



## Crosslake Lutheran

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Crosslake, MN 56442  
Permit #24

## December 2022



# CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

December 24

3 pm and 5 pm

Carols, Candlelight and Communion

## CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25

9:30 am—Lessons and Carols

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

## PASTOR'S PAGE

December Greetings & Merry Christmas!



It feels fitting to write “Merry Christmas” on the first big snowfall of the season that has already started on November 15<sup>th</sup>! The strange thing is that it’s tiny little bits of nearly invisible snow falling over a very long span of time, several days now. (If you’re a snowbird reading this not in MN, you can just smile!) When you look outside currently, it hardly looks like it’s even snowing, but it IS piling up! There’s quite a few inches now that need to be shoveled, plowed, and it’s making the streets slippery and slick! This almost invisible snowfall leading to quite an accumulation got me thinking about God’s love and our theme for Advent and Christmas.

This month, we are going to sing and listen to the hymn “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” as we wait and watch again for the birth of Christ and Christ’s second coming. And one hymn tune that we are going to sing those words to is “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.” It’s powerful to combine these two hymns of our long-expected Jesus “born a child and yet a king” and “joy of heav’n to earth come down” as Christ enters “every trembling heart” at Christmas and every time we join together in Holy Communion. The power of Christ’s love that enters our hearts sometimes comes almost as invisibly and persistently as the tiny snowflakes falling all around. We don’t notice the perseverance and power of it until we stop, look around, and then realize it has accumulated quite abundantly in all the relationships, actions, and wonderment around us – which is often so much what Christmas is about. God’s love made manifest through people -- gatherings, celebrations, and togetherness. And yet, it can be a hard time as well, for so many reasons, for those not able to be in community as they would like to be. Christmas can also be difficult! That’s also why I appreciate the short prayer embedded in our theme hymn, “let us find our rest in thee.”

We hope that you can find both rest and community in Christ, God’s Love Made Manifest for the whole world, as we gather together for worship and service this Advent and Christmas experiencing God’s love accumulating in our lives. Be sure to mark our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Celebrating Christmas Together with dinner and a “pop up” Christmas program for all ages on your calendar for Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>! And note that on Christmas Day, we’ll have a 9:30 worship with lessons and carols, wearing our Christmas comfy & cozy clothes. Bring your coffee mug and a treat to enjoy during the service as if we are gathered together on Christmas morning in the living room!



Christmas Peace and Joy to you –

Pastor Kristin

## PASTORAL CARE

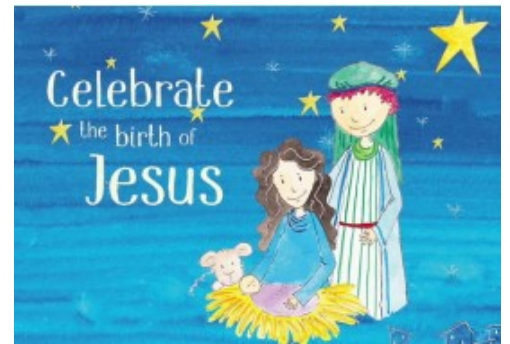
Please contact us if you are hospitalized or if you are in need of a pastoral visit. You can reach Pastor Kristin Oltmann at 952-200-1249.

## 2nd Annual “Celebrating Christmas Together”

December 14

5:30-7:00 PM

Together we will celebrate Christmas with a great meal, crafts for the kids, a cocoa station and cookie decorating. The night ends with a pop-up Christmas Program that will involve all who are attending. This fun evening begins at 5:30 pm and will be over around 7 pm.



### Save the Date – Wednesday, Dec. 21 for Caroling + Food & Fellowship



We don't have our regular after school ministry, supper, worship, or any official youth ministry planned for Wednesday, Dec. 21. But just like last year, we are putting together an event for caroling followed by some food and fellowship time on Wednesday, December 21. This will be an all-ages activity and was a great event last year for families. Everyone young and old has a chance to be together and share the Christmas spirit with those who need it brought to them and can't get out as easily. Stay tuned with the bulletins and social media for more information!

### ADVENT GIVING TREE

It's time once again when we work with the Salvation Army to continue our long-standing 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](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. 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 8th 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!

### SHARE YOUR NATIVITY SCENE

Alden's wrenches have returned home, but the table with the red cloth in the Fellowship Hall is waiting for your nativity set. We will display the sets until you take them home for your Christmas celebration. While the display will be marked "Do Not Touch," please do not bring in anything of great value. Also, please leave your name with your set. The congregation will enjoy seeing a variety of manger scenes!

# ADULT FORUM ON CHARITABLE GIVING

Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> after worship

**Aundra Erickson, Chartered Financial Consultant**



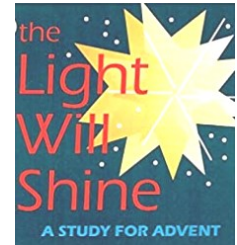
Aundra is a past president and member of our congregation. She will present on a tax efficient alternative for charitable giving through an IRA or 401k for those who are 72 years old or better, using something called a Qualified Charitable Distribution for some or all of your Required Minimum Distribution. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn and ask questions. This Adult Forum will take place after worship in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

## DECEMBER BIBLE STUDY

**“The Light Will Shine” - A Study for Advent**

**Wednesdays at 10:00 AM**

**November 9-December 14**



Our Bible Study continues in December and according to the author of this Bible Study, “This study is designed to provide fresh perspectives on the journey through Advent to Christmas and beyond, and to highlight the underlying message of the traditional scripture texts and themes for the season. But more than that, this study will also make the meaning and message of those texts come alive for you today. It is hoped that you will be equipped to see beyond the ‘hustle and bustle, glitter and glamour’ of ‘commercial Christmas’ to the ‘good news of great joy’ that forms the very foundation of our faith.”

## THANK YOU, KAREN ZEILE!



We are so grateful for Karen Zeile’s help this fall! As a deacon in the ELCA, Karen is called into Word and Service and has tremendous experience in youth ministry. She has done a great doing much coordination with our youth programming on Wednesdays so that our small groups and guides and Wednesday night suppers have continued. She has also served as a great resource for Macie Lohmiller, our Children’s Youth Coordinator for Growing Kids, since Karen previously served in that role in our church. She’s also led Adult Bible Study on Wednesdays, helped with Religious Release, participated on the Marketing team, and planned and led worship occasionally, too. Thanks so much, Karen!

We are so glad you are a part of our congregation. Please be sure to thank, Karen, as her last official day of helping us out in this way is December 15<sup>th</sup>.

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



***Pastor Kristin***

***Patricia***

***Kristi***

***Paulette***

***Gail***

***Brenda***

***Tracy***

***Macie***

***Barb***

***Dave***

***Jenny***

***Roy***

## NEWS OF THE FAMILY

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



- The family of Arlene Courneya in their loss & sorrow. Arlene passed away on
- Coco Keim in the death of her son, Jim Keim, on November 1st in Mankato, MN.
- The family of Elmer Larson in their loss and sorrow. Elmer passed away on November 4th in Baxter, MN.
- John & Mary Knight in the death of John's sister, Sharon Vogler, on November 18th in Eau Claire, WI.

### Pastoral Acts

**Memorial Services:** Arlene Courneya, November 5th

## 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>October:</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>YTD:</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Revenues:	\$ 40,614	\$ 45,556	\$ (4,942)		\$ 386,481	\$ 488,840	\$(102,359)
Expenses:	<u>\$ 37,111</u>	<u>\$ 44,745</u>	<u>\$ 7,634</u>		<u>\$ 426,402</u>	<u>\$ 492,849</u>	<u>\$ 66,447</u>
Difference:	\$ 3,503	\$ (811)	\$ 2,692		\$ (39,921)	\$ (4,009)	\$ (35,912)



In the month of **October**, revenues exceeded expenses by \$3,503.

YTD's performance is \$35,912 less than budget, because revenues are \$102,359 less than budget, and expenses are less than budget by \$66,447.

Complete financial reports are available in the finance mailbox.

## THANK YOU

We would like to take a moment to thank everyone that was involved in planning, organizing, and working at the 50th Anniversary Celebration. Every year we look forward to attending this event and this year was our 50th. The food was good and the Master of Ceremonies was great! Also, thank you to everyone who attended and gave us cards and congratulated us. Thank you to the 11th graders who served us. The personalized cake was a nice surprise and the flowers were beautiful! We felt so special. We have enjoyed going to Crosslake Lutheran for 49 years and certainly appreciate being a part of a wonderful congregation.  
- Sincerely, Tom and Bonnie Julian

**Bible Buddies:** Thank you to this year's Bible Buddies: Kathy Bahma, John & Gail Boline, Rocky Chapin, Kitty Daniels, Patricia Lundeen, JoAnn Maas, Joanna O'Neil and Karen Zeile! Our 3rd graders and some of our 4th graders received their Bibles on November 9th and these caring adults will get to know our students throughout the coming year and keep them in their prayers. We thank them for enriching the lives of our young people!

**Christmas Decorators:** Thank you to Bob McPherson, Gary Phillips & Gordy Reller for putting up the Christmas tree in the sanctuary; thank you to the elf for hanging up the Christmas lights on the church building; and thank you to Dave Gardinier, Bob McPherson & Randy Morsch for setting up the outside Nativity. You are very much appreciated!

## HEALTH MINISTRY



Blessings during this season of anticipation of the birth of the Christ Child. I love looking forward to things, it is part of the wonder and magic of Christmas. What do you have to look forward to during this season of Advent? For some people who have experienced loss of their loved one or experienced other loss such as having to move from their home into assisted living, this can be a time of sadness and a multitude of many other emotions other than excitement and wonder. I know that many of you minister in so many ways to those experiencing loss, but please be even more intentional and sensitive to their perspective. Inviting them into your circles, sending a card, giving a hug, asking how they are really doing can reflect God's love made real in every day life. It is also a season when checking on neighbors during snow, cold and other winter challenges can make a huge difference in helping others feel less isolated and lonely. I will be in my winter home but will still be checking in with folks by phone and have wonderful folks who will continue the local work until I return. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have concerns about someone or have concerns yourself.

Many of you will be traveling at some point this month or early January and I found a resource to protect your health when traveling. Some suggestions include: 1. Stretch every hour for a few minutes even in the car to avoid fatiguing muscles in the back and neck. 2. Make sure that your head is kept level over your pelvis and that your neck is not stretching forward. 3. Place a pillow behind the small of your back or a neck support if you think you may fall asleep. 4. Use heat packs or heated seat to keep muscles from getting cold and tight. 4. Be careful lifting suitcases and avoid twisting and lifting at the same time. 5. Walk at least every 3 hours if you are driving to avoid blood pooling in your legs. 6. Don't cross your legs when seated in the car. 7. Drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration (it will mean more bathroom stops but will make you walk more. :) 8 always have at least 2 days of meds in your carry on to avoid medication delays if your luggage is lost. 9. Be aware of your surroundings when stopping at gas stations or at hotels - park only in well lit areas and use bigger gas stations that have security cameras. I know that there are so many other things but these cover a few of the most common problems that arise when on the road or in the air.

The holidays also bring challenges in getting enough rest, healthy food and exercise so I hope you find time to really enjoy the blessings of the season and not put too much pressure on yourself to create the perfect holiday for your loved ones. God already did that with the birth of the Christ Child.

Blessings and good mind, body, spirit health,

Gail Smith RN, Parish Nurse



# WOMEN OF CROSSLAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Christmas Tea

All Women of Crosslake Lutheran are invited to the annual **Christmas Tea** on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy a festive afternoon of fellowship, delicious goodies, music, and gifts donated by our generous women.

Please use the sign-up sheet for the Christmas Tea located on the WELCA bulletin board to indicate what you will be bringing to share at the tea. Please bring your goodies in on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to celebrating the coming of Christmas with you. We give special thanks to Jacque Glas and Paulette Wilske for hosting this event.

There is a weekly Advent Devotion available at [gather@elca.org](http://gather@elca.org) web site entitled "Good Things Come in Small Packages - Moving from Wanting to Waiting at Advent". This and other resources are available on the website. A copy of *Gather Magazine* and the *Northeastern Lights* are in the Garden Room. Feel free to enjoy both publications.

We pray that you may find comfort in the season of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the joy of Christmas.

## PERSONAL CARE KITS

We are off to a good start for our collection of items for Lutheran World Relief! The smaller, less fluffy towels may be a bit hard to find but dollar stores and Sears have them for around \$3.00 each. We are not collecting hand towels for these kits. The items needed are listed below:

Light weight bath towel (between 20"x40" and 27"x52") dark color

Bath size bar of soap

Adult toothbrush in original package

Sturdy full size comb (not pick)

Metal nail clippers



Items may be placed in the red box on the shelf over the coat rack in the fellowship hall. As always, if you prefer us to do the shopping you can put a check in the offering plate with "Personal Care Kits" on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity in providing these kits to people living in disaster areas!

## CENTRAL MN ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE CHRISTMAS CONCERTS



**December 1 & 2 at 6pm**  
Heritage Church, Baxter

**December 16 at 6pm**  
Joy Christian Center, St. Cloud

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 hope.

## HEARTLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WINTER CONCERT SERIES

A poster for the Heartland Symphony Orchestra Winter Concert Series. The background is a snowy mountain landscape. At the top, it says 'HEARTLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA' with a red treble clef logo and '46th Season 2022-2023'. The main title is 'Holidays Around the World' in a blue script font, with 'WINTER 2022 CONCERT SERIES' below it. The concert dates and locations are: 'December 1 • 7:30 PM The Log Church, Crosslake', 'December 3 • 7:30 PM Charles D. Martin Auditorium, Little Falls', and 'December 4 • 2:30 PM Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts, Brainerd'. It also lists featured artists: 'Featuring: Leslie Zander, Concertmaster and Sandy Larson, Violin Members of the HSO Brass Section Brainerd High School Orchestra and Central Lakes College String Orchestra at Gichi-ziibi'. At the bottom, it says 'FREE FOR ALL AGES. Good will donations encouraged.'

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/1 Clare Foote, Darby Harmala, Reed Olander  
12/3 Jeanne Blosberg, Bailey Tohm, Patrick Trottier  
12/4 Josh Senst, Luna Thull  
12/6 Darrell Bonner, Kathy Brodin, Kailey Gerdes  
12/7 Hunter Nybakken, Marty Vangen  
12/8 Eli Johnson, Carissa Maher, Vanny Palm, Jodi Schott, Karl Skog  
12/9 Travis Headley, Brian Larsen, Jan Lobben, Ken Retrum  
12/10 Troy Anderson, Quady Bernu, Brian Maher, Kenny Ohlsson, Douglas Shelstad  
12/11 Sigurd Anderson, Robin Lundborg, Teddy Lundgren, Theodore Merickel  
12/12 Steve Nelson, Harper Thompson  
12/13 Sawyer Henning, 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 Holland Lommen, Amy McLaughlin, Tanya Narum, Christy Potocki  
12/18 Brittany Goerges  
12/19 Jean Erickson, Joe Heal, Levi Loken, Ken Rosburg  
12/20 Dana Balmer, Jack Cox, Jackson Goerges, Rita Houle, Alexander VanAllen  
12/21 Mike Goerges, Savannah John, Bob Michaelson, Karen Olander  
12/22 Marti Dickinson, Michael O'Neil  
12/23 John Andrews  
12/24 Holly Chase, Peyton Sargent, Cheri Yager  
12/26 Susan Anderson  
12/28 Linda Joyce, Andrew Peterson, Dorothy Schueler  
12/29 Brickson Headley, Kimberly Johnson  
12/30 Glenda Berndt, Regina Nevin  
12/31 Matt Deis, Harrison Lommen, Larry Neer

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/1 Jack & Joanne Heidman  
12/2 Paul & Rita Houle  
Dayton & Ruth Soby  
12/5 Richard & Lois Haglund  
12/6 Brandon & Jill Andersen  
12/10 Matt & Judy Deis  
12/12 Michael & Jeri-Sue Lommen  
12/17 Ann & Bob Michaelson  
12/22 Tony & Marie Wagner  
12/26 Linda & Max Martz  
12/27 Robert & Lois Salo  
12/28 Joe & Kristi Kraemer  
12/29 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.**



## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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



## DISTRIBUTION OF JUL FEST FUNDS - 2022

*Youth Account-Triennium Trip Fund	\$	800.00
*Knit Wits		200.00
Days for Girls - WELCA		250.00
Ink Spots		200.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,450.00</b>
<b>MISSION MONEY</b>		
Bridges of Hope	\$	500.00
Camp Knutson - Camperships		250.00
Christmas for Kids		250.00
Community Care N Share Café-Emily		350.00
Eagles Healing Nest		500.00
Food Shelves		
Crosslake Food Shelf		500.00
Cuyuna Range Food Shelf-Crosby		500.00
Emily Food Shelf		500.00
Lakes Area Food Shelf-Pequot Lakes/Nisswa		500.00
Salvation Army Food Shelf-Brainerd		500.00
Interfaith Volunteers		300.00
Kids Against Hunger		250.00
Kinship Partners		100.00
Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity		500.00
Lakes Area Pregnancy Support Center		100.00
Lakes Area Restorative Justice Program		200.00
LSS Youth Services - Brainerd		300.00
Meals on Wheels/Senior Meals (PAL Foundation)		100.00
Mid-Minnesota Women's Center		
Battered Women's Program		250.00
Alex and Brandon Child Safety Center (Brainerd)		250.00
Minnesota Teen Challenge - Brainerd		500.00
Mounted Eagles		250.00
Rising Hope Foundation		500.00
Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen-Brainerd		350.00
Soulful Horse		500.00
Stockings for Troops - Crosslake American Legion Auxiliary		300.00
The Lighthouse Project		500.00
The Pink Ribbon Cupboard		300.00
Toys for Kids-Marine Corps League-Baxter		200.00
True North Ranch		250.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,350.00</b>
Balance in Jul Fest checkbook 10/6/22	\$	2,641.39
<b>Total from Jul Fest 2022</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,290.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>17,931.39</b>
Jul Fest Start Up \$		(4,600.00)
Quilter's Start Up \$		(1,500.00)
Total for Distribution	\$	11,831.39
Amount set for Distribution	\$	11,800.00
Balance	\$	31.39

\* Check for the total of these items given to Church Treasurer for distribution.  
Submitted by Cindy Bighley and Kris Havir, Jul Fest Treasurers

# December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> Marketing Committee 9 am Book Club-Christmas Brunch 10 am Communion Service at Whitefish at the Lakes	<b>2</b> CLC serving at Brainerd Soup Kitchen 5:30 pm	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am 10:30 am coffee/ fellowship and Adult forum on "Charitable Giving"	<b>5</b> Quilters 9 am Men's 500 Card Group 9 am A.A.-Fireside Room 7 pm	<b>6</b> Diabetes Prevention class (Zoom) 9-10 am Ink Spots 9:30 am Staff Meeting 12 pm Mahjongg Group - Garden Room 1 pm Columbarium Meeting	<b>7</b> Kitchen Committee 9 am Bible Study 10 am Bell Choir 11:30 am Religious Release at Our Sav- ior's in Pequot Lakes 12:50 pm Knit Wits-Fireside Room 1 pm 5th/6th grade Youth Ministry 3:30- 5:30 pm Choir practice 4:45 pm Wednesday Dinner 5:30 pm	<b>8</b> Christmas Tea for Women of Crosslake Lutheran in the Fellowship Hall 1 pm  All Advent Giving Tree	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Worship 9:30 am 10:30 am coffee/ fellowship	<b>12</b> Quilters 9 am Men's 500 Card Group 9 am A.A.-Fireside Room 7 pm	<b>13</b> Diabetes Prevention class (Zoom) 9-10 am Staff Meeting 12 pm Mahjongg Group - Garden Room 1 pm	<b>14</b> Bible Study 10 am Religious Release at Our Sav- ior's in Pequot Lakes 12:50 pm Knit Wits-Fireside Room 1 pm Executive Committee 3:30 pm 5th/6th grade Youth Ministry 3:30- 5:30 pm Choir practice 4:45 pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am 10:30 am coffee/ fellowship	<b>19</b> Quilters 9 am Men's 500 Card Group 9 am A.A.-Fireside Room	<b>20</b> Diabetes Prevention class (Zoom) 9-10 am Staff Meeting 12 pm Mahjongg Group - Garden Room 1 pm Church Council 7 pm	<b>21</b> Religious Release at Our Sav- ior's in Pequot Lakes 12:50 pm Choir practice 4:45 pm NO Wednesday worship Caroling followed by fellow- ship time— Time to be deter-	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Services 3 pm & 5 pm
<b>25</b> Worship with les- sons and carols 9:30 am 10:30 am coffee/ fellowship	<b>26</b> Quilters 9 am Men's 500 Card Group 9 am	<b>27</b> Diabetes Prevention class (Zoom) 9-10 am Staff Meeting 12 pm Mahjongg Group - Garden Room 1 pm	<b>28</b> NO Wednesday worship or youth activities	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>