

# February 2019

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 3rd**. The meeting will take place following worship and a potluck meal. Please bring a dish to share if you are able! All are welcomed around the table.

You may pick up a copy of the Annual Report on **Sunday, January 27**, following worship.

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 2019 and beyond!

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Dear Friends in Christ,



From the  
**Pastor**

I grew up in a country church where music was everywhere. We had a cherub choir, a junior choir, and a senior choir. At Easter and Christmas the choirs led a song service that was mostly the choirs singing anthems. When I was in high school, the senior choir had about fifty people, and I was proud to be one of them. I loved Easter morning when the black veil was lifted from the cross as we stood in darkness, and then the lights came on, the candles were lit, and the grand piano, pipe organ, and another piano, along with three trumpets played the song "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" as we processed into the church singing with all our hearts

Those are such fond memories, and for that reason, I feel so at home here, in a country church where people sing with hearts full of devotion to Jesus.

In first through third grade I was a part of the Cherub Choir. When I studied the Bible as an

*(Continued on page 2)*

adult, I learned that cherub angels (or cherubim) were not sweet little children at all. They were awesome creatures! With swords they guarded the Garden of Eden. Gold images of cherubim were placed in the Holy of Holies above the Ark of the Covenant with wings unfurled and eyes gazing at the mercy seat. The curtains in the tabernacle had cherubim embroidered on them. Ezekiel describes them as massive complex creatures with wheels and multiple faces. But I digress.

The songs I learned in Cherub Choir have proved to be guides and solace in life's troubles, but most importantly, those songs led me into the holy place of God's presence with Christ Jesus.

## Turn your eyes upon Jesus

I have never forgotten the rich foundation of faith that I received by worshipping with my choir director, Marian, and the other "luminous ones" from my childhood days, people who shined with a light so bright that I was drawn to deeper faith in Christ like a moth to a flame. There were Saber & Mid, Margaret, Leif & Jane, Mae & Don, John & Marian. All of them gone home to Jesus, now. They were my Sunday School teachers, choir directors, youth leaders, fellow choir members, but most importantly they were people whose eyes were fixed on Jesus and I saw his reflection in their faces.

One of the little choruses I learned in Cherub choir was this:

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face.  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim.  
In the light of His glory and grace.*

In a college class on educational theory I learned that songs like this were meaningless to young children because the concepts were too abstract for their age-level. Yet I remember tears of longing welling up in my eyes as I sang that song in choir practice. I was being drawn to Jesus because of my choir director.

## Og engler sang så sødt.

One December the Cherub Choir had a special part in the Christmas Song Service — we were to sing the first verse of the hymn "I am so glad each Christmas Eve" in Norwegian! I so wish I had a picture of us all dressed up in our red robes, white cassocks, red bows, and red caps. We sang with our little child voices, and I continued to grow in appreciation for the gospel story of angels singing on the night of Jesus' birth.

*Jeg er så glad hver julekveld, ti da blev Jesus født,  
Da lyste stjernen som en sol, og engler sang så sødt.  
I am so glad each Christmas eve, the night of Jesus' birth,  
Then like the sun the stars shined forth, and angels sang on earth.*

## For if the Father's Eye is on the Sparrow

Marian also gave me a song to sing during adversity. I remember singing it at the top of my lungs while swinging on the swing set in our backyard. "For if the Father's eye is on the sparrow, then surely He will care for you." I loved

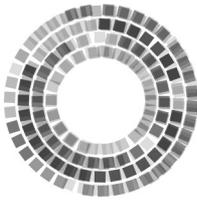
*(Continued on page 12)*



# 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       | 18 | Kevin Kueng           |
| 6  | Lindsay Siekert        | 20 | Connor Page           |
|    | Tamara Jeske-Greenwood | 22 | Benjamin Yilke        |
| 7  | David Nelson           | 23 | Steve Foltz           |
|    | Doug Graf              |    | Hans Schneeberger     |
| 9  | Jessica Foltz          | 25 | Evelyn Beyer          |
| 10 | Anna Hanson            | 26 | Jim Conant            |
| 11 | Kevin Wells            | 27 | Dennis Erik Haakenson |
| 13 | Ryan Harried           | 28 | Marilyn Kueng         |
| 16 | Jane Gomez             |    |                       |



## We make God visible...together

A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that

all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.

That is what our life in [the church] is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: "I make God visible." But others who see us together can say: "They make God visible." [Christian] community is where humility and glory touch.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen

**Food & Fellowship:** These cold winter mornings especially give us a good reason to enjoy something warm to drink and good conversation. *Please join us!* There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Room for those who want to contribute





# Worship Matters

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

## Chi Rho

“Chi” and “rho” are the first two letters in the Greek spelling for Christ (XPICTOC, pronounced “Christos”). The blending of these two letters into one symbol formed a “sacred monogram.”



Early Christians created many such symbols as codes to indicate their discipleship while avoiding detection by Roman persecutors.

Many variations of the Chi Rho symbol exist, incorporating a cross, a shepherd’s crook, the Greek letters alpha and omega, an anchor and other images.'



## Holy Communion

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

*May the body  
and blood of our Lord  
Jesus Christ strengthen us in  
faith and bring us to eternal life.*



## Funeral

1/25/2019

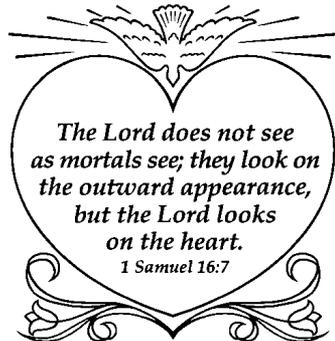
### Steven Patterson Ehle

Born January 16, 1949

Entered life eternal

January 15, 2019

*Rest eternal grant him, O Lord;  
and let light perpetual  
shine upon him.*



*The Lord does not see  
as mortals see; they look on  
the outward appearance,  
but the Lord looks  
on the heart.*

1 Samuel 16:7

# Upcoming Worship News and Notes

*Then you will call on me and come and pray to me,  
and I will listen to you. -Jeremiah 29:12*



## Ash Wednesday Worship

March 6 at 7:00 PM  
Imposition of Ashes &  
Holy Communion

**Lenten meals** will be served beginning March 13th at 6:00 pm. A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. We need two-three families for each week. Please think about helping prepare and serve the meals. Many hands make light work.



## Midweek Lenten Services on Wednesdays during Lent

Light Supper at 6 PM  
Holden Evening Prayer at 7 PM

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



*Please take note that Easter falls on the 3rd Sunday of  
April this year, therefore we will not have a  
Homestead Service that month.*



# Adult and Child Education

Children, obey your parents in everything,  
for this pleases the Lord. ~Colossians 3:20

**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.

## Leaders

Curtis Brandt  
Rhonda Wethal  
Sue Parsons  
Linda Sime  
Connie Gregerson  
Jennifer Nelson

## This Month's Lessons

Feb. 3 "Jeremiah"  
*Jeremiah 1: 4-10*

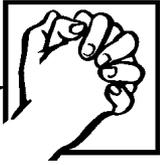
Feb. 10 "The Disciples"  
*Luke 5: 1-11; 8:1-3*

Feb. 17 "The Beatitudes"  
*Luke 6:17-26*

Feb. 24 "Joseph Feeds  
His Family"  
*Genesis 45: 3-11, 15*

You will not get through your Christian walk of faith without studying the Bible. Everything you need in life is in God's Word. With it we find encouragement and guidance on our walk of faith. With it we learn about the gospel of Jesus Christ, the attributes of God, God's commandments, the meaning of life. We must all get to know God more through His Word. Make it your goal to read your Bible daily.

Join others in their walk of faith by attending our Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings at 8:45 am, before our 10:00 am Worship Service. Please come!



# Time for Prayer

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

## Wednesdays 10:00 a.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 on it, please contact Kevin Brekke.

### *Please remember the following members and friends in prayer:*



Nancy Krake, Donna Haakenson, Regina Kucharik, Ramona Whittier, Judy Loy, Harlow Phillips, Vicky Hubbell, John Garvan.

**CLC Special Friends:** Anna Hanson, Charles Hoff, Don Farberg, Dorothy Froemming, Rhea Wethal, Ruth Erickson, Virginia Sime, David Nelson, Joyce Leopold.

**Military:** Andrew Newcomb, Ben Berge.



## Affectionately yours

St. Valentine, a Roman priest, was martyred in 270 A.D. for loving Jesus. Some sources say he performed weddings after the emperor banned them; others say he rescued Christians from Roman prisons. Two centuries later, the pope declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day.

According to legend, the priest signed his letters "Your Valentine." Later, Christians followed suit to honor him. By the mid-1700s, friends and sweethearts exchanged heart-shaped trinkets or sent handwritten notes of affection on February 14.



# 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

- The **Stoughton Food Pantry** thanks CLC for a **\$50** donation.
- The **Skaalen Home** thanks CLC for a contribution of **\$250**.
- Lutherdale thanks CLC for the year-end gift of **\$1,250** for support of **“Let The Children Come”** annual fund drive!
- And thank you all for your ongoing Food Pantry FOOD donations that are of such help to so many!

## Registration for Lutherdale Summer Camp is open!



Last summer, three of our youth attended, thanks to the generous support of the church and congregation!

Won't you please consider a gift to this fund this year? Simply write your check or offering envelope out with the memo line reading “Lutherdale Youth Camp” and your donation will be dedicated for that purpose!

### Early Bird Discount Ends March 6th, 2019!

A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required to register. Tuition for one week ranges from \$450- \$750 depending on when the registration is filed.

Parents, grandparents, and families can find more information about the camp and this summer's programs by visiting their website:

<https://www.lutherdale.org/programs/summer-camps/>

*A generous person will prosper;*

*whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

*~Proverbs 11:25*

## Nobody has this Ox...but God



There is a magnificent movie that I have loved over the years because it is full of inspiration, heartbreak, love (and love lost), and messages about things we all need to learn. I thought of it today when I was typing in the children's lessons for February (page 5) and thinking about the Beatitudes and knowing that the children might struggle to grasp the lesson. Adults struggle too! I personally have, because the message seems so contrary:

- <sup>20</sup> Looking at his disciples, he said:  
"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.  
<sup>21</sup> Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.  
Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.  
<sup>22</sup> Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.  
<sup>23</sup> "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. ~Luke 6:20-26 NIV

The movie is "*Out of Africa*" starring Meryl Streep, a woman determined to have a husband, and children, and to invest her wealth in a business she knows. When all (and I do mean ALL) of her plans crumble and fail and go up in smoke, she struggles and fights with all her might, relying on her own strength, intelligence and sheer determination. Not the wisest woman — because she did not turn to the Lord for help.

In one very dramatic scene, she is driving a supply wagon to an outpost and the road is so difficult the oxen can barely manage. The wilderness is a world of its own and in the night lions attack, intending to take an ox for a meal, but she fights nearly to the death to drive the lions away....too late. The ox has been killed anyway, and she has been wounded. Her wise and loyal friend and employee, a native of Africa, cleans her wounds and says to her:

"Msabu's bleeding. *She does not have this ox.*  
This lion is hungry. *He does not have this ox.*  
This wagon is heavy. *It doesn't have this ox.*  
God is happy, msabu. "

It sounded so harsh to me, the first time I saw that scene, but I was looking at it with the wrong eyes and was as unwise as that woman at the time. Blessed was she who knew not (yet) her Savior, because He came to her that night.

~Submitted by Kelsey Dunn



# Synod & Churchwide News

There is one body and one Spirit ... one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

## LEADERSHIP EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT DAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019

Leadership Education and Development Day “LEAD” will be held on Saturday, March 9. Hold this date as you don’t want to miss the synod’s most popular learning event!

It will be held at Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mount Horeb from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

**Building Beloved Community** is the theme for this year’s Leadership Education and Development Day , with keynote speaker **Rev. Dr. Stephen Bouman**, Executive Director of the Domestic Mission Unit of the ELCA.

If you have questions, please see Pastor Karla to learn more about this event!

You can register on-line at <https://bit.ly/SCSWLEAD2019>

Therefore, my beloved brethren,  
be steadfast, immovable,  
always abounding in the work of the Lord,  
knowing that your toil  
is not in vain in the Lord.

~ I Corinthians 15:58



## The “Short-Cut” that Led Me To this Church

By Joe Wilder

Erin and I are a part of Cooksville Lutheran Church (CLC) because of a 'short cut' I took while driving cross country back in 2015.

At the time, Erin was living on the South side of Madison and once a month I was driving the six hours up from Fort Wayne, Indiana to visit. My trusty Rand McNally atlas showed a small gray line connecting from the interstate at Edgerton over to highway 14 south of Brooklyn. One trip I decided on a whim to see if that road was any faster than my usual route going all the way up to the Madison beltline on I-90.

My first time passing through Cooksville made a distinct impression. I mistakenly thought that this little town with no stop lights had 3 churches! (CLC, the brown church, and what we later discovered to be the school house.) At the time we were also searching for a church to get married in. Erin is originally from Maine and wanted to get married in a 'New England' style church - small white church with an altar, steeple, bell, etc.. After searching far and wide I told her about this amazing town I passed through and we decided to come to Sunday worship a month or so later. We were struck by both the history and the welcoming presence of the church. That first time visiting we sat in front of Art and Doris Olsen who made us feel at home right away. It felt like going to my grandparent's house for a holiday after a long time away at college. Erin and I were married at the church in fall of 2015 and to this day it remains a special place in our hearts.

I'm not sure that 'short cut' saved any time, but it was far more rewarding. I'm glad that we were introduced to the CLC community, to worship and grow as disciples of Christ with all of you.

*Joe is a part of the CONNECT Team: Iene Axford, Paul Haakenson, Joe Wilder, Erik Haakenson and Pastor Karla*



*(Continued from page 2)*

the thought that my Heavenly Father watched and enjoyed the little sparrows so much that if even one fell, he would rush to its aid and carry it home to take care of it. Over the years I watched Marian's faith in her Heavenly Father carry her through the deepest grief and the highest joys. I learned to trust God in the darkest of times, too, and I discovered that he never let me out of his sight. I felt myself carried along by divine hands when I could not support my own faith.

## **Which way are you traveling?**

Jesus talked to his disciples about following the narrow way that leads to life, instead of going down the wide and easy path that seems attractive, but only leads to destruction. The grace of God has helped me so many times to return to that narrow path that leads to life. The song for of which I only remember the chorus went like this:

*Which way are you traveling? Which way are you traveling?  
Which way are you traveling? The broad or narrow way?*

It's a good question. It is a question worth pondering.

- ♦ Where is this road on which I am traveling going to take me?
- ♦ Are there other paths that may be more difficult, but would help me arrive at a better place?

So many dear saints have lit the way for me. Not because of their perfection, but because of their faith in God. When they sang, I know they believed the words of those songs. Their eyes gazed into the face of Jesus. In the darkest night, even when unseen, the stars are still shining, and as on Christmas eve, the angels are still singing. The Father's eye is on all of us, his children, because he cares for us. Traveling the narrow way of following Jesus is the best road to take. They believed in Christ, and I came to believe as well. Now my connection to John and Marian, Leif & Jane, Mid and Saber, Margaret, and Mae is not only found in shared memories of music and days gone by, it is also found in Jesus Christ who holds them alive and well in eternity and who holds my hand here in this time and place. Our friendship is not over, it is alive! And I expect it will grow in the years ahead, until I join them on the other side.

You have similar stories. And for many of you, the people that taught you to follow Jesus, did so right in this church. The songs that guided them, and now guide you, are still sung in this church. God is not done blessing us and so many others through this church. Let's band together and seek the Lord. Let's turn our eyes upon Jesus and trust that God's eye is upon us and that God cares for us. Let's keep singing and walking the narrow way together.

God's Peace be With You! —Pastor Karla Brekke

# 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](mailto:cooksvillelutheranpastor@gmail.com)  
**Secretary, Kelsey Dunn** [cooksvillelutheran@litewire.net](mailto:cooksvillelutheran@litewire.net)  
**Worship Coordinator/Choir Director, Jeanne Julseth:** 608-882-0505



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 7 and see if there might be someone you could write to!



**Thank you to our 2018 Council Members for their Service!**

Martha Johnson (Pres.)  
Tom Severson (V.P.)  
Rhonda Wethal (Sec.)  
Tom Parsons (Treasurer)  
Randy Sime  
Tom Hatlen  
Bob Haakenson  
Anne Brunsell  
Mary Remly  
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.



I return to you, God, in guilt and sorrow.  
But you run — run! — to me,  
sweep me up in your loving embrace and exclaim,  
“Welcome home!” (Luke 15:11-32). I am speechless.



# February Worship Leaders

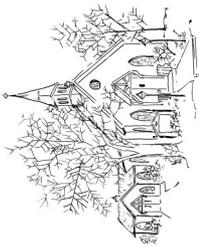
*May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us” (Psalm 67:1 )*

*Thank you to all who so generously share their time and talents to enrich our worship services all year long. A full sign up sheet and printed schedule of the March and Lenten leaders will be posted on the bulletin boards in the church and copies can be obtained in the office if you would like one.*

	<b>Feb 3</b>	<b>Feb 10</b>	<b>Feb 17</b>	<b>Feb 24</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Ilene Axford	Nancy Krake	Kevin Brekke	Curtis Brandt
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Ilene Axford	Nancy Krake	Kelsey Dunn	Curtis Brandt
<b>Lector</b>	Kelsey Dunn	Jennifer Nelson	None	Connie Gregerson
<b>Cantor</b>	Betty Hamilton	Betty Hamilton	Ensemble	Betty Hamilton
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Erik and Katie Haakenson			
<b>Organist</b>	Paul Haakenson	Naomi Shep	Jeanne Julseth	Naomi Shep
<b>Ushers</b>	Rosa Hanson	Rosa Hanson	Rosa Hanson	Rosa Hanson
<b>Sunday School Teacher</b>	Connie Gregerson	Curtis Brandt	Linda Sime	Connie Gregerson
<b>Coffee Hour Host</b>	Annual potluck	<i>(Please sign up in the Fellowship Room)</i>		

# Cooksville Lutheran Calendar for February 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.
					1	2
<b>3</b> <u>4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</u> 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sun. School <b>11:00 Annual Meeting &amp; Potluck</b>	<b>4</b> 9 am Quilting	<b>6</b> 9 5m Maintenance Group	<b>6</b> 10:00 am Prayer Time 7:00 pm Choir	<b>7</b> CONNECT 6 PM	8	9
<b>10</b> <u>5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</u> 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sun. School 11:00 Fellowship	<b>11</b> 9 am Quilting	<b>12</b> 9 am Maintenance Group	<b>13</b> 10:00 am Prayer Time 7:00 pm Choir	<b>14</b> VALENTINES DAY	15	16
<b>17</b> <u>6TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</u> 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sun. School 11:00 Fellowship	<b>18</b> 9 am Quilting 7 pm Council Meeting	<b>19</b> 9 am Maintenance Group	<b>20</b> 10:00 am Prayer Time 7:00 pm Choir	<b>21</b>	22	24
<b>24</b> <u>7TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</u> 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sun. School 11:00 Fellowship	<b>25</b> 9 am Quilting	<b>26</b> 9 am Maintenance Group	<b>27</b> 10:00 am Prayer Time 11 am Gathering 7:00 pm Choir	<b>28</b>		



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

*Address Correction Requested*