

## From the Pastor

*Then [Jesus] said to them, "Give ... to God the things that are God's.*

- Matthew 22:21

In recent weeks, Cooksville Lutheran Church has been discussing various possibilities for financial viability. Our congregation passed a budget at our last annual meeting that is not sustainable at the current level of financial support. Monetary offerings are about \$2000 shy of expenses every month. While we've been keeping expenses down, we can't cut all costs. Even the extra financial boost that we get from Fall Festival only covers a few months of insufficient giving.

Our congregation has been a witness to God's work in Cooksville for many years. For much of that time, we relied on large farming families as our primary means of support. Today, families in the US today rarely have more than 2 children. Whereas in the past, one invitation to a family could result in 10 more members to our congregation, these days, it might take 4 invitations to achieve the same amount of congregational growth.

This means that, in order to keep our congregation's ministry active, and in order to achieve any kind of growth, we all need to work harder. We need to find new and creative ways of supporting the financial needs of this congregation. Some suggestions and examples are on the following pages.

This also means that we need to be willing to invite others into our church community. If you know anyone who does not have a church home, invite them to try ours out! Talk about church with your coworkers or your book club or your in-laws. If they show an interest in learning more, invite them to join you here for worship next week.

As Jesus reminds us, our job is to give to God what belongs to God. That includes our selves, our time, and our possessions, as we remember in worship with the Offering Prayer. Our current and most pressing need as a congregation is to live out that prayer every week, and to share our church community with others so that they may join us.

In Christ,

## ***Give back to God from the Blessings you have Received!***

### **Financial Support**

Congregational ministry requires prayer, commitment, volunteer time, and financial resources. Cooksville Lutheran is rich in the first few assets, but we have a serious shortfall in our financial resources. Offerings in September totaled \$7,095.50. The annual budget approved by the congregation at our last annual meeting requires a monthly income of \$11,156.91. This budget provides for a minimum of expenses, so the only place to eliminate spending is in personnel. The simplest way to bring our budget into balance is through an increase in monetary offerings. Please consider supporting Cooksville Lutheran Church with an extra financial gift this month. In addition, alternative methods of support are suggested below and on the following page.

### **Automated Giving**

Having your offering deducted monthly from your checking account is good for you, and good for the church! It can be easy to forget to bring your offering to worship, so automated giving helps you follow through on your commitment to financially support the ministry of Cooksville Lutheran. Our congregation relies on regular offerings to keep our doors open. Automated giving allows us to count on your support even if you are traveling or ill, or if worship must be cancelled. Cooksville Lutheran uses a secure program supported by Thrivent to facilitate the transfer of money from your bank account to the church. Forms for automated giving are in the Narthex and Fellowship Room. **Contact Tom Parsons with questions ([tom.parsons@ymail.com](mailto:tom.parsons@ymail.com), 295-1697).**

### **Ink Cartridges for Office Supplies**

Your printer cartridges can be used to support the church! Members redeem used cartridges for points at Office Depot, which are then used to purchase office supplies for the church. We need your help! Please bring in your used printer cartridges to the box by the coat rack in the Narthex. Contact Pat Foltz with any questions (608-455-1522).

## ***Give back to God from the Blessings you have Received!***

### **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
- Post-it notes
- Hand soap refills
- Toilet paper
- Printer paper (white, 20lb weight, any brand)
- Bottled water (please leave donations in the pantry)
- Birthday cards, thank-you cards, and blank greeting cards

### **Goodsearch Internet Search Engine**

Support the church with your regular internet activities! Goodsearch is a search engine by Yahoo that gives a penny to the nonprofit organization of your choice for each search you do online. Simply go to [goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com), sign up, and select Cooksville Lutheran Church as your preferred charity. A search can be from your home computer or from an app on a smart phone. By checking the weather every morning, you could raise a penny for Cooksville Lutheran Church!

If you shop online, many companies give a percentage of a purchase to the named organization. You can also play online games through this site, make travel plans, or take surveys to raise funds. Goodsearch is a safe site, yielding identical search and shopping results to anything that Yahoo would find, but with the added benefit of supporting the church! Thanks for considering this option for financial support of Cooksville Lutheran.

### **Support your church at the grocery store!**

Please bring in your receipts when you shop at Piggly Wiggly in Evansville. They return 1% of the purchases back to the church. A collection box is located in the Narthex. The last check we received through this program was for nearly \$100! We are grateful for the support of our members and Piggly Wiggly!

## ***Give back to God from the Blessings you have Received!***

### **Create a Cooksville Legacy**

You can continue to support the church for generations to come by naming Cooksville Lutheran in your will. Church Council requests that estate gifts be disclosed to the Foundation Committee when they are designated, so we can be prepared to receive your gift. 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).

### **Coffee Hour Going Green!**

Help Cooksville save money and resources by bringing your own cup to coffee hour after worship, instead of using a disposable cup. There will be space for you to store your reusable cup at the church if you choose.



### **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

Attention Thrivent members! You may be eligible to direct Choice Dollars to your choice of nonprofit organizations. Watch the mail for a letter inviting you to use your Choice Dollars, and opt to support 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:

- Sherri Haakenson, for serving as a confirmation small group leader.
- Lynn Bednarek for her help with a recent mailing.
- The members of the Church Council, who have had extra meetings and responsibilities this past month as a result of responding to our financial crisis.

## **All Saints' Sunday**

In worship on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> we will honor those who have died and celebrate the Christian promise of eternal life. There will be an opportunity for worshippers to light a candle in memory of their loved ones. Names of congregation and community members who have passed away in the past 5 years will be read aloud, and a bell will toll for each of them. If you wish to have a family member or loved one remembered by name during the service, please submit their name and date of death to the church office by October 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **Piano Weavings**

Dr. Sherri Hansen, a composer from Madison, will be leading our music in worship on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Hansen has recently published *Piano Weavings* through Augsburg (the publishing house of the ELCA). This collection includes some songs that will be new to our congregation, and some new arrangements of familiar hymns. Dr. Hansen has worked as a musician at several ELCA congregations in the Madison area. We are blessed to have her share her music during our worship service!

## **Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Worship Wed Nov 26**

Every year we celebrate our blessings in life with the Evansville community at an ecumenical worship service and fellowship time. Worship this year is hosted by Evansville United Methodist Church, 21 S Madison St, Evansville. All are welcome for worship at 7pm and a reception with pies afterwards.

## **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 30<sup>th</sup>.

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 17<sup>th</sup>. Join Pastor Katya and the Confirmation students in an extra worship service each week as we prepare for the coming of the Messiah!

***Opportunities at Cooksville Lutheran Church***

## **Harvest Dinner November 9<sup>th</sup>!**

Invite your family and friends to this traditional turkey dinner. Ticket sales will begin after worship (11am) and meal service will begin at 11:30am on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex for volunteers and donations.

This year's Harvest Dinner will include and activities for guests to enjoy while they await the meal. Please spread the word and plan to join us!

## **Free Blood Pressure Screenings**

There will be a blood pressure screening on the first Sunday of every month following worship in the Narthex, beginning November 2<sup>nd</sup>. This service is offered free of charge for all who are interested. Please invite others who may benefit from these free screenings!

## **Quilting News**

Cooksville's quilting group made 91 quilts this year! We sent 88 to Lutheran World Relief and will be contributing the other 3 locally. "Thank You!" to the "faithful few" who come on Monday Mornings and a special "Thank You!" to everyone who helped at our Quilting Party.

The quilters meets every Monday at 9:00am in the church basement. All are welcome, regardless of experience.

*Contact Betty Hamilton with any questions (608-882-5757)*

## **Wednesday Midday Music and Prayer**

Join Jeanne Julseth for open organ rehearsals every Wednesday at 11am! All are welcome to come hear a variety of music played on our organ from Holland. Jeanne also happily honors your hymn requests.

Prayer group meets every Wednesday at noon in the Sanctuary. We pray through the names on our prayer list as well as for other concerns as they are brought forward by the group.

***Opportunities at Cooksville Lutheran Church***

## **Concert December 21<sup>st</sup> – Save the Date!**

Cooksville Lutheran Church will welcome classical guitarist Kevin Sherwin for a concert on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Tickets are \$10, and a portion of the proceeds will go to support the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Save the date and invite your friends and family!

Mr. Sherwin studied guitar at The Julliard School and is currently in his third year studying guitar and conducting at Yale University. His concert will include some Slavic, Renaissance, and Baroque music, as well as favorite Christmas songs! Stay tuned for more details to come.

## **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 Sunday Class**

Sunday adult Bible study meets weekly at 8:45am. The group gathers in the church basement, under the Sanctuary. We are studying the book of Acts, so please bring your Bibles. See you then!

## **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. Thanks for your help!



## **Save the Date - Christmas Eve Service**

While you are planning your holiday event calendar please remember to save time to attend worship at Cooksville on Christmas Eve, Dec 24th at 4:00pm and/or 8:00pm.

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

### **Campus Ministry Fundraiser Concert: November 16<sup>th</sup>**

Chance Allies, a Madison-based jazz ensemble, is playing a concert to benefit campus ministry on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, at 4pm, at Midvale Community Lutheran Church (4329 Tokay Blvd, Madison). Tickets are \$20, and all proceeds go to support our three local campus ministries.

Our synod supports campus ministries at UW-Whitewater, UW-Platteville, and UW-Madison. These ministries provide college students with a place to make friends, worship, discuss faith, and remain connected to the church during college. Please come out to support campus ministry!

### **Care Closet Dinner and Talent Show @ St John's – Evansville**

High School senior Hannah Wilke is hosting a turkey dinner on **Saturday, November 1 at 6pm**, followed by a talent show at 7pm. 100% of the proceeds go toward the Care Closet. The dinner will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, 312 S Third St, Evansville. Adult tickets (13+) are \$7; children's (5-13) are \$5, and children 4 & under are free. Everyone is welcome. For more information on ticket sales, talent show sign up, or volunteer opportunities, please contact Hannah Wilke at (608) 921-2380.

### **Evansville Ecumenical Christmas Choir**

Ecumenical Christmas Choir rehearsals take place Wednesdays at 8:30pm, through November. We prepare for a festive concert on December 7. Join in now! St. John's Lutheran Church (312 S Third St) is hosting this year for the rehearsals and concert. Leaders again are Cathy Nevel & Donna Haakenson. Come, sing inspiring music. The group is wide open to all.

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

### **Women of Faith Event**

St. John's Lutheran is hosting a Women of Faith conference, streamed live online November 7th, (6-8pm) and 8<sup>th</sup> (8am-3:30pm). Tickets are \$20, including Saturday lunch. Contact St. John's or Becca Pooock soon for reservations ([beccapooock@gmail.com](mailto:beccapooock@gmail.com) or [608-490-3144](tel:608-490-3144)). Check out the website [www.womenoffaith.com](http://www.womenoffaith.com) for specific speakers and musicians.

### **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).

### **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 11<sup>th</sup> and Janesville Dec 20<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the volunteer coordinator to find out how you can help make a difference: 877-356-4514 or [volunteers@hhuvns.org](mailto:volunteers@hhuvns.org)..

### **Sons of Norway – Lutefisk Dinner**

Saturday November 8, 2014 11:00am-4:00pm 418 W Milwaukee St Janesville. Adults \$15, Children 6-12 \$5, under 5 free. Enjoy Lutefisk, Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Lefse and all the Norwegian goodies.

For more info please contact Pat Mahlum 608-365-1369 or Olga Fast 608-879-2730

## 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.*



## Members and Friends in Prayer

*Everyone on this prayer list is remembered during our Wednesday noon prayer group. Join us in the Sanctuary Wednesdays at noon to surround these people with prayer.*

## 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](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!**



## November 2014 Sunday Leaders

	<b>November 2</b>	<b>November 9</b>	<b>November 16</b>	<b>November 23</b>	<b>November 30</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Nancy Krake	Ilene Axford	Ted Farberg	Nancy Krake	Anne Remley- Haines
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Nancy Krake	Sherri Haakenson	Ted Farberg	Nancy Krake	Anne Remley- Haines
<b>Ushers</b>	Curtis Brandt & Rosa Hanson	Laura Pehler & Rhonda Wethal	Betty & Phil Hamilton	Rosa Hanson & Richard Krake	Betty & Phil Hamilton
<b>Lector</b>	Stacy Wagner	Bob Haakenson	Laurie Schwoerer	Connie Gregerson	Rhonda Wethal
<b>Cantor</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	Nicole Huset (soloist)	<i>None</i>	Rhonda Wethal
<b>Acolyte</b>	Leah & Mekenzie Wagner	Johannes Haakenson	Aleana Krake		Aleana Krake
<b>Organist</b>	Paul Haakenson	Naomi Shep	Sherri Hansen	Naomi Shep	Paul Haakenson
<b>Sunday School</b>	Rhonda Wethal	Marcia Ouchakof & Nicole Huset	Dustin Huset	Sue Parsons	Curtis Brandt
<b>Coffee Hour Host</b>	Rhonda Wethal & Brady	<b>Harvest Dinner</b>	Paul & Donna Haakenson		

**Altar Guild: Lynn Bednarek & Sue Wollin**

**Candles: 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](mailto:nkrake@att.net))**

**Sunday School: Pastor Katya (882-4408 or [cooksvillemthepastor@gmail.com](mailto:cooksvillemthepastor@gmail.com))**

**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))**

## November 2014

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

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

Secretary's office hours are Thursday 1-3pm