

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.**



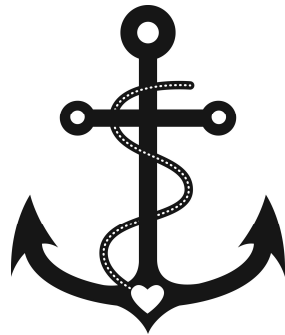
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Growing together

January 2021

Message from Pastor Glenn



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

Another season of preparation, anticipation, and celebration has now passed, and we look forward to another year with renewed hope. Looking back at the past year at the way our world is changing, it would be a lot easier to ignore it by shutting our eyes and covering our faces with our hands. We may even want to plug our ears. I'm sure we can all think of a time when life was a lot simpler, safer, and slower. Today's motto for some seems to be, "If it feels good or right, just do it." I wonder if the thought has occurred to many that just because we are able to "do it," should we do it? Just because it feels good or right to us, have we considered our neighbor or the eternal consequences?

Even though many will have taken down the ornaments and lights that filled the Advent and Christmas Season, we continue to prepare, anticipate, and celebrate Christ's promise to return to us one day. It would do us well to prepare this year by staying a little longer in the Christmas narrative, since we hear it for a very short time.

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly."
Matthew 1:18-19

The very next verse begins with, "But as he considered these things..." For Joseph, the word "considered" doesn't seem to do justice to the importance of his personal struggle. Have you ever "considered" the best answer to an important situation? Have you spent hours during the day thinking of little else? Have there been many sleepless nights thinking about the consequences of potential answers from all sides? When days or even weeks pass without a clear direction, did prayer seem like the best direction? Handing over our troubles to God lifts the burdens off of our shoulders and places it firmly on solid ground. "On Christ, the solid rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand..." *Lutheran Book of Worship, Hymn #293/294: My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

"But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save

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Preparing for Worship at Cross

Jan. 3—2nd Sunday after Christmas

1R – 1 Kings 3:4-15, P – Psalm 119:97-104, 2R – Ephesians 1:3-14, G – Luke 2:40-52

Jan. 6—Feast of Epiphany

1R – Isaiah 60:1-6, P – Psalm 72:1-11 (12-15), 2R – Ephesians 3:1-12, G – Matthew 2:1-12

Jan. 10—Baptism of Our Lord

1R—Genesis 1:1-5, P – Psalm 29, 2R – Romans 6:1-11, G – Mark 1:4-11

Jan. 17—Second Sunday after the Epiphany

1R - 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20), P – Psalm 139:1-10, 2R – Corinthians 6:12-20, G – John 1:43-51

Jan. 24 - Third Sunday after the Epiphany

1R - Jonah 3:1-5, 10, P - Psalm 62, 2R - 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 (32-35), G - Mark 1:14-20

Jan. 31 - Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

1R - Deuteronomy 18:15-20, P - Psalm 111, 2R - 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, G - Mark 1:21-28

SPECIAL DATES

New Year's Day, *January 1, 2021*

Epiphany, *January 6, 2021*

Baptism of the Lord, *January 10, 2021*

Religious Freedom Day, *January 16, 2021*

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 18, 2021*

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2021*

Inauguration Day, *January 20, 2021*

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his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:20-21

As Cross Lutheran Church enters another new year, I pray that together, we do not close our eyes tightly, cover our faces with our hands, or plug our ears with our fingers and let the momentum of the social current move us along because it feels good or right. With God's ever-present strength, guidance, and grace, may we faithfully “consider” our mission in service to God and our neighbor.

Instead of looking to God as our last hope, we must look to God as our first hope, our only hope, our eternal hope. Let us look forward to this new year of our Lord, seeking our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ with renewed minds and hearts, surrounding ourselves in Word and Sacrament more than ever. As you “consider” these things, hand over your troubles, your questions, your fears to Christ in prayer. He promises a new life that will truly be simpler, safer, and slower in Him.

“Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.” Proverbs 4:25-27

In Christ, Pastor Glenn



Celebrate

JANUARY Birthdays

- 3 Lisa Gray
- 3 Phil Schadd
- 4 Paul Schadd
- 7 Kyle Yackle
- 8 Elaine Licht
- 9 Miranda Hartel
- 10 Ken Licht
Barb Degg
Dana Young
- 11 Michelle Walsh
Jessica Peterson
- 12 LuAnne Sokolowski
- 14 Anna House
- 17 Karen Anklam
- 19 Dale Schuette
- 20 Denny Smith
- 21 Vickie Forster
- 23 Gene Parsell
- 24 Brenda Smith
Cordelia Trost
Greg Yackle
- 26 Lori McKenzie
Alice Trost
- 28 Heather Koroleski
- 29 Dave Elftman
Connie Herford
Tonja Nelson
- 31 Gary Forster

JANUARY Anniversaries

- 12 Kevin & Betty Grimaldi, 3 yrs.



Still searching for a New Year's resolution? None is more worthy than becoming Christ-like. In fact, 19th-century evangelist Henry Drummond calls it "the only thing in the whole world worth caring for."



ANNUAL MEETING

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.**

Remember Those at Home...

Elaine Licht, Martin Knost, Eunice Richmond.

We Lift Up in Prayer...

Al, 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

Serving of Our Country...

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.



From the Desk of...Gwynne Barry

I've just said, "Merry Christmas and see you next year!" to my students. The hallways are now quiet. There is peace where there was "Christmas Friday Frenzy" just a few hours before.

Christmas is always an exciting time at school. Students in grades 3-7 made Nativity sets under the guidance of Lyle Gascho and Pastor Glenn. Our students, under the leadership of our music team of Mr. Starks and Mrs. Keim, prepared songs to share and to celebrate the birth of Jesus during our Dec. 16 chapel service. Their musical gifts were a blessing to many!

In my classroom, I did something I'd never done before. We created "ugly" sweaters. The students learned the history and occasional popularity of the sweaters, viewed examples, and created a design on paper. With partners, they conferenced on their designs and gave each other meaningful feedback.

Some changes were considered and made as I brought in the materials we had available for decorations. The students chose a sweater and let their creative juices flow. They sewed and hot glued pompoms, bells, felt, ribbons, lace, faux fur, jewels, and more onto the sweater to complete their look. They also wrote descriptions of their sweaters to be read as they modeled them during our "Ugly Sweater Fashion Show" staged in front of the whole school. It was a great experience! Truly a festive, fashion Friday! At the end of our show, I told them this year may have been ugly at times, but they were certainly beautiful!

As we look back on 2020, there may have been some "ugly" times, but there have also been some beautiful times! The most beautiful being that God has never abandoned us. He has loved us. He has cared for us. He has forgiven us. He has kept His promises to us.

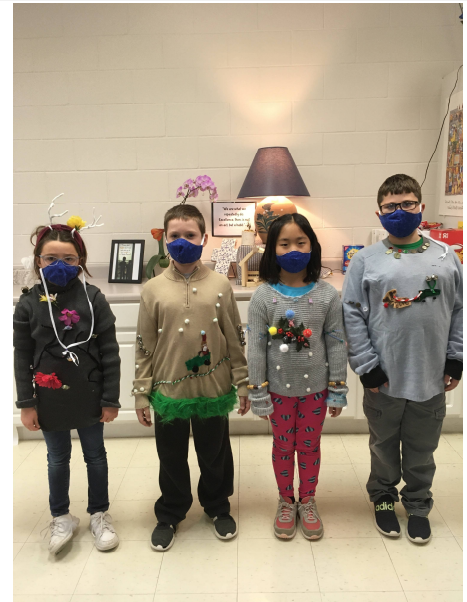
May we continue to serve Him faithfully in 2021. No matter the surprises that may come, He will be faithful! Praise the Lord!

In His love,

Gwynne Barry

January Calendar

1/22 End of 2nd marking period



Worship and Music Ministry
Minutes of December 1, 2020 Meeting

Members present: Chairperson - Barb Degg, Peg McCrimmon, Pat Azarovitz, Beth Elston, Mike Sting, Trustee - Kent McKenzie, Pastor Glenn, Karen Schuette

Meeting opened with a devotion and prayer by Pastor Glenn.

Pat Azarovitz moved to accept the November minutes as written, Karen Schuette seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- ◆ Mike Sting had nothing to report concerning organ refurbishment at this time.
- ◆ Beth reported that the piano in the sanctuary will be tuned next week. The previous tuner has retired and highly recommended the person we will be now using.
- ◆ Christmas Eve worships will be at 4 and 8 pm. Christmas Day worship at 9:30am.

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ We discussed what kind of information should be put on the monitor screens in the front of the church. Pastor Glenn suggested that a sub committee be formed to discuss possibilities.
- ◆ Mike Sting moved to request that each of the ministries take on the duties of opening and closing the church for all worship services on a monthly basis and the distribution of service materials to shutins. Pat Azarovitz seconded. Motion carried.
- ◆ Bonnie Schulz is in charge of decorating the church for Christmas. She will set the date.
- ◆ We discussed concerns with bringing the hymnals back in the pews. Information will be presented this coming Sunday about this safety issue.

Next meeting – January 5, 2021 at 3pm.

Mike moved to adjourn the meeting. Pat seconded. Motion carried. We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Schuette



Women's Bible study will meet on **January 6**, 1:30 at the church. This session in our series on Walking Together: the importance of fellowship in our lives as disciples of Christ, is titled Pray for one Another. The Bible readings are from James 5: 13-18 and Matthew 18: 19-20. Join us as we continue to walk together.

Women's Bible Study

memorials & gifts

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

In memory of Ruth Schuette, for Cross Lutheran School:

Kevin & Deb Ohlrogge

In memory of Ron Schulz for Cross Cemetery fund:

Kevin & Deb Ohlrogge

In memory of Raymond Licht, for Cross Music fund:

Kevin & Deb Ohlrogge

In memory of Nancy Mellendorf, for Cross Lutheran Church:

Lydia Decker

In memory of Nancy Mellendorf, for Cross Building fund:

Jack & Pam Sturm

In memory of M&M Adam Stueck for Cross Building fund:

Shirley Deering

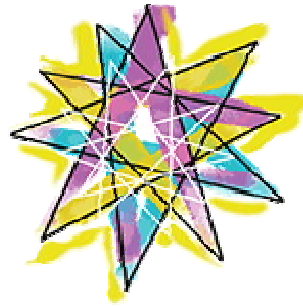
In memory of Harold Deering, for Cross Building fund:

Shirley Deering

In memory of Willet Oeschger, for Cross Lutheran School:

Tom & Bernice Shupe

The Magi's story — and ours



The story of the Magi is our story. God has used his supernatural means to draw us unto himself. ... On one glorious day, when we were exhausted and wearied in our sin, God led us to gaze upon Jesus just as the Magi did. We see the glory of God manifested through Jesus Christ in the internal work of the Holy Spirit. We see our utter sinfulness and God's abounding grace offered in the Messiah. We are filled with joy as this grace sinks into our hearts. We fall down on our knees and confess our need of this Messiah. We worship him and offer up our lives as our greatest offering to him. Then we continue on in our lives, carrying the truth about the Messiah.





brrrrrr!



January 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">happy new year!</div> | | | | | New Year's Day 1 | 2 |
| Comm. Service 9:30 am 3 | School Resumes 4 | 5 Worship & Music 3 pm | Chapel 8:15 am 6 Women's Bible 1:30 pm | 7 CEA 4:45 p.m. School Board 5:30 p.m.\ Properties 7 pm | 8 Deadline for Accounting books | 9 |
| Comm. Service 9:30 am 10 | 11 Stewardship 5:30 pm | 12 Council 7 pm | Chapel 8:15 am 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| Comm. Service 9:30 am 17 | 18 .Acct Books can be picked up Newsletter deadline | 19 | Chapel 8:15 am 20 | 21 | 22 End of 2nd marking period | 23 |
| Comm. Service 9:30 am 24 | 25 Deadline for all annual reports | 26 | Chapel 8:15 am 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| Comm. Service 9:30 am 31 Annual reports available to congregation | | | | | | |

Officers, Ministries & Committees

Pastor – Glenn Sokolowski

Music Director - Beth Elston

Church Council

Mike LePage, President

Gretchen Roestel, V P

Krisie Fritz, Secretary

Nancy Heck, Treasurer

Gretchen Roestel, School Bd.

Kent McKenzie, Trustee
(Worship & Music)

Norm Nelson, Trustee
(Stewardship)

Nancy Schuette, Trustee
(Parish Life
Mission/Outreach)

open, Trustee
(Property)

Steve Schulze, Trustee
(Youth)

Advisors

Paul Schuette, Constitution Rep.

Ministry of Properties

Mike Sting, Chair

Matt Zimmerman

Neil Herford

Steve Schulze

Mike Eden

Pat Azarovitz

Paul Schuette

Ministry of Worship & Music

Barb Degg, Chair

Peg McCrimmon

Beth Elston

Karen Schuette

Mike Sting

Pat Azarovitz

Ministry of Mission / Outreach

Krisie Fritz

Connie Eden

Rachel Messing

Kay Schuette

Tonja Nelson

Nancy Heck

Lorraine LePage

Lori Smith

Kim Delpiere

Ministry of Stewardship

Norm Nelson, Chair

Carol Diener

Raylene Henkelmann

Paul Schuette

June Sturm

Cindy Buchholz

Ministry of Education

Jean Sturm, Chair

Gretchen Roestel

June Sturm

Kim Delpiere

Ministry of Youth

Tim & Michelle Fritz, Chair

Ministry of Parish Life

Nancy Schuette, Chair

Betty Grimaldi

Pam Sturm

Alice Trost

Paul Schuette

LuAnne Sokolowski

Audit Committee

Donna Schuette

Denny Smith

Raylene Henkelmann

Dorothy Thuemmel

Mike LePage

Connie Herford

Nominating Committee

Rachel Higgins

Lori McKenzie

Trevor Cariveau

Eileen Johnson

Betty Grimaldi

Barbara Degg

Synod Assembly Rep –

Norm & Tonja Nelson

School Board

Gretchen Roestel, President

Kevin Trost, Vice-President

Robbi Shaffer, Secretary

Rebecca Yackle, Treasurer

April Rujan, CEA President

C.E.A

April Rujan-President

Lori Trost-Vice President

Marcine Moore -Secretary

Rebecca Yackle -Treasurer

Handy Helper Ministry

Karen Anklam 551-8265

Marilyn Baur 550-8875

Patty Cucinello 453-3589

Barbara Degg 856-2678

Delores Elftman 453-2679

Pat Elston 453-2409

Carol Forster 375-2754

Vickie Forster 553-3875

Rachel Higgins 975-0668

Peggy Licht 975-1963

Lori McKenzie 553-3582

Marcine Moore 550-9405

Carol Schadd 550-5150

Donna Schuette 375-4328

Karen Schuette 453-2744

Nancy Schuette 453-3969

Bonnie Schulz 453-3116

Alice Trost 453-2279

Laura Trost 453-3209

Brigid Trowbridge 453-3990

Donna Wheeler 453-3712

Sheila Yackle 453-2589

Please let the office know of any changes to these Ministries and Committees.

Updated 11/15/2020

(Officers, Ministries & Committees)