



## Crosslake Lutheran

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# January 2021

## NEW CAMERA UPDATE

We are also very close to having our new cameras installed for high definition recording. As with so many things, COVID 19 has slowed the process of being able to obtain certain parts, but we expect them to arrive soon and installation to happen in January. Soon, we will have a much crisper picture for our recorded services. We say a HUGE thank you to all those who gave donations to make these cameras and recording equipment possible!



## AIR CIRCULATION UPDATE

Hurray! By the time you read this, the new furnaces and high quality filters will be installed! Thank you so much to everyone who helped make these important upgrades happen! We especially thank the Skog family for their generosity and Crosslake Sheet Metal for all their efforts with upgrading our air circulation in a time when it is so important!

## PASTORS' PAGE



Dear Crosslake Lutheran Friends,

Happy New Year! I have deep hope that 2021 will usher newness in many ways including for our church and how we can gather! This hope makes me think of the promise in Isaiah: See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:19). The prophet is asking the people to open up their eyes and perceive what the Lord is doing. We trust the Lord is at work, even if we can't see it clearly

at first. That's our call too, to watch and listen, to perceive the newness around us, as we hold out hope that even in the midst of what could be a long, unrelenting January, **God is still at work, bringing newness for us.** I am hopeful that if we can "hang on" through January, "in the bleak midwinter" as that song goes with our continued restrictions and pandemic ways of life that no one wants or enjoys, we will be well on our way to things being able to open up more and more. I am hopeful that relatively soon, we will be able to figure out what the "new normal" is for us to live healthy and safe lives face to face, especially at church!

By the time you read this, our Smart Team will have met at the end of December, to put plans in place for limited opening of our church facility in February, you can read about that in "Fingers Crossed for February!" But it's more than fingers crossed, let's pray that with our continued safe practices of living and caring for our neighbors and community, we can keep the case numbers going down, health care systems not strained, schools opening up, businesses recovering, and people eventually getting vaccinated! God is at work, through you and me, as we give thanks for our church family that continues to support and uplift one another through it all. Here's a beautiful New Year's blessing from Pr. Steve Garnaas Holmes that empowers us with hope:

My hope and prayer and confidence is that in this new year:

God will be lovingly present for you,

and you will more and more deeply trust God's delight in you.

Christ will lead you every step of the new year.

The Spirit's gifts will unfold in you in new ways.

I rejoice that in this new year

beauty will surround you; grace will enfold you;

love will embrace and uphold you;

joy will bless you, and hope sustain you.

May you receive healing and wisdom;

may your creativity flower and your courage grow;

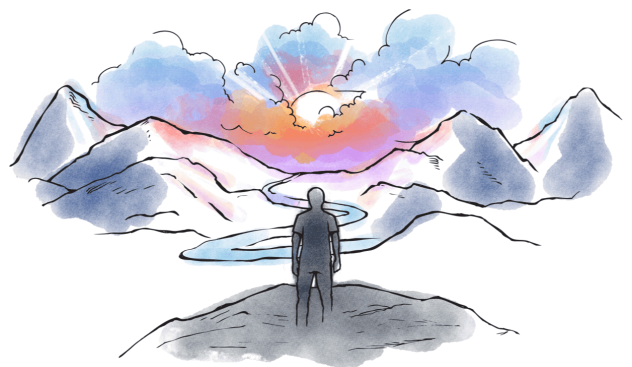
and in your hands may justice and mercy flourish.

I rejoice that these gifts await you in the new year,

and pray that you receive them with delight.

I give thanks for the gift of sharing together

the journey of this new year. God bless us all. Amen.



In Christ,

Pastor Kristin

## A Word from Pastor Kurt



Hello Church, Happy New Year! And a belated Merry Christmas! It is a happy new year because of Christmas, because of God's insistence to be with God's own people, with you and with me. Christ, the Messiah, the promised Savior, was born to bring light in the darkness. 2020 was a year that we needed to hear that truth over and over again. Whether it was Covid, racism, or polarized politics, Christ was there holding us. Whether it was loneliness, sickness, or addiction, Christ was there meeting us. As a lone candle in a darkened room draws our eyes to the comforting light it displays, so does the light of Christ in our places of need. Feeling that promise, we come into 2021 with a new vigor as we anticipate the virus to wane and connection and justice to reign. I am delighted to come into 2021 with you, joining with you in fresh vigor, proclaiming Christ's activity in these things and many more!

Happy New Year!  
Pastor Kurt

## FINGERS CROSSED FOR FEBRUARY

We are crossing our fingers for February, but more importantly praying, and doing our safe practices in community living, so that COVID 19 cases continue to decrease! That way, we can put these proposed plans into place that the Smart Team determined in late December. Stay tuned to worship announcements, bulletins, and emails during January to know for certain, if we will be able to implement these proposed plans.



**Hopefully, these plans will be implemented on February 1, 2021:**

2 Options for Worship at 9:30 on Sunday – Indoor, inside the sanctuary & Outdoor, in the front parking lot (We will continue with the recorded service as well).

Indoor Service – Seating will begin at 9:00. We ask that you park in the BACK LOT, so that those who are going to the Parking Lot service can be in front. The back door will be unlocked at 9:00 for you to enter. There are handicapped spots there, too. You will be greeted and reminded to please use the hand sanitizer. Then, ushers will direct you, with your coat on into the sanctuary to the first available spot in the pew. (This may be an even better view than the seat you normally have!) Household groups will be seated together, physically distanced from other groups, as necessary for your protection. Face coverings are required in the building at all times. Don't worry if you forget your mask, we'll have extras. Please note if the modified capacity of the sanctuary is reached, we will ask those who exceed capacity to attend the Parking Lot service. The preaching pastor will preach from inside the sanctuary, so you will see that pastor indoors.

Parking Lot Service – Remains as it has been going. Come when you want to, park in a designated spot for fire safety purposes. Those coming to the Indoor service will park in the back. If the front lot is filling up, feel free to park in a front handicapped spot, even if you don't have a handicapped sticker. The pastor leading the liturgy will be in the perch for the service.

We will continue to have a song leader each Sunday and Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at the end of both services.

## Church Facility Open by Reservation--

In addition, we hope to open the church facility by reservation. This means that if a group would like to meet for their activity (quilting, knitting, etc.) or a meeting, they may do so in a room that has the furnace upgrade with the high quality filter system. (Unfortunately, this excludes the Fellowship hall, if your groups needs the Fellowship hall, this can be arranged, but please be aware the filters are not able to be in this area. However, we did purchase a fogger that can be used in the evening to clean any area of the church.) The process is to call the church office number to reserve the room. Bible Study on Wednesday mornings will be at church. When you use a church space, each person needs to sanitize their hands, sign in on the sheet, and wear a face covering at all times. The kitchen will not be used, but people may bring their own beverages. You can talk with Brenda, our office manager, about how to lock and unlock the door, if needed.

Youth ministry will happen on Wednesday evenings, in smaller, grade level groups at 5, 6, and 7pm. Due to this priority, for our youth to be able to meet face to face, we will not be able to offer Wednesday evening worship at this time.

Please note that while the sanctuary and meeting rooms may be opening, we still aren't opening the entire church building. Out of care for our community, we request that if you have been at a church gathering and test positive for COVID 19 shortly afterwards (because we know this virus is unpredictable!), please let us know. We will email out a brief notification, keeping identities anonymous, but letting people know they may have been exposed to COVID 19.

Our Covid Preparedness Plan is available on our website at [Crosslakelutheran.com](http://Crosslakelutheran.com)

## FINANCIALS

### 2020 Financial Report

<b>November:</b>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<b>YTD:</b>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Revenues:	\$ 35,651	\$ 43,669	\$ (8,018)		\$ 486,955	\$ 525,143	\$ (38,188)
Expenses:	<u>\$ 40,863</u>	<u>\$ 44,198</u>	<u>\$ 3,335</u>		<u>\$ 481,800</u>	<u>\$ 520,041</u>	<u>\$ 38,241</u>
Difference:	\$ (5,212)	\$ (529)	\$ 5,747		\$ 5,155	\$ 5,102	\$ 53

In the month of **November**, expenses exceed revenues by \$5,212.

YTD's performance is \$53 more than budget, because revenues are \$38,188 less than budget and expenses are also \$38,241 less than budget.

## MONTHLY DEVOTIONALS

The January, February, March devotionals are here. "The Word in Season", or "Christ in Our Home" books are available to be picked up at Lakes Area Crafts and Cones. You can get a copy either by drive up or in the store. Many thanks to Pat Netko and her staff for distributing these!

## HEALTH MINISTRY

I am so happy to turn the page on this year. So many things that have been a challenge, losses including my Dad and my doggie, I am ready for a new year that I hope will be gradually include a return of things that are precious including time with family and friends. Thank you to Becky Kalton and Connie Caspers for being Santa and delivering the many gift bags to those who in our congregation that needed a bit of Christmas spirit. They will be covering for me in January and



February until my return - if you need anything from Health Ministry, please call the church and Brenda will connect you to the person covering. I will continue to be on phone duty as part of the Smart team and checking in with folks throughout the months as well. January can be a time of isolation so please reach out to folks around you, especially on those really cold days where going outdoors may not be pleasant. I am confident that our church family will continue to serve in countless ways of hospitality, fellowship and sharing the message of God's love. I miss you and look forward to seeing you in March.

Blessings! Gail Smith, Parish Nurse

## YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

We look forward to 2021! Our hope is to meet as soon as rules allow. For now our Youth Ministry Program continues on ZOOM! Meetings are scheduled as follows:

Each Wednesday starting January 6th:

5 pm 7-8<sup>th</sup> Grades

6 pm 9-12<sup>th</sup> Grades

7 pm 11-12<sup>th</sup> Grades

The links for each meeting will be texted to everyone. If you have any questions, please contact Pat. During this challenging time we encourage each 7-12<sup>th</sup> grader to attend these meetings if at all possible.

NEW YEAR'S BLESSINGS TO ALL!

Pat Netko, Youth Director

## JANUARY BIBLE STUDY

We will resume our Bible Study on Tuesday Evenings at 6pm and Wednesday Mornings at 10am beginning January 5 & 6. We'll focus on the texts for that Sunday and continue on Zoom for both time slots, so watch for the links in your email. This will continue through January 29 & 30. In February, when we hope to open up the church more, we will have Wednesday morning Bible Study in person at the church and Tuesday evenings will remain on Zoom



for those who still feel more comfortable at a distance.

## NEWS OF THE FAMILY

*Prayers for Peace and Comfort to those in our congregation who have suffered a loss:*



- **The family of Mary Hardwick in their loss & sorrow. Mary passed away on December 2nd in Crosslake, MN.**
- **Perry & Connie Caspers in the death of his mom, Druzella “Zella” Caspers, on November 29th in Buffalo Lake, MN.**
- **The family of Miles Johnson in their loss & sorrow. Miles passed away on Saturday, December 5th in Fridley, MN.**
- **Bob & Sharon McPherson in the death of Bob’s brother, Bill, on December 1st in Otsego, MN.**
- **Jaci & Roger Peterson in the death of her brother, Harley Hochstetter, on December 17th.**
- **Virginia Merrill in the death of her daughter, Patricia Terry, on December 18th in Florida.**

## THANK YOU’S

Dear Crosslake Lutheran Faith Community,

Thank you so much for all the cards and prayers, especially in the wake of the unexpected death of my father. Your words tempered our grief with words of promise and words of hope that intermingled with our tears of love and loss. These last couple months have been powerful months in my life and the life of my family and extended family. I also thank you for the words and prayers of support in the “not knowing” and then the “knowing” of my treatment at Hazelden and continued recovery. When I tell people about the stacks of cards from my faith community, they are amazed! You, you people of God, know how to “do” faith. You know how live and move in Christ’s love. That is what I tell them. That this Crosslake Lutheran faith community doesn’t just “have” faith, they know how to “practice” faith. And you know what?... It makes them, especially the ones I met at Hazelden, want to find a faith community just like the one we have at Crosslake Lutheran.

Thanks again,

Pastor Kurt and family



Greetings,

Our monthly meetings continue to be postponed but we continue to stay updated through the ELCA and WELCA websites. Perhaps you will consider reading the Bold Café article entitled “Faith Reflections: Tears and Laughter” by Elyssa found at [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) Two of her suggested discussions are: How are you different at the end of this year? What does it mean to have a God who waits with us?

The ELCA Women’s letter writing campaign continues as well as Prayer at Noon every Tuesday and monthly Bible Studies are available at the Gather Magazine email: [gather@elca.org](mailto:gather@elca.org)

We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!

January comes as a month of new promise in the Lord as we await Epiphany Sunday.

Peace in Christ.

Kathy Bahma, WELCA Co-Chair

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/1 Miryah Pearson-Humphrey  
1/2 Leah Glaser  
1/3 Haylie Beavers, Kris Gardinier  
1/4 Allen Rose, Brak Shramm  
1/5 Kathryn Sorensen  
1/6 Brian Scheuss  
1/7 Natalee Bray, Quinn Bray, Lisa Engblom, Eileen Nissen  
1/8 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 Bradley, Eric Swanson  
1/14 Lori Johnson, Max Martz  
1/15 Ray Gallett, Julie Gerdes, Alyssa DeVries  
1/16 Mary Aarestad, Steve Engen, Don Erickson, Larry Miller  
1/17 Ron Ommen  
1/18 Jon Larson  
1/19 Bill Lund, Griffin Miller, Dylan Pederson  
1/20 Robin Goerges, Nancy Schwab  
1/21 Marilyn Blowers, Cole Engen, Joseph Kraemer, Janice Moengen, Ryan Monahan, Cale Wolf  
1/22 Mari Freiberg, Andrew Garin  
1/23 Brian Boyda  
1/24 Greta Harmala, Kaitlyn Millner  
1/25 Owen Gitchell, Lois Haglund  
1/26 Leanne Ommen, Donna Puschinsky  
1/27 Ken Anderson, Al Benson, Tristan Schliek  
1/28 Maxine Gallett, Samantha Palm, Robin Prigge,  
1/29 Ryan Aarestad, Stacey Gorr  
1/30 Joel Miller  
1/31 Gray Gitchell, Bobbi James

## 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  
1/12 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

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



## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**Crosslake Foodshelf:** The foodshelf is open on the 1st and 3rd Fridays from 9 am—Noon.

**The church office remains closed at this time and the church staff continues to work from home. If you have a pastoral need, you can reach Pastor Kurt Hagesteun at 218-839-2931 or Pastor Kristin at 952-200-1249 (time off from 1-11 to 1-24). If you have an office need, please call Brenda LaRock at 218-232-1220.**

## JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 3	Parking Lot Worship 9:30 am
January 5	Bible Study on Zoom 6 pm
January 6	Bible Study on Zoom 10 am 7th & 8th Grade Youth Ministry on Zoom 5 pm 9th & 10th grade Youth Ministry on Zoom 6 pm 11th & 12th grade Youth Ministry on Zoom 7 pm
January 7	Communion Service at Whitefish at the Lakes Senior Living 2 pm
January 10	Parking Lot Worship 9:30 am
January 11	Time off for Pastor Kristin begins
January 12	Bible Study on Zoom 6 pm
January 13	Bible Study on Zoom 10 am Executive Committee on Zoom 3 pm 7th & 8th Grade Youth Ministry on Zoom 5 pm 9th & 10th grade Youth Ministry on Zoom 6 pm 11th & 12th grade Youth Ministry on Zoom 7 pm
January 17	Parking Lot Worship 9:30 am
January 19	Finance Committee on Zoom 4:30 pm Bible Study on Zoom 6 pm Church Council on Zoom 7 pm
January 20	Bible Study on Zoom 10 am 7th & 8th Grade Youth Ministry on Zoom 5 pm 9th & 10th grade Youth Ministry on Zoom 6 pm 11th & 12th grade Youth Ministry on Zoom 7 pm
January 24	Parking Lot Worship 9:30 am
January 25	Pastor Kristin back at work after time off
January 26	Bible Study on Zoom 6 pm
January 27	Bible Study on Zoom 10 am Mission & Ministry Investment Committee 11:30 am 7th & 8th Grade Youth Ministry on Zoom 5 pm 9th & 10th grade Youth Ministry on Zoom 6 pm 11th & 12th grade Youth Ministry on Zoom 7 pm
January 31	Parking Lot Worship 9:30 am