

Growing Together

September 2023

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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Listening for the Promise

“Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.’”

-Matthew 16:24-25-

Dietrich Bonhoeffer is well-known among many Lutherans. He was a German-Lutheran pastor and theologian, who died at the hands of Nazis in Germany during World War II. Before his death, Bonhoeffer wrote his work “Cost of Discipleship.” He writes how Christians today have taken advantage of God’s grace, referring to it as “cheap grace.” He says, “Cheap grace means the justification of sin without the justification of the sinner. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”

God’s grace came at an expensive price: the life his only son Jesus Christ. So often we lose sight of the great cost our God paid on our behalf. So often we want to water down God’s grace, making it more palatable. Discipleship, following Jesus, is not easy. It is a life of sacrifice, and Jesus doesn’t try to pretend that it’s going to be easy for us. His words are plain and simple: deny yourself and take up your cross and follow me.

We are tempted to tell ourselves that it’s ok to miss worship because God will understand; he will forgive us. We want to sweep our sin under the rug and pretend it’s not there. What’s the harm, really? The harm is huge! When we treat God’s amazing gift of grace so frivolously, not only do we diminish the depth of God’s love for us, but we also avoid any form of repentance. Without repentance, there is no forgiveness of our sins. And so ultimately, we have put ourselves in a dangerous position.

God has called us to follow him in every way. We are called to act out of love and compassion for our neighbor. We are called to forgive one another as God forgives us through the sacrifice of Jesus. We are called to make sacrifices in order to make God a priority in our lives. In the moment it might seem difficult, but as Dietrich Bonhoeffer also says, “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die. It may be a death like that of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow Him, but cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”

Celebrate



3 Ken Schulze
 5 Kristi Krohn
 Janis Elftman
 Adelyn Kunisch
 Whitney Peyerk
 6 Taylor Ann Licht
 8 Kevin Trost
 14 Jack Sturm
 18 Allison Yackle
 Norm Nelson
 Leo Peyerk
 20 Elizabeth Higgins
 21 Beth Elston
 Andrew Trost
 23 Lori Smith
 24 Richard Mead
 26 Tim Schuette
 27 Kirsten Shupe
 28 Victoria Yackle
 29 Violet Messing
 30 Laken LePage
 Erica Kish

2 Mike & Connie Eden, 45 years
 2 Ken & Betty Licht, 56 years
 3 Al & Peggy Licht, 40 years
 11 Steve & Patty Schulze, 52 years
 14 Bill & Muriel Hurdelbrink, 71 years
 20 Alex & Patty Cucinello, 37 years
 25 Chris & Marcie Papkey, 24 years
 27 Alex & Whitney Peyerk, 9 years



THOSE IN NEED OF CONTINUED PRAYER

Kyle Walker, Brandon Fritz, Barb Eidt, Gene Parsell, Tim Voss, Dorothy Henne, Michael Eden, Terry Sturm, Clark Elftman, Hannah Britt, Dave Licht, Cordelia Trost, John Finneren, Tom Shupe, Whitney Peyerk, Dorothy Henne, Joe Stodola, Matt Edler, Larry Adams, Al Collison, Anna House, Susan Beller, Hope Kittel, Inez Buchholz, Noah Adams, Kyle Walker, Kay Schuette, Roberta Danks, Posie Tuckey, 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)



Preparing for Worship

September 3 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

1R – Jeremiah 15:15-21, P – Psalm 26, 2R –Romans 12:9-21, G – Matthew 16:21-28

September 10 - 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 17– 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 24 - 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

From the Desk of...David Faupel

School is back in session as of August 28! Our school theme this year is "Stand Firm!" Our theme verse comes from 1 Corinthians 16:13: "Be on your guard; STAND FIRM in the faith; be courageous; be strong." It is important now, more than ever, that we teach our children to STAND FIRM on the Word of God so that they can stand against Satan and his schemes in a world that sends so many messages contrary to what the Bible says. During the year, we will be using the Armor of God as an illustration of how to STAND FIRM, focusing on a different piece of armor each month.

The school has received many upgrades over the summer thanks to grant money and donations. Each classroom now has giant touchscreen panels to replace our projectors. We have a wide variety of new flexible seating for our students. Every teacher received a new desktop and laptop computer. New water fountains and a water bottle filling station have been installed. We are so blessed and excited to make use of all of these new tools.

There are 65 students enrolled in the school this year. The majority of our classrooms are full to capacity. We are blessed with an amazing team of 13 staff members in the school who choose to STAND FIRM in their faith and lead our students to do the same. We are all looking forward to a great year.

We are grateful to be able to use the church multipurpose room again this year for band and piano classes, which take place daily from 9:00-11:15, and music classes which take place Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:15-1:15. We appreciate the flexibility and generosity of the church congregation to allow us to use this space and all of the ways you support the ministry of the school. God is doing great things here! STAND FIRM!

September Calendar

| | |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 9/01 | No School |
| 9/04 | No School |
| 9/20 | Picture Day |
| 9/22 | Spaghetti Fundraiser for DC trip |
| 9/28 | CEA Family Night 4:45 to 7:00 |



There will be a Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale on **September 22nd from 5 to 7 pm** as a fundraiser for 7th & 8th grade students going on the Washington DC Trip this year.

Dinners will include Spaghetti, salad, bread, and drink. Prices will be Adults \$10, Children 10 and under \$5 and children under 3 will be free.

Please come and support our students!



**In memory of Janet McCrimmon
for Cross organ fund:**
Delores Lange

**In memory of Max McKenzie for
Cross Lutheran Church:**
Bill & Muriel Hurdelbrink

**In memory of Fern Dubs for
Cross Building fund:**
Suzie Swanson



Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, September 6th at 1:30 in the church. We are studying the Guide GOD—Discovering the Divine, by Chris Pritchett. We are on session two, *“How Can I heal My Image of God?”* This is a study that you can drop into anytime. Study guides will be available, so feel free to join us. Questions, contact Leanne Smith, 989-553-4241.

Worship & Music

June 14, 2023

Discussed ideas for fundraising to maintain and upgrade our organ. Any fundraising efforts will **NOT** begin until after the church roof project is finished. Motion by John and seconded by Mike to organize a subcommittee of 5 including members of the congregation to plan fundraising efforts for organ repair and possible upgrade. Motion carried.

Motion by John and seconded by Mike to use a single sheet bulletin for worship. Motion carried. This will begin on July 17th.



Worship & Music

August 1, 2023

Members present: Pastor Glenn Sokolowski, Lu-Anne Sokolowski, Mike Sting, Beth Elston, Peg McCrimmon, John House—Council Rep. and Karen Schuette—Chair.

We will forward the Music Department Covenant Agreement to Council for their signature.

Motion by Mike and seconded by John to place Beth in charge of hymn planning for worship. Motion carried.

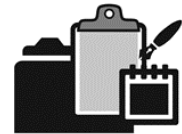
We discussed offering Council help from Worship & Music in this interim time. We will contact Matt and the Council to see where we may be of service.

Next meeting - Wednesday, September 6th at 3:00 pm.



CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

None submitted



Church Council
Minutes



Cross Lutheran School Board Minutes

August 3, 2023

(To be approved at the September meeting)



Members present: Dick Koehler, David Faupel, Rebecca Yackle, Kevin Trost, Kevin Stachowiak, Eileen Johnson, **Abs.** Katie Wilson

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

Agenda: A motion was made by Kevin S. and seconded by Rebecca to accept the agenda. It was carried.

Minutes: A motion was made by Kevin S., seconded by Rebecca to approve the minutes of June 1, 2023, meeting. The motion passed.

Guests: No guests

Treasurers' Reports:

School Balance: \$ 80,673.12

CEA/PTO Balance: \$20,283.48

Hot Lunch: \$5,074.66

A motion was made by Kevin T. and seconded by Kevin S. to accept the Treasurers' Reports. The motion was carried.

CEA President's Report:

Rebecca reported that the CEA/PTO had met and made plans for events for the 2023-2024 school year.

Principal's Report:

- Students Registered for 2023-2024 are now 64.
DK:2 KDG: 9 1st:10 2nd: 9 3rd: 8 4th: 5 5th: 8 6th:5 7th: 3 8th:5
- The classrooms have new touch screens installed and the teachers have new computers.
- Security has been upgraded and the office door security will be done next week.
- Flexible seating has been ordered.
- New water fountains have been installed. One is a water fill fountain. There was a \$1,500 donation received to purchase the units. Both installed with no labor costs by Matt McCain.

(Continued on page 6)

Old Business:

- Statement of Faith-No update
- Short term/Long term financial planning: Kevin T. made a motion to recommend to Council that the school pay for the kitchen assistant's hourly wages, substitute teachers, and other hourly wages. Kevin S. seconded the motion, and it was carried.
- Kevin S. made a motion to recommend to Council to raise Cindy Powell's wage to \$12 per hour. Rebecca seconded it and it passed.
- Free and Reduced lunches: Kevin S. made a motion to pay for free/reduced lunches from the Scholarship fund. Kevin T. seconded it, and the motion was carried.
- Staff Lunches: A motion was made by Kevin S. and seconded by Rebecca to continue to pay for staff lunches from the School Annual Fund. The motion was passed.

New Business:

- Recess Supervision: Kevin S. made a motion, seconded by Kevin T., to hire Mr. Wright on the three days he is here to do noon recess duty with assistance from rotating teachers. He would be paid a stipend of \$1000. Motion carried.
- Mr. Faupel would like to take the 6-8th grade students on a field trip this fall overnight to the Creation Museum and The Ark Encounter. This coincides with their study of Creation this year. Parents would pay their own expenses. Kevin T. made a motion to pay for the costs for the children from the Annual Fund. It was seconded by Kevin S. and passed.
- Continuing Education: A teacher is taking Continuing Education classes to complete her Michigan Teaching Certificate. The cost is \$5600. Kevin S. made a motion to pay up to \$1500 per year for tuition. We will pay this year and the following three years in advance. There will be a prorated payback if the teacher doesn't stay 4 full years. It was seconded by Kevin T. and passed.
- A security app was discussed, and David will explore more options to discuss later.
- Kevin S. made a motion to recommend to the Council the School Staff for the 2023-2024 school year. Rebecca seconded it. Motion was carried.

Principal/6th-8th Grade Teacher: David Faupel

6th-8th Grade Teacher (Part- Time): Kelly Gebauer

3rd-5th Grade Teacher: Nicole Shupe

1st-2nd Grade Teacher: Carrie Ward

DK/KDG Grade Teacher: Leslie Eberly

Piano & 1st-2nd Grade Support (Part -Time): Jenna Maust

3rd-5th Grade Support Teacher: Vacant

Title 1 Teacher: Susan Hass

Band Teacher: Don Starks

PE Teacher: Brian Wright

Art Teacher: Jenny Turner

Head Cook: Marcine Moore

Kitchen Assistant: Cindy Powell

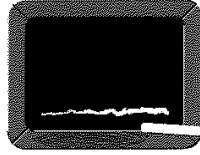
A motion was made by Kevin S. and seconded by Rebecca to adjourn at 6:40. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

The date of the September meeting will be September 7, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

September 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|



| | |
|-----------|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| NO School | |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|----|
| 3 Worship Service 9:30 am | 4 NO School | 5 | 6 Chapel 8:05 am Women's Bible 1:30pm Worship & Music 3 pm Mission Sunday Mtg 6 pm | 7 Jean Quilts 1 pm School Board 5:30 pm Properties 7 pm | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Worship Service 9:30 am | 11 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30 | 12 Council 7 pm | 13 Chapel 8:05 am Quilters 1 pm | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Worship Service 9:30 am | 18 Oct. Newsletter deadline Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30 | 19 | 20 Chapel 8:05 am School Picture Day | 21 Jean Quilts 1 pm | 22 CEA Spaghetti Dinner | 23 |
| 24 Worship Service 9:30 am | 25 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30 | 26 | 27 Chapel 8:05 am Quilters 1 pm | 28 | 29 | 30 |

Officers, Ministries & Committees

Pastor – Vacant

Music Director - Beth Elston

Church Council

Matt Zimmerman, President

Dick Koehler, VP

Kristy Carriveau, Secretary

Kim Sears, Treasurer

John House, Trustee (W&M)

Norm Nelson, Trustee

(Stewardship)

Nancy Schuette, Trustee

(Parish Life &

Mission/Outreach)

Alan Licht, Trustee

(Property)

Jason Shaw, Trustee

(Youth/Education)

Ministry of Properties

Mike Sting, Chair

Matt Zimmerman

Paul Schuette

Pat Azaroviyz

Ministry of Worship & Music

Karen Schuette, Chair

John House

Peg McCrimmon

Beth Elston

Mike Sting

Barb Degg

Ministry of Mission / Outreach

Krisie Fritz

Connie Eden

Kay Schuette

Tonja Nelson

Nancy Heck

Lorraine LePage

Lori Smith

Kim Delpiere

Ministry of Stewardship

Norm Nelson, Chair

Carol Diener

Paul Schuette

June Sturm

Cindy Buchholz

Karen Anklam

Linda Fietzer

Ministry of Education

Jean Sturm, Chair

June Sturm

Kim Delpiere

Gwynne Barry

Ministry of Youth

Tim & Michelle Fritz, Chair

Ministry of Parish Life

Nancy Schuette, Chair

Pam Sturm

Alice Trost

Paul Schuette

Dawn Hendricks

Cemetery

Steve Schutze

Kevin Trost

Lonnie Schulz

Matt Zimmerman

Audit Committee

Jeanne Sting

Carol Diener

Suzie Swanson

John Schuette

Vacant

Vacant

Nominating Committee

Dawn Hendricks

Jessica Licht

Michelle Walsh

Erica King

Karen Schuette

Vacant

Synod Assembly Rep –

Vacant

School Board

Dick Koehler, President

Kevin Trost, Vice-President

Eileen Johnson, Secretary

Kevin Stachowiak, nonmember rep

Rebecca Yackle, CEA Treasurer

Katie Wilson, CEA Rep.

CEA/PTO

Lindsay Stachowiak-President

Katie Wilson-Vice Pres.

Ashley Shetler -Secretary

Rebecca Yackle –Treasurer

CHILDCARE BOARD

Mike LaPage

Kent McKenzie

Shannon McCain

Michelle Walsh

Kayle Thepsourinthone

Handy Helper Ministry

Karen Anklam 551-8265

Patty Cucinello 453-3589

Barbara Degg 856-2678

Delores Elftman 453-2679

Pat Elston 453-2409

Vickie Forster 553-3875

Rachel Higgins 975-0668

Peggy Licht 975-1963

Lori McKenzie 553-3582

Marcine Moore 550-9405

Carol Schadd 550-5150

Donna Schuette 375-4328

Karen Schuette 453-2744

Nancy Schuette 453-3969

Bonnie Schulz 453-3116

Alice Trost 453-2279

Laura Trost 453-3209

Brigid Trowbridge 453-3990

Donna Wheeler 453-3712

Sheila Yackle 453-2589



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

Updated 8/28/23

(Officers, Ministries & Committees)