

From the Pastor

Here is my servant! I have made him strong.

He is my chosen one; I am pleased with him.

I have given him my Spirit, and he will bring justice to the nations.

Isaiah 42:1 (Contemporary English Version)

Humans have a complicated relationship with change. On the one hand, change is hard. We don't like it. Life is much simpler when we don't have to change our attitudes or habits. On the other hand, we desperately hope for change. We pray for a cure for cancer, the healing of grief, an end to war, the reconciliation of relationships, and so on.

The people of ancient Israel were a lot like us. They wanted to live their lives as they chose, following God's laws or not, as they saw fit, but they also wanted a complete overhaul of their unjust society. Israel was a small nation, and the people had been conquered and ruled by more powerful neighboring kingdoms. They wanted to be free to live their own lives and worship their own God. These people believed in God's promise to send a Messiah, a savior, to help make them free.

God fulfilled the promise of a Messiah when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. But Jesus wasn't the kind of savior the people had expected. He didn't overthrow the occupying political leaders or affirm the religious leaders. Jesus brought change to the world, as the people had wanted, but Jesus did not bring the type of change that the people had been expecting.

The lesson for us is that we do not get to choose when and how God acts in our world. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas, let's keep in mind that that God is already present among us in ways we cannot see. If the history of God's chosen people can teach us anything, it is that God shows up in unexpected ways. Let's keep our eyes and ears and hearts open to those ways in which God is already working in our midst.

In Christ,

Pastor Katya

Special Congregational Meeting December 7th

All voting members are invited and encouraged to attend a special meeting of the congregation on Sunday December 7th immediately following worship (around 11:15am). The council will be presenting a motion to pursue part-time pastoral ministry beginning in 2015.

Please contact Ilene Axford (608-873-6914) with any questions.

Christmas Eve Worship

Celebrate the birth of Christ! Christmas Eve worship will be on Wednesday, December 24th, at 4pm and 8pm. Communion, candle-lighting, a children's sermon and favorite Christmas carols are offered at both worship times. Please join us, and invite your family and friends to do the same!

If you are looking for somewhere to worship on Christmas Day, please consider joining the community at Covenant Lutheran Church, 1525 N Van Buren St Stoughton. Their Christmas Day service is at 9:00am



Advent Worship

The season of Advent is a four-week season of preparation for the birth of Christ. This year the first Sunday of Advent is November 30th.

You are invited to join with St John's – Evansville for midweek Advent worship on Wednesdays in December. Worship is at 7pm on December 3, 10 and 17th. Join Pastor Katya and the Confirmation students in an additional worship service each week as we prepare for the coming of the Messiah!

Cookies and Decorations!

Decorate the church and eat cookies! Join us in the Sanctuary at 6pm on December 8th to prepare the church building for the Advent and Christmas seasons. After decorating the Sanctuary, we'll move downstairs, pack boxes of Christmas cookies for homebound members, and hopefully have a chance to eat a few of the leftovers. Hope to see you then!

A Season 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 Christmas 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, 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

ELCA Good Gifts

Give creatively this Christmas! For stocking stuffers – buy chicks for a farm! For a teacher – provide a scholarship for a girl in a developing nation. For the person who has it all – buy a fruit tree seedling to support a family in need. The ELCA Good Gifts catalog offers these and other options for good gifts. The catalog is available in the Fellowship Room and the Narthex, as are cards you may use to announce your gift to your loved ones.

A Season for Celebrating

Winter Concert with Christmas Cookies and Hot Cocoa!

Cooksville Lutheran Church will welcome classical guitarist Kevin Sherwin for a concert on *Sunday, December 21st at 4pm*. Tickets are \$10, and 10% of the proceeds will go to support the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Christmas cookies and warm beverages will be available before and after the concert, and at intermission. Please plan to join us and bring a friend!

Mr. Sherwin studied guitar at The Julliard School and is currently in his third year at Yale University. He is an experienced performer and the newly appointed Assistant Conductor of the Yale Russian Chorus. His program will feature classical and Slavic music, as well as some favorite Christmas songs!

Welcome Christmas Vigil

The beautiful tradition of walking thru a village with lanterns and singing is well known in Scandinavian villages. On December 7th, the village of Cooksville will hold a WELCOME CHRISTMAS VIGIL, including visits to three historic places within the village. Children of the Cooksville area will begin the walk at the COOKSVILLE COUNTRY STORE at 4:30. Hot apple cider will be available for all. Visitors may either walk with the children (bring a lantern or flash light) or watch from the warmth of their cars. At 5:00, children will enter the COOKSVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH, carry a manger to the front of the church, and lay pine boughs and straw in preparation of the coming of the Christ Child. Three other gifts (which cannot be wrapped) will also be presented. This SERVICE OF GIFTS is silent and innocent, as only children can do. The final walk begins after the service towards the historic VILLAGE COMMONS where luminaries will be sent up to the skies in honor of all people's gifts, which have been given by God. You may purchase luminaries at the store or on site at the Village Commons.

Evansville Ecumenical Choir Concert: December 7th

The Christmas concert by Evansville Ecumenical Choir is on December 7 at 7:00pm St. John's Lutheran Church (312 S Third St) is hosting this year.

Updates from Cooksville Lutheran Church

Fall Festival Wrap-up

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way and to all who joined us for this year's Fall Festival. Financial totals are in: Total income \$11,268.31, Total expenses \$1,023.34 Net profit is \$10,244.97. The overall results were increased positive energy and atmosphere. Ground layouts and uniform signage were well received. Music was enjoyed by all, with the hopes that Grieg Chorus might join us again next year.

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

Thank You!

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

- Martha Johnson, for her donation of greeting cards.
- Jessie Foltz, for loaning us the unity candle from her wedding to use for All Saints' worship.
- Phil Hamilton, Sherri Haakenson, and Martha Johnson, for auditing our financial records quarterly throughout 2014.

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.

Choir Chimes ringing twice in December

Saturday, December 20 at the Cooksville Store starting at 3:30 will be the first presentation.

Sunday, December 21, the CHIMES will perform the Prelude which will begin at 9:45 a.m. before the service. They will be playing your favorite Christmas Carols along with a few children's "SANTA SONGS".

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!

Opportunities in the Community

Evansville United Methodist Church – Family Fun Night

Family Fun Night from 6-8pm every 3rd 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.

Make a Difference – Home Hospice Volunteers Needed

Hospice is a special type of care focused on helping patients live fully to the end of life. There are many ways to assist, from patient contact, administrative support and fundraising. Winter 2014 volunteer training takes place 8:30am-4:30pm, in Madison Nov 11th and Janesville Dec 20th. Please contact the volunteer coordinator to find out how you can help make a difference: 877-356-4514 or volunteers@hhuvns.org..

Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner at Christ Lutheran Church – Stoughton

Saturday December 6th 11am– 6pm, by reservation only (make reservations by Nov 28). Adults \$18, children under 12 \$7.

Call 608-873-6131 www.clcstoughton.org.

Also featuring the Ole and Lena Bake Sale and Raffle!

ECHO Christmas Dinner December 25th 11am-1pm

Open to the entire community, everyone welcome. St. Williams Catholic Church, 1820 Ravine St. Call 608-754-5333 for deliveries, transportation or with any questions.

Advent Retreat

Thursday Dec 4th 9:30-11:30am or Monday Dec 8th 6:30- 8:30pm held at Christ Lutheran Church 700 County Highway B (1710 Skyline for Mapquest) Stoughton 608-873-9353. Cost is \$10, many people find it easier to give than to receive. At this retreat you will learn some practices for receiving the gifts of God and others. To sign up contact Jack at 608-6514 or jjfinney1962@gmail.com

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.

Pastor Katya vacation

Pastor Katya will be on vacation from December 1-7. If you have an immediate pastoral need during this time, please be in touch with Pastor Mark Petersen from Covenant Lutheran Church in Stoughton (608)-873-7494, ext. 13, Cell 608-438-8771 MarkP@CovLuth.org

Service of Remembrance – St Paul Catholic Church, Evansville

A service to honor and remember loved ones who have passed away, for people of all faiths. Sunday, December 14th, 7pm at St Paul. Service includes prayer, music, reflection and candle lighting ceremony. You are welcome to bring a framed photo of your loved ones – photos will be displayed at the altar. Questions, contact Nancy Hurley (882-4327).

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
- Would like a visit from Pastor Katya
- Become hospitalized or homebound
- Would like to be baptized

Church office: 608-882-4408 (phone)

cooksvillelutheran@litewire.net (email)

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

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



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



December 2014 Worship Leaders

	December 7	December 14	December 21	December 24	December 28
Assisting Minister	Jake White	Anne Remley-Haines	Ilene Axford	<i>None</i>	Nancy Krake
Communion Assistant	Sherri Haakenson	Anne Haines	Ilene Axford	Lectors & Acolytes	Nancy Krake
Ushers	Art & Doris Olsen	Sue Parsons & Family	Richard & Nancy Krake	4 pm Stacy & Mike Wagner 8 pm Betty & Phil Hamilton	Rosa Hanson
Lector	Bob Haakenson	Laura Schwoerer	Jennifer Ehle	4 pm Jake & Sam White 8 pm Ilene Axford and Phil Hamilton	Betty & Phil Hamilton
Cantor	Betty Hamilton	Anne Remley	Ilene Axford	<i>None</i>	Nancy Krake

Acolyte	Johannes Haakenson & Leah Wagner	<i>Open</i>	Aleana Krake	4 pm Leah & Mekenzie Wagner 8 pm Ushers	<i>Open</i>
Organist	Paul Haakenson	Naomi Shep	Jeanne Julseth	4pm Naomi 8pm Paul	Naomi Shep
Sunday School	Rhonda Wethal	Marcia Ouchakof & Nicole Huset	Dustin Huset	<i>None</i>	Sue Parsons
Coffee Hour Host	Martha Johnson & Pat Foltz	Ilene Axford	Bob & Sherri Haakenson	<i>None</i>	

**Altar Guild: Pat Foltz 7th; Marilyn Kueng 14th; Open 21st; Open 4pm 24th; Ilene Axford 8pm 24th; Ann Remley-Haines & Nancy Remley 28th.
Candles: Pat Foltz and Lynn Bednarek**

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)

Sunday School: Pastor Katya (882-4408 or cooksvilnelutheranpastor@gmail.com)

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

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

Sunday School: Pastor Katya (882-4408 or cooksvilnelutheranpastor@gmail.com)

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

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

December 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
30 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sunday School	1 9am Quilting 7pm Worship Committee	2 9am Tuesday Maintenance Group	3 11:00 Organ Music 7pm Choir	4	5	6
7 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sunday School 11:15 Congregational Meeting 4:30 Christmas Vigil	8 9am Quilting 6:00pm Decorate Church	9 9am Tuesday Maintenance Group	10 11:00 Organ Music Noon Prayer Group 7pm Choir	11	12	13
14 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sunday School	15 9am Quilting 5:30pm Foundation Meeting 7pm Congregational Council	16 9am Tuesday Maintenance Group	17 11:00 Organ Music Noon Prayer Group 7pm Choir	18	19	20 3:30 Choir Chimes
21 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sunday School 4:00 Concert	22 9am Quilting 6:30pm The Gathering	23 9am Tuesday Maintenance Group	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 4pm Worship 8pm Worship	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27
28 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sunday School	29 9am Quilting	30 9am Tuesday Maintenance Group	31 11:00 Organ Music Noon Prayer Group 7pm Choir			

Pastor's office hours Wednesdays 1- 3pm (unless otherwise noted) or by appointment. Pastor's day off is Friday.

Pastor Katya is on vacation December 1-7.

Secretary's office hours are Thursday 1-3pm

Christmas Poinsettias

The Altar Guild is offering the opportunity to order poinsettias to help decorate the church during the Christmas season. Families purchasing the plants will be able to take them home after the late service on Christmas Eve or the following Sunday. The poinsettias may be ordered in honor or in memory of a loved one if you wish. The names of those donating and those remembered will be honored in the bulletin.

Choose one of two ways to order:

1. Use the enclosed order form and mail to the church, Attention: Altar Guild or bring to the church. If you bring it in, please put the order form and money/check in an envelope labeled with your name and place it in the basket in the narthex.

2. OR Use the sign-up sheet in the narthex (and the envelopes provided in the basket).

The cost will be \$8.00 per plant.

Please make checks payable to CLC Altar Guild.

PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND THE NAME OF THE PERSON(S) YOU ARE HONORING.

Deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 7, 2014.

A heartfelt thanks to those who have ordered in the past. The plants truly make the church a wondrous place during the holidays.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

NAME: _____

Number of plants: _____ @ \$8.00 each

Amount enclosed: _____

In Memory of: _____

OR

In Honor of: _____

