



Cross Connection

Growing together

January 2011

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

The BLIZZARD of December 2010; WOW!!! That will truly be a winter storm to go down in the history books for the Thumb. There were many travelers stranded along the roads in white-out conditions. Stories of not being able to see the road or following the person in front caused disoriented people to follow others right into a ditch or worse yet into another car stranded along the road. Just to hear the wind howling and seeing the snow flying horizontal was a sight of complete confusion and if you were in it long enough completely disorienting. Even though one knew the way it seemed very easy to veer left or right thinking one was on course the whole time not knowing the eventual catastrophe that was in store.

Sounds a lot like life it self. Life presents us with many challenges that create havoc, stress, confusion, and disorientation. We make decisions on what seems good to us and is popular with others (they're doing it and it seems ok so why can't we). We decide to follow many different

lights that seem to lead us the right way only to find they lead to other lights that seem to be the right way and so the confusion and disorientation is the way of acceptable life.

What happens when none of those lights we choose to follow fixes all the problems? What happens when there is so much going on in life that life itself becomes a blizzard of constant catching up, disorientation, confusion, and just plain non-sense only to find one self in the ditch? HELP! I'm in the ditch of life and I can't get out! Who is out there that hears me and will help me? ^{NRS} **John 8:12** *Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."*

Epiphany is upon us. That season where the light of the world, Jesus Christ, explodes away the darkness and shines forth the salvation we all seek. Jesus is that light we must filter out in the sea of

lights that constantly beacon's us to follow because it makes us feel good and is popular. To follow the light of Jesus Christ is not easy for it is a light that leads us to do things we don't want to do (I can't say hi to that person sitting in the pew next to me). However, it is a light that will never change or dim (lead you to other lights). Jesus Christ will always be The Light. ^{NRS} **John 9:5** *As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."*

So when the blizzard of life is overwhelming and you find yourself in the ditch, follow The Light, Jesus Christ. ^{NRS} **Psalms 46:10** *"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."* In that stillness, pray, read scripture, and pray again. You'll then find that light of Jesus Christ will shine brighter than all the other lights and that is the light you must follow. It will always get you through the blizzard of life. ALWAYS!

God's speed

Pr Tim

Preparing for Worship at Cross



Winter Worship

Worship Schedule

January 2, 2011 – 2nd Sunday of Christmas

1R – Jeremiah 31:7-14
 P – Psalm 147:12-20
 2R – Ephesians 1:3-14
 G – John 1:1-18
 Hymns: LBW# 50, 62, 60
 Communion Hymns: WOV# 701, 702, 706, 710

January 6, 2011 – Epiphany of Our Lord

1R – Isaiah 60:1-6

P – Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

2R – Ephesians 3:1-12

G – Matthew 2:1-12

Hymns: LBW # 84, 56, 82

Communion Hymns: LBW# 200, 203

January 9, 2011 – Baptism of Our Lord

1R – Isaiah 42:1-9

P – Psalm 29

2R – Acts 10:34-43

G – Matthew 3:13-17

Hymns: LBW # 36, 194, 192

January 16, 2011 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

1R – Isaiah 49:1-7

P – Psalm 40:1-11

2R – 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

G – John 1:29-42

Hymns: LBW# 514, 494, 263

Communion Hymns: WOV# 699, 701, 702, 706, 710

January 23, 2011 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

1R – Isaiah 9:1-4

P – Psalm 27:1, 4-9

2R – 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

G – Matthew 4:12-23

Hymns: LBW# 455, 369, 390

January 30, 2011 – 2nd Sunday of Christmas

1R – Micah 6:1-8

P – Psalm 15

2R – 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

G – Matthew 5:1-12

Hymns: LBW# 551, 415, 532

Vote Results

The voting results from Sunday, December 5th concerning Cross's membership with the ELCA is as follows: 170 votes were cast, 132 voted to leave the ELCA (78%) and 38 voted (22%) to

stay. This is only the beginning of the process that needs to take place. Cross council will determine when the next vote will take place after the required 90 day discernment period. The next vote must also pass by a 2/3 majority.

LYO

Thrivent checks for the Lasagna Meal Fundraiser and Holly Berry Fair were received. Leanne Smith and Rachel Higgins will deposit into designated accounts.

Sunday, Dec. 12 the LYO Sunday school class packed Christmas boxes at the local food pantry and learned how

the pantry serves our community.

Plans are in place for The Gathering on Dec. 27 – 30th.

New Business:

A movie & snack gathering is scheduled for Jan 22 at 7 p.m. There is an officers meeting planned for Sat.,

Jan. 16 at 1:00 to handle details and choose a movie.

A Fish Fry Supper Fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 25, 2011. Kevin Sturm has volunteered to facilitate purchasing and cooking the fish and potatoes. Youth families will provide help serving and the deserts. Time and details will be worked on in future meetings.

In Memory/In Honor

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

In memory of **Dorothy Love** for Cross Lutheran Music Fund by

Eric & Janelle Peterson, Thelma Warner.

In memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Adam Stueck** for Cross Lutheran Building Fund by Har-

old & Shirley Deering.

In memory of **Martin Schuette** for Cross Lutheran Building Fund by Ruth Schuette.

SOCIAL SERVICE MINISTRY

Thank you for the \$720.00 in cash donations that was used to buy items to fill the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Lori Smith, organizer and 12 volunteers helped filled 330 shoeboxes for children in desperate situations throughout the nation. We can only imagine the smile on the face of the child and pray for their safe keeping.

The Scrip Program has two new local businesses – Pigeon I.G.A. and Shaggy J's Restaurant. We thank them for supporting our church and school. A total of \$590.92 in profit was collected in the

month of December. We THANK YOU for your overwhelming support of this program. We encourage you to continue to use this program throughout the year.

Many people are thankful on Christmas Day for your Giving Tree gifts. Thank you for supporting this project.

Christmas cards were sent to our shut-ins and Christmas cookies were delivered. Thank you to all who baked and delivered cookies.

And Most of All, Merry Christmas and a Very Blessed New Year!

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY MINUTES

November 23, 2010 – 7:00 P.M. The following members were present; Ray Licht, Chairman; June Sturm, Benevolence Treasurer; Nancy Heck, newly elected Church Treasurer; Paul Schuette, Financial Secretary; and Pastor Tim Loehrke. Members, Tom Shupe and Dawn Rosenthal were excused.

Ray Licht, opened with prayer and called the meeting to order.

Treasurer's Report: We expressed thanks for the support through offerings.

Benevolence Treas. June Sturm presented the Treasurer's report and it was accepted. Copy of report included in minutes. Last year's Special Offerings Schedule was reviewed and the 2011

schedule was drawn up for approval to Cross Church Council.

She requested that when a special benevolence offering is taken at Cross it should be run through the Benevolence Treasurer for disbursement. She will contact Barbara Tolles or Tom Kreh, Gideon representatives, to find out how much was donated to the Gideons in October.

-Brick Project. No new bricks have been purchased in the last 2 months, but will be an on going project. Contact, June Sturm. 453-2575

-New Business – We need to find new members for the Stewardship Committee and names were suggested.

June Sturm will contact Rob Chandonny at the Pigeon Co-op Elevator Company to see what World Hunger projects are in

place. Paul Schuette also looking for additional information. They will report at the next meeting.

-Adjourned at 8:05 P.M. Next meeting is Tuesday, December 28, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.

SPECIAL DATES

- New Year's Day, January 1
- Epiphany Sunday, January 2
- Baptism of the Lord, January 9
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance, January 17
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25

Celebrate

January Birthdays

- 2 James Laursen
Jeremy Siewert
- 3 Philip Schadd
- 4 Paul Schadd
- 7 Kyle Yackle
- 8 Elaine Licht
Abigail Walker
- 9 Martin Sturm
Miranda Fritz
- 10 Kenneth Licht
Barb Degg
Dana Young
Susanne Schulze
- 11 Michelle Smith
Jessica Peterson
- 14 Anna House
- 17 Karen Anklam
Adam Rosenthal
- 18 Susan Loehrke
- 19 Dale Schuette
- 20 Edna Diebel
Denson Smith
- 21 Vickie Forster
- 22 Christopher Papkey
Matthew Papkey
- 24 Brenda Smith
Cordelia Trost
- 25 Willow Rice
Andrew Pionk
Zachary Pionk
- 26 Lori McKenzie
Alice Trost
- 27 Geri Edler
- 28 Clarence Buchholz
Heather Kunisch
- 29 Don Barbret
David Elftman
Connie Herford
Tonja Nelson
- 31 Gary Forster

January Anniversaries

- 1/6 Aaron & Katherine Hessling (4th)
- 1/15 Mary & Scott Dubs (7th)

1/24 George & Ruth Mohr (63rd)

* 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:

Mike Trost, Clarence Schaad, Bridget Gunden, April Rujan, Edna Diebel, 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, 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.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Grades 1-6

Kevin Trost will contact families to host a monthly event for the younger youth. Kevin & Lori may handle plans for the January event.

Plans are in place for caroling this Sunday, Dec. 18, 2010.

CONFIRMATION

Classes will be held on January 16th & 30th.

School News



School Calendar

- 1/3 School Resumes
Basketball Practice
- 1/4 Basketball Practice
- 1/5 School Staff Meeting
3:30 p.m.
- 1/6 Away game @ Pt.
Hope 4:30 p.m.
- 1/8 Basketball Tournament @ Cross
- 1/9 Scrip Orders Due
- 1/9 Basketball Tournament @ Cross
- 1/10 No School – Professional Dev. Day
Basketball Practice 3 - 5th Grade
- 1/11 Basketball Practice
- 1/13 Home Basketball Game vs Berne 4:30 p.m.
- 1/17 Home Basketball vs Rural Schools 4:30 p.m.
- 1/18 Basketball Practice
- 1/20 Home Basketball Game vs Zion 4:30 p.m.
- 1/21 ½ Day of School – End of Semester
- 1/24 Away Basketball

- Game @ Berne 4:30 p.m.
- 1/26 Report Cards go Home
- 1/27 Home Basketball Game vs Pt. Hope 4:30 p.m.
- 1/31 Away Basketball @ Harbor Beach 4:30 p.m.

School Reflections

2011! How did it get here so fast? Time is flying by and we are just holding on for the ride some days!

Balls bouncing. Whistles blowing. Crowds cheering. The gym will be filled with the sounds of basketball on Jan. 8-9 as we host a Jr. High Basketball tournament. Teams from Lakers, Caseville, Owen-Gage, Our Lady of Lake Huron, and Rural Schools will join us. Look for our schedule on the calendar as we play on Mondays and Thursdays through January. Come and join the cheering section!

Wheels rolling. Questions pondered. Exclamations heard. Our classrooms are

filled with the sounds of science as we use the science kits created by Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center and purchased with a grant from DTE. The entire county has adopted this inquiry based program and we teachers are being trained to use the kits.

Singing voices. Praying hands. Joyful hearts. This is a group of singers this year. It is fun to have leadership from Jr. High boys in this area. Anyone who has worked with that age group knows that is not the norm. Many of the kids follow that leadership in song and blow the roof off sometimes! I still win the contest on holding onto a note the longest, but I'm being tested!

January 7th Memory Work is Psalm 122:1, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord!'" We are grateful for this house of the Lord and love the sounds, big and small, loud and long, soft and gentle.

God's blessings to all in 2011!

Gwynne Barry

January Time & Talents

DATE & TIME	LEADER	READER	CHILDREN'S TIME	COMMUNION	USHERS for MONTH	Altar Guild
Jan. 2 9:30 a.m.	Phil Schadd	Laura Trost	Gwynne Barry	John Trowbridge	Brian Delpiere Phil Schadd Ron Schulz Ken Schulze Tom Shupe Bob Tate Mike Trost John Trowbridge	
Jan. 9 9:30 a.m.	Leanne Schuette	Norm Nelson	Peggy Koehler			
Jan. 16 9:30 a.m.	Paul Schuette	Grynne Barry	Ray Licht	Carole Meade		
Jan. 23 9:30 a.m.	Peggy Koehler	Karen Schuette	Aileen Prill			
Jan. 30 9:30 a.m.	Karen Schuette	Sue Loehrke	Leanne Smith			

LEADERS, READERS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS, AND ALTAR GUILD

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 God's Blessings to you! Karen Schuette

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

Parish Life Ministry

The Parish Life Ministry met on Tuesday, December 7th at 5:00 p.m. Members present were Inez Buchholz, Betty champagne, Rick Landry, Marlene Landry, Sue Loehrke, Paul Schuette, Alice Trost and Pastor Tim.

We reviewed November activities and discussed Coffee Hour for 2011. Coffee Hours will be held after every service with a few exceptions. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board near the door by the mailboxes. Each ministry and the ladies circles are requested by sign up to two Sundays. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up for some Sundays too. If any group would like to

sign up for more than two Sundays, it sure would be appreciated.

Sue Loehrke is preparing a list of written guidelines which will be posted next to the sign-up sheet.

We will discuss activities for 2011 at the January meeting.

Parish Life Ministry will continue to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. There is no chairperson at present and no one to present this ministry at church Council meetings. Anyone interested may contact Sue Loehrke or Betty Champagne.

Council Meeting Minutes



November 9, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: The monthly meeting of the Cross Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Tim Fritz at 7:05 p.m. on the above date. Members present were Kim Delpiere, Betty Champagne, Lorraine LePage, Tom Shupe, Pastor Loehrke, Ray Licht, Leanne Smith, Paul Schuette, Ron Higgins, Terry Sturm and Connie Eden. Excused member was Peggy Koehler. Tim welcomed the newly elected members to council Krisie Fritz, Karen Schuette, Kevin Trost and Nancy Heck. Pastor Loehrke opened the meeting with a prayer.

MINUTES: Previous council minutes were reviewed. Leanne Smith made the motion to accept the minutes, Connie Eden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Loehrke reviewed his

report with everyone present.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Report given by Pastor Loehrke.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: reported by Pastor Loehrke.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Copies of the Treasurer's report were distributed to all present. Terry Sturm moved to accept the Treasurer's report and seconded by Ray Licht. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY – Paul Schuette stated that the new envelopes are in. He also distributed a report to everyone present.

MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP: Nothing to report at this time.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC: Nothing to report at this time.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION: Connie Eden distributed report to everyone present. Connie added that

they had a new member to their ministry, Laura Trost.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH: Leanne Smith distributed report to everyone present. She also added that two youth will be going to the gathering during Christmas break.

MINISTRY OF PROPERTY: Nothing was reported at this time.

MINISTRY OF PARISH LIFE: Betty Champagne distributed report to everyone present.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES: Lorraine LePage distributed report to everyone present.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES: Lorraine LePage distributed report to everyone present.

OLD BUSINESS: Paul Schuette will meet with the old Constitution and by-laws committee for review.

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Council Minutes continued

OLD BUSINESS: Paul Schuette will meet with the old Constitution and by-laws committee for review.

NEW BUSINESS:

The fire alarm system will be looked at also will be checking the fire extinguishers.

Terry Sturm made the motion due to the election of new officers to council we authorize these people Pres. Tim Fritz, Secretary Krisie Fritz, Treasurer Nancy Heck to sign signature cards for deposits and loans and re-new line of credit. Connie Eden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There was discussion on fans for the church and trying to keep the church a constant temperature. This will be brought back to council at a later date.

Betty Champagne reported for the Ad-Hoc committee on Human Sexuality: Their committee made 205 calls to Cross members the results were 10.3% stay with ELCA, 69.8% leave ELCA and 19.9% had no comment at this time.

Motion made by Lorraine LePage to have a paper vote by council: to vote if Cross should have its first congregational vote to leave the

ELCA 12/5/10. Seconded by Tom Shupe. Motion carried (unanimous)

The first vote to leave the ELCA because of the human sexuality issues will be Dec. 5th after the church service. The second vote will be no earlier than March 6, 2011.

After much discussion council decided to vote first if we should leave then decided where we will go.

Pastor will draft a letter to the Bishop to let him know what we are doing.

Pastor will draft a letter to all members of Cross about the up coming vote.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None at this time.

ADJORNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the meeting it was adjourned by the chairman and good things from around the room were shared by everyone. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Delpiere, Secretary

CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Combined women's circle on January 10, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. Pastor will lead devotions and Rebecca Circle will provide refreshments.

MEN'S GROUP

Men's Bible study & fellowship takes place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The group will meet January 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the Bay Port Inn.

Trivia Fun For All!

Located on the Bulletin Board outside the Youth Room. This Trivia game is for everyone! Question changes each week and a treat is provided for correct answers!

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 Irion

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

Paul Schuette

Ministry of Education

Connie Eden

Jean Sturm

Brenda Smith

Kim Fritz

Laura Trost

Ministry of Outreach

Maxine Rice

Ministry of Youth

Kevin Trost, Chair

Leanne Smith

Brandis Mallais

Rachel Higgins

Alissa Peterson—President

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

Mike Otto

Tom Shupe

Neil Herford

George Gardy

Roger Fritz

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

Representative