

Growing Together

January 2025

Cross Lutheran Church & School

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Our mission:

***Bring people to
Christ.***

***Teach Christians
to be disciples.***

***Send disciples to
reach the world.***



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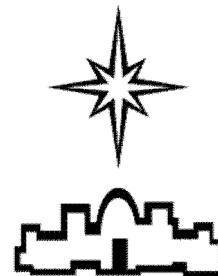
Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Feast of the Epiphany - January 6, 2025

*“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.”*

- *Isaiah 60:1-6* -



This is a dark time of the year in Minnesota. Dark and bitterly cold. This is the time of year when those who are able flee to warmer places, where the sun shines hot, and doesn't set at 4:30 in the afternoon. And yet, when the sun does shine these days, it is blindingly bright as it reflects off the snow. At this time of year in Minnesota there is no middle ground between deep, gloomy darkness and blinding light.

As Isaiah offered his prophetic word he was speaking to a people living in deep darkness. They were homeless, nationless, and, as far as they could tell, godless. Darkness had swallowed them up.

And then Isaiah brought this word, “Arise, shine, for your light has come.” The days of darkness would give way to the bright light of God's presence among his people. The darkness would be swallowed up by the light. The darkness would not last forever. The light of God's presence, meanwhile, is everlasting. It cannot be extinguished.

When we find ourselves in the midst of dark days, it can be difficult to see the light of God's presence. Sometimes that light is barely a flickering flame. Sometimes we can't even see a trace of that light, but only the shadows it casts. But God's promise in Jesus Christ is that the day is surely coming when you will arise to the full brightness of Christ's glorious presence. The day is surely coming when the darkness will be no more.

On this Day of Epiphany we celebrate the revelation of Christ's presence in the world. We mark that moment when darkness was first sent on the run, when the light appeared on the scene in a new way, a way that could not be denied, could not be snuffed out.

Isaiah's call to his people rings through to us even down to this day. Arise, the light has come. It may not be obvious to you every moment of every day, but the glory of the Lord has risen upon you, and will raise you to himself. That is the promise that banishes the darkness in our lives and in this world once and for all.



A prayer for Epiphany



O Lord Jesus Christ, heavenly King, thank you for bringing both Jews and Gentiles to hear your voice. Enable us to follow your holy Word, as those from the East followed the leading of a star. Give us grace to confess your holy name. Rule us by your Spirit, so that the joys of your birth may increase in us. Hear our prayers and cries. Accept our offerings, which you yourself have given us: the gold of our faith, the incense of our prayers, and the myrrh of our contrite hearts. Deliver us from the destructive ways of sin, and lead us in the ways of peace and in the paths of righteousness. Grant us all, when this life is done, a participation in the joys of the Year of Jubilee in heaven, where we shall praise and serve you and the Father who live and reign in unity with the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

ANNUAL MEETING DEADLINES

- ◆ Deadline for acct. books for audit - 1/8/24 (Monday)
- ◆ Audit Committee to meet & review books – week of 1/8/24
- ◆ Account books picked-up from office – week of 1/15/24
- ◆ Deadline for all reports – 1/22/24 (Monday)
- ◆ Annual Report available 1/28/24 (Sunday)
- ◆ Annual Meeting 2/11/24 (Sunday)

Preparing for Worship

January 5 - Second Sunday of Christmas

1R – 1 Kings 3:4-15, P – Psalm 119:97-104, 2R – Ephesians 1:3-14, G – Luke 2:40-52

January 6 – Feast of the Epiphany

1R - Isaiah 60:1-6, P – Psalm 72:1-11 (12-15), 2R – Ephesians 3:1-12, G – Matthew 2:1-12

January 12– Baptism of Our Lord

1R - Isaiah 43:1-7, P - Psalm 29, 2R—Romans 6:1-11, G - Luke 3:15-22

January 19 - Second Sunday after the Epiphany

1R - Isaiah 62:1-5, P – Psalm 128, 2R – 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, G - John 2:1-11

January 26—Third Sunday after the Epiphany

1R—Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, P—Psalm 19:(1-6) 7-14, 2R—1 Corinthians 12:12-31, G—Luke 4:16-30

Celebrate

JANUARY Birthdays

- 3 Lisa Gray
- 3 Phil Schadd
- 4 Paul Schadd
- 5 Shirley Schuette
- 7 Kyle Yackle
- 10 Ken Licht
Barb Degg
Dana Young
- 11 Michelle Walsh
Jessica Peterson-Hass
- 17 Karen Anklam
- 19 Dale Schuette
- 20 Denny Smith
- 21 Vickie Forster
- 23 Gene Parsell
- 24 Brenda Smith
Cordelia Trost
Greg Yackle
- 26 Lori McKenzie
Alice Trost
- 28 Heather Koroleski
- 29 Dave Elftman
Connie Herford
Tonja Nelson
- 31 Gary Forster

JANUARY Anniversaries

- 25 Russell & Hannah Barry, 11 yrs.
- 27 Jerome & Marlene Grammentz, 45 yrs.

CROSS QUILTERS



We shipped out the last quilts, layettes and stuffed animals for 2024. We sent 369 quilts and blankets, 51 layettes. 84 stuffed animals of various sizes, Bibles, wipes and other miscellaneous items this year.

Thanks go out to Thrivent, people who gave monetary donations, and those donating material. A special thank you to those who gave their time sewing, tying, and cutting, whether at home or at the church. Many hands made this mission possible.

Thank you for making this possible,

The Cross Lutheran Church
Disaster Quilters

PRAYER list

THOSE IN NEED OF CONTINUED PRAYER

Carol Diener, Steve Schulze, Bernice Shupe, Allen Koehler, Lori Smith, Rachel Higgins, Ben Smith, Connie Eden, Jim Siewert, Beth Elston, Brandon Fritz, 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, Marvin Trost, Kevin Faupel, Ezra Sturm, Deann Lewis.

CROSS CHURCH SHUT INS

Vivian Buschlen, Dolores Elftman, Cordelia Trost, Alice Trost, Margaret Edler, Roberta Danks, and Barb Eidt. 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...Carrie Ward

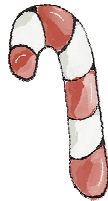
Hello Church! What fun we have been having in the classroom and school this month. With the beginning of Advent, our school angel Adelle has returned to help us prepare for the birth of Jesus. The students have been taking turns finding her around the campus and learning about the different names of our wonderful savior, Jesus. We never know where she will be hiding, but we always manage to find her.

January Calendar

1/01 thru 1/03 Winter Break
1/06 School Resumes
1/17 End of 2nd marking period,
1/2 day of school, dismiss at 11
1/20 NO School

Mrs. Eberly, Mr. Starks, and Mrs. Maust have been preparing us for our Christmas Palooza. It's such a joy to have the rooms full of beautiful music praising Jesus. We had a great time shopping for our family members at the Christmas Fair. Thank you to all who helped make that a success. What fun it is to see the joy on the students' faces when they come back from shopping and are so excited about the "just right" gifts they have picked out.

Christmas is a special time around here for sure. This school is a wonderful place, filled with people who love God, and love these children. I give thanks to God for the opportunity to work each day in a place where I get to teach truth. To be able to teach about the true meaning of Christmas, read Luke 2 and build the nativity scene together, to prepare for Jesus' coming through Advent, to praise the Father together in Opening and Chapel. All of these things are gifts. Thank you for providing the place and the opportunity. May the Lord bless you, Church, over and over again for being a place where the Good News is being spread, and young lives are being changed. Merry Christmas!





**In memory of Linette Baur, for
Cross Lutheran School:**

Tom & Bernice Shupe

**In memory of Zita Sturm, for
Cross Lutheran School:**

Tom & Bernice Shupe

**In memory of M&M Adam
Stueck, for Cross Building
fund:**

Shirley Deering

**In memory of Harold Deering,
for Cross Building fund:**

Shirley Deering



Please join us for our 3rd Annual

Cross Lutheran School CEA Winter Dinner Auction

Saturday February 8th 2025

4:30 pm - 11:00 pm

The Pigeon Event Center

311 S Main St, Pigeon

4:30 - Doors Open & Silent Auction Begins

6:00 - Dinner with Live Auction Following

Pre-Purchased Tickets Required

\$50 Donation/Ticket

Dinner & Drinks Included

For tickets or more information please contact

Rita Herford: 989-553-1550

Lindsay Stachowiak: 989-714-6582

Donations and Sponsorships are being accepted until January 13th

Please contact Rita or Lindsay if interested in donating



The staff of Cross Lutheran School would like to express our sincere gratitude for the Christmas bonus we received. This gift comes as a complete surprise and makes us feel appreciated. Thank you from all of us!

CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Tues. 11/12/24

Attending: John Smith, Dick Koehler, Kim Sears, Norm Nelson, Al Licht, Josh Barry, Nancy Schuette, John House, Also David Faupel

Opening Prayer / Devotional – President John Smith

Approval of Agenda – approved Motion: Norm Nelson, 2nd Dick Koehler

Approval of Council Meeting minutes from last month - Motion Dick 2nd John H

GUEST: Lindsay Stachowiak

CEA will again be hosting The dinner auction on Feb 8, 2025. Would like council to make this an annual event. Last year this event made \$54,000. Future proceeds will be decided on a yearly basis and after event takes place. This will allow them to have proceed numbers available. Considerations for said funds will be determined based on needs to enhance the school/teachers etc. Survey currently suggests:

Things like: classroom maps, technology, new roof, hot lunch program, finish gym.... CEA would like the help from church/congregation to help sell tickets and get the word out to the public. Lindsey will also have Karen add this to the bulletin. CEA will keep council updated.

President Report: John Smith

Call committee is currently in talks with a potential pastor. Early stages. We have had only 1 interested party. There are currently 67 churches looking for a pastor and currently 6 pastors looking to fills those needs.

Principal Report: David Faupel

School year off to a great start. This week the school will host a Thanksgiving lunch with students and parents on Thursday. Nov 22, there will be a Robotic Tournament, with currently about 15 students 4h-8th participating. Good luck to all students.

Students will be off the week of Thanksgiving. Teachers will be attending a conference.

Basketball will be starting the following week, when students return.

Secretary Communication: Kim Fritz absent

TREASURY REPORT: Given by Kim Sears. Approved by Al Licht 2nd John House

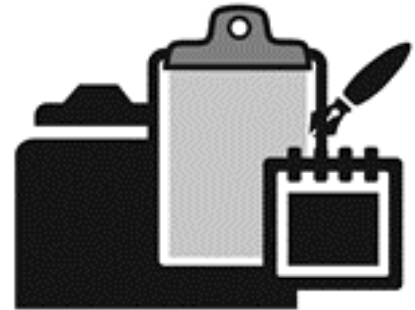
SCHOOL BOARD / VICE PRESIDENT DICK KOEHLER: No meeting, makeup meeting to be scheduled

Properties Alan Licht: No meeting, but it was brought up that there are 2 lights out on the west side that need repaired. Matt Zimmerman repaired some last year. David Faupel can also change timers on any lights effected by darkness.

Secretary communications – Kim Fritz – absent

Treasurer – Kim Sears - Gave budget report. Motion for approval Al 2nd John House

Music – John House Per sheet provided: Guessing game jar will be awarded on Sun 11/17. 2 prizes will be awarded of \$20.00 ea. Money comes from the coffee hour fund. Also thank you card will be sent to Bill



Church Council
Minutes

(Continued on page 7)

Love for this work in photographing pictures of the pipe organ.

All Saints Observance 11/3 went well

Bell Choir gloves were ordered and received. Donated by Bonnie Schulz

Received new LBW altar Edition

2025 budget recommendation to council were included in the church budget

Celebration of Communion will be November 24 – Christ the King Sunday.

Planning for Advent and Christmas

Sun 12/1 communion

Sun 12/22 Children will present during the sermon, no communion

Tues 12/24 Christmas Eve – candlelight with communion at 7:30 pm

Wed 12/25 Christmas Day – with communion at 9:30 am

Stewardship -Norm Nelson provided trends on attendance and offerings by month over the last year. Attendance seems higher when kids are singing.

Mission Outreach: - Nancy Schuette - Shoe boxes where a big success. This year's process of putting them in the hallway and having everyone pack on their way to coffee hour in the gym worked very well. 215 boxes where pack.

Parish life: - Nancy Schuette – is thankful for the growth in people signing up to host coffee hour. Expenses have been down which allowed Parish Life to donate \$300.00 to the Pigeon Food Pantry.

Youth – Josh Barry Cross had 3 students attend BLAST at Bay Shore Camp. Cross had 1 student and 2 friends along with Gwynne Barry go to Bay City to watch The movie “For the One” about Christian Musicians Phil Wickhan and Brandon Lake

11/13 Giving Thanks for PS-5th youth to be held at Cross. 34 Students will be attending

12/11 upcoming Caroling event scheduled

EDUCATION: Confirmation date has been set for May 18,2025.

Confirmands : Khole Carriveau, Connor Flores, Hogan Halvorsen, Ethan Yackle

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Children sang in church Sun 11/10

Christmas Program titled “In One Word”. Practices will begin during Sunday School starting Sun 11/17. Program will be during service on 12/22. Parents have been contacted

Wednesday Night Bible Study: will conclude on 11/13. Will continue meeting again after the holiday season.

ADVENT AFTERNOONS

Each Sunday in Advent at 4:30 all ages are invited to church for a brief worship, followed by activities as we prepare for the coming of our Savior. Gwynne and Beth have been preparing.

Old business

Received beautiful Thank you cards from both Gwynne Barry and Phil Schadd after Pastor appreciation week.

John Smith joined by Pastor Joshua Johnson from Salem have been enjoying visiting individuals / families that are currently unable to attend church. John has also enjoyed learning a lot and appreciates all the help he has received from Pastor Joshua Johnson.

DISASTER RELIEF: Very successful. Thank you to everyone! We were able to send over \$4,000.00. There were also 350 Quilts sent this year. Wow

BBQ Chicken Proceeds: Proceed of about \$4200.00 will go to our Parsonage Mortgage Fund. Motion Norm 2nd John H

CHURCH PEWS: 2 Pews are now located in the Pigeon Funeral Home, 1 Pew is now at the Elkton Historical Society. A \$300.00 donation was received

New Business –

NLAC Fund: After meeting with Pastor Abbott, each church will now be donating \$200.00. This money will be used to help with Pastor travel and visits to other churches. Motion Dick 2nd Nancy

NEW MEMBERS: Pastor Jess Abbott held classes with Jim and Jackie Heiden.

Other business

Discussed School Staff Christmas gifts for 8 Full time staff, 7 Part time staff and Pastor Dave Wilson

ANNUAL BUDGET REPORT: Will be Sun 12/8/24

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: No News. John Smith will touch base with them to check on progression
Closing with the Lord’s Prayer.

NOTE: No December minutes were received.

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**Cross Lutheran School Board Minutes from:  
December 5, 2024**

**(To be approved at the January meeting)**



**Members present:** David Faupel, President Dick Koehler, Vice President Eileen Johnson, Secretary Kevin Stachowiak, Rita Herford, Nichole Licht. Absent: Katie Wilson

The meeting was called to order by Dick Koehler at 5:38pm. Prayer was led by David Faupel

**Agenda:** A motion was made by Rita Herford and seconded by Eileen Johnson to accept the agenda.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Eileen Johnson, seconded by Nicole Licht to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2024 meeting. The motion passed.

**Treasurers’ Reports:**

School Balance: \$85,429.64

CEA/PTO Balance: \$1,740.12

Hot Lunch: \$6,755.66

A motion was made by Nicole Licht and seconded by Rita Herford to accept the Treasurers’ Reports. The motion carried.

**CEA President’s Report:** Winter Evet will be February 8, 2025. Walsh Meat Fundraiser wrapping up now. Christmas Caroling and Christmas Fair are next week.



## Principal's Report:

Students Registered for 2024-2025 remained stable at 64

. DK:8 KDG: 7 1<sup>st</sup>:9 2<sup>nd</sup>: 7 3<sup>rd</sup>: 8 4<sup>th</sup>: 7 5<sup>th</sup>: 7 6<sup>th</sup>: 4 7<sup>th</sup>: 4 8<sup>th</sup>:3

## Calendar

**December 8-Students Sing in Church**

**December 13-Christmas Fair**

**December 19-Christmas Palooza, performances at 1:00 and 7:00pm**

**December 20- half day of school**

**December 23 to January 3-Christmas Break**

**January 6-School Resumes**

## Old Business:

Dick updated us on the Pastoral Search/Call: still ongoing.

Church/School Finances: Budget presentation by Nicole Licht

5-Year Goals/Plans: will have a special session on January 16, 2025

Salary Increases for Teachers-Approved by Church Council

Field Trip Driver's Agreement: one page document

Motion was made by Rita Herford and seconded by Eileen Johnson to approve the Field Trip Driver's Agreement. Motion passed.

## New Business:

Donation of Leave Days.

Motion was made by Rita Herford, seconded by Nicole Licht to allow the donation of Leave Days.  
Motion passed.

Robotics Grant/Coaching Stipend. Grant maximum requires percentage match.

Motion was made by Eileen Johnson, seconded by Nicole Licht, to pay the Robotics Coach the maximum the grant allows. Motion passed.

Tuition Increase for 2025-2026-to be discussed in greater detail at next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**The date of the next meeting will be January 9, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.**



What? 2025 already? Time may seem like it is flying by, but thankfully the Word of God never changes. That word is proclaimed in our church and school, and hopefully in your homes, too! *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”* Deuteronomy 6:6-7

We have had great attendance in Sunday School lately. I am so thankful for all who sign up to teach our children to *“love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength”*. Parents and grandparents, **keep bringing them to Sunday School**. It is not just preparation for a Christmas program. Sunday School is learning about God’s love for us and building a foundation in God’s Word. Kids learn about God’s work of salvation through Jesus. We want God’s Word to be impressed upon their hearts.

We want you to talk about God when you sit at home or ride in your car or when you lie down and when you get up. There are so many opportunities for dialog and prayer. Take advantage of those opportunities!

Coming up on Sunday, January 5 will be an opportunity for fellowship, food, and fun with our youth! **All are invited to play and teach our youth how to play Euchre**. Please join us on **January 5 from 4:30-6pm** in the gym! You are welcome to bring a treat to share if you’d like. As always, friends are welcome, too!

During the months of January and February, we’d like to try Open Gym on Sundays from 4:30-6ish. This time could include board/card games and the gym would be divided into sections for different ages/activities. It would not be a time when all the equipment is taken out and kids simply run rampant. It’s a time for fellowship, working on skills, laughter, and fun. My vision is to build relationships because people go where they have built relationships. Open Gym would have something to do for all ages and interests. This also presents opportunities for someone to supervise these activities. PLEASE consider helping on one or more Sundays.

As we enter 2025, be engaged in some way at Cross Lutheran Church and School. As we build on our relationship with our Lord, may we also build relationships with each other, our children, and youth. Show them the love of the Lord. Greet them. Pray for them. Speak with them. Love them as the Lord, your God, loves you!

In His Love,

Gwynne Barry

Ministry of Youth and Education

## Mission Outreach Ministry

December 6, 2024

The meeting of Mission Outreach was called to order by President Krisie Fritz. Those in attendance were Krisie Fritz, Tonja Nelson, Maureen Reibling, Kay Schuette, Lorraine LePage, and Trustee Nancy Schuette. A Prayer was given by Krisie.

The secretary's report was handed out and read. A motion by Lorraine and seconded by Maureen was made to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was given. 150 Christmas cards and 35 Advent calendars were purchased. The cards were given to the members of our church and the Advent calendars to the children of the church as well as our shut-ins. A motion was made by Tonja and seconded by Kay to accept the budget and a second motion was made by Maureen and seconded by Tonja to reimburse Lorraine for purchasing the cards and calendars. Both motions were accepted and passed. Lorraine will be working on a budget plan for the 2025 year and will present it at the next meeting.

Coffee hour for our group will be December 15 with Krisie, Tonja, Maureen, and Kay bringing food. One December 22 the church children will be presenting their Christmas program. Our group will be donating doughnut holes which Maureen will purchase and each member is asked to bring one dozen cookies. Lorraine made a motion to reimburse Maureen for the cost of the doughnuts, seconded by Krisie, motion passed.

We will not be doing the Giving Tree this year.

Our meeting day and time will be changed for the 2025 year. Our meeting will now take place during the morning. Our next meeting will be by January 2, 2025 at 10 am

The OCC was a great success with 226 boxes being packed and lots of help from our congregation and some community members. A huge thanks to all who helped in any way.

The NALC collection for 2025 will be discussed at our January meeting. This meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.




Respectfully submitted, Tonja Nelson



brrrrrr!



# January 2025

| Sun                                                                                        | Mon                                    | Tue                                 | Wed                                                                                    | Thu                                                    | Fri                                                                                         | Sat                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                            |                                        |                                     | 1<br> | 2<br>NO School<br>Mission Outreach 10 am               | 3<br>NO School                                                                              | 4                                                                                     |
| Comm. Serv 9:30 am<br>SS 8:45 am<br>Euchre Event 4:30 pm<br>5                              | School Resumes<br>6                    | Worship & Music 3 pm<br>7           | Chapel 8:05 am<br>8                                                                    | Quilters 1 pm<br>CEA 4 pm<br>School Board 5:30 pm<br>9 | 10                                                                                          | 11                                                                                    |
| Worship Service 9:30 am<br>SS 8:45 am<br>Baptism of Our Lord<br>Open Gym 4:30 - 6 pm<br>12 | 13                                     | CLECC 3:30 pm<br>Council 7 pm<br>14 | Chapel 8:05 am<br>15                                                                   | Jean Quilts & Quilters 1 pm<br>16                      | End of 2nd Marking period<br>1/2 day of school - dismiss at 11:00 am<br>17                  | 18                                                                                    |
| Worship Service 9:30 am<br>SS 8:45 am<br>Open Gym 4:30 - 6 pm<br>19                        | NO School<br>Newsletter deadline<br>20 | 21                                  | Chapel 8:05 am<br>22                                                                   | Quilters 1 pm<br>23                                    | 24                                                                                          | 25                                                                                    |
| Worship Service 9:30 am<br>SS 8:45 am<br>Open Gym 4:30 - 6 pm<br>26                        | 27                                     | 28                                  | Chapel 8:05 am<br>29                                                                   | 30                                                     | 31<br> |  |