

Cross Connection



Growing Together
September
2026

Cross Lutheran Church & School

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

www.crosslutheranpigeon.org
www.crosslutheralschool.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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*"So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven
that one of these little ones should perish."*

• Matthew 18:14 •

We are witnesses. That is our calling as disciples of Jesus. One of our vocational callings is to lead people to Jesus. Sadly, the opposite may also be true. How often have we led people away from Jesus because of our own sins. Jesus warned about those who would inhibit a person's relationship with Jesus. "...but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea." (vs. 6).

One of the temptations we face is that of self-righteousness. The question of greatness is one of self-interest. Behind the question is that of looking for rewards or achievements where we might "win" the prize of greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Greatness in the kingdom is centered in a holy, childlike trust in God.

Seeking greatness is not the only temptation we face in this life. When someone sins against us the human temptation is to react in like manner. The world's message is to not only get even, but to make sure everyone knows about the great sin that has been committed against you. We post on social media the sin perpetrated against us. We seek to rally people to our side. Sometimes we just want people to see how "evil" those who have a different opinion are than us.

This is not the way it is to be for followers of Jesus. We are taught to forgive. Jesus taught us to pray, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us! Jesus further modeled this from the cross as he prayed "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34).

We best witness to Jesus when we seek the one who has gone astray with the intention of reconciliation. We best witness to Jesus when we speak directly to the offender. Jesus continues the process of what happens if the offender does not listen. The aim of the process is not to vilify the one who offended, but by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us, lead them back to Christ.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, lead us to forgive those who sinned against us, following the example of Jesus who abundantly forgives us. Amen.



9/1 Bradley Lutz
 9/3 Kenneth Schulze
 9/4 Ronald Higgins
 9/5 Janis Elftman
 9/5 Kristi Krohn
 9/5 Adelyn Kunisch
 9/5 Whitney Peyerker
 9/6 Taylor Licht
 9/8 John Shope
 9/8 Kevin Trost
 9/12 David Love
 9/13 Shannon Lange
 9/14 Joy Armstrong
 9/14 William Kaiser
 9/14 Jesse Ratliff
 9/14 Jack Sturm
 9/16 Linda Shope
 9/18 Patricia Ewald
 9/18 Norman Nelson
 9/18 Leo Peyerker
 9/18 Allison Yackle
 9/19 Kinslee Bair
 9/20 Elizabeth Higgins
 9/21 Beth Elston
 9/21 Andrew Trost
 9/23 Lori Smith
 9/24 Richard Mead
 9/25 Sandra Renn
 9/25 John Valley

9/26 Palmer Blaszczyk
 9/26 Taylor Fahl
 9/26 Timothy Schuette
 9/27 Kirsten Shupe
 9/28 Victoria Yackle
 9/29 Violet Messing
 9/30 Savannah Blaszczyk
 9/30 Erica Kish
 9/30 Laken LePage



9/2 Ken and Betty Licht
 9/3 Al and Peggy Licht
 9/4 Jacob and Loren Faist
 9/6 Bill and Jan Love
 9/7 Marcus and Adrienne Sting
 9/11 Steven and Patty Schulze
 9/20 Alex and Patty Cucinello
 9/21 Kelly and Maxine Rice
 9/24 Aaron and Tammy Vermeersch
 9/25 Christopher and Marcie Papkey
 9/27 Kevin and Steffany Kaiser
 9/27 Alexander and Whitney Peyerker
 9/28 James "Jim" and Katherine Pionk
 9/28 Matthew and Brandis Poisson

Prayer LIST

THOSE IN NEED OF CONTINUED PRAYER:

Dawn Hendricks, Bernice Shupe, Beth Elston, Gene Parsell, Mike Eden, Terry Sturm, Clark Elftman, Hannah Britt, John Finneren, Tom Shupe, Whitney Peyerker, Joe Stodola, Matt Edler, Larry Adams, Al Collison, Susan Beller, Hope Kittel, Noah Adams, Kay Schuette, Kevin Faupel, Ezra Sturm, Robert Blunt Jr, Marilyn Blunt, Alan Licht, Richard Baranski, Ron Kubacki, Danielle Corp, Justine Beltz, Tia Garrett, Dale Schuette, Gary Forster, Kaleb S.

CROSS CHURCH SHUT INS

Vivian Buschlen, Cordelia Trost, Roberta Danks, Marvin Trost. Please keep them in your prayers.

THOSE IN SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY:

Nicholas Swanson
 (US Air Force)

Warren Walker (US Army)

*If you would like your name or an immediate family member added or removed to any of these lists, please contact the church office.

Preparing for Worship

September 6 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost- 1R- Ezekiel 33:7-9 P- Psalm 32:1-7 2R- Romans 13:1-10 G- Matthew 18:1-20

September 13 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost- 1R- Genesis 50:15-21 P- Psalm 103:1-12 2R- Romans 14:1-12 G- Matthew 18:21-35

September 20 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost- 1R- Isaiah 55:6-9 P- Psalm 27:1-9 2R- Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30 G- Matthew 20:1-16

September 27 - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost - 1R- Ezekiel 18:1-14, 25-32 P- Psalm 25:1-10 2R- Philippians 2:1-4 (5-13) 14-18 G Matthew 21:23-27 (28-32)

Worship and Music Ministry Meeting Report August 4, 2026

Members present: Peg McCrimmon, Mike Sting, Beth Elston, Pastor Kevin Kaiser, John Trowbridge - Trustee, John Smith - Council President, Karen Schuette - Chair.

*Pipe Organ repair/upgrade - The Ministry reviewed the new proposal for repairing and possibly upgrading the pipe organ. It will be sent on to the Pipe Organ committee for their recommendations.

*Liturgy and worship into Advent - The liturgy will change the first Sunday in September to the LBW Setting 1 and the WOV Setting 5 for Advent beginning November 29, 2026.

*Piano Regulation - Council approved the cost of this repair which was done on July 6.

*Mike reported that the bell and chancel choirs will begin rehearsing in September.

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 AT 5:30PM

Operation Christmas Child Update

OCC is a year-round project for many of us! M/O members have recently put together 50 sewing kits for the boxes. Many supporters scour the sale racks all year long looking for reduced deals on items for the shoeboxes. This morning I got a call from a friend who excitedly proclaimed, "I found 25 pairs of children's shorts for \$1 each!" Another told me they are making packs of assorted bandaids for the boxes. Someone bought 48 boxes of crayons at the back to school sales. Someone else bought socks! I myself keep a big tote in my closet and every time I find something like reduced stuffed Easter bunnies or bracelets and sunglasses from parades, in the tote they go! We pray that many of you are looking for items to add to our collection!

Cross Mission Outreach





Cross Lutheran Church Council Minutes Regular Meeting - June 9, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Cross Lutheran Church Council was held on July 14, 2026, at the Church, 200 Ruppert Street, Pigeon, MI. President John Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Kevin Kaiser offered the opening prayer.

Members Present: Kim Delpiere, Nancy Heck, Kent McKenzie, John Smith, Kevin Stachowiak, and John Trowbridge.

Members Absent: Josh Barry, Kim Sears and Peter Shape.

Also In Attendance: Pastor Kevin Kaiser, Principal David Faupel and Day Care Director Micki Sageman.

Agenda Update and Approval: Motion by Delpiere, second by Stachowiak to approve the agenda as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes:

Motion by McKenzie, second by Stachowiak to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2026 minutes as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Pastors Report:

Pastor Kaiser submitted a written report for Council to review.

Staff Reports:

- Principal Faupel reported the problems and progress Marcine had when stripping and waxing the School and Gym floors. Following discussion a motion was made by Delpiere, second by Stachowiak to hire Shetler Carpet Cleaners to shampoo the Church and School carpets. All Ayes. Motion carried.
- Day Care Director Sageman reported a summer enrollment of 46 kids (babies thru latch key) in the Day Care. The kids make regular trips to the Pigeon Village Park, the Pigeon District Library and will take part in the Summerfest Kids Parade. Field Trips have been planned to the Port Austin Butterfly Home/Splash Pad and the Bad Axe Park/Splash Pad.



Officer Reports

- Treasurer Sears submitted a written financial report for June. The Combined Church Funds had a beginning balance of \$171,418 and an ending balance of \$183,681. Included in the Fund Balance is the Building Fund Balance of \$5,535 and the Roof Repair Fund Balance of \$13,080. Motion by Stachowiak, second by McKenzie to approve the Treasurer's Report. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Reports:

- Ministry of Properties: Following discussion a motion was made by Trowbridge. Supported by Heck to hire G and V Construction to do maintenance on a portion of the School Rubber Roof at a cost of \$4,700. All Ayes. Motion carried. The Roof Committee will meet to review the bids for the Church Roof and bring recommendation to the August Meeting.

Mission Outreach Ministry:

- Plans for the New Church Directory continue. Family photos will be taken August 6th thru 8th.

Old Business

- The Family, Fun, Faith, Fellowship Kick off to the Summer Fest went well. The Church Nativity Scene Group will continue to search for more nativity pieces.

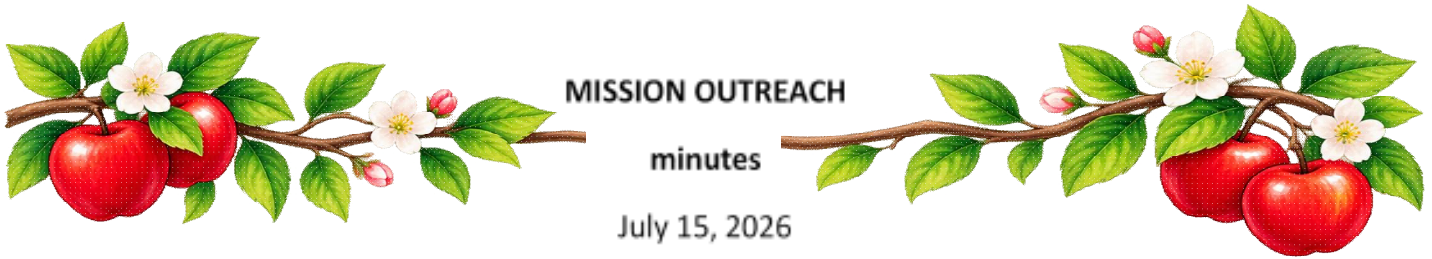
New Business

- The Chicken Barbeque is being planned for August 30th.

Motion by Trowbridge, second by McKenzie, to adjourn. All Ayes, Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Heck
Cross Council Secretary



CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. by President, Krisie Janke.

ATTENDANCE: Those in attendance were Krisie Janke, Lorraine LePage, Maureen Reibling, Tonja Nelson, Pastor Kevin Kaiser, Laura Trost, Nancy Heck, Kay Schuette, Lori Smith, John Smith, Kim Delpiere, Steffany Kaiser and Heather Garrett. A prayer was given by Pastor Kevin Kaiser.

MINUTES: The minutes from the June 10, 2026 meeting were handed out to all present. A correction needed to be made to list John and Lori Smith as being in attendance at the June meeting. A motion was made by Krisie Janke to accept the corrected minutes. Nancy Heck seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was given by Lorraine LePage. A motion was made by Steffany Kaiser to approve the Report. Seconded by Kim Delpiere. Motion Approved.

BUSINESS: Kim Delpiere opened up discussion about the church directory. There were at this time 87 photo appointments made. Kim had a list of past directory people who had not signed up yet. Discussion was made to call the people on the list to see if they were interested in making an appointment. There was discussion of a possible date in September for a make-up picture day and for school families. Nancy Heck made a motion to have Kim Delpiere, Laura Trost and Lorraine LePage be on a committee for putting the church directory together. Steffany Kaiser seconded the motion. Motion approved.

The church bulletin boards were brought up in discussion. The group decided to focus on the church directory for now and go back to the bulletin boards at a later date.

Krisie Janke brought up discussion about the memorial brick for Connie Eden. Since only 3 lines were allowed with up to 12 characters per line, the group decided on the brick stating: Connie Eden, Faithful Servant. Kim Delpiere made a

motion for the ministry to pay \$70 for the brick. Steffany Kaiser seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Discussion was made about where to donate for the outreach for the month. It was decided to donate to the Pigeon Food Pantry. A motion was made by Nancy Heck to donate \$100 to the Pigeon Food Pantry, seconded by Tonja Nelson. Motion approved.

OTHER BUSINESS: In other business, discussion was made about Mission Festival. Nothing was determined to be done for Mission Festival this year.

Lori Smith brought up discussion about having a float in the parade for the Farmer's Summerfest festival. She asked if Mission Outreach would reimburse her for float materials as the float was an outreach for the church. Nancy Heck made a motion to reimburse Lori Smith up to \$250 for her materials. Lori will submit receipts for her cost. Steffany Kaiser seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Nancy Heck presented the poster she had made for the roof donations. It was displayed in the overflow area for the congregation to see how much has been donated so far.

COFFEE HOUR: No coffee hour sign-up for this month.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on August 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Trost



Cross Lutheran School Board Minutes From Thursday, August 6, 2026

(To be approved at the Thursday, September 10, meeting)

Present: Kevin Stachowiak, Pastor Kevin, David Faupel, Rita Herford, Michelle Walsh, Stephanie Ellicott

Absent: Matt Egan, Katie Van Valkenburgh

Pastor Kevin opened in Prayer at 5:43pm.

Stephanie made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Rita. Motion Carried.

Rita made a motion to approve the June 4th minutes, seconded by Stephanie. Motion carried.

No guest presentations.

Rita reported on behalf of the CEA Treasurer that the Balance as of August 1 is \$68,190.87.

School Treasurer's Report:

August 1st Total Balance \$50,382.86

Motion to approve the treasurer's report by Rita, seconded by Michelle. Motion carried.

CEA President's Report:

Stephanie reported that Katie Van Valkenburgh is the newly appointed CEA Treasurer. Went through Sound proofing update, went over the current budget

Principal's Report:

- Open House is on Thursday August 20th
- First Day of School is Tuesday August 25th
- School Theme this year is Fearfully and Wonderfully Made
- At this time, enrollment is 64 Students for the 26-27 School year.

Old Business:

- Ways to increase the Scholarship fund were discussed.
- Recess Supervision
- A motion was made by Michelle to pay Mr Wright to continue supervising recess as in the past. Seconded by Rita. Motion carried.

New Business:

- School Handbook
- School Board members will review the handbook and bring ideas for updates at future meetings.
- Approval of School Staff for 2026-2027 School Year
- Michelle made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 Cross Lutheran School Staff. Seconded by Rita. Motion carried.

5 Year Goals/Plans:

- The goal of unification was accomplished but the task force is not disbanding. They will continue to meet but on an as needed basis.
- Branding and mottos for each: 3 ministries, one church. Continue lifting up all 3 ministries
- Pastor Kevin has been fingerprinted through the Daycare so that if the need arises he can step in a room in ratio in the event of an Emergency.
- Pastor Kevin is also willing to do the same for the school.
- Communication, supporting, and including everyone in each other's events and plans has been great!

Motion to adjourn by Rita at 6:28. Seconded by Stephanie. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting is Thursday, September 10, at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Walsh



Cross Lutheran School Staff 2026-2027

David Faupel – Principal/7th-8th grade Teacher

Kelly Gebauer – 5th-6th grade Teacher

Nicole Shupe – 3rd-4th grade Teacher

Carrie Ward – 1st-2nd grade Teacher

Leslie Eberly – DK-K Teacher & Music

Rebecca Yackle – DK-K Support

Beth Maurer – 1-2 grade Support & Title I

Justin Kuhl – School Counselor

Michelle Kuhl – Piano Teacher

Jenny Turner – Art Teacher

Brian Wright – PE Teacher

Don Starks – Band Teacher

David Wilson - 7-8 grade Religion

Marcine Moore – Head Cook & Custodian

Lynn Chrisman – Kitchen & Custodial Assistant

Heather Garrett - Church/School Secretary





Where did the summer go? School is back in session, and we are looking forward to another great year! The theme for 2026-2027 is “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made”, and our theme verse comes from Psalm 139:14, “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.” We are excited to share and celebrate with students how they are each a unique creation, made and loved by God!

There are 64 students enrolled in DK-8th grade and an amazing team of 18 teachers and staff members, each of whom have been uniquely and perfectly designed by their Creator! For the first time in nine years I did not have to conduct any interviews over the summer because all of our staff members returned! It is truly a blessing to work alongside those who God has called to serve here at Cross Lutheran.

We are so grateful for the tremendous support from Cross Lutheran Church and for your commitment to the ministry of the school. You provide the important opportunity for training children so that they can know that they are fearfully and wonderfully made and learn to live in that truth and the grace of God’s forgiveness. Thank you!



Name: David Faupel

Position: Principal and 7th/8th Grade Teacher

Years at Cross: 16

Family: Carlene, Mason (1), and a new baby coming in January

Home Church: Elkton Missionary

Favorite Subject: History

Favorite Bible Verse: Proverbs 16:9

Thoughts about Cross: It is a blessing to be able to share my faith and help build disciples on a daily basis.

September

9/4	NO School
9/7	NO School - Labor Day
9/23	Picture Day
9/25	CEA Softball/Kickball Night 4:45 to 7 pm



Youth and Education Notes

Time for Sunday School, Youth Group Events, Bible Study ... Whew! Let's make it a great year learning together and serving our Mighty God.

We'll kick off our journey for Sunday School on **Sunday September 13, 2026**. It will be a great **TIME!** **Sunday School** children ages 3-6th grade will meet in the gym for Sunday School opening at **8:45 AM** and then proceed with their lesson and activities. The students will be divided into these groups: PS-1st grade, 2nd-4th grade, and 5th-6th grade. That means we need at least three teachers each week! Gwynne Barry will take lead for most Sundays with the 5th-6th graders who will be journeying through the Bible with lots of extras . Please prayerfully consider teaching our children. It would be great to have a group of 6-8 people who would rotate. (Would love to see parents gather in the overflow for fellowship, prayer, and/or Bible study during this **TIME**. Materials can be made available!)

Adult Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, September 16 at 6PM. We will meet in the overflow. The topic of study will be "Rejoice in the Lord Always", a study of Philippians. All are welcome as we delve into God's Word! The books will be available at the Welcome desk soon. Please sign up and take one!

Youth Event for youth in grades 6-12 and all adventurous adults will be on Sunday, September 13 at 4 PM. Details will follow, but be prepared for water, God's Word, games, food, and fellowship.

Always a good **TIME!**

We're always looking for ideas and assistance with our youth and education ministry. Your ideas, time, and talents are always welcome! It's **TIME!**

In His love,
Ministry of Youth and Education
Gwynne Barry





September

2026



Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3 Jean Quilts 1pm	4 NO SCHOOL	5
6 Comm. Service 9:30 am	7 NO SCHOOL	8 Cross County @Mayville HS Junior High Boys 5:30 pm Junior High- Girls 6:00 pm	9 Daycare 3:30 pm	10 Quilters 1:00 pm CEA 4 pm School Board 5:30pm	11	12 Cross County @ Bad Axe Fair K-8th 8:50 am
13 Sunday School 8:45 am Service 9:30 am Youth Event 4:00 pm	14	15	16 Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm	17 Jean Quilts 1pm	18	19
20 Comm. Service 9:30 am Sunday School 8:45 am Service 9:30 am	21	22	23 School Photos Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm	24 Quilters 1:-00 pm CEA Family Kickball/Softball 4:45 - 7:00 pm	25 Newsletter Due	26 Cross Country @ Laker HS K-8 Boys 10:30 am K-8 Girls 11:00 am
27 Sunday School 8:45 am Service 9:30 am	28	29	30 Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm			

