

Growing Together

March 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

Maundy Thursday —March 28, 2024

“And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, ‘Take; this is my body.’”

- Mark 14:22 -

The disciples were probably expecting a very different meal when they gathered in that upper room; they wanted a King, but Jesus acted as a servant. He spoke of death, betrayal, and denial. Peter, as usual, made great claims of his love for Jesus and his willingness to even die. Jesus told him that he would, that very evening, deny Him three times. Jesus knew Judas was the betrayer, and was clearly in control as He told Judas to do the task quickly. The disciples were confused by the words of Jesus, and became agitated as the vision they had of a kingdom began to fall apart before their eyes. Even though He knew He was just hours from betrayal, denial, and abandonment, He comforted them. He promised the Holy Spirit who would help them continue His work after His death. He established a new covenant with His people, one of life, hope and remembrance.

It was the Passover meal, but Jesus chose to use the most ordinary elements as the sign of His new covenant. Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and shared it with His disciples. Then He took wine, blessed it and passed the cup around the table to all the disciples. Every culture has some form of bread that is a staple food source, and wine was commonplace on ancient dinner tables. Jesus chose the ordinary things for the sacramental meal that He gave to His Church. Jesus used the ordinary food of the people and yet, this ordinary meal of bread and wine is something extraordinary, because it is shared with all Christians in every time and in every place.

When we are at the table receiving the bread and wine, we are at the table with those first disciples who received it on the night Jesus was betrayed. When we take the bread and wine, we are taking it with our friends who live in other places. The meal is a foretaste of the feast to come; every time we share it, we escape time and space and enter into the holy presence of God. The common elements of this special meal are made remarkable by the words spoken over them. There for an instant at the table of our Lord, we are in eternity with our Father at that banquet He has promised!



Good Friday - March 29, 2024

“And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.”

- Hebrews 4:9 -

Holy week is a good time to ask the deep questions of our faith. Who is Jesus? What did He do? What does this mean for my life? These questions might not offer any new insights, but they help us to focus on Jesus Christ at a time when the world is watching. It helps us witness to this truth of Christian faith: we can't get to the Resurrection without the Crucifixion. Perhaps this seems obvious, but most people would rather believe in the triumph of Christ and ignore the suffering. Even many Christians would rather jump from Palm Sunday to Easter.

It is easy to believe in the Resurrection. God is all-powerful; God gives life and it is no surprise that He can raise someone from the dead. We don't expect any less from the Lord God Almighty. The proclamation of Easter brings joy and peace. Even those who do not believe in Jesus enjoy the celebration of Easter and its focus on life, renewal, and joy.

It is a lot harder to believe in Good Friday. God is all-powerful, why would His Son, our Lord Jesus, have to suffer such incredible pain and humiliation? Why did He have to die? How can any of this be good? Even if we can give the right theological answers to the questions of Good Friday, we still wonder in our hearts why it had to be this way. The world rejects the cross as foolishness; it is not surprising because even believers have a hard time understanding it.

We cannot reject the events of Good Friday, however. The crowds came looking for Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane with Judas as their guide. He betrayed Jesus with a kiss; the soldiers arrested Him. Jesus was tried, sent back and forth between the Romans and Jews; no one wanted to be responsible for a death they were convinced was necessary. He was humiliated and beaten. The people chose to set a murderous thief free rather than the King of Creation. His disciples fled, Peter denied Him. It might seem like God lost control, but it was there that we see truly see His power. Jesus' way of being in the world caused him to be there; he was too good, too perfect for a society of sinners. We destroyed the Son of God on that horrible day. But that's not the end of the story...

Preparing for Worship

March 3 - Third Sunday in Lent

1R – Exodus 20:1-17, P – Psalm 19, 2R – 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, G – John 2:13-22 (23-25)

March 10– Fourth Sunday in Lent

1R - Numbers 21:4-9, P – Psalm 107:1-9, 2R – Ephesians 2:1-10, G – John 3:14-21

March 17– Fifth Sunday in Lent

1R - Jeremiah 31:31-34, P - Psalm 119:9-16, 2R - Hebrews 5:1-10, G - Mark 10:(32-34) 35-45

March 24 - Palm Sunday

1R - Zechariah 9:9-12, P – Psalm 118:19-29, 2R – Philippians 2:5-11, G – Mark 14:1-15:47

March 28 - Maundy Thursday

1R- Exodus 24:3-11, P - Psalm 116:12-19, 2R - 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, G - Mark 14:12-26

March 29 - Good Friday

1R - Isaiah 52:13—53:12, P - Psalm 22 or 31, 2R - Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, G - John 18:1—19:42

March 30 - Holy Saturday

1R - Daniel 6:1-24, P - Psalm 16, 2R - 1 Peter 4:1-8, G - Matthew 27:57-66

March 31 - Easter Sunrise

1R - Exodus 15:1-11, P - Psalm 118:15-29, 2R - 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, G - John 20:1-18

March 31 - Easter Day

1R - Isaiah 25:6-9, P - Psalm 16, 2R - 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, G - Mark 16:1-8

Celebrate



- 1 Robin Buschlen
- 3 Al Licht
- 4 Mark Fritz
Larry Smith
- 5 Bonnie Schulz
- 6 Joshua Barry
Peggy Licht
Kevin Ohlrogge
Robin Stack
Avenia Thiel
- 7 Leanne Schuette
Aaron Smith
- 8 Ben Smith
Chad Sturm
- 12 Henry Lange Jr.
- 13 Joshua Kunisch
- 16 Kolton Smith
Haidyn Krzeszewski
- 17 June Sturm
- 20 Jena Zimmerman
Kyle Buchholz
- 21 Raylene Henkelmann
- 22 Alissa Peterson-Daoudiya
- 24 Emily Sturm
- 25 Emalee Fritz-Osantoski
Wesley Trowbridge
- 26 Terry Collison
- 27 Nicholas Trost
Robin Krzeszewski
- 28 Lonnie Schulz

- 29 Martin Knost
- 29 Jim Licht
- 30 Jeff Buchholz
Roberta Danks
Kobain Smith



3/16 Allen & Mary (Terry) Collison, 39 years



Special Dates

- World Day of Prayer, *March 1, 2024*
- Daylight saving time begins, *March 10, 2024*
- First day of spring, *March 19, 2024*
- Holy Week, *March 24-31, 2024*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 24, 2024*
- Maundy Thursday, *March 28, 2024*
- Good Friday, *March 29, 2024*
- Easter Sunday, *March 31, 2024*
- MOM2MOM Sale, April 6, 2024
- VBS, June 17 thru 20, 2024



THOSE IN NEED OF CONTINUED PRAYER

Lori McKenzie, Paul Schuette, Connie Eden, Jim Siewert, Dawn Hendricks, Beth Elston, Kari Spearing, Brandon Fritz, Barb Eidt, Gene Parsell, Tim Voss, Michael Eden, Terry Sturm, Clark Elftman, Hannah Britt, Cordelia Trost, John Finneren, Tom Shupe, Whitney Peyerck, Joe Stodola, Matt Edler, Larry Adams, Al Collison, Anna House, Susan Beller, Hope Kittel, Inez Buchholz, Noah Adams, Kyle Walker, Kay Schuette, Roberta Danks, Corey Messing, Marvin Trost, Kevin Faupel, Ezra Sturm, Deann Lewis, Kayle Thepsourinthone, Robert Krzeszewski, Dolores Elftman, Martin Knost.

THOSE IN THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY

- Nicholas Swanson (U.S. Air Force)
- Michael Cox (U. S. Navy)
- Alex Moyer (U.S. Marines)



From the Desk of...Leslie Eberly

We are in the midst of our 3rd period of school, and it is flying by fast! DK and Kindergarten are working hard in the classroom learning how to add and subtract, beginning words and special sounds, how to be a good friend and what it means to keep trying even when it seems tough. All Kinders at this point in the year are all beginner readers! We have also been working on our writing. This month, we all brought in recipes to make a class recipe book to sell at the auction. It was a ton of work and there were some tired hands and a few tears, but we did it and the students were super excited to see the finished product.

While we learn a lot in the classroom, we also have fun going and experiencing learning while playing. We enjoyed making huge snowballs at recess and taking walks through the town as we made our way over snow hills walking to the library.

This past month was quite busy! We celebrated Valentine's Day, the 100th day of school and our class, and the 1st-2nd grade, took a field trip to the Midland Center of the Arts where we saw a puppet performance of the Rainbow Fish. Boy, were they big puppets! One puppet took 2 people to make it move.

In Kindergarten, we learn about community helpers for our social studies unit and at the end of this month, we will be traveling to Bad Axe to Emma's Coffee House to meet Mr. Brad Severance to learn about his shop and how it helps the community.

In music, we are gearing up to start rehearsals for our Arts Extravaganza which happens in May. Mark your calendars, it will be a show you don't want to miss! We hope to see you then!

March Calendar

- 3/4-8 Lutheran Schools Week
- 3/10 Students sing in church
- 3/22 End of 3rd grading period
- 3/25—Apr. 1 NO School—Spring Break



Cross Lutheran School Board Minutes from:

February 1, 2024

(To be approved at the March meeting)

Members present: David Faupel, Kevin Stachowiak, Eileen Johnson, Katie Wilson, Dick Koehler, Kevin Trost, Rebecca Yackle **Absent:** Katie Wilson

The meeting was called to order by Dick Koehler at 6:10 pm. Prayer was led by David Faupel

Agenda: A motion was made by Rebecca and seconded by Kevin S. to accept the agenda with the addition of appointing a new non-member representative to New Business. It was carried.

Minutes: A motion was made by Kevin S, seconded by Kevin T. to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2024, meeting. The motion passed.

Guests: No guests

Treasurers' Reports:

School Balance: \$ 68,237.88

CEA/PTO Balance: \$ 42,727.25

Hot Lunch: \$4,881.07

A motion was made by Kevin S. and seconded by Rebecca to accept the Treasurers' Reports. The motion was carried.

CEA President's Report:

Rebecca reported they canceled the Mother/Son, Daddy/Daughter Event. The upcoming fund raisers are a Pie Sales and a Mom2Mom Sale. February 10 is the Winter Dinner/Auction.

Principal's Report:

- Students Registered for 2023-2024 are now 65. **DK:1 KDG: 10 1st:10 2nd: 9 3rd: 8 4th: 5 5th: 8 6th: 6 7th: 3 8th:5**
- Evaluations of teachers and staff will be complete this week with all teaching staff planning on returning.
- February 10-Robotics Tournament @ Bad Axe
- February 10-Winter Dinner-Auction from 4:30-11:00
- February 16-1/2 day of school
- March 4-8-Lutheran School Week



(Continued on page 6)

Old Business:

- Dick updated us on the Pastoral Search/Call. He said 65 people have responded positively to attending the February 3rd workshop.
- The Council did approve the use of the Family Room as a classroom and the use of the choir loft for the band classes.

New Business:

- The \$3500 needed to replace the kitchen door going outdoors will likely be paid by a safety grant.
- Basketball Coaching Stipends were discussed and tabled until next month.
- The Hot Lunch Finances were discussed.
- Kevin S. made a motion to appoint Rita Herford as the new non-member representative of the School Board. Kevin T. seconded it, and the motion was carried.
- A motion was made by Kevin S. to purchase a \$50 gift card for Evan Gascho for serving as ref at basketball games and a special thank you to all the people who donated their time as refs. Kevin T. seconded it and it was passed.

We thanked Kevin Trost for faithfully serving as Vice President of the School Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

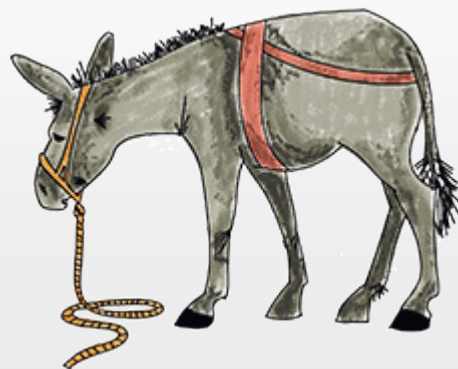
The date of the next meeting will be March 7, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Be the donkey

Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

“When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?” she replied. “If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor.”

Jesus told his followers they'd need to carry (or “take up”) their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?





In memory of Bill Hurdelbrink, for Cross Building fund:

Bruce Baur
Selma Thiel
Nancy Schuette

In memory of Bill Hurdelbrink, for Cross Lutheran Church:

Sheila Yackle
Bob & Eileen Johnson
Carol Diener

Thank-you note received from the NALC Disaster Relief to Cross Lutheran Church:

The members of Redeemer Lutheran would like to thank you for your recent donation of quilts, health kits, Bibles and extra supplies for our Disaster Response Warehouse here at Redeemer. Your thoughtfulness, generosity and sharing of your time and talents are greatly appreciated. May God bless you richly for your contributions to this ministry and service to others who have experienced great loss during times of natural disasters. Many thanks to Krisie and her daughter for delivering the donations also.

In Christ's Service,
Ardelle Rodgers
Disaster Response Warehouse Coordinator
Redeemer Lutheran, Owosso



Save the date!

Cross Fish Fry, Friday, April 12, 2024. Your help and support is needed! **We are planning on serving in the gym for dine in and take out orders.** How can you help?

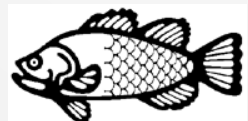
- Placing flyers in Pigeon, Bay Port, Caseville, Elkton, Bad Axe, Sebawaing, and surrounding areas and businesses.
- Make desserts. There will be sign-up sheets on the welcome desk in the overflow.
- Thursday 1:30-4 pm - Kitchen help is needed with prep: mix cole slaw, cut onions and bacon, fill tartar sauce containers?
- Friday 12:30-4:15 or as needed: bag rolls, cole slaw in containers, desserts packaged, set up stations for dine in and take out area.
- Friday Serving 4:15-clean up. Serving hot and cold stations, filling bean containers, prepping, battering, and frying fish.
- Prepay and order meals for those serving. You may eat in the gym after the 7:20 large take-out order is finished. Need someone to manage this order.
- Clean-up stations, kitchen and gym. Consider helping after you finish your meal, there are always supplies to gather and put away, floors to sweep, dishes to do, leftovers to package and distribute and clean up kitchen and stations.

Sign-up sheets are in the church overflow, updates will be announced and in bulletin. Come, bring your family, invite your friends and community, and enjoy the meal! Donations are appreciated from businesses or individuals, name can be publicized or anonymous. Thank you for your support!

Call or text Leanne Smith at 989-553-4241.

In the past there have been many hands involved in this project and it has been a joy to see this event come together with so many working together in the Body of Christ.

Blessings on the Journey,
Leanne Smith



Mission Outreach Ministry

February 7, 2024

The meeting of Mission Outreach was called to order by President, Krisie Fritz. Attending were Krisie Fritz, Tonja Nelson, Lorraine LePage, Sandie Haley, Trustee Nancy Schuette, and guest Gwynne Barry.

A prayer was given by Krisie Fritz.

The secretary's report was given. A motion by Lorraine LePage was made to accept the minutes, seconded by Sandie Haley.

The treasurer's report was given and approved.

The garage sale was discussed and it was decided to have it again this June. In order to have it, we need more people to help with set-up as well as work during the sale days. Gwynne suggested to have older kids come in and work a few hours and to make up a schedule of hours where we will need workers and put it out for church members to look at and decide if they could come help. Members who donate items are also being asked to help put their donated items on the appropriate tables when they are brought in. The dates for the set up and sale are Saturday, June 1 thru Saturday, June 8th.

Gwynne will be having children make cards that we can send out to church members.

Coffee hour for our group will be March 3rd.

After getting approval from church council, an online motion by Tonja Nelson and seconded by Sandie Haley was taken to purchase 50 chairs and a storage rack, and to sell the old chairs for \$10 each. The motion was passed by all members. Chairs and rack were ordered and have arrived. They are in the overflow area as well as choir loft and the room where the school band practices. The old chairs are not selling well so it was voted to reduce the price to \$5 per chair.

Our card ministry will be sending out Easter cards to church members and our shut-ins.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 6th at 6:30 pm. With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Tonja Nelson

Worship and Music Ministry

February 6, 2024

Members present: Mike Sting, Peg McCrimmon, John House (Trustee), Beth Elston (by speaker phone), Gwynne Barry (guest), Karen Schuette (Chair).

*Ash Wednesday worship-2/14-6:30 pm – Gwynne will preach. Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion (by Intinction) will be observed. Setting I liturgy will be used throughout Lent.

*Lenten Wednesday Night Bible Study – Gwynne will lead. Motion by Mike and seconded by Peg to allow Gwynne to select the Bible Study. Motion carried.

*Planning for Holy Week:

+Palm Sunday-3/24-Palms will be distributed and Communion.

+Maundy Thursday-3/28-6:30 pm-The sermon will be given at the beginning of the worship, Communion, and stripping of the altar.

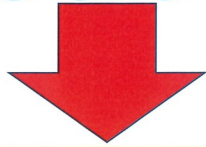
+Good Friday-3/29-6:30 pm-No sermon or Communion, Lessons and hymns

*Easter-9:30 am-Setting II will be used throughout the Easter season.

*Use of church by the school for the 2024-2025 school year – Discussed the use of the choir loft in the sanctuary by the band. We decided to write a letter to the Church Council stating our objection to this.

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 3 pm.

Save the Date



June 6 – 8, 2024

The Annual Cross Family Church

GARAGE



Cross Lutheran Church

200 Ruppert Street,

Pigeon, MI



Attention Junior High and High Schoolers!

There will be OPEN Gym and GAMES on Sunday, March 10th
From 4:30 to 6:00 pm

Bring your friends!



I'm happy to report our FAT Tuesday event was well attended. Thirty-three PS-5th graders, six JH students, and one HS student joined together for worship, food, and fun. I'm grateful for the adults who helped make and serve pancakes, assist with projects, and clean up. I'm especially grateful for the JH and HS help with so many little ones!

Instead of doing prayer partners this year with the kids in attendance, I created a Lenten Countdown Calendar. Everyone received one. Each of the 40 days of Lent had an activity listed to do individually or as a family. At the bottom of the calendar I used a large bold font with these familiar words "Easter Sunday! His is risen! He is risen indeed!" Yes, you read that right. "His is risen!" I had read and reread that calendar over and over before I printed and copied it because I don't like to make mistakes, but I didn't notice my error until it was hanging on my own refrigerator. I was appalled when it registered with me that it said "His is risen!" There were over 40 purple copies distributed with that now glaring error! Oh my! (I quickly corrected the error on my Google doc in case I use the calendar again.) Mistakes get made. I had to get over it. I have made much larger blunders than mistyping on a document but I'm keeping that calendar on my frig to remind me of something. I am human and I make mistakes and I need to talk to My Father and ask for forgiveness daily, hourly, each minute!

Our Lenten journey reminds us that we are sinners, we make mistakes that are seen and unseen. The Bible readings we hear in our worship services tell us Jesus came for just that reason....to save us. Amazingly, God loves us so much that He sent His one and only Son to die for us. We are His forgiven children and on Easter Sunday, we can all shout, "**He is risen!** He is risen indeed!"

In His love, Gwynne Barry



March 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Lutheran Schools Week March 4-8					1	2
Comm. Serv. 9:30 am 3 S.S. 8:30 am	4	5	Chapel 8:05 am 6 Mission Outreach 6:30 pm Bible Study 6 pm	Jean Quilts 7 School Board 5:30 pm Properties 7 pm	8	9
Worship Serv. 9:30 am 10 S.S. 8:30 am Students sing	11	12	Chapel 8:05 am 13 Quilters 1 pm Bible Study 6 pm	14	15	16
Worship Serv. 9:30 am 17 S.S. 8:30 am	18	19	Chapel 8:05 am 20 Bible Study 6 pm	Jean Quilts 21 1 pm	End of 3rd grading period 22	23
Palm Sunday 24 Comm. Serv. 9:30 am NO S.S.	25	26	Quilters 1 pm 27	Maundy Thursday w/comm 28 6:30 pm	Good Friday Service 6:30 pm 29	30
No School - Spring Break - March 25 thru April 1						
Easter Sunday 31 Comm. Serv. 9:30 am NO S.S.						