



## Crosslake Lutheran

P.O. Box 248, Crosslake, MN 56442

218-692-3682 CLC@Crosslake.net

Crosslakelutheran.com

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Crosslake, MN 56442  
Permit #24

## December 2020

### CHRISTMAS EVE IN THE PARKING LOT

December 24 at 5pm, 6pm, & 7pm

Join us for a Parking Lot Christmas Eve Experience! The whole church building will be decorated with lights so park in the front or back lot. (No pastor will be in the perch!) Tune your radio to 88.1 and just listen!

You'll receive a glow stick after you are parked. We'll hear the Christmas Story, sing Silent Night, pray, and have a blessing. It will be a very special 15 minutes!

(There will be a recorded service as well.)



CHRISTMAS EVE

## PASTOR'S PAGE



December Greetings!

Since we've been back worshipping at our church facility in the parking lot, rather than the Outdoor facility, one of the things I'm doing each Sunday again is wearing my pastor's stole. I'm not exactly sure why – but it just feels good to put that stole back around my neck, one of those “normal” things I'm finally doing again in this topsy, turvy year of 2020 when so many things aren't normal.

A pastor's stole symbolizes a yoke of “obedience to Christ” based on Matthew 11:28-30 when Jesus says *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”* These are some of my favorite words of Jesus, and I don't know about you, but I've needed to hear them quite a bit lately! I need that reminder daily that Jesus is the one that wants to carry the burdens I perceive that are weighing me down, and that I don't need to carry them all by myself.

Also, when I put that yoke around my neck, getting ready for worship, I think of all of you, our wonderful congregation, as we carry this year of 2020 together. I am grateful for all the support, encouragement and care that we as a congregation are able to give one another and to people in our community. As I reflect on this past year and its many challenges that could have become incredible burdens, I am amazed at how Christ's light and love carried us as a congregation and shined through your flexibility, patience, generosity, and compassion as we have worked together. Thanks be to God for you! And we pray that as we move into Advent, Christmas, and then 2021, we will continue to shine brightly with God's hope and love! A Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas, dear Crosslake Lutheran friends!

Pr. Kristin

## PASTOR PERCH

A HUGE thanks to Roy and Carolyn Silcox, Sue and Gary Phillips, and Buck Westerberg for all their hard work on this incredible innovation for Parking Lot worship! Also, a big thanks to Dave Nordgren and Milt Bighley for their sound engineering with the perch!



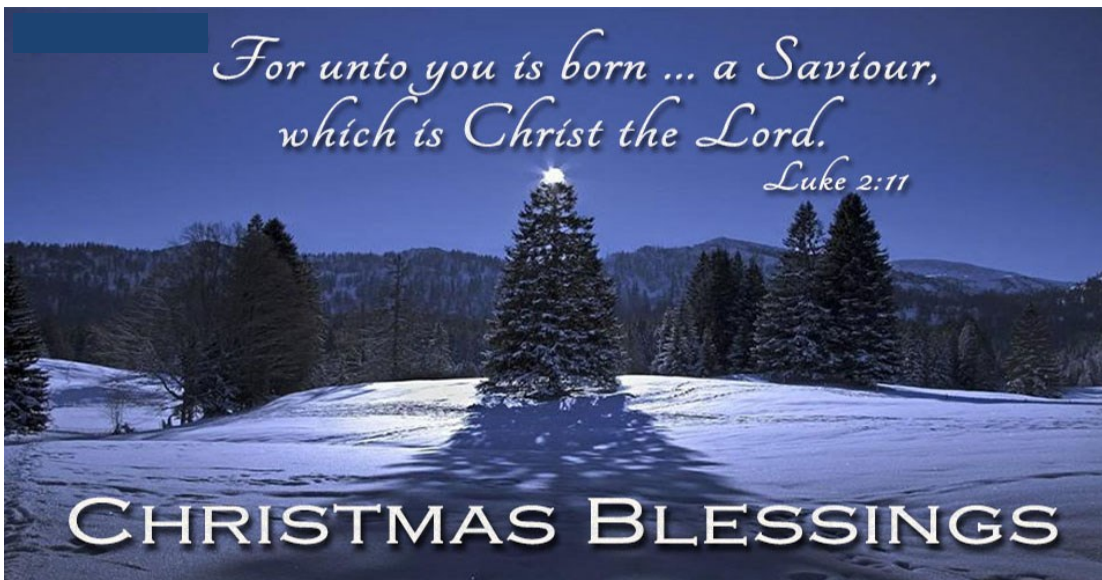


# An Artful Advent

Sundays, Nov. 29, & Dec. 6, 13, & 20



After Bishop Amy began our Advent season on the last Sunday in November, we have a very special series that was created by Pr. Paul Oman for each Sunday of Advent. Pr. Paul is the “painting pastor” who created the beautiful mural of the Prodigal Son in our sanctuary. He also happens to have been a seminary classmate of Pr. Kristin at Luther Seminary! He has produced a high-quality video of himself painting with his spoken reflections and music in the background for each Sunday in Advent. For example, you will see John the Baptist preaching in the high desert wilderness. Crowds of people will begin to appear and surround John. As the painting progresses, John will descend into the waters of the Jordan River as these waters rise (are painted) around him. By the end, John is waist-deep in the river, baptizing the crowds. Pr. Paul shares reflective Biblical and theological thoughts during each video – a message and proclamation of the promises of God — so you will both see and hear the Word. Obviously, we won’t be able to share this during our parking lot service, but Pr. Kristin will give you a little “heads up” during the brief sermon time about what to look for during the video (when you watch it at home). During the parking lot service, we will spend more time with readings, prayer, Christmas Carols, and Communion at the end, that will prepare us well in this Advent season for celebrating again the birth of Emmanuel, God with us. We hope both the recorded series and parking lot services will work together to provide you with a meaningful worship experience of hope and peace in these unusual days!



**Merry Christmas from  
the Staff of Crosslake  
Lutheran Church!**

Pastor Kristin	Pat
Pastor Kurt	Gail
Patricia	Brenda
Kristi	Tracy
Paulette	Carl
Barb	Jenny
Dave	

## **CHRISTMAS LIGHT TEAM**



The Christmas Light team has been formed this year to help spread some extra joy and light (literally and figuratively) into our community in a time when we really need it! The council approved we decorate our church in a special way this year to help spread Christ's light and love. This includes decorating the fellowship hall and back of the church for Christmas Eve when we are using both parts of the parking lot for our worship

service. Thanks to Sharon & Dick Elmquist, Linda Gates, Kristi & Randy Morsch, Sue & Gary Phillips, Sam Shirey, Jim & Diana Gallaway, Kris Havir and Karen Zeile for being on the team!

## **FAITH & FELLOWSHIP**

Tuesdays at 6pm on Zoom

Wednesdays at 10am on Zoom

Faith & Fellowship continues during December. This is an opportunity for people to gather together for a short devotion. Then the conversation evolves into fellowship time to catch up with one another or maybe even meet someone new! The emphasis is on fellowship – the connections with one another that we have been missing at coffee hour and doughnut/cookie time! At the end, people will be invited to share any prayer concerns before the prayer is prayed. We hope that snowbirds will join in and stay connected as they can! Also, if you've never tried Bible Study, but think that this sort of devotion and fellowship time might be more your thing, give it a try! This is intended to be light hearted, a pick me up, and a way for us to feel more connected with one another, especially through the month of December, when we are experiencing this time of year differently this year.

## **CAMERA UPDATE FOR SANCTUARY**

At the November Council meeting, the council approved the purchase of new cameras and recording equipment for the sanctuary, not to exceed \$22,000, so that we can soon have High Definition recording ability. We are grateful that the Endowment Fund is giving \$7,861 for the cameras. Various memorials and congregational donations are providing about \$7,000. Any donations that you would like to give toward the cameras would be appreciated! Otherwise, we will take the remaining funds out of designated funds as appropriate.



## FURNACE UPDATE

At the November council meeting, we also approved furnace upgrades including high grade air filters. These filters will make the air quality much better, and they do filter viruses and bacteria. We can't guarantee they will take COVID 19 out of the air, but either way, the air quality will be much improved and healthier all the way around. This has become much more affordable because of the generosity of Crosslake Sheet Metal, and we are grateful!

## THANKSGIVING BASKET GENEROSITY

Thank you so very much for your tremendous generosity for supporting youth in need in our Brainerd Lakes area. Through your gift of \$450 (received in one week!), Lutheran Social Service was able to provide 30 Thanksgiving Meals to youth in need that they are supporting. Any extra money that was received was given to the Crosslake Food Shelf. Thanks for making Thanksgiving special for these youth and their families!

## FINANCIALS

### 2020 Financial Report

<b>October:</b>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<b>YTD:</b>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Revenues:	\$ 39,185	\$ 48,969	\$ (9,784)		\$ 441,247	\$ 492,063	\$ (50,816)
Expenses:	<u>\$ 43,381</u>	<u>\$ 45,796</u>	<u>\$ 2,415</u>		<u>\$ 462,783</u>	<u>\$ 499,178</u>	<u>\$ 36,395</u>
Difference:	\$ (4,196)	\$ 3,173	\$ (7,369)		\$ (21,536)	\$ (7,115)	\$ (14,421)

In the month of **October**, expenses exceed revenues by \$4,196.

YTD's performance is \$14,421 less than budget, because revenues are \$50,816 less than budget and expenses are \$36,395 less than budget.

Complete financial reports are available in the finance mailbox.

## STAY CONNECTED

WINTER ADDRESSES — Going away for the winter? Please call or email the church office (clc@crosslake.net) with your winter address and the dates you are leaving & coming back. This will ensure you receive church mailings while you are gone! The post office doesn't forward 4th class mail (newsletter, etc.) Thank you! ~ Brenda LaRock, Office Manager



## HEALTH MINISTRY

Blessings from Health Ministry!

The year of 2020 is nearing the end and I hope that 2021 will be much healthier for mind, body and spirit. I will be heading south to my winter home soon but am available by phone as in the past. Thank you to Becky Kalton and Connie Caspers for supporting the work of Health Ministry locally. I am sure they will do a great job as in the past two years.



One of the December activities that we will still be able to do is to deliver Christmas gifts to our folks who are in facilities or are homebound. A special thank you to the Quilters for the beautiful quilts that are always the centerpiece of the gift bags. If you have time during the holidays, it would be a wonderful ministry if you and your family would send Christmas cards to anyone in long term care - a little message from the outside world means a lot to folks who have had little diversion and visitation this past year.

A thank you to staff, medical communities, EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement and other essential workers also goes a long ways in times of extra need. I am sure that you can find ways to share the message of the Christ Child during this Advent season as we wait for His coming. Stay well. I will be checking in with many of you over the next few months, but reach out if you just want to chat. Many blessings to all! Gail Smith, Parish Nurse

## YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

Our Youth Ministry Program continues on ZOOM! Meetings are scheduled as follows:

Each Wednesday –       5 pm 7-8<sup>th</sup> Grades  
                                      6 pm 9-10<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. There will be no meetings on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. During this challenging time we encourage each 7-12<sup>th</sup> grader to attend these meetings if at all possible.

### REMEMBER:

Generosity is good.

Generosity in Jesus' name is better.

Family time is good.

Family time that invokes the name of Jesus is better.

Thankfulness is good.

Thankfulness to Jesus is better.

**Christmas with Jesus is the best.**

Christmas without Jesus, no matter how good it is, just isn't Christmas.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

Pat Netko, Youth Director

## NEWS OF THE FAMILY

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



- The family of Doris Palmer in their loss & sorrow. Doris passed away on Friday, November 13th at Woodland Good Samaritan in Brainerd.
- The family of Tom Barsness in their loss & sorrow. Tom passed away on Saturday, November 14th at Three Links Care Center in Northfield. A memorial service will be held at a much later date.
- The family of Betty Ryan in their loss & sorrow. Betty passed away Tuesday, November 17th, at Northern Lakes Senior Living in Baxter. A memorial service will be held some time this summer.
- The family of John Krueger in their loss & sorrow. John passed away on November 18th. He was a former Pastor of Crosslake Lutheran Church from December, 1975 - June, 1978.
- The family of Shirley Michal in their loss & sorrow. Shirley passed away on November 23rd in Plymouth, MN.

## THANK YOU'S

*Thank you to all my wonderful friends and Crosslake Lutheran Church for your prayers and cards during my rehab here in my new home in Mankato. I cherish my friends and my many fond memories of beautiful Crosslake. A Blessed and Merry Christmas to all! - Coco Keim*

## CROSSLAKE LUTHERAN GARDENING GALS

The Crosslake Lutheran Church Gardening Gals kept the planters and pots at our Indoor Church looking beautiful Spring, Summer, Fall, and some in Winter seasons. The Gardening Gals are a group of members of our church who design, plant, fertilize, water and weed. We are blessed to have so much faith, knowledge, talent, and skills on our team. Thank you very much to the members of the team: Sue Carlson, Sharon Elmquist, Karla Fredrickson, Linda Gates, Kris Havir, Jan Lobben, Sue Phillips, Laurie Ridgley, Ramona Sandberg, Ann Shirey, and Bonnie Benson, Chair.

## ADVENT GIVING TREE

We have found a way to continue our long-standing tradition of our Advent Giving Tree in 2020 like we have in the past. It is a little bit different this year as the gift tags aren't hanging on a Christmas tree, but are available on our church website ([www.crosslakelutheran.com](http://www.crosslakelutheran.com)). On the front page you will see a box "Advent Tree Service Project". Click on the box and it will take you to a spreadsheet where you can see the person and gift suggestions that are needed. Follow the instructions and sign your name and phone number next to the gifts and it will automatically be saved when you leave the website. Please purchase & return the gifts **by December 10th** to Lake Country Crafts and Cones (in the store or through the drive up window). **Be sure to attach the gift # to the outside of your package.** If you need help signing up, please call Vickey Leonard at 218-543-4380 and she will help you out.



Greetings,

WELCA would like to welcome Sue Phillips as our Church Council Liaison. We look forward to working with you Sue!

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 Reflection entitled “Table Grace” found at [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)

We would also like to say THANK YOU to all who were able to make a prayerful contribution to the November Thankofferings. We are blessed in so many ways.

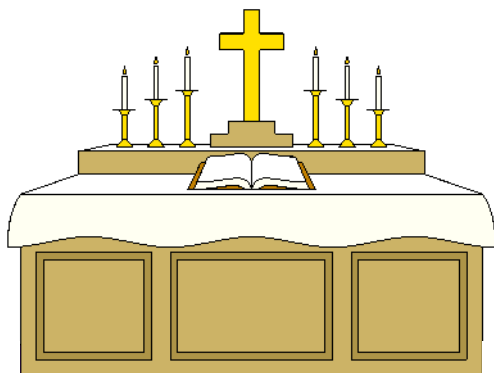
December is on the horizon and Advent is approaching. This time gives us another opportunity to show gratitude to God, our heavenly father.

Peace in Christ.

Kathy Bahma, WELCA Co-Chair

## ALTAR GUILD HEROES

A huge thanks to our Altar Guild for all the hard work they’ve been doing with their behind the scenes duties this year. They have ebbed and flowed, so graciously with all the changes in worship – at the Outdoor facility, Indoor, then the Parking Lot. We’ve also experimented with Holy Communion in different ways. And remember when worship was cancelled because of snow at the Outdoor in October? Somebody had to go retrieve all the Communion that had been set up for that Sunday! (Thanks, Linda Gates!) The Altar Guild also cleared out the sanctuary of hymnals, etc. to



Shirey, and Gervais Wilhelm!

help get it ready for in person worship. They still decorate it all up for the recorded services and keep putting out the Communion elements even when it’s just for the camera. Some of the altar guild who have felt comfortable doing so have repeatedly gotten Communion ready and assisted in distribution (in all kinds of weather conditions) and we thank them as they keep worship going for all of us! Thank you to Linda Gates, Sue Carlson, Karla Frederickson, Kris Havir, Ramona Sandberg, Ann

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/1 Clare Foote, Darby Harmala, Reed Olander  
12/3 Jeanne Blosberg, Bailey Tohm, Patrick Trottier  
12/4 Brianna Anick, Josh Senst, Luna Thull  
12/6 Darrell Bonner, Kathy Brodin, Kailey Gerdes  
12/7 Daniel Kelly, Mary Fowler, Hunter Nybakken, Marty Vangen  
12/8 Sheree Goerges, Kurt Hagestuen, Jan Hughes, Eli Johnson, Martha Nyemaster, Vanny Palm, Jodi Schott, Karl Skog, Carissa Maher  
12/9 Brian Larsen, Jan Lobben, Ken Retrum  
12/10 Troy Anderson, Quady Bernu, Brian Maher, Douglas Shelstad  
12/11 Sigurd Anderson, Robin Lundborg, Teddy Lundgren, Theodore Merickel  
12/12 Gerald Kopplin, Steve Nelson, Harper Thompson  
12/13 Jo Smith  
12/14 Dane Boozell  
12/15 Joanie Harrell, Casey Johnson, Lyndsey Johnson, Norman Kroeger  
12/16 Doran Buckentin, Courtney Carpenter, James Rasmussen, Michael Scheuss  
12/17 Mary Hardwick, Holland Lommen, Amy Myogeto, Christy Potocki  
12/18 Brittany Goerges  
12/19 Jean Erickson, Mary Jo Kelly, Levi Loken, Ken Rosburg, Julie Schmidt  
12/20 Dana Balmer, Jack Cox, Jackson Goerges, Rita Houle, Alexander VanAllen  
12/21 Mike Goerges, Bob Michaelson, Karen Olander  
12/22 Holly DeVinck, Marti Dickinson, James Newman, Michael O'Neil  
12/23 John Andrews, Donna Groettum, Donna Larson  
12/24 Holly Chase  
12/25 Judy Stuber  
12/26 Susan Anderson, Kevin McCulloch, Jason Gorr  
12/28 Linda Joyce, Andrew Peterson, Dorothy Schueler  
12/29 Kimberly Johnson, Spencer Sanford  
12/30 Glenda Berndt, Regina Nevin  
12/31 Adelyn Benzick, Harrison Lommen, Larry Neer

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/1 Jack & Joanne Heidman  
12/2 Paul & Rita Houle  
12/5 Richard & Lois Haglund  
12/6 Brandon & Jill Andersen  
12/8 Neil & Maxine McEwen  
12/12 Charles & Traci Beavers  
Michael & Jeri-Sue Lommen  
12/17 Ann & Bob Michaelson  
12/22 William & Kathryn Lund  
Tony & Marie Wagner  
12/26 Harvey & Marilyn Hollenback  
Linda & Max Martz  
12/27 Gerald & Vicki Kopplin  
Robert & Lois Salo  
12/28 Tracy & Barbara Donovan  
Joe & Kristi Kraemer  
12/29 Robert & Lois Salo  
Arlen & Marlys Thorsgaard  
12/30 Ryan & Mary Aarestad  
12/31 Ken & Ginny Hersey

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



## DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- December 1 Faith & Fellowship on Zoom 6 pm
- December 2 Faith & Fellowship 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
- December 6 Parking Lot Worship 9:30 am
- December 8 Faith & Fellowship on Zoom 6 pm
- December 9 Faith & Fellowship 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
- December 13 Parking Lot Worship 9:30 am
- December 15 Finance Committee on Zoom 4:30 pm  
Faith & Fellowship on Zoom 6 pm  
Church Council on Zoom 7 pm
- December 16 Faith & Fellowship 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
- December 20 Parking Lot Worship 9:30 am
- December 24 Christmas Eve Parking Lot Worship 5 pm, 6 pm, 7 pm
- December 27 Parking Lot Worship 9:30 am

**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 Kristin at 952-200-1249 .  
If you have an office need, please call Brenda LaRock at 218-232-1220.**