Crosslake Lutheran

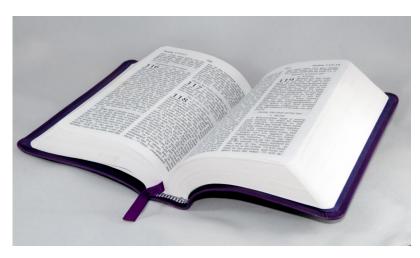
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January 2020



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Bible Study: How Lutherans Interpret the Bible



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Pastor's Page



Rising Light Through Chili Powder, Bible Study, and Mental Health Discussions.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Throngs of people joined the Royce family pictured here and made room in their family Christmas celebrations for Christmas worship at Crosslake Lutheran. They came like the shepherds and wisemen using the light of the star only to find that there was an even brighter light

emanating from the manger. Jesus, the light that shone in the darkness. The Gospel of John proclaims this truth, "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:3b-5 NRSV) I encourage you to remember that Christmas is more than a day. It is a 12 day season of the church calendar. Yes, take



these beautiful texts from John 1, Matthew 1, and Luke 2 and read them as daily devotions as we prepare for a new time in the church year, Epiphany.

Epiphany is simply and most radically a revealing, the revealing of the Light of Christ to world. We follow John the Baptist who "was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The True Light, which enlightens EVERYONE, was coming into the world." We too, are called to participate, to testify, to this light which continues coming into the world. The hymn, "Arise Your Light Has Come," written by Ruth Duck, invites our participation.

2

- Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.
- Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Here are just a few ways we will be doing this in the month ahead.

- Our midweek Bible will explore how to navigate scriptures using Dr. Powell's, "How Lutherans Interpret The Bible." Navigating scriptures to hear the promises of God and find God's call and ordinance for our lives can be a challenge. Dr. Powell will give us tools to feel God moving in epiphanal ways so that we can move in testimony to the light. See page 4 for more details.
- Following the example of our adults, our youth will embark on their own exploration of Mental Health topics in January and February. They will be looking for the light of Christ to be revealed in the dark and scary world of mental health.
- Finally we will have some fun revealing Christ's light at the Crosslake Winterfest on Friday, January 31st from 7-9pm. Members of our Church council will join me as we serve up cups of free chili to the participants at the Celebrate Winterfest event where there will be sliding, skating, and sleigh rides. Come to join in this celebration of community!

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and a bright Epiphany to you! Pastor Kurt

About Us

Council		Staff	
Brian Boyda	218-341-3155	Ministers	Everyone
President		Senior Pastor	Kristin Oltmann
Lori Nelson	651-246-7292	Schol 1 astol	
Vice President		Associate Pastor	Kurt Hagestuen
Diana Gallaway	218-838-8222	Office Manager	Brenda LaRock
Secretary		Onice Manager	DI EIIUA LANOCK
Paul Tender	218-543-6465	Youth Director	Pat Netko
Treasurer		Bookkeeper	Tracy Nelson
Jeff Benson	612-598-1852	Dookkeepei	Tracy Neison
Marlin Gens	218-543-4503	Parish Nurse	Gail Smith
Terry Havir	218-765-3723	Music Ministry Director	Patricia Lundeen
Megan Nordgren	218-851-5107	Music Ministry Director	I ati icia Lundeen
Michael O'Neil	218-838-6151	Choir Director	Kristi Morsch
Jaci Peterson	218-692-4682	Custodian	Jenny Henderson
Ann Schrupp	218-341-3155	Custodian	Jenny Trenderson
Sal Sposito	218-839-3672	Maintenance	Carl Weber
Marie Wagner	763-360-7753	Groundskeeper	Brian Thull
Nancy Westerberg	218-765-4308	Groundskeeper	



⁴ Bible Study: How Lutherans Interpret the Bible

For our Wednesday Bible Study, Dr. Mark Allan Powell, a Lutheran pastor and Bible professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, will lead us as he explores (through DVD segments) how Lutherans interpret the Bible. Dr. Powell will invite us to explore seven important questions about Lutherans and the Bible. He does not prescribe "the Lutheran way" to read the Bible nor does



he dismiss the way you may have come to understand the Bible. Instead Powell presents a variety of Lutheran perspectives for interpreting the Bible. Through Powell's rich discussions we will discover answers to questions we may have always had about the Bible. After watching the DVD together, we will have great discussion time as always! Join us on Wednesdays, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Wednesday, January, 8	Session 1: The Word of God
Wednesday, January, 15	Session 2: What Lutherans Say About the Bible
Wednesday, January, 22	Session 3: Where the Bible comes From
Wednesday, January, 29	Session 4: Interpreting the Bible in Context
Wednesday, February, 5	Session 5: Determining Right from Wrong
Wednesday, February, 12	Session 6: The Many Meanings of the Bible
Wednesday, February, 19	Session 7: Devotional Bible



Crosslake Lutheran has a new sign! Thank you to the Facilities Committee for all their work in making this a reality.

YOUTH MINISTRY



Happy New Year! We thank all of you who ordered from our fruit fundraiser and especially all those who helped

unload the truck and helped get the orders out. Many hands make light work! Thank you so much!

In December we went 'caroling' and visited our home-bound friends. We brought gifts and had some nice conversation. A meaningful experience for all! Please check out the Crosslake Lutheran Church Facebook page to see pictures!

There will be a parent meeting on January 15 at 7 pm for <u>ALL 7-12th grade</u> <u>youth and parents</u> with important information regarding our Youth Ministry Program! A special THANKS! To all of our **Faith 5 Small Group Leaders** – Andrea Haar, Bob Erickson, Jill Andersen, Jodi Schott, Christy Potocki, Kari Lohmiller, Beth Wolf, Shari Monahan, Karen Senst, Lisa Slepica, Deanne Trottier, Carrie Joyce, Autumn Thull, Janet Hennies, and Kristin Larsen. We are so grateful for your time and all you do!

Giving brings JOY to our hearts and it is our work to do here on Earth. It is my HOPE that 'giving' becomes a way of life for our youth. The LOVE of Jesus is in our hearts and guides our actions. May all of our actions be FAITHFUL! May PEACE be with you all!

> Any questions – Any time – contact me! God is good! Pat

2020 NE MINNESOTA SYNOD MEN'S RETREAT

February 21 and 22 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Brainerd Featuring: Rev. Dr. Mark Skinner and Rev. Dr. Andy Root Cost: \$40 for repeat attendees (includes registration and meals) \$30 for first time attendees/men 30 and younger (includes registration and meals) \$20 for Sat. afternoon session only (no meals)

\$15 for Sat. afternoon session only (no meals, enrolled in the Yearly Intensive Series)



Brochures with more information are available in the Church Office.

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Prayers for Peace and Comfort:

• Ramona Sandberg in the death of her son, Mark Sandberg, on December 13th in Turnwater, WA.

• Duane & Kathy Swanson in the death of Duane's brother, Ralph, on December 14th.

• The family of Amil Aasland in their loss & sorrow. Amil passed away on December 17th in Crosslake.

• The family of Joyce Sullivan in their loss & sorrow. Joyce passed away on December 23rd in Crosslake.

PASTORAL ACTS <u>Memorial Services</u> Mark Sandberg, December 17th Amil Aasland, December 30th





Dear Friends in Christ: We, the family of Mark Sandberg, would like to express our sincerest thanks for all of your efforts in the preparation and administration of Mark's memorial service on 12/17/19. Your genuine warmth was truly comforting. We are all very grateful for the sense

of compassion and community we feel at Crosslake Lutheran Church. Thank you for making this difficult time less stressful, and for the love that emanates from the entire congregation. Sincerely, The Sandberg family

November:	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Dif	ference	<u>YTD:</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Difference
Revenues:	\$ 43,922	\$ 40,619	\$	3,303		\$ 485,169	\$ 532,683	\$ (47,514)
Expenses:	<u>\$ 40,650</u>	<u>\$ 43,811</u>	\$	3,161		<u>\$ 503,433</u>	<u>\$ 542,990</u>	<u>\$ 39,557</u>
Difference:	\$ 3,272	\$ (3,192)	\$	6,464		\$ (18,264)	\$ (10,307)	\$ (7,957)



In the month of **November**, revenues exceed expenses by \$3,272. YTD's performance is \$7,957 less than budget, because revenues are \$47,514 less than budget and expenses are \$39,557 less than budget.

Complete financial reports are available in the finance mailbox.

Health Ministry

Happy New Year—A Time for New Beginnings.

I will heading south for several months as I take time to renew, rest and relax. Becky Kalton and Connie Caspers will be covering the visitation part of my Parish Nurse role and I will be accessible to church by phone as well. Please call the church office if you need anything from health ministry and Brenda will help you contact one of them. They provided excellent coverage last year and I am so blessed to have someone who can step into the role.

A Time for New Beginnings: It could be setting a New Years resolution or writing down things that you hope will happen in the new year. Setting intentions helps to guide your attention to what you want so that you have guidance about new directions. Maybe it is to eat healthier, perhaps it includes meditation or guided imagery that clears the mind, perhaps

including more prayer time or bible study. Posting a list of your intentions for 2020 is a great idea in order to be more conscious about choicesnothing changes if nothing changes.

Thank you all to those who made Christmas special for our homebound or those in a facility. The "elves" delivered 17 gift bags that included fun Christmas things and a gorgeous quilt from the Quilting group. I wish that all of you could be with us when the gifts are opened- it would really help all understand how much is means to be remembered during the Christmas season. Next year, think about ways that you can "adopt" a senior who may not have any family or friends. If you need ideas about how to find those folks- see me.

January can be a long month after all the hustle and bustle of Christmas- what about Epiphany visits in your local nursing homes? Reading a story, singing a song, bringing baked goods or just a smile would mean a lot to those who have little to look forward to. It is also great to check on neighbors who may

be still here—especially in the more remote places of the lake area. We can be the Good Samaritan to those who need a bit more help during winter.

Work is continuing on the Senior Expo which will happen at the end of April 2020. Don Shelby will be the guest speaker and it will include mini sessions and lots of educational booths like last year. There is also lots of good food and gifts to be had so please watch for it in news releases etc.

Another great educational offering is "Back to Basics" which is held February

15th in Pine River. This all day event features a wide variety of education including holistic pet care, clean energy, greenhouse growing, wellness topics and so much more. Check out <u>www.happydancingturtle.org</u> for registration information since the sessions have a limit as to number of participants.

For those of you traveling, be sure to have enough medications to get you through your trip. Our clinic at Minneapolis Heart Institute gets calls often from folks who are out of meds and are out of the area. Be sure to also carry a list of your medications with you, as well as a little medical history if you have a few health issues since it is easier to update a new doctor about things such as allergies, etc. If you are out of town for an extended times, get recommendations from local folks about best clinics, doctors, etc. so that if they are needed it is easier to make that connection. Keep washing those hands to prevent flu.

Thank you to all who made our first Blue Christmas meaningful for those who attended. It was a special moment to be able to lay our cares and hurts down into the manager for the Blessed Savior to be with us in difficult times. The blue candles on the cross were a special reminder that the Light always wins out over the darkness. Enjoy the winter season, time of renewal, rest, and reflection no matter where you are. Gail Smith, RN—Parish Nurse



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ja	nuary 2	020	1 New Years Holiday (Church Office closed)	2	3	4 "Cultivating Generous Congregations" workshop-Hinckley 9:30-3:30pm
5 8:15am Adult Choir practice 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am coffee/fellowship	6 No Jul Fest until March 9am 500 Club 9am Quilters 7pm A.A.	7 9:30am Ink Spots 10am Pastors' Study Group-Brainerd 1pm Staff Meeting 2pm Post-Core Diabetes class	8 9am Kitchen Committee 10am Bible Study 1pm Knit Wits 3pm Executive Committee 4pm 7th & 8th grade Youth Ministry 5:30-6:10pm Supper 6:15pm Worship with Holy Communion & GROWing Kids 7pm 7th-12th Grade Youth Ministry	9 9am Marketing Meeting 1pm Welca General Meeting	10	11
12 Baptism of Our Lord Sunday 8:15am Adult Choir practice 9:30am Worship with "We Need a New Roof" skit 10:30am coffee/fellowship	13 9am 500 Club 9am Quilters 7pm A.A.	14 10am Pastors' Study Group-Brainerd 1pm Staff Meeting	 15 10am Bible Study 1pm Knit Wits 4pm 7th & 8th grade Youth Ministry 5:30-6:10pm Supper 6:15pm Worship with GROWing Kids 7pm ALL 7th-12th Parent & Youth Meeting 	16 10am Book Club	17	18
19 8:15am Adult Choir practice 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am coffee/fellowship	20 9am 500 Club 9am Quilters 7pm A.A. Country Cross deadline!	21 9:30am Ink Spots 10am Pastors' Study Group-Brainerd 5pm Finance Noon Staff Meeting 7pm Church Council	22 10am Bible Study 11:30am Stewardship 1pm Knit Wits 4pm 7th & 8th grade Youth Ministry 5:30-6:10pm Supper 6:15pm Worship with Holy Communion & GROWing Kids 7pm 7th-12th Grade Youth Ministry	23	24	25
26 8:15am Adult Choir practice 9:30am Worship 10:30am coffee/fellowship	27 9am Altar Guild 9am 500 Club 9am Quilters 7pm A.A.	28 10am Pastors' Study Group-Brainerd 1pm Staff Meeting	29 10am Bible Study 1pm Knit Wits 4pm 7th & 8th grade Youth Ministry 5:30-6:10pm Supper 6:15pm Worship with GROWing Kids 7pm 7th-12th Grade Youth Ministry	30 10am Country Cross assembly	31 Crosslake Lutheran serving chili at Winterfest sledding party at the Crosslake Community Center 7-9 pm.	

Women ELCA

WELCA SCANDINAVIAN CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Thank you to all who helped with and contributed to our Scandinavian Christmas Brunch. We enjoyed this beautiful event with great food, great music and great fellowship. The special offering of \$137 was designated for the Current for Curran project sponsored by the NE Women of the ELCA Synod. This "Skip the Grid" project will supply solar energy for Curran Hospital located in Zorzor, Liberia. Thank you for your generosity.

JUL FEST

Please note: Jul Fest crafters have decided to begin meeting in March of 2020. In the meantime, please consider the leadership opportunity to co-chair the Jul Fest event. Linda Gates is willing to act as coach to those who will co-chair Jul Fest. It is a wonderful opportunity to work with our dedicated and talented WELCA women. Please contact Janet Marr or any member of the WELCA board to discuss your willingness to lead.

WELCA GENERAL MEETING

WELCA will meet on January 9th at 1:00 pm for a short meeting followed by a Bible Study led by Connie Caspers. The Bible study topic *We Are Called* is the current study in **Gather** magazine.

LOOKING FORWARD... On February 6th and 7th WELCA will meet at Camp Knutson for our Winter Retreat. We will gather at 4 pm on Thursday the 6th to begin our retreat study; enjoy a pot luck supper; and a girls' evening of games, conversation, laughter and snacks. Saturday morning we will continue with a Testimony in Music presentation by Lois Jensen, wrap up our study; enjoy brunch and depart by noon. Please see the WELCA bulletin board for details of what to bring and to sign-up for Thursday, Friday or overnight. The cost for overnight is \$45. Looking forward to being with you at beautiful Camp K!

March 21st, 2020 is National Quilting Day. Let us know how we can celebrate our talented quilters.

April 4th (a Saturday) has been set for the Spring Gathering in Pequot Lakes. More details to come.

Faith Formation in a Secular Age

Featuring

Rev. Dr. Andrew Root

Luther Seminary professor and Carrie Olson Baalson Chair of Youth and Family Ministry



"We live in the middle of our own transition as we experience the shifting of the framework in which the Western world has been built. Most of us don't realize that we are living with a new calendar. Like people in the sixteenth century, we seem to be more concerned with what we've lost than with the fact that the whole calendar has shifted ... Charles Taylor asks, 'Why was it virtually impossible not to believe in God in, say 1500, in our Western society, while in 2000 many of us find this not only easy, but even inescapable?""

Andy Root, Faith Formation in a Secular Age

Saturday, February 22nd; 1:00-4:00 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brainerd. Register at www.nemnsynod.org under the lay leader network tab

Co-sponsored by Men in Mission and NE MN Synod Lay Leader Network

Contact the church office if you are interested in attending this Synod event.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard on our cross-generational Christmas Program "Twas the Evening of Christmas".

A special thanks to our students and their parents. Kristi Morsch directed our children and the adult choir. Gloria Kroeger accompanied our children on the piano during rehearsals. Patricia Lundeen accompanied our choirs during the worship services. Pastor Kurt



created the worship slides and coached our children throughout the service.

Coming in January: On January 8, we are bringing back Godly Play!

Advent Giving Tree Service Project 2019

Thank you to the congregation for helping make Christmas a little better for 11 families (5 single parents, 6 couples) with their 27 children. Crow Wing County and the Salvation Army had over 800 families to help make some Christmas possible. Each family received a \$20 Cub Food card whether the family was a single parent with 1 child or a two-parent family with 4 kids. Also, each child got to pick one toy out of the donated toy pile. A gift bag put together for that family by various churches or organizations. In our case, those 11 families picked up the bag we put together for them. One of the changes this year for us was to give a Fleet Farm card rather than the Holiday gas station cards. A Fleet Farm card can be used for gas, or to help pay for car parts, tires or anything else that Fleet Farm sells. If members of each congregation that helps with this service project spent approximately \$50 on each person, that would be a total of \$2,100. This is truly GOD'S work with many hands!

Sharing God's Bounty

Being a Faithful Steward

As stewards, we demonstrate our faithfulness by how we manage the resources and gifts God entrusts to us. "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2). We are to "always give [ourselves] fully to the work of the Lord because [we] know that our labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58). Our effort is invested in the Lord's winning cause.

Peter wrote, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10). Through faith, we serve others by showing our love (3 John 5-6), by witnessing for Christ (Acts 1:8), by sharing with those in need (2 Corinthians 9:7-8), and by doing

good to all people (Galatians 6:10). God is pleased when we use our time, talents, and treasures in ways that give Him honor and glory through our service for others.

As devoted and committed stewards who seek to do God's will, we receive his special blessings. The Lord will "bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God" (1 Corinthians 4:5). In 1 Samuel 26:23 we read, "The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and faithfulness." We look forward

to the Lord telling us, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:23).

Until the Lord takes us to our eternal home, we are to be active and involved stewards faithfully seeking to please him. We can be faithful because he abounds *"in love and faithfulness"* (Psalm 86:15) to us. We press on as faith-

ful stewards knowing that "He will not forget [our] work and the love [we] have shown him . . ." (Hebrews 6:10).

"My mother drew a distinction between achievement and success. She said that achievement is the knowledge that

you have studied and worked hard and done the best that is in you. Success is being praised by others and that's nice too, but not as important or satisfying. Always aim for achievement and forget about success."

Helen Hayes



¹⁴ Our Members & Friends in the Military

SSG DUSTIN BENSON, grandson of Jeff & Bonnie Benson—Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque

NM MAJOR ANDREW BURNS, son-inlaw of Kim and Karen Zeile—Test Pilot School, Pax River Navy Base

MAJOR MICHAEL FAZIO, Son-in-law of Mike & Laurie Ridgley—Walter Reed Army Hospital, Maryland

CAPTAIN TYSON GERDES, grandson of Ron & Dorothy Gerdes—Alaska LT.

NATHAN HAGESTUEN, son of Kurt & Kelly Hagestuen, Navy, US Naval Training and Education—Pensacola, FL

COLONEL TIMOTHY HELFRICH, son-in-law of Kim and Karen Zeile— Hanscom Air Force Base, Concord, MA

SGT. TIMOTHY NEAL, son of Ron & Cheryl Neal—Fort Leonard Wood, MO

PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS MICHAEL PUCKETT, nephew of Joe & Shirley Gorg, Navy, North Africa TECH SGT. JONATHON SOUTH-WELL, son-in-law of Ron & Michelle Schmidt—Hanscom Air Force Base

SGT. MITCHELL TOLLEFSON, grandson of Ramona Sandberg. US Army—Fort Lewis, WA

LT. JARED WEDEL, son-in-law of Karen Boehler—NAS Corpus Christi, TX

JULIE WILHELMI & DAN NICHOLS, niece & nephew-in-law of Vickey Leonard— Dulles Airport, VA (Julie) Pentagon, VA (Dan)

A1C CHASE LARSON, son of Anna and Jon Larson— with the United States Air Force (Minnesota Air National Guard) 133rd Airlift Wing, Minneapolis, MN.



January Birthdays

- 1/1 Miryah Pearson-Humphrey
- 1/2 Leah Glaser
- 1/3 Haylie Beavers, Kris Gardinier
- 1/4 Tom Barsness, Allen Rose, Grayson Schmidt, Brak Shramm
- 1/5 Kathryn Sorensen
- 1/6 Brian Scheuss
- 1/7 Natalee Bray, Quinn Bray, Lisa Engblom, Eileen Nissen
- 1/8 Stanley Blaisdell, Susan Phillips
- 1/9 John Ebertowski, Bodie Nybakken, Marlys Thorsgaard
- 1/10 Earl Bancroft, Charlie McCulloch, Clay Wolf
- 1/11 Sharon Mulder
- 1/12 Don Corbin, Kayla Sather, Duane Swanson
- 1/13 Carol Meister, Eric Swanson
- 1/14 Lori Johnson, Max Martz
- 1/15 Ray Gallett, Julie Gerdes, Miles Johnson, Alyssa DeVries
- 1/16 Mary Aarestad, Steve Engen, Don Erickson
- 1/17 Ron Ommen
- 1/18 Jon Larson
- 1/19 Bill Lund, Griffin Miller, Dylan Pederson
- 1/20 Robin Goerges, Jaedyn Knippel, Nancy Schwab
- 1/21 Ken Anderson, Marilyn Blowers, Cole Engen, Joseph Kraemer, Janice Moengen, Ryan Monahan, Cale Wolf
- 1/22 Mari Freiberg, Andrew Garin
- 1/23 Brian Boyda, Autumn Hecker
- 1/24 Greta Harmala, Kaitlyn Millner
- 1/25 Owen Gitchell, Lois Haglund
- 1/26 Leanne Ommen, Donna Puschinsky
- 1/27 Al Benson, Robin Prigge, Tristan Schliek
- 1/28 Maxine Gallett, Samantha Palm
- 1/29 Ryan Aarestad, Stacey Gorr
- 1/30 Joel Miller
- 1/31 Gray Gitchell, Bobbi James

Please remember these people in prayer on their Birthday and/or Anniversary.

January Anniversaries

- 1/1 Doris & Jan Mezzenga
- 1/2 Joe & Sheree Goerges
- 1/3 Roy & Carolyn Silcox
- 1/4 Ted & Helen Silva
- 1/6 Andrew & Linda Peterson
- 1/9 Dean & Jo Tollefson
- 1/12 Jack & Joan Riordan
- 1/15 Brian & Autumn Thull
- 1/21 Robert & Kathleen Nelson
- 1/23 Carl & Judith Weber
- 1/27 Jody & Chad Harting
- 1/28 Ted & Terry Pederson



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January 2020



Crosslake Lutheran joins in Winterfest! Friday, January 31st 7-9pm



We'll be serving chili at the sledding hill on Friday night! Come and help out or just stop by to join in the festivities right outside the Community Center in Crosslake.

For questions, call Pastor Kurt!