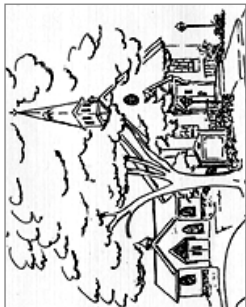


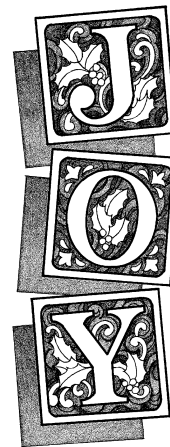
Cooksville Lutheran Church
 11927 W. Church Street
 Evansville, WI 53536

Address Correction Requested



December 2018

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



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Dear Friends in Christ,

Advent worship is designed to be a quiet reflective time. Which is a good thing because the world can be a swirling chaos all around us during the “holiday season.” So much to do. So little time. We want to experience all the wonders of the season of Christmas ... but just getting busier won’t necessarily deliver the magic we long for.

I love to watch all the Christmas movies on TV at this time of year. The stories are inspirational, heartfelt, romantic, funny, and entertaining. But they cannot give us the new life we receive from participating in worship. Something special happens in worship. Jesus shows up and stretches out his hand to you. Instead of watching a Christmas story, you become part of THE Christmas story, his story.

(Continued on page 2)





Come to worship. Quiet your mind and allow God to speak to your heart, to refresh your soul, and to increase your faith. God can do things within us that we cannot do for ourselves. This holiday season, try inviting the Holy Spirit to transform your thoughts and heart. See if it makes a difference. You might be surprised by God's peace — the same peace and goodwill the angels continue to sing about.

God's Peace be with you this Advent & Christmas season!
Pastor Karla Brekke

The mission of the ELCA in four words is, "God's work. Our hands." That is true for us and it is what we have seen here at Cooksville Lutheran this past year. Max, Asher, and Ellis were baptized into Christ—each one gave the congregation a special moment as we watched God at work. Brady began confirmation, full of enthusiasm. Our regular Sunday school kids are eager to meet with their faith-filled teachers to learn the Bible stories.

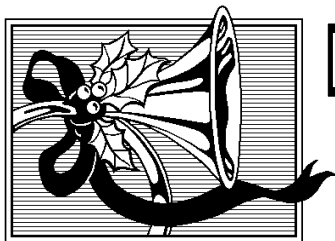
Members and friends of the congregation have worked together on service projects, like our church & community food drive, as well as fundraisers, like our harvest dinner. We have consoled one another when we said goodbye to Kathy, Tara, Reed, and Wayne. Words of encouragement and concern, and promises of prayer are shared with those going through tough times. Laughter and goodwill is shared among people during coffee hour. Homebound members are visited and given the gift of Christ's presence in Holy Communion. You can think of many more times you have seen God at work through our joined hands.

Out of gratefulness for another year of God's grace through Cooksville Lutheran, can you offer a gift of money this month so that we can finish the year strong? At the end of November, we were about \$7,000 behind our budget. **The council invites you to prayerfully consider giving an extra gift to the general fund during this month.** —Pastor Karla on behalf of the Council: Martha Johnson, Tom Severson, Rhonda Wethal, Bob Haakenson, Tom Hatlen, Randy Sime, Herb Hanson, Mary Remley, Anne Brunsell.



Cooksville Lutheran Calendar for December 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.
<p><i>"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Luke 1:78-79</i></p>						
2 First Advent 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sun. School 11:00 Fellowship Hanging the Greens/ Fill Cookie Tins	3 9 am Quilting	4 9 am Maintenance Group	5 10 am Prayer Time 7 pm Choir	6 	7 	8
9 Second Advent 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sun. School 11:00 Fellowship	10 9 am Quilting	11 9 am Maintenance Group	12 10 am Prayer Time 7 pm Choir	13	14 	15
16 Third Advent 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Pageant 11:00 Fellowship	17 9 am Quilting 7 pm Council Meeting	18 9 am Maintenance Group	19 10 am Prayer Time 7 pm Choir	20	21	22
23 Fourth Advent 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sun. School 11:00 Fellowship	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 pm Candlelight Worship	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 	26 10 am Prayer Time 7 pm Choir	27	28	29
30 First Christmas 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sun. School 11:00 Fellowship	31 NEW YEARS EVE	<p><i>...the Mighty One has done great things for me ... He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant ... in remembrance of his mercy. — Luke 1:49-54</i></p>				



December Worship Leaders

Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

-Psalm 100:2

	<i>Sunday Dec 2 Advent 1</i>	<i>Sunday Dec 9 Advent 2</i>	<i>Sunday Dec 16 Advent 3</i>	<i>Sunday Dec 23 Advent 4</i>	<i>Monday Dec 24 Christmas Eve</i>	<i>Sunday Dec 30 1st Sunday of Christmas</i>
Assisting Minister	Curtis Brandt	Ilene Axford	Kevin Brekke			
Ushers	Anne Brunsell & Rosa Hanson	Rosa Hanson	Rosa Hanson	Rosa Hanson	Rosa Hanson	Rosa Hanson
Lector	Jennifer Nelson	Rhonda Wethal	—	Connie Gregerson		
Advent Litany	Rich Krake, Rocky & Lyric	Rhonda, Brady & Grayson Wethal	Kevin Brekke			
Organist	Paul Haakenson	Naomi Shep	Jeanne Julseth	Naomi Shep	Jeanne Juseth	Paul Haakenson
Altar Guild	Marilyn Kueng & Connie Gregerson	Sue Wollin	Pat Foltz	Ilene Axford	Eric & Katie Haakenson	Lynn Bednarek
Sunday School Teacher	Rhonda Wethal	Sue Parsons	<i>(no Sunday School)</i>	<i>(no Sunday School)</i>	<i>(no Sunday School)</i>	<i>(no Sunday School)</i>
Coffee Hour Host	Marilyn Kueng & Connie Gregerson		Evelyn Beyer			

If you are able to help with any of these volunteer opportunities in December, please let Pastor Karla know or email cooksvill Lutheran@litewire.net

Thank you to all who help out so regularly!



Advent and Christmas Schedule

Dec. 2—First Sunday in Advent—Worship 10 am

“Hanging of the Greens” at Cooksville Lutheran. Help decorate the church for Advent/Christmas, pack cookie tins for our special friends.

The Christmas Cantata concert by the Evansville Ecumenical Choir at 7 pm at Oak Grove, 101 W. Church St., Evansville.



Dec. 9—Second Sunday in Advent—Worship 10 am

Dec. 13 — Longest Night This service will be held on Thursday at 6 pm, followed by the release of sky lanterns in the cemetery in memory of loved ones.

Dec. 16—Third Sunday in Advent Worship 10 am

“Welcome to Bethlehem!” The third annual Christmas Pageant in which everyone can participate—children, adults, members and guests! All are welcome!

Dec. 23 —Fourth Sunday in Advent—Worship 10 am

Dec. 24—Candlelight Worship at 4 pm

Dec. 25 — Christmas Day—there will be no services at Cooksville Lutheran on Tuesday.





Worship Matters

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

Longest Night Thursday, December 13, 6:00 pm

Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved one who has recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern; we need to know that we are not alone.

We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us.

Come out on Thursday, December 13th at 6:00 pm, and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle - and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

Everyone, is welcome. The brief service will be followed by the release of sky lanterns for those who wish to participate. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Room to reserve a lantern.



© LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

In 1865, a young American preacher named Phillips Brooks spent time in and around the fields of Bethlehem. On Christmas Eve, he attended worship in the Church of the Nativity, located on the site where tradition says Jesus was born.

Brooks was so spiritually touched by the experience that he later wrote a hymn for children to sing on Christmas Eve in his Philadelphia church.

Lewis Redner, the church organist and Sunday school superintendent, composed the music for the beloved hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Today it appears in most denominational hymnals. Brooks, a giant of a man physically (6'6" tall), was known throughout America as an eloquent and dominant force in the pulpit.



There is a large statue of the gifted man of God in front of Boston's famous Trinity Church, where Brooks last served. His death in 1893 was a major event in Boston. Upon learning of his passing, a 5-year-old girl exclaimed, "Oh, Mama, how happy the angels will be."



Let's Keep in Touch!

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

Each February we print a new church directory. Please fill out a form so that we can be sure to have the latest contact information for you or a family member, especially if someone has moved, changed phone numbers, gotten a new email address, etc. We are especially grateful for contact information for students and young people who may have moved out of the area temporarily, so that we can stay in touch!

The annual meeting of the Cooksville Lutheran Church congregation will be the first Sunday in February, following worship. **See you there!** Please also bring a dish to pass for our potluck luncheon.



Opportunities Around the Community

"Christmas with the Chordhawks" concert on Saturday, December 1st at 1:30 pm at First Lutheran Church in Janesville.

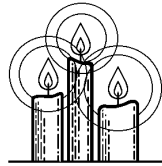


See Kevin Brekke for tickets!!

The annual **Ecumenical Christmas Concert** is on Sunday, December 2nd at 7:00 pm at Oak Grove Church, Evansville.

"Welcome to Bethlehem!" Invite folks and children to be a part of the Christmas Pageant on December 16 right here at Cooksville Lutheran Church. All are welcome— there are no lines to memorize or rehearse! Choose a costume and listen as the Innkeeper tells the story of the Christ Child. Sing along with many of our favorite seasonal songs such as "The Friendly Beasts" and "Go Tell it on the Mountain" and "JOY to the WORLD!" The service is at 10:00 am. Do please bring a friend or neighbor!

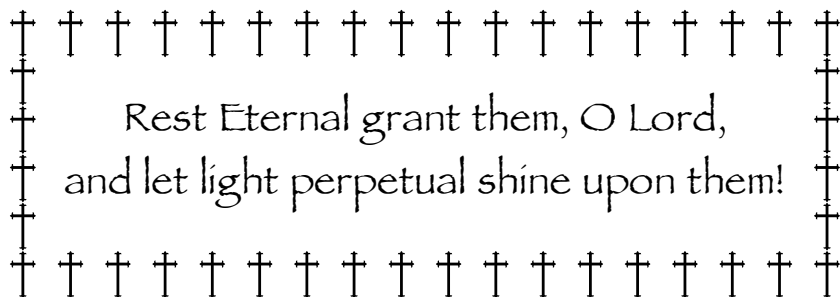
Those remembered in Cooksville's "Book of Remembrance" November 2018



Remembered:

Remembered By:

Deb Olsen *Arthur Olsen*
Dr. Hollis & Carol Sears *Nancy & Basil Remley*
Beatrice Phillips *Erin Wilder*
Keith Neuhauser *Joe Wilder*
Dale Kjernes *Bob Haakenson*
Marian Kjernes *Bob Haakenson*
Char Parsons *Jim Parsons*
Reed Remley *Remley Family*
Mary Gregerson *Connie Gregerson*
Lucille Anderson *Kevin Brekke*
Mae, Craig, & Carl Schollmeyer ... *Karla Brekke*
Wayne Rohloff *Barb Kiskunis*
Norma Kettler Demmer *Rich & Nancy Krake*
Beatrice Niles *Connie Gregerson*
Kim Niles Soha *Connie Gregerson*
Robert Hanson *Earlene Hanson*
Bernhard Sathe *Linda Sathre*
Gladys Sathre *Linda Sathre*
Duane Monk *Phil Monk*
Kathy Snell *Cooksville Lutheran*
Tara Krake Davis *Cooksville Lutheran*



Welcome to Bethlehem

December 16, 10 am

The third annual Christmas Pageant will come alive December 16 at the Homestead Service!!

Everyone is invited to be a part of the little town of Bethlehem and its night of all nights.



No lines to memorize, no rehearsals. Bring your family, neighbors, grandchildren, great grand children and join the celebration.

BE A PART OF IT ALL on December 16 at 10:00 am. Come early to choose your costume or prop!!

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.



⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

~Luke 2: 8-14

The Advent Wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth.

The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World — he brought light and life to a dark world



In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:4-5).

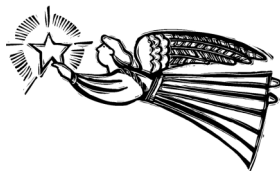
On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.



*For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
~Isaiah 9:6*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷**And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.** ~Colossians 3:12-17



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.

- ♦ Hand soap refills
- ♦ Blank greeting cards and birthday cards

Local Food Pntry 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; *Boxed Dinners, canned Fruit, Canned pasta, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Hamburger-helper, Tuna Fish, Toothbrushes, Toilet paper, Deodorant, Shampoo, Feminine Products, Bath Soap, Toothpaste, etc.*



Thank You for a Successful Harvest Dinner!

Thank you to everyone who donated food, made lefse, served, cooked, and helped in any way with the Harvest Dinner! Your work and donations made it a success. We heard over and over again from our guests that the food was excellent. The bake sale and silent auction also added another activity for our guests to enjoy, as well as another opportunity for us to be hospitable to them. Everyone worked well together, and so we had a lot of fun, too. This was not only a successful fund-raiser, but it also gave our guests a little taste of what it is like to be a part of our fun-loving church family.

We received about \$5,000 in profit for the mission of Cooksville Lutheran Church, plus we gave about 50 meals away to people in need. Thank you!

Rhonda Wethal and Linda Simes
Co-chairs for the Harvest Dinner

Thank You

\$ 1,035	Bake Sale & Lefse
\$ 1,346	Silent Auction
\$ 2,908	Dinner
\$ 5,289	Total



Time for Prayer

Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. ~Psalm 116:2

Wednesday 10 am in the Fellowship Room

Each Wednesday at 10:00 am we gather to pray for the people on our prayer list and for the people and ministries of Cooksville Lutheran Church.

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Nancy Krake, Bill Leopold, Donna Haakenson, Regina Kucharik, Steve Ehle, Barbara Kiskunas, Ramona Whittier, Basil Remley, Rhonda Tomlin, Judy Loy, Dorothy Helley, Harlow Phillips, Bill Frisbee, Vicky Hubbell, John Garvan.

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

Military: Andrew Newcomb, Ben Berge.

Small packages, great things

The motto for Hershey's Kisses used to be "Big things come in small packages!" That also could be a motto for Bethlehem, for Baby Jesus and, indeed, for us. It's an important message to remember when we fear we're too weak to fix the world's problems, too small to fight the gigantic terror that threatens a loved one or too lacking in abilities we see in others.

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah," God declares through the prophet Micah (5:2, NRSV), "from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel."

Bethlehem was a mere village. God's ruler for Israel started as an infant. His birthplace was a small stable, not a palace or temple. But size isn't everything. Big — that is, great — things can come in small packages. And thanks to the tiny baby who grew up to share immeasurably huge love with the world, God can do great things through you, too!



CONNECT NEWS

Team members include Ilene Axford, Joe Wilder, Paul Haakenson, Erik Haakenson and Pastor Karla.



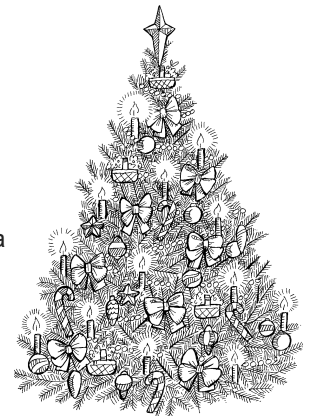
We hope you have noticed that the CONNECT Team is working again. We continue to explore how we can increase 'connectedness'; our shared history, our

experiences, our hopes and longings, and our commitment to caring for each other, especially in times of need.



The group was very involved in Harvest Dinner (along with dozens of you) and are proud of the efforts of the entire congregation to reach out to the whole community. Connections were made during Lefse baking Saturdays, potato peeling 'circle', dining room setup, serving turkey dinners, cleanup, and bagging leftover food for its second use. Add the work and pride in producing items for a wonderful silent auction and bake sale, with all of those added opportunities to meet and get to know our guests, and you see the ripples of friendship enlarge.

On Sunday, Nov. 11. CONNECT sponsored another conversation about ways our actions have affected others, particularly in a positive way. We asked what things have you done that have made a difference in others lives. One easy answer was talking about Harvest Dinner, where Cooksville Lutheran offers a delicious meal and fellowship to our friends and neighbors. The benefits of working together and serving the community through a meal was truly felt and, it became the gift that keeps on giving with enough food left over to offer the same meal to the congregation on Nov. 18.



Others mentioned kind actions (visits, meals,) performed within the community, and prayer and awareness of special needs (illness, surgery) in our area/Church family.

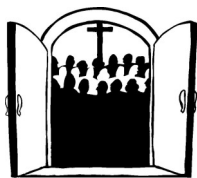
Future discussion will expand this awareness of sharing the gifts we have been given and with telling our individual faith stories.

As promised, a new feature will be part of these reports. We will feature someone's story and the way they were led to Cooksville Lutheran. The first story we will enjoy will be as Joe Wilder shares what brought him and Erin to Cooksville.





Upcoming Events & Deadlines



Congregational
MEETING

The regular Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on February 3rd, 2019 following the 10:00 am Worship Service. This is also our annual Potluck Luncheon.

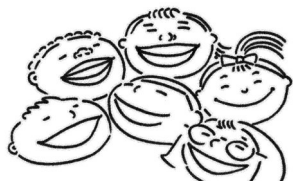
The deadline for submissions for the Annual Report is January 15, 2019.

You may submit them to the office as handwritten documents or by email: cooksvill Luther@litewire.net. Please take a moment to confirm with Kelsey that she received it—thank you!

Lutherdale 2019 Summer Programs for Youth!

Believe it or not, it is already time to plan ahead for the unique and awesome themed adventures for kids at Lutherdale in the months of June through August! **Families who register before January 9th will enjoy a 45% discount!!!**

There are copies of the brochures in the Fellowship Room for anyone interested!



* If you would like to donate to *
* help sponsor one of our CLC *
* youth, please simply indicate *
* in the memo line on your *
* offering check "Lutherdale *
* Bible Camp" and the funds will *
* be allocated for that special *
* gift! **Thank you!** *

**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

Please submit your Newsletter items to the office by the 15th of each month, to be included in the upcoming issue—thank you!



December Birthdays

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

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Ilene Axford | 18 Bill Leopold |
| 3 Reed Remley | 24 McKenzie Wagner |
| 8 Sandy Page | 25 Mark Doudlah |
| 11 Daniel Wethal | Connie Stace |
| 15 Paul Haakenson | 27 Michelle Parsons |
| 18 Kathie Gunn | Richard Grant |
| | 28 Rosa Hanson |



Sunday School Lessons

Sun. Dec 2
"A Good Ruler"
Rhonda Wethal

Sun. Dec 9
"Zechariah"
Curtis Brandt

Sun. Dec 16
"WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM"
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Led by the "Innkeeper"
Planned by Jeanne Julseth
(see page 5)

Sun. Dec 23
No Sunday School

Sun. Dec 30
No Sunday School



Christmas in us

Though Christ a thousand times
In Bethlehem be born,
If he's not born in thee
Thy soul is still forlorn.

The cross on Golgotha
Will never save thy soul;
The cross in thine own heart
Alone can make thee whole.

—Angelus Silesius

The Word became flesh and
made his dwelling among us.

We have seen his
glory, the glory of the
one and only Son, who
came from the Father,
full of grace and truth.

~John 1 : 14

