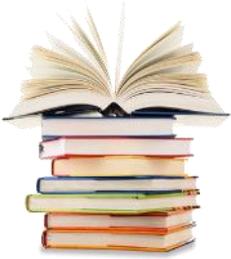
Themes/Questions: How do we grasp the times we are living in? How did Jesus, the woman who anointed him, and Paul all recognize “kairos” time—and what is it? What does it mean to recognize our calling to “be present”?

Session 3: Holy time: Reimagining the future

Scriptures: Isaiah 55, Revelation 21-22

Themes/Questions: How do we faithfully look to the future? What does it mean to reimagine the future in light of the promises of God’s reign? How do we live now in hope and active expectation, and how does this open us (individuals, churches, communities) to transformation?

BOOK DISCUSSION UPDATE



We will not meet in September. In October Pastor Drew will lead a discussion on *White Fragility* by Robin DeAngelo, which will meet weekly.

See Pr. Drew's note below:

October Book Study

The Summer of 2020 has inspired family discussions on COVID-19, as well as roused questions about the protests that were happening in downtown Minneapolis, which spread across the world. In the news we hear about Black Lives Matter, All Lives Matter, white privilege, and the tearing down of confederate statues. So how do we as parents, grandparents, teachers, citizens and churches talk about all this in a healthy manner?

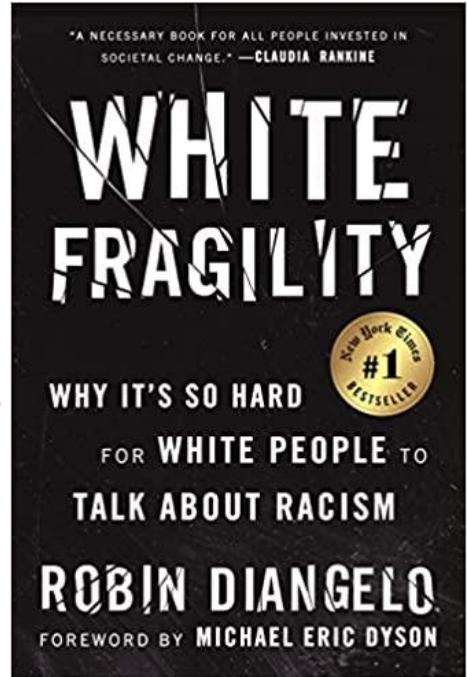
In response, we will be reading and discussing the book "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo, a New York Times #1 best seller. Weekly book discussions will begin on Tuesday, October 6th at 7pm.

To summarize the book Claudia Ranke wrote,

'White Fragility' brings language to the emotional structures that make true discussions about racial attitudes difficult. With clarity and compassion, DiAngelo allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to 'bad people'. In doing so, she moves our national discussions forward with new 'rules of engagement.' This is a necessary book for all people invested in societal change through productive social and intimate relationships.

I hope that you can attend our book study. We will be having an online discussion on this book as well. Please sign up by calling or emailing Laurie at the church office. Books can be ordered online through Amazon; there will be limited copies for sale in the church office for \$10.50.

Pastor Drew



Update to LCC Rummage Sale

The following information is an update to inform you of the various ways LCC Members have been stepping out in faith and action to reach out to our neighbors in need since July.

Sincere thanks to all of you who have responded since then to reaching out in new ways through financial contributions and volunteering time to assist with reaching out events.

LCC Rummage Sale Received as of August 10, 2020

Furniture and Miscellaneous Sale	\$3,379.00
Financial Donations	\$1,950.00
Individual Sales	\$ 209.00
Rummage Sale Account Funds	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
Monetary Funds to reach out to date	\$6,038.00

Continue to prayerfully consider joining us in reaching out in the following ways:

1. If you are having a rummage sale at your home, please consider getting 10 or so boxes of items presently in storage which have been donated for our rummage sales and sell them during your rummage sale and contribute the profit from those boxes to LCC Rummage Sale's reaching out efforts.

2. If you are a gardener and have extra produce, please consider selling it at your home and donating the proceeds to our LCC Rummage Sale.

All funds generated will benefit area ministries who are attempting to meet the critical needs of our neighbors; the ELCA COVID-19 Response Fund that will provide urgently needed monetary gifts for our Churchwide ELCA ministries; monetary support for Bradn Buerkle, our LCC Missionary, and specific needs of our NE MN Synod Companion Synods in India and Honduras.

**God's work.
Our hands.**



For further information or questions please call Carolyn Blanck, LCC Rummage Sale Chair, at 963-7660.

7 Prayers for September

1. May your finances multiply.
2. May your health improve.
3. May your friends be blessed.
4. May your family be loved.
5. May your pains be less.
6. May your worries disappear.
7. May God bless you.

Volunteers Needed



SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

It seems like such a long time since I've been calling and texting all you wonderful volunteers! But now here we are – September – resuming our indoor worship services and Fall programming. Things will be a little different, but we are hopeful this will be a good beginning!

For our Sunday and Wednesday Indoor Worship Services (which will be held in Celebration Center), I will be calling on a weekly basis instead of monthly. So on Mondays, I will be calling for that week's Wednesday and Sunday services.

One thing that will be added is a Sanitation Crew each week. After the 8:15 and before the 9:30 service each week, the chairs in Celebration Center will need to be sanitized. We will need approximately 4 people each Sunday from about 8:45 to 9:10 a.m. If you would be willing to help with this, please give me a call at 963-6250. All supplies (gloves, face masks, cleaning spray and cloths) will be available.

Library Volunteer Opportunity! We extend our thanks to Faeth Harms who has faithfully kept our LCC Library in operation for the past several years! Pat Tollefsrud is the other Library Volunteer, and she will be available and willing to train. This is approximately one hour per week. If you are interested in helping in this capacity, please give me a call at 963-6250.

A huge shout out and THANKS to our awesome volunteers for Operation Sandwich this summer. Each and every week, these dedicated people came and counted, sorted, packed, bagged and delivered lunches for families in the Nisswa, Pequot Lakes and Jenkins communities. This important project could not have happened without generous donations of food and monetary assistance from our LCC family. Thank you all for being a blessing in our community.

Blessings,
Sally Hodgson, Lay Ministries Coordinator

Sun	Mon	Tue	
<h1 style="color: #8B4513;">facility calendar for:</h1>			
		1 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions	2 8:30 Text S 10:00 Faceb 7:00 Confir O
6 8:15 Worship 9:30 Worship & Baptism 9:30 Kid's Worship 10:30 Worship—Online Only 7:00 HSYG—ZOOM	7 OFFICE CLOSED  10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group	8 8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions	9 8:30 Text 9:00 Lake 10:00 Face 10:00 Gat 6:20 Wo 7:00 7th 7:00 Adu
13 8:15 Bluegrass Worship 9:30 Bluegrass Worship 9:30 Kid's Worship 10:30 Bluegrass Worship—Online Only 11:45 Drive Thru Communion 7:00 HSYG—ZOOM	14 8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions	15 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions	16 8:30 Text 10:00 Face 4:00 Crea 6:20 Wor 7:00 Rout 7:00 9th & 7:00 Adu
20 8:15 Worship 9:30 Worship 9:30 Kid's Worship 10:30 Worship—Online Only 11:40 Affirmation of Baptism Service 7:00 HSYG—ZOOM	21 8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Suicide Loss Survivor Group	22 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions	23 8:30 Text 10:00 Face 6:20 Wor 7:00 Rou 7:00 Con 7:00 Adu
27 8:15 Worship 9:30 Worship 9:30 Kid's Church 10:30 Worship—Online Only 12:30 Kart Country 7:00 HSYG—ZOOM	28 8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions	29 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Facebook Devotions	30 8:30 Text 10:00 Face 6:20 Wor 7:00 Rou 7:00 Con 7:00 Adu

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<h1 data-bbox="588 185 784 256">2020</h1>	
<p>Study Book Devotions Information Guide Orientation</p>	<p>3 9:30 Operation Sandwich 10:00 CC Produce Drop Off 10:00 Facebook Devotions 4:30 Rummage Sale Core Group 7:00 A.A</p> 	<p>4 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>5 Private Funeral</p>
<p>Study As Area Food Shelf Mtg Book Devotions Father Bible Study Worship Grade Conf. Orient. Lit Bible Study</p>	<p>10 8:30 Thursday Morning Prayer 9:00 Yardwork 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 Church Council 7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>11 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p> 	<p>12 Private Baptism</p>
<p>Study Book Devotions Mission Care Mtg Worship Grade 56 Orientation Grade Conf. Orient. 7th & 8th Conf. Lit Bible Study</p>	<p>17 8:30 Thursday Morning Prayer 10:00 CC Produce Drop Off 10:00 Facebook Devotions 4:00 9th Grade Online Orien. 7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>18 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>19 6:30 Confirmation Faith Sharing</p>
<p>Study Book Devotions Worship Grade 56 Confirmation & HSYG Lit Bible Study</p>	<p>24 8:30 Thursday Morning Prayer 10:00 Facebook Devotions 7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>25 10:00 Facebook Devotions</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>Study Book Devotions Worship Grade 56 Confirmation & HSYG Lit Bible Study</p>			



1. Brent Campbell, Donald Nelson
2. Maci Martini, Luke Merseeth, PJ Overvold
3. Kari Alcock, Allison Ogren, Kari Rihm
4. Brian Aune, Janet Barsness, Ellen Maier, Jeremy Moddes
5. Clarence Carlson, Macayla Green, Clark Zard
6. Rebecca McMenimen, Gabbie Smith, Penny Stumvoll,
7. Gregg Gerhartz, Mervin Jensen, Lexi Roby, Isaac Trees
8. Kristi Nelson
9. Superior Bachman, Bryan Ogren
10. Rebecca Bakken, Jennifer Bassett, Logan Knutson, Thomas Lewis, Michael Oseland, Kaitlin Ubl
11. Candace Barnack, Brent Bigler-Labs, Jordan Hudalla, Dawn Meierding, Carol Moddes, Alexander Rude
12. Andrea Cibuzar, Ariana Cibuzar, Jodi Gerlich, Becky Hahn, Daniel Hemish
13. Melissa Bestul, Vivian Bolt,
14. Anthony Nelson, Tanya Nelson,
15. Wyatt Fink, Roland Johnson, Aurie Smith, Clinton Strother
16. Emily Aga, Diane Baker, Serenity Kottke, Ally Oium, Oliver Olson-Tims, Dennis Ricklefs, Marty Schwab
17. Sally Hodgson, Matthew Mailand, Caroline Rasinski, Sandy Strom-Gieseke
18. Jorgen Bjerkness, Mindi Brill, Alanna LeBlanc, Fern Schmidt
19. David Maccabee,
20. Carl Boeder, Stephanie Nelson
21. Clark Fillbrandt, Lisa Martini
22. Ceci Boche, Pauline Gustafson, Jan Halvorson, Jordan Kleist, David Smith, Temperance Treuvey
23. Alicia Green, Erik Hansen
24. Zaundra Cowger, Stacey Yundak
- 25.
26. Dawn Bjerkness, Steve Dean, Tyler Nelson
27. Ann Bergen, Craig Peterson
28. Alexander Andrist, Rachel Mrosla, Judy Schuna, Hazel Schwanke
29. Dana Anderson, Julie Fillbrandt, Raegen Miller, Elvera Pelkey
30. Stacy Germundson, Aron Hushagen

Thursday Morning Prayer



Lutherans pray not because God is there to grant our wishes or do what we want, but because we want to see what God is doing in the world, because we want to join with God and with others in living out God's love. We pray because we want God to be the center of our lives instead of ourselves. After being away from our church building for 6 months, it is time once again to gather together masked and safely distanced, for Thursday Morning Prayer. We meet for about an hour in the Sanctuary starting at 8:30 AM. If you have considered

joining us but weren't quite sure what we were about, please come on Thursday, September 10 and check it out. In fact, this would be a perfect time to join us because in addition to spending time in silent reflection, we will also spend time considering the direction we want this group to take. Bring your ideas; invite a friend to join us.

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

HELPING HANDS ARE NEEDED ON THURS., SEPT. 10

Meet at church at 9am to help spread dirt and grass seed around the areas that were disturbed during the parking lot construction.

We will work until we are finished!

Please bring your own rakes, shovels, and gloves (*and don't forget a smile:-*)



Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group

First and third Mondays of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at LCC.

Our goal is to provide a safe environment to share our stories, and to provide support and education to those who have lost a loved one to suicide.

*please note that we are a group for adults only

**contact Jeri Borgwarth at jeriborg@hotmail.com with questions

YOU'RE
not alone



WORSHIP RESUMES!



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP WILL BE HELD IN CELEBRATION CENTER AT 8:15AM AND 9:30AM.

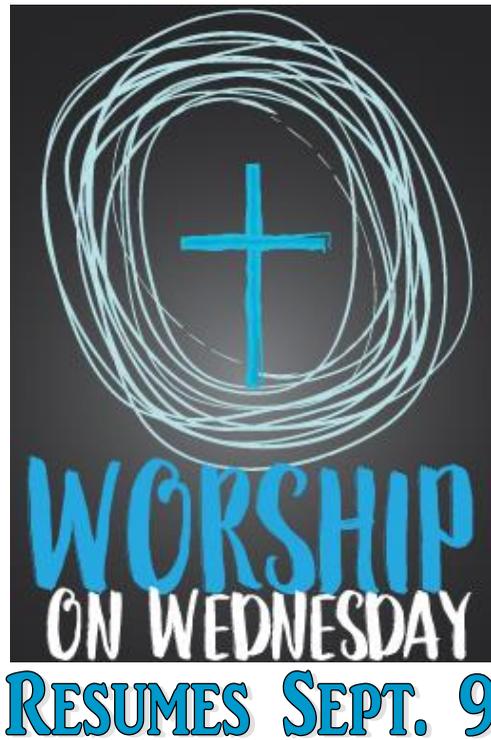
- *If you are ill or have been exposed to COVID-19, we ask that you refrain from attending.*
- *All persons entering the building must sign in and wear a mask.*
- *Chairs will be placed in accordance with social distancing guidelines. Ushers will help with seating.*
- *Drinking fountains will not be available, with the exception of the touchless dispenser near Chapel Hall (bring your own bottle.)*
- *Restroom use will be limited to those in the SE corner of the building, near the Choir Room and Celebration Center.*
- *Automatic hand sanitizer stations will be available at entrances.*
- *Worship service will be shortened, due to no call and response or singing by the congregation.*
- *Bulletins/worship materials will be distributed in hard copy form for one-time, individual use.*
- *Communion will not be served weekly - schedule to be determined.*
- *At the conclusion of each service, ushers will direct worshippers to leave the building in an expedient manner - there will be no coffee fellowship.*
- *Disinfection of worship space will commence between services.*
- *Our Nursery will remain closed until further notice.*

SUNDAY MORNING KIDS OF THE CROSS WORSHIP SERVICE WILL BE HELD IN THE SANCTUARY AT 9:30AM.

- *This service will run concurrently with the 9:30am service in Celebration Center and will replace Sunday School for the time being.*
- *Social distancing and wearing of masks will be enforced.*
- *There will be no call and response and no singing - motions only.*
- *Any worship materials will be available for each child for one-time individual use,*
- *A take-home worship/activity will be sent home each week for use with our Family GIFT bags.*

DETAILS:

- *Supper will no longer be served.*
- *Family Worship (Holden Evening Prayer) will be held in Celebration Center at 6:20pm.*
- **ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THIS SERVICE.**
- ***Sermons will be teaching-based; all worshippers are encouraged to bring their own bible and stay for Bible Study with Pr. Drew following the service.***
- *Immediately following worship, restructured programming for grades 5-12 & adults will take place and wrap up by 7:30pm:*
 - ◇ *Route 56 (gr. 5 & 6) in Chapel Hall*
 - ◇ *Confirmation Small Groups in Basement*
 - ◇ *High School Youth Group in Sanctuary*
 - ◇ *Adult Bible Study in Celebration Center (supervised quiet play area will be available for kids grade 4 and under from 7:00—7:30pm in the SS classrooms)*





A note from Zach:

At I write this, only two Operation Sandwich Distribution Days remain for the summer. Wow. Where did the time go?

Last December, a few of us started dreaming about doing something about food insecurity in our area. Fast forward eight months and a few days, the Northern Route, our route, will pass 10,000 meals. By the end of summer, both routes will serve over 20,000 meals, combined.

We can't just be proud of our 20,000 meals, though. We have to lament with our neighbors as they are hungry. We have to lament the broken food distribution systems of the world. We have to continue to help our hungry neighbors find food. Next week, we will include a list of resources to help during the school year.

I am so proud of this group. We have worked hard this summer. We've sweat. We've changed plans over and over again. We've said "Yes" to being God's hands and feet in this world. This crew is the best. Thank you for a great summer: Kristin and Annie Lindholm, Liz Brandanger, Anne Kostreba, Ray and Betty Arveson, Keith and Stacy Grothem, Sherry De La Hunt, Marj & Murry Holmstrom, Jean Kraft, Steve and Judy Heslop, Steve and Pam Osmera, Brad and Joanie Swanson, Jim and Cheryl Swanson, Don and Cheryl Karlgaard, Pastor Steve Blenkush, Julia Blenkush, Cathy Trees, Lauri and Lucy Helbling, and of course, the LCC Staff!





A note from The Lakes Area Food Shelf...

For the last 29 years, we have been serving the Pequot Lakes, Nisswa, Lakeshore, Jenkins, and Breezy Point communities. We are grateful to continue to provide food assistance today! Groceries are available for pick up on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to noon, and on the first and third Thursdays from 5 to 7 pm.

Nonperishable donations of peanut butter, pasta, ramen, shampoo & conditioner, toothpaste, and tooth brushes are in short supply and greatly needed.

We are so thankful for the fresh produce that you are providing the food shelf.

Monetary Donations can be mailed to:

LAFS, PO Box 724, Nisswa, MN 56468.

Thank you.

Tamara Larsen



A Message from our ELCA Global Missionary

Russian Correspondent

Men's Ministry Retreats

Before the country moved into self-isolation, the early months of the year gave us the opportunity to launch new, local initiatives in the field of men's ministry. Because this type of work is so unfamiliar to most of our congregations, it is essential that it not just be *studied* as an idea, but *experienced*. Thankfully my inquiries about initiating men's ministry were met with enthusiasm, and I was happy to be able to help give others the chance to take part in this high-impact ministry through weekend retreats in two congregations



I know well (Vladivostok and Moscow).

In Vladivostok one of the older and most respected men in the congregation, Gennady, was in charge of explaining men's ministry and inviting participants; the congregation's jack-of-all-trades, Eduard, was in charge of the logistics, while I was responsible for the program. During our time together we realized that while these men had been acquainted with each other for years, they knew very little about one another. The growth that happened over the weekend as they came to understand one another as sojourners on the path of faith is likely to have a positive effect as the congregation moves forward to their next stage of congregational life.

A few weeks later, we held a similar event with a group from Moscow. The congregation there is much larger and has a sizable number of middle aged men, the main target group we are hoping to reach. In Moscow we easily reached our numbers-limit quickly thanks to invitations issued by my partner in planning, Pastor Artis Petersons. As with in Vladivostok, I found that the program of events I had planned could have been spread out into two more retreats, insofar as the men, when they started opening up to one another, really found that they had a lot to say! Moreover, they also found that their brothers in faith could really be an important source of support for them. As the weekend ended, the highly-skilled and creative participants of this seminar were already planning a follow up meeting in May. While circumstances are such that it was not possible to follow through at the moment, I am confident that the cathedral congregation will soon have an active men's ministry group that will be able to work without my needing to be involved as an organizer.

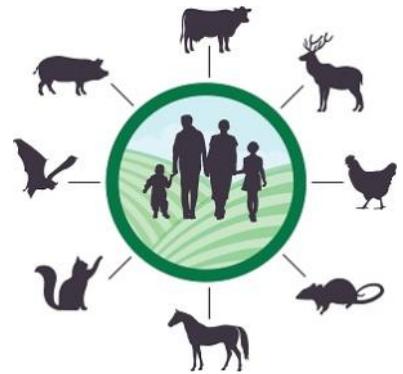


Your brother in Christ, Bradn

The LCC Creation Care Team has an exciting opportunity to donate fresh produce to the Lakes Area Food Shelf this summer, and YOU can be a part of it. Here's how it works: **Bring bagged or boxed fresh produce to the tub on the back steps at LCC NO LATER THAN 10 AM on Thursday, September 3 & 17.** The Creation Care Team will deliver it to the Food Shelf.

You can also feel free to take excess produce directly to the food shelf yourself. Note that they would prefer it on **Tuesdays from 9-12** (the earlier the better!) The Lakes Area Food shelf is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am to 12pm and from 5-7 pm on the first and third Thursdays of the month. It is located at 29316 Patriot Avenue in Pequot Lakes. They share the driveway with Grace United Methodist Church, are in a separate building just a little to the south. Please use the back door. Since COVID, the needs of the food shelf have greatly increased, so fresh produce is welcomed.

For the past 10 years, scientists funded by the US Agency for International Development's Predict program (USAID/PREDICT) have pinpointed and warned about the more than 900 viruses most likely to cross over from animals' bodies into humans. Since 1940, hundreds of microbial pathogens, such as HIV, Ebola, Zika, MERS, West Nile, and a number of novel coronaviruses (such as COVID-19) have emerged either for the first time or in new territory, with 60% of them originating in animal hosts. More than two-thirds spread from wildlife, where the pathogens live harmlessly, while some come from pets and livestock. HABITAT DESTRUCTION from cutting down forests to expand towns, cities and industrial activities threatens vast numbers of wildlife with extinction, and forces them into closer, intimate contact with humans. This may allow benign microbes to be transformed into deadly pathogens. The U.S. government ended the PREDICT program last October, but we can URGE OUR POLICY-MAKERS to work to not only reinstate it, but also to *protect wildlife habitats that keep animal microbes from jumping between species.* COVID-19 is just one of a number of *zoonotic diseases* that are caused by viruses that have jumped from animal hosts to the human population. According to the United Nations Environment Dept. (UNEP) and International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), such diseases are "highly predictable" given the human activities that drive pandemics: deforestation for agriculture and development that results in mosquito-borne disease; the expansion of suburbs into northeastern US forests that increases tick-borne diseases by driving out predators and increasing deer and white-footed mice; raising tens of millions of farm animals in "factory farms" that provide opportunities for microbes to turn deadly; catastrophic loss in biodiversity, reckless destruction of wildlands for economic development, and warming temperatures. Every year 2 million people die from neglected zoonotic diseases, and in the past two decades alone, zoonotic diseases have caused economic losses of more than \$100 billion, not including the cost of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is expected to cost \$9 trillion over the next few years. SUPPORT EFFORTS to integrate human health, animal health, and environmental policy that protects ecosystems.



August 2020 LCC Council Highlights

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS Church Council Meeting Thursday, August 20, 2020

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion: David Grell

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Council President David Grell

Present:

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

Officer Reports:

Council Minutes by Darrell Paske

- Motion to approve Pastor Drew, Second Jamie Boesen, Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report by Colleen Both

- Motion to approve Craig Fink, Second Hilary Johnson, Motion Passed

New Business:

New Sign: Final vote 263 yes votes, six no votes. Contract signed by Council President to be forwarded to vendor.

Phase Three In-Sanctuary Services: (See Pastor Drew Report) Motion to proceed Craig Fink, Second Hilary Johnson, Motion Passed

Council Retreat: Annual Council Retreat October 10th, 8:00 a.m.

Old Business:

Rummage Sale (See Congregational Life Report to Follow)

Pastor's Report

Pastor Drew:

For the month of July and August we as a church staff have talked about, "how do we safely open the church to in person worship?" We have been in Phase 2 since this past June. Tonight I make a request to the council, with approval from our Smart Team that we look at moving the church to Phase 3 of our reopening plan.

Phase 3 will be in accordance with the limitations of group size & social distancing set by the Governor, including wearing masks. Starting September 1st we would be looking at:

- In person worship resumes at 8:15 am and 9:30 am September 6th in the Celebration Center. Online worship will continue at 10:30 am.
- Following worship, congregants will remain seated until dismissed by the ushers.
- Communion will be served using strict safety protocols.
- All necessary worship materials will be available in hard copy for one-time usage.
- Congregational singing will follow current recommendations from MN Dept. of Health
- Offering will be received in plates set by the doors.
- Children are welcome to worship with their families
- Nursery care will not be available
- A Children's Worship Service will be available at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary.
- Those physically vulnerable to the virus are requested to stay at home and worship online
- Staff and parishioners will be required to wear masks in the church and when interacting with others in close proximity. Masks are available.
- All visitors must check in via sign in
- Other events in the building may resume; however food service will not be allowed
- Weddings and funerals may resume.
- Wednesday night programming will resume following a new format; a hybrid will be available
- If there is evidence of COVID-19 spread at LCC, in-person worship services will discontinue until further notice (revert to Stage 2.) The state health department will be contacted for further guidance.
- If local schools close to in-person education, LCC will follow suit and revert to Stage 2.
- LCC's Smart Team, staff and Council will determine when to move to stage 4.

With approval from the church council we will be sending out a letter to the congregation discussing phase 3 on Friday. This letter will explain our new worship for Sunday and Wednesday. We will discuss Wednesday programming for Confirmation, Youth Group, Route 56, and a new k-4th grade program. We are excited for these new possibilities and opportunities. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Committee Reports:

Property: Dale Peterson

- The County 13/77/Highway 371 intersection project is complete. Final touches will continue.

- Our new LCC parking lot is also complete. Lighting was the final element and was installed this week.
- The new LCC monument sign was approved and the remaining funds will be sought for installation this fall. The old sign will be relocated to the north entrance road from Crossroads.
- Landscaping of LCC church grounds is a planned 2021 project. Sprinkler system will be part of the landscape plan.
- Plans are underway to clean and sanitize the church pews and chairs prior to resuming services

Stewardship: Craig Fink

No Report

Worship and Music: Mike Smith

No Report

Social Concerns and Global Missions: Jason Martinson

Our main initiative this Summer continues to be Operation Sandwich. Zach, along with our committee, has done a tremendous job keeping the wheels rolling and keeping kids and families in need fed. So far this Summer Operation Sandwich has delivered more than 600 bags of food supplies to more than 30 local families!

We also need to thank some community partners that have made donations to make this effort successful. The Nisswa Lions made a monetary donation in the amount of \$2000! The Schaefer Family and Schaefer's Foods has donated more than \$1000 worth of grocery bags for us to package our food supplies in, which we are also extremely grateful for!

A very warm THANK YOU to the many volunteers that have graced our ministry with their time and energy, we could not do this without you!

With the school year approaching and with the uncertainty of COVID we will be keeping an eye on things so we know what shape this ministry will need to take. I have confidence that no matter how the need presents itself this Congregation and Community will rise to action.

Children and Family Ministry: Pam Johnson

- We distributed over 100 VBS kits to LCC and OSL families
- Kari put together a Backpack Blessing Kit that will be mailed to all kids, K - gr. 4. The kits include the blessing, a poster, prayers for parents, a bookmark, coloring sheets, and a backpack keychain kit. She will also include some cool pencils, stickers, and erasers.

- The welcome letter to Route 56 parents is ready to go, as soon as Council approves Wednesday worship plans. This year's list totals 28 kids. We should be able to social distance in classrooms 1 and 2.
- We have a cool Rally Day theme picked out if we are able to use it - going on the mask and superhero theme - "You and God - a Dynamic Duo"
- This year's Sunday School Theme is "Listening For and To God"
- Kari is hoping to host Trunk or Treat with a twist - it would be a drive through event.
- Kari is developing a Pumpkin Blessing/Candy Corn Faith kit to be sent home for Sunday School families in October.
- Kari has the Children's Worship Power point slides completed for when we are able to meet again.

Youth and Family Ministry: Jen Henry

- July was a great month of this COVID-era. Disc-Golf took off! A group of us meets bi-weekly at a local disc golf course. We are growing in skill, but mostly in community. We have had campfires on the off weeks. Our High School Youth Group Sunday Night Zoom Chats have continued to be a building block for our youth group.
- It seems now that we have a solid core group in this program. I am so thankful for their commitment to each other and the community. This group will be great at welcoming others into the program come fall. I look forward to where they will take this program.
- August has been a continuation of July. This is good.
- Fall is looking to grow and evolve with our COVID life. I am excited for what our Wednesday nights could look like. A teaching moment in worship, and a small group focus for Confirmation. I am still working on HSYG's program for this fall. Ninth graders will be joining the program almost full time. We will tie in their Apostles Creed curriculum into the nights, and they may not even know it.
- Confirmation will happen on September 20th at its own service at 11:40. It will be a wonderful day.
- The 2021 National Youth Gathering has been postponed until 2022 in Minneapolis. We are assembling a team to help us make the best choice for our summer trip in 2021. I hope to have this group meet by the end of September.

Congregational Life: Hilary Johnson

Update to LCC Rummage Sale

The following information is an update to inform you of the various ways LCC Members have been stepping out in faith and action to reach out to our neighbors in need since the July 31st e-mail you received.

Sincere thanks to all of you who have responded since then to reaching out in new ways through financial contributions and volunteering time to assist with reaching out events.

LCC Rummage Sale Reaching Out in New Ways Monetary Funds Received as of August 10, 2020

Furniture and Miscellaneous Sale	\$3,379.00
Financial Donations	\$1,950.00
Individual Sales	\$ 209.00
Rummage Sale Account Funds	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
Monetary Funds to reach out to date	\$6,038.00

Personnel: Jamie Boesen

No Report

Motion to Adjourn Jamie Boesen, Second Pam Johnson - Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by

Darrell Paske, Council Secretary

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, September 10th, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

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.



THRIVENT provides its members with a unique opportunity to help support LCC through Thrivent Action Teams. All Thrivent members are eligible to apply for two ACTION TEAM GRANTS and receive \$250 in funds (per grant) to help with a fundraiser, service activity or educational event.

See one of our staff members if you belong to Thrivent and would like to apply!

thrivent[®]



Northeastern Minnesota Synod
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

2020 Quilt Auction Update:

Join us for the first ever NE MN Synod online quilt auction, "Wrapping our Quilts Around Hunger 2020"
 The auction will begin on Weds., Sept. 9 and end on Sat., Sept. 12 at vlm@VLMcaps.org.

The first ever Virtual Synod Assembly was held on August 28 and 29, 2020, with the theme taken from Matthew 5:14-16. A highlight of the Assembly was the election of a new Northeast MN Synod Bishop!
Please keep him or her in your prayers.



Streaming video and Facebook Live broadcasts will continue on Sundays at 10:30am on our website and on Facebook Live.

We hope to be streaming our Wednesday evening worship service live, as well—watch for updates coming soon!

www.lccnisswa.org

Lutheran Church of the Cross

PO Box 29
5064 County Road 13
Nisswa, MN 56468

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

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Address label here

Welcoming all people into discipleship

STAFF

Pastor	Drew Bakken	218-961-2014
Pastor		
Director of Youth and Family Ministry	Zach Malecha	218-961-2015
Director of Children and Family Ministry	Kari Erickson	218-961-2012
Director of Music Ministry/Organist	Cathy Taylor	218-961-2053
Financial Secretary	Karen Wiele	218-961-2016
Lay Ministry Coordinator	Sally Hodgson	218-961-2052
Senior Choir Director	Brian Stubbs	
Organist	Laura Raedeke	
Bell Choir Director	Judy Rickbeil	
King's Kids	Carol Smith	
Custodian	Clint Baker	218-963-2564
ELCA Global Missionary	Bradn Buerkle	
LCC Office	Laurie Hemish	218-961-2011

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		

