

Growing Together

**December
2024**

**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

Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Eve) — December 24, 2024

*“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord.”*

• Luke 2:11 -

Faith, the Greatest Gift

Jesus of Nazareth was born in humble of circumstances. His father Joseph was a simple carpenter from a small town in Israel. He was from the line of David, but he was no king. Joseph’s wife Mary was a young Jewish girl. Joseph and Mary were forced to travel to Bethlehem, Joseph’s hometown, during her pregnancy to be recorded in a census that was being taken of the entire Roman world. The journey was long, over harsh wilderness, mostly on foot.

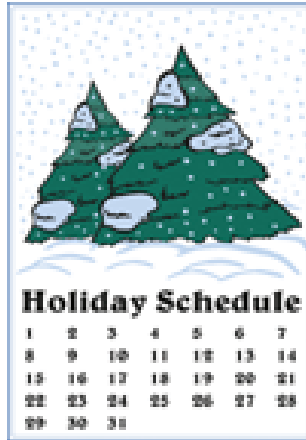
The town of Bethlehem was crowded with others who had traveled to register. There were no rooms left for Joseph and Mary. Mary felt the early pains of childbirth as they searched for a place to stay. At last, an innkeeper allowed them to use his stable. There, among the smell and noises of the beasts of burden, Mary gave birth to her son. Joseph served as the midwife, a feeding trough as the cradle. The first visitors to this humble scene were shepherds, the lowest of the low in their society. When the powerful and mighty discovered His presence, they killed innocent children to protect their positions in the world.

These are humble beginnings for the child of any parent, but this baby born to Joseph and Mary was not just any child. Jesus Christ should have had the best of everything. His parents should have traveled with a grand procession. He should have been born in the finest room of a palace. He should have had the best doctors. His bed should have been covered in silk, and not hay. He should never have feared the swords of men.

But God never does things as we would expect. Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, arrived in the simplest, most frightening way. There was nothing about this nativity that would indicate the Savior of the world had arrived. However, God has given us the greatest gift of all: not only the Savior, but also the faith to know that Jesus of Nazareth is Jesus the Christ, born into this world for us.



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- 12/01 Advent 1 Communion Service at 9:30 am**
- 12/08 Advent 2 Worship Service at 9:30 am**
- 12/15 Advent 3 Worship Service at 9:30 am**
- 12/22 Advent 4 Worship Service at 9:30 am
with Children's program**
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/Communion 7 pm***
- 12/25 Christmas Day Communion Service at 9:30 am***

****NOTE:** Times are tentative

Preparing for Worship

December 1 - First Sunday of Advent

1R – Jeremiah 33:14-16, P – Psalm 25:1-10, 2R – 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, G – Luke 21:25-36

December 8 – Second Sunday of Advent

1R - Malachi 3:1-7, P – Psalm 66:1-12, 2R – Philippians 1:2-11, G – Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)

December 15– Third Sunday of Advent

1R - Zephaniah 3:14-20, P - Psalm 85, 2R—Philippians 4:4-7, G - Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)

December 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

1R - Micah 5:2-5, P – Psalm 80:1-7, 2R – Hebrews 10:5-10, G - Luke 1:39-45 (46-56)

December 24—Christmas Eve

1R—Isaiah 9:2-7, P—Psalm 96, 2R—Titus 2:11-14, G—Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

December 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)

December 29—First Sunday of Christmas

1R—Exodus 13:1-3, 11-15, p—Psalm 111, 2R—Colossians 3:12-17, G—Luke 2:22-40



Celebrate

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jordan Licht
- Denvyr Koroleski
- 3 Mark Trost
- Haley Cucinello
- 4 Cindy Buchholz
- 6 Troy Schuette
- Aaron Shupe
- 9 Neil Herford
- Jason Shaw
- 10 Ryan Trost
- Maggie Shupe
- 11 Grace Shupe
- 15 Roger Renn
- Kendal Delpiere
- 17 Richard Koehler Jr.
- Maria Schumacher
- Jacob Heck
- 18 Lorraine LePage
- Layla LePage
- 19 Kaoty Smith
- 20 Cheryl Sturm
- Kim Schadd
- 22 Donna Schuette
- Livia LePage
- 23 Bill Love
- 25 Jim Siewert
- 28 Marleen Grammentz
- 30 Ethan Yackle
- Pearl Parsell
- 31 Mitchell Schuette
- Dylan Kunisch

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Paul & Karen Schuette, 50 years
- 20 Kent & Lori McKenzie, 44 years



For
to us
a child
is born,
to us
a son
is given.



Isaiah 9:6



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, Rev. Fred Henkelmann, 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...Kelly Gebauer

From the Desk of ... Kelly Gebauer

Greetings from the 5th and 6th grade classroom. It is a gift and blessing to teach this group of students. We have been deepening our roots in Christ through gratefulness and friendship.



Currently we are reading *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt. In social studies the students are working hard on their ancient civilizations project and presentations. In science we have been learning about tectonic plates, earthquakes, tsunamis, and soon fossils.

The 5th and 6th grade class also went on their first field trip to the Sleeper Outdoor Center. We had a beautiful day to learn more about trees, recycling, and nature.



We also had STEAM Day, which was a blast as always. I had the pleasure to host the Lego boat challenge. It was impressive to see how many gold pieces each boat held.

Then we had Grandparents Day, which was a great way to end the first quarter. It is always a joy to see the students do activities with their grandparents or other special people they brought. A great day that we deepened our roots through gratefulness and friendship.



Wow! God has blessed us with so much and there is so much to look forward to still. I'm looking forward to the robotics tournament coming up, Thanksgiving, and soon Christmas! Time is flying by because we are having so much fun at Cross this year.



Happy Thanksgiving and thank you for your prayers and support!



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

CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

No November minutes were received.

CROSS SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

No School Board Meeting was held in November.

Worship & Music Ministry

No November minutes were received.

Mission Outreach Ministry

November 5, 2024

The meeting of the mission outreach was called to order by President Krisie Fritz. Those in attendance were Krisie Fritz, Tonja Nelson, Maureen Reibling, Lorraine LePage, Lori Smith, Sandie Haley, Kay Schuette and Trustee Nancy Schuette. A prayer was given by Krisie.

The secretary's report was handed out and read. A motion was made by Kay to accept the minutes, it was seconded by Lorraine, motion approved. A thank you card from the food pantry was read thanking our group for the donations.

The treasurer's report was given. Lorraine reported we received a \$120.00 cash donation to be donated to the food pantry. Donations of nonperishable food that we received from the members of our congregation through November will also be donated to the food pantry. A motion was made by Lori and seconded by Sandie to accept the report. Motion carried.

Lorraine reported on the Advent calendars and Christmas cards. The Advent calendars will be given to the children on Sunday, November 24th during church. Our shut-ins will also receive them at a later date. Christmas cards will be put in the church mailboxes due to high postage costs and others mailed out in December.

Sunday, November 10th will be the end of our OCC project. A short video on OCC will be shown in church and we are inviting the members of the congregation to come pack a shoebox or two after the service and see what's all involved in this project. Coffee and snacks will be served. We invite all to come and enjoy some fellowship. All members of Mission Outreach group are asked to bring a dessert or snack for the coffee hour. Our members will be setting up for this on Friday, November 8th at 4 pm. Please come and help. Many hands are less work for all of us.

Krisie will be contacting David Faupel to see if there is a need to do the giving tree at church this year.

We will be taking down the Fall decorations at the front of the church after service on Sunday, November 24th. Please plan on staying and helping.

Lori reported the card ministry is going well. If you know of anyone who could use a card to cheer them or just let them know we care and are thinking of them, let Lori know.

Our group agreed to do coffee hour on December 8th. We will ask for volunteers to bring snacks for it at our next meeting, which will be Wednesday, December 4th at 6:30.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Tonja Nelson



Our “Giving Thanks” party on November 13 was attended by 27 PS-5th grade children from Cross Lutheran Church and School. I was thankful for the 5 Jr. High youth who were helpers as well as the adults that gave of their time. We gathered in the sanctuary for our message and singing. A “Ten Lepers” skit was part of our worship message. The toilet paper covering “boobos” was a big hit as well as the audience participation. We then moved into the gym for snacks, projects, and games. We give thanks for the loud and crazy time!

During our season of Advent, we will have an additional time for worship and activities on Sunday afternoons for **all**. Plan to meet in the sanctuary at 4:30 PM each Advent Sunday of December where we will begin with a chapel service and then move to the overflow for Advent activities centered around the theme “Open Before Christmas”.

Keep in mind your voices are needed for Christmas Caroling on Wednesday, December 11! This is another activity for **all** ages. No one is too young or too old!

“In One Word” is the title of our Christmas “program” which will be shared during the sermon time on Sunday, December 22 at 9:30 AM. Again, this year, members of many ages are taking part in telling the story. Children are practicing during a portion of Sunday School, some youth are fitting practices into their busy schedules, and there will be a dress rehearsal on Friday, December 20 from 11:30-1 PM with lunch provided.

I am looking forward to this season of Advent, preparing for the celebration of Jesus’ birth, and praising God with all of you in word and song this Christmas!

In His love and service,

Gwynne Barry

Our Father’s arms

As a young boy, J. Ellsworth Kalas had to visit the Mayo Clinic for tests. His parents, knowing their son was safe in the hospital overnight, slept at a nearby hotel. But Kalas was so lonely and scared that a nurse called his folks. Kalas, who later became a pastor, recalled what it was like to have his father arrive.

“I remember his dressing me there in the darkness,” he said. “Then I remember getting on a street-car, sitting way at the back as we rode to the hotel. He held me very close to him, his long, ungainly arm wrapped around me. And the little boy who had been so frightened was now at peace.”

We all face trials that can seem overwhelming. “How good, then, to draw deeply on the resources of God!” Kalas said. “In him there is a peace which is greater than the trouble. How good, indeed, to burrow into a place of security, and to feel an arm wrapping strong about us and to know that it is the arm of our heavenly Father.”



Merry Christmas



December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Advent 1 Comm. Service 1 9:30 am SS 8:45 am	2	3 Worship & Music 3 pm	Chapel 8:05 am 4 Mission/Outreach 6:30 pm	5 Jean Quilts 1 pm CEA 4 pm School Board 5:30 pm	6	7
Advent 2 Worship 8 Service 9:30 SS 8:45 am Students sing Annual Budget Meeting following service	9	10 CLECC 3:30 pm Council 7 pm	Chapel 8:05 am 11 Stewardship 4 pm CEA/Church Caroling 4:45 pm	12 Quilters 1 pm	13 CEA Christmas Fair	14
Advent 3 Worship 15 Service 9:30 SS 8:45 am	16	17	Chapel 8:05 am 18	19 Jean Quilts 1 pm Christmas Palooza 1 pm & 7 pm	20 1/2 day of School Dismiss at 11 am	21
Advent 4 Worship 22 Service 9:30 with Children's Program SS 8:45 am	23 Newsletter Deadline	24 Christmas Eve Comm. Service 7 pm	Christmas 25 Day Comm. Service 9:30 a.m.	26	27	28
NO SCHOOL ALL WEEK - CHRISTMAS BREAK						
Worship Service 9:30 29 NO S.S.	30	31				
NO School - Christmas Break						