

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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2015

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

This Lent, go boldly to the cross of Christ – but let's do it together. Our Lenten Series for 2015 is "Beneath the Cross of Jesus." Come and eat hearty bowls of soup as we are host and guest in our area's Lutheran churches. Be nourished in fellowship at the table with Christians from Iron River, Oulu, Port Wing, Lake Nebegamon, and Poplar. Be nourished in your spirit with the song and scripture we center our faith around as Lutherans. Come and be. All Soup Suppers begin at 6:15 followed by a short worship service at 7pm.

What is it to live beneath the Cross of Jesus? We live our lives beneath the cross of Jesus, beneath God's manifold love and grace that reach to us even from Calvary. Based on the hymn "Beneath the cross of Jesus" (ELW 338), this series explores what it means for us to abide at the foot of the cross, to cling to the rock of our salvation, to dwell in the house of the Lord, and to confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness.

Feb. 25: Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand Iron River

We gather with the disciples, with Mary and the other women, with the soldiers, and with the passersby at the foot of the cross. As he faced death, Jesus tried to prepare his disciples for what was to come. He knew that, like Peter, we long to claim that we will never deny our Lord, that we will never lose our faith beneath the cross. Jesus proclaims to the disciples and to us: "Take courage; I have conquered the world!"

March 4: The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land Lake Nebegamon

Images of Plymouth Rock or the Rock of Gibraltar connote strong foundations and mighty power. In a popular game, rock smashes scissors but is overcome by a simple sheet of paper. How often do the cares and weariness of life drape themselves over the rocks of wealth or prestige or anything else to which we cling, revealing them as shaky, sandy foundations on which to build our lives? God alone is our rock and our salvation.

March 11: A home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way Poplar

Where is your home? Perhaps a farmhouse in the middle of a wind-swept field, or an apartment overlooking a city skyline, or a plot of land that has been in your family for generations, or a house you moved into just yesterday. Wherever our earthly homes lay, our true dwelling place remains with God.

March 18: From my contrite heart, with tears Oulu

From the depths of our hearts we cry to God, confessing our sins. Even from the cross, Jesus cries, "Father, forgive them!" We are surrounded by grace, showered with the forgiveness and love of God shown to us on the cross.

March 25: I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place Port Wing

What does it mean to abide at the foot of the cross? How does it change our lives knowing that God loved us so much that God died for us? Jesus calls us to take up our cross and follow him into a world desperately in need of a rock, a home, and forgiveness.

Peace be upon your Lenten Journey,

Pastor Kristina
Pastor Kristina

What's New at Luther Park?

Luther Park upcoming events:

- a) March 6 & 7 – Recharge – cost is \$75/participant & \$30/adults;
- b) March 12-15 – Last Quilt Retreat this Spring (FULL);
- c) April 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Bread Baking Retreat presented by Pastor Joel & LuAnn Olsen (call or email Diana at the Luther Park office to register ASAP);
- d) May 8 & 9 - Work Retreat;
- e) June 6th – Meeting for the purpose of the second reading and approval of two Amendments to the Constitution and sale of two acres of land to Keith & Wendy Newman;
- f) June 6th – WAY Club Banquet (meet the summer staff);
- g) June 14 – Summer Camp begins!

Our Annual Meeting was held Saturday, January 24th at Luther Park. An anonymous donor challenged all delegates and churches within the constituency to bring donations to pay off the debt of \$30,000.00. We met that challenge and more!! Luther Park Bible Camp is now DEBT FREE. Thank you to all donors and to the wonderful staff and volunteers who have made this a reality. When the announcement was made, we celebrated with a standing ovation, balloons and “Debt Free” cake.

Keith announced that in 2014 volunteers have donated 4200 hours of their time to camp projects AND the number of campers attending in 2014 jumped by 160 since 2013. “It’s a God thing.”

In February, Keith and Jacquie visited several colleges to recruit summer staff. A downloadable application is available on Luther Park's website for any person who may be interested (www.lutherpark.org).

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the ministry at Luther Park.

*Kay Moen-Urseth
President, Board of Directors*

Present Howard Lehman, Doug Thyberg, Peggy Hipsher, Cindy Knapp, Tammy Sipsas, Sandy Rau and Pastor Kristina, Ken Tanula, Rozie Maki and Lynette Kesler excused

President Howard Lehman called the meeting to order at 5:50 PM and led us in a Bible Study based on the idea that God gives us times of trouble to remind us that we need Him.

Secretary's report was approved by a motion by Peggy, seconded by Cindy and approved by all.

Treasurer's report was presented by Doug and Peggy. We have a balance of \$360.12 in the checking account, with Pastors salary needing to be paid yet. Peggy will be preparing a graph to help members understand the financial situation based on the \$2200.00 monthly "budget based on need" approved in December. Tammy made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, subject to audit, seconded by Sandy; approved by all.

Pastors report:

Pastor told us about the Synodical Conference on Imagination and Creativity, she attended on February 8 & 9. A resolution was put forward to encourage 25% of our time, talent and resources be spent outside the church and in the community.

Pastor has had good response to the contacts she is making with the families that we pray for each week.

Pastor will be on vacation February 14, 15 and 16. A Supply Pastor from Duluth will preach on Sunday, February 15.

Committee reports

Finance Committee- Peggy reported on working with the finance team of Bridge Builders. They want to combine the Stewardship Committee with the Finance Committee.

Memorial/Honorariums Committee- Sandy suggested that this committee could become a part of the Finance Committee.

Outreach and Evangelism- Cindy reported that the chili mixer was very successful with over 50 people attending. They are looking forward to the "Chocolate Extravaganza/Mardi Gras" event to be held on Tuesday, February 17. Council members will be calling their list of people to personally invite them to this fun event. Our Nursery is going to become a place for parents to take small children to and will have a speaker and shelving installed. The Malawi Sister congregation is being worked on.

Mutual Ministry Committee is continuing to work with Bridgebuilders.

Education Committee-Tammy reported that Wednesday Bible School will not meet during Lent. They will resume with Sunday School being held on Sundays during part of the church service. Information has come about a Middle School Youth Gathering "Christ Jam" on March 14, in Rice Lake.

Property Committee- Doug will become the Council Representative on this committee. There is need to establish who is on this committee.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUETS.

Stewardship Committee- Cindy reported the plan to become part of the Finance Committee.

Food Shelf Committee- Peggy reported that Our Savior's had plenty of help last month.

Worship Committee- Sandy reported that she has been appointed the leader of this committee. Ushers have been asked to do acolyte duties when a youth is not available. Plans were made to shorten the service as well as planning for the season of Lent. We will be using Setting 10, eliminating the Gathering Hymn, Communion Hymn will be a chant over and over and sending hymns will be "Cross" related, during Lent. The next meeting will be March 2 at 5PM.

Landscape Committee - Sandy reported that they might become a part of the Property Committee

Sandy made a motion to approve the committee reports, seconded by Cindy; approved by all.

OLD BUSINESS

10:30-11:30 Sunday morning Bridge Builder meetings are ongoing. The three subcommittees, Communication, Finance/Budget/Stewardship, and Staff Guidance has been joined with a Planning Committee. The "Elephant" has continued to receive good ideas and we are up to 98 Action Statements. Some of those ideas are already being tried to improve the ministry at Our Savior's. Dick Rewalt is leading us through the process of creating "Success Criteria" and then we can move on to Goals and Strategies.

NEW BUSINESS

The Vacuum cleaners have been repaired and we may consider adding a canister type.

There has come a appeal for flood relief for Malawi. Each Northwest Synod Congregation has been asked for \$750.00 to meet the request for \$157,000.00. If each of our 100 member giving units gives \$7.50 we will meet our goal. Cindy will work on this fundraiser.

Howard told us about the need for a youth friendly worship service. Ideas are welcome.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM with the Lord's Prayer

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 19 at 5:30 PM (note time and date change)

Sandy Rau, Secretary

Bridge Builders Update

The Bridge Builders Planning Action Team has been very active the month of February. We continue to meet every Sunday after the Church Service. These are open meetings and anyone is invited to join us for the session. The issue elephant has served its purpose well and we have collected 102 inputs from the congregation that we are processing into our planning effort. The Team itself has grown slightly during February. In the course of studying the congregational inputs we discovered that there was a good sized group that represented ideas that required a new Subcommittee on the team. As a result we formed the "Planning" Subcommittee and added three additional members to the team bringing it up to 16 for a total. The members on the Team and the Subcommittees they are assigned to are as follows:

- Communications: Pastor Christina, Karen Moran, Kathy Rewalt and Karlan Williams
- Finance/Budget/Stewardship: Cindy Knapp, Rozie Maki, Dick Rewalt, John Schrock
- Planning: Mary Berube, Shirley Saker, Nancy Thyberg
- Staff Guidance: Howard Lehman, Patty Lehman, Sandy Rau, Himma Santikko

The road map that the Planning Action Team is following is one that allows the team to consider all the issues across the congregation, document them and then establish Goals and Strategies to overcome or heal the original issues. During their construction, these Goals and Strategies are shared and vetted with the rest of the congregation through a series of Focus meetings with the congregation. We will embark on the Focus Groups activities during the Month of March. As we do this we will retire the Issue Elephant and move it out of the Fellowship Hall. The healing and rebuilding will be something that we all will participate in. The vetted Goals and Strategies will get pulled into a written plan and submitted to the Council for assignment as tasks within the Church organization and congregation. Keep the Team Members in your prayers as we consider and then formulate workable solutions. You can follow our progress by viewing the Bridge Builder road map on the church fellowship hall wall and on the website. We are looking forward to the Focus Groups to share what we are coming up with.

Dick Rewalt

Bridge Builder Planning Action Team Lead



Each year at Easter we decorate the chancel with flowering plants. These plants can be given as memorials or in honor of a special occasion or simply given by individuals. You may either order a plant through the Altar Guild or bring your own. If you bring your own, please put your name on the plant and if it is in memory of a loved one, let the church office know. Please fill out the following form and turn it in to the church office or to Sandy Rau by Monday, March 23rd. Please take your plant home following the 9:00 service.

We will be placing an Easter Plant in church for Easter.

Plant Selection: _____ 6" pot 5+ bloom Easter lily \$13.00 _____ 6" pot Hydrangea plant \$40.00

Circle color choice of Hydrangea

_____ 8" pot 10+ bloom Easter lily \$33.00 Pink Blue Green

Please Print Clearly

_____ In memory of _____

(Your Name)

_____ In honor of _____

(Your Name)

_____ Given by us for _____

(Your Name)

_____ Given by _____

(Your Name)

Altar Guild Fund

Donations to Altar Guild Fund:

_____ In memory of _____

(Your Name)

_____ In honor of _____

(Your Name)

_____ Given by us for _____

(Your Name)

_____ Given by _____

(Your Name)



Volunteer Schedule

March 2015

Prayer for Families

We will continue this year to include three families or individuals in our Sunday morning prayers. I know there are many of you that pray for individuals and the needs that we know of, but there are many times we don't know when someone is in need of a prayer. This is one more way for us to care for each other placing them in God's hands.

March 1

Sherry Tanula
Dennis & Jeanette Vetter
Diane Walsh

March 8

Ken & Linda Watters
Terry & Shirley Welty
Rick & Andrea Witala

March 15

Karen Wicklund
Karin Williams
Kari Williams

March 25

Kami Wiss
Mary Winkler
Jim & Julie Anderson

March 29

Nancy Anderson
Jolene Anderson
Jennifer Anderson

Date	Coffee	Lector
March 1	Dick & Evie Berge	Tammy Sipsas
March 8	John Schrock & Mary Berube	Mark Santikko
March 15	Nan Olson & Sherry Tanula	Dick Rewalt
March 25	Rodney & MaryAnn Lahti	Mark Santikko
March 29	Dick & Kathy Rewalt	John Schrock



BIRTHDAYS this month

Nancy Anderson 1st
Kathy Lahti 2nd
Kylie Niska 3rd
Merv Maki 4th
Mellissa Walsh 5th
Katie Bradley 7th
Jeanette Vetter 7th
Dave Hultman 11th
Brittni Walsh 13th

Terry Welty 18th
Harold Danula 19th
Jim Klinge 20th
Jeanne Joseph 22nd
Sam Bradley 24th
Austin Talso 26th
John Swanson 27th
Shawn Gregerson 28th
Sue Thibideau 28th

Monthly
Ushers: Ken & Linda Watters
Greeters: Bonnie Rantala & Laurel LaBelle
Altar Guild: Patty Lehman & Sherry Tanula

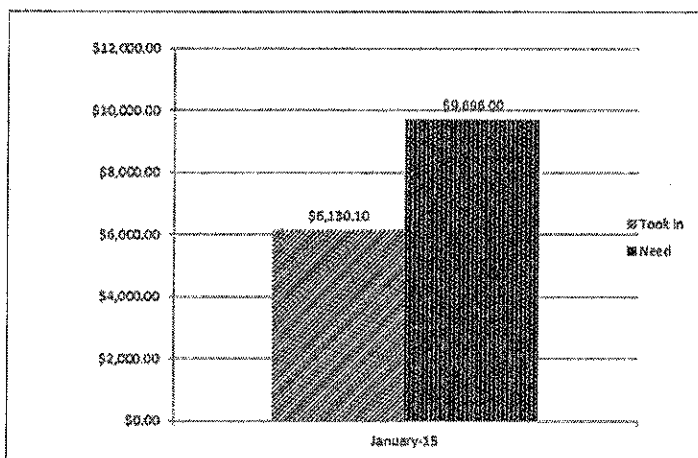


Nan & Jim Olson 16th
Tom & Karen Boggess 19th
Ted & Donna Callahan 20th

***NOTE:** The nursery is available for all adults with young children to use. We do not have caregivers available, however, we do have a room in the fellowship area that is available, comfortable, and will soon be equipped with a sound speaker so that listening to the service is an option. Please feel free to access this if the need occurs

2015 Lenten Mid-Week Service Schedule
6:15 p.m. Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. Service

Wed. February 25	Our Savior's Lutheran, Iron River
Wed. March 4	Trinity Lutheran, Lake Nebegamon
Wed. March 11	Peace Lutheran, Poplar
Wed. March 18	Hope Lutheran, Oulu
Wed. March 25	First Lutheran, Port Wing



The chart above shows us that in January this year we took in \$6,130.10 and our budgeted needs were \$9,696.00. This meant some bills were deferred and paid in February.



There has been an appeal from the synod to help the country of Malawi due to a devastating flood which has displaced thousands of people. Our Savior's is in the process of partnering with a sister congregation in that country. The synod has asked each congregation to donate around \$780.00 for flood and food relief. Most crops have been destroyed creating a severe threat for widespread starvation. We have started a program to Have Heart, by purchasing a heart for \$5.00. You may then put your name on that heart and we will decorate our fellowship hall with hearts during Lent to raise the \$780. for the Malawi people. Please help by buying a heart!

Reminder- There is a sign-up list on the bulletin board near the kitchen for volunteers to help keep our sidewalk clear through the end of the winter.



"Called to Worship, Sent Forth to Serve." Why are these words found in our bulletin every Sunday? This is the mission statement for our church. It was established in 1997 by a Mission Committee that included Pastor Friedrich, Shirley Saker, Evie Berge, Ann Klinge and Mary Berube, among others. So when the question arises, "Why are we here?"- we know the answer because we are " Called to Worship, Sent Forth to Serve."



Please keep the following men and women serving our country in your prayers: Continue to watch over Mike Hope, Tiegen Brickson, David Doherty, Kyle Thyberg, Ryan Glau, Peter Bracket, D.J. Bourassa, David Fierner, Darek and Charlotte Reijo, Craig Danula.

Be with their families and those who have returned. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Please pray for the following in need of God's care:

Amy Frostman and family, Robby Maron, Jerry Tapani, Leroy Lahti, Scott Rickaby, Ken Watters, Vanessa Lawson, Bonnie Mahocker, Jonathan Jensen, Shirley Welty, Jennifer Anderson, Connie Sorenson, Ginger Weyandt, Marge Johnson, Pam Hawk family, Jeri Ogren, Myron Knapp, John Hoffman, Doris Perala, Jason Moreau, Al Buhler, Cheryl Clark, Jean Sucha, Herb Buran, Darren Forsythe, and Darrel Ciskie.

Email Evelyn if you would like to add or (joyfully) remove someone from our prayers.

Cleaning the Church- Every month there is a council member in charge of cleaning the church (among other duties). That council member would like some help. It is a big job that could be made smaller with many hands. Even if you would just like to do a portion of the job, your help is most appreciated. It is God's house and even God's house needs a bit of tender loving care. Please stop by the bulletin board across from the kitchen door to sign up to give us a hand.

Luke 11:25 And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order.

Not receiving a newsletter? Either by email or regular mailings? Let the church secretary know that you would like to be added to either the email list or the regular mailing list and one will be sent right to you. You can also access our newsletters and other church information on our website ironriverlutherans.org