



Growing together

December 2012

Cross Lutheran Church & School

200 Ruppert Street

Pigeon, MI 48755

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Secretary

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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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Message from Pastor Tim

My Dear Family of Cross Lutheran Church,

“When all else fails, read the instructions.” Many Christmases ago, when our children were kids, we brought our daughter a Barbie Doll House un-assembled. The plan, send the kids to bed Christmas Eve and then put the doll house together. Great plan, no problem. On the outside of the box it said, easy assembly, you need only a screw drive, done in 30 minutes. So at midnight I start in. One hour goes by and the frustration level is high and a voice says ‘read the instructions.’ A ‘real man’ does not need instructions to put a doll house together! Another hour goes by and the voice once again says ‘read the instructions.’ I’m tired, frustrated, and have come to the conclusion that I’m not a ‘real man.’ I capitulate, read the instructions and 30 minutes later the doll house is assembled. The following morning our daughter is excited about the doll house and plays with it for 5 minutes then for the rest of the day she plays with the box the doll house came in. UHG!! Why didn’t I

read the instructions in the first place?!

Isn’t that what life is like? We have been given instructions as to how we should lead a godly life, i.e. the Bible. Yet, how often do we really read the Bible? Who needs instructions on how to live? We all know how life should go and how to handle adversity on our own. Who needs instruction on that? WE DO!!

If we are constantly in the Bible, constantly feeding ourselves with the word of God, constantly feeding ourselves Jesus Christ, life would not be as difficult as it is when we don’t read the instructions.

The other part about reading the Bible is that we need to read the Bible to our children. They need to see that parents / adults read the Bible daily so that they will imitate what we as parents do. They imitate everything else we do both good and bad so let us show them that it is essential to read the Bible daily.

Our children

need to hear the story of Christmas every year but not the version that Hollywood puts out but the true version that provides instruction for life, the Bible.

^{NRS} John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Now I hear all of you saying, I have a Bible so what’s the big deal? I’m glad you do. But I wonder how many of those Bibles are on the shelf and have a layer of dust on them. How many were given as a gift brand new decades ago and are still in brand new condition. A boat is not built to sit at the dock and look pretty. It is built to sail the oceans of the world. An airplane is not built to sit on the tarmac and look pretty. It is built
(Continued on page 2)

Preparing for Worship at Cross

Worship Schedule

Dec. 2 – 1st Sunday of Advent

1R – Jeremiah 33:14-16

P – Psalm 25:1-10

2R – 1 Thess 3:9-13

G – Luke 21:25-36

Hymns: 22, 25, 26 Comm. 34, 35, 23, 33

Dec. 9 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

1R – Malachi 3:1-7b

P – Psalm 66:1-12

2R – Philippians 1:2-11

G – Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)

Hymns: 626, 29, 28 Comm. 627, 31, 30, 36

Dec. 16 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

vent

1R – Zephaniah 3:14-20

P – Psalm 85

2R – Philippians 4:4-7

G – Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)

Hymns: 54, 60, 46 Comm. 224, 58, 73

Dec. 23 – 4th Sunday of Advent

1R – Micah 5:2-5a

P – Psalm 80:1-7

2R – Hebrews 10:5-10

G – Luke 1:39-45 (46-56)

Hymns: 50, 55, 56 Comm. 51, 52

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

1R – Isaiah 9:2-7

P – Psalm 96

2R – Titus 2:11-14

G – Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Hymns: 69, 54, 65 Comm. 70, 62, 67, 71

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day

1R – Isaiah 52:7-10

P – Psalm 2

2R – Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12)

G – John 1:1-14 (15-18)

Hymns: 73, 82, 65 Comm. 41, 643, 39

Dec. 30 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

1R – Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

P – Psalm 111

2R – Colossians 3:12-17

G – Luke 2:22-40

Hymns: 53, 47, 70

Special Dates

- 1st Sunday of Advent, *Dec. 2*
- 2nd Sunday of Advent, *Dec. 9*
- 3rd Sunday of Advent, *Dec. 16*
- 1st day of winter, *Dec. 21*
- 4th Sunday of Advent, *Dec. 23*
- Christmas Eve, *Dec. 24*
- Christmas Day, *Dec. 25*

- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, *Dec. 31*

Coffee Fellowship Hour

- Dec. 2 – Stewardship
- Dec. 9 – Parish Life
- Dec. 16 – Stewardship

- Dec. 23 – Decorating Committee

- Dec. 30 – No Coffee Hour

Bread Maker

- Dec. 2 – Gloria Anderson
- Dec. 9 – Gwynne Barry
- Dec. 16 – Aileen Prill

to fly the skies of the world. The word of God, instruction on how to lead a godly life, the Bible, was not given to be put on the shelf and look pretty. It was given to help us get through life and lead us in the life of Jesus Christ. It was given to be read every day and to be used. It was given to be taken with us everywhere we go and read.

Christmas is rapidly approaching and so is New

Year's. People are already saying, I'll start that diet the first of the year. I'll start exercising the first of the year. I'll quit smoking the first of the year. All of that is good. I would like to challenge you with this "I'll start that at the first of the year." At the first of the year I will read my Bible daily. I will take my Bible with me where ever I go. There are copious amounts of Bible apps to download on iPhones, iPods, iPads, Kindles, Note-

books, etc. I will use my Bible so much I will wear it out so by the time Christmas 2013 arrives I have to get a new one. And here's the big one, I will bring my Bible to Church on Sunday and follow the scripture readings in the Bible. That is my challenge to you. Are you willing to make that commitment to God?

God's speed

Pr Tim

In Memory



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

In memory of **Arlene Shaffer**, for Cross Lutheran Church, by Miriam and Wm. Arthur Belding and family and Gertrude Schuette.

In memory of **Arlene Shaffer**, for Cross Building Fund, by Louis Depping.

In memory of **Arlene Shaffer**, for Cross Building Fund, by Mike and Lorraine LePage.

In memory of **Hulda Baur** for Cross Lutheran School, by Tom and Bernice Shupe.

In memory of **Luther Frederick**, for Cross Building Fund, by Loren and Delores Elftman.

In memory of **Arlene Shaffer**, for Cross Building Fund by Dennis and Carol Diener.

In memory of **Fran and Kurt Laursen**, for Cross Cemetery Fund, by Jim Laursen.

In memory of **Roy Vandemark**, for Cross Building Fund, by Bill and Muriel Hurdelbrink.

Cross Lutheran Lenten Devotional Booklet for 2013

Although Lent 2013 is not where our thoughts are just now, it's still a good time to be thinking ahead to what you would like to write for a devotion for Lent.

We all have stories related to our faith journeys or something you have read in scripture that sparks a new understanding of what our Lord did for us on the cross. These stories and reflections are not only of value to you, but to others too. Please share your thoughts with us.

Below is a list of possible scripture to use as inspiration and basis for your writing. These are suggestions only and you do not have to limit yourself to these alone. Hymns could also be used as a basis. Whole psalms are listed, but do not need to be used in their entirety.

Joel 2: 12-18

Psalm 27

Genesis 2:7-9

Genesis 3: 1-17

Matthew 25: 31-46

Psalm 51

Romans 5: 12-19

Matthew 4: 1-11

Psalm 105: 4-11

Exodus 32: 7-14

Ephesians 5: 8-14

Psalm 142

Romans 8: 1-10

Psalm 43

Psalm 28

Psalm 31: 1-5, 9-16

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Romans 8: 11-19

Philippians 2: 5-11

Psalm 23

Psalm 42

Psalm 91

Psalm 32

John 9: 31-32

Psalm 46: 1-2

Psalm 25: 9

Romans 10: 8b-13

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Since Ash Wednesday is February 13, we need to have all devotions completed by Sunday, January 13, so that it can be printed and assembled in time for Lent. Please contact Karen Schuette if you are interested in writing a part of this devotional.

We also need volunteers willing to type and help put together this booklet. This is an important part of the process. Please contact Karen Schuette or Peg McCrimmon if you are interested as soon as possible.

Celebrate



December Birthdays

- 1 Jordan Licht
- 3 Mark Trost
- 4 Cindy Buchholz
Dan Azarovitz
- 5 Fred Haley
- 6 Troy Schuette
- 8 Beverly Knost
- 9 Neil Herford
- 10 Ryan Trost
- 11 Grace Shupe
- 14 Shannon Pionk
- 15 Roger Renn
Kendal Delpiere
- 17 Richard Koehler Jr.
Maria Schumacher
Jacob Heck
- 18 Lorraine LePage
Brad Buschlen
- 19 Kaoty Smith
- 20 Cheryl Sturm
Marlene Landry
- 21 Daniel Smith
- 22 Donna Schuette
- 23 Gertrude Schuette
Bill Love
- 24 Denny Diener Sr.
- 25 Jim Siewert
- 27 Donald Schuette
- 28 Janice Uhan
- 29 Pastor Tim
- 30 Ethan Yackle
- 31 Mitchell Schuette

If your birthday or anniversary wasn't listed, please contact the church office so it can be added to our list.

December Anniversaries

- 3 Clarence & Inez Buchholz, 52 years
- 14 Paul & Karen Schuette, 38 years
- 17 Loren & Dolores Elftman, 63 years
- 20 Kent & Lori McKenzie, 32 years
- 26 Dale & Chris Schulz, 43 years
- 29 Dick & Lillian Koehler, 61 years

CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

The **Morning Circle** will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 9:30 a.m.

The **Afternoon Circle** will not meet in December.

Quilting Day will be Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 1:30 p.m.

Women of Faith Study

The topic for January is "Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary." All women are invited to attend Saturday, Jan. 5 from 10:30 to noon. No meeting in December.

Holy Baptism

We rejoice in the baptism of Harper Michael Schulze, Saturday, Nov. 24. Harper was born March 28, 2012 to Jessica Lynne Dadas-Schulze and Shane Schulze.

Remember our Shut-ins:

Edna Schulz, George Mohr, Fred & Lois Chisholm, Dorothy Hafner, Barb Ruff, Ruth Milton, Harold Deering, Dick Koehler Sr., Donald Schuette, Fred Edler, Bill Buchholz, Thelma Warner, Hulda Baur, Gloria Lewis.

Please Remember in Prayer:

Terry Muntz, friend of John and Linda Shope, Beth Britt, granddaughter of Richard and Lillian Koehler, Ben Smith, Leola Engelhardt, mother of Doralee Schulz, Trevor Carriveau, son-in-law of Kent and Lori McKenzie, Inez, Buchholz, Julia Voelker, Deb Lange, Ivernia Swartz, (Michelle Richmond's mother), Eric Herzog, Harold Deering, Kay Schuette, Todd Lay, Don Rogers, son of Don and Sally Rogers, Nadene Barbret, Eric Swartzendruber, Helen Deck-

er, Mindy Sutherland, Betty Schulze, Roger Fritz, Mike Trost, Sharon Dietzel, Eunice Richmond, Dorothy Hafner, Dennis Diener, George Mohr, Loren Elftman, James Rathje.

In the Service of Our Country:

- Jordan Gunsell, nephew of Todd and Gretchen Roestel, is currently stationed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba as a military policeman.
- Justine Armstrong (niece of Rachel & Ron Higgins) is serving with the Air Force in Afghanistan. Please pray for Justine's safety and her 2 year old daughter, Riley, as they are separated.
- Nathan Schulz, grandson of Ron and Bonnie Schulz is in Marine boot camp in San Diego, CA

School News

December School Calendar



- 1 Rehearsal for Program 3 p.m.
- 5 Chapel 12:45 p.m.
- 6 CEA 4:45 p.m.
School Board 5:30 p.m.
- 8 Children's School Program
- 12 Chapel 8:10 a.m.
- 19 Chapel 8:10 a.m.
- 21 CEA Christmas Fair
Last Day of School
- 24 School Closed for Christmas Break

FROM THE DESK OF...RETH ELSTON

Recently I had the opportunity to attend an early childhood conference in Howell. It was a massive conference with 1500 early childhood professionals in attendance! Of special interest to me was the keynote speaker, Jim Gill. Besides being a multiple award-winning children's musician, Jim has a Master's degree in child development, and has worked for more than 20 years with children and families, including children with special needs. He exuded enthusiasm and joy, and had all 1500 participants singing and dancing to his educational songs.

Interspersed between songs were the "why" and "how" of the deeper educational value of his music activities. Of course he spoke of word play, segmenting sounds, phonemic awareness, rhyme, meter, and a variety of other educational jargon, but the most striking pronouncement he made that day was a quote from research: *The single, most important indicator of infant/toddler future school success is playful, loving interactions with adults.* That's the bottom line, the foundation, and the basis for the rest of a child's life.

Note the absence of any educational jargon. Note the absence of teaching strategies, curriculum, benchmarks or standardized testing. It's an ideal and truth worth repeating: *the single, most important indicator of infant/toddler future school success is PLAYFUL, LOVING INTERACTIONS with adults.*

When does the importance of playful, loving interactions diminish? Does it diminish when a child enters kindergarten, fourth grade, high school? I would argue *never*. It is continually and profoundly important throughout our lives. Such interactions in our close relationships and between generations help us to become the best human beings that we can be, through every stage of our lives.

How? Could it be that playful, loving human interactions are a reflection of God's very heart? Do you know that God rejoices over you and celebrates over you? In His joy, He even sings over you! Consider Zephaniah 3:17. *"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."*

God's heart for us is indescribable love and joy. May we all bask in His delight.

CEA Meeting Minutes from November 1

Pastor opened with Prayer at 4:50 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast

Pancake breakfast was a great success \$2,069.62 total raised. Big thanks to everyone who helped and made it happen.

Flower bulb fundraiser

Flower bulb fundraiser total was \$592.15

Grand Traverse Pie

The Pie fundraiser was turned in today and the pies will be delivered Nov. 13 at 2:30. Please arrange orders to be picked up due to pies being frozen and no storage room. **Cont. on Pg. 6**

December Time & Talents

Date & Time	Assisting Minister	Reader	Children's Time	Communion	Ushers for the Month	Altar Guild
Dec. 2 9:30 a.m.	Karen Schuette	June Sturm	Peggy Koehler	Paul Schuette	Bruce Baur George Gardy	Marilyn Baur
Dec. 9 9:30 a.m.	Paul Schuette	Carol Diener	Ray Licht	Carole Mead	Neil Herford Daniel Smith	Laura Trost
Dec. 16 9:30 a.m.	Phil Schadd	Vivian Buschlen	Aileen Prill	Norm Nelson	Denny Smith Craig Smith	Carol Diener
Dec. 23 9:30 a.m.	Karen Schuette	Alissa Peterson	Leanne Smith	Gwynne Barry	Larry Smith John Trowbridge	Marilyn Baur
Dec. 24 10 p.m.	Peggy Koehler	Connie Eden		John Trowbridge		Peg McCrimmon
Dec. 25 10 a.m.	Gwynne Barry	Sue Loehrke		Karen Schuette		Laura Trost
Dec. 30 9:30 a.m.	Leanne Smith	Karen Schuette	Karen Schuette			

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!

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Family Meeting
Next family meeting is set for Nov. 27 at 6 pm. Bring your best recipe for a potluck dinner and the CEA will provide drinks and deserts. The main focus of the meeting will be the Christmas Fair so come with ideas and any donations.

Christmas Fair
Christmas fair is set for Dec. 21 and we are accepting donations of any kind to help make this year's experience as great as last year.

Lutheran School Week
Lutheran school week is set for Jan. 28 - Feb. 1. Themes will be announced at a later date.

School Choice Week

Jan 25 there will be a movie night held at the school. Movie starts at 6:30 so bring your own drinks popcorn provided. Movie not known yet will announce at a later date.

Upcoming Fundraisers
Concessions and Walsh's Pepper stick fundraiser- Both of these start in January.
Krispy Kreme- will start Jan 22 and is due back Feb. 5
Donuts will be delivered Feb. 12
Hungry Howie- this fundraiser is set for the month of March.
Carnival- our carnival is set for April 20.
Spring Pancake Breakfast- is set for May 5.
Next CEA meeting is scheduled for Dec 6 at 4:45pm.

Meeting closed with prayer @ 5:45

Ministry News

Mission / Outreach Ministry Minutes

Oct. 30

The meeting was called to order by Lori Smith at 6:30 p.m. Connie Eden offered the opening prayer. Members present were Lou Ann Jarvis, Lorraine LePage, Bonnie Schulz, Rachel Messing, Krisie Fritz, Connie Eden, Pastor Tim and Lori Smith. We welcomed a new member, Rose Ann Budnick.

The minutes of the Sept. 25 meeting were reviewed and approved. Lori gave the Treasurer's report. A check in the amount of \$110.37 was written to Pigeon IGA for meat for a funeral dinner, and there was a deposit in the amount of \$20 from the sale of a gift basket, leaving an amount of \$1,328.48 in the checking account. A note from Sheila Yackle was read, thanking us for the meat for Jim's funeral.

OLD BUSINESS

FOOD PANTRY – Bonnie reported that Norma King, of the Food Pantry, thanks us for our donations. She said that the giving has been down and asks for **our continued support.**

SCRIP CARDS – Connie will make an announcement in church on Sunday to encourage everyone to purchase Scrip cards for their holiday shopping. Each week in the bulletin we will list 5 or 6 Scrip cards that are available in the church office at all times.

SHARED BLESSINGS – The garden harvest is nearly over

and the table will most likely be put away soon, unless we receive a bread delivery now and then. We thank God for all of the "shared blessings" we have received.

WELCOME STATION – Rachel talked with Ray from Thumb Office Supply and gave her two quotes on a desk. The cost would be \$275 unassembled or \$325 assembled. A motion was made by Krisie and seconded by Lou Ann to order the desk assembled. All were in favor of the motion. Rachel will place the order. Lou Ann will hold off on the banner until we get the desk.

OCC – The church council voted to have a special offering at the door for Operation Christmas Child. The offering will be taken next Sunday, Nov. 11. On Tuesday, Nov. 13 we will be sorting and setting up the gym. Packing of the boxes will take place on Thursday, Nov. 15. On Saturday, Nov. 17 the boxes will be loaded in vehicles and delivered to Bay Shore Camp, followed by brunch at the Lamplighter Restaurant in Sebawaing, Dutch treat. All are welcome to participate in any and/or all of these heart-warming and rewarding events for children around the world. At this time we especially still need soap, candy, toothpaste, pencils, pens, tablets and books.

HARVEST DECORATING AND FALL FOOD DRIVE – We will be decorating the church for the harvest on Thursday, Nov. 1 at 6:30 p.m. The decorations will be removed on Tuesday, Nov. 27 at 6:30 p.m. Once again we will have wheelbarrows in the hallway for food donations. The

wheelbarrows will be moved into the sanctuary during the offering on Sunday mornings. Lorraine will get boxes for packing and will call Norma King to coordinate delivery of the items to the food pantry.

NEW BUSINESS

QUILTERS – A suggestion was made that we recognize the quilters for all the work they do. It was decided to work on this after the holiday projects are finished.

GIVING TREE – Once again we will have a "giving tree" with Christmas wish lists for local children. We will try to get it up earlier this year so people have more time to purchase the gifts and get them back under the tree.

SIGNS – It was suggested that our church and school should have signs out on the road, making folks aware that we are here and inviting them to come, like some other churches in the area have. We will get more information and bring it up at a later date.

MOM 2 MOM SALE – April 27, 2013 from 9 a.m. till noon was set for our second annual Mom 2 Mom Sale.

CARDS AND COOKIES FOR SHUT-INS – We will be writing our Thanksgiving cards for our shut-ins on Thursday, Nov. 1 after we decorate the church.

SCRIP SCHEDULE – Lori – Nov. 4; Connie – Nov. 11; Bonnie – Nov. 18 and Kay – Nov. 25.

COFFEE HOURS – We have none scheduled for the rest of the year.

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This and That

(Cont. from Page 7)

NEXT MEETING – Our next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 27 at 6:30 p.m.

CLOSING – The meeting was adjourned, and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Eden

CEA Christmas Fair

If you have a craft, we would like your help. Cross CEA is organizing a Christmas Fair/Bazaar Dec. 23. We are looking for donations of home-made items for students to purchase as Christmas presents for their family. We will need gifts for all ages. If you have a talent or craft and would like to contribute, call the church office.



Cross Giving Tree

The Cross Church Giving Tree will be in the church overflow area next Sunday. Anyone wishing to help bring Christmas to a local family who needs a little extra help this year can take a tag off the tree. Please be sure to write your name on the register list for our



tracking purposes. All gifts must be returned by Sunday, Dec. 16. If you know of someone who needs help with Christmas this year, please call the church office.

2013 Calendars and Christmas Cards

On the table outside the church office are 2013 wall calendars, Christmas Cards, All Occasion Cards, Church Cookbooks and notepads. Proceeds from the sale of these items support our youth and camp fund. There is an envelope on the table for your cash and/or checks. Thank you.



- ◆ **Sunday, Dec. 2—1st Sunday in Advent, Communion Service 9:30 a.m.; Evening Vespers at 7 p.m.**
- ◆ **Wednesday, Dec. 5 Communion Service 7 p.m.**
- ◆ **Saturday, Dec. 8—School Program "Birth of Christ" at 4 p.m.**
- ◆ **Sunday, Dec. 9—2nd Sunday in Advent, Communion Service**

9:30 a.m.; Evening Vespers 7 p.m.

- ◆ **Wednesday, Dec. 12 Communion Service 7 p.m.**
- ◆ **Saturday, Dec. 15—Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal 9:30—11 a.m.**
- ◆ **Sunday Dec. 16—3rd Sunday in Advent, Communion Service 9:30 a.m.; Advent Concert 3 p.m.; Evening Vespers 7 p.m.**
- ◆ **Wednesday, Dec. 19 Communion Service 7 p.m.**
- ◆ **Saturday, Dec. 22—Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal 9:30—11 a.m. followed by Christmas Caroling.**
- ◆ **Sunday, Dec. 23—4th Sunday in Advent, Communion Service 9:30 a.m.; Evening Vespers 7 p.m.**
- ◆ **Monday, Dec. 24—Christmas Eve—Children's Program 7 p.m.; Communion Service 10 p.m.**
- ◆ **Tuesday, Dec. 25—Christmas Day. Communion Service 10 a.m.**



Advent / Christmas Events



“Advent Hope, Christmas Joy”

A choral and
handbell
concert

Sunday,
Dec. 16

3 p.m.



Join us for a program of choral and handbell music, carols, scripture, and congregational singing. Program is free, a free will offering will be taken. A reception will follow.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING SATURDAY, DEC. 22

Anyone who enjoys singing all those good old Christmas carols, please join us on this day as we visit our shut-ins and local assisted living facilities. We will gather right after the rehearsal for the youth Christmas program, have a light lunch (we will furnish) and head out. We invite all youth and as many adults as



We're Going Caroling

would like to come. Drivers will be needed. If you have any questions please see or call Sue Loehrke 453-3053.



HAPPY NEW YEAR MONDAY DEC. 31

Parish Life would like to invite you to Cross Lutheran Church that evening as we count down the time to welcome in 2013!

This is a family event starting at 6:30pm. Come for a little bit or stay to say Happy New Year at midnight.

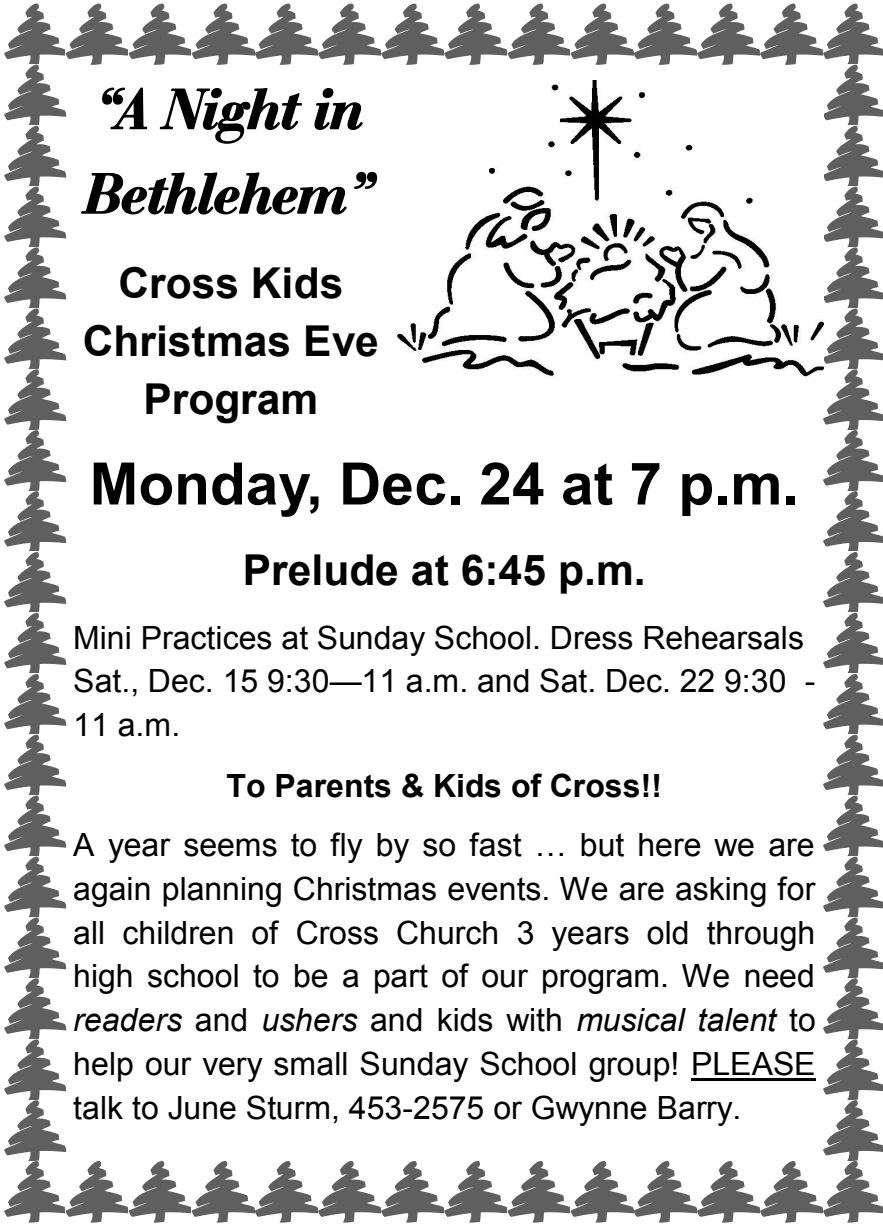
We will have games, movies, open gym and of course good food. We ask that you bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre, snack or sweet treat to share. Parish life will furnish the various beverages.

The Pixar movie “BRAVE” will start at 7pm, feel free to bring blankets or pillows to get comfy for the show.

Have a favorite game or card game you like to play bring it along, too.

We encourage our youth to invite your friends. Any questions or comments please see anyone on the Parish Life Committee.

Advent / Christmas Events



“A Night in Bethlehem”

Cross Kids
Christmas Eve
Program



Monday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.

Prelude at 6:45 p.m.

Mini Practices at Sunday School. Dress Rehearsals
Sat., Dec. 15 9:30—11 a.m. and Sat. Dec. 22 9:30 -
11 a.m.

To Parents & Kids of Cross!!

A year seems to fly by so fast ... but here we are again planning Christmas events. We are asking for all children of Cross Church 3 years old through high school to be a part of our program. We need *readers* and *ushers* and kids with *musical talent* to help our very small Sunday School group! PLEASE talk to June Sturm, 453-2575 or Gwynne Barry.

Operation Christmas Child

This was a huge success! We packed and shipped 414 boxes and had approximately \$2,000 donated for shipping costs! Thank you! Keep the children in your prayers.

Attention High School Youth!

The Gathering is taking place in Lansing Dec. 27—30 2012. It is an opportunity for groups of high school aged youth to experience four days of service, leadership and community. Convening for its 30th year, The Gathering offers participants an opportunity to experience meaningful worship, engage in small groups, grow in faith and have a blast!

The speaker is Jay Gamelin and there will be music by Letters from Patmos. The cost is \$50 per youth and the youth fund will cover the \$100 balance. Meals are offered by the hotel for a discounted cost and food can be brought in. Rachel Higgins is willing to chaperone a group of youth from Cross if we have interested youth members. Please contact 975-0668 as soon as possible so the registration process can begin.

THANK YOU!!

Pastor Tim and Sue wish to thank our Cross family for the surprise reception you gave us for our 40th Anniversary. Your cards, delicious cake, well wishes and generous gift were very appreciated. You are all so special to us!



Box Tops for Education is an easy opportunity for you to help support Cross Lutheran School! Look for the pink Box tops coupon on hundreds of products. Clip it from the package and place it in the box outside the secretary's office.

Pop Tabs

Cross School is collecting the tabs from the tops of soda and beer cans. Proceeds from these help to support Ronald McDonald House. If you would like to save and donate them. Place them in the recycle box outside the church office.



Ministers - The people of Cross

Officers, Ministries and Committees

Pastor

Tim Loehrke

Music Director

Beth Elston

Church Council

Dick Koehler, President

John Smith, V P

Krisie Fritz, Secretary

Nancy Heck, Treasurer

Paul Schuette, Financial

Secretary

John Smith, School Board

Neil Herford, Properties

Karen Schuette, Worship
& Music

Tom Shupe, Stewardship

Gretchen Roestel, Educa-
tion

Pastor Tim, Youth

Aileen Prill, Parish Life

Lori Smith, Mission Out-
reach

Advisors

Tim Loehrke, Pastor

Paul Schuette, Constitu-
tion Rep.

Ministry of Properties

Neil Herford, Chair

Ronald Higgins

Mike Eden, Paul Schuette

Ministry of Worship &

Music

Karen Schuette, Chair

Peg McCrimmon

Vivian Buschlen

Delores Lange

Beth Elston

Ministry of Mission Out- reach

Lori Smith, Chair

Krisie Fritz, Connie Eden

LouAnn Jarvis

Bonnie Schulz

Kay Schuette

Lorraine LePage

Ministry of Stewardship

Tom Shupe, Chair

Carol Diener, Nancy Heck

Paul Schuette, Ray Licht

June Sturm, Cyndi Buchholz

Kim Delpiere, Kyle Yackle

Roger Fritz

Ministry of Education

Gretchen Roestel, Chair

Connie Eden, Jean Sturm

Brenda Smith, Kim Fritz

Laura Trost

Ministry of Youth

Pastor Tim, Chair

John Shope

Linda Shope

Elizabeth Higgins, Youth Rep.

Alissa Peterson— LYO President

Ministry of Parish Life

Aileen Prill, Chair

Betty Champagne

Sue Loehrke

Paul Schuette

Pam Sturm, Alice Trost

Audit Committee

Suzie Swanson, Mike LePage

Kent McKenzie

Leanne Schuette

Connie Herford

John Schuette

Nominating Committee

Betty Champagne, Roger Fritz,

John House, Ray Licht, Duane

Peterson, Kyle Yackle

Synod Assembly Rep

Mike & Connie Eden

School Board

John Smith, President

Peter Shupe, Vice President

Gretchen Roestel, Secretary

Rachel Higgins, Treasurer

April Rujan, CEA President

Pastor Tim, Advisor

C.E.A

April Rujan-President

Melissa Helmuth-Vice President

Melisa Raymond-Secretary

Rachel Higgins-Treasurer

Handy Helper Ministry

Barb Buchholz 453-2127

Inez Buchholz 375-4165

Vivian Buschlen 453-2649

Patty Cucinello 453-3589

Roberta Danks 453-3760

Gerry Edler 678-0080

Dolores Elftman 453-2679

Pat Elston 453-2409

Carol Forster 375-2754

Vickie Forster 883-3875

Ava Gies 453-2193

Rachel Higgins 975-0668

Lou Ann Jarvis 453-2790

Lillian Koehler 453-2121

Peggy Koehler 453-2278

Elaine Licht 453-3744

Peggy Licht 453-3845

Carole Mead 856-7438

Olga Renn 453-2150

Carol Schadd 269-5150

Donna Schuette 375-4328

Karen Schuette 453-2744

Nancy Schuette 453-3969

Ruth Schuette 453-3885

Bonnie Schulz 453-3116

Erica Sturm 453-3830

Alice Trost 453-2279

Laura Trost 453-3209

Brigid Trowbridge 453-3990

Sheila Yackle 453-2589

Church Council Minutes



Oct. 9

CALL TO ORDER: The monthly meeting of the Cross Lutheran Church Council was called to order by president, Richard Koehler, Jr., at 7:03 p.m., on the above date. Members present were Pastor Timothy Loehrke, Karen Schuette, Paul Schuette, Nancy Heck, Ray Licht appearing on behalf of Tom Shupe, Aileen Prill, John Smith, Lori Smith, and Krisie Fritz. Pastor Loehrke opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES: The previous Council Minutes dated August 14, 2012, were reviewed by all present. A motion was made by Nancy Heck to approve the minutes as presented, Aileen Prill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AGENDA: Agenda for the evening was presented to all present. Motion was made by Nancy Heck to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Aileen Prill. Motion carried.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS/REQUESTS: Carol Diener was present to go over the proposed budget for 2013 in detail in order for council to adopt the budget as presented. She stated that she increased the budget from 2012 by \$7,250.00, in order for staff to receive a 5% increase. Wages were frozen for 5 years.

There were no questions or concerns; therefore Karen Schuette made a Motion to adopt the budget as presented, seconded by John Smith. Motion carried. Carol Diener was excused.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Copies of the Treasurer's report were distributed to all present by Nancy Heck. Nancy Heck reported that the General Fund had income of \$30,856.01 for the month of September, and expenses of \$29,251.67. The General Fund balance segmented, includes Leaf Fund \$757.59, Capital Improvement Fund 18,645.14, Organ Repair Fund \$7,300.00, General Operating Fund has a Positive Fund Balance of \$581.82, and the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund has a balance of \$10,000.00. Krisie Fritz made a Motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Lori Smith. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT:

Paul Schuette provided his report to all present. His report covered the period of 1/1/2012 through 10/07/2012, and it showed Total Contributions for the General Fund were \$205,831.51, which is \$28,003.31 under budget.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Loehrke's written report was provided to all. Highlights of his report were as follows:

- Pastor performed the following pastoral acts during the month of September: 1 funer-

al, 0 baptisms, 11 teachings, 11 communions, 3 hospital visits, 9 home visits, 18 meetings and 11 services.

Funeral – Jim Yackle, Friday – September 21, 2012.

CHURCH CALENDAR:

- Sunday, October 14, 2012 – Blessings of Quilts

Sunday, October 28, 2012 – Reformation Sunday—Martin/Katie Potluck after the service

- Sunday, November 4, 2012 – Annual Meeting right after service.

- Tuesday, November 6, 2012 – Election Day – VOTE!

- Saturday, November 10, 2012 – Martin Luther was born this date 1483. He would have been 529 years old.

- Sunday, November 11, 2012 – Veteran's Day

- Sunday, November 18, 2012 – Pigeon Community Thanksgiving Service at Cross, 3:00 p.m.

- Thursday, November 22, 2012 – Thanksgiving

- Friday, November 23, 2012 – Office Closed.

- Sunday, November 25, 2012 – Christ the King Sunday – Last Sunday of the Church year.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- Attended the NALC Convocation in Minneapolis, MN in August. Returned early for Elsie Sturm's funeral.
- ◇ All NALC churches must

Church Council (Cont.)

ratify the approval for the NALC to apply for membership to the Lutheran World Federation. Packet will be in everyone's mailbox for perusal.

- Attended the annual Dean's Meeting with the Bishop in Columbus, OH – October 1st and 2nd.
- ◇ Many topics were discussed.
- ◇ Emphasis on mission and reaching out to others.
- ◇ 340 Congregations in the NALC.
- As provisional dean for the Michigan District of Michigan, installed Pastor Dan Edwards as pastor at St. Thomas Lutheran, Trufant, MI.
- Youth Ministry – DEEP CONCERN.

PRINCIPALS'S REPORT:

- School year 2012–2013, Grades K-8, 33 students and Pre-School 17 students.
- ½ day of School, Wednesday, October 17, 2012.
- No School – Thursday, October 18, 2012 and Friday, October 19, 2012. Staff attending MANS Conference in Grand Rapids, MI.
- Soccer Game - Elkton, Friday, October 26, 2012.
- Staff Meeting – Wednesday, October 31, 2012, 3:30 p.m.
- Grand Parent Day – Friday, November 2, 2012, ½ day of School.
- End of First Marking Period –

Friday, November 2, 2012.

- Thanksgiving Break – Wednesday, November 21 – Friday, November 23, 2012.

Basketball Practice starts – Monday, November 26, 2012.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT:

John Smith was present and reported that the School Board approved changing the state MEAP testing to MANS testing, results will be given to the school within a shorter period of time. MEAP was taken in October and they did not receive the results until April, just prior to school releasing for the year.

MINISTRY OF PROPERTY:

Mike Fritz was not present and Pastor advised that Mike and J.B. Barry are working on changing the lights in the gym.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC:

Karen Schuette was present and presented her report to all present. Highlights of her report were as follows:

- Advent – will be following the same as in past years – Sunday evening vespers.
- Lenten Devotions – more information to follow in October.

Youth Ministry – discussed at length ideas for the youth to be involved. A letter will be sent to the youth and to the parents to discuss and consider.

MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP:

Ray Licht appeared on behalf of Tom Shupe and provided a written report to all

present. He reported that Benevolence offerings remain good this year and they reviewed the proposed budget as submitted by Carol Diener. The proposed budget did include a 5% increase raise for Cross school and church staff, and an estimated increase for health insurance.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH: Kevin Trost was not present and no report was provided.

MINISTRY OF OUTREACH:

Lori Smith was present and provided her minutes to all present. Highlights of her report were as follows:

- Welcome Station – plan is purchase a desk for the overflow area.
- Operation Christmas Child – Kickoff Sunday will be October 14, 2012 – coffee hour offering will go to OCC. Lori mentioned in prior years OCC was on the benevolence schedule, and was inadvertently missed for 2012. She requested that they be put back on the schedule for next year. Nancy Heck made a Motion to have a Congregational Special Offering to help finance the Operation Christmas Child on Sunday, November 4, 2012. John Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried.
- Funeral Meals (meat and potatoes) will be paid in the future by Mission/Outreach Ministry.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION:

Gretchen Roestel was not present.

Church Council (Cont.)

sent and no minutes were provided.

MINISTRY OF PARISH LIFE:

Aileen Prill provided her written report to all present. Highlights of her report were as follows:

- The Marty and Katie Potluck will begin at 11:30 a.m. on October 28, 2012. Coffee will be provided in the gym ahead of time. There will be a possible Trivia game that day as well.
- New Year's Eve family time was discussed. This may be an event for all ages.
- Dr. Sherry Baker was here on September 15, 2012, with 10 attending. She will return on January 19, 2013.
- Discussed having a Christmas Light Tour using the TAT bus for transportation. They will check out the cost, bus capacity, and whether the route can extend out of Huron County.
-

OLD BUSINESS:

- John Smith updated council regarding air conditioning/furnace. Everything has been installed at this time.
- Aileen Prill advised council that the new copy machine is working great, she is very pleased.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Adoption of Budget – discussed earlier.
- Ballot for Annual Meeting (Vice President). John Smith

will be put on the ballot this year for a 2 year term. There will need to be a vote to amend the by-laws as to elections – elimination/correction of some of the current language. Also need to amend regarding the Endowment fund. Church council wishes to dissolve the Endowment fund language in the by-laws at this time. There should also be an amendment regarding the nominating committee-there should be ½ one year and ½ the next – need expiration dates. Ray Licht and Paul Schuette will do some housekeeping on the by-laws.

- LWF – already discussed earlier under Pastor's Report.
- Water heater that supplies the kitchen. Running out of hot water at most church and funeral functions. John Smith said it's an 80 gal tank – he will look into this, as he didn't think we should be running out of hot water.
-

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the meeting it was adjourned and good things from around the room was shared by all present. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Krisie S. Fritz, secretary



CROSS SCHOOL 1ST QUARTER HONOR ROLL

3RD GRADE

Hannah Helmuth

4TH GRADE

Jacob Marks

Cassie Witherspoon

5TH GRADE

Kylie Chubb

Alyssa Goretski

Brianna Goretski

Emma Irion *

Beau Martindale

Jessica Nugent

James Rochon

6TH GRADE

Greta Elston *

7TH GRADE

Lance Gascho *

8TH GRADE

Kendal Delpiere

Austin Roestel

* Denotes all A's.

Women's Workshop

RUNNING ON EMPTY? Workshop

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013 from 2—4 p.m.

At Cross Lutheran Church Presented by:

Dr. Sherry Baker, PsyD, LPC

Greetings and God's blessings to you from Dr. Sherry Baker. Dr. Baker is looking forward to being here again in January for the beginning of a series on relationships.

This workshop is for ALL women and will help improve your relationship with ALL the people in your life. The focus will be on healthy boundaries, how we grow as Christian women and even in the most challenging of relationships, and how we can stay centered and strong in the face of often feeling alone. You will receive coping strategies to deal with your struggles.

This workshop will give you skills and tools to change your life from anger, resentment and worry to a solid relationship with Christ. Relationships and their struggles will be the topic with emphasis on the Fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23) Love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Dr. Sherry will present this workshop with assistance from her intern, Terri Martinez. There will be time for questions and answers and group interaction. All materials and light refreshments will be included in the registration fee.

Registration at the door is \$25. If you pre-register by Jan. 15 by phone or at the office, the fee is \$20. If you pre-register with a friend, the fee is only \$30 for the two of you! It's the first time this special has been offered. Gift certificates are available. Call Sue Loehrke (989-453-3053), Betty Champagne, (989-856-7170), or Aileen at the church office (989-453-3330 ext. 201) to pre-register!

THIS WORKSHOP WILL ENCOURAGE YOU AND GIVE YOU HOPE!

Attention all Men!

Give a Gift of Love This Christmas!

Treat the special person in your life to an afternoon workshop on Saturday, Jan 19, 2013, from 2—4 p.m. Dr. Sherry Baker of Bay City and her intern Terri will present this workshop.

Time is a very precious gift, a gift that any woman would cherish. The focus of this workshop is on improving relationships with All the people in her

life, which includes YOU!

The registration fee is \$25 at the door, or a reduced fee of \$20 with the purchase of a gift certificate, or better yet is the "Two for \$30" which allows her to take a friend!

The workshop will be held here at Cross and includes all materials and light refreshments.

COMBINED GENERAL AND OTHER FUNDS:

BALANCE ON HAND 10/1/2012		OCTOBER 2012	37,984.55
INCOME:			
CHURCH/SCHOOL INCOME/ALL SOURCES		28,078.87	
SCHOOL REGISTRATION		-	
CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE FUND		200.00	
THRIVENT MATCHING FUNDS		10.00	
CEA - DONATIONS FOR CURRICULUM		-	
ENDOWMENT FUND-Transfer of funds		-	
LEAF		-	
FLOW THROUGH ACCOUNT		-	
BEQUEST		-	
TOTAL INCOME:		<u>28,288.87</u>	28,288.87
EXPENSES:			
PURCHASE OF AIR CONDITIONER/FURNACE	6,875.00		
CHURCH AND SCHOOL EXPENSES	<u>25,579.56</u>		
	32,454.56		<u>(32,454.56)</u>
NET INCOME			<u>(4,165.69)</u>
BALANCE ON HAND 10/31/2012			33,818.86

GENERAL FUND SEGMENTED:

LEAF FUND	757.59
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	11,770.14
ORGAN REPAIR FUND	7,300.00
GENERAL FUND	3,091.13
CEMETERY-PERPETUAL CARE FUND	<u>10,900.00</u>
TOTAL:	33,818.86

Thank you for supporting the Lord's work
Please continue to help as you are able

Total balance in all funds \$33,818.86 - Total balance in General Fund \$3,091.13 (positive balance)

BUILDING FUND:

BALANCE ON HAND 10/1/2012		11,027.91
DONATIONS, PLEDGES & MEMORIALS*	2,435.60	
FUND RAISERS	-	
ADVANCE FROM GENERAL FUND	-	
THRIVENT MATCHING FUNDS	-	
TOTAL INCOME:	<u>2,435.60</u>	2,435.60
EXPENSES:		
OFFICE SUPPLIES		-
MONTHLY BANK LOAN PAYMENT		(3,000.00)
INTEREST ON PRIVATE NOTES		(1,100.00)
PRIVATE LOAN AND INTEREST REPAID		-
TOTAL EXPENSE		<u>(1,664.40)</u>
BALANCE ON HAND 10/31/12		9,363.51

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE BUILDING FUND-THE NEED FOR NOVEMBER IS \$3,000.00.

GENERAL FUND

BUDGETED NEED-YEAR TO DATE-ALL SOURCES		(306,866.68)
RECEIPTS - YEAR TO DATE - ALL SOURCES		<u>281,479.78</u>
SHORT		(25,386.90)
DEBT OWING 10/31/2012		
SCHOOL LOAN BALANCE - BPSB	22,626.70	
PRIVATE LOANS	<u>250,000.00</u>	
	272,626.70	
OPERATIONAL LOAN	-	
TOTAL LOANS	<u>272,626.70</u>	
NEW OPERATIONAL LOAN	-	
TOTAL LOANS	<u>272,626.70</u>	

December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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School Program
Rehearsal 3 p.m.

Gym: Volleyball 9
a.m. - 3 p.m.

Comm. Service ² 9:30 a.m. SS/Adult Bible Study 10:45 a.m. Confirmation 5 - 6:30 p.m. Vespers 7 p.m.	³ Choirs: B 6:30 / C 7:30 p.m. Moms in Prayer 8:35 p.m.	⁴ Parish Life 5 p.m.	Men's Breakfast ⁵ 7 a.m. Chapel 12:45 p.m. Comm. Service 7 p.m.	HCMCF ⁶ Chapel 2 p.m. CEA 4:45 p.m. School Board 5:30 p.m.	⁷ Ethics Meeting 7 a.m.	⁸ Church Decorating 9 a.m. School Program: Birth of Christ 4 p.m.
Comm. Service ⁹ 9:30 a.m. SS/Adult Bible Study 10:45 a.m. Confirmation 5 - 6:30 p.m. Vespers 7 p.m.	¹⁰ Choirs: B 6:30 / C 7:30 p.m. Moms in Prayer 8:35 p.m.	¹¹ Executive 6 p.m. Council 7 p.m.	Chapel ¹² 8:10 a.m. Morning Circle 9:30 a.m. Quilting 1:30 p.m. Comm. Service 7 p.m.	¹³	¹⁴	¹⁵ Children's Christmas Eve Program Rehearsal 9:30 - 11 a.m.
Comm. Service ¹⁶ 9:30 a.m. SS/Adult Bible Study 10:45 a.m. Advent Concert 3 p.m. Vespers 7 p.m.	¹⁷ Moms in Prayer 8:35 p.m.	Pigeon Pastors ¹⁸ 10 a.m. Men's Bible Study at Shaggy J's 6:30 p.m.	¹⁹ Chapel 8:10 a.m. Comm. Service 7 p.m.	²⁰	²¹ CEA Christmas Fair Last Day of School till Jan. 7	²² Children's Christmas Eve Program Rehearsal 9:30 - 11 a.m. Christmas Caroling 11 a.m.
Comm. Service ²³ 9:30 a.m. SS/Adult Bible Study 10:45 a.m. Vespers 7 p.m.	Children's ²⁴ Christmas Eve Program 7 p.m. Communion Service 10 p.m.	²⁵ Christmas Day Communion Service 10 a.m.	²⁶	²⁷	²⁸	²⁹
³⁰ Worship Service 9:30 a.m. No Sunday School or Coffee Hour	³¹ Family Fun Night 6:30 p.m.	Holiday Office Hours: Dec. 24 open 9 a.m. - Noon; Dec. 25 and 26 - Closed; Dec. 27 and 28 open 9 a.m. - Noon Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 Closed; Jan. 2, 3 and 4 open 9 a.m. - Noon				