

## From the Pastor

*I thank my God every time I remember you,  
constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,  
because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.  
I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will  
bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 1:3-6

It has been an honor to serve alongside the people of Cooksville Lutheran Church for over two years. This will be my last Newsletter greeting, and next month I will begin a new full-time call to Lake Edge Lutheran Church in Madison. As the Cooksville community considers how to move forward with a part-time pastor, I will continue to hold you in prayer.

I am grateful that you have been willing to share your lives with me during our time together. Thank you especially to the Confirmation students from the past two years: Matthew, Nicole, Andrew, Jake, Johannes, Leah and Mekenzie. Working with you was one of the highlights of my time at Cooksville.

Thank you to those who have served as Sunday School teachers and Confirmation mentors. It takes a village to raise a child; no parent or pastor or teacher or mentor can teach a child everything she or he needs to know about faith; we all play an important role.

Thank you to Gretchen Post, Brenda Rohloff, Nancy Krake and Jaye Lauer, who have each covered the job of secretary at various points in time. Thank you to Tom Parsons and Kathie Gunn, who have handled the church's finances. There are countless administrative tasks required to run a church, and Cooksville is blessed to have many people willing to take care of these tasks as needed.

Many thanks to those who have served on Church Council. We have dealt with a number of complicated issues recently. Thank you to all who have served on the various committees and groups at church: Worship, Education, Foundation, Maintenance, the Gathering, and Altar Guild. A special thanks to Pat Foltz, Marilyn Kueng, Art Olsen, and Laura Pehler, the members of the Pastoral Support Committee.

Thank you to all who have sung with the choir and who have served as worship assistants. Thank you especially to coordinator Nancy Krake. It has been an honor to lead worship alongside so many willing volunteers.

Thank you to the homebound members, for welcoming me into your homes and sharing your stories. Thanks to all who have participated in our worship life, who have helped with Fall Festival, who have hosted coffee hours, who have prayed with the midweek prayer group, and who have invited guests to participate in our community. I trust that God will continue to work among you. Many blessings to you in the new year and this new chapter in the life of the community.

In Christ,

*Pastor Katya*

### **Congregational Meeting Results**

On Sunday December 7th a congregational meeting was held. The council presented a motion to pursue part-time pastoral ministry beginning in 2015, at 60% time or less, and the motion passed. Council will be considering options for part-time ministry in the coming weeks. Please contact a member of Council if you have questions or suggestions (contact info on the "Stay In Touch" page).

### ***Annual Meeting***

**The 2015 Annual Meeting will be held on February 1<sup>st</sup>, immediately following worship (around 11:15).**

A potluck meal will be served – please bring a dish to share! Deadline for submissions to the annual report is January 18<sup>th</sup>. This includes any resolutions or action items to be considered. Please send submissions to Jaye via email (preferred) or leave a hard copy in her mailbox.

## **Farewell & Godspeed to Pastor Katya**

Pastor Katya's last Sunday service with us will be January 11<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to mark your calendars to join us to give thanks to Pastor Katya for her work and contributions to Cooksville Lutheran during her time here. Attend this service along with an after service special coffee time. More information will be available in the weekly bulletins prior to this date.

## **Spiritual Gifts Assessment Results**

Many thanks to all who completed a Spiritual Gifts Self-Assessment this fall. Your results have been recorded and we will keep them on file for future use. Unfortunately, there were not enough respondents to notice any trends or preferences among the congregation. Many active members chose not to complete the inventory, so we are unable to use the results to assess the spiritual gifts or needs of our congregation at large. Individual results from those who did complete the survey will still be helpful as the leadership of Cooksville seeks to find ways to engage people in the faith community.

## ***Opportunities for Giving***

### **GoodSearch & GoodShop**

These online fundraising sites let people earn money for charity simply by doing their regular online activities! GoodSearch sends a check with proceeds raised to participating organizations once a year. Our first check arrived in November, for nearly \$20! This was for less than a year of participating in this program that was new for our congregation. Can we double the amount for next year? Be sure to change your default search engine to goodsearch.com, and go through goodshop.com as you do your online shopping. Thanks for your support!

## **Create a Cooksville Legacy**

You can continue to support the church for generations to come by naming Cooksville Lutheran in your will. Please communicate to the Foundation Committee when designating a gift, so we can be prepared to receive it. If you are interested in supporting our ministry in this way, contact the Rev. Larry Westfield ([larry.westfield@elca.org](mailto:larry.westfield@elca.org), 262-224-9574 or 877-224-9574).

## **Gifts-In-Kind**

The following items can be put to use immediately for ministry! Please remember the church the next time you go shopping.

- First-class stamps
- Hand soap refills
- Toilet paper
- Black pens

## ***Opportunities at Cooksville Lutheran***

### **Free Blood Pressure Screenings**

On the first Sunday of every month, a free blood pressure screening will be offered following worship in the Narthex. This service is offered free of charge for all who are interested. Please invite others who may benefit from these free screenings!

### **Lent begins in February**

Mark your calendars! Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Plan to join us for worship at 7pm that day, and on the following Wednesdays during Lent.

### **Sunday School**

Sunday School for elementary-aged children is based on the readings for worship. Students are invited to leave worship during the sermon time, returning in time for Communion with their families. All children are invited to attend, members or visitors. If you know any children who may be interested, please invite them to come to worship!

## **Adult Bible Study: Sundays at 8:45am**

Sunday adult Bible study meets weekly in the church basement, below the Sanctuary. We are studying the book of Acts, so please bring your Bibles.

## **Building Reminders**

If you are the last one to leave the building after a meeting or event, please be sure to check that the doors are locked on your way out! Doors have been found unlocked a few times recently. Some doors do not always latch, so please pull them shut behind you.

Also, please keep the doors in the basement closed, between the old and new sections of the building. Keeping doors closed helps with climate control in the building. Thanks for your help!



## ***Updates from Cooksville Lutheran Church***

### **Music Ministry**

I use to think of music only in terms of performance, but that has changed over the years as I served various churches thru both performing groups and as a composer. The interpretation of giving and serving gives a clearer description of this valuable ministry. This puts compassion and duty in the hands of the organists, in the voices of the singers, in the fingers of the instrumentalists, in the movements of the dancers. Indeed, we are all the richer for giving our utmost attention to these people who prepare the music for our services. God creates ALL MUSIC through His people; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Jeanne Julseth

### **Thank You!**

Cooksville Lutheran Church relies on volunteers to accomplish the many tasks of ministry. This month a special thank you goes out to:

- Pat Foltz, for coordinating donations of poinsettias for Christmas Eve worship.

- Nancy Krake, for coordinating volunteers to assist with worship leadership, including extra volunteers for Christmas Eve worship.
- Rhonda Wethal, Marcia Ouchakof, Nicole Huset, Dustin Huset, Curtis Brandt and Sue Parsons, our regular Sunday School teachers for the first part of the school year.
- Anne Remley-Haines, Sherri Haakenson, Ilene Axford, Earlene Hanson, Donna Gunn, and all who helped with our winter concert on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **New praise books for the adult choir**

New Praise books will be used as part of choir rehearsal each Wednesday beginning at 7pm. All are invited to join us as we learn modern day songs that express our utmost worship joy and exultation. They are easy to learn and filled with expressive passages representing every book of the Bible.

## ***Opportunities in the Community***

### **“Historic Cooksville” Book now available**

The newly published book about the village is finished and ready for purchase! Get one for yourself and for a friend at the Cooksville Country Store (open Tuesday through Sunday, 10am – 6pm). The book features color photos, maps, stories about Cooksville's past and information about the historic buildings. Suggested price is \$10.

Special thanks to Steve Ehle, Larry Reed, Lisa Imhoff and Vicki Ballweg who spent many hours working on this project. Sales of the books will benefit the Cooksville Community Center.

Like "Cooksville Community Center" on Facebook to see pictures of recent events and a picture of the book.

### **Evansville United Methodist Church – Family Fun Night**

Family Fun Night from 6-8pm every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month, including a meal! Different offerings each month; reservations are appreciated but not necessary. For more info, call 882-4622 or email [admin@avansvilleumc.org](mailto:admin@avansvilleumc.org).  
(y Smith's mother)

## News from our Members

*Do you or a family member have an accomplishment that you'd like to share with the congregation? If so, submit your item to the church office.*

## Stay in Touch

Please contact the church office if you or a family member:

- Have a change of address or phone number
- Would like to be added to the prayer list
- Are interested in church membership
- Become hospitalized or homebound
- Would like to be baptized



Church office: 608-882-4408 (phone)

[cooksvillelutheran@litewire.net](mailto:cooksvillelutheran@litewire.net) (email)

Pastor Katya Ouchakof: 608-616-5075 (cell)

[cooksvillelutheranpastor@gmail.com](mailto:cooksvillelutheranpastor@gmail.com)

Worship Coordinator, Donna Haakenson: 608-882-4131

Choir Director, Jeanne Julseth: 608-882-0505

Council members:

Ilene Axford (President), 873-6914

Anne Remley-Haines (VP), 882-9997

Sue Parsons (Secretary), 295-8796

Curtis Brandt, 873-0757

Herb Hanson, 455-6778

Donna Gunn, 931-8402

Richard Krake, 882-5609

Tom Severson, 873-6552

Sue Wollin, 455-4374

Tom Parsons (Treasurer – appointed), 295-1697, [tom.parsons@ymail.com](mailto:tom.parsons@ymail.com)

**Cooksville Lutheran Church  
is on Facebook! “Like” our  
page for the most up-to-  
date photos and details  
about upcoming events!**



## January 2015 Sunday Leaders

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25	
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Anne Remley Haines	Jake White	Nancy Krake	Ilene Axford	
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Curtis Brandt	Sherri Haakenson	Nancy Krake	Linda Sime	
<b>Ushers</b>	Bob & Sherri Haakenson	Rosa Hanson	Bob & Sherri Haakenson	Rosa Hanson	
<b>Lector</b>	Connie Gregerson	Bob Haakenson	Rhonda Wethal	Stacy Wagner	
<b>Cantor</b>	<i>None needed</i>	Pastor Katya	Rhonda Wethal	Ilene Axford	
<b>Acolyte</b>	Ushers	Leah & Mekenzie Wagner	Ushers	Leah & Mekenzie Wagner	
<b>Organist</b>	Paul Haakenson	Naomi Shep	Naomi Shep	Jeanne Julseth	
<b>Sunday School</b>	Rhonda Wethal	Nicole Huset	Dustin Huset	Curtis Brandt	
<b>Coffee Hour Host</b>		Rhonda Wethal & Brady			

**Altar Guild: Pat Foltz & Ilene Axford      Candles: Pat Foltz**

**Thank you to the many volunteers who help with worship, hospitality, teaching, and cleaning the church. We appreciate all you do!**

**New volunteers are always welcome! Contact the following people:**

**Ushers: Rosa Hanson (873-3831)**

**Other worship leaders: Nancy Krake (882-5609 or [nkrake@att.net](mailto:nkrake@att.net))**

**Sunday School: Church Office**

**Cleaning the church: Jennifer Ehle (302-1722 or [jenniferhele1@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferhele1@gmail.com))**

**Coffee Hour: Church Office or Nancy Krake (882-5609 or [nkrake@att.net](mailto:nkrake@att.net))**

## January 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>8:45 Adult Study</b> <b>10:00 Worship &amp; Sunday School</b>	<b>5</b> 9am Quilting 7pm Worship Committee	<b>6</b> 9am Tuesday Maintenance Group	<b>7</b> 11:00 Organ Music Noon Prayer Group 7pm Choir	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>Pastor Katya's Last Day</b> <b>8:45 Adult Study</b> <b>10:00 Worship &amp; Sunday School</b>	<b>12</b> 9am Quilting 5:30pm Foundation Meeting 7pm Altar Guild	<b>13</b> 9am Tuesday Maintenance Group	<b>14</b> 11:00 Organ Music Noon Prayer Group 7pm Choir	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>8:45 Adult Study</b> <b>10:00 Worship &amp; Sunday School</b>	<b>19</b> 9am Quilting 7pm Congregational Council	<b>20</b> 9am Tuesday Maintenance Group	<b>21</b> 11:00 Organ Music Noon Prayer Group 7pm Choir	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>8:45 Adult Study</b> <b>10:00 Worship &amp; Sunday School</b>	<b>26</b> 9am Quilting 6:30pm The Gathering	<b>27</b> 9am Tuesday Maintenance Group	<b>28</b> 11:00 Organ Music Noon Prayer Group 7pm Choir	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

**Pastor's office hours Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 1- 3pm (unless otherwise noted) or by appointment. Pastor's last day Jan 11th.**  
**Secretary's office hours are Thursday 1-3pm**