

Cross Connection



Growing Together

**October
2024**

**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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Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.
Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea."
-Psalm 46:1-2-*

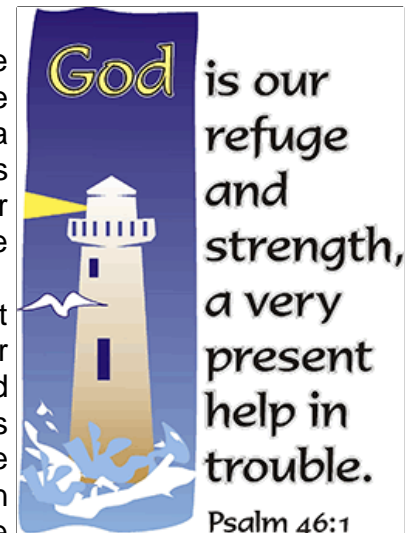
There is a common perception that the phrase "fear not" occurs 365 times in the Bible thus conveying the message that there is a "fear not" for each day of the year. While this is a nice sentiment, it is not true. A much better approach is to see the context in which the words "fear not" occur.

In Psalm 46, we are given the message that we will not fear. The reason we have not to fear is because of the abiding presence of the Lord our God. Much like the little girl who goes running to Daddy because she fears the "monsters" under the bed, God is near to us in circumstances that can certainly cause us to be afraid.

God is near when the tsunami warnings ring out. God is near when the earth shakes to the point of bringing down homes, buildings, etc. God is near when the warnings are issued that tornados have formed and are cutting through communities. God is near when individuals are confronted with the pain of a terminal diagnoses. Throughout this psalm we are assured of the Lord's presence in circumstances over which we have no control.

The lack of control is something that many people fear. The lack of control is closely related to how we view the future, and the unknown associated with our future. Such fear plays into the hands of sin, death, and the devil. It was the devil that wanted Jesus to satisfy himself, glorify himself, and take control. Instead, Jesus stayed true to the nearness of the Father in refuting such temptation with the Scriptures, in his day those being the Old Testament.

No matter what our fears may be, they do not change the truth that God chooses to be near his people. Even as we walk through the "valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me" (Ps. 23:4). We need not fear the accuser, for it is Jesus who sets us free. Because of the dwelling of Jesus with humanity (see John 1:14), who took on flesh, suffered, died, and rose from the dead, "you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)



Significance of Reformation Sunday in the Lutheran Church

Re-affirmation of Core Doctrines: Reformation Sunday holds immense significance for the Lutheran Church as it provides an opportunity to reaffirm the core doctrines of the Reformation. These include the principles of sola scriptura (scripture alone), sola fide (faith alone), sola gratia (grace alone), and solus Christus (Christ alone). By commemorating this day, Lutherans reaffirm their commitment to these foundational beliefs that distinguish their theological identity.

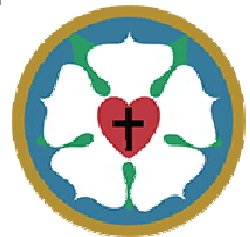
Celebration of Freedom: For Lutherans, Reformation Sunday is a celebration of the freedom found in Christ and the liberation from religious practices that were deemed contrary to the teachings of the Bible. It serves as a reminder of the courage and conviction of the reformers who stood against the prevailing religious authorities, advocating for the freedom to worship according to the dictates of conscience and the authority of scripture.

Reflection on Heritage: The observance of Reformation Sunday allows Lutheran congregations to reflect on their rich historical and theological heritage. It provides an opportunity for believers to connect with the legacy of Martin Luther and the early reformers, recognizing their contributions to the shaping of Lutheran theology and ecclesiastical practices. This reflection fosters a sense of continuity with the past and reinforces the identity of Lutheran communities.

Emphasis on Grace and Faith: Reformation Sunday holds particular significance in emphasizing the Lutheran understanding of salvation by grace through faith. It serves as a time to reflect on the central role of God's grace in the redemption of humanity and the necessity of faith as the means of receiving this gift. The day underscores the Lutheran belief in the primacy of God's unmerited favor and the assurance of salvation through faith in Christ.

Unity and Witness: In the Lutheran Church, Reformation Sunday is also a time to emphasize the unity of believers in Christ and their collective witness to the gospel. It serves as a unifying force, bringing together Lutheran communities around the world in a shared acknowledgment of their theological convictions and historical roots. This emphasis on unity reinforces the sense of belonging to a broader global communion of Lutheran believers.

Reformation Sunday holds profound significance in the life of the Lutheran Church, serving as a yearly reminder of its theological distinctiveness, historical legacy, and enduring commitment to the principles of the Reformation



Preparing for Worship

October 6 - Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

1R – Genesis 2:18-25, P – Psalm 128, 2R – Hebrews 2:1-13(14-18), G – Mark 10:2-16

October 13 – Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

1R - Amos 5:6-7, 10-15, P – Psalm 90:12-17, 2R – Hebrews 3:12-19, G – Mark 10:17-22

October 20– Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

1R - Ecclesiastes 5:10-20, P - Psalm 119:9-16, 2R - Hebrews 4:1-13(14-16), G - Mark 10:23-31

October 27 - Reformation Sunday

1R - Revelation 14:6-7, P – Psalm 46, 2R – Romans 3:19-28, G - John 8:31-36

Celebrate

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

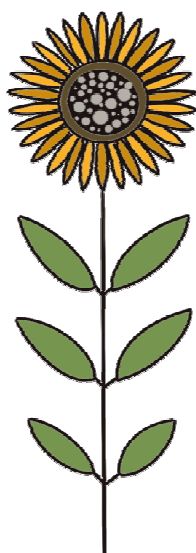
- 1 Rachel Messing
Rebecca Yackle
- 4 Laura Trost
- 6 Suzanne Swanson
- 7 Don Heck
Crystal Hill
- 9 Rachel Higgins
Joyce Jarvis
- 10 James Schuette
- 11 Jennifer Sturm
Cole Heck
- 19 Cooper LePage
- 20 Marcine Moore
Todd Roestel
- 23 Dolores Elftman
Krisie Fritz
- 24 Marvin Trost
Lois Decker
Justin Kunisch
Archie Thepsourinthone
- 26 Kacey Peterson
Jonathan LePage
Joshua LePage
Jill Hill
- 28 Ann Buschlen
Carole Mead
- 30 Emily House
Ava Gardy
- 31 Austin Schuette

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Brian & Kim Delpiere, 31 years
- 7 Dan & Deb Papkey, 46 years
- 10 Travis & Kimberly Roestel, 4 years
- 11 Corey & Rachel Messing, 16 years
- 13 Larry & Gina Smith, 45 years
- 22 Tim & Shirley Schuette, 8 yrs.
- 24 Terry & June Sturm, 54 years



THANK YOU – to all the volunteers and donors who helped make the Chicken BBQ a big success! Cross church is blessed to have so many helping hands and the support of the surrounding community to make this all possible.



THOSE IN NEED OF CONTINUED PRAYER

Bernice Shupe, Allen Koehler, Richard Schicker, Vivian Buschlen, Lori Smith, Alice Trost, Rachel Higgins, Ben Smith, Connie Eden, Jim Siewert, Dawn Hendricks, Beth Elston, Brandon Fritz, Gene Parsell, Tim Voss, Michael Eden, Terry Sturm, Clark Elftman, Hannah Britt, Cordelia Trost, John Finneren, Tom Shupe, Whitney Peyer, Joe Stodola, Matt Edler, Larry Adams, Al Collison, Susan Beller, Hope Kittel, Noah Adams, Kay Schuette, Roberta Danks, Corey Messing, Marvin Trost, Kevin Faupel, Ezra Sturm, Deann Lewis, Dolores Elftman

THOSE IN THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY

Nicholas Swanson (U.S. Air Force), Michael Cox (U. S. Navy)



In memory of Shirley Balash, for Cross Lutheran School:

Sheila Yackle

From the Desk of...Leslie Eberly

We have been busy in our DK/K classroom and our young minds are growing. The beginning of the year students in DK & K learn about what it is like to be in a classroom. They are learning how we sit at our seat and talk quietly, how to follow the classroom and school rules. They are also making new friends and having fun being creative together at recess and in our play centers. We learn how to hold our pencil and how to color in the lines, among many other things. While we have been busy with those, we have also been learning our vowels and our numbers. Students are also learning about God's creating of the earth, Adam and Eve and the forbidden fruit. We currently learning that even though we all sin, God sent us a Savior to cleanse us from those sins.

Students are currently looking forward to a field trip next week to Highland Dairy farm!



Thank
you for
your
prayers
and support!



CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024

Present: J. Smith, N. Nelson, K. Sears, J. House, K. Fritz, D. Koehler, A. Licht., J. Barry, N. Schuette, D. Faupel, M. Thick

CALL TO ORDER and DEVOTIONS: Pres. John Smith delivered.

AGENDA: Approval for Agenda, K. Sears 1st and 2nd by N. Schuette. Motion approved.

August Council Minutes: 1st motion for approval made by K. Sears, 2nd by J. House. Motion for minutes from August minutes approved by Council.

SECRETARY REPORT: K. Fritz has No New business to report

SCHOOL STAFF REPORTS:

Cross School: David Faupel, Principal

New 2024-2025 school season started on Aug. 27, 2024. 64 students same count as last year. New classroom being loved by students. Overflow area working well for Band.

A grant has been received for Safety and Mental Health in the amount of \$12,000. Cross school board has requested that a school counselor be hired. Jason Kuhl, Pastor at Son's Life Missionary Church, Sebawaing and he is also a Licensed Counselor, is being contracted for the school year. He will be in office every Tuesday for 3 hrs.

Safety part of grant. On church, side of the school the fire alarms and PA system don't cover this area. To update those areas David has gotten a quote of \$7,000. \$3,500. Would come from grant and the remaining balance would come from school funds to pay for the upgrades. Motion to be approved made by J. Smith and 2nd by J. House.

WiFi service is being changed from Comcast to our local AVS company. At a faster system and better cost rate. Motion to approve made by D. Koehler, 2nd by K. Sears. J. Smith motioned and approved by council.

David stated that Marcine, has requested a new vacuum be purchased for Church and school.

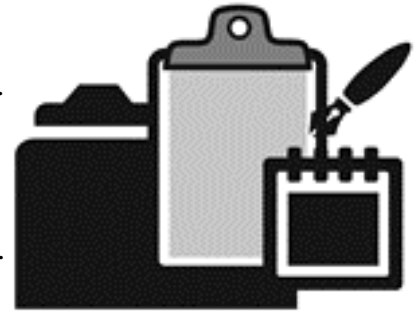
J. Smith motioned that a 50/50 payment from church and school be made for the purchase. Motion approved by council.

David has been looking into a 5-year growth and goal plan for the school. He asked if church has a current one. So that will be looked into also.

Cross Daycare: Miki Thick, daycare administrator, all going well. Outside shed being placed soon. Troy Stafford doing concrete work for the base of shed. Motion approved by council for the work and placement.

TREASURER REPORT: K. Sears gave budget report for August 2024. We are below budget, for the month. By \$17,612.22, more giving needed.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: Dick Koehler, School Board President, no new business.



Church Council
Minutes

(Continued on page 6)

MINISTRY REPORTS – TRUSTEES

Property: Al Licht- Exterior Pantry door installation completed. A new basketball pole outside needed. It was broken in the recent storm. J. Trowbridge has a pole and just need help to get installed.

Music & Worship: J. House. No new business

Stewardship: N. Nelson, no new business

Mission Outreach: N. Schuette, stated the Fall decorating of sanctuary will be Oct. 2 and would like to leave up until Nov. 24th. Food pantry in desperate need of food and monetary donations. There are a lot of people in need. In October, there will be a special offering for the food pantry.

Parish Life: N. Schuette, asking about giving money to the Food pantry. Updates on Handy Helpers list, Members addresses, and update on shut-ins lists.

Youth & Education: Joshua Barry. There was a Pool and Pizza party with 5 in attendance.

Sept. 8, youth had a Scavenger hunt at the church, not a good response. Planning on a Corn Maze trip.

Bible study lead by Gwynne Barry, will be starting on Sept 8th at 6pm. Titled Speaking for the Lord.

Old Business: Old church pew was given to Elkton Lions Club. There are a couple more, an interest in them has been shown. We will ask for a donation for them.

New Business: J. Smith stated about our Shut-Ins needing to be visited. Pastor Joshua Johnson from Salem United Methodist has offered to do the visits. But we feel a member from our church should also accompany him. Also, we need to see about getting our Eucharistic ministries going again. J. Smith will check with Pastor Jess Abbott with NALC about how we can do it, with us not having a pastor for the blessing of the communion kits.

Next Council Meeting – 2nd Tuesday of October, which is the 9th, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Kim Fritz

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## **Cross Lutheran School Board Minutes from:**

**September 5, 2024**

(To be approved at the October meeting)

**Members present:** David Faupel, Vice President Eileen Johnson, Secretary Kevin Stachowiak, Katie Wilson, Nicole Licht, Rita Herford. Absent: President Dick Koehler,

The meeting was called to order by Dick Koehler at 5:30pm. Prayer was led by David Faupel

**Agenda:** A motion was made by Rita Herford and seconded by Katie Wilson to accept the Agenda.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Katie Wilson, seconded by Nicole Licht to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2024 meeting. The motion passed.

**Guests:** No guests

### **Treasurers' Reports:**

School Balance: \$110,571.50



CEA/PTO Balance: \$3,947.50 available balance \$2417.81

Hot Lunch: \$8,997.94

A motion was made by Rita Herford and seconded by Katie Wilson to accept the Treasurer's Reports. The motion carried.

**CEA President's Report: Parents softball game scheduled for September 26 with pizza and potluck style sides. Each classroom teacher will have \$300 to use at their discretion (intended for field trips) but need to submit a form to the CEA for payment.**

### **Principal's Report:**

Students Registered so far for 2024-2025: 62

- DK:8 KDG:7 1<sup>st</sup>:9 2<sup>nd</sup>:7 3<sup>rd</sup>:8 4<sup>th</sup>:7 5<sup>th</sup>:7 6<sup>th</sup>:4 7<sup>th</sup>:4 8<sup>th</sup>:3

Calendar

- September 19: picture day
- September 26: CEA Family Softball/Kickball Night

### **Old Business:**

- No update on the Pastoral Search/Call
- Safety/Mental Health Grant: Three main needs include hiring a mental health counselor, replacing the exterior kitchen door, and updating/expanding the fire/safety features of the building.

Motion made by Rita Herford to use the Mental Health/Safety Grant to pay for the kitchen door and to hire Justin Kuhl as a counselor for the 2024-2025 school year. Seconded by Nicole Licht. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rita Herford to upgrade the fire/safety features out of any remaining Safety/Mental Health grant and balance to paid by the Annual Fund. Seconded by Eileen Johnson. Motion passed.

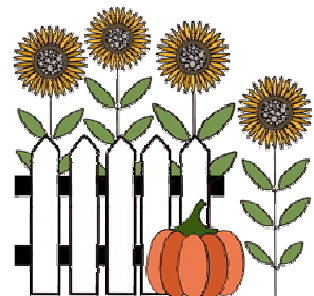
- Church/School Finances (Budget): Karen Kunisch has shared needed information with Nicole for generating a budget.
- 5-Year Goals/Plans: discussed parameters of strategy, will schedule meeting/planning session during the winter.

### **New Business:**

- Safety Alarm extensions into the church (for new classroom and overflow) was addressed as an extension under Old Business
- School T-Shirts: Motion was made by Rita Herford and seconded by Nicole Licht to purchase T-shirts for all the students (Pre-school through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade) and \$10 towards each staff member's (including Day Care) purchase. Motion passed.
- Internet Service: Motion made by Rita Herford and seconded by Nicole Licht to change internet provider from Comcast to Agri-Valley Services for fiber service at a lower rate than current (non-fiber) service. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**The date of the next meeting will be October 3, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.**





## Mission Outreach Ministry

September 4, 2024

The meeting of Mission Outreach was called to order by President Krisie Fritz. Those in attendance were Kim Delpiere, Sandie Haley, Kay Schuette, Lori Smith, Lorraine LePage, Krisie Fritz, Connie Eden, Tonja Nelson and Trustee Nancy Schuette. A prayer was given by Krisie.

The secretary's report was handed out and read. A motion was made by Lorraine and seconded by Kim to approve the minutes. The motion was carried.

The treasurer's report was given. A motion made by Lori and seconded by Tonja was made to accept the report. Motion carried. Ideas were discussed on what we could use the money earned from the garage sale for. No decision was made until we talk to the church council and get some feedback from them.

Coffee hour for our group will be September 22 with Lori, Tonja and Lorraine bringing food. October 6 will be the next one with Kim, Connie, Maureen and Krisie bringing.

Lori and Tonja have started working on the membership list. We will meet again on Wednesday, September 11 at 1pm at the church. Any member of our group wishing to help with this is welcome to come.

The Food Pantry was discussed. They are very much in need of prepared foods such as canned chili, ravioli, soups, cereal, and snacks. They also need toilet paper and money donations. Baskets in our church are placed by the two entry doors if anyone would like to bring in items for this.

We will be putting out the Fall decorations in the church in October and also collect food and other non-perishable items to give to the food pantry.

Lori is still doing the card ministry. If you know of anyone who she can send a card to, Please let her know.

NALC Mission Sunday will take place in the Spring. We will be collecting things for the disaster relief at that time.

Our next meeting will be October 2, 2024 at 5:50 pm. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

## Worship and Music Ministry

September 4, 2024

Members present: Peg McCrimmon, Mike Sting, Beth Elston, John House – Trustee, Karen Schuette – Chair.

\*Our church pipe organ birthday- Discussed activities (table tents, guessing jars, etc.). Beth will place an announcement in the bulletin.

\*The piano in the sanctuary was tuned on September 3 by Mark Jorgensen. Beth and Mike were satisfied with his work. A call has been placed to the organ tuner and we are still waiting to hear back.

\*We will be using Setting 5 (from *With One Voice*) starting in Advent (December 1) and use it through the end of Epiphany and Transfiguration (March 2, 2025).

\*We will contact the Education Ministry concerning the Children's Christmas Program for this year.

\*CD's of previous church services – MOTION by Mike to destroy all church service CD's except those to be sent to Pastor Glen from his tenure here as Pastor. Seconded by Beth. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 3pm.





*Galatians 6:9-10 So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.*

I have been attending events that our grandchildren, great nieces and nephews, former students, and our church youth are participating in this fall. When I watch cross country runners and soccer players, I think...oh my, what stamina! When I watch volleyball players dig and football players clash, I think...Ouch! But they all keep going...they do not give up. They do not seem to grow weary.

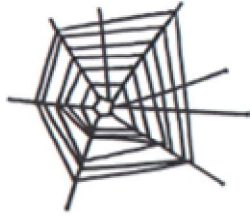
What an example for us! Do not grow weary. Do not give up. When you have the opportunity to work for the good of all....do it! There are so many ways to serve our family of faith. Visit. Call. Serve on ministries. Read. Teach. Sing. Play. Sew. Cut. Build. Fix. Pray. Oh, the list is much longer than this. Which will you choose to do in serving our mighty God and His family?

A calendar of events for our youth has been developed. Our October events are the Kohl's Flashlight Corn Maze on October 5 and on October 27, the BLAST event at Bay Shore Camp or the movie "For the One" in Bay City. We'll have to decide which one to do! Details for each of these events will be published and shared as the event draws near. Youth from Cross Lutheran Church and School are encouraged to participate. Bring a friend! Embedded in each of these gatherings will be opportunities to serve, learn, and have fun in the name of Jesus!

At this time, Sunday School is being held every Sunday for PS-6th grade. There were 13 at our first gathering! We begin at 8:45 AM in the gym. Many thanks to all who have volunteered to teach. As a reminder, teachers' materials are in the files near the Pastor's office. I encourage the parents who bring their children to SS to enjoy time before the service to have fellowship, a devotion time, pray together, share your week's stories, etc. Would someone be a facilitator for that time? Building relationships is important as we grow in His word.

There are three youths who are learning about the precious gift of the Lord's Supper and will be celebrating their first communion at the end of the month. What a joy to share with them!

Giving up may seem like the easy route to take and I probably would be tempted if I had to **run** for any length of time, but I would remind myself that I could walk some of the time! We are called as members of the body of Christ to serve. Don't give up. Choose joy and do it! Prayerfully consider where God is calling you to serve at Cross Lutheran Church and School. The fields are wide open and the harvest is ready.



# October 2024

| Sun                                                                | Mon                                                       | Tue                                   | Wed                                                            | Thu                                                          | Fri             | Sat |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----|
|                                                                    |                                                           | 1<br>Worship & Music<br>3 pm          | 2<br>Chapel<br>8:05 am<br>Bible Study 6 pm                     | 3<br>Jean Quilts 1 pm<br>CEA 4 pm<br>School Board<br>5:30 pm | 4               | 5   |
| 6<br>Comm. Service<br>9:30 am<br>S.S. 8:45 am<br>Students sing     | 7<br>Handbells 6 pm<br>Choir 7 pm                         | 8<br>Daycare Bd. 3:30<br>Council 7 pm | 9<br>Chapel<br>8:05 am<br>Stewardship 4:pm<br>Bible Study 6 pm | 10<br>Quilters 1 pm                                          | 11              | 12  |
| 13<br>Worship Service<br>9:30 am<br>S.S. 8:45 am                   | 14<br>Handbells 6 pm<br>Choir 7 pm                        | 15                                    | 16<br>Chapel<br>8:05 am<br>Bible Study 6 pm                    | 17<br>Jean Quilts 1 pm                                       | 18              | 19  |
| 20<br>Worship Service<br>9:30 am<br>S.S. 8:45 am                   | 21<br>Newsletter deadline<br>Handbells 6 pm<br>Choir 7 pm | 22                                    | 23<br>Chapel<br>8:05 am<br>Bible Study 6 pm                    | 24<br>Quilters 1 pm                                          | 25<br>Steam Day | 26  |
| 27<br>Reformation Sunday<br>Comm. Serv.<br>9:30 am<br>S.S. 8:45 am | 28<br>Handbells 6 pm<br>Choir 7 pm                        | 29                                    | 30<br>NO Chapel<br>(moved to Friday)<br>Bible Study 6 pm       | 31<br>Halloween                                              | BOO!            |     |