

February 2017

Cooksville
Lutheran
Church
News

*A Caring Community Empowered
by God to be Disciples of Christ*



Attention All Members!

Please join us for the Annual Meeting of our congregation on February 5th. The meeting will take place following worship and a potluck meal. Please bring a dish to share! There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

You may pick up a copy of the Annual Report on Sunday, January 29, following worship, or during regular office hours on Monday or Wednesday of that week (11:00am to 2:00 pm).

Please remember your congregation, its leaders and members in prayer, as we reflect on this past year of ministry and plan for God's mission through Cooksville Lutheran Church in 2017 and beyond.

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From the

Pastor

*"Ashes, ashes,
we all fall down!"*

Dear Friends in Christ,

While I was growing up in my home congregation we did not "do the ashes" on Ash Wednesday. So for the first few years that I worshipped at a congregation that did the 'imposition of ashes,' I was not so sure that I liked the idea. It was during my internship in North Dakota in 1990 that I changed my mind. That year I would be the one placing ashes on foreheads and saying the words: *remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

How could I say that to the oldest members? It seemed heartless to throw into their face another reminder of the nearness of death. And how could I say those words to babies?

(continued on page 2)

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Would parents feel like the words might jinx their child? What about the 4 year-old girl who was in remission after a bone-marrow transplant? She had struggled for so much of her brief life. Her parents were just beginning to breathe again and enjoy some sense of normalcy. They did not need to be reminded of death.

I was thinking about these things when I led a Bible study that week. When the subject came up, I shared with them my reluctance to pronounce such harsh words. Metta, a farm wife in her 50's said firmly, "Well, you know, not one of us is going to get out of here alive." We all laughed, but I was not laughing Metta's words off. She had my full attention and I had to agree with her.



Ash Wednesday does not pick on the humble and weak—they already know the fragile nature of life. Rather, it reminds us all, especially those of us who are doing well at the moment, that we, too, will walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Here's the good news: when that day comes, we die as those who are "marked with the cross of Christ forever." IN death (as we have done in life), we follow where Christ has led the way, trusting in God's grace and the saving power that was revealed at the cross of Christ.

**May God's peace be with you,
Pastor Karla Brekke**

LEAD 2017 - GET READY! "Growing Together, Bearing Fruit"

March 11, 2017

8:30 am - 3:30 pm - Good Shepherd (Madison)

All are welcome to attend!

Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) is an annual event that includes worship, inspiring presentations and informative, engaging workshops It is designed for congregational lay leaders and pastors. This program requires a registration fee which includes lunch. Details to follow....

**2017 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
"Now What? The Next 500
Years" - Saturday & Sunday
April 29 & 30, 2017**

**Time: 8:30 am Saturday – 12:30
pm on Sunday**

**Keynote address by Mark
Tidsworth who will bring a
message about the letting go
of church-as- we-have-known-
it and shifting toward a more
hopeful future.**

**At the Marriott Hotel &
Convention Center, Middleton.**



February Birthdays

He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will. - Ephesians 1:5

- 5 Kristeen Farberg
- 6 Lindsay Siekert
- 7 David Nelson
- 9 Jessica Foltz
- 10 Anna Hanson
- 11 Kevin Wells
- 13 Ryan Harried
- 16 Jane Gomez
- 18 Kevin Kueng

- 20 Connor Page
- 22 Benjamin Yilke
- 23 Steve Foltz
Hans Schneeberger
- 25 Evelyn Beyer
- 26 Jim Conant
- 27 Dennis Erik Haakenson
- 28 Marilyn Kueng

SEND GOD'S LOVE THROUGH VALENTINES!



How about sending Valentines to some of our special friends on our prayer list? Receiving a card from you would brighten someone's day! Take a look at the names on page 4 and see if there might be someone you could write to.

If you need an address, email Kelsey at cooksvillemethodist@litewire.net or call the church office (608-882-4408).

Food & Fellowship: We always have such a good time visiting and encouraging one another following worship. These cold winter mornings especially give us a good reason to enjoy something warm to drink and good conversation.

Please see the *Food and Fellowship Sign-up Sheet* if you would like to host or sponsor refreshments on one of the upcoming Sundays.





Time for Prayer

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. - Acts 2:42

Wednesdays Noon-12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us any Wednesday when we gather to pray for the people on our prayer list and for the people and ministries of Cooksville Lutheran Church. If you have a prayer request and would like us to pray for it, please e-mail Kevin Brekke before 6 p.m. on Tuesday at brekkekev3@netscape.net or call him at 608-669-1218.

Please remember the following members and friends in prayer:

Donna Haakenson, Katherine Snell, Laura Pehler, Evelyn Beyer, Borghild Viney, Marilyn Kueng, the family and friends of Darlene McWilliams, Pam Kiesler, Joe Henn, Dave Messling, Tara Krake-Davis, James T. Parsons, Marion Kjernes, Jan Kettle, Robert Saunders, Anne Kurey, Michael LaMantia, John Garvan, Kari David, and Alexa (grand-daughter of Don Little).



CLC Special Friends: Anna Hanson, Charles Hoff, Don Farberg, Ken Haakenson, Robert Hanson, Dorothy Froemming, Larry Smith, Rhea Wethal, Ruth Erickson, Bill & Joyce Leopold.

Military: John Haines, Dean Jass, Andrew Newcomb.

We give our gifts to God

When the world is at its worst, it needs the church at its best — a strong church. We strengthen the church by giving. We give because we care deeply for Christ and his kingdom, and for the hurting humanity of our time. We give our time, our money, our energy and our talent. We give to promote and develop programs, resources, leadership, family life, evangelism and more. **Please see the color insert for a short worksheet to help you determine how you can help your church this year! They will be collected at the Annual Meeting.**



Generous Hearts

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. -1 Peter 4:10

Gifts in Kind for CLC

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

- ◇ First-class stamps – (current usage exceeds 100/month)
- ◇ Hand soap refills
- ◇ Snacks or candies for Fellowship & Meetings

 *  *
 * **“Let your light shine before others,” Jesus says,** *
 * **“that they may see your good deeds and glorify** *
 * **your Father in heaven.”** *

 * A Los Angeles restaurant owner recently discovered that a neon *
 * light had been covered — without being disconnected first — dur- *
 * ing a construction project 77 years prior. The calculated electricity *
 * cost to run the hidden light all that time was \$17,000! *

 * People don’t intentionally hide light; that would be counterproduc- *
 * tive, not to mention wasteful. Yet when we shrink back from shar- *
 * ing Jesus’ good news, we do indeed hide “the light of the *
 * world” (Matthew 5:14) that is in us. When we’re too modest to use *
 * God-given talents such as singing, playing piano or reading to bring *
 * others joy, we hide our light. When we put our own wants ahead *
 * of meeting someone else’s needs through giving and serving, we *
 * hide the light of God’s love. And at what cost? *



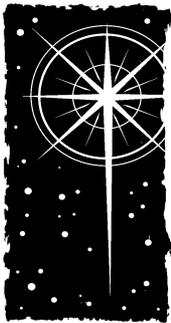
Before you leave... If you are the last one to leave the building after a meeting or event, please be sure to turn down the thermostat to 55 degrees. There are two thermostats: one in the church office and one in the fellowship room near the pastor’s office. Turn off all the lights and check that the doors are locked. Thank you!



Worship Matters

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing, -Psalm 100:2

Closing the Season of Epiphany



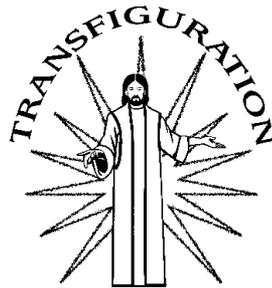
Epiphany began with the light of the star guiding the Wisemen to Jesus. We end the Epiphany season with a more brilliant, light! On the mountain

Jesus is “transfigured” before Peter, James, and John who see His glory revealed. His face shone like the sun and his clothes became dazzling white. Elijah and Moses appear and talk to Jesus, strengthening him for what will happen in Jerusalem.

Jesus’ disciples were overcome by fear at this display of pure, unfiltered, divine light. Just think, they saw with their own physical eyes the spiritual reality of Jesus as “the light of the world.” (John 8:12) The veil was lifted for a brief moment and their earthly eyes saw what only faith can grasp while we are in this flesh. They saw God’s love shining through Jesus in a way we will not see until we see Jesus face to face. But until then, **we are encouraged to listen intently to Jesus.** *The Transfiguration story can be found in Matthew 17; Mark 9; and Luke 9.*

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Worship on
February 26 at 10:00 a.m.



*Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ...³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, ‘Master, it is good for us to be here; ...³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, ‘**This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!**’ — Read the whole story in Luke 9:28-36.*



Burying the "Alleluia"

Sunday, February 26

As a corporate sign that we are entering a season of penitence, we *bid farewell to the 'Alleluia'* at the end of our worship on Transfiguration Sunday, the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday.

First we sing the hauntingly beautiful hymn "*Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*" ending with "**Alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!**" These are the last "alleluias" we will sing or speak in our Sunday worship until Easter morning.

After the hymn is done and the last "alleluias" are sung, the children come forward and take the banner with the words "Alleluia" and they "bury" it by wrapping it in a white shroud and "hiding" it near the altar. It will stay hidden there during Lent. Our Lenten journey will prepare us to sing "Alleluia!" with a deeper joy on Easter morning.



Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

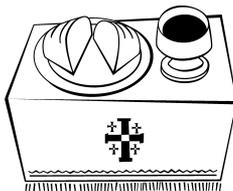
*Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand
Ponder nothing earthly minded
For with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending
Comes full homage to demand*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary
As of old on earth he stood
Lord of lords in human vesture
In the body and the blood
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food*

*Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of light, descending
From the realms of endless day
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish
As the darkness clears away*

*At his feet the six-winged seraph
Cherubim with sleepless eye
Veil their faces to the presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry
**"Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"***

ELW #490





The Cooksville
Community
Events Calendar
2017

The Cooksville Community Center (CCC) is excited to be part of the commemoration of the 175th year anniversary of the village of Cooksville.

April 29: Community Center Clean-Up Day (10:00am-1:00pm, Schoolhouse) Bring your favorite feather duster.

April 30: Tree Planting on the Commons (2:00pm-4:00pm, Commons) The Cooksville Tree Restoration Committee will present their annual State of the Oaks address. Reception at the schoolhouse to follow.

May 13: Community Sing (6:30pm-8:30pm, Schoolhouse) Join us for a family-friendly community sing-along and hootenanny at the schoolhouse led by local folk musicians Emily and Chris Beebe.

June 7: Stoughton Chamber Singers Concert (7:00pm-9:30pm, Congregational Church) John Beutel and the Singers return to the beautiful brown church for a concert of American music. Tickets are available at the door, \$5.00.

June 10: Celebrating Cooksville's History with Jerry Apps and Larry Reed (11:00am-4:00pm, Schoolhouse) This special event features a presentation about one-room schoolhouses and barns by well-known Wisconsin historian and author Jerry Apps. Larry Reed, historian and Chair of the Historic Cooksville Trust, will then share highlights of 175 years Cooksville history and conduct a walking tour of Cooksville after the presentation. A sack lunch is included in the ticket price. Tickets for this very special event will be on sale this Spring. \$12.00.

July 4: Independence Day Picnic (12:30pm-2:30pm, Commons) Generations of Cooksvillians have gathered under the Oaks with picnic baskets for a community meal. Rain location is the schoolhouse.

July 22: Art in the Park (10:00am-4:00pm, Commons) A day of fun is in store, with many attractions around the commons and schoolhouse, including art and crafts vendors, a classic car show, Play Day activities like horseshoes and sack races, food carts, and more!

***July 22: Tours of the Cooksville Masonic Lodge** (Cooksville Store) The Cooksville Masonic Lodge, located upstairs of the village Store, will be holding tours of its meeting hall. Lodge members will be discussing the importance of the Free Masons in Wisconsin.

August 12: Christmas in Summer Program (1:30pm-3:00pm, Schoolhouse) Now in its fifth year, this favorite event is never without surprises for everyone! Jeanne Julseth will be rustling up some good old-fashioned schoolhouse fun with a cast of unlikely characters. Stay tuned for details. Free admission.

September 18: CCC Annual Meeting (6:30pm-8:30pm, Schoolhouse) Once a year, the membership of the CCC are invited to gather at the schoolhouse and talk about the year gone by, and the year to come at the Community Center. In this very special 175th year of the village, all are encouraged to come out and enjoy hearing the news, meeting with neighbors, and eating ice cream.

October 21: Cooksville Halloween Party (6:30pm-9:00pm, Schoolhouse) The Cooksville event calendar ends with a Boo! at this annual costume party. You never know what to expect after dark, but for sure there will be fall fun for the whole family. Bring a snack, beverage, dessert, and a ghost story to share.

You can also check the Cooksville Country Store for fliers or updates, or 'Like' the Cooksville Community Center on Facebook for notifications of upcoming events. Many activities are free and all are open to the public.

Thank you for your support!



Ash Wednesday Worship

March 1 at 7:00 PM
Imposition of Ashes &
Holy Communion

Midweek Lenten Series: Open My Life, Lord

Wednesdays in March

Light Supper at 6 PM
Holden Evening Prayer at 7 PM

(No supper on Ash Wednesday)
Free-Will offering for supper



Lenten meals will be served beginning March 8 at 6:00 pm. A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. We need three families for each week. Please think about helping prepare and serve the meals. Many hands make light work.



The word "lent" comes from the same word as "lengthen." As the days lengthen we are in the "springtime" of the year. The focus of lent is more than centering our thoughts on the Passion of Christ (his suffering and death). The focus on following Jesus is meant to lead us into **renewal**, a re-birth, a spiritual springtime emerging out of the darkness and death of winter.

In the ancient church, Lent was a season where candidates for baptism prepared for Baptism at the Easter Vigil. They were assigned sponsors who were their spiritual mentors. The sponsors helped them learn Christian faith practices, such as prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Today, Christians still observe Lent as a time to strengthen their faith through corporate prayer and worship, fasting, and almsgiving (giving to the poor).

CONNECT team continues to get to know each other and plan for activities that will soon involve all of you. You were invited to complete a survey (on Sunday, Jan. 22) that will help us identify strengths and gifts that the congregation possesses. I could name dozens of these gifts right now, but hopefully this will get us all thinking about what God's plan for the congregation might look like. The importance of relationship with God and each other, and the practices and attitudes that might improve those relationships, are what we are asked to pursue. By using the time-tested and Christ-driven methods of practicing kindness and care to each other and listening to God through prayer and study, our mission will become more clear.



At this time, we are asking that all of our church groups incorporate prayer and study into all of their meetings and gatherings, in a planned way. For ideas or suggestions on how to do this, see any member of the CONNECT team (Ilene, Heidi, Paul, Erik, Joe or Pastor Karla)!!



Sunday School Schedule

Sun. Feb 5

Connie Gregerson
"Salt and Light"

Sun. Feb 12

Jennifer Nelson
"Jesus Teaches about
Anger"

Sun. Feb 19

Rhonda Wethal
"Love Your Enemies"

Sun. Feb 26

Sue Parsons
"The Transfiguration"

Gathering Group Seeks New Members!

The group is committed to continue coordinating service activities such as **funerals, nursing home support, Easter breakfast, Christmas cookie boxes and decoration of the church, in addition to keeping the church kitchen organized.** But, we also want to get to know more of you in a more personal way, through discussion of bible passages, lunches at local restaurants, and preparing opinions and recommendations regarding church activities (Fall Festival, for example). We are going to try a new meeting time.

Beginning in February, meetings will be held on the fourth Friday of each month @10:00 a.m.



Join us to see what you think. Who knows, this meeting time may "naturally" be followed by a lunch out. See you there. ~Ilene Axford

EASTER PLANTS



The Altar Guild will be offering the opportunity to order spring plants to help decorate the church on Easter morning. Families purchasing the plants will be able to take them home after the service on Easter morning. 6" pots of **tulips, daffodils or lilies** may be ordered in honor or in memory of a loved one. The names of those donating and those remembered will be honored in the bulletin.

If you would like to order: Print your name on the sign-up sheet in the narthex or fill out the order form below and mail or bring to the church. Indicate the number and type of plants ordered and any names of those to be honored.

The cost is yet to be decided; please check with Pat Foltz. Checks should be made out to **CLC Altar Guild**. The order sheet will be in the narthex. Money should be placed in one of the provided envelopes and placed in the basket on the table.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE ORDERED IN THE PAST.

The plants truly make the church a wondrous place on Easter morning.

NAME _____

#/TYPE OF PLANTS _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

IN MEMORY OF/IN HONOR OF (circle one)

M/H _____

M/H _____

Let's Keep in Touch!



Church office: 608-882-4408; 11927 W. Church St., Evansville, WI 53536
Pastor Karla Brekke: 608-751-0345 cooksvillelutheranpastor@gmail.com
Secretary, Kelsey Dunn cooksvillelutheran@litewire.net
Worship Coordinator, Donna Haakenson: 608-882-4131
Choir Director, Jeanne Julseth: 608-882-0505

Office Hours:

Mon. & Wed. 11-2 ; Tue.-Visiting

***REMEMBER:** The newsletter deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month. You may email items to Kelsey, or leave a copy on her desk. Thank you!

Cooksville Church Council

Richard Krake (Pres.)
Paul Haakenson (V.P.)
Sue Parsons (Sec.)
Tom Parsons (Treasurer)
Randy Sime
Tom Hatlen
Bob Haakenson
Betty Hamilton
Anne Remley-Haines
Herb Hanson

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!



Local Food Pantry Needs:

Anyone may drop off items in the basket in our Narthex. **Thank you so much!** Listed are items currently needed at the food pantry; Canned Soups, Canned Fruit, Toothbrushes, Toilet paper, Deodorant, Shampoo, Feminine Products, Bath Soap, Toothpaste, etc.



Cooksville Lutheran Church will participate in the **Synod Bike Ride** on June 24 2017 as a Pit Stop along the way. More Info coming soon!



February Worship Leaders

	<i>Sunday Feb 5</i>	<i>Wednesday Feb 12</i>	<i>Sunday Feb 19</i>	<i>Sunday Feb 26</i>
	Fifth Sunday After Epiphany	Sixth Sunday After Epiphany	HOMESTEAD	Transfiguration of our Lord
Assisting Minister	Curtis Brandt	Ilene Axford	n/a	Nancy Krake
Communion Assistant	Curtis Brandt	Ilene Axford	Heidi Leiser	Nancy Krake
Ushers	Bob & Sherri Haakens	Sue Parsons and Family	Rosa Hanson	Rosa Hanson
Cantor	Rhonda Wethal	Ilene Axford	n/a	Linda Sime
Lector	Rhonda Wethal	Connie Gregerson	n/a	Linda Sime
Organist	Paul Haakenson	Naomi Shep	Jeanne Julseth	Naomi Shep
Altar Guild	Pat Foltz	Pat Foltz	Pat Foltz	Pat Foltz
Sun. School Teacher	"Salt and Light" Connie Gregerson	"Jesus Teaches about Anger" Jennifer Nelson	"Love Your Enemies" Rhonda Wethal	"The Transfiguration" Sue Parsons
Coffee Hour Host	<i>Annual Meeting POTLUCK</i>	Kathie Gunn	Art & Doris Olsen	Sue Wollin & Kelsey Dunn

New volunteers are always welcome! Contact the following people:

Ushers: Rosa Hanson (873-3831)

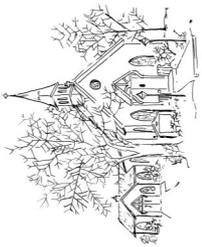
Other worship leaders: Nancy Krake (882-5609 or nkrake@att.net)

Altar Guild: Pat Foltz

Coffee Hour: Church Office or sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall

Cooksville Lutheran Calendar for February 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.
			1 12 pm Prayer Time	2 	3	4
5 <u>5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</u> 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sun. School 11:00 Annual Meeting & Potluck	6 9 am Quilting 11 am Staff Meeting 7 pm Worship Committee	7 9 am Maintenance Group	8 12 pm Prayer Time	9 6 pm CONNECT	10	11
12 <u>6TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</u> 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sun. School 11:00 Fellowship 11:00 Choir Practice	13 9 am Quilting 11 am Staff Meeting	14 9 am Maintenance Group 	15 12 pm Prayer Time	16	17	18
19 <u>7TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</u> 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sun. School 11:00 Fellowship 11:00 Choir Practice	20 9 am Quilting 11 am Staff Meeting 7 pm Council Meeting	21 9 am Maintenance Group	22 12 pm Prayer Time	23	24 10 am Gathering	25
26 <u>TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD</u> 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sun. School 11:00 Fellowship 11:00 Choir Practice	27 9 am Quilting 11 am Staff Meeting	28	Remember to sign up for Lenten Suppers in March!			



Cooksville Lutheran Church
11927 W. Church Street
Evansville, WI 53536

Address Correction Requested