



Crosslake Lutheran

P.O. Box 248, Crosslake, MN 56442
218-692-3682 CLC@Crosslake.net
Crosslakelutheran.com

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January 2024

ALL-AGES FAITH FORMATION TRIP TO HOLDEN VILLAGE



We hope to take an all-ages trip to Holden Village in the Cascade Mountains of Washington this summer. We will need to get our reservations made before February 14. The exact dates are TBD based on the folks going, but will likely be in the first part of August (hopefully before Fall sports practice starts). If you are interested in joining us, please let Pastor Becky know!

PASTORS' PAGES



Happy New Year!

As January begins, we are approaching the liturgical season of Epiphany. Epiphany always starts on January 6, when we celebrate the day that the wisemen/kings/magi follow the star and find baby Jesus. We will celebrate that day this year on Sunday, January 7th in worship. The season after Epiphany focuses on some great missional texts as Jesus calls the disciples. It's a season for us to think about God's calling to us, too. God calls in big and small ways. As the saying goes: "God doesn't call the equipped, God equips the called."

Often it takes a leap of faith and courage to try something that we think to which God is calling us. It's not until we try it that we know if we are called to do it! This means we also need to have grace, compassion, and humor to understand when things don't go according to plan, if we are experimenting with something that we thought we might be called to but are not! This holy experimentation is all a part of being God's community of faith together! We hope you can be a part of our worship, faith formation, and service events, perhaps trying out something new during this season of Epiphany!

Here's a great Epiphany blessing from Pr. Steve Garnaas Holmes as we find God's calls for our lives together:

Take the journey,
road of unknowing.
Behold the child,
holy, before you.
Honor the child,
holy, within you.
Kneel in awe;
let wonder be your faith.
Bow in obedience;
let love be your sovereign.
Offer the gifts,
precious, that you bear.
Betray Herod and his use of you,
free.
Go by a new way, changed.
The light, still shining,
illumine your way,
make your world beautiful. Amen.

*Epiphany
Blessing*

In Christ,
Pr. Kristin

PASTORAL CARE Please contact us if you are hospitalized or if you are in need of a pastoral visit. You can reach Pastor Kristin Oltmann at 952-200-1249.

PASTOR BECKY



Happy 2024! As we walk into the New Year, I invite you to consider making your spiritual health and well-being a focus.

For Luther, (and Lutherans) daily prayer is not a religious obligation but a transformative practice that shapes our character and strengthens our faith. Luther underscored the idea that prayer was a direct line of communication with God, an opportunity for us to express gratitude, seek guidance, and find solace amid life's challenges.

Morning and Evening: A Time for Prayer:

A simple way to begin a prayer practice is to begin and end your day with a little conversation with God. Whether it's sharing hopes and worries about what is in store for the day, or a recounting of "highs and lows", sharing the ins and outs of your life in prayer is what Paul was talking about when he wrote: "Pray without ceasing."

Sometimes it's also helpful to have a prayer memorized (like the Lord's prayer) where you can sum up all that the day means for you. Two examples listed here are the morning and evening prayers Luther included in the small catechism.

Notice how Luther crafts these prayers so that we acknowledge God's protection and providence. He also acknowledges that forces beyond our control are at work in the world — but they are not beyond God's control.

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that you would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen."

"I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen."

May you find yourself being drawn ever deeper into your relationship with God and one another this Epiphany season.

Pr. Becky



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST WORSHIP

9:30 am

Worship wearing your Christmas comfy & cozy clothes. Bring your coffee mug and a special treat to enjoy during the service.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who donated a poinsettia to be shared in the worship area this Christmas season.

—Altar Guild

2024 BIBLE STUDY

Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith

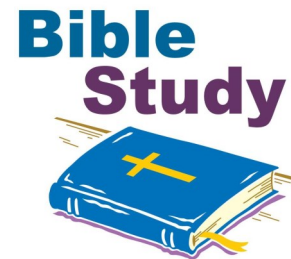
Wednesdays at 10:00am - Fireside Room

Starting January 10

Have you ever wondered just what makes all these different Christian denominations different? Or what do people who follow other faith traditions believe? Hundreds of Christian denominations and dozens of non-Christian traditions have followers in the United States. How do we view this wide variety of beliefs and practices? How does the Lutheran tradition compare with others? Since its release in 1999, Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith has been widely embraced as a valuable resource for congregational study or personal exploration around these questions.

Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith Revised Edition brings new light and nuance to these questions, which are as timely and vital as ever. Use this book to explore thirty-two faith traditions that represent a wide spectrum of beliefs or stand out due to their size or public profile in America. Each tradition constitutes a "chapter" that includes key teachings, worship patterns and practices, and how each is governed. This revision also includes updated statistics, enhanced tools for group study and discussion, and updated resource and website lists to facilitate further study.

Books are available through the Church Office. \$15 each.



WHAT IS LUTHERAN?

By Zoom: Watch your emails for Zoom link

Starting January 10th on Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon Central Time

What does it mean to be Lutheran and specifically, a part of the ELCA? In this zoom gathering we will talk about what we teach about things like the Sacraments, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and even how we interpret scripture. We will also look at how we view the Christian Life, what it means to be 100% both Saint AND Sinner, and maybe even a little bit about why we worship the way we do. If you have come to Crosslake Lutheran from a different faith background, and have questions about why we do (or don't) do something, or whether we teach a certain thing, bring your questions with you! We will NOT record these sessions, so that you can come with all your questions.

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

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



- Gary & Debbie Patrick in the death of Gary's sister, Deborah Sabin.
- Becky & Randy Kraft in the death of Becky's mom, Ardeth Fevold, on December 23rd in Cedar Rapids, IA.

BOOK CLUB

If you are interested in being part of a book club, we have one that meets monthly! The book we are currently reading is "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt. Our next meeting is January 4th at 10 am in the Fireside Room. New members are always welcome!



WOMEN OF CROSSLAKE LUTHERAN

Good fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended the Christmas Tea. Thanks to all who helped organize, set up, serve and clean up that day, it was a group effort. A special thank you to the Bell Choir for performing festive tunes, Pastor Kristin for our devotions, Gerry Schroeder for raffle gifts, Lola Johnson for the beautiful Christmas quilt and thank you to all who brought white elephant gifts. Everyone helped to make it a great afternoon.

A Valentine get together is being discussed. Please contact Paulette Wilske with your ideas and suggestions. We'll see what happens! Best wishes to everyone for a Blessed and Happy New Year.

Janet Marr, Secretary

FINANCIALS

2023 Financial Report

November:	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	YTD:	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Revenues:	\$ 49,615	\$ 36,438	\$ 13,177		\$ 473,026	\$ 513,813	\$ (40,787)
Expenses:	<u>\$ 36,000</u>	<u>\$ 44,257</u>	<u>\$ 8,257</u>		<u>\$ 447,240</u>	<u>\$ 525,288</u>	<u>\$ 78,048</u>
Difference:	\$ 13,615	\$ (7,819)	\$ 21,434		\$ 25,786	\$ (11,475)	\$ 37,261

In the month of November, revenues exceeded expense by \$13,615.

YTD's performance is \$37,261 more than budget, because revenues are \$40,787 less than budget, however, expenses are also less than budget by \$78,048.

Complete financial reports are available in the Finance mailbox.

SOLAR EXPRESS



Crosslake Lutheran Church solar panel installation was completed August 18th, 2023. The crew from Real Solar in Pine River worked in 90-degree heat with lots of wet towels on their heads to make our congregation's dream a reality. There is no doubt the installers were as anxious as we were to have the panels up and running so they could get off our hot roof!

Installation of the solar panels has resulted in a dramatic cost reduction of our Crow Wing Power bill. In past years for the months noted in the chart below, bills typically ran \$500-\$600/month. Our new installation started generating power and we saw immediate savings.

September was our best month with savings of \$533.20, and a bill of only twenty dollars! We will not produce power at this level every month as winter will be slow, but peak summer months may be even better than September! Watch the Country

Cross monthly for our **Solar Data Update** box to track our energy output and cost savings. Happy New Year!

Solar Panel Data

Month	Solar Savings	CWP bill after savings
August 18-31	\$317.70	\$353.00
September	\$533.30	\$20.00
October	\$428.80	\$35.00
November	\$295.40	\$163.28

Happy New years!

We are looking forward to great things in 2024.

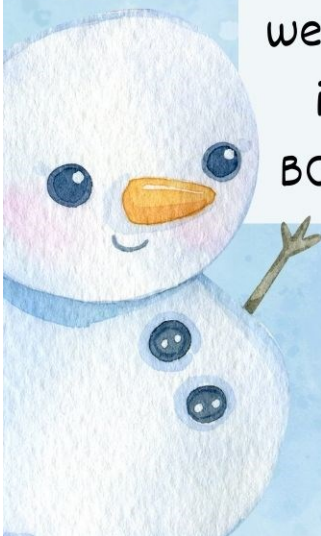
Wednesday programming starts again on January 3rd with 5th & 6th Grade ministry after school. If you haven't signed up for the van please text, email or call Lindsay.

The 7th- 12th Grade lock in is January 19th and 20th. Plan to be to the church by 7pm Friday evening.

Bring a swim suit, cozy clothes, warm clothes as we plan on making a trip to the pool and out to the community center for broom ball, and sledding if we get enough snow.

Roy and his Crew are planning on cooking breakfast for us Saturday morning before we head out at 8 am.

Please SIGN up for this ASAP so we can ensure we have enough snacks, and breakfast! There is a sign up sheet on the YOUTH BULLETIN BOARD or message Lindsay to get signed up.



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS TOGETHER

We wanted to share some photos from the celebration on December 13th which was a wonderful night of food, fellowship and celebrating Jesus' birth!



SUMMER CAMP

The value of faith formation during Church camp cannot be overstated. We have a strong tradition in the ELCA of supporting outstanding camps and there is no exception.

Here are three camp options for you and your family to check out. **Camperships are available through CLC — talk to Pr. Becky before registering to make arrangements.**



Camp Onamia — in Onamia, MN (Where Pr. Kristin used to be a counselor!)

<https://www.camponomia.org/programs>



Camp Voyageurs - at Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermillion. Options include canoe camp and hockey camp, in addition to graded camp weeks and family camp.

<https://www.vlmcamps.org/summer-camps>



WOMEN'S WEEK

Join Pastor Becky at Women's Camp at Luther Crest, June 23-28 (Sunday - Thursday)

All women. All week. All sorts of fun! Gather at Luther Crest for another great Women's Week experience at camp this summer! We'll provide an excellent arrangement of meals, goodies, and treats. There'll be daily speakers, presentations, and nightly entertainment with musicians and entertainers. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate and grow together in a Christ-centered community through discussion and devotion.

Separate programming is offered for children and grandchildren of all ages. Luther Crest offers childcare for children aged 4 and under and asks that youth in Kindergarten and older register and participate in one of the program options offered throughout the week.

Age 0-2 - Register for Babies

Kindergarten-Age 5 - Register for On-site Day Camp

Age 3-4 - Register for Preschool

Grade 3-6 - Register for any On-site Overnight Program

Cost for the full week: Early Bird \$479 (Before February 14) | Regular \$659 No cost for babies and preschool age children.

Register on your own through the link below and then inform Pastor Becky by calling the church office.



Special Guest—Rev. Dr. Jan Rippentrop-Schnell

Jan Rippentrop Schnell is a liturgical theologian and religious ethicist. Trained as a Lutheran pastor, she is the assistant professor of liturgics at Wartburg Theological Seminary.

She delights in God's spirited movement in the fabric of our daily lives and on the streets of our public spaces. Schnell and her family live on an acreage that depends on solar energy, where they restore a natural Iowa prairie. They share interest in music, reading, theater, and playing outdoors. Register at: <https://luthercrest.org/womens-week/>

Camperships are available. Contact Pr. Becky at becky@beckyswanson.com

Welcome New Members!

November 15, 2023



Zachary & Tawnia Allyn
Lydia, Levi, Lincoln, Lawsyn



Patrick & Julie Gabriel
Allana



Kelly McCulloch & Matt Kraska
Levi, Tucker, Kase, Lincoln



Brian & Leah Lempola
Bennett, Brynn



Paul Frisch & Lindsay Paulson



Andy & Ruth Strandjord

HAPPY JANUARY- 2024

A new Year brings a fresh start although it is a good time to begin new Mind, Body, Spirit habits any day of the week. Some folks think of New Year's resolutions with some sense of optimism that quickly fades as the weeks go by. It takes approximately a month to establish new habits and less than a week to revert back to the old way so many folks including myself have not had a lot of success in that style of change. It has been better for many to set realistic goals each week with rewards once goals are achieved. I do much better when there is a shorter time frame to work with. Rewards also should be something that will make your life better instead of worse (no cookies after meeting weight loss goals-) and be something that is meaningful. It is too daunting to decide never to eat sweets again as an example. Rather, set a more achievable goal of maybe once per week as a treat. All too often folks do not change their lifestyle until something really significant happens such a stroke or heart attack, but my hope is that it will not be your choice. Give me a call if you need ideas of how to improve your health or check with your provider if you have concerns. The internet contains so much conflicting information that I hope that you use only resources that are credible like Mayo, Allina or a variety of the health care facilities that include patient education resources.



It sounds like the Minnesota winter is treating you all well except for those of you who love to play in the snow. The mild winters are often the ones that include a fair amount of ice with all the thawing and freezing that goes on. Please be very cautious especially when getting out of your car in parking lots; it is very easy to slip when you put down that one foot. Participants who attended the Fall Prevention class were given a sand shaker to use in that situation so that a more secure footing is available no matter where you go. It can also be concerning to walk to mailboxes since a fall outside when there are no neighbors to help. As I have talked about many times before, there are devices that you can wear that can help you call for help even if you are not home, so I am hoping that was on your Christmas gift list this past year. If you see any unsafe areas around the church, please let a staff member know so that it can be corrected.

In this time when there are fewer church family members around, please be watching for those who need just a little more support or contact this winter. While family is always the first ones who should be keeping track of loved ones, it does not always happen for many reasons. My dad always said that he was doing great despite his memory issues and it took time just hanging out with him to really know what he could or could not do or remember. I remember one particularly funny odor coming out of his kitchen only to find a whole pot of stew tucked back into the cabinet (for likely more than a week). If you know of someone who is concerning you, please reach out to me or to one of the Pastors; there may already be a plan in place that is confidential. We are our brother and sister keepers as long as it is done in a loving and respectful manner. God wants us to get involved even if our "Lutheraness" may create a feeling of not wanting to get into another's business.

Please give me a call if you would like to serve in any way. We are God's hands, feet, ears and legs in this world with many ways to get involved. How has God called you today? Blessings and I hope your mind, body and spirit intentions become a reality in 2024.

Gail Smith, RN—Parish Nurse

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/1 Miryah Pearson-Humphrey
1/2 Leah Glaser
1/3 Kris Gardinier
1/4 Allen Rose, Brak Shramm
1/6 Brian Scheuss
1/7 Natalee Bray, Quinn Bray, Lisa Engblom, Eileen Nissen
1/8 Susan Phillips
1/9 Bodie Nybakken, Marlys Thorsgaard
1/10 Earl Bancroft, Clay Wolf
1/11 Sharon Mulder, Kate Stephens
1/12 Kayla Sather
1/14 Lori Johnson, Max Martz, Liliana Rollins
1/15 Julie Gerdes, Alyssa DeVries
1/16 Mary Aarestad, Steve Engen, Don Erickson, Larry Miller
1/17 Ron Ommen
1/18 Jon Larson
1/19 Griffin Miller, Dylan Pederson
1/20 Robin Goerges, Nancy Schwab
1/21 Marilyn Blowers, Cole Engen, Joseph Kraemer,
Janice Moengen, Ryan Monahan, Tristan Narum,
Cale Wolf
1/22 Mari Freiberg, Paisley Mileski
1/23 Brian Boyda
1/24 Greta Harmala, Kaitlyn Millner
1/26 Leanne Ommen, Donna Puschinsky
1/27 Al Benson
1/28 Noah Luzar, Samantha Palm, Robin Prigge
1/29 Ryan Aarestad
1/30 Joel Miller
1/31 Christie Henning

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1/1 Doris & Jan Mezzenga
1/6 Andrew & Linda Peterson
1/15 Brian & Autumn Thull
1/21 Robert & Kathleen Nelson
1/23 Carl & Judith Weber
1/28 Ted & Terry Pederson

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



Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity ReStore has moved to a new location on the corner of Highway 210 and Mill Ave. in Brainerd. They are taking donations of gently used household materials at the ReStore such as furniture, kitchen cabinets, sinks, doors, windows, flooring, lumber, etc. Items are saved from the landfill while supporting the cause of safe, decent housing for all. ReStore is also a great place to shop!

ReStore is also currently looking for volunteers to help in their expanded store space or to help on salvages. More information can be found on their website:

restore@lakesareahabitatforhumanity.org



If you have any questions, please contact Terry Havir at 218-765-3723. Thank You!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Happy New Year! Church office closed. A.A.-Fireside Room 7 pm	2 Diabetes Prevention class (Zoom) 9-10 am Staff Meeting 10 am Mahjongg Group - Garden Room 1 pm	3 Kitchen Committee 9 am Knit Wits-Fireside Room 1 pm 5th/6th grade Youth Ministry 3:30-5:30 pm Choir practice 4:30 pm Wednesday Dinner 5:30 pm Wednesday Worship w/Growing Kids 6:15 pm Youth Ministry 7th-12th gr. 7 pm	4 Marketing Committee 9 am Book Club 10 am Communion Service at Whitefish at the Lakes 2 pm	5	6
7 Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am 10:30 am coffee/fellowship	8 Quilters 9 am Men's 500 Card Group 9 am A.A.-Fireside Room 7 pm	9 Diabetes Prevention class (Zoom) 9-10 am Ink Spots 9:30 am Staff Meeting 10 am Mahjongg Group - Garden Room 1 pm Exec. Comm. 2 pm Endowment 4 pm	10 Bible Study 10 am Bible Study (Zoom) Noon Knit Wits-Fireside Room 1 pm 5th/6th grade Youth Ministry 3:30-5:30 pm Choir practice 4:30 pm Wednesday Dinner 5:30 pm Wednesday Worship w/Holy Communion & Growing Kids 6:15 pm Youth Ministry 7th-12th gr. 7 pm	11	12	13
14 Worship 9:30 am 10:30 am coffee/fellowship	15 Quilters 9 am Men's 500 Card Group 9 am A.A.-Fireside Room 7 pm	16 Diabetes Prevention class (Zoom) 9-10 am Mahjongg Group - Garden Room 1 pm Finance 4:30 pm Church Council 7 pm	17 Bible Study 10 am Bible Study (Zoom) Noon Knit Wits-Fireside Room 1 pm 5th/6th grade Youth Ministry 3:30-5:30 pm Choir practice 4:30 pm Wednesday Dinner 5:30 pm Wednesday Worship w/Growing Kids 6:15 pm Youth Ministry 7th-12th gr. 7 pm	18 Facilities Comm. 2:30 pm	19 Youth Lock-In 7 pm	20
21 Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am 10:30 am coffee/fellowship	22 Quilters 9 am Men's 500 Card Group 9 am Altar Guild 10:30 am A.A.-Fireside Room 7 pm	23 Diabetes Prevention class (Zoom) 9-10 am Ink Spots 9:30 am Staff Meeting 10 am Mahjongg Group - Garden Room 1 pm	24 Bible Study 10 am Bible Study (Zoom) Noon Knit Wits-Fireside Room 1 pm 5th/6th grade Youth Ministry 3:30-5:30 pm Choir practice 4:30 pm Wednesday Dinner 5:30 pm Wednesday Worship w/Holy Communion & Growing Kids 6:15 pm Youth Ministry 7th-12th gr. 7 pm	25 Kitchen cleaning 8:30 am	26	27
28 Worship 9:30 am 10:30 am coffee/fellowship	29 Quilters 9 am Men's 500 Card Group 9 am A.A.-Fireside Room 7 pm	30 Diabetes Prevention class (Zoom) 9-10 am Staff Meeting 10 am Mahjongg Group - Garden Room 1 pm	31 Bible Study 10 am Bible Study (Zoom) Noon Knit Wits-Fireside Room 1 pm 5th/6th grade Youth Ministry 3:30-5:30 pm Choir practice 4:30 pm Wednesday Dinner 5:30 pm Wednesday Worship w/Growing Kids 6:15 pm Youth Ministry 7th-12th gr. 7 pm	January 2024		