



Crosslake Lutheran

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Permit #24

February 2023

ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22

Soup Supper 5:30 pm

Worship 6:15 pm with Holy Communion and
Imposition of Ashes



PASTORS' PAGE



February Greetings!

The season of Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday which lands on February 22 this year. That also happens to be the date I was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament nineteen years ago! And if I've learned nothing else in my time of being a pastor it's that God is never finished with us as individuals or collectively as a congregation! God always keeps calling and working on our hearts and minds in big and little ways throughout our lives. That brings us to our Lenten theme this year:

UNFINISHED: Discovering God's Call in the Not Yet written by Rev. Dr. Charlene Rachuy-Cox from Church Anew. Church Anew is a great on-line resource that comes from St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie also sponsored by Concordia and St. Olaf Colleges.

Our Lenten theme on Sundays and Wednesdays will help us experience how God keeps working on us in our different life experiences. Here's how the author of this series explains the Lenten theme of

UNFINISHED: Discovering God's Call in the Not Yet:

We can probably all think of a host of experiences from our own lives in which we occupy the space between no longer and not yet. The space between before and after a medical diagnosis, before and after living with a loss, before and after navigating a relationship change, a job change, a move. The space between childhood and adulthood, young adulthood and midlife, midlife and the autumn years. The space between yesterday and tomorrow, your comfort zone and uncharted territory. The space between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

The church by its very nature, and we as people of faith, live our whole lives in the space between no longer and not yet. Cross-marked and Spirit-sealed, we dwell in the space between the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the final fulfillment of God's hope-filled promises. In this space between, we dwell in the unfinished as unfinished people. As John reminds us, "we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed." But we are not left alone in this space between no longer and not yet. We are not left alone to navigate this unfinished life by ourselves. God is here - present-tense, each and every day - calling to us, accompanying us, renewing and recreating us - over and over again.

Our worship on Wednesdays during Lent with this **UNFINISHED: Discovering God's Call in the Not Yet** theme will incorporate different prayer stations and activities that are for all ages as we move around the sanctuary a bit for some interactive creativity and time for contemplation. We hope you can join us for soup supper beforehand and these special Lenten times on both Sunday and Wednesday together as God's unfinished people!

Lenten blessings,

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.

SCHEDULE FOR OUR LENTEN THEME

UNFINISHED: Discovering God's Call in the Not Yet

Date	Texts	Theme
Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10)	Called to Renewal
Lent 1, Feb. 26 & Wednesday, March 1	Matthew 4:1-11 (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19)	Called to Values
Lent 2, March 5 & Wednesday, March 8	John 3:1-17 (Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17)	Called to Openness
Lent 3, March 12 & Wednesday, March 15	John 4:5-42 (Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11)	Called by God
Lent 4, March 19 & Wednesday, March 22	John 9:1-41 (1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14)	Called to Attentiveness
Lent 5, March 26 & Wednesday, March 29	John 11:1-45 (Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11)	Called to Regret

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Soup Suppers begin with Ash Wednesday (February 22nd) and are served beginning at 5:30 pm, followed by a Lenten Service at 6:15 pm each Wednesday evening during Lent. If you would like to donate bars and cookies or help out in some way, please sign up on the board in the Fellowship Hall. In partnership with the kitchen committee we are keeping the Lenten Soup Suppers simple and the menu is: soup, bread, crackers, dessert and drink. A peanut butter and/or jelly sandwich option will be available each week. Come and gather around tables for food and fellowship, then joining together for different prayer stations and activities for some interactive creativity and time of contemplation in the worship space.



LENTEN FOOD SHELF CHALLENGE

The following churches are participating in this unique challenge: Crosslake Lutheran, Grace United Methodist, Lutheran Church of the Cross, St. Alice Catholic Church, Crosslake Presbyterian and Our Savior's Lutheran. It takes place during Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22nd and continuing through March. We are collecting both financial gifts and food stuffs. Place your donations of non-perishable food on the table set up in the hallway or your financial gifts in the offering plate or drop off in the church office. All the donations from Crosslake Lutheran will be donated to the Crosslake Foodshelf. Thank you for stepping up to help make life a little bit easier for others. God's work. Our Hands!



UPDATE FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

Dear Members of Crosslake Lutheran Church,

Pastor Kristin and I have been in regular contact with the Northeastern Minnesota Synod about our open associate pastor position, but it appears there are very few candidates generally, and so far, none who have expressed a specific interest in our congregation. At the moment, there are only two active full-time openings in our Synod. We've been advised that interest may pick up between Christmas and Lent. We wait patiently and prayerfully for the Spirit to work on our behalf!

We also know that the Spirit works through and with us, so we are turning to you for help! I expect that many of you have experienced job changes over your careers, as I have, and that re-entering the workforce required "networking" - reaching out to others for help in landing a position. Sometimes that included working with professional recruiters and scouring job postings on the web. There are some websites that post positions for other denominations, but this is not the practice of the ELCA. HOWEVER, we can spread the word in the best "Networking" tradition! Think of all of your contacts - it could be family, former colleagues, old (and new!) friends, and ask them if they know of someone (a pastor or deacon) in ELCA ministry or near seminary graduation looking for a new call. And, if the response is no, ask again if they have any ideas of others who might know of someone with a hankering to move on to an exciting opportunity with an active congregation (and a great ministry team!) in a beautiful part of the world.

If someone expresses an interest, you simply need to encourage them to go on the ELCA website where they will see our posting and be in touch with the Northeastern Minnesota Synod. The process of applying will be familiar to the folks in whom we'd be interested, so nothing further would be required (other than prayer!) on your behalf.

Good Luck and Blessings on reaching out!

Rocky Chapin, Chair of the Call Committee

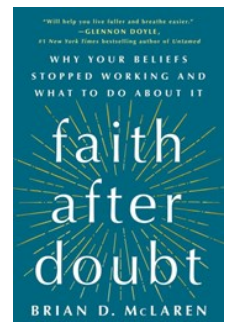
FEBRUARY BIBLE STUDY

New Bible Study series starting February 8th!

It's been reported that sixty-five million adults in the U.S. have dropped out of active church attendance and about 2.7 million more are leaving every year. Have you ever wondered why it appears millions of people in this country feel that church life isn't "their thing?"

Perhaps you are perplexed because people you care deeply about don't seem to care as much about attending, or participating in, any church? This 4-part series, led by Rocky Chapin and Ron Ommen, might be of interest to you.

Using his own story and the stories of a diverse group of struggling believers, Brian D. McLaren, a former pastor and now an author, speaker, and activist shows how old assumptions are being challenged in nearly every area of human life, not just theology and spirituality. He proposes a four-stage model of faith development in which questions and doubt are not the enemy of faith, but rather a portal to a more mature and fruitful kind of faith. The four stages—Simplicity, Complexity, Perplexity, and Harmony—offer a path forward that can help sincere and thoughtful people leave behind unnecessary baggage and intensify their commitment to what matters most.



You can purchase the book on your own if you wish to read the book, but you don't have to read the book in order to join in on the discussion! Join us for a five part series on Wednesdays at 10AM!

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

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



- Kristi & Randy Morsch in the death of her brother, Mitch Rasmus, on January 15th in Mound, MN.
- The family of Vivian Kittlesen in their loss & sorrow. Viv passed away on December 28th in Crosslake, MN.

Pastoral Acts

Memorial Services: Vivian Kittlesen, January 28th

Baptism: Navy Adams Luzar, January 29th

Parents: Kellie & Neil Luzar

FINANCIALS

2022 Financial Report

<u>December:</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>YTD:</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Revenues:	\$ 106,683	\$ 62,488	\$ 44,195		\$ 525,126	\$ 594,000	\$ (68,874)
Expenses:	\$ 46,359	\$ 54,998	\$ 8,639		\$ 509,591	\$ 594,000	\$ 84,409
Difference:	\$ 60,324	\$ 7,490	\$ 52,834		\$ 15,535	\$ 0	\$ 15,535

In the month of December, revenues exceeded expenses by \$60,324.

YTD's performance is \$15,535 more than budget, because revenues are \$68,874 less than budget, however, expenses are also less than budget by \$84,409.

Complete financial reports are available in the Finance mailbox.

ART DISPLAY

Let's create a display of Children's Art! If you have a framed piece or object made by a child (your child, grandchild, or friend) that you'd like to share, this display will run through mid-February. Please bring your item to Patricia's office with your name & a brief description (who made it, when, special occasion?).



LOOKING AHEAD: March will be handwork month. Be thinking about something you'd like to share!

Any questions? Contact Patricia, Music Ministry Director.

GREETING CARDS

The Ink Spots have set up a card rack in the Fellowship Hall for those of you who have been asking to purchase our handmade greeting cards. The cards are priced as marked and a wooden box is provided for payment. Thank you for supporting this ministry!

JUL FEST

Jul Fest workshop will begin again on Monday, March 6, 2023. We will gather every Monday from 9am – 12 Noon in the fellowship hall; you can come for all or part of the morning. We will be working on crafts, sewing, and painting. If you have ideas for new crafts, please bring samples or pictures to share with the group. New members are always welcome! We will have a coffee break for sharing and fellowship. If you have any questions, contact Marcia Prescott (952-938-6846) or Cindy Bighley (651-770-0720).



VALENTINE CARE PACKAGES FOR OUR YOUNG ADULTS

It's time to reach out to our recent H.S. graduates! We will be sending care packages this year consisting of a gift card and a treat to approximately 30 young adults just in time for Valentine's Day.

We would appreciate any monetary donations to help cover the cost of the gift cards and postage. Packages will be mailed on Thursday, February 9th. We thank you in advance for helping share God's love with these young people. If you have any questions, please call the church office.



WOMEN OF CROSSLAKE LUTHERAN

All Women of Crosslake Lutheran are invited to the **Special Valentine Brunch on Thursday, February 9th at 11 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. A festive brunch will be served by the Board with table activities and entertainment to enjoy. You may choose to donate to free will offerings for the brunch and a local charity. We look forward to fellowship with longtime friends and welcoming newcomers. Information

and a sign up poster will be available at church. It will be a great way to celebrate both mid-winter and a Valentine's "Galentine's" day – a day for women to celebrate women!

We give heartfelt appreciation to both Marcia Prescott and Cindy Bighley for taking the Jul Fest leadership positions. Thanks so much as the Jul Fest tradition continues.



SAVE THE DATES:

March 25, 2023, Heartland Conference Gathering in Aitkin

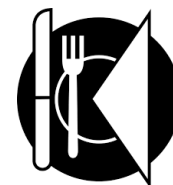
June 22, 2023, Ladies Salad Luncheon at Crosslake Lutheran

Blessings,

Janet Marr, Secretary

DINERS GROUP

We will meet at "Sage on Laurel" (606 Laurel Street, Brainerd) on Thursday, February 16th at 5:30 pm. We have a private room reserved. Sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway. Everyone is welcome!



A PRAYER BOOSTER

We are continually encouraged by the Love of our Lord Jesus Christ that is flowing through our members of Crosslake Lutheran Church each week. We sense that Love in special ways each day. For those of you that are intentionally praying for the needs of our people, it is a wonderful blessing when we hear of answers to those prayers.

The Word strengthens us and so does the good news of our praise to the Lord as Hebrews 4:16 tells us: *"Let us come boldly to the throne of our Gracious God. There we will receive His Mercy, and we will find Grace to help us when we need it most."*



Over the holidays we heard of a lady's report from Mayo that she is now cancer-free! She was a recipient of a prayer shawl from our own knitters and crocheters here at CLC. How wonderful to hear that this craft ministry of pray-ers is an ongoing, fruitful gift to many. And we thank those of you that set aside your time to pray for those whose needs come up as urgent, or have ongoing health concerns that may be changing off and on. We extend our grateful hearts and blessings to each of you. We have been touched by your devotion to the Lord and your Love shown to us, on many occasions of need.- CLC Sister and Brother in the Lord, Janice & Bob Moengen

Crosslake Lutheran Church Columbarium

If you have ever considered purchasing a niche in the Columbarium, please consider a purchase in the new year. A second Columbarium unit was installed during the summer along with a new roof added to the first unit. There has never been a price increase since the original Columbarium was installed in 2008. During that time the price of the niches and shipping costs have risen 45%. The Columbarium Committee asked the church Council to approve a price increase at their December meeting and it was approved.

The new prices will take effect March 1, 2023. Until that time, you can purchase a companion niche (husband and wife) for \$1,500 which includes a bronze urn with a name plate plus a face plate tile that has the name of the deceased along with the birth and death dates inscribed. An individual niche, for one person, is \$1,500. A half niche is \$850; you pay for half and someone else can buy the other half.

The new prices, effective March 1, 2023 are as follows:

Companion Niche	\$1,800
Individual Niche	\$1,800
Half Niche	\$1,000

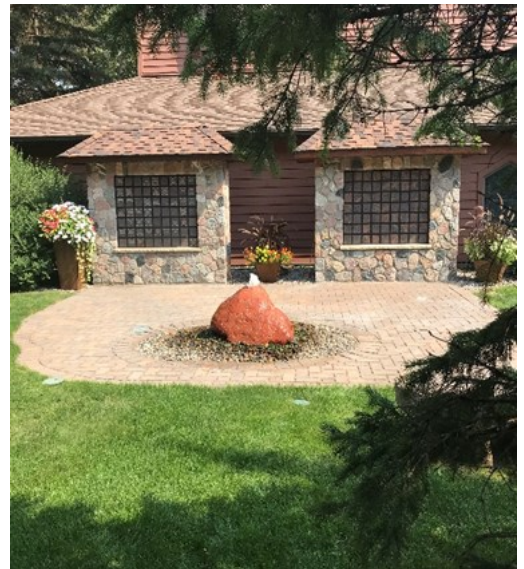
If you are considering cremation and inurnment, please check out the Columbariums located in the vicinity of the existing cross and stained glass window located on the west side of the building. This is a great space for meditating, visiting a loved one, or just sitting quietly listening to the bubbling water (in the summer).

For more information regarding the Columbarium, call the church office to have a Columbarium

Committee member contact you and answer your questions.

Thank You!

Columbarium Committee Members,
Kris Havir, Kathy Millard, Vicki Abbott



UKRANIAN REFUGEE NEEDS

I am sure many of you know there are thousands of Ukrainian refugees that have recently been flown into Minnesota. They have left their homes and all their possessions, their pets and even some dear relatives in order to keep their children safe.

Those people have been taken into the homes of several kind people who are helping them get jobs, permanent places to live, drivers' licenses, work permits, etc. Others are living in rented space throughout the Twin Cities. Many are skilled laborers and professionals and will be able to recover their lives within a few months (language barrier notwithstanding).

Volunteers are gathering household items such as dishes, silverware, glasses, cooking pans, pillows, blankets, sheets... they have nothing and need everything according to the translator that I talk to.

If you have any other these things that you are willing to part with, please call or email Gervaise Wilhelm (651-226-0380 or gervaisewilhelm8@gmail.com). You can drop off items at church as well, and I will pick up and deliver them to the Ukrainian families in need.



HEALTH MINISTRY

Writing 2023 seems so weird. It will take me a few months to make that transition, my prayers are that it holds only good things after these past couple of years. COVID-19 is likely to be a part of our lives for some time yet, but we have learned so much in terms of prevention and treatment which should reduce the anxiety and fear that folks seem to be continuing to live with. If you find yourself living with ongoing anxiety, especially around health issues, it may be helpful to seek professional help since it can become a health risk for mind, body and spirit health. Our natural tendency is to look for threats in our environment since that is how we survived as a species but if it becomes a pattern in life, there is an endless supply of things in the media to be anxious about. I do not believe that it is the way that God intended us to live, please reach out to me or Pastor Kristin if you need resources as to how to live in confidence that God is still in charge and that our needs will be met daily.



I am continuing to be working remotely from my southern home in Texas. I so appreciate all the many folks who are continuing the work of Health Ministry while I am away. A special thank you to the new Befrienders who have accepted the call of ministry for our congregation and the community at large. If you need more information about the program or believe that you would benefit from a visit by a member of the Befriender team, please reach out to me. It is such a comfort to have someone as a listening presence in our lives in times of challenges in our lives, sharing burdens make them lighter in my experience.

I will be presenting at a Cardiovascular seminar in April which is hosted by Minneapolis Heart Institute on the topic of Caregiving. The role as a caregiver can be a blessing as we minister to loved ones with mind, body and spirit needs but the role requires support so that the caregiver does not end up needing caregiving themselves. Caregiver.org is a great website that has information about a number of topics that are typically part of the caregiver role. I will be presenting a repeat of the seminar session for our community sometime after I return to Minnesota. There will also be a session for “The Final Gift”, “Matter of Balance” and “Flying Solo” so watch the church calendar for these popular programs. If there are any additional topics that you have interest in, please do not hesitate to contact me or leave a message with Brenda .

In this time of winter it is important to find alternative safe ways to get your exercise in since our biology also leads us to pack on the pounds during winter to accommodate food shortage that our ancestors used to experience. The holidays are also a time of special treats that can lead to extra pounds and associated health risks so exercise may help shed those pounds. Research has shown that people change behaviors when they identify a problem, are aware of resources that can help, and believe that they can do something about the problem. If you have health issues that you need resources for, please let your health care provider know about your concerns so that you keep them informed of your concerns. I have a large collection of resources that are also available for a number of mind, body and spirit topics. Please see me if you have needs for information.

Prayers for health, peace and connections in this next year; I am just a phone call away.

Gail Smith, Parish Nurse

THANK YOU

Dearest CLC Family, *Thank you for celebrating with us as we gathered together to remember our mother.* With love, Jane, Jennifer & Tom (the family of Lois Laurence)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Amy Engen, Jared Hemming, Sannah Lohmiller,
Jane Reiersen, Hunter Spray
2/2 Brian Boyda, Virgene Johnson
2/3 Daniel Goerges, Ann Schommer, Kelly Spray, Austin Young
2/4 Jeffrey Bittner, John Knight, Brian Miller, Carly Miller,
Maria Carlson
2/6 Amy Meister, Kary Montour, Jessica Nybakken
2/7 Debi Backdahl, Ellen Nelson, Danielle
Rasmussen
2/8 Lawsyn Allyn, Jane Krause
2/9 Paul Millard
2/10 Roland Hirman, Bertie Johnson
2/11 Dorothy Allen, Cindy Myogeto
2/12 Jake Anderson, Sharon Seeker, Warren Kleinsasser
2/13 Sharon Huff, Randy Kraft, Amy Ledin
2/14 Isabel Larson, Val Squires
2/15 Brenda LaRock
2/16 Nick Buckentin, Garrett Wolf
2/17 Jill Andersen, Kim Bolz-Andolshek, Maxine McEwen,
Jill Otterson, Kyle Spray
2/18 Matt Neko
2/19 Alex Christofferson, Arlene Heal
2/20 Cooper Anderson
2/21 Jack Haar
2/22 Linda Andrews, Barbara Johnson
2/23 David McChesney, Don Jacobsen, Sande O'Connell
2/24 Ed Anderson, Kate Bolz-Andolshek, Wesley Johnson,
Terry Pederson
2/25 Leon LaRock
2/26 Beverly Ambuehl, Ralph Flohr, Sally Mainquist
2/27 Luke Schramm, Barbara Schwartz
2/28 Renae Balmer, Grant Blosberg, Deb Dahlke

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2/4 Charles & Denise Hicks
2/5 Roger & Jaci Peterson
2/14 Rich & Carol Irish
Ray & Rosalie Justison
Gary & Sue Phillips
Robin & Kathleen Prigge
Don & Jane Reiersen
2/15 Ivan & Kathy Millard
2/16 Steve & LuAnn Nelson
Tony & Kristin Oltmann
2/19 Roger & Linda Joyce
2/24 Frederic & Lynn Engman
Brent & Jessica Nybakken
2/25 Arlen & Virgene Johnson
2/26 John & Joan Callender

**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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Kitchen Committee 9 am Knit Wits-Fireside Room 1 pm 5th/6th grade Youth Ministry 3:30-5:30 pm Wednesday Dinner 5:30 pm Wednesday Worship with Growing Kids 6:15 pm	2 Marketing Committee 9 am Book Club 10 am Communion Service at Whitefish at the Lakes 2 pm	3	4 Crosslake Firefighters Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 8—11:30 am
5 Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am 10:30 am coffee/fellowship	6 Quilters 9 am Men's 500 Card Group 9 am A.A.-Fireside Room 7 pm	7 Diabetes Prevention class (Zoom) 9-10 am Ink Spots 9:30 am Mahjongg Group -	8 Bible Study 10 am Knit Wits-Fireside Room 1 pm 5th/6th grade Youth Ministry 3:30-5:30 pm Wednesday Dinner 5:30 pm Wednesday Worship w/Holy Communion & Growing Kids 6:15 pm	9 Crosslake Lutheran Women's Valentine Brunch in the Fellowship Hall 11 am	10	11
12 Worship 9:30 am 10:30 am coffee/fellowship	13 Quilters 9 am Men's 500 Card Group 9 am Executive Comm. 4:30 pm A.A.-Fireside Room 7 pm	14 Diabetes Prevention class (Zoom) 9-10 am Staff Meeting 10 am Mahjongg Group - Garden Room 1 pm	15 Bible Study 10 am 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 Wednesday Worship with Growing Kids 6:15 pm	16 Diner's Group at "Sage on Laurel" - Brainerd 5:30 pm	17	18
19 Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am 10:30 am coffee/fellowship	20 Quilters 9 am Men's 500 Card Group 9 am A.A.-Fireside Room 7 pm	21 Diabetes Prevention class (Zoom) 9-10 am Ink Spots 9:30 am Staff Meeting 10 am Mahjongg Group - Garden Room 1 pm Finance 4:30 pm	22 Ash Wednesday Bible Study 10 am Knit Wits-Fireside Room 1 pm 5th/6th grade Youth Ministry 3:30-5:30 pm Choir practice 4:45 pm Soup Supper 5:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship w/Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes	23	24	25
26 Worship 9:30 am 10:30 am coffee/fellowship	27 Quilters 9 am Men's 500 Card Group 9 am A.A.-Fireside Room 7 pm	28 Diabetes Prevention class (Zoom) 9-10 am Staff Meeting 10 am Mahjongg Group -	February 2023			