

NON-PROFIT U.S. Postage PAID PRST. STND. Crosslake, MN 56442 Permit #24

December 2021

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

December 24
3 pm and 5 pm
Carols, Candlelight and Communion



PASTORS' PAGES



December Greetings!

I've been inspired this year as we move into the Advent season. I was moved into some good reflection and devotion time when I came upon this meaningful Advent film through one of our online resources entitled <u>ADVENTUS: JOINING A HOPE THAT HAS COME.</u> It makes "Advent" into a verb – into a prayer. "Advent us, O God!" Normally in Advent, we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus" – and this film uses imagery, sound, and speakers

to artfully bring this prayer of "Advent us" to life in a beautiful way. It does explain the season of Advent well, but deeper than that, it's inspiring. It moved me to pray and consider again how I am aware of God's presence in my life. It's not often that there's one resource that can touch both head and heart, but for me, this film did! So, let's experience it together!

Here's how the resource "Work of the People" describes this 35 minute film entitled <u>ADVENTUS: JOINING A HOPE THAT HAS COME</u>: "It's a handful of theologians and practitioners offering their thoughts on Advent, a season of being remade in the dark." We'll watch this film and then have some reflection time both individually and collectively. It will be our Bible study on Wednesday, December 8th from 10:00 – 11:00 am. We'll also watch a snippet or two from this film in smaller clips for Wednesday evening worship during Advent.

As we ask God to "Advent us," or "remake us" during this season of darkness, we invite you to experience worship on Wednesday as well. Our Advent Wednesday worship will be contemplative with candlelight, communion, and Advent film clips. It will be distinct from Sunday morning. Of course, Sunday mornings will focus on our Advent season as well with our varied ways of worshipping through music, prayer, and liturgy that work well in the morning. We'll have communion each Sunday in Advent, too.

Additionally, for worship, we will have a Blue Christmas opportunity on Tuesday evening, December 14 at 7 pm open to the community. And on Wednesday, December 15, we hope that our Sunday and Wednesday folks will join together for a Christmas Celebration that begins with dinner followed by an interactive Christmas Nativity worship that will be enjoyable for all ages! See inside for details.

From our whole staff team, we continue to feel so grateful to be a part of our wonderful congregation, serving Christ together in mission and ministry with you, and we pray you have a very blessed Christmas!

In Christ, Pastor 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 or Pastor Kurt Hagestuen at 218-839-2931.



As I write this I am thinking about the scriptures for this coming Sunday. Blended into my thoughts are the third and fourth graders who will receive their Bibles from the congregation on Wednesday, December 1st. Our scriptures are such a gift to us and will hopefully feed these elementary-aged kids for a lifetime. In the scriptures we find that our identity as imperfect people is revealed. We find that our story as a wandering and

often lost people is located in the same story as God's story. That means something! **While Santa's gifting might be conditional, God's is not.** Martin Luther has said the Bible is the cradle that holds Christ. As we hold the bible open, the V-shape reminds us of the manger that Mary placed Jesus in.

This is all lovely, but the Bible can be very confusing; often times it is hard to navigate. While it is great to have learned or experience guides to help interpret it, it is even better to have people to visit with about it. It is then that we can make the most meaning of God's promises revealed in the scriptures. That is why the gift of Christian community is so important. Sure, we come together to listen for God to speak through the scriptures, but we also come together to name what these words mean to us, and what they mean to our friends in Christian community, which is also God speaking.

So this year we are putting more energy into community for our "Christmas programs and events." It is lovely to have costumed kids reciting lines in a Christmas pageant, but is even better to come together and discern what they mean to us; how these words seek to be at work in our lives delivering Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love for the naughty and the nice. So here are some details about a special event on December 15th. We will not disguise our hope that our Sunday folks will embrace this time to come together with our Wednesday folks to be the Christian community we are.

Celebrating Christmas Together December 15th - 6:15-7:45 PM

If you are a Sunday morning worshipper, you may not be aware of all the elementary-aged children, middle schoolers and high schoolers along with their families who are worshiping and learning about God's abundant love on Wednesday evenings! And, if you are usually at church on a Wednesday, you may not know the people who gather on Sunday to sing praises to God. In many ways, we have two very unique and vital congregations worshipping each week. And we want to bring these two groups together during the Christmas season to **Celebrate Christmas Together**. So mark your calendars

Celebrate

lesus

and set reminders on your phones to gather together on

<u>December 15th from 6:15-7:45 pm</u> for a delicious meal, cocoa bar, cookie decorating and a fun, interactive, meaningful worship experience, all in the Fellowship Hall.

In Christ, Pastor Kurt

ADVENT GIVING TREE

It's time once again where we work with the Salvation Army to continue our longstanding tradition of our Advent Giving Tree. It will work the same as last year where the gift tags aren't hanging on a Christmas tree, but are available on our church website: www.crosslakelutheran.com

Merry
Christmas

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. 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 the Fellowship Hall and place under the Christmas tree. Be sure to write the number of the gift suggestion on a gift tag and attach to the package. If you would like to help and need assistance with signing up, please call the church office and we will help you out!



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE December 14th at 7 pm

Crosslake Lutheran invites you to a special holiday service designed for those for whom the holidays might be difficult. If you have undergone a difficult loss, transition, or life change, the church cares about you and invites you to a special time of fellowship, music, and worship.

RELIGIOUS RELEASE

Adults, we need your loving presence for Religious Release. The time frame is roughly from 1-2:30 pm on the Wednesdays of December and January. It is very simply just helping the kids have positive experience by welcoming them and being with them in song and story time, helping with snack and crafts; mostly we just need people to let them know they are loved and cared for by this church, and, of course, by JESUS. IF you are good grandma or grandpa, mom or dad, sibling or cousin, that is the only qualification you need. You can pick the Wednesdays you want to help. One, two, or all of them. Please see Pastor Kristin or Pastor Kurt if you are interested in helping with this ministry!



DECEMBER BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 10 am

Wed. Dec. 1 Paul's Letters to a Community in Conflict - 1 & 2 Corinthians

Wed. Dec. 8 "Adventus" – Film on Advent Discussion and Reflection

Wed. Dec. 15 Christmas Carols & Scripture with Music Ministry Director, Patricia Lundeen

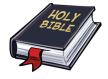
Wed. Dec. 22 OFF

Wed. Dec. 29 OFF

(220)

\$ (2,682)

\$



2021 FINANCIAL REPORT YTD: October: Actual Budget Difference Actual Budget Difference Revenues: \$ 43,504 \$ 42,971 \$ 533 \$ 496,010 \$ 485,523 \$ 10,487 \$ <u>43,724</u> \$ 45,653 \$ 1,929 \$ 449,016 \$ 485,530 \$ 36,514 Expenses:

2.462

In the month of October, expenses exceed revenues by \$220.

\$

46,994

(7)

\$ 47.001



Difference:

YTD REVENUES INCLUDE \$70,275 RECEIVED FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS PART OF THE CARES ACT AND THE PPP LOAN FORGIVENESS.

YTD's performance would be \$23,274 less than budget, because revenues would have been \$59,788 less than budget, and expenses are less than budget by \$36,514.

Complete financial reports are available in the finance mailbox.

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

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



- The family of Carole Taylor in their loss & sorrow. Carole passed away on October 26th in Crosslake.
- Kris & Terry Havir in the death of her mom, Elaine Fisher, on November 8th in Plymouth, MN.
- Jim Anderson and family in the death of his daughter, Christine Sesin, on November
 17th in Crosslake.
- Allan & Julie Rose in the death of Allan's mom, Loretta Rose, on November 21st in Becker, MN.
- The family of Jim Newman in their loss & sorrow. Jim passed away on November 24, in Maple Grove, MN.
 A memorial service is planned for sometime next spring.

PASTORAL ACTS

Memorial Services: Carol Taylor, November 12

Christine Sesin, November 27

HEALTH MINISTRY



THANK you to all who attended the Dementia session this past month with a special thank you to Alden Hardwick for sharing his story of Mary. We were able to record the session and will make it available soon for those of you who missed the event. www.ALZ.org is another great resource for finding up-to-date and accurate information about dementia in general, not just Alzheimer's disease. As the cold sets in, if your loved one has the tendency to wander, you may want to consider ways to keep them safe so that they will not experience cold injury if they can get out of the

house. Please call me if you need ideas of how to keep your loved one safe.

Planning is already underway for the 2022 Senior Expo which is going to be held at the end of April 2022. Don Shelby is likely our keynote speaker; stay tuned for future info. As a part of that weekend, there are also plans for a Senior Walk, the actual Expo and a Senior Prom in the evening. The dance will be a fun time of optional dress up and food. More details on that later and if you want to part of the Prom committee, please let me know since I will be working with that.

Plans are also underway for gifts for our folks who are homebound or in a facility. It is one of our favorite ways to bring the spirit of Christmas to everyone no matter where they are living as a part of our church family. If you know of someone you think would enjoy a gift, please contact me or the church office.

I will be leaving for warmer parts early December this year but will be available by phone since I will still be working remotely. One of the things that we learned through the pandemic is that it is possible to continue programming even if we are not on-site, so please reach out to me by cell phone if you need Health Ministry services. The Angel Food program, Befrienders, Home Communion, and Card Ministry will continue as there are folks who will be available for local in-person service. We are planning a Befriender training session in May, so please be consider attending if you have an interest in this ministry.

A gentle reminder with the high rates of COVID in the area is to please stay home if you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID which include body aches, chills, congestion, cough, fever, diarrhea and certainly if you lose smell or taste which are unique to COVID infections. If you have a known exposure to COVID, we ask that you self-quarantine for at least 10 days or until you are tested and receive the results. There is a flu that is traveling around that looks like COVID and the only way to know is to have testing. Essentia has a way you can go into your MY CHART and schedule a test. Call CRMC if that is your facility and get the latest as to how to schedule a test. Most facilities do not require that your primary doctor is located where you are to be tested. When in doubt, call your primary provider if you have COVID questions and concerns or each facility has a hot line for COVID, including the VA.

Since the holiday season is not always so cheerful especially for those who have lost loved ones recently or even in years past, please reach out to folks who may be struggling with depression and sadness during the season of Light. We will be having a special service in December for a more reflective gathering to offer an alternative to the Christmas Eve service. Watch the bulletin for more information about that. The Savior's birth certainly is a time of joy to the World but for those who experience loss, it brings back memories of happier times and what is now missing. I know that our church family is also a "family" and I pray that all will reach out if you know that someone is struggling. Please reach out to me if you need information about mental health resources that may be helpful also, especially for those of you who stay back here in Minnesota. Winter can also be a time for recovery, rest, and reflection no matter where you are, so I hope that you take the time to renew no matter where you are.

Blessings! Gail Smith RN, Parish Nurse



WOMEN OF CROSSLAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Greetings,

Thanksgiving has come and gone, so please mark your calendars to attend a Christmas Tea to be held (in lieu of our December general meeting) on

Thursday, December 9^{th} at 1:00 - 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall at church. Music will be provided by the Handbell Choir and there will be carol singing by attendees. There will be prize drawings. Bring an ornament with a special meaning to share with others. Free will offering is accepted.

Information and a sign-up sheet are posted on our bulletin board for those interested in attending and/or bringing Seasonal Pastries. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Paulette Wilske, 360-319-8150 or Jacque Glas, 218-232-9401.

If anyone has an idea for our January, February and March General Meeting dates please let me know your thoughts. Somehow the month of February smells like chocolate to me. Is there anyone in the church who would be willing to give a demonstration on how to make chocolate and/or candy? Or, have you been on a trip that you enjoyed and would be willing to share your pictures and speak about your adventure? We Minnesota-bound residents are looking for any entertainment you may be willing to share.

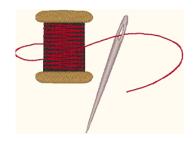
Heavenly Father, I am grateful for the time I have to read from the Bible daily. Thank you for reminding me as well as all women to look to you each and every day.

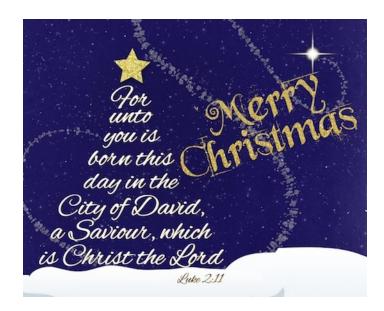
May the Holy Spirit of Advent shine through us as we experience our upcoming season.

Yours In Christ, Kathy Bahma 763-238-0769 Co-Chair

ART DISPLAY

Hardanger embroidery by Lois Morsch Sobolik (Randy Morsch's mom) and Kristi Morsch is on display in the Fellowship Hall. Hardanger embroidery is a form of hand work traditional to Norway.





Merry Christmas from the Staff of Crosslake Lutheran Church!

Pastor Kristin Pat

Pastor Kurt Gail

Patricia Brenda

Kristi Tracy

Paulette Carl

Barb Jenny

Dave

THANK YOUS

"Thank you Crosslake Lutheran Church for many years of youth group & for the nice gifts you have given to us on confirmation day. I also want to thank my church family for years of supporting our youth group." - Kaitlyn Geschwill

"We want to thank all who were involved in putting on the 50th Anniversary Celebration! We appreciated being able to celebrate our special day! It was a beautiful celebration! - Vicki & Jerry Kopplin

Thank you to Dick Elmquist, Gary & Sue Phillips, Sam Shirey and Paul Tender for putting up all the Christmas lights around the outside of the church and on the evergreens by the road so that we can shine with the light of Christ for Christmas!

"I want to thank everyone who supported me during my long journey to recovery. The cards, prayers and flowers were so thoughtful and meant so much to me." - Vicki Kopplin

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

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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



Gather. Grow. Go.

DECEMBER COVID UPDATE

On November 19, we received this communication from our Northeastern MN Synod COVID Smart Team:

Minnesota is experiencing the worst case levels of COVID-19 for 2021. In fact, we were the worst COVID hotspot in the United States for several days. Our hospitals are currently stressed and there are limited ICU beds available and none in some areas. This is causing routine medical procedures to be delayed.

This is a difficult place to be in with the pandemic as we approach our Advent and Christmas celebrations. With this in mind, it is imperative that all congregations embrace the public health protocols of mask wearing and social distancing. We can reduce the risks and still enjoy our celebrations by:

- 1. Wearing a well-fitting mask over your nose and mouth in all indoor settings including our sanctuaries
- 2. Practicing physical distancing by remaining six feet apart between family groups,
- 3.*(See below) Not having coffee fellowship and similar events (where there is food, drink and conversation with unmasked people in close proximity to each other) until the risk of transmission has returned to a safe level, and
- 4. If you are experiencing any COVID symptoms or you have been exposed to someone with COVID, whether you are or are not vaccinated, get tested. Stay away from others until you obtain a negative PCR test.
- *Crosslake Lutheran has decided not to follow recommendation #3. We feel the benefits of people gathering at our fellowship events that include food and drink are important for the wellbeing of our faith community. With that decision, we ask that you please take great care only to participate in these events if you are symptom free and have not been exposed to COVID in the last 10 days.

This is a good reminder for us that while no one likes wearing masks (and we are not requiring them), they are a good idea as transmission increases again. Additionally, if you have any sort of cold/flu symptom, even if you don't think it's COVID, it's just best to stay home and take care. Physicians are now saying COVID can look like just about anything!

Crosslake Lutheran Smart Team

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Clare Foote, Darby Harmala, Reed Olander
Jeanne Blosberg, Bailey Tohm, Patrick Trottier
Josh Senst, Luna Thull
Darrell Bonner, Kathy Brodin, Kailey Gerdes
Daniel Kelly, Hunter Nybakken, Marty Vangen
Kurt Hagestuen, Jan Hughes, Eli Johnson,
Carissa Maher, Vanny Palm, Jodi Schott, Karl Skog
Brian Larsen, Jan Lobben, Ken Retrum
Troy Anderson, Quady Bernu, Brian Maher,
Douglas Shelstad
Sigurd Anderson, Robin Lundborg, Teddy
Lundgren, Theodore Merickel
Gerald Kopplin, Steve Nelson, Harper Thompson
Jo Smith
Dane Boozell
Joanie Harrell, Casey Johnson, Lyndsey Johnson,
Norman Kroeger
Doran Buckentin, Courtney Carpenter, James
Rasmussen, Michael Scheuss
Holland Lommen, Amy Myogeto, Christy Potocki
Brittany Goerges
Jean Erickson, Mary Jo Kelly, Levi Loken, Ken
Rosburg
Dana Balmer, Jack Cox, Jackson Goerges, Rita
Houle, Alexander VanAllen
Mike Goerges, Bob Michaelson, Karen Olander
Holly DeVinck, Marti Dickinson, James Newman,
Michael O'Neil
John Andrews, Donna Groettum
Holly Chase
Susan Anderson
Linda Joyce, Andrew Peterson, Dorothy Schueler
Kimberly Johnson, Spencer Sanford
Glenda Berndt, Regina Nevin

12/31 Adelyn Benzick, Harrison Lommen, Larry Neer

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

	LIVIDEIX AIVIVIVENSAIVIES
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	Michael & Jeri-Sue Lommen
12/17	Ann & Bob Michaelson
12/22	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

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

12/31 Ken & Ginny Hersey





HEARTLAND SYMPHONY

Winter Concert Series "A Concerto for the Holidays". Free concerts—donations will be accepted at the door and online at HeartlandSymphony.com. Conducted by Ryan Webber, Conductor Chats held prior to each concert. All audience members are expected to wear masks.

December 2: 7:30 pm at Log Church-Crosslake

December 4: 7:30 pm at Charles D. Martin Auditorium-Little Falls

December 5: 2:30 pm at Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts-Brainerd



CENTRAL MN ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

You have three opportunities to join the Central MN Adult & Teen Challenge choir for a Christmas Concert celebration this year! Hear clients share stories and songs of peace. These are free-will offering events. Doors open 45 minutes prior to the concerts. Refreshments available after the performances. For more information call 218-833-8752; sue.vanhal@mntc.org

December 2 & 3: 6 pm at Heritage Church, 13242 Berrywood Drive, Baxter. There will be a table in the foyer where we will be collecting donations (cash, checks, gift cards). These donations will be used to purchase gifts for children of clients currently in our program to bring them Christmas joy!

December 9: 6 pm at Joy Christian Center, 770 21st Ave. NE, St. Cloud



Sunday	Monday	Tuesdav	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
De	December 2021		I Kitchen Committee 9 am Bible Study 10 am Bell Choir 11:30 am Knit Wits-Fireside Room 1 pm Religious Release 1:20-2:30 pm Endowment 4 pm Choir practice 4:30 pm Wednesday Dinner 5:30 pm Contemplative Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion & Growing Kids 6:15 pm Youth Ministry: 7th & 8th 7-8pm	Marketing Committee 9 am Communion Service at Whitefish at the Lakes Senior Living 2 pm	m	4
Worship with Holy Communion and Installation of Council members 9:30 am 10:30 am coffee/ fellowship	6 500 Card Group 9 am Quilters 9:30 am A.AFireside Room 7 pm	7 Diabetes Prevention class (Zoom) 9-10 am Ink Spots 9:30 am Staff Meeting 10 am Mahjongg Group - Garden Room 1 pm	8 Bible Study 10 am Bell Choir 11:30 am Knit Wits-Fireside Room 1 pm Religious Release 1:20-2:30 pm Executive Committee 3:30 pm Choir practice 4:30 pm Wednesday Dinner 5:30 pm Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion, Growing Kids & Installation of Council members 6:15 pm Youth Ministry: 7th & 8th 7-8pm	9 Christmas Tea for Women of Crosslake Lutheran in the Fellowship Hall 1-3 pm	10	11
Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am 10:30 am coffee/ fellowship	500 Card Group 9 am Quilters 9:30 am A.AFireside Room 7 pm	Diabetes Prevention class (Zoom) 9-10 am Staff Meeting 10 am Mahjongg Group - Garden Room 1 pm Blue Christmas Service 7 pm	15 Bible Study 10 am Bell Choir at Whitefish Senior Living - 1:30 pm Knit Wits-Fireside Room 1 pm Religious Release 1:20-2:30 pm Choir practice 4:30 pm Christmas Celebration in Fellowship Hall: 6:15—7:45 pm Dinner, activities and worship—all are welcome!	16	17	18
Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am 10:30 am coffee/ fellowship	20 500 Card Group 9 am Quilters 9:30 am A.AFireside Room 7 pm	Diabetes Prevention class (Zoom) 9-10 am Staff Meeting 10 am Mahjongg Group - Garden Room 1 pm Finance 4:30 pm Council Meeting 7 pm	Knit Wits-Fireside Room 1 pm Choir practice 4:30 pm No Wednesday Dinner, Worship, Growing Kids —Christmas break Youth Ministry carolling	23	Christmas Eve Services 3 pm & 5 pm	25
Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am 10:30 am coffee/ fellowship	500 Card Group 9 am Quilters 9:30 am A.AFireside Room 7 pm	Diabetes Prevention class (Zoom) 9-10 am Staff Meeting 10 am Mahjongg Group - Garden Room 1 pm	Knit Wits-Fireside Room 1 pm No Wednesday Dinner, Worship, Growing Kids or Youth Ministry—Christmas break	30	Happy New Year! Church office closed.	