



Crosslake Presbyterian Church *Messenger*

JULY 2020

14444 Daggett Pine Road, Crosslake, Minnesota | Tel: (218) 692-4769 | www.crosslakepres.org

Message from *Pastor Tony*

At our place in Pequot Lakes, we've seen a bunch of animals we didn't see last year. We've seen a lot more of the usual like birds, squirrels, rabbits, chipmunks, and deer, but we've also become home to a fox and her family. On a couple nights we've been serenaded by howls from the young family. Most nights, the "Nick" the fox is stalking the family of rabbits or chipmunks that live under our deck. We usually learn about "Nick's" presence because our dog, Shroder, goes nuts. Schroder also likes to keep track of the deer as they meander through the yard.



Have you noticed nature lately? I mean really noticed it. Along with all the other changes in the world, nature seems to have changed a bit too. If you were to "search it up", as Kyle says, you see countless articles about how wildlife has returned to places once only populated by humans, wild turkeys on children's playgrounds, rams sauntering through town, foxes running through backyards, and deer in the middle of town. Not only is wildlife returning to old stomping grounds, but pollution levels have dropped to unprecedented levels.

This "reclaiming" by nature has me thinking about Psalm 8 and the old classic hymn, "This is my Father's World". *Honestly, I didn't know the hymn until I became Chaplain at a nursing home in*

Brainerd, and after singing it multiple time a day for over a year, I kind of fell in love with it. Now it runs through my head when there's an awe-inspiring moment in nature, but this summer it seems to be on a constant loop.

Here's the lyrics for a refresher:

This is my Father's world
And to my listening ears
All nature sings and round me rings
The music of the spheres
This is my Father's world
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees
Of skies and seas
His hands the wonders wrought
This is my Father's world
The birds their carols raise
The morning light the, lily white
Declare their Maker's praise
This is my Father's world
He shines in all that's fare
In rustling grass I hear him pass
He speaks to me everywhere
This is my Father's world
And to my listening ears
All nature sings and round me rings
The music of the sphere



Continued on Page 2.

With nature “coming back” and wildlife making itself known, I’m comforted. I’m comforted by nature *restating* its presence. With all that’s going on with COVID-19, with the way the world and our lives, are changing, its comforting to me to know that God’s care for nature continues. As nature and wildlife spring forth in the midst of the chaos of the world, I’m comforted to see the presence wild animals that would otherwise not be seen. Their presence reminds me that God is present, living, and active. In a time when things are constantly changing, knowing we have an unchanging God is comforting and brings me hope. Hope that we will get through this.



DEACON’S REPORT

We finally met on June 23. after adhering to months of the COVID-19 quarantine! We gathered in the backyard of the church around the campfire! It was so much fun to see each other and chat, socially distancing, of course. We all brought a sack lunch and ate after our meeting. We have selected the Deacons of the Month for the rest of 2020. Shari Ochs is Deacon for July.

We discussed visiting our members safely and helping members with rides for medical visits. We selected Missions for July and August. We are donating to Crosslake and Emily food shelves again, which have been very busy this year. We will also be sending money to the Women’s Shelter in Brainerd. A new organization called Operation Sandwich, which provides food to all ages of children during the summer, is on our Mission List, also. We are waiting to see what the local schools may need for this year, and then we will be helping to provide the staff with school supplies and gift cards. Any suggestions for other Missions are gratefully accepted. Our August Monster Sale will be providing some additional funding to us.

We closed with a prayer from Pastor Tony.

Pat Tweed, Chairperson

CAMP KNUTSON

Camp Knutson Volunteers will be hosting the annual fundraising *Night Under the Stars* event “**ROOTED TOGETHER WITH LOVE**” on Saturday, July 18 to benefit Camp Knutson campers with identified needs. This year’s event will be a virtual gathering with an online auction so that guests may safely participate from home during the COVID-19 outbreak. Our on-line auction will be open for bidding July 15 through July 21. A virtual reception will start at 6:45 p.m. with event being live-streamed at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are complimentary!

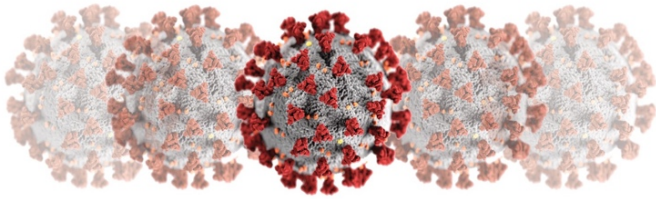
You will learn about the life-giving mission of Camp Knutson and the valuable role camp plays in the lives of those who need it the most. **Your support for our campers is more important now than ever as campers face a summer without the opportunity to connect in person to their camp friends and community.** Guests who register will receive an email with instructions for joining the virtual event and online auction. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact us at camp.knutson@lssmn.org or at 218-543-4232.

JULY BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Kyle Oltmann |
| 11 | Jerry Norgaard |
| 15 | Tom McCormack |
| 20 | Clark Hickman |
| 21 | Audrey Eiler |
| 25 | Ginny Anderson |
| 29 | Steve Anderson |
| 30 | Rev. Roger Grussing |
| 31 | Judie Larson |

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN



As required by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), CPC has developed a **COVID-19 Preparedness Plan** to address issues related to reopening the church building. The CPC plan was approved by Session June 22, 2020, and includes key requirements put forth by the MDH:

- maximum of 50% occupancy inside
- maximum of 250 people for any outside gathering
- strongly encourage all persons to wear masks
- plan must be posted on site in an easily accessible location
- plan must be evaluated, monitored, executed, and updated under the supervision of a designated plan administrator within the organization

What it means to us for worship right now is:

- Continue to stay home if you are sick or at high risk. Anyone who develops COVID symptoms while at church or who may have been exposed should notify the church office or plan administrator for proper reporting and exposure tracing.
- We will continue outdoor worship – possibly throughout the summer. Participants may now bring their own chairs and sit outside, providing there is at least 6 feet social distancing between household groups. Ushers will be on hand to help with this as needed.
- Because singing is a high-risk activity, we will limit singing to a soloist who must be positioned at least 12 feet away from anyone else.
- Virtual worship will continue.

What you need to know regarding use of the church building is:

- The building is now open to meetings and small group gatherings in the Friendship Hall or Sanctuary. The family restroom is available for use. Classrooms and library are off limits except for staff. The multiple stall

restrooms and kitchen are completely off limits.

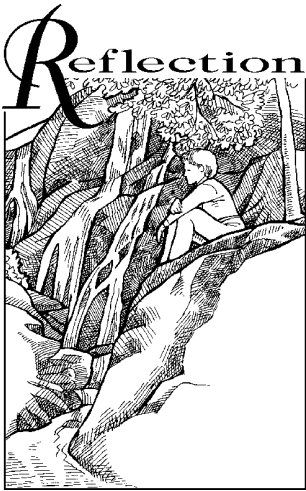
- Offices and computer workstations are off limits except for staff. However, brief use of the copier for church business is an exception. An area just outside the office will be designated for no contact drop offs and deliveries.
- The building has been rekeyed to provide more control over when and how the building is used and to allow for appropriate cleaning and disinfecting between groups. The church office will manage key distribution to committee chairs and a few other approved key holders. A key holder must be on site for any preapproved use of the building by outside organizations and will have a short list of responsibilities associated with each use.
- Any and all use of church space must first be scheduled through the church office. Upon vacating the space after use, whoever is holding the key and closing up the building must notify custodial staff what space was used and when to ensure the space is properly cleaned and disinfected before the next use.

There is currently no date set for resuming indoor worship. When that date does arrive, ushers will be controlling the number of people entering at once, directing the flow of traffic and seating, assisting with social distancing, and ensuring that maximum occupancy with social distancing is not exceeded. As we all know, the situation surrounding COVID-19 is fluid and ever changing. There will be changes and updates to the plan as needed, which will need to be approved by Session and communicated to the congregation. Be aware that if there is a local outbreak, the building may need to be closed, and we may need to revert to more restrictive guidelines for a time.

It is each individual's responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Preparedness Plan which has been distributed by email, available on our website: crosslakepres.org, and on the Lake Country Cares website. Any questions or concerns regarding the plan should be directed to the church office at (218) 692-4769 or office@crosslakepres.org, or to the plan administrator, Diane McCormack, at (218) 821-0103 or di.mac.mccormack@gmail.com.

Click to view [Preparedness Plan](#).

EMAIL PRAYER REFLECTIONS



This past spring, I invited some church friends, old friends, and family members to join me on a journey to explore the topic of Prayer by email. There are currently thirteen of us taking that journey, and you are invited to join us.

We began by reflecting on a recent prayer time of our own and went on to think about what usually calls us to prayer, and what, if anything, we are reluctant to pray about. Then we pondered what it means to “Pray always,” as Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:17. We considered the idea of constant prayer as “coming to rest,” as Henri Nouwen said that phrase could be translated. Currently we are on the first of four reflections on spiritual playfulness or playing with God.

Some of the participants respond to the whole group concerning the Prayer Reflections I send out, some reply only to me, and some don't respond at all. There's no obligation to participate at any level other than that of one's own choosing.

If you would like to join us, send me an email request at [ginnya47@gmail.com]. I would be glad to send you any or all of the Prayer Reflections we have already done and/or the current one.

*Ginny Anderson,
for Spiritual Growth and Christian Education*

NOTES FROM BUILDING & GROUNDS

Jack Becker informed the B&G committee that Gary's Painting would be power-washing the church building on July 14, 2020. Once the power wash has dried, the entire exterior including exterior doors will be repainted. It was decided to use the color code *Russet* for the painting.

In order to conform to COVID-19 guidelines and for the building to reopen a flow of fresh air from the outside must be maintained. HEPA filters must be used. Steve will contact the heat pump contractors to make sure the church system can accommodate the requirement.

MONSTER SALE CANCELLED



It has been decided that the Monster Sale for this year **will be cancelled**. However, if you have large items you are wishing to donate, we can arrange to pick them up from you, and we will sell them online. Please contact Tom McCormack or Amy Bloch if you have an item to donate.

USE OF INSIDE CHURCH SPACE

If your group or committee has plans to meet and would like to meet in the church building please contact the office to schedule the date and time, and receive a copy of the Preparedness Plan (also available on our website) and full instructions on how to follow the new procedure.



*Pastor Tony at the first
Parking Lot Worship Service in June*

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