

Cross Connection



Growing Together

August
2026

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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"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."

Romans 12:3-5

There's a memorable quote by Margaret Thatcher in which she observes, "Power is like being a lady... if you have to tell people you are, you aren't." This quote cuts to the heart of when people think too highly of themselves. Know anyone like this? It's natural for people to pride themselves on when they've accomplished something they're proud of, but what does Paul say in Romans 12:3? "For by the grace given to me, I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned."

Paul goes on to make a comparison in verses 4-5 to the human body saying, "For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." Each function of the human body works together, big or small, just as we should do as members of the body of Christ.

Our sense of purpose in this world also comes from what God has given us. As Christians, we are called accordingly to serve the Lord and "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them." (Romans 12:6) God's gifts are for building up his church. Therefore, it makes sense that we all have different gifts. There is no room for arrogance in the body of Christ; everything we have comes from God, so we cannot be boastful of our gifts and talents. Anything at all that we accomplish, big or small, is because of him and not of our own doing.

Dear Lord, thank you for the many gifts you have bestowed upon us. Help us to value one another's gifts and work together as one body in Christ and to seek ways to serve others with what you have given us.

Amen.



Birthdays

8/1 Aaron Mallais
 8/1 Thomas Shupe
 8/2 Leia Smith
 8/3 Ronald Bergman
 8/4 Terry Sturm
 8/6 Julia Valley
 8/7 Caden Carriveau
 8/7 Todd Gunden
 8/7 Sandra Haley
 8/7 Kent McKenzie
 8/9 Preston Braun
 8/9 Tiffany Swartzendruber
 8/10 Logan Siewert
 8/12 Bruce Baur
 8/12 Jeremy Licht
 8/12 Duane Peterson
 8/12 Bernice Shupe
 8/13 Keeley Baur
 8/14 Corey Messing
 8/14 Randy Swanson
 8/15 Nicholas Swanson
 8/17 Gwynne Barry
 8/17 Khloe Carriveau
 8/17 Ryan Schuette
 8/19 Gretchen Roestel
 8/19 Henry Rogers
 8/20 Larry Rosenthal

8/21 Parker Braun
 8/21 Dustin Forster
 8/22 Kayle Thepsourinthone
 8/23 Jon Deer
 8/23 Wynnie Thepsourinthone
 8/25 Tina Edler
 8/25 Karen Schuette
 8/26 Brian Koehler
 8/26 Nancy Schuette
 8/27 Max Eden
 8/29 Jonathan Love
 8/30 David Jarvis
 8/31 Joshua Higgins
 8/31 Stephen Schuette
Anniversaries
 8/2 Pat and Kathy Azarovitz
 8/2 Roger and Lori Fritz
 8/2 William and Sandra Renn
 8/3 Michael and Laura Trost
 8/4 Kale and Crystal Hill
 8/5 Gregory and Rebecca Yackle
 8/6 J.B. and Gwynne Barry
 8/7 Russell and Sarah Nichols
 8/9 Ben and Kayla Smith
 8/9 Doug and Dorothy Thuemmel
 8/10 Michael and Heather Koroleski
 8/15 Todd and Gretchen Roestel
 8/16 Neil and Connie Herford
 8/16 Jim and Sue Licht
 8/16 Randy and Cheryl Sturm

8/18 Adrian and Jill Hill
 8/21 Phil and Carol Schadd
 8/21 Tom and Bernice Shupe
 8/22 Henry and Debbie Lange
 8/23 Nate and Jessica Licht
 8/23 Stephen and Kristine Schuette
 8/24 Jordan and Courtney Trost
 8/26 Austin and Meagan Schuette
 8/27 David and Joyce Jarvis
 8/28 Jonathan and Sarah Love
 8/28 Norm and Tonja Nelson
 8/30 Nicholas Trost and Erin McArdle

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 Peyer, 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)



**CHURCH DIRECTORY...
WE ARE PLANNING ON
PHOTOS BEING TAKEN
AUGUST 6, 7, & 8TH.**

CROSS LUTHERAN YOUTH KICKBALL
IN **ELKTON**
ELKTON MISSIONARY CHURCH
IS HOSTING THE EVENT AT
ACKERMAN PARK
IN ELKTON
FOR 6-12TH GRADE!
AUGUST 19TH!
6-8PM
GOOD FRIENDS.
BIG KICKS.
GREAT TIMES!
EVERYONE WELCOME!



Cross Lutheran Church
200 Ruppert Street, Pigeon

Chicken Dinner
Sunday, August 30
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(or until sold out)

Menu includes: BBQ Chicken half, Roasted Potato, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Rolls and Dessert.



\$15 all meals

Dine in or
carry out.

Proceeds will benefit Cross Lutheran Church.
This is a Thrivent Financial Sponsored Event.

CROSS LUTHERAN SAINTS SCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE
AUGUST 20TH
5:30-7PM
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

Preparing for Worship

August 2 - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost- 1R- Isaiah 55:1-5P- Psalm 136:1-9 2R- Romans 9:1-5(23-26) G- Matthew 14:13-21

August 16 - Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost- 1R- Job 38:4-18 P- Psalm 18:1-6(7-16) 2R-Romans 10:5-7 G- Matthew 14:22-33

August 16 - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost- 1R- Isaiah 56:1,6-8 P- Psalm 67 2R- Romans 11:2a, 13-15, 28-32 G- Matthew 15:21-28

August 23 - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost - 1R- Isaiah 51:1-6 P-Psalm 138 2R- Romans 11:33-12:8 G- Matthew 16:13-20

August 30 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost - 1R- Jeremiah 15:15-21 P-Psalm 26 2R- Romans 12:9-21- G- Matthew 16:21-28



Cross Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, June 9, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Cross Lutheran Church Council was held on Tuesday, June 9, 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: Josh Barry, Nancy Heck, Kent McKenzie, Kim Sears, John Smith, Kevin Stachowiak, and John Trowbridge.

Members Absent: Kim Delpiere and Peter Shupe.

Also in Attendance: Pastor Kevin Kaiser, Principal David Faupel, Day Care Director Micki Thick and Phil Shad.

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

Review of Minutes of February Meeting -

Motion by Stachowiak, second by Sears to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, May 12, 2026 meeting as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Pastors Report -

Pastor Kaiser submitted a written report for Council to review.

- Official act - Baptism of Joel Swanson.

Staff Reports -

- Principal Faupel reported 64 students are enrolled at Cross for '26/'27 school year.
- Day Care Director Thick reported an increased latch key enrollment (15-18 children) for the summer.

Officer Reports -

- Treasurer Sears submitted a written financial report for June. General Fund had a beginning balance of \$151,193 and an ending balance of \$165,602.
 - Building Fund had a beginning balance of \$14,665 and an ending balance of \$15,215.
- Motion by McKenzie, second by Trowbridge, to approve the Treasurers Report. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Reports -

Ministry of Properties:

- Following discussion, a motion was made by Heck, supported by Sears, to form a Roof Committee to review bids and make recommendations for the new roof. The committee will be Kent McKenzie, John Trowbridge, Josh Barry, Neil Herford and John Smith.

All Ayes. Motion carried.

Mission Outreach Ministry:

- The Cross Family Garage Sale raised over \$5,700.
- Appointments are being made and plans are continuing for the New Church Directory.

Ministry of Youth and Education:

Trustee Barry reported Bible School was well attended with 63 kids and 30 teachers/helpers.

Old Business

Still looking for a Music Director.

New Business

- Plans are being made to update the Church Nativity Scene.
- The Pigeon Area Churches are planning a Family, Fun, Faith, Fellowship Kick Off to the Farmers Summer Fest on July 12th. Motion by Trowbridge, second by McKenzie, to donate \$250 to help cover expenses for the event. All Ayes. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Heck

Cross Lutheran School Board Minutes From Thursday, June 4th, 2026

(To be approved at the Thursday, August 6th meeting)

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

Absent: Matt Egan, Whitney Peyer

Pastor Kevin opened in Prayer at 5:34 pm.

We welcomed Stephanie Ellicott as the new CEA Vice President and member of School Board.

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

Rita made a motion to approve the amended April 30th minutes, seconded by Stephanie. Motion carried.

No guest presentations.

No CEA Treasurer's Report.

School Treasurer's Report:

June 1st Total Balance \$51,156.21.

Line items were explained to new member Stephanie Ellicott. Motion to approve the treasurer's report by Rita, seconded by Michelle. Motion carried.

CEA President's Report:

Nominations were made and the new Vice President is Stephanie Ellicott. She will attend the school board meetings in place of CEA President Lindsay Stachowiak.

Principal's Report:

- At this time, enrollment is 64 Students for the 26-27 School year.
- Staff had their end-of-the-year staff meeting on Tuesday this week and they did some reflecting on what went well and maybe some things to improve for next year. Everybody had the consensus that it was a good school year. Some of the things they mentioned that worked really well this year were having the preschool kids in with the chapel families and also all the DayCare kids coming to chapel. Field trips went really well. Title I went really well with Mrs Maurer taking over. Having Pastor Kaiser here was a big positive, and Justin's involvement with the school as the school counselor was great. Chapel offerings were up quite a bit, close to \$900 more in chapel offerings this year.
- Having the Art Extravaganza in the sanctuary was much better than in the gym. The sound was excellent, but it was a bit more difficult for everyone to be able to see well. Hopefully by that time next year, we will have sound panels in the gym and we can try it out in there again with some acoustic control.
- There were a few ideas of some things that could be improved on next year. Trying to make morning opening a little more meaningful for kids. More rubber mulch on the playground is needed, it has gotten packed down, it possibly just needs to be fluffed up. There are some screws missing from the gaga ball pit. Options for something around the gaga ball pit were discussed as well.
- Pastor Kevin expressed how grateful his family is for everything that Nicole and Will's classmates did to help Will transition to a new school halfway through the year. All the staff is just wonderful, they all do a great job and they include every kid no matter if they're in their classroom or not.

Old Business:

- Received good news on the Safety Grant. Discovered that we could actually count when we did the PA system upgrade last summer to connect to David's classroom in the overflow area. So basically we have about \$250 left over. It probably would be a stretch to spend that money on flashlights, etc as previously discussed, even though that's a logical safety thing but also found out we could carry over that money for another year. We have about \$250 that we don't have to spend until September 2027 and hopefully we receive another safety grant.
- Ways to increase the Scholarship fund were discussed.
- Tuition Assistance Requests were discussed.
- A motion was made by Stephanie and seconded by Rita to accept/approve the 1st request. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Michelle and seconded by Rita to accept/approve the 2nd request. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Michelle made a motion to renew the MHSAA contract, seconded by Rita. Motion carried.
- Hot Lunch prices were discussed. Stephanie made a motion to raise the hot lunch prices for students for the 2026-27 school year by 25 cents. Michelle seconded. Motion Carried.
- An enrollment request was submitted and a motion to accept the special enrollment was made by Rita and seconded by Michelle. Motion carried.
- Band requirements were discussed in detail. Several options were considered and the School Board decided to not make changes in the school handbook regarding band requirement at this time.
- Quotes have been received for the roof project. For the middle hallway and the school side it was suggested that instead of replacing the whole roof that they just make repairs where they're needed for now. The congregation voted to approve spending up to \$40,000 to make the repairs. There is about a decade left on the larger school roof which is estimated to cost approximately \$100,000. The estimate for all 5 roofs is \$150,000.
- Matt and Stephanie Ellicott expressed interest in helping coach Cross Country. Rita spoke to Erica and she was excited to have someone step up to help. Everyone was thankful for Erica's dedication and excitement in bringing the Cross Country program to Cross and coaching for the first few years. New jerseys with the new logo on were discussed. Rita made a motion to approve new coaches Matt and Stephanie Ellicott. Seconded by Michelle. Motion carried.

5 Year Goals/Plans:

It was reported by Kevin that we are about 2 ½-3 years into our five year plan. The biggest part they are taking active action on right now is bringing the Church/School/Daycare under one umbrella supporting each other and working together.

Motion to adjourn by Stephanie at 7:45. Seconded by Rita. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting is Thursday August 6th at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Walsh



From the desk of Mrs. Miki,

This summer, **Cross Lutheran Early Childcare Center** has been embracing every opportunity to enjoy God's beautiful creation. Our days have been filled with exploring the outdoors—chasing bugs, watching birds, and discovering the many wonderful gifts God has provided.

We have enjoyed Bike Days, where the children practiced their riding skills while building confidence and coordination. Our walks to the new community park have given us the chance to enjoy God's blessings while staying active together. Along the way, we've explored our town by learning about colors, shapes, and counting. The children were especially excited to discover that a spinning barber pole means the barber is open and ready to welcome customers! We also learned how our local co-op fills and empties semi-trailers with grain that helps feed both people and animals.

Even the rainy days have become adventures as we've splashed in puddles and celebrated the joy that each day brings. Most importantly, this summer has been a wonderful time for building lasting friendships, strengthening our classroom communities, and learning to love and care for one another.

We are thankful for a summer filled with laughter, learning, and countless reminders of God's goodness and faithfulness. We look forward to all the blessings the new school year will bring!

Miki Sageman

Program Administrator

Cross Lutheran Early Childcare Center



Youth and Education Notes

"We Are Family", a disco era song sung by Sister Sledge **WAAAAAAAAAY** back in 1979 keeps rolling through my head today. I am thankful for my immediate family members who show up to teach Sunday School, help with VBS, serve on boards, and assist or lead other events at Cross. I am thankful for my Cross Lutheran family members who also do the same. Sometimes it is easier to ask immediate family members to help or others who have helped in the past, but it is extremely important to continue to ask others to serve. I've stood before the congregation on many occasions asking for help. I am speaking to my family....my beloved Cross family.

Family of Cross, consider these opportunities to serve.

*The Ministry of Youth and Education (two ministries merged into one because of lack of people to serve in the past) needs more members. There is no age limit to serve. If serving in a ministry is too overwhelming, please volunteer to help with events.

*Sunday School teachers are needed. When my immediate family has a weekend family event, that takes out four teachers. How great it would be to have ten people who would share their gifts in this area! Even if you could teach once a month or every six weeks! Sunday School classes will begin after Labor Day Weekend.

*Bible Study members or leaders are needed. Opportunities to meet with various groups could be during Sunday School time, Wednesday nights, or other days/times. Currently parents who wait for their children during the Sunday School time in the overflow often have a devotion together. That's a great start!

*Youth. I've been trying to schedule events often during the school year for our youth. I text youth and their parents and try to communicate in other forms. Quite frankly, I often receive no response from most. But....I will not give up. I am grateful for the ones who do respond and participate. I could use some help with this group. I feel there is so much more to do. I would love your help and ideas.

As of this writing, our Cross Youth have been invited to a Kickball Tournament hosted by Elkton Missionary Church on Wednesday, August 19 at Ackerman Park in Elkton from 6-8 PM. All youth in 6th-12th grades are welcome as well as friends!

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:10. Family of Cross, there are many opportunities to serve. Please contact me if you'd like to serve in some capacity in the Ministries of Youth and Education. We are FAMILY! The family of God!

In His love,
Gwynne Barry

MISSION OUTREACH

minutes

July 15, 2026

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



AUGUST 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Comm. Service 9:30 am	3	4	5 Outreach 1:00 pm Daycare 3:30 pm	6 School Board 5:30 pm	7	8
9 Service 9:30 am	10	11 Council 7:00 pm	12	13 Quilters 1:-00 pm	14	15
16 Service 9:30 am	17	18	19 Youth Kickball In Elkton 6-8 pm	20 Open House 5:30-7:00 pm	21	22
23 Comm. Service 9:30 am	24	25 First Day of School	26	27 Quilters 1:-00 pm	28	29
30 Service 9:30 am Chicken Dinner 11-2 pm	31					