

# Cross Connection

Growing together

DECEMBER 2018



## Cross Lutheran Church & School

200 Ruppert Street  
Pigeon, MI 48755  
989-453-3330

www.crosslutheranpigeon.org  
www.crosslutheranschool.org  
Secretary  
@crosslutheranpigeon.org

### Our mission:

**Bring people to Christ.**

**Teach Christians to be disciples.**

**Send disciples to reach the world.**



### Inside this issue:

Preparing for Worship	2
Celebrate	3
School News	4
Time and Talents	5
Council	6
Memorials	7
Calendar	10



### A SUGGESTION FROM PASTOR MIKE

Here's an idea. As you know, the stores all put out their Christmas decorations before Labor Day anymore. Some radio stations start playing non-stop Christmas music in early November. The Hallmark Channel starts its endless Christmas movies even before Halloween. People put up their Christmas decorations earlier each year. All the Christmas parties happen before December 25. Even in a lot of churches,

the Christmas decorations go up right after Thanksgiving and people want to sing Christmas carols all through December. And, let's face it; the weather is usually better in November than in December.

So here's my idea. Let's change the date of Christmas, and have it a week or 10 days after Thanksgiving. Then let's have Advent *after* Christmas, so we can properly observe it. Doesn't it make more sense to have all those lessons about the end of the world closer to New Year's? Doesn't it make sense to have John the Baptist thundering

about repentance after we've grossly overindulged?

Of course I'm being somewhat facetious and I don't really expect this proposal to go anywhere. But my point is this. I love Advent. It's my favorite time of year. It's a little quiet spot in the middle of all the commercial folderol going on around us, where we remember that what we worship is not the almighty dollar and our own hedonism, but God incarnate in a manger. It's a place where we can reflect on how our hearts need to be prepared to receive this holy Child. It's a place, yes, where we also remember this world is not all

*(Cont. on Pg. 2)*

# Preparing for Worship at Cross



## Dec. 2 – 1st Sunday of Advent

1R – Jeremiah 33:14-16

P – Psalm 25: 1-10

2R – 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

G – Luke 21:25-36

## Dec. 9– 2nd Sunday of Advent

1R – Malachi 3:1-4

Psalmody—Luke 1:68-79

2R – Philippians 1:3-11

G – Luke 3:1-6

## Dec.16– 3rd Sunday of Advent

1R – Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalmody—Isaiah 12:2-6

2R – Philippians 4:4-7

G – Luke 3:7-18

## Dec. 23– 4th Sunday of Advent

1R - Micah 5:2-5

P—Psalm 80:1-7

2R – Hebrews 10:5-10

G – Luke 1:39-55

## Dec. 24—Christmas Eve

1R—Isaiah 9:2-7

P—Psalm 96

2R—Titus 2:11-14

G—Luke 2:1-20

## Dec. 25—Christmas Day

1R—Isaiah 52: 7-10

P—Psalm 98

2R—Hebrews 1: 1-12

G—John 1: 1-14

## Dec. 30—1st Sunday After Christmas

1R—1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

P—Psalm 148

2R—Colossians 3:12-17

G—Luke 2:41-52

Choirs will practice on Dec. 3rd & 10th only.

Bells at 6:30 p.m. / Choir at 7:30 p.m.



Continued from pg. 1

there is, and someday Christ will come again and we will

stand before Him in the last judgment, *“clothed in His righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne.”*

Don't get me wrong. I like Christmas as much as anyone. But I also love Advent. Let's try to find a place for both.

- Pastor Mike Tamorria



## Coffee Hour

Not only can ministry groups sign up to host a coffee hour, anyone can! You can earn funds for a student's tuition or donate the proceeds to the a church fund or a school fund. The coffee hour you host can be simply juice, coffee and cookies, or you can offer up a feast of goodies! Just sign up on the Coffee Hour Chart in the overflow area.



# Celebrate



- 1 Jordan Licht
- Denvyr Koroleski
- 3 Mark Trost
- 4 Cindy Buchholz
- 6 Troy Schuette
- 8 Beverly Knost
- 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
- 28 Janice Uhan
- 30 Ethan Yackle
- 31 Mitchell Schuette



- 14 Paul & Karen Schuette,  
44 years
- 20 Kent & Lori McKenzie, 38



## FIRST COMMUNION

The custom in recent years at Cross Church has been to offer first communion instruction for children early in the new year, before Lent gets started. Since I'm only in Pigeon ten days out of the month, we are going to have to get our planning started early.

I recently sent letters out to families who had children in the right age range and who lived in the area, inviting parents to a planning meeting after worship on Sunday, December 9. However, there may be other children I missed. If you would like to participate in first communion in 2019, you are most welcome to this meeting as well.

If you would like your child to receive first communion but are unable to attend this meeting, please let me know by calling the church office (989-453-3330), or by calling me at home in Ohio (419-942-2591), or by e-mail at [pmike@bright.net](mailto:pmike@bright.net).

I understand that some families prefer to have their children wait until after confirmation to receive the Sacrament. That is your choice. This meeting is for those who prefer an earlier time.

Giving first communion is one of the great joys of my ministry. I hope to



### **Remember our Shut-ins:**

Gloria Anderson, Ray Buchholz, Fred Edler, Gloria Lewis, Elaine Licht, Ruth Schuette, Martin & Beverly Knost, & Clarence Schadd.

### **Please Remember in Prayer:**

Bill Gray (father of Lisa Gray), Peggy Koehler, Allen Koehler Tif-

fany Swartzendruber, Mary Champion, sister of Betty Licht, Kevin Faupel, Ezra Sturm, Eunice Richmond, Kim Edler (daughter-in-law of Gerry Edler), Mary Otto, Clark Eidt, Kylee (Buchholz) Reardon (daughter of Scott & Vickie Buchholz and granddaughter of Inez Buchholz).

### **In the Service of Our Country:**

Nathan Schulz stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC and Ryan Schulz stationed at Cherry Point, NC. Both are Marines and sons of Lonnie Schulz and grandsons of Ron and Bonnie Schulz.

# School News

## DECEMBER CALENDAR



- 5 Chapel 12:45 p.m.
- 6 CEA 4:45 p.m.  
School Board 5:30 p.m.
- 12 Chapel 8 a.m.
- 14 CEA Christmas Fair
- 19 Chapel 8 a.m.
- 24 Christmas Break starts -  
School resumes 1/7/19
- 24 Children's Program 6:30

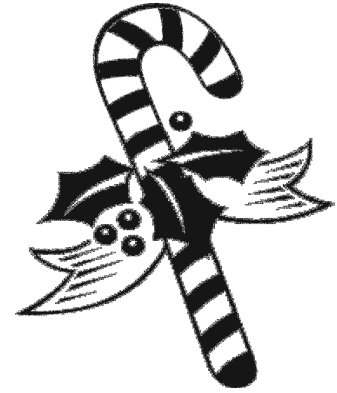
## From the Desk of Carrie Ward..

What a great time of year this is! So many celebrations and family gatherings, it seems like life will never calm down again. But amid all the fun and excitement of the gatherings it is so good to stop and think of why we celebrate these days. We have so much to be thankful for, don't we? If I stop and start to list them, I often begin with my family. I have a wonderful husband and

three children who are full of life and happiness. I am especially thankful that I got to spend this Thanksgiving with my siblings and their families. It is rare that we are all together, and it was such a great time of laughing and reminiscing and making new memories.

As we close out the Thanksgiving season, we move into the season that brings about another reason to be thankful, the Christmas season. There are so many things that go on. The days are full to the brim with parties and cleaning and shopping and baking and decorating and running back and forth to make sure we don't miss any of it. We often get so wrapped up in all the excitement of the things going on in our lives that we forget to

take a break and really remember why we even have this wonderful holi-



day to celebrate. I am so grateful that Jesus, our Savior, came down from his lofty home in heaven to be born fully man to save us all. This is why we celebrate Christmas. Let us not forget what He has done for us. May you and your family be richly blessed by the Savior's love and kindness this Christmas season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!



# December Time & Talents



Date & Time	Assisting Minister	Reader	Children's Time	Comm. Assist.	Ushers for the Month	Altar Guild	Acolyte
Dec. 2 9:30 a.m.	Karen Schuette	Barb Degg	Eileen Johnson	Norm Nelson	George Gardy, Neil Herford, Al Licht, Denny Smith, Larry Smith, John Trowbridge	Jean Sturm	Chandler Rosenthal
Dec. 9 9:30 a.m.	Paul Schuette	Lori Smith	Vicki Yackle	Carole Mead		Carol Die-ner	Rylee Fritz
Dec. 16 9:30 a.m.	Mike Sting	Jeanne Sting	Gwynne Barry			Grace Trost	
Dec. 23 9:30 a.m.	Gwynne Barry	Gwynne Barry	Leanne Smith	Gwynne Barry		Jean Sturm	Grace Shupe
Dec. 24 10:00 p.m.	Gwynne Barry	Karen Schuette		John Trowbridge		Carol Die-ner	Kyle Briggs
Dec. 25 10:00 a.m.	Phil Schadd	Paul Schuette		Karen Schuette		Jean Sturm	Chandler Rosenthal
Dec. 30 9:30 a.m.	Gwynne Barry	Karen Schuette	Karen Schuette ?				Rylee Fritz

**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!



**KEEP SEEKING HIM**

## Women's & Men's Group Schedules

**Women's Bible Study** will meet Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 9:30 a.m.

**Men's Bible Study** will be Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m.

**Quilter's** will NOT meet in the month of December.

**Women of Faith** meet on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 10:30 to noon



# Ministry Minutes, & More

## MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY MINUTES

November 1, 2018

Mission Outreach ministry members met at 6:30 p.m. to decorate the church for fall. At 7:30 p.m. our meeting was called to order by Lorraine LePage, who led us in prayer. Present were Bonnie Schulz, Lorraine LePage, Kay Schuette, Tonja Nelson, Lori Smith and Connie Eden. The minutes of the October 4, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved with one correction - Krisie Fritz was also present at the October meeting. The Treasurer reported \$6,978.82 in the checking account. The report was approved.

### Operation Christmas Child

– Haley Schulz and some of her FFA students will be available on November 6 from 1:00 to 2:45 p.m. to move shoebox items from our store-room to the gym as well as assemble the cardboard shoeboxes. We will also see if some National Honor Society students would want to help pack the shoeboxes on November 8. We will get 3-4 cases of bottled water and some of us will bring cookies/brownies for refreshment on packing night. We will see if we can get Cross school students to set up the tables. Jean Sturm will be cutting out the labels for the shoeboxes. Lori will track four

of the shoeboxes to see where they are sent.

**Scrip Cards** – We will be selling Scrip cards after church from now through December 16. The schedule is as follows: 11/4 – Nancy and Tonja; 11/11 – Connie; 11/18 – Lorraine; 11/25 – Tonja; 12/2 – Lori; 12/9 – Bonnie; 12/16 – Kay.

**Pigeon Food Pantry** – They will be packing 32 boxes for Thanksgiving. We will purchase 32 \$10.00 gift cards from Pigeon Family Market, to be placed in the boxes from Cross Lutheran Church.

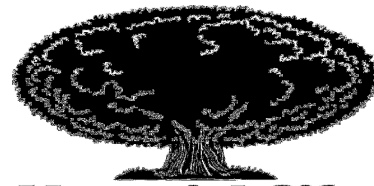
**Giving Tree** – We will put up the giving tree when the fall decorations are taken down. Lorraine will get the names for the tree.

Our next meeting will be held on November 27 at 6:30 p.m. when we will take down the fall decorations followed by our meeting. On November 28 at 9:00 a.m. the church will be decorated for Christmas.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Eden.



## Memorial Gifts

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

**In memory of John & Dorothy Diener & Dennis Diener, for Cross Annual Fund:**

Deann Lewis

**In memory of Loretta Hughes, for Cross Music Fund:**

Shirley Deering

**In memory of Daniel Smith, for Cross Annual Fund:**

Denny & Leanne Smith

**In memory of Pat Bergman, for Cross Building Fund:**

Ron & Bonnie Schulz



Join us for caroling on **Saturday, December 22nd**. We will enjoy a lunch of pizza and bread sticks at 11:00 a.m. followed by caroling from 11:30 to 12:30. Bring family and friends, young and old alike, everyone is welcome!!

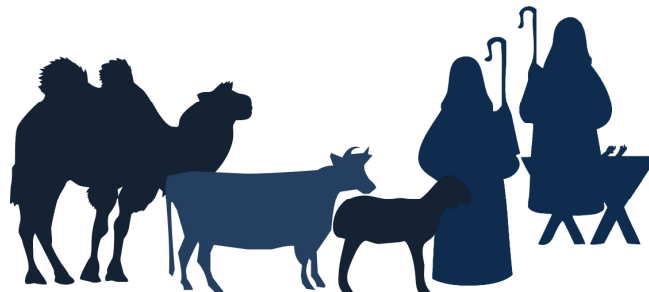
# Advent Hope, Christmas Joy



A choral and handbell concert  
Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018  
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 Worship Schedule

## Sunday, Dec. 23th:

Communion Service @ 9:30 am

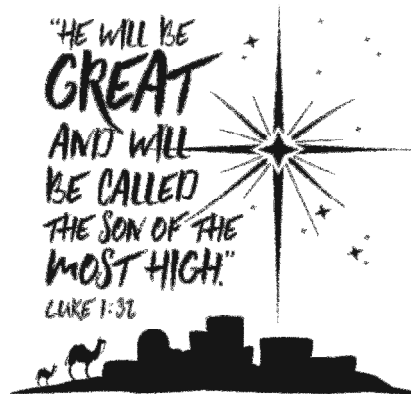
## Monday, Dec. 24th

Children's Program @ 6:30 pm

Candlelight Service @ 10:00 pm

## Tuesday, Dec. 25th

Communion Service @ 10:00 a.m.



## Children's Christmas Program

December 24th @ 6:30 pm

Practice Dates:

- + Sunday, 12/2 during Sunday school
- + Sunday, 12/9 during Sunday school
- + Wednesday, 12/12 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- + Sunday, 12/16 during Sunday school
- + Saturday, 12/22 from 9:30 to 11 a.m.
- + Sunday, 12/23 during Sunday school





Christmas  
Wishes

December 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> Women of Faith 10:30-noon
Comm. <b>2</b> Service 9:30 SS 9 am Adult Bb Study/ Coffee hr 10:45 Confirmation 11 am - 2 pm	<b>3</b>  Choirs: Bells 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	CEA <b>4</b> Craft Night  Parish Life 4 p Men's Bible 6:30 pm Mission/Outreach 6:30 pm	Chapel <b>5</b> 12:45 pm  Women's Bible 9:30 am  Service 7 pm	<b>6</b> CEA 4:45 pm School Board 5:30 pm Worship & Music 6:30 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
Comm. <b>9</b> Service 9:30 SS 9 am Adult Bb Study/ Coffee hr 10:45	<b>10</b> Pastor Mike leaves for OH Stewardship 5:30 pm Choirs: Bells 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	<b>11</b>  Executive 6 pm Council 7 pm	Chapel 8 am <b>12</b>	<b>13</b> set-up for Christmas Fair	<b>14</b> Christmas Fair	<b>15</b>
Worship <b>16</b> Service 9:30 SS 9 am Adult Bb Study/ Coffee hr 10:45 <b>Christmas Concert 3 pm</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	Chapel 8 am <b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	Last day of School <b>21</b> before Christmas  Pastor back in Pigeon	<b>22</b>
Comm. <b>23</b> Service 9:30 SS 9 am Adult Bb Study/ Coffee hr 10:45	Christmas <b>24</b> Eve Children's Program 6:30 p  Candlelight Service 10 pm	Christmas <b>25</b> Day Comm. Service 10 am Pastor Mike leaves for OH after service	<b>26</b>  <b>*** NO SCHOOL ***</b> <b>Office Hours 9:00 - noon</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
Worship <b>30</b> Service 9:30 SS 9 am Adult Bb Study/ Coffee hr 10:45	New Year's <b>31</b> Eve  NO SCHOOL  Office closed			all is <b>MERRY</b> and <b>BRIGHT</b>		

# Ministers - The People of Cross

## Officers, Ministries and Committees

### Interim Pastor

Michael Tamorria

### Music Director

Beth Elston

### Church Council

Kent McKenzie, President

Gretchen Roestel, V P

Rachel Higgins, Secretary

Mike LePage, Treasurer

Raylene Henkelmann, Financial Secretary

Gretchen Roestel, School Board

Corey Messing, Properties

Barb Degg, Worship & Music

Norm Nelson, Stewardship

Jean Sturm, Education

Tim & Michelle Fritz, Youth

Nancy Schuette, Parish Life

Krisie Fritz, Mission/Outreach

### Advisors

Paul Schuette, Constitution Rep.

### Ministry of Properties

Corey Messing, Chair

Mike Eden

Paul Schuette

### Ministry of Worship & Music

Barb Degg, Chair

Peg McCrimmon

Beth Elston

Karen Schuette

Mike Sting

### Ministry of Mission / Outreach

Krisie Fritz, Chair

Lorraine LePage

Connie Eden

Rachel Messing

Bonnie Schulz

Kay Schuette

Tonja Nelson

Gwen Ovcen

Lori Smith  
Nancy Heck

### Ministry of Stewardship

Norm Nelson, Chair

Carol Diener

Paul Schuette

June Sturm

Cyndi Buchholz

### Ministry of Education

Jean Sturm, Chair

Gretchen Roestel

Kim Delpiere

June Sturm

### Ministry of Youth

Tim & Michelle Fritz, Chair

### Ministry of Parish Life

Nancy Schuette, Chair

Betty Champagne

Pam Sturm

Alice Trost

Linda Shope

### Audit Committee

Mike LePage

Connie Herford

Fred Henkelmann

Dorothy Thuemmell

Bob Tate

Trevor Carriveau

### Nominating Committee

Brigid Trowbridge

Duane Peterson

Kim Delpiere

Peggy Koehler

George Gardy

Donna Schuette

### Synod Assembly Rep—open

### School Board

Gretchen Roestel, President

Vicki Yackle, Vice President

Robbi Shaffer, Secretary

Nicole Shupe, Treasurer

April Rujan, CEA President

Pastor, Advisor

### C.E.A

April Rujan-President

Lori Trost-Vice President

Marcine Moore -Secretary

Nicole Shupe -Treasurer

### Handy Helper Ministry

Patty Cucinello 453-3589

Roberta Danks 453-3760

Barbara Degg 856-2678

Gerry Edler 678-0080

Delores Elftman 453-2679

Pat Elston 453-2409

Carol Forster 375-2754

Vickie Forster 553-3875

Ava Gies 453-2193

Rachel Higgins 975-0668

Dorothy Henne 453-3457

Peggy Koehler 453-2278

Peggy Licht 453-3845

Lori McKenzie 553-3582

Carole Mead 856-7438

Carol Schadd 269-5150

Donna Schuette 375-4328

Karen Schuette 453-2744

Nancy Schuette 453-3969

Bonnie Schulz 453-3116

Erica Sturm 453-3830

Alice Trost 453-2279

Laura Trost 453-3209

Brigid Trowbridge 453-3990

Donna Wheeler 453-3712

Sheila Yackle 453-2589

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