# Cross Connection

## **Cross**

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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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NOVEMBER 2025

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new to us every morning, and you abundantly provide for all our wants of body and soul, though we have not deserved your goodness.

Give us your Holy Spirit, that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Evangelical Lutheran Liturgy, 1894)

#### **Thematic Collect**

Heavenly Father, our lives are filled with the abundance of your grace and mercy. We thank you for the good things of your creation that fill our lives. May our gratitude be so abundant that it flows into radical generosity that reflects your boundless love for all; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

# Thoughts on the Readings

#### The Common Thread

Take time to give to the Lord; and take time to do it first. Waiting until later, when you are sure you have enough for yourself and God too, requires calculation but no faith. Do not be anxious, but bring your thankful offering to God and see that he will be faithful—as he has been in all generations. God will demonstrate his faithfulness so that trusting in his fatherly goodness, you may have peace. Believe in the one who sent heavenly manna into the wilderness, and the Bread of Life to starving sinners. Those who believe will neither hunger nor thirst but instead, feast on Christ, that heavenly food that continues into eternal life.



# First Reading - Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Imagine that you have spent a generation, eating the manna and fowl that the Lord has provided in the wilderness. Now you are about to enter the land promised to be flowing with milk and honey. You have also heard reports of grapes, pomegranates, and figs that are so large that the fruit has to be carried by two men. What will you want to do after decades of of fowl and manna, but eat some fruit from the promised land? But first, God says, each of you give me a basket of that fruit. Does God actually eat grapes (Psa 50:13) or does he want his people to learn to trust him in the midst of such abundance? God has given his word to provide. He has shown his faithfulness in the wilderness. You may trust him.

## Psalm - <u>Psalm 100:1-5</u>

There is something special about entire nations setting aside a day for thanksgiving. But to whom are they thankful? Sadly, some folks are just plain grateful—not to someone but for something. They are thankful that they have enough to feed, clothe, and shelter their families. But real thanksgiving is so much more. It is not general appreciation for one's pleasant or sufficient lot in life; it is thanks to God no matter one's circumstances. Give thanks to him and bless his name!

## Second Reading - Philippians 4:4-9

The Lord is in the vicinity (Phil 4:5). That is a cause for rejoicing, surely; but it is also a supremely comforting thought, something that should remove all anxiety for those who fear, love, and trust the Lord. It seems like I have always read him being "near" as meaning his return is imminent. That too. But it is reassuring to remember he is near enough to hear us and answer our prayers—and give us his peace. Thinking about such things and practicing a lifestyle commensurate to his nearness promise the continued abiding of the God of peace.

# Gospel - John 6:25-35

Whoever looks to God by coming to Christ will never hunger. God has supplied in his Son the true bread of heaven. We must gather each day that heavenly food that eternally endures. In other words, we are to keep believing on the one whom God has sent, his only Son. God gives us the faith to do so. We may trust him completely to continue drawing us to himself, the source of real life.



#### November 2 - All Saints Day

1R - Rev. 7: (2-8) 91-7, P - Psalm 149, 2R - 1 John 3:1-3, G - Matt. 5:1-12

November 9 - Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

1R - Exodus 3:1-15, P - Psalm 148, 2R - 2 Thess. 2:1-8, 13-17, G - Luke 20:27-40

November 16- Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

1R - Malichi 4:1-6, P - Psalm 98, 2R - 2 Thess. 3:(1-5) 6-13, G - Luke 21:5-28 (29-36)

November 23 - Christ the King

# **Celebrate**



4 Eric Gardy

Shane Schulze

Bella Smith

5 Dorothy Rummel

Don Wheeler

6 Peter Shupe

7 Dawn Hendricks

9 Bob Johnso

Joshua Rosenthal

11 Steve Schulze

**Duane Baur** 

13 Mark Kretzschmer

Randy Buchholz

14 Jim Smith

Alex Peyerk

16 Delores Lange

17 Austin Roestel

Gina Smith

22 Kassidy Swanson

24 Travis Fritz

25 Mike Sting

28 Grace Higgin



9 Gene & Pearl Persell,

57 years

9 Cody 7 Haley Cucinello

6 years

#### THOSE IN NEED OF CONTINUED PRAYER

Carol Diener, Dawn Hendricks, Bernice Shupe, Connie Eden, Beth Elston, Gene Parsell, Tim Voss, Mike Eden, Terry Sturm, Clark Elftman, Hannah Britt, John Finneren, Tom Shupe, Joe Stodola, Matt Edler, Larry Adams, Al Collison, Susan Beller, Hope Kittel, Noah Adams, Kay Schuette, Corey Messing, Kevin Faupel, Ezra Sturm, Robert Blunt.

#### **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)





<u>Pigeon Food Pantry Collection</u> – Lets help stock the shelves of the Pigeon Food Pantry. Cross Lutheran Church will be collecting items from now until November 16th to help our local people. All groceries are greatly appreciated; however, a few popular items are cereal and cans of Spaghetti-O's, chili and beef stew. Also needed are detergent, toilet paper and personal hygiene products. If you wish to give a monetary donation, a check can be made out to the

Pigeon Food Pantry and placed in the Mission Outreach mailbox. Grocery items can be placed in the totes located in the church entrance. We are not able to accept outdated food or dented cand. Your kindness will be greatly appreciated!

-The Ministry of Mission Outreach

## From the Desk of... Jenna Maust

Happy fall from piano class! People often wonder how a piano class with multiple students can possibly work with just one teacher. During our piano class time, students have the opportunity to practice on their own keyboard with headphones throughout their 45-minute piano class, two times each week. When students think they have mastered the page that they are on in their piano books, they will bring their book up to me at the real piano and play the page for me on the piano. This is a great opportunity for students to get their hands on a real piano and feel the difference between the real piano keys and the keyboard keys; there is absolutely a difference! If students are able to play the page correctly for me at the real piano, they will turn the page, and we will talk about how they will complete



the following page in their piano books. Once they know what is expected on the next page, students will go back to their keyboards and practice that next page. This format works perfectly so that I can see each student at least once throughout a class period and make sure students continuing to learn new lessons in their piano books.



This year in piano class we have seven new fifth grade students who are just beginning to learn how to play piano. These fifth-grade students are learning things like the names of the keys on the piano, how sharps and flats work on the piano, how to read both treble cleft and bass cleft on the grand staff, and many more crucial lessons that are important when first learning how to play piano. So far, these fifth graders have made excellent progress this school year and are very excited to hopefully share their new skills off in the springtime with a chapel performance. We also have six sixth grade students and eight seventh and eighth grade students who are continuing on in their piano lessons from previous years. These students are expanding their knowledge of piano and learning other things such as how scales work with different fingerings on the piano, how to use the

pedal on the real piano, how to play legato versus staccato, and many more great lessons.

If you want to come and hear the progress these piano students are making, feel free to come to some of the sixth-grade chapel performances in November. Sixth grade students will be choosing a song from their piano books to perform in chapel on a Wednesday in November. Also, the seventh and

eighth graders will be performing a Christmas song at the Christmas Palooza on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for supporting our students as they learn piano!

Jenna



#### **November Calendar**

11/4 Picture Retake day11/7 Robotics Tournament11/11 Veterans Chapel11/21 Robotics Tournament11/24-28 NO SCHOOL



## Thank You-

The committee would like to thank all volunteers, and those who donated to helped make the BBQ a successful event.

The Chicken BBQ committee would like to report the

total number of meals served at Sunday's event was 375. Gross sales were \$6877.00.

Event costs were \$1193.75; Many expenses were graciously covered by anonymous donors. Total profit is \$5620.71.

The Co-Chairs will talk with the Church and School Leaders and then disperse the

money.

God has blessed Cross Church and School with a great membership, volunteers and

leaders.



#### **Kurt Richmond- Church Needs:**

Gerald & Marilyn Buchholz

# Dolores Elftman - Cross Hot Lunch

Dave & Janet Sharpsteen Sebewaing Sprakettes





# **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 Many supporters boxes. 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 band aids 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

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Attending: John Smith, Al Licht, Kim Delpiere, Kim Sears, Kevin Stachowiak via phone, Peter Shupe, Josh Barry, David Faupel Norm Nelson, John Trowbridge and Miki Thick.

Absent:

Guests: Call committee Members and Nancy Heck

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by John Smith at 7:05 P.M.

Opening Prayer/Devotional: John Smith opened with prayer and devotion.

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda made by

Kim Sears, 2nd Josh Barry, Motion passed.



Minutes

**August Council Minutes:** 1st. motion for approval made by Alan Licht, 2nd by Kim Sears. Motion for August minutes approved by council.

Guest speaker: The call committee reported.

President Report: NALC Conference calls, visiting shut ins and new members.

Principal Report: David Faupel, talked about and increase in pay for subs. Teachers, Kitchen, Custodial and Office. Josh Barry made the motion to accept pay increases, 2nd Al Licht. Motion passed. Talked about a new school logo and showed council new design. Kim Delpiere made the motion to accept the new school logo and design, 2nd Josh Barry. Motion passed.

Early Childhood Center: Miki Thick reported.

School Board: Kevin Stachowiak, nothing to add at this time. Secretary: Kim Fritz not present, no known communications.

Treasurer: Kim Sears- starting with a beginning balance of 190,985.16as of 8/1/2025 and an ending balance of 155,335.47 on 8/31/2025. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Al Licht, 2nd by Peter Shupe, Motion passed.

**Properties:** Al Licht – discussion about replacing smoke detectors in the parsonage.

Worship & Music: John Trowbridge – shared a report from Worship and Music Ministry. Some things taken from report are pipe organ fundraising, discussed the committee members and meeting with Mike and Beth to give them foundational information concerning the pipe organ.

Planning for Worship and Music – October and November, discussed communion Sundays including Reformation, All Saints and Christ the King.

A motion to purchase additional head set equipment was made by Kim Sears, 2nd Josh Barry. Motion passed.

There next meeting will be Tuesday, October 7, at 5:30 PM.

Stewardship: Peter Shupe - A written year-to-date offering report provided.

Mission Outreach: Kim Delpiere - shared report

Mission Festival Sunday September 21st. Our group will be hosting a fellowship coffee hour in the gym following the church service.

We will be giving the guest pastor a gift basket.

OCC update will be starting 10-12-2025.

Fall decorating will be October 8th.

Food Pantry collection will be delivered.

A small group will meet and start working on the new welcome brochure.

Electric sign update - Papa Pizza's will donate their sign to our church. We will be making a committee to check out their sign.

Parish Life: Kim Delpiere - nothing to report at this time

Youth: Josh Barry shared a written report.

Parents of children ages 3 through high school were contacted in several ways in August, regarding upcoming Sunday school. Sunday school began on September 7 with 15 students attending.

There has been interest in First Communion Classes for that in 4th grade and up. There may be as many as 5 students. Classes will be scheduled in October with those students joining in the Lord's Supper on Reformation Sunday.

Confirmation classes began September 7th.

Kayak-N-Snack was held on Sunday, September 7 with 5 youth attending.

Upcoming youth events in October are Kohl Farms Corn Maze on October 4th and Ignite 2025 Concert at Dow Event Center on October 26.

Adult Bible study begins on Wednesday, September 10. The topic is SAINTS AND SINNERS; Encouragers of the Faith.

Old Business:

New Doors for the connection hall way. John Trowbridge will help by looking for another bid. Church council thought the first bid from Dave's Glass might be too high. New Business:

- Pastor Jordan Long (Mission Festival) September 21.
- Entrance rug discussion to replace for \$300.00.
- Switch secretary names on checking account and credit card. A motion made by John Trowbridge to take Karen's name off accounts and put Heather Kettle for school, script cards, youth, credit card for church and school and hot lunch checking account.
   2nd by Al Licht. Motion passed.

Motion made by Al Licht, 2nd by Peter Shupe to adjourn, Motion passed. Closed with the Lord's Prayer at 9:40 P.M.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. Submitted by Kim Delpiere



# Youth News!!

We may have been experiencing drought conditions in our area, but it's been raining cats and dogs in the area of youth and education! Youth events, Sunday School, Bible Study and Advent/Christmas Children's program planning have been pouring!

On October 11, our youth joined with Pigeon River Mennonite Church Youth for an evening of snacks, devotions, a red Solo cup activity, and then traveled to Kohl Farms for the Flashlight Corn Maze. Over 30 Middle School/High School youth attended! On Sunday, October 26, eighteen Cross youth and parents attended the Ignite Tour Concert featuring Christian singers Danny Gokey, Mac Powell, and Colton Dixon at Dow Event Center in Saginaw.

On November 1 at 4:30 PM, Cross Middle School/High School Youth are invited to join Pigeon River youth at "The Sandhill" on Geiger Rd.( 3 ½ miles West of Caseville Rd.) There will be games, a campfire, chili, hotdogs, and treats! This is another great time for fellowship and fun with our neighbors in Christ.

Our next event at Cross will be held on Wednesday, November 12 in our church and gym from 4:30-6 PM. We will have a GIVE THANKS party. There will be a time to worship, snacks, games, and projects that will go home and some that will be distributed to others. This event will be for all youth from Preschool-High School. We are requesting that Jr. High and HS youth assist with the activities. We welcome donations of easy to handle snacks such as cookies, bars, cheese, veggies, and fruit. Contact Gwynne Barry if you are able to help in any way.

Plans are being made for special activities for ALL ages each Sunday in Advent beginning on November 30. We will open with a special chapel service at 4 PM which will be followed with activities for all ages. Please plan to join us as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of our Savior. This Advent activity's focus will be "Look Around the Stable".

"Live From the First Century" will be our message on Sunday, December 21. Preparations have begun! Children of God of all ages will be involved in our service beginning at 9:30 AM. PS-6th grade have begun learning the songs during SS.

Sunday School, Confirmation classes, first communion classes, youth events, and Wednesday Adult Bible Study have kept us from drying up this fall season! God is present in our lives and fills us up! Psalm 146:1 The Lord reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord! Get it? The Lord reigns! We need not fear a drought.:)

In His love,

Gwynne Barry

Ministry of Youth and Education



# Cross Lutheran School Board Minutes from: October 2, 2025

(To be approved at the November meeting)

**Members present:** David Faupel, President Kevin Stachowiak, Vice President Eileen Johnson, Treasurer Nicole Licht, CEA Rep. Katie Wilson and Non-Member Rep. Rita Herford.

Absent: Secretary Rebecca Yackle,

The meeting was called to order by Kevin Stachowiak at 5:30pm. David Faupel led us in an opening prayer.

**Agenda:** A motion was made by Eileen Johnson and seconded by Katie Wilson to accept the agenda. The motion passed.

Minutes: Motion made by Eileen Johnson and seconded by Nicole Licht to approve the minutes from September 4th,2025. The motion passed.

Guest Presentations: None

# **Treasurers' Report:**

• School Balance: \$71,755.25

• CEA/PTO: \$23,866.49

• Hot Lunch: \$10,816.19

• A motion was made by Katie Wilson and seconded by Eileen Johnson to accept the Treasurers' Reports. The motion carried.

**CEA President's Report:** The school softball game was a tremendous success. More people showed up than RSVPs. Grandparents' day, a volunteer experience!

# **Principal's Report:**

2025-2026 Enrollment: 63

DK: 4 - KDG:11 - 1st:4 - 2nd:8 - 3rd:7

4th:8 - 5th:7 - 6th:6 - 7th:4 - 8th:4



#### Calendar:

- October 20- Full Day of School, no Laker bus
- October 24-STEAM Day
- October 31-Grandparents/Special Person Day
- November 6-Parent-Teacher Conferences

**Old Business:** The new Cross Lutheran logo was approved by Church Council at their last meeting. Now working on new sports uniforms for the student athletes.

The school budget continues to be looked at and is being monitored well with what is coming in and going out.

Parent-Teacher Conference Policy: Motion was made by Rita Herford and seconded by Katie Wilson to adopt the amended Parent-Teacher Conference Policy.

Locks: Motion was made by Eileen Johnson and seconded by Katie Wilson to install security/floor locks on the bathroom doors.

#### **New Business:**

- \*Cross Country Coaching Stipend-Motion was made by Nichole Licht and seconded by Rita Herford to pay the Cross Country Coach a stipend for the season.
- \*Lunch Visitor Policy- discussion was held and a decision was made to table for additional discussion next month.
- \*Water Filtration-Water from the Village of Pigeon is hard water that is creating problems in the kitchen. Properties is looking into a water softener.

**Other Business:** 5-Year Goals/Plans were discussed and are continuing to be worked on. The importance of Service with specific actions were discussed.

Eileen Johnson made a motion and was seconded by Nicole Licht to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is Thursday October 30, 2025 at 5:30pm



#### **Mission Outreach Ministry**

Mission Outreach Ministry October 8, 2025

The meeting of the Mission Outreach Ministry was called to order by Lorraine LePage, in the absence of President Krisie Fritz.

Those in attendance were Lorraine LePage, Tonja Nelson, Laura Trost, Sandie Haley, Kay Schuette, Lori Smith, Maureen Reibling, Nancy Heck, Kim Delpiere, and church council president, John Smith.

A prayer was given by Lorraine.

- The secretary's report was handed out and read. The minutes were approved.
- The treasure's report was given by Lorraine. Nancy made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, it was seconded by Kim. Motion carried.
- The breakfast/coffee hour held after our Mission Festival Sunday service was well attended. Approximately \$1900.00 was donated from the church door offering, breakfast basket offering and a \$200.00 donation from the Mission Outreach Ministry. It is designated to go to the South Sudan mission that Bishop Long spoke to our church about. It will help to support his work there.
- The electronic sign on the corner of Main and Hartley that our church has, is being repaired. Several people have been working on it and Jim Smith has found a way to make it work. Jim is willing to fix and maintain it for the church. A big thank you to him for doing this. A motion by Nancy and seconded by Kim to reimburse Jim for the repair and maintaining the sign was made. Motion approved.
- The Welcome Packets for our church were reviewed, and a few changes were made. They are almost ready to print, and look great. Thanks to Lorraine and the rest of the group who have helped with this. A motion was made by Kim and seconded by Lori to reimburse Lorraine for the welcome folders she purchased. Motion carried.
- The church bulletin covers were discussed and all agreed that the print needs to be larger than what we have now. We would like to have one ready by our October 26 church service. Our group is willing to cover the cost up to \$500.00 during the three-month trial period. A motion was made by Kim and seconded by Nancy to pay for the expense of the bulletin covers from now until the end of this year. Motion carried.
- The food pantry collection will continue through Thanksgiving.
- Operation Christmas Child kick off starts October 12, 2025. A video will be shown during the service
  to remind members what this is about. Brochures will also be put in the church members' mailboxes. Packing will take place after the church service on November 9, 2025. The congregation is
  invited to come and pack a box. On October 15, at 2:30 our members are asked to come to the church
  to do counting of the items already donated for the shoe boxes and to see what is still needed. We
  would like to do 200 boxes.
- A dinner is being planned for the pastor and his family who is coming on October 26. Our group will
  be in charge of tables. Maureen Reibling will purchase tablecloths and is making Fall flower
  arrangements for the tables. David Faupel's upper grades classroom kids will set up the tables for
  us. Thank you, Maureen and David. On Friday, October 24 at 3:00 our members are asked to come
  help decorate the tables. They will be in the school gym.
- Lori Smith is still doing the card ministry. Let her know if you know anyone who could be sent a card for any reason.
- Coffee hour dates are October 12. Lorraine, Kim, Lori, and Laura will provide snacks.
- November 9 Nancy, Tonja, Maureen, Kay, Sandie and Krisie. This is our shoebox packing so we may have more people staying for coffee hour. Our next meeting will be November 5, 2025, at 1:00.

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

Respectfully submitted - Tonja Nelson

# **Worship and Music Ministry**

Meeting Report October 7, 2025

Members present: Mike Sting, Peg McCrimmon, John Trowbridge – Trustee, John Smith – Council President, Karen Schuette – Chair.

- \*Pipe organ fundraising John Trowbridge reported that the committee has been formed and will meet in the near future. Members are: Jason Shaw, Donna Wheeler, Eileen Johnson, and Norm Nelson, and John Trowbridge Chair. John will request the Church Council to allocate the remaining Mary Otto bequest balance to the Pipe Organ Repair fund.
- \*All Saints Recognition Sunday, November 2nd We will remember the following people who have passed this last year: Fred Henkelmann, Alice Trost, Jeff Trost, Jon Clabuesch, Marcia Schuette, Margaret Edler, and Dolores Elftman. This will take place during that November 2nd worship.
- \*Budget Worship and Music will propose budgeting \$2,000 for Music and \$2,000 for Altar Guild in the 2026 Annual Church budget.
- \*Sunday School will present a Christmas Program during the sermon time on the December 21st worship.

NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025 AT 5:30 PM



# November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Day lights Saving Time Ends 11/2/25						1
2 Sunday School 3:45 am 41 Saints Communion Service 9:30 am	3 Hand Bells 5:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm	4 Picture Makeup	5 Chapel 8:05 am First Communion Class 3:15-4:45 pm	6 Jean Quilters 1pm Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-7 pm	7 Robotics Tournament @ Harbor Beach	8
9 Sunday School 8:45 am Worship Service 9:30 am	10 Hand Bells 5:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm	II  Veterans Day Chapel 8:05 am  Stewardship 6:30 pm Counsil 7:00 pm	12 Giving Thanks Youth event 4:30 - 6 pm	13 Quilters 1 pm	14 Thanksgiving Dinner	15
16 Sunday School 8:45 am Communion Service 9:30 am	17 Hand Bells 5:30 pm Choie 6:30 pm	18	19 Chapel 8:05 am	20 Jean Quilters 1pm	21 Robotics Tournament @ Cross	22
23 Sunday School 8:45 am Christ the King Communion Service 9:30 am	24 Quilters 1 pm Hand Bells 5:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm NEWS LETTER DUE	25	TH	27 ANKSGIVIN	28 G	29
30 Sunday School 8:45 am Worship Service 9:30 am				a 12	M.	