



## Crosslake Lutheran

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Crosslakelutheran.com

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Crosslake, MN 56442  
Permit #24

## December 2023

### **3RD ANNUAL "CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS TOGETHER"**

**December 13**

**5:30 PM**

Together we will celebrate Christmas with a great meal 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!



## PASTORS' PAGES



### Advent Blessings!

At our church council meeting this past month, we discussed the following big picture question: *What is the one thing that makes Crosslake Lutheran Church important to me?* It was very difficult for many of us to pick one thing! Many answers revolved around God at work in things like fellowship, welcome, and relationships. I want to highlight for you an event this month where I believe that God works in mighty ways for people of all ages to really grow in these areas and their faith in deep and lasting ways! **It's Celebrating Christmas Together and it will take place on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00.**

At this event, I believe "church," (in the sense of a group of people of all ages gathered around God's word) is at its best doing some of the most dynamic and engaging "work" of faith formation we can do together. But it doesn't feel like work at all, as we enjoy food and fellowship, learning from one another, most likely getting to know someone we didn't know before, and feeling renewed in body, mind, and spirit. Together, we experience again the promise of Christ with us, born for us and to save us, Emmanuel. First, we will share a delicious meal together, prepared especially for us by one of our new member family members who used to be a professional chef. After supper, we remain in the fellowship hall for a "pop-up" Christmas program and invite those who wish to participate to do so. We will sing carols and celebrate the story again of the birth of our Savior for the world. You don't want to miss it!

Along with this event, of course, we have our Christmas Eve services on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 and 5:30 with Communion and Candlelight at both services.

Whether you are here in MN or snowbirding in warmer climates, we pray you have a blessed Advent and very meaningful Christmas, experiencing again the hope, joy, peace, and love of Jesus Christ our Lord!

Christmas Peace,  
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.



### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

**December 24**

**3:30 pm and 5:30 pm**

**Carols, Candlelight and Communion**

## ADVENT GIVING TREE

It's time once again where 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 and return the gifts UNWRAPPED, by DECEMBER 7TH 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 gift.

If you would like to help and need assistance with signing up, please call the church office and we will help you out!



### 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.

### DECEMBER BIBLE STUDY

**Wednesdays at 10 am**



We continue to learn about Paul through reading portions of scripture and you are also invited to read corresponding sections of George Martin's book "Paul Found in His Letters". Our discussion includes both scripture and the research in the book.

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Scripture reading</b>	<b>Book chapter</b>
December 6	Ephesians	Ch. 12
December 13	Colossians	Ch. 13-14
December 20 & 27	No Bible Study—Christmas Break	

**Luke  
2:13-14  
(KJV)**

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

<i><b>Pastor Kristin</b></i>	<i><b>Gail</b></i>	<i><b>Lindsay</b></i>
<i><b>Pastor Becky</b></i>	<i><b>Patricia</b></i>	<i><b>Brenda</b></i>
<i><b>Paulette</b></i>	<i><b>Kristi</b></i>	<i><b>Barb</b></i>
<i><b>Tracy</b></i>	<i><b>Macie</b></i>	<i><b>Jenny</b></i>
<i><b>Roy</b></i>	<i><b>Dave</b></i>	

## 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](mailto:becky@beckyswanson.com)**

### 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. Information sessions will be offered on Dec 10 and Dec 13 after worship. If you are interested in joining us, please let Pastor Becky know. 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 football practice starts).

## 2024 BIBLE STUDY

Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith

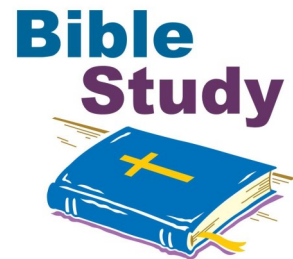
Wednesdays at 10:00am - Fireside Room

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:*



- Mary & Ryan Aarestad in the death of Mary's brother, Jim Lerberg, on October 26th in Mpls.
- The family of Ardys Hjerpe in their loss & sorrow. Ardys passed away on October 29th in Arden Hills, MN.
- Alden Hardwick in the death of his daughter-in-law, Cheri Hardwick, on November 15th in Mpls.
- Carl & Judy Weber in the death of his sister, Margaret Denzer.
- Brian & Barb Hanson in the death of his sister, Barbara Kaldahl, on November 20 in Crystal River, FL.
- Marti & Dave Dickinson in the death of their grandson, Tom Griffiths.
- Pam Wiltsey in the death of her brother-in-law, Brady Summers, on November 17th.

**WOMEN OF CROSSLAKE LUTHERAN  
CHRISTMAS TEA  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH**

All Women of Crosslake Lutheran and their guests are invited to our Christmas Tea Gathering on December 7th at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will celebrate the season with music, traditional holiday treats, a white elephant gift swap and a special attendance prize raffle. We ask that you do only two things before you come. Please use the sign up sheet located on the hallway bulletin board, or call the church office, so that we will know you will be joining in the afternoon festivities. And bring a wrapped white elephant to join in the fun of the swap. It can be silly, but not useless; or unusual and inspiring... anything goes! We hope you are looking forward to the fellowship of an afternoon together

Blessings, Janet Marr, Secretary



**CHARLES DICKENS VILLAGE SERIES FOR SALE AT HALF PRICE**

A Charles Dickens Village series—1970’s and 1980’s Vintage houses and Accessories FOR SALE AT HALF PRICE. Donated by Bob and Mary Funk. All proceeds go to Crosslake Lutheran Church. May be seen in the main hallway next to the Fireside Room. Each box is numbered 1-50. If you have an interest, please contact Kathy Bahma at 763-238-0769 or Bob Bahma at 763-238-1226. A spreadsheet is posted below the shelves with item number and original price, plus the half price cost.

**ONE STOP SHOPPING - GREETING CARDS, EMBROIDERED TOWELS AND GIFT BAGS**

The Ink Spots have set up a card rack in the Fellowship Hall for those of you who are looking for hand-made greeting cards. We now have Christmas cards! To go along with the variety of cards for all occasions, you can purchase a beautiful embroidered dish towel by Ramona and a gift bag by Gerry to finish off your shopping trip. All items are priced as marked and a wooden box is provided for payment. Thank you for supporting this ministry!

**DINERS GROUP**

The Diners Group will meet on Monday, December 11, at 5:30 pm at Lakes Tavern in Pequot Lakes. All are welcome! Call Paulette Wilske with any questions (360-319-8150) and sign up on the church bulletin board.



**FINANCIALS**

**2023 Financial Report**

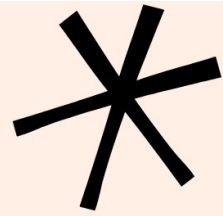
<b>October:</b>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<b>YTD:</b>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Revenues:	\$ 38,995	\$ 45,842	\$ (6,847)		\$ 423,411	\$ 477,375	\$ (53,964)
Expenses:	<u>\$ 43,298</u>	<u>\$ 47,304</u>	<u>\$ 4,006</u>		<u>\$ 411,240</u>	<u>\$ 481,031</u>	<u>\$ 69,791</u>
Difference:	\$ (4,303)	\$ (1,462)	\$ (2,841)		\$ 12,171	\$ (3,656)	\$ 15,827

In the month of October, expenses exceeded revenues by \$4,303.

YTD’s performance is \$15,827 more than budget, because revenues are \$53,964 less than budget, however, expenses are also less than budget by \$69,791.

Complete financial reports are available in the Finance mailbox.

Merry  
Christmas!



We were blessed with the opportunity to visit with the residents at Golden Horizon's in late November and have been asked to come back December 6th!

A group of 7th & 8th graders recently attended the All Youth Gathering at Cragun's, where there was great fellowship, lessons and even a Lutheran rapper! 🎵

We have been asked to join the business owners in town square for Caroling and Christmas celebrations on December 1st, and back by popular demand is the CHRISTMAS POP UP PAGEANT December 13th at 5:30 you won't want to miss it!



No Wednesday evening activities on December 20 or 27th!

We will be back and ready to go on January 3rd!

*Merry Christmas.*

*Lindsay Paulson*

### THIRD GRADERS RECEIVED BIBLES



On Wednesday, November 8, during our 6:15 pm worship service, our 3rd graders received their own Bible.

Congratulations to Max Barnes, Amelia Gade-Fletcher, Piper Sargent, Stella Spray, Eden Wothe.

And thanks to their Bible Buddies: Maggie Sargent, Jan Laurel, Kitty Daniels, Joanna O'Neil, and Patricia Lundeen

## HEALTH MINISTRY

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas even in warmer climates as the decorations and activities start to gear up. It is a very busy time of the year. I wish there was some way to move a few into January but it is my hope that you spend as much time as possible just enjoying the season and preparing for the birth of the Christ Child. The retail stores start with Christmas merchandise early in the fall so it is sometimes hard to know what season we are really in :) It is even beginning to look like the holidays here in the south with the palm trees lit up with colorful lights and flamingo decorations along the streets. As we begin to gather at the many events, I hope that you will have already received your flu vaccine and any other vaccinations that your provider recommends such as RSV and COVID boosters. It also may be help-



ful to take supplements such as vitamin C and other things that can be helpful in keeping your immune system working well; but talk to your provider before adding any supplements to your daily pill box. Steve at Crosslake Drug is also very helpful in knowing about drug interactions. There is definitely a fair amount of GI type flu and Influenza A around and a few cases of COVID, so be diligent about good handwashing and not touching your face, especially your eyes. Please be sure to use hand sanitizer or handwashing before eating donuts in the fellowship hall especially if you do a lot of handshaking. It is also very important to stay home if you feel like you are coming down with something or have a known exposure to an illness.

Connie Caspers is again coordinating the Christmas gift delivery for those in facilities including assisted living and nursing homes and also for those who are homebound. This special delivery lets folks know that they are remembered and also that they are still part of the faith family even if they are not always able to attend services in person. If you know if anyone who you think would benefit from this program, please reach out to me so I can check Santa's list. The Youth will be doing some of the delivery which will make it even more special (thank you Lindsay!)

I hope that you find ways to connect with others during this season of waiting for Jesus' birth. I know that it can bring sadness or other feelings as well, especially for those of you who are grieving a loss or experiencing challenges in health or relationship. I hope you reach out to me or others if you need resources to help you through the season. It is wonderful to see how active the Wild Ones continue to be—thank you Kitty for your energy and work in keeping the group connected. If you know of someone who will be alone for the holiday, please reach out. I know that many of you do but especially if you are new to the faith family I hope you find your connections with our congregation. I can also be helpful in helping you find places that could use your talents and time which is a great way to make new friends and find your “tribe”.

I am just a phone call away and have many wonderful folks back in Crosslake ready to serve if something is needed. Please do not hesitate to call; I love hearing from my faith family. Blessings at Christmas and during this season of Advent.

Gail Smith, RN—Parish Nurse



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/1 Clare Foote, Darby Harmala, Reed Olander  
12/3 Jeanne Blosberg, 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  
12/11 Robin Lundborg, Teddy Lundgren  
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, James Rasmussen, Michael  
Scheuss  
12/17 Holland Lommen, Amy McLaughlin, Tanya Narum  
12/18 Brittany Goerges  
12/19 Jean Erickson, Joe Heal, Levi Loken, Ken Rosburg  
12/20 Dana Balmer, Jack Cox, Jackson Goerges,  
Rita Houle  
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  
12/6 Brandon & Jill Andersen  
12/10 Matt & Judy Deis  
12/12 Michael & Jeri-Sue Lommen  
12/17 Ann & Bob Michaelson  
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.**



## STAY CONNECTED — WINTER ADDRESSES —

Going away for the winter? Please call (218-692-3682) or email the church office ([clc@crosslake.net](mailto: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

## ART DISPLAY

Heartfelt thanks to Gail Smith for recently sharing her art work in the Fellowship Hall display area. Be sure view Lorraine Northagen's photography exhibit which will run through the end of December.

