



Cross Connection

Growing together

December 2010

Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

**200 Ruppert Street
Pigeon, MI 48755-0050**

Our mission:

Bring people to Christ.

Teach

Christians to be disciples.

Send disciples to reach the world.

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Message from Pastor Tim

How long till Christmas mom/dad? How long must I wait until I can come rushing down the stairs to open my presents? How long? Every year as a kid this was my thought process, my anticipation, and my self induced anxiety for Christmas Day. Then came Christmas Eve and the 'how long' was all night as I laid in bed watching the minutes go by on the clock. How long must I lay here in bed knowing those presents are down there waiting for me to open them? How long dear God!?

My dad was an extremely tolerant man however, when it came to me and Christmas, his tolerance seemed to be missing. His cry "how long Tim!?" The "how long" came to fruition Christmas morning. I ran down the stairs running over my sister and brother, tearing open the presents in full exhilaration and then, it was over. Just like that it was over. Just like that came the cry, "how long dear God till next Christmas!?" My dad was not happy with me.

NRS **Psalm 13:1**

How long O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

We scream this all the time in our world today as adults, teenagers, and children. How long will wars go on? How long will teenagers and adults make harmful life choices? How long will we continue to slip away from God and church to follow popular thinking in our society whether it is right or wrong? How long God?

NRS **John 10:24**

So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

Even back then the Jews were crying how long. How long must we wait for the promised Messiah to come and save us? When will He come? We need Him to come because we can't save ourselves. How long God?

When we cry how long we are showing our ignorance as to what God has already

done for us and has already answered the question how long.

NRS **John 1:1** *In*

the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

God has answered the question how long even before there was someone there to ask the question. God has always been, always is, and always will be with us. That's His promise. That's his answer to our how long.

However, God's Word alone wasn't good enough for sin took over and there was a price to be paid for that.

NRS **John 1:14**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Once again the how long is answered in the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This little baby, born in a barn, is the answer to the how long. God says; my kingdom is with you in my son.

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Preparing for Worship at Cross

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 5 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

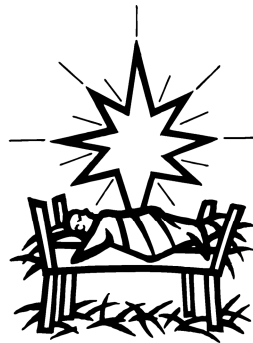
1R – Isaiah 11:1-10
 P – Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
 2R – Romans 15:4-13
 G – Matthew 3:1-12
 Hymns: LBW# 35, 34, 32
 Communion Hymns: LBW# 33, 36, 25, 28

December 12 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

1R – Isaiah 35:1-10
 P – Psalm 146:5-10
 2R – James 5:7-10
 G – Matthew 11:2-11
 Hymns: LBW # 40, 45, 50
 Communion Hymns: LBW# 47, 51

December 19 – 4th Sunday of Advent

1R – Isaiah 7:10-16
 P – Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 2R – Romans 1:1-7



R E M E M B E R THE CHILD

G – Matthew 1:18-25
 Hymns: LBW # 41, 44, 60
 Communion Hymns: LBW# 76, 73, 71, 52

December 24 – Christmas Eve

1R – Isaiah 9:2-7
 P – Psalm 96
 2R – Titus 2:11-14
 G – Luke 2:1-14
 Hymns: LBW# 69, 67, 65
 Communion Hymns: LBW# 54, 56, 58, 39

December 25 – Christmas Day

1R – Isaiah 62:6-12
 P – Psalm 97
 2R – Titus 3:4-7
 G – Luke 2:1-20
 Hymns: LBW# 45, 40, 50
 Communion Hymns: LBW# 46, 41, 59

December 26 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

1R – Isaiah 63:7-9
 P – Psalm 148
 2R – Hebrews 2:10-18
 G – Matthew 2:13-23
 Hymns: LBW# 62, 44, 46

COFFEE HOUR

December 12 & 26
 – Outreach/Stewardship

Continued from Page 1

My kingdom is now. It is not coming, it is now. See there is my son. My word made flesh.

We no longer have to ask the question how long. We no longer have to worry if the Kingdom of God is coming for it is already here. We no longer have to doubt

God's promise.

NRS **Luke 2:**⁹ *Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.* ¹⁰ *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:* ¹¹

to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Rejoice and be glad. You no longer have to ask how long.
 Merry Christmas
 Pr Tim

In Memory/In Honor

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

In memory of Gerald Geppert for Cross Lutheran Church by

Linda LeFaive, St. John - St. Luke Evangelical Church.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Jameson Jeffrey Buchholz born June 30, 2010 the son of Jeff & Kim Buchholz was baptized November 14, 2010. We welcome him into the fellowship of God's people and family of Cross Lutheran Church. Please pray for Jameson's parents as they seek to raise him in the Christian faith.

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Jill Gardy & Adrian Hill reaffirmed the baptism of their daughters Evelyn Florence Hill & Elizabeth Marie Hill before the congregation on Sunday, November 21, 2010. The twins were born early on July 14, 2010 and have recently come home from the hospital. We rejoice in the family being together and thank God for many answered prayers for their health and progress. Please continue to pray for their strength and for God's guidance as Jill & Adrian raise their daughters before the Lord.

## INSTALLATION OF MINISTRY

### LEADERS

Installation of newly elected ministry leaders took place during our worship on November 14, 2010.

Please pray for these individuals as they dedicate their time, effort, and talents to lead and serve in this congregation.

**Secretary:** Krisie Fritz, **Treasurer:** Nancy Heck, **Ministry of Properties:** Mike Fritz, **Ministry of Worship & Music:** Karen Schuette, **Ministry of Youth:** Kevin Trost, **Synod Assembly Delegates:** Mike & Connie Eden, **Audit Committee:** Kent McKenzie, Mike LePage, **Nominating Committee:** Mike Otto, Tom Shupe, Neil Herford, George Gardy, Roger Fritz, **School Board Vice-President:** Brian Delpiere.

## LET'S GO CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Anyone who likes to sing (especially our youth) is invited to join us on Saturday, Dec. 18th, right after rehearsal for the Christmas Eve program. Lunch will be provided and then shortly after 12:00 pm we will go caroling to our local shut-ins, and assisted living communities. If you can help with the driving please contact Sue Loehrke.



## MEN'S GROUP

Men's Bible study & fellowship takes place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The group will meet December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Bay Port Inn.

## Special dates

- Second Sunday of Advent, December 5
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 12
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19
- First day of winter, December 21
- Christmas Eve, December 24
- Christmas Day, December 25
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31

# Celebrate

## December Birthdays

- 1 Jordan Licht
- 3 Mark Trost
- 4 Cynthia Buchholz  
Daniel Azarovitz  
Art Woelke
- 5 Fred Haley  
Stephanie Lakin
- 6 Troy Schuette
- 8 Beverly Knost
- 9 Neil Herford
- 10 Ryan Trost
- 11 Jordan Ruthen  
berg  
Grace Shupe
- 14 Shannon Pionk
- 15 Roger Renn  
Kendal Delpiere  
Holly Lakin
- 17 Richard Koehler  
Jr.  
Maria Schumacher  
Jacob Heck
- 18 Lorraine LePage  
Brad Buschlen
- 19 Kaoty Smith
- 20 Cheryl Sturm  
Marlene Landry
- 21 Daniel Smith
- 22 Donna Schuette
- 23 Gertrude Schuette  
Bill Love
- 24 Dennis Diener Sr.
- 25 James Siewert
- 26 Victoria Lakin
- 27 Donald Schuette
- 28 Janice Uhan
- 29 Pastor Tim
- 31 Mitchell Schuette

## December Anniversaries

- 12/3 Clarence & Inez  
Buchholz (50<sup>th</sup>)
- 12/14 Paul & Karen  
Schuette (36<sup>th</sup>)

- 12/17 Loren & Dolores Elftman  
(61<sup>st</sup>)
- 12/20 Kent & Lori McKenzie  
(30<sup>th</sup>)
- 12/26 Dale & Chris Schulz (41<sup>st</sup>)
- 12/27 Joe & Arlene Wold (54<sup>th</sup>)

12/29 Dick & Lillian Koehler (59<sup>th</sup>)

\* If your birthday or anniversary wasn't listed, please contact the church office so it can be added to our list.

## Remember our Shut-ins:

Fred & Lois Chisholm, Dorothy Hafner, Harvey Weiss, Barb Ruff, Ruth Milton, Harold Deering, Dick Koehler Sr., Donald Schuette, Viola Schuette, Marge Krause, Fred Edler, Bill Buchholz, Thelma Warner, Hulda Baur

## Please Remember in Prayer:

Dawn Rosenthal, Clara Story (Linda Shope's mother), Carolyn (Bergman) Stirrett, Frank Delpiere (Brian Delpieres father), Tina Smith, Elizabeth Marie & Evelyn Florence Hill (twin daughters of Jill Gardy), Sharon Dietzel, Cathy Ruthenberg, Kurt Anderson, Eunice Richmond, Lester Otto (Mike Eden's brother's father-in-law), Marlena Rosenthal, Dorothy Hafner, Fran & Jim Laursen, Karen Anklam, Harvey Weiss, Cheryl Merlington, Andrea Harder, Blaize Webber, Betty Schulze, Dennis Diener, Harold Deering, Marge Krause, Ruth Mohr, Loren Elftman.

- Please be sure to update your request so we can keep our prayer list current.

## In the Service of Our Country:

**Zac Collins** son of Perry & Tiffany Collins and **Matt Bolzman**, a Navy Seabee are serving their country in Afghanistan. Please pray for the safety of these young men and also all service members and their families as they are separated.



## SOCIAL SERVICE MINISTRY

A sincere thank you to everyone who donated items to the Pigeon Food Pantry. They were extremely grateful for the donations as they feed 35 - 40 families per month.

Also, a huge thank you to everyone who helped in Operations Christmas Child, Shoebox project. Your donations and help put smiles on children throughout the world.

We wish you a Blessed Christmas!

# School News



## School Calendar

- 12/2 School Board Meeting
- 12/6 Progress Reports
- 12/17 Last day of school in 2010
- 1/3/11 School Resumes

## Basketball Season Begins!



## Basketball

## School Reflections

It's hard to believe we are one quarter of the way through the school year already! Many of our 3rd-5th grade students worked very hard during the 1st marking period, earning the distinction of being on the Honor Roll. Those students were recognized for their efforts after our Veterans Day chapel service. This was also a special service to honor all those who have served and

sacrificed for our freedom. Six veterans, including Pastor Tim, attended this service and were presented with cards of gratitude for their service from K-8th grade students.

Grandparents' Day was held on Friday November 5th. Grandparents, relatives, and other special people were invited to come in that morning for refreshments, games, and quality time with students in their classrooms. This special day was concluded with a chapel service and a singing performance by all students K-8th grade. It was a very nice day for students and their special visitors.

Seventh grade band students Isaac Elston and Grace Higgins joined Laker Junior High band students at Lakers to practice and perform a concert in late October. They will be performing in future concerts together this school year, with the next one being in December. All of our students are gifted in many different ways, and it is wonderful to see them use these gifts that God has given them.

For me, this school year has been a year of "firsts." First classroom to organize and decorate, first first-day-of-school, first time leading a chapel service, first parent-teacher conferences, and every day seems to bring an-

other new experience of its own. I think I am learning as much each day about being a teacher, as my students are learning from me. It is a blessing to have such wonderful mentors teaching across the hall from me, to watch and learn from (and get advice from when I don't have a clue). I truly am very blessed to be having these "first" experiences at Cross Lutheran School.

—David Faupel

## First Quarter Honor Roll

### Third Grade

Emma Irion\*

### Fourth Grade

Kaitlyn Dowd

Greta Elston\*

Grant Gascho

Johnathon Higgins

### Fifth Grade

Lance Gascho\*

### Sixth Grade

Austin Roestel

### Seventh Grade

Isaac Elston

Grace Higgins

Karliegh Irion

### Eighth Grade

Ryan Hemauer

Travis Roestel\*

## December Time & Talents

| Date & Time                          | Leader         | Reader          | Children's Time | Communion       | Ushers                                                                                                     | Altar Guild |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Dec. 5, 9:30 a.m.                    | Gwynn Barry    | Vivian Buschlen | Brian Delpiere  | Paul Schuette   | Bruce Baur<br>Clarence Buchholz<br>Dennis Diener<br>Dick Koehler<br>Scott Dubs<br>Dick Mead<br>Norm Nelson |             |
| Dec. 12, 9:30 a.m.                   | Paul Schuette  | Carol Diener    | Sue Loehrke     | Norm Nelson     |                                                                                                            |             |
| Dec. 19, 9:30 a.m.                   | Peggy Koehler  | Connie Eden     | Ray Licht       | Phil Schadd     |                                                                                                            |             |
| Dec. 24, 10:00 p.m.<br>Christmas Eve | Karen Schuette | Peggy Koehler   |                 | John Trowbridge |                                                                                                            |             |
| Dec. 25, 10:00 a.m.<br>Christmas Day | Gwynne Barry   |                 |                 |                 |                                                                                                            |             |
| Dec. 26, 9:30 a.m.                   | Rick Landry    | June Sturm      |                 |                 |                                                                                                            |             |

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE AS SCHEDULED, PLEASE CONTACT A SUBSTITUTE.** If unable to find anyone, please contact me at (989) 453-2744. Thanks and may God's peace be with you always.

**USHERS PLEASE NOTE:** Unlock doors, turn on lights and sound system, then lock up and turn off lights, etc. to close up the church.

Karen Schuette



### Operation Christmas Child

**330 boxes** are wrapped, packed and prepared to be shipped to children around the world!

Thanks to all who gave generously of their time and funds to make this project so successful. Anyone wanting to help with the shipping costs can direct their gift to Lori Smith to complete this process and get the packages into the hands of a child.

### Special Meeting

A special congregational meeting is being held on Sunday, Dec 5 right after the 9:30 am service for the purpose to vote on leaving the ELCA. This vote must pass by 2/3 majority. If the vote passes by a 2/3 majority, a second vote will be taken on Sunday, March 6, 2011. Voting members are confirmed members who have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding calendar year, and who have reached the age of eighteen (18) years. Voting by proxy or by

## CEA Meeting

### October 28

President Maxine Rice

Vice-President Melissa Helmuth

Secretary Melisa Raymond

Treasurer Stephanie Burgess

Present at meeting were Maxine Rice, Melissa Helmuth, Norma Hemauer, and Melisa Raymond.

Stephanie Burgess was not present.

Melissa Helmuth opened with Prayer at 1:30pm.

Treasures Report was given. Melissa H. motioned and

Maxine second. Motion passed.

### Old Business

Pancake Breakfast Thrivent money is in.

Candy Bar Fundraiser is still ongoing.

TAT Bus trip money to clean up the beaches cost \$45.

Triathlon- Postponed to a later date. Next Spring

Special Person Day- Nov. 5th. Food and beverages were discussed. Melisa R. to pick up some muffins,

cookies, coffee, juice, and mini plates. Melisa R. agreed to

bring a cheese ball. Maxine to pick up

crackers and a few other things.

### New Business

Pizza Fundraiser extended to Nov. 8th.

Pepper sticks were discussed and Maxine will look into more details.

Family CEA Meeting is Nov. 18th at 6:00pm. Teachers will be asked to speak.

Next CEA Meeting will be Nov. 9th at 1:30pm.

Closed meeting with the Lord's Prayer at 2:45pm.

## Parish Life Ministry

The Parish Life Ministry met on Tues., Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and opened with devotions and prayer by Betty. Members present were Inez Buchholz, Betty Champagne, Pam Sturm, Alice Trost and Pastor Tim.

We discussed the potluck following the annual meeting on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> and what our duties would be. All went well.

Parish Life hosted an Adult Fellowship on Sat. evening, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>. Adults brought their favorite munchies. We all had a good time playing a variety of games.

Parish Life will be assisting Ministry of Worship & Music and the Decorating Committee with cleaning the church for

Christmas and decorating the trees etc. beginning Sat., Nov 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Parish Life will organize a light lunch at noon for all helpers. All Cross members are welcome to come and help.

A coffee hour schedule is being prepared for 2011. A schedule will be posted for volunteers to sign up. More information will follow.

We discussed various ideas for 2011. Our next meeting will be Tues., Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Parish Life is still in need of someone to chair our meetings and represent us at council meetings.

Meeting closed at 5:40 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Betty Champagne

## CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Tues, Dec. 7, **Rebecca Circle** 1:30 p.m.

Wed, Dec. 8, **Sarah Circle**, 9:30 a.m.

Mon. Dec. 13, **Esther Circle**, 2:00 p.m.

### Food Pantry

Food pantry needs go up during this busy season. Thanks to all who generously give to those needing a helping hand at this time. Christmas specialty food would be cake & pudding mixes. Cash for meat & milk is so welcome! We will be packing Christmas boxes Dec. 16th & delivering Dec. 17th.

## Youth & Events

### YOUTH MINISTRY

#### Confirmation Class

Classes will be held December 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

December 27-30 "**The Gathering**" in Novi MI. Leanne Smith will be chaperoning 2 Cross youth at the Michigan Gathering. Please pray this experience will be valuable in the faith lives of all those attending.

Thank you to all who attended our Lasagna Fundraiser Meal on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds of \$1,216, including Thrivent Matching Funds, will support our youth program.

Our youth sold items at the Holly Berry Fair in Caseville Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds of \$450, including Thrivent Matching Funds, were made selling cards, cookbooks, calendars, homemade chocolate treats and handcrafted items donated by Dorothy Henne.

On December 12<sup>th</sup> our LYO group will go to the **Pigeon Food Pantry** to help pack Christmas boxes for local families in need during our Sunday school time.

December 18<sup>th</sup> after the Christmas play rehearsal **all youth** are invited to stay for lunch and then go **Christmas caroling** and take Christmas greetings to our shut-ins.

**Quilts for Seniors High Students** will not meet during the month of December.

## Advent Hope, Christmas Joy



A choral and handbell concert  
Sunday, Dec. 12, 2010  
3:00 p.m.

Cross Lutheran Church  
200 Ruppert Street, Pigeon, MI

Join us for a program of choral and handbell music, carols and scripture.  
A reception will follow.



### "Christmas Eve Program"

Cross Sunday School

Friday, December 24th

7:00 P.M.

Prelude 6:45 P.M.

Mini practices at Sunday School!

#### Dress Rehearsals:

Sat., December 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 - 11:00 A.M.

Sat., December 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 - 11:00 A.M.



# Ministers - The people of Cross

## Officers, Ministries and Committees

### Pastor

Tim Loehrke

### Music Director

Beth Elston

### Church Council

Tim Fritz, President

Terry Sturm, Vice President

Krisie Fritz, Secretary

Nancy Heck, Treasurer

Paul Schuette, Financial Secretary

Terry Strum, School Board

Mike Fritz, Properties

Karen Schuette, Worship & Music

Ray Licht, Stewardship

Vacant, Education

Vacant, Outreach

Kevin Trost, Youth

Vacant, Parish Life

Lorraine LePage, Social Services

### Advisors

Tim Loehrke, Pastor

Paul Schuette, Constitution Rep.

### Ministry of Properties

Mike Fritz, Chair

Ronald Higgins

Mike Eden

Paul Schuette

### Ministry of Worship & Music

Karen Schuette, Chair

Peg McCrimmon

Vivian Buschlen

Delores Lange

Beth Elston

Danielle Irlon

Mary Dubs

### Ministry of Social Services

Lorraine LePage, Chair

Krisie Fritz

LouAnn Jarvis

Bonnie Schulz

Kay Schuette

Lori Smith

### Ministry of Stewardship

Ray Licht, Chair

Tom Shupe

June Sturm

Carol Diener

### Ministry of Education

Connie Eden

Jean Sturm

Brenda Smith

Kim Fritz

Laura Trost

### Ministry of Outreach

Maxine Rice

Stephanie Lakin

### Ministry of Youth

Kevin Trost, Chair

Leanne Smith

Brandis Mallais

Rachel Higgins

Donna Schuette

Danielle Irlon

Keeley Baur

### Ministry of Parish Life

Betty Champagne

Sue Loehrke

Paul Schuette

Pam Strum

Inez Buchholz

Rick & Marlene Landry

Alice Trost

### Audit Committee

Suzie Swanson

Mike LePage

Kent McKenzie

Leanne Schuette

Peter Shupe

### Nominating Committee

Kent McKenzie

Mike LePage

### Synod Assembly Rep

Mike & Connie Eden

### School Board

Terry Sturm, President

Brian Delpiere, Vice President

Gretchen Roestel, Secretary  
Stephanie Burgess, Treasurer  
Norma Hemauer, Non-member rep.

Pastor Tim, Advisor

### C.E.A

Maxine Rice-President

Melissa Helmuth-Vice President

Melisa Raymond-Secretary

Stephanie Burgess-Treasurer

Norma Hemauer-Non-member

Representative

If there are names of individuals on your committee/ministry that are not listed or have changed please advise the church office so our information is accurate.



- Advent Vespers - Sunday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.
- Advent Vespers - Sunday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.
- Christmas Concert – Sunday, Dec. 12 at 3 p.m.
- Advent Vespers - Sunday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Children's Program – Friday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Communion Service – Friday, Dec. 24 at 10 p.m.
- Christmas Day Communion – Saturday, Dec. 25 at 10 a.m.