

Cross Connection

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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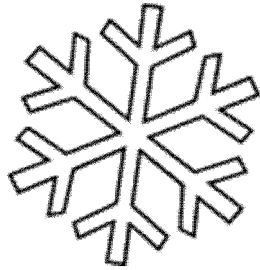
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Growing together

December 2020

Message from Pastor Glenn

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



One of my favorite childhood memories during the Holidays was when the Christmas decorations were finally brought out and we could help put the festive trinkets and figurines carefully around the living room. I always loved putting out our little snow globe with the rest of the decorations. Looking back, it was not a heavy, expensive glass globe, big and shiny. No, this globe was a small, inexpensive globe made of plastic.

The background of the globe was painted blue for the sky and inside there was a simple nativity scene with little plastic figures and evergreen trees glued on the bottom of the globe. But the best part was the liquid inside and the snow. I couldn't wait to shake that little plastic snow globe and then stare at it until all of the "snow" would fall down. Then I would shake it again...and again...and again. I'm sure that my mother was happy to see that I could be easily entertained while staying out of mischief, but to me there was just something peaceful about watching those little bits of "snow" fall down. It drew my attention and life at that moment in time seemed to slow down the hurried pace of trying to get ready for the Holiday.

Even now when the first snow arrives, I enjoy watching it come down. I'll stand by the window for a while and stare at it while my present work activities are set aside for a few minutes. The hustle and bustle at that moment seems to fade for a short while as flakes of snow too numerous to count make their way to the ground.

A summer rainstorm can really get your attention as the noise of the rain pounds against rooftops and window panes. A winter snowstorm distributes each snowflake without a sound. Maybe that is why it can easily fascinate and hold our attention. Flakes of snow are busy covering the ground changing the uneven landscape into a smooth blanket-like covering. The white snow even makes our days and nights a little brighter. It also tucks in nature giving it the opportunity for a much-needed rest.

At a time when we too are given the opportunity for quietness and rest, take a few minutes to step closer to the window. The snow may fall slowly to the ground, but it accomplishes its work in due time. May it be a gentle nudge for us, a quiet reminder that we don't have to approach this Holiday Season with the urgency of trying to perform miracles to make it the most perfect one ever. It has already been done!

"And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news

(Continued on page 2)

Preparing for Worship at Cross

Dec 6—2nd Sunday of Advent

1R – Isaiah 40:1-11, P – Psalm 85, 2R – 2 Peter 3:8-14, G – Mark 1:1-8

Dec 13—3rd Sunday of Advent

1R – Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, P – Psalm 126, 2R – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, G – John 1:6-8, 19-28

Dec 20—4th Sunday of Advent

1R—2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, P – Psalm 89:1-5 (19-29), 2R – Romans 16:25-27, G – Luke 1:26-38

Dec 24—Christmas Eve

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

Dec 25 - Christmas Day

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

Dec 27 - First Sunday after Christmas

1R - Isaiah 61:10-62:3, P - Psalm 111, 2R - Galatians 4:4-7, G - Luke 2:22-40

Christmas Eve Services

4 pm Candlelight & Communion

8 pm Candlelight & Communion

Christmas Day Service

9:30 am with Communion



(Continued from page 1)

of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:10-12)

During this Season of Advent which leads you to Christmas Day, please consider setting aside a time of quiet reflection as you prepare your heart and mind for the miracle of Christmas, the coming of the Christ Child. It will be a time for you to enjoy the stillness of the night as we gather in Christmas celebration as faithful brothers and sisters in Christ.

If you plan to attend Cross Lutheran Church worship services, please note the times for worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Thursday, December 24th, Christmas Eve Candlelight worship services with Holy Communion will be held at 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm. A Christmas Day worship service with Holy Communion will be held on Friday morning at 9:30 am. At the Sunday, December 27th worship service, we will observe the 1st Sunday after Christmas with Holy Communion.

May you turn your attention to the Good News of great joy in Jesus Christ this new Season of Advent and Christmas and may you each find God’s peace in the quiet, yet visible blessings that surround you in faith, hope, and love.

***“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”*** (Psalm 46:10)

In Christ, Pastor Glenn

Celebrate



- 1 Jordan Licht
- Denvyr Koroleski
- 3 Mark Trost
- 4 Cindy Buchholz
- 5 Fred Haley
- 6 Troy Schuette
- 9 Neil Herford
- 10 Ryan Trost
- Arthur Hill
- 11 Grace Shupe
- 15 Roger Renn
- Kendal Delpiere
- 17 Richard Koehler Jr.
- Maria Schumacher
- Jacob Heck
- 18 Lorraine LePage
- 19 Kaoty Smith
- 20 Cheryl Sturm
- Kim Schadd
- 22 Donna Schuette
- 23 Bill Love
- 25 Jim Siewert
- 30 Ethan Yackle
- Pearl Parsell
- 31 Mitchell Schuette



- 14 Paul & Karen Schuette, 46 years
- 20 Kent & Lori McKenzie, 40 years

PRAYERS NEEDED: Corey Messing had emergency back surgery a few weeks, and has now been diagnosed with CES (Clauda Equina Syndrome). He is currently in a wheel chair and unable to walk. He planned on going through intense therapy at the Lighthouse Outpatient facility, however, he had further health complications. Corey and Rachel have three young girls and Corey will be off work indefinitely. We pray that God wraps his arms around this young family and through receiving prayers, gives both Corey and Rachel strength. Let's cheer up this family with greeting cards, monetary gifts and prayers. Cards can be sent to: Corey Messing, P. O. Box 95, 7052 Clabuesch Street, Pigeon, MI 48755. *The Ministry of Mission Outreach.*



We are nearing the end of the fiscal year, which means reports need to be compiled for the Annual Report. All accounting books will need to be into the office by noon on Friday, 1/8/21 for the auditing committee to review. Audit Committee to meet the week of 1/11/21 to review books. Accounting books can be picked up from the office the week of 1/18/21. All written reports will need to be into the office no later than Monday, 1/25/21 for inclusion in the annual report to the congregation. Those reports will be ready for pick-up in the overflow area on Sunday 1/31/21, or in the church office during regular office hours. The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, 2/14/21 following the service.

<p><u>Remember Those at Home...</u> Elaine Licht, Martin Knost, Eunice Richmond.</p> <p><u>We Lift Up in Prayer...</u> Roberta Danks, Posie Tuckey, Betty Champagne-Grimaldi, Michelle Walsh, Corey Messing, Leanne Schuette, Marvin Trost, Clark Eidt, Marilyn Bauer, Kay Schuette, Bill Gray, Allen Koehler, Mary Champion, Kevin Faupel, Ezra Sturm, Kim Edler, Deann Lewis, Hope Kittel, Marilyn Blunt, Margaret McBride and Robert Krzeszewski</p>	<p><u>Serving of Our Country...</u> Nathan Schulz and Ryan Schulz, U.S. Marines, sons of Lonnie Schulz & grandsons of Bonnie Schulz. Nicholas Swanson, U.S. Air Force, son of Randy & Suzie Swanson & grandson of Nancy Schuette. Michael Cox, U.S. Navy, son of Kim Sears.</p>
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The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a time for everything, and a season for everything under heaven. Currently, we seem to be in the seasons of change and adaptability. Although adults may find this season unsettling, the children have flowed seamlessly with the changes in the preschool classroom, often reminding me when it's time to put on masks, or arrange the mats for spacing their seating during group gatherings, or line up for the extra handwashing times we have implemented.

Some of the new classroom procedures and groupings are so effective that I plan to continue them once restrictions are lifted. Our new Name Practice folders give students opportunities to spell and trace their names, as well as letter matching and recognition activities that also promote fine motor development. The Busy Boxes have provided focused, hands-on math activities that students truly enjoy. Students also practice organizational skills daily with their Writing Tools boxes, as they find, unpack/pack and neatly stack their own boxes for storage. Even Playdoh time adds to students' skills as they begin with a clean tray and materials, then put the used items in a separate container for cleaning. These types of meaningful activities and responsibilities give young children a sense of competence and personal satisfaction.

It has been such a joy to be in school for in-person instruction! It is especially meaningful as we consider the fluctuating state of the pandemic, knowing that we will be in and out of school, alternating between in-person and online learning over the next months, or perhaps years. Should this cause us alarm? Certainly not! For we know that God is caring for us even now, especially now, and working in us a deeper faith and attitude of thankfulness.

December Calendar

12/18 1/2 day of school

12/21 Christmas Break starts
thru 1/1/2021

1st Quarter Honor Roll

3rd Grade

Joy Kim

Clara Oeschger

Daniel Shupe

4th Grade

Leah Clouse

Ethan Yackle*

5th Grade

Evan Braegger

Aubrey Curtis

Joshua Kuhl

Conner McLean

Julia Shupe

7th Grade

Anna Rochon*

Mariam Shupe*



memorials & gifts

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

In memory of Raymond Licht, for Cross Lutheran School:

Tom & Bernice Shupe

In memory of Raymond Licht, for Cross Lutheran Church:

Lydia Decker

Mike & Jeanne Sting

In memory of Raymond Licht, for Cross Building fund:

Don & Nancy Heck

In memory of Dr. Peter Dixon, for Cross Lutheran School:

Tom & Bernice Shupe

In memory of Ronald Schroeder, for Cross Lutheran School:

Tom & Bernice Shupe

In memory of Donna Dembowski Swenson, for Cross Lutheran School:

Tom & Bernice Shupe

In memory of G. Jim Popham, for Cross Lutheran School:

Tom & Bernice Shupe



The Woman's Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, December 2 at 1:30 in the church overflow. This month's study is titled "Stir Up One Another", Bible passages are Hebrews 3:12-14 and Hebrews 10:19-25. Join us as during this Bible Study as we walk together as disciples of Christ. **Masks are required.**

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox:

This year the Cross Lutheran School children packed 119 shoeboxes. Thank you to all who donated items and the many hands that helped pack the shoeboxes. May the children who receive these boxes feel the love and blessing of God.



The simple shepherds
 Heard the voice of an angel
 And found their Lamb;
 The wise men
 Saw the light of a star
 And found their Wisdom

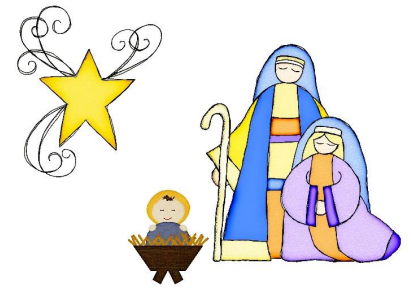
The Youth Message during the church Advent season will include the Jesse Tree.

The Advent Jesse Tree tells the story of God's redemptive plan for us from the beginning, through the Old and New Testament. We will display ornaments on our tree in the back of the church, a layer of anticipation each week as we wait for Jesus Birthday!

This can also be an activity that parents and grandparents can do at home. You can use a small evergreen tree, potted plant, bare branches, draw a tree on a big piece of paper. More important is how you decorate your Jesse tree. Using your Bible you can make a list of some of those people who went before Jesus. Think of one thing that will remind you of each person, a basket for Moses, a ladder for Jacob, or a hammer for Joseph. There are lots of resources online!

Blessings on this season of Advent!!





December 2020

Sun

Mon

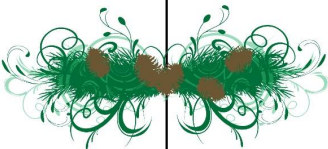
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 Worship & Music 3 pm	2 Chapel 8:15 am	3 CEA Craft Day CEA 4:45 pm School Board 5:30 pm Properties 7 pm	4	5
Advent 2 Comm. 6 Service 9:30 Budget Mtg following Serv.	7 Stewardship 5:30 pm	8 Council 7 p.m.	9 Chapel 8:15 am	10	11 CEA Christmas Fair	12
Advent 3 Comm. 13 Service 9:30	14	15	16 Chapel 8:15 am	17	18 1/2 day of school	19
Advent 4 Comm. 20 Service 9:30	No School 21 Newsletter Deadline 9 am Office 9-noon	No School 22 Office 9-noon	No School 23 Office 9-noon	Christmas Eve 24 Candlelight Services: 4 pm & 8 pm both with communion	Christmas Day 25 Comm. Service 9:30	26
Comm. Service 9:30 a.m. 27	No School 28 Office 9-noon	No School 29 Office 9-noon	No School 30 Office 9-noon	New Year's Eve 31 Office Closed		