

## Growing Together

**April  
2025**

**Cross Lutheran  
Church &  
School**  
200 Ruppert Street  
Pigeon, MI 48755  
989-453-3330

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[www.crosslutheranschool.org](http://www.crosslutheranschool.org)  
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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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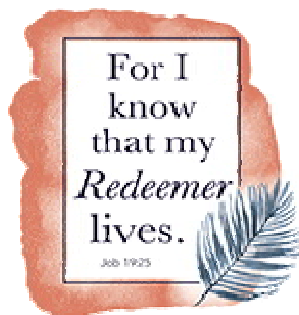
## Inside this issue:

Preparing for Worship	2
Celebrate	3
School News	4
Memorials	5
Council Minutes	6
Financial	12
Calendar	13

## *Listening for the Promise*

Weekly Devotional

Easter Sunrise – April 20, 2025



*“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.”*

- Job 19:25 -

Little did the author of the Book of Job, who wrote about two thousand years before Christ, realize how his words would one day describe the risen Christ. Yes, Christ is risen! Our Redeemer lives, and one day, he will come again and walk among us! The knowledge of the truth of a living Redeemer makes all the difference for us today just as it did for Job.

The fact “my Redeemer lives” brought Job peace and hope in the midst of great affliction. Job suffered the death of his children, servants, and livestock. He also lost his home and health (see Job chapters 1-2). Yet, he understood that his present anguish, no matter how painful and seemingly all-encompassing, was not the final word. He knew a greater reality that trumped all his misery: He knew “my Redeemer lives” and that he would one day “see [him] for myself” (1:27). And, for Job, that knowledge of and his faith in his Redeemer sustained him in his trials.

And, in the midst of his suffering, Job didn’t just hold onto “a Redeemer,” or “the Redeemer;” he held onto “my Redeemer.” His Redeemer with whom he had personal relationship, the one he knew would one day advocate for him and declare his innocence (see 16:18-19). Now, Job shows us how to withstand the difficult, even excruciating, trials of life by so beautifully setting his hope on his Redeemer. We, like Job, can set our hope on our Redeemer and proclaim, “I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand upon the earth.” We, like Job, can keep our eyes on our Redeemer with whom we have a personal relationship. We, like Job, can know that our Redeemer advocates for us and declares our innocence.

And we have an advantage over Job: We know our Redeemer’s name. We know his identity, his works, his unfathomable love revealed on the cross. We know his promises and his desires for us. And we have his precious Spirit living within us, guiding, convicting, comforting, counseling, empowering, sustaining, and walking with us every moment of every day.

We can say, “Jesus, my Redeemer lives. He remains with me and sustains me every moment. And because he lives, I will live too.

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## Cross Garage Sale

June 12th thru 14th



## Cross VBS

June 16th thru 19th



## Holy Week Schedule



**Palm Sunday, April 13th**  
at 9:30 am with Communion

**Maundy Thursday, April 17th**  
at 6:30 pm with communion



**Good Friday, April 18th**  
at 6:30 pm

**Easter Sunday, April 20th**  
at 9:30 pm with communion



### Preparing for Worship

#### April 6 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

1R – Isaiah 43:16-21, P – Psalm 126, 2R – Philippians 3:(4-7) 8-14, G – Luke 20:9-20

#### April 13 – Palm Sunday

1R - Deuteronomy 32:36-39, P – Psalm 118:19-29), 2R – Philippians 2:5-11, G – Luke 22:1—23:56

#### April 17– Maundy Thursday

1R - Jeremiah 31:31-34, P - Psalm 116:12-19, 2R—Hebrews 10:15-25, G - Luke 22:7-20

#### April 18 - Good Friday

1R - Isaiah 52:13—53:12, P – Psalm 22, 2R – Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, G - John 18:1—19:42

#### April 20—Easter Sunrise

1R—Job 19:23-27, P—Psalm 118:15-29, 2R—1 Corinthians 15:51-57, G—John 20:1-18

#### April 20—Easter Sunday

1R—Isaiah 65:17-25, P—Psalm 16, 2R—1 Corinthians 15:19-26, G—Luke 24:1-12

#### April 27—Second Sunday of Easter

1R—Acts 5:12-20 (21-32), P—Psalm 148, 2R—Revelation 1:4-18, G—John 20:19-31

# Celebrate



- 1 Jarid Heck
- 2 Brian Delpiere  
Wyatt Heck
- 3 Katelyn Kretzschmer
- 9 Dani Rae Licht
- 10 Jennifer Gardy  
Brigid Trowbridge  
Doug Richmond
- 11 Barb Eidt
- 12 Pat Azarovitz  
Lance Schuette
- 14 Zac Trost
- 17 Shelia Yackle
- 19 Kathy Azarovitz  
Karen Peterson  
Linda Fietzer  
Kyle Briggs
- 21 Philip Delpiere  
Michelle Fritz
- 22 Don Schadd
- 23 Chandler Rosenthal
- 25 Gracey LePage  
Karmyn Koroleski
- 26 Lydia Lou Heck
- 27 Catie House  
Brynlee Walsh

- 28 Jessica Licht
- 29 Jean Sturm
- 30 Vivian Buschlen



## April Anniversaries

- 4/1 Dave & Janis Elftman, 36 years
- 4/8 John & Lori Smith, 47 years
- 4/9 Denny & Leanne Smith, 42 years

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In the absence of a pastor,  
these people can be contacted.

**Gwynne Barry**  
989-551-2452  
[gwynnebarry@gmail.com](mailto:gwynnebarry@gmail.com)

**Phil Schadd**  
989-553-6150  
[pschadd@gmail.com](mailto:pschadd@gmail.com)



## THOSE IN NEED OF CONTINUED PRAYER

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

## CROSS CHURCH SHUT INS

Vivian Buschlen, Dolores Elftman,  
Cordelia Trost, Margaret Edler,  
Roberta Danks, Mark Fritz, Carol  
Diener, Marvin Trost. Please keep  
them in your prayers.

## THOSE IN SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY

Nicholas Swanson (US Air Force),  
Michael Cox (US Navy)





## From the Desk of...Kelly Gebauer

Happy Spring! Or almost spring depending on the day right now, it is Michigan. It has been a fun and busy time transitioning from winter to spring. We had a wonderful school wide field trip to the sledding hill. It was a blast to enjoy all the snow before it either blew away or melted.



We have been enjoying the month of March and growing our roots deep in Christ. One way we are doing this is by reading with a purpose this year for reading month. Each week the students have a reading goal and if they meet that goal or go above it they send one or more Bible storybooks to Haiti. I'm excited to see how many books the students will be sending.

We also celebrated Lutheran Schools Week and it was great fun to see the students dress up each day.



During the season of Lent we have our prayer partners to help us grow our roots deeper in Christ. The students pray with their partners each week. Then they pray for each other throughout Lent. The 5th/6th grade class has enjoyed making cards, 4 leaf clovers, and bookmarks for their prayer partners.



The 5th/6th grade class has had a blast reading with the 1st/2nd grade class and the preschoolers. It has also been a blessing having Karen Schuette, Leanne Smith, Gwynne Barry, Barb Degg, and Rebecca Yackle visit our class to read aloud to the students. I know the other classes have enjoyed their read aloud visitors as well.

The 5th/6th grade also enjoyed participating with the 7th/8th grade class's reenactment of the Declaration of Independence. We also had fun making clouds in a bottle in science.



This month has been full of reading, community, blessings, and prayers. Thank you again for all your prayers and support. May God bless you and Happy Easter!





**In memory of Susan Taschner,  
for Cross Lutheran School:**

Bob & Eileen Johnson

**In memory of Fred Henkel-  
mann, for Cross Organ fund:**

Maj. Vick Lombardo, USMCR

**In memory of Marcia Schuette,  
for Cross Building fund:**

Neil & Connie Herford

**In memory of Susan Taschner,  
for Cross Quilters:**

Mike & Jeanne Sting

**In memory of Marcia Schuette,  
for Cross Lutheran School:**

Denny & Leanne Smith

**In memory of Marcia Schuette,  
for Cross Building fund:**

Glenn Craig

Paul & Karen Schuette

Suzanne Bivens

Carol Bridges

Tim & Shirley Schuette

**In memory of Ted Leipprandt,  
for Cross Lutheran Church:**

Tom & Bernice Shupe



## **Cross Fish Fry Friday, April 11, 2025.**

Your support is greatly appreciated! If you are on social media please advertise this event! Invite family, friends and community!!! Sign-up sheets are in the overflow and help with planning. Listen for updates in bulletins and announcements.

Please have cookies in the church overflow area by noon on Thursday, April 10th or in the freezer if you need to bring them in earlier. Cookies on Friday, April 11th will need to be dropped off by noon and desserts will need to be at the school between 1-4.

Donations are welcome from businesses and individuals. What a wonderful way to serve our church family and community!!! Call or text with any questions or concerns. Joy in the Journey! Leanne Smith 989-553-4241.



*Easter Blessings*

# CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025  
Monthly UNAPPROVED Council meeting minutes

**Attending:** John Smith, Kim Sears, Norm Nelson, Al Licht, Josh Barry, Kim Delpiere, Kevin Stachowiak and Peter Shupe

**Absent:** Kim Fritz, John Trowbridge

**Opening Prayer / Devotional** – President John Smith meeting open 7:07

**Approval of Agenda** – approved Motion: Kim Sears 2<sup>nd</sup> Kim Delpiere

**Approval of Council Meeting minutes from last month** - Motion Kim Delpiere 2<sup>nd</sup> Al Licht

**GUEST:** No Guest

**President Report : John Smith** – making shut in calls 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. of March. Resuming shut in visits next week

**Principal Report: -Stepping in for David Faupel is Kevin Stachowiak**

Winter auction was very successful raising approximately \$48,000.00. Shout out to all involved in making that happen! It's a lot of work and they do a fabulous job. CEA is still deciding on how to use the funds. We will be updated when decisions are made. Next years auction is tentatively scheduled for February 21, 2026

One Cross Robotic team competed at the Middle School Robotics State Championship on March 9<sup>th</sup>. They placed 21<sup>st</sup> out of 47 teams. Congratulations to them!

March is Reading Month. This years theme is Reading for Haiti. When goals are met, a Bible storybook written in a Haitian language will be sent to Haiti. CEA will be helping with this expense

Sarah Oeschger was hired as an additional part-time custodian to cover when needed. Ms Oeschger was previously employed with the Daycare and her children are enrolled in our school. Motion to approve: Al Licht 2<sup>nd</sup> Kevin Stachowiak

**Early Childhood Center – no report received**

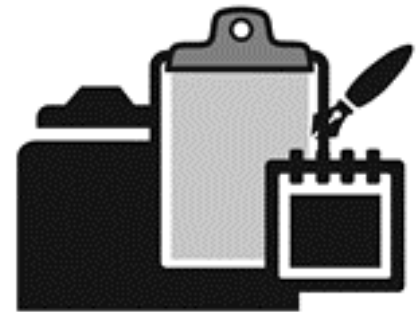
**Secretary Communication : Kim Fritz** absent

**TREASURY REPORT:** Given by Kim Sears. Discussed the balance on the Parsonage Mortgage Loan and the importance to take a look at paying down before loan renewal in Sept of 2025 at a higher interest rate. Currently balance on funds for that loan are very low. Approved by Al Licht 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Shupe

**SCHOOL BOARD / VICE PRESIDENT Kevin Stachowiak** - Reports that the school board has a strong cast and are currently working on a new 5 year plan and will include transparency with the 3 entities (being church, school and daycare) Cross Lutheran being the head of this.

**Properties Alan Licht:** No meeting. Not much going on, David will inform them if anything is needed right now. All fire alarms have been repaired, replaced or added. There was a problem on the roof with the heating unit resulting in a new unit being ordered

**Music – John Trowbridge** Absent but provided information. Reports of good comments about using the screen during worship. However, more volunteers are needed. Also, reported that new numbers are needed that are used in the hymn racks in the front of the church.



Church Council  
Minutes

(Continued on page 7)

- Palm Sunday – April 13 – Commune at the rail
- Maundy Thursday – April 17 -6:30 pm- Commune at the rail
- Good Friday – April 18 – 6:30 pm
- Easter – April 20 – 9:30 am – Commune at the rail

**Stewardship - Peter Shupe / Norm Nelson** Reported current donations fund list

Attendance seems higher when kids are singing

**Mission Outreach: - Kim Delpiere** No meeting

**Parish life: - Kim Delpiere** Nothing at this time

**Youth – Josh Barry** 38 PS-JH kids attended FAT Tuesday. “Jesus is the Bread of Life” was the focus of the chapel talk.

- Lenten Activity Calendars have been distributed. They are also available on the Welcome Desk
- Looking for interest from Parents and Youth in grades 6-12 to see if there was an interest in seeing the movie “The Last Supper” in Birch Run on March 14 or 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Next scheduled youth games event March 16th

**EDUCATION:** VBS Theme “True North” and program has been chosen and ordered. VBS is scheduled for week of June 16-19, 2025.

Bible Study continues on Wednesdays from 6-7:30.

#### **Old business**

1. Sound and Screen use has been well received, but again, looking for volunteers.
2. Up coming Guest speaker Joe Grammetz on Easter
3. Principal David Faupel's family health insurance approved
4. Thank you to all that volunteer their time to help in any needs of our Church.
5. Cross Lutheran Bylaws and Constitution are currently being worked on.

#### **New Business –**

1. Rooftop heating/cooling unit was approved and ordered
2. Motion Kim Sears, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kevin Stachowiak

Mike Fritz – will continue to provide lawn service at same price as previous year.

Kim Delpiere will write out some thank you notes

Discussion for parsonage interior painting – drywall cracks have been repaired. Painters are approximately 3 months out, need to at least get on their list.

Motion Peter Shupe 2<sup>nd</sup> Kim Sears

**Closing:** Lord's Prayer 8:30 pm

Next meeting April 8<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm

**He Is Risen,  
He Is Risen, Indeed !**



# Cross Lutheran School Board Minutes from:

March 6th, 2025

(To be approved at the April meeting)

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

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 Katie Wilson and seconded by Eileen Johnson to accept the agenda.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Rita Herford and seconded by Katie Wilson, to approve the January 9th, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion passed.

**Guest Presentations:** None

## **Treasurers' Reports:**

School Balance: \$59,637.59

CEA/PTO: \$54,625.17

Hot Lunch: \$3,939.51

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

**CEA President's Report:** The Winter Auction was a great success. We are putting together a budget to determine where to disperse the money. Next year's auction will be held later on in the month of February. Our Pies by Kala fundraiser will be delivered next week on Friday, March 14th.

Donuts with Dad is coming up on March 21st.

## **Principal's Report:**

\*Reading month is underway. As each child meets their weekly goals, a Bible story book will be sent to Haiti in their native language.

\*3rd-6th grade girls and the junior high class have finished their basketball season. The 3rd-6th grade boy's basketball season is off to a great start.



**\*Current 2024-2025 Enrollment:** 64 (1 part-time 5th grader)

**DK:** 8 **KDG:**7 **1st:**9 **2nd:**7 **3rd:**8

**4th:**7 **5th:**7 **6th:**4 **7th:**4 **8th:**3

**\*Calendar:** This week we finish out Lutheran Schools Week

March 8-9th: Robotics State Championship in Monroe

March 16th: Students sing in Church

March 21st: Donuts with Dad, 7:30-8am

March 25th: Open House for prospective new students, 4:30-6pm

March 27th: Athletic Awards & Parents vs. Kids, 6pm

March 28th: Field Trip to Airborne Adventures

Trampoline Park in Saginaw

March 31st-April 4th: Spring Break

**Old Business:** Rita Herford presented some logo designs that Minted, LLC came up with. Discussed some redesign options. Will follow up on the new designs next month.

#### **New Business:**

\*Discussed Basketball Coaching Stipends. Rita Herford made a motion to disperse stipends to Mr. Wright, David Shupe and David Wilson. Nicole Licht seconded the motion and it passed.

\*Donation of Leave Days. Rita Herford made a motion and was seconded by Katie Wilson to accept a donation of leave days to a staff member. Motion passed.

\*Tuition Assistance Request. Rita Herford made a motion and was seconded by Eileen Johnson to fulfill the request. Motion passed.

\*Scholarship Fund. The funds are dwindling since using it to help pay for free/ reduced lunches. Discussed options to bring funds back up. Follow up on it next month.

\*Part-Time Student. Our current part-time student would like to return next year. Discussed tuition options. Follow up next month.

#### **Other Business:**

\*5-year goals/ plans. Received some input from the teachers. They have a lot of great ideas. Continue discussion next month. Nicole Licht has been working diligently with Karen Kunisch and Phil Schadd to get a better look at the school's finances. She will continue to keep us updated.

Rita Herford made a motion and Nicole Licht seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:07pm. Motion passed. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next School Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 10th @ 5:30pm.

# Fish Fry



**Friday,  
April 11, 2025  
5 to 7 p.m.**

Meals include Fish, Baked Potato or Fries,  
Beans, Roll, Cole Slaw and Homemade  
Desserts

**All meals are \$15**

## **Cross Lutheran Church**

200 Ruppert Street, Pigeon

This is a Thrivent Financial Sponsored Event.

Proceeds will support Cross Lutheran Church  
and School.

**Dine in or  
Take outs  
Available!**





Greetings from the Ministry of Youth and Education!

Our FAT Tuesday event was a success with 37 PS-JH kids attending. We began with a chapel service with the focus on Jesus being the BREAD of LIFE. Everyone enjoyed pancakes, donuts, crafts, and games.

On March 16, youth were invited to my home to watch the BIG 10 tournament game and play various games and of course, eat. Three youth attended. We had fun and all went home with a full belly and some puppy chow for later!

April is a busy month for youth with opportunities to serve and have fun and fellowship. Youth are needed to help with the Fish Fry on April 11. There is an event on Sunday, April 13 at Bay Shore Camp called BLAST for all MS-HS youth from 4:00-7:00 PM. The cost is only \$1 per youth! You can't go wrong with games, food, music, and fun, so I'm hoping to hear from our youth that they are participating. Remember, friends are welcome!

A Scavenger Hunt in Pigeon is being planned for Sunday, April 27 beginning at 4:30 PM. A lot of preparation is being made for this event so we're hoping our Middle School and High School Youth will attend. It was SO much fun last year! Adults are welcome to help with transportation of the teams around town. Again, friends are welcome!

There will be many opportunities for our youth to serve in upcoming months..., Garage Sale during the week of June 8-14,, and VBS during June 16-19. Did I mention that friends are welcome?




Adult Bible Study continues each Wednesday beginning at 6 PM. We are studying "Strugglers in the Faith". There's always room around the table and friends are welcome!

May each of us grow closer to God this Lenten season through Word and Sacrament. We all look forward to the Alleluias of Easter! Jesus is our friend who welcomes us.

In His love,  
Gwynne Barry



## April 2025

| Sun                                                                                                        | Mon                                                        | Tue                                     | Wed                         | Thu                                                                                   | Fri                                                                                                                    | Sat                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>EASTER baskets</b><br> |                                                            | <b>1</b><br>NO School                   | <b>2</b><br>NO School       | <b>3</b><br>NO School                                                                 | <b>4</b><br>NO School                                                                                                  | <b>5</b>                                       |
| <b>6</b><br>Comm Service 9:30<br>SS 8:45 am                                                                | <b>7</b><br>School Resumes<br><br>Bells 6 pm<br>Choir 7 pm | <b>8</b><br>Worship & Music 3 pm        | <b>9</b><br>Chapel 8:05 am  | <b>10</b><br>Quilters 1 pm<br><br>CEA 4 pm<br>School Board 5:30 pm                    | <b>11</b><br>FISH FRY 5-7:30 pm<br> | <b>12</b>                                      |
| <b>13</b><br>Palm Sunday Comm. Serv. 9:30 am<br>SS 8:45 am                                                 | <b>14</b><br><br>Bells 6 pm<br>Choir 7 pm                  | <b>15</b><br>CLECC 4 pm<br>Council 7 pm | <b>16</b><br>Chapel 8:05 am | <b>17</b><br>Maundy Thursday Comm. Serv. 6:30 pm                                      | <b>18</b><br>Good Friday Serv. 6:30 pm<br><br>NO School<br>Office closed                                               | <b>19</b>                                      |
| <b>20</b><br>Easter Sunday Comm. Serv. 9:30 am                                                             | <b>21</b><br>NO School<br><br>Newsletter Deadline          | <b>22</b>                               | <b>23</b><br>Chapel 8:05 am | <b>24</b><br>Quilters 1 pm                                                            | <b>25</b>                                                                                                              | <b>26</b><br>Memorial Serv. for John Clabuesch |
| <b>27</b><br>Worship Serv. 9:30 am<br>SS 8:45 am                                                           | <b>28</b>                                                  | <b>29</b>                               | <b>30</b><br>Chapel 8:05 am |  |                                                                                                                        |                                                |