

# Crosslake Lutheran

35960 County Road 66, Crosslake, MN 56442

218-692-3682 CLC@Crosslake.net

Crosslakelutheran.com



## March 2020



### Sundays in the Wilderness at 9:30 am

A Lenten journey to the cross with music, visual art, poetry, and scripture.

### Wilderness Wednesdays at 6:15 pm

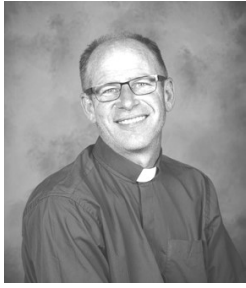
An expansive faith experience including Nooma video reflections, interactive prayer stations, and Holy Communion.

**Soup supper served at 5:30 pm**

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# Pastor's Page



## “Wilderness”

When I think of the word “wilderness,” I am drawn to pleasant thoughts of a walk in the woods or a gentle paddle on a lake or down a river, perhaps for

exploration, perhaps for relaxation, but certainly for recreation. For the people of ancient times the wilderness was anything but a place of relaxation and recreation, but instead was an unpredictable place where identity was formed and community was built. It was not always pleasant, but it was **always** what they **needed**. To use some “boot camp” imagery, the wilderness was a place where you were brought to emotional and physical exhaustion and were left dependent on the instructors to build you back up again.

We are using the theme of **Wilderness** for our Lenten season. Sarah Are who has written quite a bit of the material we are using suggests that, “the wilderness is every single place of unknown, or when shame and fear enter my home,” but then she also says that “the wilderness is everywhere that I start to grow.” I think if we let ourselves have some creative imagination; we might find that much of our world right now feels like wilderness. Like the trainee, we can find ourselves depleted, lacking. But we are never alone.

God is present and active in our wilderness. And our brothers and sisters in faith are in the wilderness with us too.

Beginning on March 1<sup>st</sup> we will have our **Sundays in the Wilderness** at our normal 9:30am time with fellowship time to follow. The Sunday worship will be complimented with **music, visual art, poetry, scripture, and more**. While our **Wilderness Wednesdays** will share the wilderness theme, their content will be quite different. Our wilderness journey will begin with a nourishing soup supper at 5:30pm. The expansive faith experience will continue with worship at 6:15pm. Each week will feature a **NOOMA video** reflection from Pastor Rob Bell, **Communion**, and an invitation to **prayer stations** throughout the sanctuary space, and more.

Let’s be honest folks, the wilderness we are living in, whether the wild of the political world, the raging river of personal health issues, or the hills and valleys of family or relationship struggles is disorienting. Come for Sundays in the Wilderness, come back for Wilderness Wednesdays, where together we will feel God loving, forming, encouraging, and sending us with fresh hope this Lenten season.

In Christ,  
Pastor Kurt

## Council

<b>Brian Boyda</b> <i>President</i>	218-341-3155
<b>Lori Nelson</b> <i>Vice President</i>	651-246-7292
<b>Diana Gallaway</b> <i>Secretary</i>	218-838-8222
<b>Paul Tender</b> <i>Treasurer</i>	218-543-6465
<b>Jeff Benson</b>	612-598-1852
<b>Marlin Gens</b>	218-543-4503
<b>Terry Havir</b>	218-765-3723
<b>Megan Nordgren</b>	218-851-5107
<b>Michael O'Neil</b>	218-838-6151
<b>Jaci Peterson</b>	218-692-4682
<b>Ann Schrupp</b>	612-518-6033
<b>Sal Spósito</b>	218-839-3672
<b>Marie Wagner</b>	763-360-7753
<b>Nancy Westerberg</b>	218-765-4308

## Staff

<b>Ministers</b>	Everyone
<b>Senior Pastor</b>	Kristin Oltmann
<b>Associate Pastor</b>	Kurt Hagestuen
<b>Office Manager</b>	Brenda LaRock
<b>Youth Director</b>	Pat Netko
<b>Bookkeeper</b>	Tracy Nelson
<b>Parish Nurse</b>	Gail Smith
<b>Music Ministry Director</b>	Patricia Lundeen
<b>Choir Director</b>	Kristi Morsch
<b>Custodian</b>	Jenny Henderson
<b>Maintenance</b>	Carl Weber
<b>Groundskeeper</b>	Brian Thull

## Lenten Soup Suppers

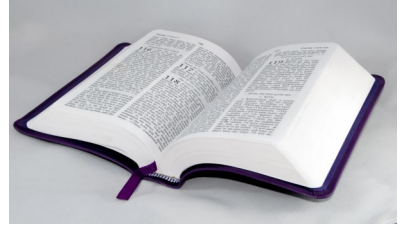
Soup Suppers served begin at 5:30 pm, followed by a Lenten Service at 6:15 pm each Wednesday evening during Lent. A simple supper consisting of soup, bread, herring, crackers, dessert and drink will be served. A peanut butter and/or jelly sandwich option will be available each week. Come as the servants we are to gather around tables for food and fellowship. At 6:15 pm we will join together in prayer, song, and devotion in the worship space. This will be our schedule from February 26th through April 1st.

We are asking for donations of bars and cookies for each supper and there are openings for other ways to help. Please check the sign up board posted in the Fellowship Hall to see where help is needed.



# Bible Study for Lent: Wilderness

Our Bible Study for Lent will focus on the Sunday Scripture texts that will be in worship. We will delve into the Gospel lessons, as you see them listed, great stories from the book of John, but also at times, the Old Testament, New Testament, and even Psalms that accompany them for the given Sunday. This is a great way to help prepare for worship, help give insight for the sermon, and continue your own journey to the Cross this Lent through discussion with the texts ahead of worship. You also may get a preview of the art or have a chance to see other works of art that illustrate the story through Visio Divina – “divine seeing.” Visio Divina is “a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing” – like a visual meditation.



**Please note that if you can't make Wednesdays at 10AM, now, this Bible Study is also offered on Tuesday nights at 6PM, it will go from 6-7PM. Wednesday morning Bible Study will still remain from 10:00AM – 11:30 AM.**

Tuesday, March 3 & Wednesday, March 4	Nicodemus (John 3:1-17)
Tuesday, March 10 & Wednesday, March 11	Woman at the Well (John 4:5-42)
Tuesday, March 17 & Wednesday, March 18	Man Born Blind Healed by Christ (John 9:1-41)
Tuesday, March 24 & Wednesday, March 25	Lazarus (John 11:1-45)
Tuesday, March 31 & Wednesday, April 1	Palm Sunday (Matthew 21:1-11)



**Sunday, March 8th**  
***Daylights savings time***  
***begins.***

Turn clocks ahead 1 hour after midnight on Saturday, March 7th.

# March is FoodShare Month

This March we join the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, which brings together various community organizations, businesses, and faith communities to help stock nearly 300 food shelves statewide.

During the 2019 March Campaign, more than \$8 million dollars and over 5.1 million pounds of food shelf items were raised by Minnesota food shelves and Minnesota FoodShare. Minnesota FoodShare envisions a future where all Minnesotans have access to healthy food and no one struggles with food insecurity. The March Campaign addresses these issues directly and we invite you to join our efforts and advocate for long-term solutions to food insecurity and poverty in our communities.



*When you pick the food of your land at gathering time, do not pick all the way to the corners of your field. And do not gather the food left on the ground there after you have picked. Do not gather what is left among your vines, or gather the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for those in need and for the stranger.—Leviticus 19:9-0*

**Checks can be made out to Crosslake Lutheran Church and placed in the offering designated as “Food Shelf”, or food items can be brought in and put in the Food Shelf box in the Narthex.**

## NEWS OF THE FAMILY

### Prayers for Peace and Comfort:

The family and friends of Paul Nelson in their loss & sorrow. Paul is the husband of our bookkeeper, Tracy Nelson. His memorial service was held February 18th in Baxter.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

### **Norman & Gloria Kroeger**

Sponsors: John & Carol Repp

They transfer to us from Grace Lutheran Church in Andover, MN. Norm is a retired 3M Project Engineer who enjoys golf, cribbage and reading. Gloria is a retired piano teacher, church choir director and organist. She enjoys playing piano, reading, gardening, quilting and bird watching.

### **Rocklon “Rocky” & Barbara Chapin**

Sponsors: Darrell & Susan Swanson

They join as Associate Members. Rocky is a retired Healthcare Executive and he enjoys woodworking, puttering and skiing. Barb is a retired Accountant who enjoys sewing and skiing.

### **BOOK CLUB**

You are invited to join a fun book discussion each month on the third Thursday of the month at 10 AM. The Book Club meets at church in the Garden Room. After a group discussion, the Club goes out to lunch. The March book is “*Little Fires Everywhere*” by Celeste Ng. Please join us! Come any month your schedule allows—all welcome!



## January 2020 Financial Report

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<u>January:</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Revenues:	\$ 70,006	\$ 65,811	\$ (4,195)
Expenses:	\$ 49,832	\$ 44,788	\$ (9,239)
Difference:	\$ 20,174	\$ 21,023	\$ (849)



In the month of **January**, Revenues exceed expenses by \$20,174. Revenues are \$4,195 more than budget and expenses are \$9,239 more than budget

*Complete financial reports are available in the finance mailbox.*

## A new way to give—GIVE PLUS mobile app!

**GIVE  
PLUS<sup>+</sup>**

An app that makes giving to Crosslake Lutheran simple!

Search your app store for “GivePlus Church” and download the GivePlus. Follow the instructions to search for Crosslake Lutheran to make one-time or recurring contributions.

## RAISING THE ROOF!

Have you noticed the model of our church in the Narthex on the white card table? It’s a nice replica built by member Sam Shirey which we are using to collect donations to re-shingle the roof in the summer of 2021. The shingles are rapidly approaching the end of their useful life and the estimate we have received to replace them is approximately \$100,000.

Just think of all the great worship, fellowship, music, laughter, education, prayer, and praise of our Lord that happens under that roof as people are empowered to go out and share the Good News of God’s love!

There is a slot for your contributions by check or cash on the top of the tower so please give whenever you are able. If you donate by check, you can write “roof” in the memo line. Or, you can place cash in an envelope from the pew, write your name on it, and place it in the model as well. No amount is too small and all gifts are appreciated. Thank you!

The Facilities Committee.

Mission Statement: To provide a welcoming and safe Worship space to further the knowledge and understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

# YOUTH MINISTRY

- **ASH WEDNESDAY** was on February 26<sup>th</sup>. This marked the entry into Lent and was done by the, “imposition of ashes,” fancy lingo for having your forehead smudged with ashes in the sign of the cross. A reminder that GOD is GOD and we are not. We will have the 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth come after school as normal for youth ministry. Then we will have supper and worship. We encourage you to bend and stretch your schedules so that you can attend the Lenten Worship (March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>). For the 6 Wednesdays in Lent, 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth will meet with their mentors after the 6:15 worship service.

- **MISSIONTRIP** – Panama City, Florida will be the destination for our summer 2020 Mission Trip, leaving Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> and returning Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. Panama City and Panama City Beach were hit hard in 2018 with Hurricane Michael causing widespread flooding and damage. There are many families still waiting to



get back into their homes. We will be working with SBP (St. Bernard Project) doing construction tasks as needed to help make this happen. We look forward to helping in this mission!


- Our recent high school graduates have thoroughly enjoyed receiving their **‘Valentine Care Packages’** – thank you to all who donated goodies and/or monies for postage! Check out the bulletin board in the middle hallway for pics and updates!



- **DESSERTS** are needed for the Soup Suppers during the Lenten Season. If you could bring bars or cake, please sign up on the SOUP SUPPER board on the easel in the Fellowship Hall or call Pat to get signed up.
- A special thanks to all adults who are **Mentoring** our 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth during the Lenten Season. Hopefully special relationships will be made!

**Any questions -  
Any time - contact me!  
God is good!  
Pat**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<b>1</b> 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am coffee/fellowship	<b>2</b> 9am Jul Fest Workshop 9am 500 Club 9am Quilters Noon Welca Board Mtg. 7pm A.A.	<b>3</b> 9am Marketing Committee 9:30am Ink Spots 10am Pastors' Study Group-Brainerd 1pm Staff Meeting 6-7pm Adult Bible Study	<b>4</b> 9am Kitchen Committee 10am Adult Bible Study Bell Choir Noon / 1pm Knit Wits 4pm 7th & 8th grade Youth Ministry 5:30-6:10pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Lenten Worship w/Holy Communion 7pm Mentors/Youth meet 7pm 9-12th Grade Youth Ministry	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Daylights Savings time begins (turn clocks ahead 1 hour after midnight) 	
<b>8</b> 8:30am Adult Choir practice 9:30am Worship 10:30am coffee/fellowship	<b>9</b> 9am Jul Fest Workshop 9am 500 Club 9am Quilters 7pm A.A.	<b>10</b> 10am Pastors' Study Group-Brainerd 1pm Staff Meeting 6-7pm Adult Bible Study	<b>11</b> 10am Adult Bible Study Bell Choir Noon / 1pm Knit Wits 3pm Executive Committee 4pm 7th & 8th grade Youth Ministry 4:30pm Adult Choir practice 5:30-6:10pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Lenten Worship w/Holy Communion 7pm Mentors/Youth meet 7pm 9-12th Grade Youth Ministry	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8:30am-11:30 am Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall by Crosslake Firemen's Relief Association 2pm St. Patrick's Day Parade	
<b>15</b> 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am coffee/fellowship	<b>16</b> 9am Jul Fest Workshop 9am 500 Club 9am Quilters 7pm A.A.	<b>17</b> 9:30am Ink Spots 10am Pastors' Study Group-Brainerd 1pm Staff Meeting 5pm Finance Committee 6-7pm Adult Bible Study	<b>18</b> 10am Adult Bible Study Bell Choir Noon / 1pm Knit Wits 4pm 7th & 8th grade Youth Ministry 4:30pm Adult Choir practice 5:30-6:10pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Lenten Worship w/Holy Communion 7pm Mentors/Youth meet 7pm 9-12th Grade Youth Ministry	<b>19</b>  10am Book Club	<b>20</b>  10am Country Cross deadline!	<b>21</b>	
<b>22</b> <b>National Quilters Day</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am coffee/fellowship 9:30am-3pm Confirmation Retreat	<b>23</b> 9am Jul Fest Workshop 9am Altar Guild 9am 500 Club 9am Quilters 7pm A.A.	<b>24</b> 10am Pastors' Study Group-Brainerd 1pm Staff Meeting 6-7pm Adult Bible Study	<b>25</b> 10am Adult Bible Study Bell Choir Noon / 1pm Knit Wits 4pm 7th & 8th grade Youth Ministry 4:30pm Adult Choir practice 5:30-6:10pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Lenten Worship w/Holy Communion 7pm Mentors/Youth meet 7pm 9-12th Grade Youth Ministry	<b>26</b>  2:30pm Facilities/Property Meeting 4-7pm Diners Club at Dennis Drummond Wine Co.	<b>27</b>  10am Country Cross assembly	<b>28</b>	
<b>29</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am coffee/fellowship 6:30pm Mission Trip Parent & Youth Meeting	<b>30</b> 9am Jul Fest Workshop 9 am 500 Club 9am Quilters 7pm A.A.	<b>31</b> 10am Pastors' Study Group-Brainerd 1pm Staff Meeting 2-4pm "Matter of Balance" class 6-7pm Adult Bible Study	<b>March 2020</b>				

## SUPER BOWL RESULTS ARE IN!

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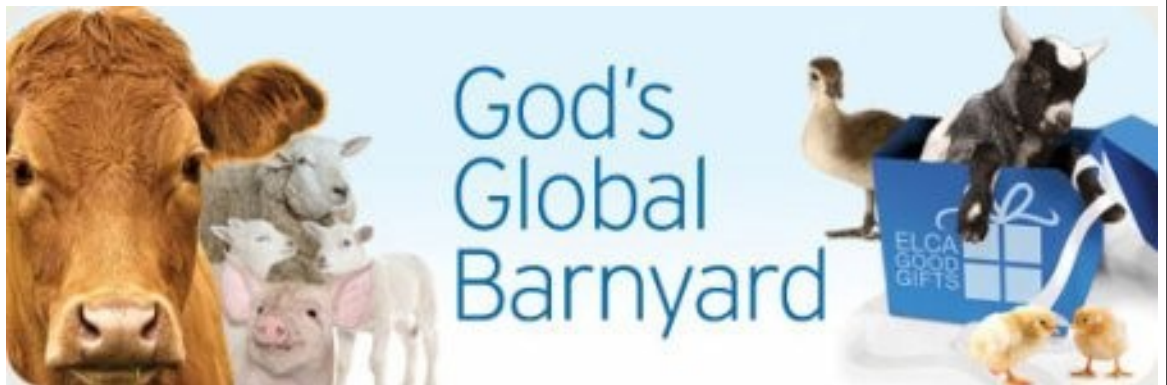
You voted with your money for your favorite pick and here are the results:

Kansas City Chiefs	\$655.79
San Francisco 49ers	\$216.11
Minnesota Vikings	<u>\$ 81.56</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$953.46</b>

Our children continued to collect monies through Sunday, February 16th for God's Global Barnyard, an ELCA World Hunger initiative. The big winner was God's Global Barnyard! The grand total came to \$1,390! They used the monies to purchase a full family farm and more animals for third world countries. Here is what was purchased:

1 Family Farm, 25 chicks, 3 piglets, 2 honeybees, 1 rooster, 1 goat, 1 piglet and manure, 1 share of a fish farm and 1 share of a cow.

Thank you to all who donated—your gifts grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. Check out the display located in the hallway leading to the Fellowship Hall.





Thank you to all who organized and contributed to the Crosslake Lutheran WELCA Women's Winter Retreat held February 6-7<sup>th</sup> at Camp Knutson. This special time provided all who were able to attend with spiritual refreshment, fellowship and delicious food. During a BOLD Women workshop we identified strengths such as caring, teaching and advocacy as tools we can use as we reach out to others within our communities. Our participants reviewed the roles women played in the bible as well as sharing in a Bible Verse Scavenger hunt. We were fortunate to have Lois Jensen performing a heartfelt Music Testimony before the Retreat came to a close. Thank you Lois!

Looking forward:

### **Heartland Conference Spring Gathering is April 4**

The Spring Gathering will be on April 4<sup>th</sup> at Our Savior's Lutheran Church at 30985 Front Street in Pequot Lakes (take Patriot Ave. off of 371 to Main Street and then to Front St.). The cost for the gathering is \$8.00 which includes lunch. Put the date in your calendar and plan to attend. It will be a good day. Registration begins at 8:30am with coffee served by Maple Hill Lutheran. The business meeting will be before lunch and the day will conclude after lunch.

Pastor Stephen Blenkush from Our Savior's will do the communion service. Dee Dee Frahm from Salem Lutheran in Deerwood will be our speaker for the day. She is the manager and director of both Salem West and The Mustard Seed in Deerwood. Her theme verses are *John 13:34-35*. There is a need for pillows, toasters and dishcloths. All new and used in-kind items are cleaned when they arrive. Feather pillows can't be used.

There will be a Silent Auction and Buy it Now tables. Please bring items you think will be enjoyed by others. Consider practical and consumable items. The forms are being sent to your church so that you can fill the form out before you arrive. Please price any items for the Buy it Now table.

As is our custom, there will be three offerings that day. They can all go in one envelope, but our treasurer needs them to be in separate checks. The Gathering Offering will go half to the synod and the other half to Salem West. The Love Offering goes to leadership training and for women in ministry. The Penny Offering this year goes to Pearl Crisis Center in Milaca. Next spring, the Penny Offering will be split between Bridges of Hope and Salem West.

**April 16<sup>th</sup> will be the next WELCA general meeting** with Master Gardening program presentation. Recall at this meeting we will begin collecting items for the NE MN WELCA Synod 2020 In-Kind-Gifts. Foster Care Bags will be assembled and brought to the June Summer Convention. Human Service agencies distribute these bags to children in our Synod counties. Requested items are listed on the WELCA bulletin board.

## CALLING ALL THOSE INTERESTED IN THE MARCH DINERS GET-TOGETHER!!

We will gather at the Dennis Drummond Wine Company 11919 Thiesse Road in Brainerd from 4 to 7 PM on Thursday, March 26.

We will be given a tour of the facility and do some wine tasting. We will have a private room where they will set up a buffet for us with pizza, meatballs and sauce, cheese and crackers and veggies. The charge is \$25 per person including tip and tax. A cash bar will be available.



Look for the sign up sheet on the hallway bulletin board.  
Come join us! For questions, call Jaci Peterson 218-692-4682.



**ATTENTION FISHERMEN!** Your chance to go to the Lake of the Woods the week of June 1 is fast approaching. We fish Tuesday and Wednesday. Sign up on the bulletin board. Please send Jerry Kopplin a \$100 check made out to Cyrus Resort to reserve your spot. Jerry Kopplin 33777 Dancing Bear Dr., Crosslake, MN 56442. Phone: 218-838-4776.



### **MATTER OF BALANCE CLASS**

**Tuesdays 2-4 pm**

**March 31st—May 19th**

**Crosslake Lutheran Church**

Do you have concerns about falling? These FREE classes emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls. Register online at [www.CrowWingEnergized.org](http://www.CrowWingEnergized.org)

For more information, please call:  
Norma 320-630-9305 or Gina 218-824-1237

## LIDS TO BENCHES

**A Community Recycling Effort through 'Green Tree Plastics'.**

**We have places to recycle our plastic containers, but not the lids.  
We have found this company that will make community benches  
and planters out of our plastic lids!**

**Please SAVE your LIDS!**

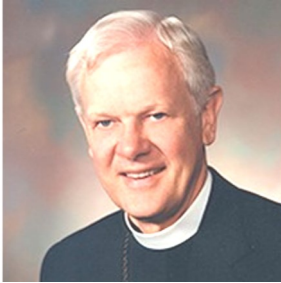
**Drop-Off sites are:**

**Lake Country Crafts & Cones**

**Crosslake Lutheran Church**

**Crosslake Chamber Info Center**

**(More sites to be determined)**



### **We thank God for Reverend Herbert Chilstrom the First ELCA Presiding Bishop**

The Rev. Dr. Herbert W. Chilstrom, 88, the first presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), died Jan. 19 at his home in Green Valley, AZ. He was born in Litchfield, MN, on Oct. 18, 1931.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Corinne (Hansen), also a Lutheran pastor; a daughter, Mary Cress of Mesa, AZ.; a son, Christopher Holt of Baltimore; and four sisters, Winnifred Christenson of Robbinsdale, MN;

Virginia Francis of Pickens, SC; Martha (Charles) Anderson of Ashby, MN; and Janet (Frederick) Sickert of West Linn, OR. He was preceded in death by his son Andrew; brother, David; and sisters Adeline Christenson (Earle) and Lorraine Juul (Dick).

Chilstrom completed academic degrees at Augsburg University, Augustana Seminary, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Princeton Seminary and New York University, where he earned a Doctor of Education degree. He served Lutheran congregations in Pelican Rapids, Elizabeth and St. Peter, MN. He was professor and dean at Luther College, Teaneck, NJ, from 1962 to 1970. In 1976 he was elected bishop of the Minnesota Synod of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA). At the 1987 merger that created the 5.2-million-member ELCA, he was elected the first presiding bishop.

Chilstrom was awarded 15 honorary doctorates by 15 colleges, universities and seminaries. He was named a commander of the Royal Order of the North Star by King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden and received the Pope John XXIII Award for Distinguished Service from Viterbo University, the Servus Dei Award from the ELCA, and numerous other honors and awards. Chilstrom served on numerous boards of directors, including those of the Lutheran World Federation, Geneva, Switzerland (as vice president); Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN; Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota; Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN; and the National Council of Churches. He also authored numerous books and articles.

After retirement he continued to be active in church and community, preaching and lecturing in many parts of the country. He became a Minnesota Master Gardener, volunteering and serving as interim director at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College.

Spring is just around the corner so I am told. This would be a good year to have an early spring since from the weather reports I watched about Minnesota shows this has been a cold and snowy winter. Planning is underway for many programs both old and new that will be held as a part of CLC's commitment to keep our community healthy in body, mind and spirit. Programming is geared toward things that have been identified as typical issues that cause illness especially as we age. According to [www.healthypeople.gov](http://www.healthypeople.gov). in the most recent compilation of studies done in 2012 , 60% of older adults managed at least 2 or more chronic conditions with the most common illnesses being heart disease, cancer, lung disease, stroke, diabetes and Alzheimer's.

Programs that we provide at Crosslake Lutheran focus on healthy weight through our Diabetes prevention program, Heart & Soul which looks at heart disease in women and past programming related to Dementia. Programs also have the focus of injury prevention such as our "Matter of Balance" program. Falls are the leading cause of injury in older adults, are treated in the ER every 13 seconds and claim a life every 20 minutes. Every year, 1 out of 3 older adults fall yet less than half tell their doctors—although more and more office visits include a question about falls. It is wonderful that our church is a leader in disease prevention with most of the program costs funded by our yearly budget and our great partnership with Crow Wing Energized. Watch for future information about how to sign up for fall prevention and diabetes prevention- these classes are also open to the community. Planning is also continuing for the Senior



Expo which will be held on Saturday, April 25th. One thing for non-seniors to consider is that this expo includes a lot of information in terms of speakers and vendors for assisting our family members who have health needs. Approximately 25% of US adults 18 and older report providing care or assistance to a person with long term illness or disability in the past 30 days.

Caregivers are at increased risk for negative health consequences including stress and depression especially those caring for loved ones with dementias. Lakes Area Memory Awareness will be hosting a yearly forum mid-May in Nisswa. I have been asked to present at that forum- watch for more information about that. My mini-talk at the Senior expo will also focus on Memory issues - watch for "Gertrude" to make a

special appearance at that event.

Thank you to Becky and Connie who have covered home and facility visits while I have been away. I am sure that they have done a fabulous job. I will be back in the office mid-March. Thank you also to the many folks who have stepped up during times of illness, injury, isolation and other times of trial. Our faith family is amazing in terms of living out our call to be a servant to all.

If you have a desire to serve in any way as a part of the Health Ministry team, please see me. There are so many opportunities to serve using the gifts that we have been given. God is calling you!!!!

Blessings and see you soon!

Gail Smith, Parish Nurse



In Earth's distress, we sing the  
promise of renewal...

## NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES

*The Easter Gospel for the  
Whole Creation*

# The 2020 EcoFaith Summit

*Raising a Grassroots Movement among the People of God*

*How do we proclaim the Resurrection for a wounded creation?*

*What is motivating young activists to address climate change?*

*What green blades for earth's healing are rising in our midst?*

**Saturday, March 28, 2020**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Brainerd**

**9:30am - 3:30pm**

**9:00am Registration & Coffee**

### **What will happen at the Summit?**

Worship that sings Easter for the whole creation + Young activists share what motivates them + Breakout sessions for worship and grassroots action in your congregation and community + How to have conversations about important yet sensitive environmental issues + Networking for musicians, students, creation care teams + church gardeners + youth leaders + preachers + public advocates and more

**EcoFaith Network of the  
Northeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA**  
**Registration Cost: \$20 per person**  
**\$10 up to age 25**



**Registration opens Feb. 1 - register soon, space is limited!**

**[nemnsynodecofaithsummit2020.eventbrite.com](http://nemnsynodecofaithsummit2020.eventbrite.com)**

## What Have I Done for Him?

Lent is a season in the church year during which we particularly focus on the sacrifice Jesus made for us to pay the debt we owed for our sin. We know there is no way we can pay the debt ourselves. Only the sinless Son of God could do that. We have access to heaven only by grace through faith in Christ Jesus.

While we cannot repay Jesus for what he has done for us, his love does require a response. Paul, speaking of our ministry of reconciliation, wrote, "For Christ's love compels us . . ." (2 Corinthians 5:14).

We remain on earth to carry out the tasks which Christ left for us to do: to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit the prisoner, (Matthew 25:31-46). James admonished us that ". . . faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:17).

We provide the funds that support our pastors, teachers, and missionaries. Again, we can quote Paul writing in 1 Corinthians 9:11-12. "If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more?" Certainly each of us is addressed by the Great Commission: "Go and make disciples of all nations . . ." (Matthew 28:19). The following words from Frances Ridley Havergal

are a poignant reminder that Christ's love and sacrifice for us require a response:

*Thy life was given for me, Thy Blood, O Lord, was shed*

*That I might ransomed by, and quickened from the dead.*

*Thy life was given for me, What have I given for Thee?*

*And Thou hast brought to me Down from Thy home above*

*Salvation full and free, Thy pardon and Thy love.*

*Great gifts Thou broughtest me, What have I brought to Thee?*



We are saved by grace through faith for works. Let us pray for the desire to be good stewards of the gifts of salvation, health and wealth, and time and opportunity which God has given us that we might have a part in

the furthering of God's kingdom.

*We need not give up the pleasures and luxuries of this life. God does not call us to be ascetics, but he does call us to a right sense of proportion in administering our substance.*

*The question is: "If I have this for myself, then what should I do for God?" This is the question into which the whole matter of stewardship resolves itself.*



## Our Members & Friends in the Military

SSG DUSTIN BENSON, grandson of Jeff & Bonnie Benson—Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque

NM MAJOR ANDREW BURNS, son-in-law of Kim and Karen Zeile—Test Pilot School, Pax River Navy Base

MAJOR MICHAEL FAZIO, Son-in-law of Mike & Laurie Ridgley—Walter Reed Army Hospital, Maryland

CAPTAIN TYSON GERDES, grandson of Ron & Dorothy Gerdes—Alaska LT.

NATHAN HAGESTUEN, son of Kurt & Kelly Hagestuen, Navy, US Naval Training and Education—Pensacola, FL

COLONEL TIMOTHY HELFRICH, son-in-law of Kim and Karen Zeile—Hanscom Air Force Base, Concord, MA

SGT. TIMOTHY NEAL, son of Ron & Cheryl Neal—Fort Leonard Wood, MO

PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS MICHAEL PUCKETT, nephew of Joe & Shirley Gorg, Navy, North Africa

TECH SGT. JONATHON SOUTHWELL, son-in-law of Ron & Michelle Schmidt—Hanscom Air Force Base

SGT. MITCHELL TOLLEFSON, grandson of Ramona Sandberg. US Army—Fort Lewis, WA

LT. JARED WEDEL, son-in-law of Karen Boehler—NAS Corpus Christi, TX

JULIE WILHELMI & DAN NICHOLS, niece & nephew-in-law of Vickey Leonard—Dulles Airport, VA (Julie) Pentagon, VA (Dan)

A1C CHASE LARSON, son of Anna and Jon Larson— with the United States Air Force (Minnesota Air National Guard) 133rd Airlift Wing, Minneapolis, MN.



## March Birthdays

- 3/1 Sharon Barsness, Dave Gardinier, Michael Goerges, Christine Gyllenblad, Stacey Koch, Mark Lindner
- 3/2 Andrea Dumond, Rick Flaws
- 3/3 Samantha Allen, James DeVinck, Kathrine Royce
- 3/4 Donald Glas, Addison Gorr, Randy Morsch, Deborah Sjoblom
- 3/6 Brynn Carlson, Stan Michal, Ramona Sandberg
- 3/7 David Arndt, Paul Houle
- 3/8 Morgan LaRock
- 3/9 Kenneth Bressler, Eli Buckentin, Brandt Gallaway, Gerald Giles, Susie Lande, LillyAnn Vanderpool
- 3/11 Ron Germann
- 3/12 Dale Blosberg, Nate Engen, Dave Schwarze
- 3/14 Dorothy Gerdes, Elmer Larson, Paul Linder
- 3/15 Marilyn Hollenback, Dave Johnson, David Sorensen
- 3/16 Robert Mesenbrink
- 3/17 Cassie Brynteson, Barbara Donovan, Mary Hirman, Julene Mastin
- 3/18 Chuck Beavers, Gary Goerges, Sally Helmer
- 3/19 China Harmala, Crystal Kozelka, Neil McEwen, Nancy Newman, Mike Potocki, Chad Rau
- 3/20 Thomas Julian, Bonnie Sass
- 3/21 Priscilla Balmer, Brody Box, Garnet Devine, Jennifer Johnson,
- 3/22 Gloria Brinkman, Gerald Gilbert, Mary Kay Rolighed
- 3/24 Cindy Bialon, Gene Darnell, Jackie Rasmussen

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

Birthdays continued:

- 3/25 Harvey Hollenback, Kathryn Lund, Doris Mezzenga, Beth Wolf
- 3/26 Laura Squires, Alex Windschitl
- 3/27 James Anderson, Avery Gorr, Daniel Heggerston, Jennifer Pulsifer
- 3/29 Jeff Balmer, John Boline, Anthony Gerdes
- 3/31 Connor Chambers

## March Anniversaries

- 3/2 Al & Gloria Brinkman
- 3/15 Heidi & Steve Engen  
Kristine & Terry Havar
- 3/18 Earl & Gail Bancroft
- 3/21 Ronald & Donna Bickford
- 3/22 Roger & Julene Mastin



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**March 2020**

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**Wilderness Bible Study**  
**Wednesday mornings 10-11:30am**  
**and also on Tuesday nights! 6:00-7:00pm**

**Join us!**

*See inside for more details.*