

## Growing Together

**December  
2025**

### **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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Almighty God,  
grant that the new birth of your only-begotten  
Son in the flesh may set free all who are held in  
servitude under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ,  
your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and  
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.

### First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." <sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen — they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

### Gospel: John 1:1-14 [15-18]

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh

nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>[(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.]



### **Preparing for Worship**

#### **December 7th - Advent week 2**

1R – Isaiah 2:1-5, P – Psalm 122, 2R – Romans 13:98-10) 11-14, G - Matthew 24:36-44

#### **December 14th - Advent Week 3**

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

#### **December 21st- Advent Week 4**

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

#### **Dec 24th - Christmas Eve**

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

#### **December 25th - Christmas Day**

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

#### **December 28th -**

1R - Isaiah 63:7-14, P – Psalm 111, 2R – Galatians 4:4-7, G – Matthew 2:13-23

**BIRTHDAYS**

		20	Cheryl Sturm
1	Jordan Lucht		Kim Schadd
	Denvyr Koroleski	22	Donna Schuette
3	Mark Trost		Luvia LePage
	Haley Cucinello	23	Bill Love
4	Cindy Buchholz	25	Jim Siewert
6	Troy Schuette	28	Marleen Grammentz
	Aaron Shupe	30	Ethan Yackle
9	Neil Herford		Pearl Persell
	Jason Shaw	31	Mitchell Schuette
10	Ryan Trost		Dylan Kunisch
	Maggie Shupe		
11	Grace Shupe		
15	Roger Renn		
	Kendal Delpiere	14	Paul & Karen Schuette
17	Richard Koehler Jr.		51 years
	Maria Schumacher	20	Kent & Lori McKenzie
	Jacob Heck		45 years
	Jace Walsh		
18	Lorraine LaPage		
	Layla LePage		
19	Kaoty Smith		

**ANNIVERSARIES****THOSE IN NEED OF  
CONTINUED PRAYER**

Carol Diener, Dawn Hendricks, Bernice Shupe, Connie Eden, Beth Elston, Gene Parsell, Tim Voss, Mike Eden, Terry Sturm, Clark Elftman, Hannah Britt, John Finneren, Tom Shupe, Whitney Peyerck, Joe Stodola, Matt Edler, Larry Adams, Al Collison, Susan Beller, Hope Kittel, Noah Adams, Kay Schuette, Corey Messing, Kevin Faupel, Ezra Sturm, Robert Blunt, Marilyn Blunt, Alan Licht, Richard Baranski.

**CROSS CHURCH SHUT INS**

Vivian Buschlen, Cordelia Trost, Roberta Danks, Marvin Trost. Please keep them in your prayers.

**THOSE IN SERVICE OF  
OUR COUNTRY**

Nicholas Swanson (US Air Force)





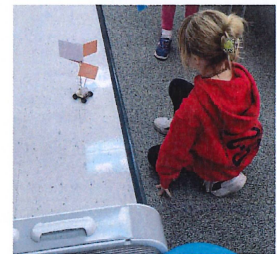
From the Desk of ... Kelly Gebauer

Greetings from the 5th and 6th grade classroom. We are running the race well this school year. This month's focus is, *fixing our eyes on the prize and looking toward Jesus*. The students are practicing the life skills of organization, initiative, and patience so far this school year.



Currently, we are learning about C.S. Lewis and reading *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. In social studies we are learning about Queen Elizabeth I, the Glorious Revolution, Peter the Great, Napoleon, and the French Revolution. In science we are finishing up studying about Earth and space patterns and we will be switching to life science.

STEAM Day was a blast as always. I had the pleasure to host Lego engineering. We did the Lego cup challenge with a partner and then made Lego wind racers. The Lego wind racers have been one of my favorite STEAM Day activities I have gotten to do with the students.



Grandparents Day was a great way to end the first quarter. It's a joy to see the students do activities with their grandparents and the special people in their lives. I even got in on a game of Uno this year.



At our Veterans Day Chapel we were honored and blessed to show our respect, patriotism, and gratefulness for those who have served our country.

The Thanksgiving Feast was a wonderful time of fellowship with the students, their families and friends. The food was fantastic!



God has blessed us with so much and there is so much to look forward to still. There is the robotics tournament coming up, Thanksgiving, and soon all the activities and excitement of Advent and Christmas! We have so much to be thankful for at Cross Lutheran School and my thankfulness list gets longer each year.

Happy Thanksgiving and thank you for your prayers and support!

### December Calendar

12/12 Christmas Fair



Johnathan Clabuesch: In memory of

John Clabuesch for the Church.

Cordelia Trost: In memory of

Gail Richmond for the School

### **Mark Your Calendar!!!**

**The Huron County Right to Life is once again sponsoring a FREE Pro-life Teen Rally at Bad Axe Middle School.**

**It will be held on Sunday, March 15, 2026, from 2pm - 5pm, with registration at 1:30pm.**

**Lunch, giveaways, and a free t-shirt will be given to every rally attendee.**

**There will be more information to follow regarding pre-registering. Come learn what being pro-life is all about!!!**

**Operation Christmas Child Update**

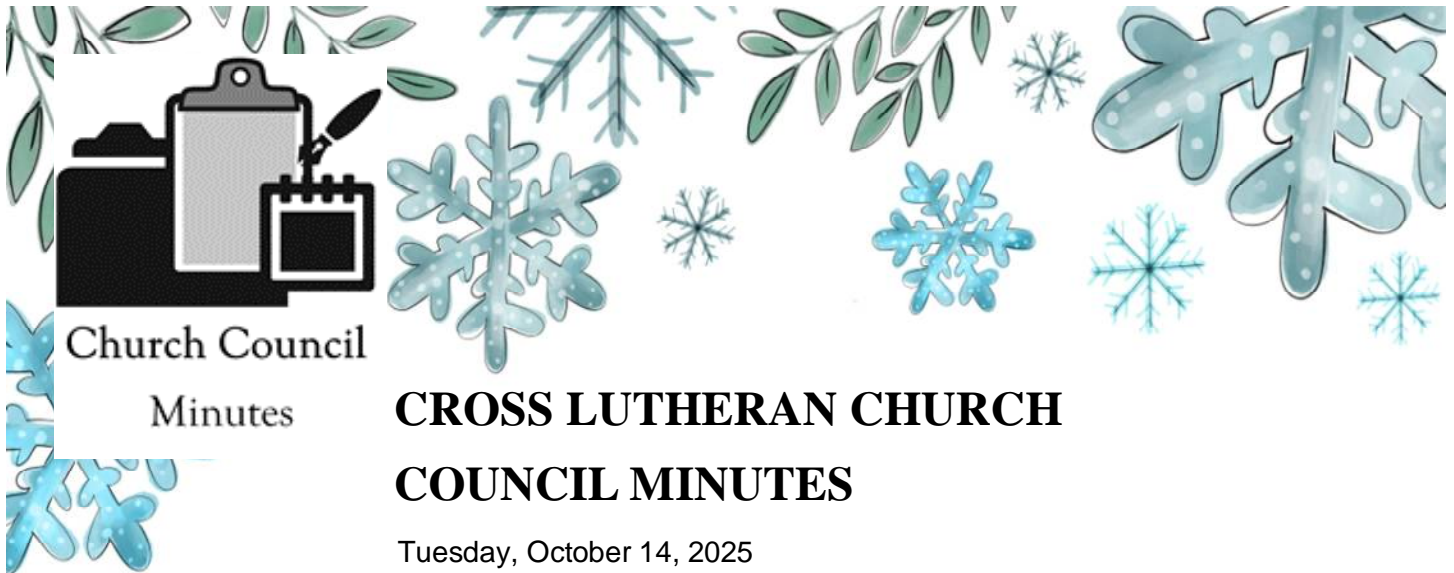
**Wishing our sincerest thank you's to ALL who helped in ANY WAY with our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project this year.**

**Tuesday, John Smith and his grandson delivered 247 filled shoebox gifts and 3 boxes of shoebox fillers to Bay Shore camp where they will begin their journey with Samaritan's Purse around the world into the hands of needy children. The boxes will share the good news of Jesus Christ from Cross in Pigeon, MI along with many thousands of other boxes from other churches and groups.**

**Praise be to God!  
Cross Mission Outreach**







**Attending:** John Smith, Kim Sears, Norm Nelson, Kim Delpiere, Kim Fritz, John Trowbridge, Al Licht, Josh Barry, Phil Schadd, Kevin Stachowiak (via phone)

**Absent:** Peter Shupe

**Guest:** Kathy Azarovitz, David Faupel, Miki Thick

**Call to Order:** President John Smith called meeting to order with a devotion at 7:05 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** Budget for 2026 added to new business. Motion to approve Kim D., 2nd Kim Sears. Motion approved. Approval of September 2025 Council Minutes: motion to approve was made by John T., 2nd Al L. Motion approved.

**Guest Speaker:** Kathy A. for Call Committee., she updated on possible new pastor visit on October 24th weekend. Council members having brunch with Pastor and family on Saturday, 25th morning. Sunday, October 26th after pastor gives sermon there will be a church potluck dinner. There will be a question and answer time with pastor.

**President Report:** John S., reported he hasn't visited with shut-ins due to wife being ill and in hospital. We had 4 baptisms and 10 new members in September. Great things happening at Cross.

**Principal Report:** David F. Things going well at school. Heather K, new secretary doing a great job. Asking to change office hours to 7:15 am until 3:45 pm. Motion made by Kim S., 2 nd by Al L. Motion passed. Assistant Custodian: Lynn K., has been filling in and would like to step down from helping with custodial work. Applications being looked at next week. Marcine has been helping extra to cover. Marcine is looking for insurance, as she will be losing hers on November 1st .Motion by Kim S. 2nd Kim D. Motion passed to offer her insurance.

**Early Childhood Center:** Miki Thick reported all going well. Several field trips planned in next month coming up. Also, looking for part-time and full-time help.

**School Board:** Kevin S. (Via Phone) David F., already reported

**Secretary Communications:** Kim F. No issues

**Treasurer:** Kim S. – starting with beginning balance of Sept 1, 2025 was \$155,335.47. Ending balance \$143,059.74 on September 30, 2025. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by John T. 2nd Al L. Motion passed.

**Properties:** Al L. No new issues.

**Worship & Music:** John T gave report on committee formed for Pipe Organ Fundraising. Consists of Jason Shaw, Donna Wheeler, Eileen Johnson, Norm Nelson and John Trowbridge. All Saints Recognition will be Sunday November 2, 2025 during worship service. Recognizing those passed this last year: Fred Henkelmann, Alice Trost, Jeff Trost, Jon Clabuesch, Marcia Schuette, Margaret Edler, and Dolores Elftman. Christmas Program will be December 21st during worship service.

**Stewardship:** Peter Shupe absent. Norm Nelson present and gave Offering by Funds hand-out. Envelopes have been ordered and will be the same as in the past.

**Mission Outreach:** Kim D. Report shared. New bulletin covers to be used starting October 26th . Mission Festival offering saw \$1,900.00 between church door offering and breakfast offering. Missions also donated \$200.00. All monies were designated for the South Sudan. Final touches are being done to the Welcome packs. Hoping for that to start the end of the month. Food pantry donations will continue through Thanksgiving. Kick off for Project Christmas child has begun on October 12th. Packing will take place after worship service on November 9th .

**Parish Life:** Kim D. Nothing to report at this time.

**Youth:** Josh Barry gave report of a group going to Ignite 2025 Concert at the Dow Event Center on October 26th . First communion classes have started. Adult Bible study still going on every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. The topic is Saints and Sinners, Encouragers of the Faith.

**Old Business:** John S. - Jim Smith has worked on the Electric sign and has it now working with our computer system. An antenna needs to be purchased to get it completely working. New bulletin covers being put into use on October 26th .

New headsets are in use. Gym doors: repairs first estimate was \$12,000.00 for door replacement John T. has an estimate to replace just doors is \$2,498.00 and \$500.00 to repair and paint door frames, which also includes corner door and shed door painted, by Jeff Lawrence. Will be done this next week. Motion to approve by Kim D., 2nd Al L. Motion passed. Gym walls: John T., brought samples of the garage door samples that will be used to cover gym walls. CEA is paying expenses for this project. Job planned to be worked on December 13th and 20th. Appreciate anyone that could help.

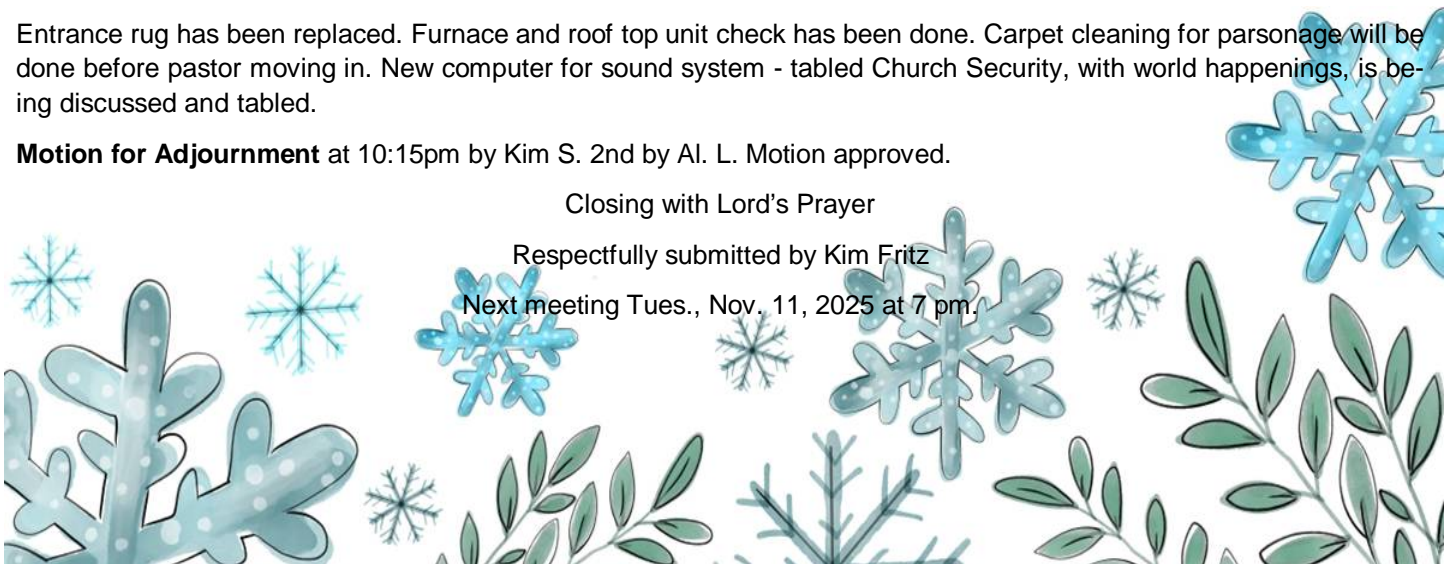
Entrance rug has been replaced. Furnace and roof top unit check has been done. Carpet cleaning for parsonage will be done before pastor moving in. New computer for sound system - tabled Church Security, with world happenings, is being discussed and tabled.

**Motion for Adjournment** at 10:15pm by Kim S. 2nd by Al. L. Motion approved.

Closing with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Kim Fritz

Next meeting Tues., Nov. 11, 2025 at 7 pm.





## YOUTH NEWS!!

Our “Giving Thanks” party on November 12t was attended by 36 PS-5th grade children from Cross Lutheran Church and School. I was thankful for the eight 6th-9th graders who helped as well as the adults that gave of their time and all who provided snacks. We gathered in the sanctuary for our message and singing. This year we focused on “Enter His Gates”--Psalm 100 during our chapel time. We then moved into the gym for snacks, projects, and games. We give thanks for the loud and crazy time!

During our season of Advent, we will have an additional time for worship and activities on Sunday afternoons for **all**. Plan to meet in the sanctuary at 4:00 p.m. each Advent Sunday of December where we will begin with a chapel service and then move to the overflow for Advent activities centered around the theme “Look Around the Stable”. We will center activities on what we might find around the stable. On December 14th we will be tying quilts for NALC Disaster Relief. This will also be our youth event in December. JH-HS Youth are especially encouraged to attend that Sunday!

Keep in mind your voices are needed for Christmas Caroling on Tuesday, December 16th! This is another activity for **all** ages. No one is too young or too old!

“Live From the First Century” is the title of our Christmas “program” which will be shared during the sermon time on Sunday, December 21st at 9:30 a.m. Again, this year, members of many ages are taking part in telling the story. Children are practicing during a portion of Sunday School, some youth are fitting practices into their busy schedules, and there will be a dress rehearsal on Friday, December 19th from 11:30-1:00 p.m. with lunch provided.

I am looking forward to this season of Advent, preparing for the celebration of Jesus’ birth, and praising God with all of you in word and song this Christmas!

In His love and service,  
Gwynne Barry



**Cross Lutheran School Board Minutes from:  
October 30, 2025  
(To be approved at the December meeting)**

**Members present:**

David Faupel, President Kevin Stachowiak, Vice President Eileen Johnson, CEA Rep. Katie Wilson and Non-Member Rep. Rita Herford. Absent: Secretary Rebecca Yackle, Treasurer Nicole Licht The meeting was called to order by Kevin Stachowiak at 5:30pm. David Faupel led us in an opening prayer.

**Agenda:**

A motion was made by Eileen Johnson and seconded by Katie Wilson to accept the agenda. The motion passed.

**Minutes:** Motion made by Eileen Johnson and seconded by Rita Herford to approve the minutes from October 2, 2025. The motion passed.

Guest Presentations: None

**Treasurers' Report:**

School Balance: \$59,153.28

CEA/PTO: \$23,906.82

Hot Lunch: \$7,275.92

A motion was made by Rita Herford and seconded by Eileen Johnson to accept the Treasurers' Reports. The motion carried.

**CEA President's Report:**

Grandparents' Day is tomorrow! Sign-up Genius really helped attract volunteers. Will finance a significant amount of the expense (but not provide labor) to finish the walls of the gym if approved by Church Council. Walsh's Fundraiser starts November 14, 2025. Christmas Fair will be on December 12, 2025. Christmas Caroling will be December 16, 2025.

**Calendar:**

October 31 - Grandparents/Special Person Day; End of Marking Period

November 6 - Parent Teacher Conferences

November 11 - Veteran's Day Chapel

November 14 - Thanksgiving Lunch

November 21 - Robotics Tournament

November 24-28 - Thanksgiving Break

**Old Business:**

Cross Lutheran Logo/Apparel: online store is up and running. Working on sports apparel.

School Budget is reviewed quarterly.

Lunch Visitor Policy-more ideas were discussed and will bring a draft to the next meeting.

Water Filtration-Waiting on quote.

**New Business:**

\*Resignation-Nicole Licht, accepted with regret. Motion made by Eileen Johnson, seconded by Rita Herford, motion passed.

\*Continuous Enrollment- Discussed pros and cons of continuous enrollment vs. annual enrollment. Will continue discussion next month.

\*Tuition Increases for 2026-2027? Tabled for next month.

Other Business: 5-Year Goals/Plans were discussed and are continuing to be worked on.

Current trends and their predicted effects were discussed.

Eileen Johnson made a motion and was seconded by Katie Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 6:57pm. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is Thursday December 4th, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.



## **Mission Outreach Ministry**

**November 5, 2025**

The meeting of the Mission Outreach Ministry was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by President, Krisie Janke.

Those in attendance were Nancy Heck, Laura Trost, Maureen Reibling, Tonja Nelson, Sandie Haley, Krisie Janke, Lorraine LePage, Kay Schuette, Lori Smith and church council president, John Smith.

A prayer was given by Krisie.

The secretary's report was handed out and read. A motion made by Nancy and seconded by Sandie was made to accept the minutes. The motion was approved.

The treasurer's report was given by Lorraine. A motion was made by Krisie and seconded by Nancy to pay for the bulletin covers and the items that were purchased for the pastor's family welcome basket. The motion was accepted. Another motion was made by Nancy and seconded by Sandie to reimburse Maureen for the centerpiece supplies that she purchased to make the table decorations at the pastor's dinner. The motion was accepted. The members of this group received many compliments on how nice the arrangements looked, how nice the welcome basket was and how pretty the new bulletin covers look. Church members also liked the bigger print as many older people have difficulty reading the smaller print.

A thank you from Marg Hall for the \$100.00 donation to the food pantry was read. It was appreciated and needed. Since the community is in such need for food and supplies a motion was made by Nancy and seconded by Maureen to donate an additional \$400.00 to the pantry. Motion carried.

The visitor packets are still being worked on, and we hope to have them ready soon.

The Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project set up will take place on Friday, November 7th, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at the church. On Sunday, November 9th we will be packing the boxes, and we invite all members to come down to the gym after service and pack a box or two. A coffee hour will also take place in the gym and all are invited to stay for food and fellowship. Members responsible to bring food for the coffee hour are Nancy, Tonja, Maureen, Kay, Sandie and Krisie.

Sunday, November 16th, 2025, ends the food pantries collection for our group. We will be packing up the items after church and delivering it to the food pantry. The pantry could still use toilet paper, Kleenex, cereal, hamburger helper, canned food with meat in it, liquid soap, toothpaste, and personal hygiene products. Any donations after this date can still be put in the containers inside the front coat room and side doors and we will make sure it gets brought to the food pantry.

After church on November 23rd, we will be taking the Fall decoration in the front of the church down. Members are asked to help with this.

Lori is busy with the card ministry. A motion was made by Krisie and seconded by Tonja to purchase 35 Advent calendars with stickers for the kids and 150 Christmas cards for members of the congregation. Pop-up nativity scene cards will also be given to our Patriarch members and shut ins. Motion carried. The calendars will be given to the children on November 23 at church.

Nancy made a motion to donate \$400.00 to Safe Place Women's Shelter in Bad Axe. It was seconded by Lorraine. Motion carried.

Garage Sale dates for the summer of 2026 have been set for May 30th, 2026 - June 6, 2026. Sale days will be Thursday, June 4th, Friday, June 5th, and Saturday, June 6th.

The NALC drive will be discussed more, and we will decide what we can do for this. It may take place in the Spring.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. We will be working on addressing Christmas cards as well as our regular meeting.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, - Tonja Nelson



## **Worship and Music Ministry - Meeting Report**

**November 4, 2025**

**Members present: Mike Sting, Beth Elston – by phone, John Trowbridge – Trustee, John Smith – Council President, Karen Schuette – Chair.**

**\*Pipe organ fundraising – John T reported that the council decided to earmark the CD from the Mary Otto bequest for the Pipe Organ needs.**

**\*Paraments and Hymn numbers – Altar Guild has not been able to meet to decide on new green paraments. A decision will be made next year. Peg will look for another source for hymn numbers.**

**\*Bulletin covers – Tabled until January.**

**\*Advent and Christmas worships – Schedule:**

**Sunday, 12/21 – 9:30 am – Includes Children’s Program during the sermon time.**

**Wednesday, 12/24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight – 6:30 pm.**

**Thursday, 12/25 - Christmas Day – 9:30 am.**

**Sunday, 12/28 – 9:30 am – Christmas Hymn Sing included.**

**\*Offering time – Beth noted that there was much noise in the overflow during that time that could bleed into the sanctuary. Discussion followed.**

**\*Beth suggested expanding the “welcome statement” in the bulletin. Beth and Karen will work on it and send it along to John S.**

**-NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026 AT 5:30 PM**

# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Handbells 530pm Choir 630pm	2	3 Chapen 805am 1st Communion Class 315-445pm	4	5 Church Decorating	6
7 SS 845am Service 930am 1st Communion for students Advent Activity 4pm	8 Handbells 530pm Choir 630pm	9	10 Chapel 805am	11 Quilters 1pm	12 Christmas Fair	13 Robotics @ Caseville
14 SS 845am Service 930am Advent Activity 4pm	15	16	17 Chapel 805am	18 Christmas Palooza 1pm & 630pm	19 1/2 Day of School SS Christmas Program Practice	20
21 SS & Children's Program Service 930am Advent Activity 4pm	22 Handbells 530pm Choir 630pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Candle light Service 630pm  NO SCHOOL	25 Christmas Service 930am	26	27
28 SS 845am Hymn Singin 940am	29 Handbells 530pm Choir 630pm NEWSLETTER DEAD-LINE	30	31 NO SCHOOL			