

Growing Together

December 2022

Cross Lutheran Church & School

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Our mission:

**Bring people to
Christ.**

**Teach Christians
to be disciples.**

**Send disciples to
reach the world.**



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From the Pastor’s desk at Cross Lutheran Church-NALC,



“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” (Isaiah 8:8-9)

“Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from

their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us).” (Matthew 1:20-23)

A frantic shopper rushes into a convenience store and asks, “Where will I find the holiday eggnog or the “Holly Nog?” The clerk points and calmly says, “In the dairy case, last aisle, halfway down.” “Fantastic,” the shopper exclaims, and proceeds happily locating that precious holiday “liquid gold” making all things good once more. For some, the Holidays without holiday eggnog is just wrong! It just isn’t complete!

Now without a doubt, I would expect there will be some reading this that will say, “Yuck! Eggnog! I hate eggnog.” If that is the case, replace the eggnog in the story with something like, Hickory Honey Ham. My point is that at least once in your lifetime, you will frantically look for something, and so you must go to the place where you would expect to find it, and if it is there, you will find it indeed.

It goes without saying that there is just something special about this time of the year. For many, it is the excitement that comes from the mystery of the season. It may be the mystery of who will be a guest at Holiday meals. It may be the mystery of what day that wonderful snowfall will appear blanketing the land making all things white, clean, and new. For young and old alike, it may be the mystery of what is wrapped ever so carefully and placed under the Christmas tree.

Just the mere mention of Christmas at Chapel brings big smiles and instantaneous excitement to all the youth. Christmas is coming and we can’t wait for whatever surprises are coming with it. We wait impatiently with anticipation! We watch with a childlike faith. We hear the good news that brings us great joy! “... **for the joy of the Lord is your strength.**” (Nehemiah 8:10)

God promised the joy of a Savior in Genesis 3 and has continued to proclaim the good news of a Messiah through the prophets of old. The joy of the season is the good news of Jesus Christ, our Savior! The Season of Christmas without Christ is just wrong! It just isn’t complete!

(Continued on page 2)

For many, the only time that they may feel the need to attend a Christian church service during the year is at Christmas time. Something in the season draws many nearer to hear the words that were proclaimed over two and three thousand years ago. Many of us remember growing up hearing the Christmas story and even had to endure the memorization, the singing practice, and the costumes of the annual children’s Christmas program. Who could have foreseen the memories that were created during that time in our lives? And now as adults, we are again drawn to God’s house in child-like faith to hear the same words of peace and joy. **“And the angel said to them [the shepherds], “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”** (Luke 2:10)

A frantic sinner rushes into a church and asks, “Where will I find “good news of great joy?” The usher points and calmly says, “In the church sanctuary, in any row, in any seat.” “Fantastic,” the sinner exclaims, and proceeds happily locating that perfect pew to hear God’s precious Word making all things good once more. For all God’s people, the Season of Christmas...and the Season of Epiphany, and the Season of Lent, and the Season of Easter, and the Season of the Pentecost and the Sundays after Pentecost without Christ just isn’t complete!



“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 8:8-9)

If you are looking for **“the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,”** (Philippians 4:7) OR **“the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,”** (2 Corinthians 1:3) OR **“the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,”** (Ephesians 3:9) you must go to the place where you would expect to find it, and if it is there, you will find it indeed. I pray that you find God’s peace, mercy, comfort, and love this Advent and Christmas Season in the place where you would expect to find it, in God’s house.

~ O come, all ye faithful...O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord! ~

In Christ, Pastor Glenn

Preparing for Worship

December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent

1R – Isaiah 11:1-10, P – Psalm 72:1-7, 2R – Romans 15:4-13, G – Matthew 3:1-12

December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

1R - Isaiah 35:1-10, P – Psalm 146, 2R – James 5:7-11, G – Matthew 11:2-15

December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

1R - Isaiah 7:10-17, P - Psalm 24, 2R - Romans 1:1-7, G - Matthew 1:18-25

December 24 - Christmas Eve

1R - Isaiah 7:10-14, P – Psalm 110:1-4, 2R – 1 John 4:7-16, G – Matthew 1:18-25

December 25 - Christmas Day

1R - Isaiah 52:7-10, P - Psalm 2, 2R - Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12), G - John 1:1-14 (15-18)

Remember Those in Need of Continued Prayer...

Tom Shupe, John Finneren, Delores Lange, Emilee Osentoski, Lydia Decker, Dorothy Henne, Joe Stodola, Matt Edler, Janet Schumacher, Larry Adams, Al Collison, Rachel Higgins, Michelle Walsh, Anna House, Susan Beller, Hope Kittel, Inez Buchholz, Noah Adams, Kyle Walker, Whitney Peyerk, Kayle Thepsourinthone, Kay Schuette, Roberta Danks, Posie Tuckey, Corey Messing, Marvin Trost, Kevin Faupel, Ezra Sturm, Deann Lewis, Robert Krzeszewski, Delores Elftman and Martin Knost.



Those in Honorable Service Our Country...

Nathan Schulz, U.S. Marines, Nicholas Swanson, U.S. Air Force, Michael Cox, U.S. Navy,

Celebrate



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jordan Licht
Denvyr Koroleski
- 2 Mark Trost
- 3 Haley Cucinello
- 4 Cindy Buchholz
- 6 Troy Schuette
Aaron Shupe
- 9 Neil Herford
Jason Shaw
- 10 Ryan Trost
Maggie Shupe
- 11 Grace Shupe
- 12 Layla LePage
- 15 Roger Renn
Kendal Delpiere
- 17 Richard Koehler Jr.
Maria Schumacher
Jacob Heck
- 18 Lorraine LePage
- 19 Kaoty Smith
- 20 Cheryl Sturm
Kim Schadd
- 22 Donna Schuette
Livia LePage
- 23 Bill Love
- 25 Jim Siewert

- 30 Ethan Yackle
Pearl Parsell
- 31 Mitchell Schuette
Dylan Kunisch

ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Paul & Karen Schuette,
48 years
- 20 Kent & Lori McKenzie,
42 years



Advent Hope, Christmas Joy



A choral and handbell concert
Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022
3:00 p.m.

Join us for a program of choral and handbell music,
Scripture readings and congregational carols

Cross Lutheran Church
200 Ruppert Street, Pigeon, MI

From the Desk of...Carrie Ward

What a joy it is to teach! I give thanks to God often for the blessing of a job where I get to spend my days with children who are happy and excited about learning. Not only that, but that I have the opportunity to teach them about their Creator, the One who loves them more than anyone, the One who forgives us when we make mistakes, our Helper in all things.

Our classroom has been a busy place this year. I give thanks for my helper Mrs. Maust, who helps me to make teaching time run smoothly. If you were to walk in our classroom you would see what has been described as a “hive” of busy worker bees, all doing their task and making that hum of happy workers. At times it seems chaotic, but there is order in our “chaos”.

We have been blessed with the opportunity to head out into our world and learn from others as well. We had a trip to Delta Planetarium where we learned more about the stars and the cycle of the sun, earth and moon. We traveled to Leaman's Green Applebarn and saw how the pollination process works to make delicious apples. And most recently we traveled to Haist Flowers to create beautiful centerpieces for our Thanksgiving tables. We are learning so many great things.

As always I give thanks for you, Cross Lutheran Church, for making it possible for this wonderful place of learning to be here. We are working hard to do our best for the Lord every day and we all give thanks for your Church, for making it possible for us to be here working together. May the Lord richly bless you for your gift and your generosity. Thank you!

December Calendar

- 12/04** Students sing in church
- 12/09** Christmas Fair
- 12/20** Christmas Palooza 1pm & 7 pm
- 12/22 thru 01/02** Christmas Break



Meet our new Early Childcare Director!

We welcome Jessica Schwartz to her new position as Early Childcare Director. Jessica lives in Sebawaing and is married with two daughters that attend school here at Cross. Jessica has been involved with early education for about ten years. She earned her Preschool CDA just over 3 years ago and is taking college courses towards furthering her early education. Jessica has been employed here at Cross Lutheran Childcare since 2019. We pray for a smooth transition into her new role as Director of Early Childcare. Congratulations and God's Blessings!

memorials & gifts

These gifts were received to the glory of God in memory or honor of the following people:

In memory of Elmer Bussema, for Cross Lutheran School:

Joyce Bussema

Jack & Pam Sturm

In memory of Sharon Nehring, for Cross Building fund:

Olga Renn

In memory of Bud Posade, for Cross Building fund:

Olga Renn



Women's Bible Study will meet on **December 14th at 1:30** in the church. We will continue our study by Marjorie J. Thompson titled *Freedom-Finding Peace in Anxious Times*. We are on session four-From Anxiety to Peace. You are welcome to join us anytime, study guides will be available at study.

Christmas Eve Services

4:00 pm

Candlelight with Holy Communion

5:30 pm

Children's Program

8:00 pm

Candlelight with Holy Communion

Christmas Day Service

9:30 am Worship service with Holy Communion



SPECIAL PRELUDE

Sunday, Dec.18, beginning at 9:00 a.m., before the worship service. This extended prelude will feature the choral, handbell and keyboard music from our Dec.11 concert, "Advent Hope, Christmas Joy." Plan to come early and enjoy some wonderful music!

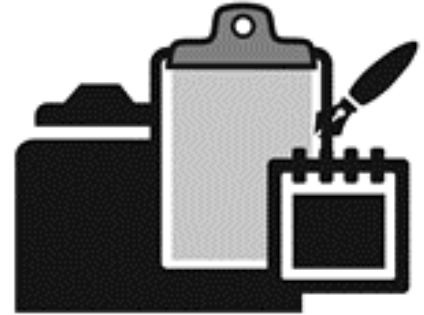


ANNUAL MEETING DEADLINES

- ◆ Deadline for acct. books for audit - 1/6/23
- ◆ Audit Committee to meet & review books – week of 1/9/23
- ◆ Account books picked-up from office – week of 1/16/23
- ◆ Deadline for all reports – 1/23/23
- ◆ Annual Report available 1/29/23
- ◆ Annual Meeting 2/12/23

CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, November 8, 2022



Church Council Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Church Council President, Matt Zimmerman, at 7:01 pm

Present: Matt Zimmerman, Kristy Carriveau, John House, Norm Nelson, Jason Shaw, Dick Koehler, Nancy Schuette and Pastor Glenn S. Sokolowski. Absent: Kim Sears

Guests: David Faupel, Phil Schadd

DEVOTIONS: Pastor shared a devotion and prayer.

AGENDA: Approved with addition of Daycare expenses under New Business *Jason Shaw made a motion to approve the Agenda, seconded by, Motion carried.*

MINUTES: *Al Licht made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by John House. Motion carried.*

GUESTS PRESENTATIONS AND REQUESTS:

Principal's Report for Cross School:

Total students enrolled for 2022-2023: 68

November 18- Robotics Tournament

Applied for grant money from the State for safety items and robotics.

Marcine Moore has resigned as the school cook. December 9th is her last day.

The position has been posted.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Matt Zimmerman, President- Nothing to report.

Kristy Carriveau, Secretary – Nothing to report.

Phil Schadd gave the Treasurer's report- Reported that we're over budget, \$10,735.46. *Motion was made by John House to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Nancy Schuette, motion carried.*

ADVISOR'S REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Attended NALC Mission District Convocation at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Trufant, MI (Saturday, Oct 15)

Pastor's vacation (October 18-27)

Presented NALC PCAT at Peace Lutheran Church, St. Joseph, MI (Saturday, Oct 29)

Sang and played guitar with Cross Students, All Saints' Sunday, Mission Sunday

Pastor and LuAnne sorted and boxed collected items for NALC Disaster Response

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: Dick Koehler, School Board President

Nothing to report

MINISTRIES REPORTS – TRUSTEES

Property: Al Licht

Marlette Roofing to fix garage roof and leaking church roof areas before winter. The flat roof may be need replacing in 2023

Booms Construction is replacing the gym siding this week

Helm's Caulking is grinding out old sealant and resealing the church front this week.

Waiting for school locker name plates to arrive.

Music & Worship: John House

Music director evaluation will take place on November 22

Christmas Concert 2022- Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 p.m. with a reception to follow

Stewardship: Norm Nelson

Benevolence total for the disaster relief is approximately \$1,000

Mission Outreach: Nancy Schuette

Next meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 9

November 6th Mission Sunday went well. Many donations were given by church members, school families, and area church members.

Parish Life: Nancy Schuette

Nothing to report

Youth: Jason Shaw

Nothing to report

OLD BUSINESS:

Proposed salary increases for church & school staff of 8% ***Motion was made by Dick Koehler to accept the increase, seconded by Al Licht, motion carried.***

Nominating Committee will meet in the month of November

Still looking for snow removal for this year

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Report-making preparations to meet to determine the annual budget

Repair flat area roof on church-will add cost to the 2023 church budget

Daycare Expenses: a council/daycare board meeting will be scheduled to discuss Daycare costs to church and school. A monthly amount will be agreed upon at that meeting.

Next Council Meeting – Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:34 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Kristy Carriveau, Secretary





A Thank you card
from Mary Bates -
NALC Disaster
Response

To the members of
Cross Lutheran
Church

Dear Pastor Glenn +
everyone at Cross,
Thank you so much for
all you do! You guys are
great - Ken + I really
enjoyed our time with you
& really appreciated the
gift baskets - they are
beautiful. All your
donations have been
delivered to our families
in need - Thank you
again + God bless,
Mary

NALC DISASTER RESPONSE – “STUFF THE TRUCK” 2022
Cross Lutheran Church & School Pigeon, Michigan

The collection effort ending November 6, 2022, is summarized below:

Gift cards - \$600 Door offering (approximately \$403) Meals served: 105

- **Bibles – 126**
- **Flood buckets (complete) – 5**
and the additional cleaning items:
 - **Bucket – 1**
 - **Bleach – 4**
 - **Lysol/Pine Sol – 10**
 - **Clorox wipes – 3**
 - **Lysol spray– 1**
 - **Paper Towels, rolls – 17**
 - **Large Playtex gloves – 4**
 - **Medium Playtex gloves – 4**
 - **Microfiber cloth – 1**
 - **Trash bags 13 gal. – 2 pks**
 - **Large trash bags 30 gal. – 2 pks**
 - **Dawn dish soap – 2**
 - **Scrub brushes – 4**
 - **Cotton gloves, Large – 1**
 - **Sponge scrub pads – 7**
 - **Scrub brushes – 4**
 - **Comet cleanser – 7**
- **Health Kits (complete) – 6**
and the additional personal care items:
 - **Bar soap – 53**
 - **Wash cloths – 72**
 - **4-gallon Ziploc bags – 3**
 - **Diapers, adult – 1 pk**
 - **Diapers, baby 1 pk**
 - **Deodorant – 3**
 - **Shampoo – 13**
 - **Combs – 10**
 - **Toothpaste – 24**
 - **Toothbrushes – 44**
 - **Floss – 1**
- **High School Backpacks (complete) – 3**
and the additional school supply items:
 - **Colored Markers – 19 pks**
 - **Pocket folders - 39**
 - **Packs ruled paper – 14**
 - **Ruled composition notebooks – 4**
 - **Bound ruled notebooks – 18**
 - **Mechanical pencils – 28**
 - **#2 Wood pencils – 112**
 - **Colored pencil packs – 8**
 - **Pens – 111**
 - **Rulers – 14**
 - **Blunt scissors – 4**
 - **Single erasers – 24**
 - **Pencil-cap erasers – 11 pk**
- **Quilts and afghan blankets – 55**
 - **Layettes – 8**
 - **Crib blanket – 1**
 - **Stuffed animal toys – 24**
 - **Tee shirts – 10 XL & 10 LG**
 - **Pillows – 9**
 - **Brooms – 2**
 - **Leaf rake – 1**
 - **Shovel – 1**
 - **Dust Pans – 2**
 - **Dust masks – 2 pks of 50**

A sincere thank you is extended to all who contributed in any way with the collection effort.

Worship and Music Ministry Update

November 1, 2022

Mike Sting is still working on a presentation to the congregation concerning organ repairs and upgrades.

Discussed publicity and a reception after the “Advent Hope, Christmas Joy” concert December 11th at 3 pm. **Motion by Mike Sting and seconded by Barb Degg to serve refreshments after the concert in the Overflow. Passed.**

Karen will finalize a date for the Music Director Review with Beth Elston.

Discussed a “Time and Talents” survey that Pastor Glenn has put together.

Next meeting – December 6, 2022 at 3 pm.

Property Committee Update

Well, the gym and garage are finally buttoned up from our spring windstorm. The dented siding is replaced, and roof, gutters, and trim are in place. Thank you to Booms and Marlette Roofing. It took a while, but it looks good as new. Thank you also to Matt Prime from Farm Bureau for following all this work and taking care of most of the bills.

Helms caulking has been back after starting with exterior maintenance on the school. They completed sealing gaps around the church, especially the one on the east side that has been problematic with insects. We are hoping that this will help keep them (insects that is) outside. They also finished cleaning the bell tower all the way to the top as well as the eastside cross wall and tuckpointed the joints as well. We would have liked the soffit wood to be stained but weather does not permit so that is postponed until spring.

Various internal projects are ongoing such as school maintenance and resolution of the climate control issues in the connector. Many smaller projects are done without fanfare and usually by those of us in the church. I don't know what the average age is on the property committee, but it is likely near the seven decade mark. OK, Matt is a happy exception to this rule. The point is that we need some younger parties to take an interest in planning and doing needed projects for the church and school. Those of us who are old and slow need fresher minds and often fresher muscles to perform these tasks.

I urge anyone, male or female, young or old, to consider joining property or volunteering their skills to help maintain our facility. Training will be provided as necessary. You are welcome to come to one of our meetings to observe before committing. Meetings usually occur on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm. Help us make good use of the resources that God has given to us to glorify Him and serve our community.

For the Property Committee,

Mike Sting

Mission Outreach Update

November 9, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Lorraine LePage. Those in attendance were Lorraine LePage, Tonja Nelson, Krisie Fritz, Connie Eden, Nancy Schuette (trustee), Lori Smith (Facetime) and new member Sandie Haley.

A prayer was given by Lorraine LePage. The secretary's minutes were read and approved. No treasurer's report was given.

The Mission Sunday dinner was considered a great success with approximately 110 people eating dinner. Thanks to Krisie Fritz for chairing it and all the workers who worked so hard to make it the success it was. A total of \$874.86 was spent on the dinner. Comments made by people at the dinner were, it was difficult to hear the speaker, Mary Bates in the gym. The sound system and people visiting during the meal made it hard to hear. It was suggested to have the speaker speak during sermon time if we do this again. It was also mentioned that it would be nice if Mission Sunday be held at a time that would not coincide with "Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project". The Mission Outreach group will be setting up items in the gym Monday morning, November 14th at 9:00 am and the school children will pack the shoe boxes on Monday afternoon. The boxes need to be taken to Bay Shore by November 19th. This did not allow much time to collect items for the boxes. Lori stated that to ship one box is now \$10.00.

Mission Outreach will not be doing the Giving Tree this year. Our school and church family's will be part of the Laker Giving tree. We will re-evaluate to decide if we will do it next year.

The donation for the food pantry has started and runs until December 11th. The Mission Outreach group has designated \$300.00 toward this project. We will be packing the boxes for this on December 12th at 2:00 pm at the church. They will be delivered to the food pantry after the packing.

Mission Outreach will do coffee hour on November 20th. Lorraine LePage, Krisie Fritz, Kim Delpiere and Nancy Heck are in charge of it. Fall decorations in the front of the church will be taken down after service that day.

Lori Smith will be sending out Thanksgiving and Christmas cards. Advent calendars will also be sent to our church shut-ins.

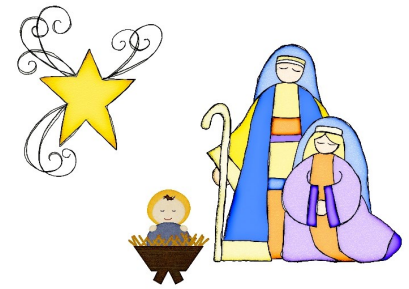
Dates for the 2023 garage sale are being checked and will be announced at a later date.

Next meeting will be at 2:00 pm on December 12th after the food pantry box packing. Meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.


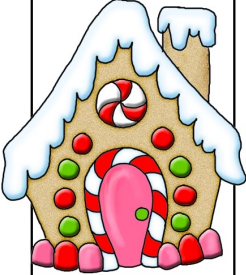

Respectfully submitted, Tonja Nelson



Merry Christmas



December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 School Board 5:30 pm Properties 7 pm	2 Church Decorating 9:00 am	3
Advent 2 Comm Service 9:30 am 4	5 Bells 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	6 Worship & Music 3 pm	Chapel 8:05 am 7 Potluck 5:30 pm Advent Servi 6:30	8	9 CEA Christmas Fair	10 Shupe Birthday party in gym
Advent 3 Comm. Service 9:30 11 Christmas Concert 3 pm	12 Mission//Outreach 2 pm	13 Council 7 pm	Chapel 8:05 am 14 Quilters 1 pm Women's Bible 1:30 pm Potluck 5:30 pm Advent Serv. 6:30	15	16	17
Advent 4 Comm. Service 9:30 18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 Christmas Palooza 1 pm & 7 pm	Chapel 8:05 am 21 Potluck 5:30 pm Advent Serv. 6:30	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL	Christmas Eve 24 Candlelight w/Comm. 4 pm Children's program 5:30 p Candlelight w/Comm. 8 pm
Christmas Day 25 Comm. Service 9:30 a.m. Yackle Baptism	26	27	28	29	30	New Year's Eve 31
NO SCHOOL ALL WEEK						