

Growing Together

April 2024

Cross Lutheran Church & School

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

www.crosslutheranpigeon.org
www.crosslutheranschool.org

Email:
secretary
@crosslutheranpigeon.org

Our mission:

***Bring people to
Christ.***

***Teach Christians
to be disciples.***

***Send disciples to
reach the world.***



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Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

*“This is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God,
and I will exalt him.”
Exodus: 15:2*

Have you ever been backed into a corner and could see no way of escape? Maybe it was just to endure a browbeating by someone who was angry with you, or maybe you got stuck in a crowd and had to wait for folks to vacate the area. Perhaps it was something worse and you were truly trapped, in danger, and fearing for your life.

As Israel fled Egypt after the last of ten plagues God inflicted on Pharaoh in the Passover, it looked like they would finally be free of the king of Egypt. But alas, the king changed his mind and decided to pursue the Israelites after he recognized what he was giving up by letting them go to the wilderness to worship God. When the Israelites realized that they were being pursued by an angry army, they began to fear for their lives. As they headed east, they became trapped between the Red Sea and the pursuing troops. They were backed into the proverbial corner with zero viable options.

We know how this story unfolds: God tells Moses to strike the water and it perfectly divides into two parallel walls of water, and Israel walks through on dry ground. As the Egyptians follow, Moses was commanded by the Lord to stretch out his hand over the sea and the entire army was drowned: chariots, horses, and soldiers! When the Israelites arrive at the other side, catch their breath, and settle down a bit, Moses and the whole congregation sing a song that is recorded in Exodus 15, “The Lord has triumphed gloriously... he is my strength and my song.”

This story prefigures God’s final victory over death. As Jesus was backed into a deadly corner on the cross of Calvary, it seemed there would be no last -minute miracle for him. But Jesus had been telling his disciples and anyone else who would listen, that he had to suffer at the



**The LORD
is my
strength
and my
song;
he has
become
my
salvation.
Exodus 15:2, NIV**

hands of the religious leaders, die, and on the third day rise. His disciples, and even his own mother, watched him suffer the torture of execution on a cross. There was no way out of it! They hadn't put things together about what he'd said previously, and in their grief they certainly weren't doing a lot of puzzle solving. But just as God saved Israel as they faced certain death, so he enacted his greatest miracle ever: Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The Lord has triumphed! Let all who believe sing his praises! Amen.

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Superimposed Love

Maybe you've heard how salvation is like a total solar eclipse: God doesn't see our sins because Jesus' holiness covers them completely. Or maybe you've heard how trials can cause an "eclipse of faith."

At WorldChallenge.org, Pastor Gary Wilkerson explains that in Greek, *eclipse* means "I am absent" or "I cease to exist," because people once thought the gods temporarily extinguished the sun. "For Christians, a 'spiritual eclipse' is a dark hour when God seems to be absent from our lives," Wilkerson writes.

Wilkerson points to Peter being sifted like wheat, Elijah and Jeremiah facing extreme discouragement, and David collapsing morally. Amid Satan's attacks, "God seems completely absent," writes the pastor. "In that dark moment of eclipse, the devil has created such chaos we can't possibly see a way out." During times of testing, Christians must cry out to God and trust his faithfulness.

Completing the eclipse analogy, Wilkerson shares Titus 3:4, the "love of God our Savior appeared" (NIV). The Greek meaning of *appeared* here is *superimposed*, he writes. God looks on our fraught-filled times of eclipse and "superimposes his divine love over us."



Preparing for Worship

April 7 - Second Sunday of Easter

1R – Acts 4:32-35, P – Psalm 148, 2R – 1 John 1:1—2:2, G – John 20:19-31

April 14– Third Sunday of Easter

1R - Acts 3:11-21, P – Psalm 4, 2R – 1 John 3:1-7, G – Luke 24:36-49

April 21– Fourth Sunday of Easter

1R - Acts 4:1-12, P - Psalm 23, 2R - 1 John 3:16-24, G - John 10:11-18

April 28 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

1R - Acts 8:26-40, P – Psalm 150, 2R – 1 John 4:1-11 (12-21), G – John 15:1-8

Celebrate



- 1 Jarid Heck
- 2 Brian Delpiere
Wyatt Heck
- 3 Katelyn Kretzschmer
- 9 Dani Rae Licht
- 10 Jennifer Gardy
Brigid Trowbridge
Doug Richmond
- 11 Barb Eidt
- 12 Pat Azarovitz
Lance Schuette
- 14 Zac Trost
- 17 Shelia Yackle
- 19 Kathy Azarovitz
Karen Peterson
Linda Fietzer
Kyle Briggs
- 21 Philip Delpiere
Michelle Fritz
- 22 Don Schadd
- 23 Chandler Rosenthal
- 25 Gracey LePage
Karmyn Koroleski
- 26 Lydia Lou Heck
- 27 Catie House
Brynlee Walsh
- 28 Jessica Licht

- 29 Jean Sturm
- 30 Vivian Buschlen



- 4/1 Dave & Janis Elftman, 35 years
- 4/8 John & Lori Smith, 46 years
- 4/9 Denny & Leanne Smith, 41 years

CEMETERY REMINDER

Please remove all flowers, decorations and grave blankets for Spring Cleanup! With the weather warming up, it will soon be time for mowing! Thanks you for your cooperation.

Save the Date

June 6 - 8, 2024

**The Annual
Cross Family Church
GARAGE
SALE**

**Cross Lutheran Church
200 Ruppert Street,
Pigeon, MI**

THOSE IN NEED OF CONTINUED PRAYER

Alice Trost, Rachel Higgins, JB Barry, Ben Smith, Lori McKenzie, Paul Schuette, Connie Eden, Jim Siewert, Dawn Hendricks, Beth Elston, Kari Spearing, Brandon Fritz, Barb Eidt, Gene Parsell, Tim Voss, Michael Eden, Terry Sturm, Clark Elftman, Hannah Britt, Cordelia Trost, John Finneren, Tom Shupe, Whitney Peyerck, Joe Stodola, Matt Edler, Larry Adams, Al Collison, Anna House, Susan Beller, Hope Kittel, Noah Adams, Kyle Walker, Kay Schuette, Roberta Danks, Corey Messing, Marvin Trost, Kevin Faupel, Ezra Sturm, Deann Lewis, Kayle Thepsourinthone, Robert Krzeszewski, Dolores Elftman, Martin Knost.

THOSE IN THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY

Nicholas Swanson (U.S. Air Force), Michael Cox (U. S. Navy), and Alex Moyer (U.S. Marines)



From the Desk of...Nicole Shupe

Greetings from the 3-5th grade!! Where has the school year gone? We are already starting our final marking period of the 2023-2024 school year!

Our classroom has been going non-stop this past month. We have been digging deep into Lent and what it means in our faith walk with Christ, preparing our hearts for the joyous day of Jesus' resurrection. Our class enjoyed making Prayer Pretzels. We learned how pretzels were made by a monk who would give them to the children for memorizing Bible verses. They were crossed, as they would cross their arms in prayer. It was a fun project with a tasty treat in the end!

The school also celebrated Lutheran School Week with fun activities such as pajama day, twin day, favorite movie/book character day, throwback Thursday and finally school spirit day. The 3rd- 8th grade classes were also treated to a trip to the Bad Axe Movie Theater to see the latest *Wonka* movie.

April Calendar

4/1	Easter Monday—NO School
4/2	School Resumes



The basketball season has come to an end with the annual Parents vs. Kids Basketball Game. It was a fun time for all! Many memories were made this past year by all the students as they continued to build their skills. There were 27 students that participated in basketball this year. It allowed us to have a Jr. High team and 3rd-5th grade boys team and girls team. Thank you to all the parents and coaches for making this possible!

Robotics also wrapped up its season with a trip to the state competition in Munroe, MI. The Robros, unfortunately did not place for the world competition but had a great time together and are already thinking about next year. They were also complimented on their sportsmanship. What a great example of living out their faith!

We were also able to attend Challenger Mission at St. Clair Community College. It was a jam packed day of STEM and space education. The children were able to participate as an International Space Station crew and Mission Control guiding each other through various simulations of a real space mission. It was an amazing program that helped build teamwork and introduce the children to new skills. This was a program that was through the HISD, so we thank them for this opportunity!



March was also reading month so we have been challenging the children to read, read, read! Our theme this year is Reading is Sweet! Our prizes for meeting their goals at the end of the week were popcorn, a read and feed, and the finale, donuts! Paper sprinkles were added to the three giant donuts in the hall for students who had met their weekly goal.

As our classroom and school has been busy learning, we pray that throughout Lent we have grown in faith. We learned to put aside busyness and reflect on the ultimate sacrifice made for us by Jesus. We long to be more like Him, and reflect Him in living our lives.

From the desk of...Miki Thick, CLECC

I am really excited to take on the role as director here at CLECC and continue to be the lead teacher in the Prepper classroom. I have an Associate's degree in early childhood education and have worked in the daycare field for over 13 years. I have spent time in all the age groups over the years. In 2015 my husband and I decided to make Pigeon our home. While I wish I could have a mini highland cow on a little farm, I do love living in our little town of Pigeon. We have two fur babies, our lab Leonard, & our cat Lulu. When I am not at CLECC I also work for Huron Behavioral Health as a respite caregiver for my little cousin. I definitely love to stay busy. I am looking forward to continuing to build a strong relationship within our building, and encourage our young students to build a strong relationship with God. Also, I am building my own personal relationship with God, something I have been working on over the past several years here at Cross. I am thankful for this opportunity to be the director here at CLECC!



In memory of Bill Hurdelbrink, for Cross Building fund:

Neil & Connie Herford
Shirley Deering
Bonnie Schulz

In memory of Bill Hurdelbrink, for Cross Lutheran Church:

Denny & Leanne Smith
Larry & Gina Smith
Roger Fritz & Lori Eggert

In memory of Bill Hurdelbrink, for Cross Lutheran School:

Kevin & Deb Ohlrogge

In memory of Rod Swalwell, for Cross Building fund:

Neil & Connie Herford

In memory of Inez Buchholz, for Cross Building fund:

Shirley Deering
Carol Diener
Mike & Lorraine LePage
Sheila Yackle

In memory of Inez Buchholz, for Cross Lutheran School:

Kevin & Deb Ohlrogge
Krisie Fritz & family
Laurie & Tony Minre
Tom & Bernice Shupe

In memory of David Licht, for Cross Lutheran School:

Kevin & Deb Ohlrogge



Cross Lutheran School Board Minutes

March 7, 2024

(To be approved at the April meeting)



Members present: David Faupel, President Dick Koehler, Secretary Kevin Stachowiak, Katie Wilson, Rita Herford, Rebecca Yackle **Abs.** Vice President Eileen Johnson

The meeting was called to order by Dick Koehler at 5:30pm. Prayer was led by David Faupel

Agenda: A motion was made by Rebecca Yackle and seconded by Katie Wilson to accept the agenda. The motion passed.

Minutes: A motion was made by Kevin Stachowiak, seconded by Katie Wilson to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2024, meeting. The motion passed.

Guests: No guests

Treasurers' Reports:

School Balance: \$62,893.85

CEA/PTO Balance: \$78,347.78

Hot Lunch: \$3,888.49

A motion was made by Rita Herford and seconded by Rebecca Yackle to accept the Treasurers' Reports. The motion carried.

CEA President's Report:

Rebecca reported additional playground equipment has been ordered. The Winter Dinner Auction was successful, having larger attendance and sponsorship than the previous year. The Pie Sale also exceeded expectations. A Mom to Mom Sale fundraiser is planned for April 6.

Principal's Report:

- Students Registered for 2023-2024 are now 64
DK:1 KDG: 10 1st:10 2nd: 9 3rd: 8 4th: 5 5th: 7 6th: 6 7th: 3 8th:5
- Calendar
 - March 10-Students Sing in Church
 - March 14-Athletic Awards, 6:00pm
 - March 19-DK/KDG Open House
 - March 22-End of 3rd Marking Period
 - March 25-April 1-Spring Break

*Grant Money approved for Safety and Mental Health. An additional grant has been approved for Robotics.

Old Business:

- Dick updated us on the Pastoral Search/Call. Our video is now online. No responses yet, need to remain patient.
- Church Council decided to have the Band use the Overflow Area.
- Basketball Coaching was more involved this year than last year with staggered girl/boy seasons. A motion was made by Kevin Stachowiak and seconded by Rita Herford to distribute \$1500 in stipends to the coaching staff. Motion passed.
- Hot Lunch Finances are tight but ok for now.

New Business:

- Cleaning Services contract ends after summer. Will involve Properties regarding decision for next school year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The date of the next meeting will be April 4, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Fish Fry



Friday,
April 12, 2024
5 to 7 p.m.

Meals include Fish, Baked Potato or Fries,
Beans, Roll, Cole Slaw and Homemade
Desserts

All meals are \$15

Cross Lutheran Church

200 Ruppert Street, Pigeon

This is a Thrivent Financial Sponsored Event.

Proceeds will support Cross Lutheran Church
and School.

Dine in or
Take outs
Available!



Guide to Operation Christmas Child Year-Round Shoebox Shopping, Packing, and Tips

Savvy shoebox packers know that it's never too early to start shopping, packing, and fundraising for shoebox gifts. Use this guide to pack quality shoeboxes that are **FUN, FULL, and PERSONALIZED** so that each is unique and prayed over. By preparing shoebox gifts all year long, you can send the Good News of Jesus Christ and the great joy of receiving an Operation Christmas Child shoebox to more boys and girls around the world!

YEAR-ROUND SHOPPING

January	Hats, Gloves, and Scarves	February	Fashion Accessories	March	"Wow" Items	April	Stuffed Animals
May	Games	June	Toys	July	Clothing	August	School Supplies
September	Personal Care Items	October	Letter and Photo	November	\$10 Donation Pur Shoebox	December	Prayer

YEAR-ROUND PACKING

PACKING CHECKLIST

Purchase—Shop for fun toys, personal care items, and school supplies to fill a shoebox. Write down what you have so far or still need to buy:

Toys:

Personal Care Items:

School Supplies:

Other Items:

Pack—Remove items from packaging and pack into shoebox.

Personalize—Include a letter to the shoebox recipient along with a photo of your family or group. You can even decorate the shoebox!

Prepare \$10 Donations—Set aside the suggested donation per shoebox to support project costs such as shoebox gift transportation and Gospel materials.

Pray—Lift up in prayer the shoebox journey and the child who will receive your shoebox gift.

YEAR-ROUND TIPS

- Set a shoebox goal at the beginning of the year to help you plan and stay motivated.
- Visit [samaritanaspurse.org/occ](https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/occ) to **order preprinted shoeboxes** so you can pack all year.
- When shopping, choose quality items that will last a long time.
- Don't miss out on postholiday deals after Christmas, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter.
- Take advantage of back-to-school sales in the fall.
- Check for tax-free weekends in your area to save money when purchasing your shoebox items.
- Go to the Operation Christmas Child [Amazon storefront](https://www.amazon.com/operationchristmaschild) that includes gift suggestions.
- Visit our [fundraising page](#) for ideas on raising **\$10 donations** to accompany shoebox gifts all year long.
- Join the [project leader Facebook group](#) for shoebox packing and promotional ideas.

Green text indicates hyperlinks.

Visit [samaritanaspurse.org/occ](https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/occ) to learn more about how God can use a gift-filled shoebox given in Jesus' Name to transform a child, their family, and their community with the Good News of Jesus Christ.



VIEW SOLICITATION DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE ONLINE AT [SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/DISCLOSURE](https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/disclosure)

09/21/2024



Operation Christmas Child® is a project of Samaritan's Purse®.
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Mission Outreach Ministry

March 12, 2024

The meeting of Mission Outreach Ministry was called to order by President Krisie Fritz. Those in attendance were Krisie Fritz, Sandie Haley, Lori Smith, Tonja Nelson, Kay Schuette, Lorraine LePage, and new member Maureen Reibling. A prayer was given by Krisie.

The secretary's report was given online and approved.

The treasurer's report was given and approved. A motion was made by Lori to send out Easter cards to our church members and to reimburse Krisie for the cost of the stamps she purchased. Motion seconded by Kay. Motion carried.

A second motion was made by Tonja to reimburse Lorraine for the Easter cards she purchased. The motion was seconded by Sandie. Motion carried.

The garage sale and church membership were discussed.

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

Members stayed after the meeting to address Easter cards and get them ready to send out.

Respectfully submitted, Tonja Nelson

Worship and Music Ministry

March 5, 2024

Members present: Mike Sting, Peg McCrimmon, John House (Trustee), Beth Elston (by speaker phone), Karen Schuette (Chair).

We reviewed the Holy Week worships:

+Palm Sunday – Gwynne Barry will lead. We have ordered palms to be used by the congregation that day. Communion will be by intinction.

+Maundy Thursday – 6:30 pm. Gwynne will lead. Communion will be by cups. The chancel will be stripped and draped in black.

+Good Friday – 6:30 pm. Phil Schadd will lead. Scripture and prayers.

Easter worship – 9:30 am. Phil will lead. We will continue to use Setting I liturgy from the LBW into the summer. The chancel will be decorated with pots of flowers.

Communion will still be given on April 7 (the first Sunday) so as to not to create confusion.

It was noted that our organ will be 60 years old (November 29, 1964) this coming fall.

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 3 pm.



Here's the news from the Ministry of Education and Youth...there are highs and lows (and we're not talking about the Spring temperatures).

Let's report on the lows first. Sunday School attendance is down. Now there is an easy solution...bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and neighbors. Teachers are ready to share God's Word with those precious ones.

Another low was only one youth showed up for our Open Gym event in March. The high though was that youth contacted a friend to come and the friend's mom wanted to know when the next event was scheduled so her child could attend. That information will certainly be shared! Remember parents and youth, friends are always welcome!

Now for the highs...there is an event on Sunday, April 7 at Bay Shore Camp called BLAST for all MS-HS youth from 4:30-7:30 PM. The cost is only \$1 per youth! You can't go wrong with games, food, music, and fun, so I'm hoping to hear from our youth that they are participating. Remember, friends are welcome!

A Scavenger Hunt in Pigeon is being planned for Sunday, April 28 beginning at 4:30 PM. A lot of preparation is being made for this event so we're hoping our Middle School and High School Youth will attend. Youth will be placed into teams. Adults are welcome to help with transportation around town. Again, friends are welcome!

There will be many opportunities for our youth to serve in upcoming months...Fish Fry on 4/12, Garage Sale during the first week of June, and VBS during June 17-20. Did I mention that friends are welcome?

Another high would be our Adult Bible Study attendance on Wednesdays during Lent. How good it is to gather and dwell on God's Word and application to our lives. How much better it would be if we would continue the Bible Study! There are several topics from which to choose. And guess what, your friends are welcome!

The next meeting of the Ministry of Education and Youth will be on Sunday, April 7 after the church service. We will meet in the conference room. Please feel free to be a part of this ministry. Your prayers, time, and suggestions are welcome. Friends are welcome and you, my family of Cross, are our friends in Christ.

In His love,

Gwynne Barry

Ministry of Education and Youth





april
showers

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 NO School	2 Worship & Music 3 pm	3 Chapel 8:05 am Mission Outreach 6:30 pm	4 Jean Quilts 1 pm School Board 5:30 pm Properties 7 pm	5 Set-up for Mom2Mom sale 5-7 pm	6 Mom2Mom Sale 9 - noon
7 Comm. Service 9:30 am S.S. 8:30 am Bay Shore Camp BLAST 4:30 - 7:30	8 Stewardship 5:30 pm	9 CLECC 3 pm Council 7 pm	10 Chapel 8:05 am Vision & Hearing testing Quilters 1 pm	11	12 Cross Fish Fry 5 to 7 pm 	13
14 Worship Serv. 9:30 am S.S. 8:30 am	15	16	17 Chapel 8:05 am Quilters 1 pm	18 Jean Quilts 1 pm	19	20
21 Worship Serv. 9:30 am S.S. 8:30 am	22 Newsletter Deadline	23	24 Chapel 8:05 am Quilters 1 pm	25	26	27
28 Worship Serv. 9:30 am S.S. 8:30 am Scavenger Hunt 4:30 pm	29	30				