



Cross Lutheran Church Proclamation August 2018

Bridge Pastor Curt Schneider
W710 Gopher Hill Rd, Ixonia, WI 53036
CrossLutheranChurch.com

Facebook.com/CrossLutheranChurch
Sunday Education at 8:30am Sunday Worship at 9:30am
(920) 474-7242

Dear Cross Members,

The Synod asked me to be a short-term “bridge pastor” between interim and called pastor. I retired from St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and School in Waverly, Iowa, at the end of 2015, and my spouse Jean and I moved to near Hubertus last December. My rostering status was moved from the Northeastern Iowa Synod to the Greater Milwaukee Synod last March. I was ordained in 1977 and served congregations in southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa, for thirty-eight years. No pastor is ever perfect and no congregation is ever perfect, but I look back on ministry in smaller and larger congregations with an enduring affection and with a deep sense of gratitude and joy.

For your sakes, the shorter my tenure among you, the better. I’m transitional, and you of course want longer-term. Still, I feel called to become as rooted as the Spirit enables it. It’s taken a couple council meetings and worship services to detect hints of the Cross Lutheran culture. Decision making takes everyone’s viewpoint into gracious consideration. Cross’ members commitment to congregational song and liturgy is deep and spiritually nourishing. Traditions are maintained and tactfully defended. I’ve found members with ties areas where I’ve served. Tolerate me in my wanting Cross to be more German than it is. It’s been fun to be part of this church, even in the short-term.

I am incurably curious about every congregation’s past. I’ve read the church history compiled by Ruth Behling for the 125th anniversary in 2002 and noted how deep ties run in the congregation from generation to generation. Going after as many written and unwritten stories as she could, Ms. Behling labored hard to complete a church history and to compensate for the loss of church records in a 1908 fire. I would love to uncover the stories of immigrants to Jefferson County from the part of Germany near the Baltic Sea¹. Their grave inscriptions at Cross witness solid and resilient faith. I am also painfully aware that those stories are long gone. Since I own a copy of the Synod’s history from 1900, I found the paragraph of Cross’ founding in 1877.² J. Mittermeier was serving as pastor at that time, preceded by pastors Ehmke and Gebhardt.

Cross Lutheran is at an exciting juncture in its long years of ministry and service. Pastor Stein blessed you in his two-years of excellent interim ministry. Your faithful call committee is now moving forward with candidates. A couple months ago, I agreed to be a trial interviewee with the committee and was impressed by their dedication to Cross and spirit-led devotion to the call task. It’s clear that you have been praying for them. Your new pastor is inheriting a great foundation and an energy to move ahead in mission.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve at Cross. Pastor Curt Schneider

¹ Vor-Pommern now part of the German State Mecklenburg-Vorpommern; Hinterpommern was relinquished to Poland in 1945.

² **Mittermeyer, J., Kreuz, Ixonia.** Org. 1877. Previous pastors J.Ehmke, F. Gebhardt. 144 Communicants. Recorded in Peter, Pastor P. A. and Schmidt, Prof. Wm. *Geschichte der Allgemeinen Evangelischen Lutherischen Synod von Ohio und Anderen Staaten*, Columbus, Ohio: 1900. P. 391.

Worship:

Worship is at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays with Holy Communion on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays. Coffee Hour is on August 5 and 19th –You may sign up to host Coffee Hour in August.

You will find nametags in your mailboxes. Please do not take these nametags home with you, but rather use them each Sunday to help our Bridge Pastor and his wife Jean get to know us.

Worship committee: We are currently using Setting 8 for our worship services. We would also like to use baked bread on Sundays when possible. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to bring bread if you would so choose. The Worship committee is looking forward to meeting again when our new Pastor begins.

Education:

Sunday school/Confirmation Classes

- Sunday school and confirmation are in recess for the summer! Enjoy your time off! See you at worship!
- **Rally Sunday** will be on September 9th. We are asking everyone to think and pray about serving as a Sunday school teacher this year. It requires about one Sunday each month as the plan is to teach the children as one group again this year. If you are interested and want more information, please see Angie Lorier or Mary Frankiewicz. Thanks!

Adult Bible Study

- There will not be Adult Bible study for the summer. Adult Bible study will begin again with our new Pastor.

Serving:

Endowment committee: The Endowment committee met on June 3rd. With Council's approval we awarded \$350 to the Gosling Nest. The Gosling Nest is a ministry that gives gently used clothes and backpacks to students in the Watertown school district.

Ixonia School: Because we donated \$1000 toward their playground equipment our name and logo will be displayed on the Ixonia school's t-shirts this year!

Family Promise: To date, 66 local homeless families have come through the doors of Family Promise. Four of those families are currently with us while 32 of those families have successfully moved back into apartments and houses. Our army of volunteers makes every family feel at home. A recent guest, James, summed it up best in a thank you letter he sent us: "Family Promise takes what is a really bad situation for any family to be in and removes the feeling of tragedy... Thanks to Family Promise my children will never know what it feels like to be homeless." How wonderful that a homeless father can feel this way about his family's stay with us! Despite our ongoing success, the finances here can get a little tight in the summer. If you can help Family Promise get through the mid-year please feel free to donate to: 543 A.J. Allen Circle Unit D, Wales, WI 53183.

Our next time to serve Family Promise is September 23-29.

Bread and Roses: Our next time to serve is Oct. 11.

Pennies for Bibles: Bring in your pennies! The jar is almost full! We will then send this money to American Bible Society to purchase bibles for those in need.

Leadership:

Council will meet Monday, August 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Giving

By Ruth Behling

More blessed than receiving

Is generously to give;

For in our selfless sharing

Christ's spirit yet does live.

Ruth Behling passed away on March 5, 2017. Cross Church has been blessed with the generous heart of Ruth as the church office received the money from Ruth Behling's estate for the sum of \$25,000. The council discussed and will be discussing the best ways to use these funds for the improvements of the church and other purposes associated with the welfare of Cross Congregation. Council agreed that going forward with these discussions, communication is key and encourages members to share their ideas with the council.

Transition Update: The Call committee is: Dave West (chairperson), Todd Watermolen, Cindy Kuehn, Kayla Thrane, John Butschke, Angie Lorier.

The Call Committee is currently interviewing candidates. Please see Dave W for any further updates.

Fellowship:

Friends of Cross Lunch will be held at Café LaBelle on Wednesday, August 15 at 11:00 a.m. Come and be fed with good food and light conversation! All are welcome!

Coffee Hour will be on Aug. 5 and 19th. You may sign up in the narthex to host any coffee hours. This is very simple – there are cookies in the “coffee hour” container in the kitchen and coffee/creamer in the refrigerator. You need only come in and make the coffee/serve and clean up.

Cross Book Club will meet again on Thursday, Sept. 13 at Mary Jo Dobberfuhr's home. The book we will be discussing is Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk by Kathleen Rooney.

Parsonage Update:

The parsonage is cleaned and ready for potential Pastor walk-throughs. Arnie and Tom Frankiewicz are working on “animal proofing” under the front porch, and around the church (lots of woodchuck activity!), Terri will work on the small window pane replacement on the outside porch door.

Maintenance:

Here is the prioritized maintenance list the council has come up with:

#1. Fellowship hall lights: replace the burnt-out bulbs and broken glass light shade. Thank you Brian Tietz for working on this.

#2: Steeple repair is complete! Pete Monis will put the light on a timer.

#3 Carpet/Interior work. A Decorating Committee has been formed – Elmo Wendorf, Cathy Stein, Mary Frankiewicz and Terri Watermolen. This committee has prioritized improvements for the interior of the church and is currently getting estimates for the work. The prioritized list is 1) Painting the altar area walls and dome and sacristy (this includes priming the panels on the walls), 2) Painting (and priming) the paneled walls of the church area and 3) replacing the carpeting. A timeline to accomplish this list, or just part of the list, has not been established. The committee hopes to have a display of color and carpet sample along with estimates and different ways members can help financially by early June.

#4 Front Exterior of church. We have a committee of Sherrie/Brian Tietz and Dyan Pasano. This committee will put together estimates of improving the outside entrance area on the south side of the church.

#5 Steeple cedar shake.

#6 Organ Repair (added after the May Council meeting)

#7 Church parking lot sealing

Please contact Kurt or Brian if you can help with maintenance work on the parsonage or church.

Kurt: 262-490-2362 or kketcham@wi.rr.com

Brian: 920-988-4949 or trs@netwurx.net

Upcoming Events:

- **Coffee Hour: Aug. 5 and 19**
- **Church council: Aug. 13 at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Cross Friends Lunch: Aug. 15 at 11:00 a.m.**
- **Rally Sunday! Sept. 9**

Thoughts to Ponder:

Sunday school teacher Please give some thought to helping to teach Sunday school this year. The children will be taught in one group, so the teachers will rotate throughout the year. It means you will need to teach about once every month. Or if you would like to teach on a special day (Mission Fest, near Thanksgiving, Valentine's, Holy week etc) please let Angie Lorier or Mary Frankiewicz know.

Picture Directory The Council would like to create a Picture Directory to help our future Pastor get to know all of us. Please send a close-up picture of you and/or your family to office@crosslutheranchurch.com. If you do not have access to a computer to send a picture, please let Terri know. We will take pictures of people/families that are not equipped to do this on their own. Please see a sample Picture Directory in the Narthex.

Name Tags You will find in your mailboxes your own personal nametag that has magnetic strips on it so you do not have to "pin" it on to your clothes. Please do not take this nametag home, but rather leave it in your mailboxes to use each Sunday. As we will be having supply Pastors and a Bridge Pastor, followed by our called Pastor, these nametags will help all of these people know us better.

Worship Assistants

Aug. 5

Lector: Barb Nyland

Communion Assistant: Sue/Jerry Genz

Ushers: Brian/Sherrie Tietz

Aug. 12

Lector: Kayla Thrane

Ushers: Brian/Sherrie Tietz

July 19

Lector: Jeff Campbell

Communion Assistant: Jeff C & Alexa Paulsberg

Ushers: Jon & Michelle Nord

Aug. 26

Lector: Sandy West

Ushers: Jon & Michelle Nord

Willing to serve? Contact Jeannette Christian if you're willing to serve as an usher and Sue Genz if you're willing to serve as a lector or communion assistant. Thank you!

Need to switch? Please find a replacement and contact Jeannette or Sue.

August Altar Guild: Jeannette Christian

The Office emails have been changed to: pastor@crosslutheranchurch.com and office@crosslutheranchurch.com

2018 council members:

(Financial Secretary) Angie Thrane: althrane22@gmail.com Cell: 414-841-8009
Mary Frankiewicz: frankim7@yahoo.com Cell: 920-988-9533
(Vice President) Barb Nyland: bnylandtuss@gmail.com Cell: 920-390-9054
Beverly Paulsberg: biffpaulsberg@hotmail.com Home: 920-474-4972 Cell: 920-988-5838
Jeff Campbell: jtsoup314@gmail.com Cell: 715-572-9888
(President) Arnie Groehler: jmgroehler@aol.com Home: 262-468-4218 Cell: 262-490-9363
Elmo Wendorf: elmowendorf@msn.com Cell: 414-758-0639
(Treasurer) Stan Jaeger: sjaeger1@wi.rr.com Cell: 414-745-4979
(Recording Secretary) Terri Watermolen: twatermolen@gmail.com Cell: 414-614-9243

**Cross Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2018**

Present: Pastor Schneider, Jeff Campbell, Elmo Wendorf, Arnie Groehler, Terri Watermolen, Angie Thrane, Barb Nyland, Bev Paulsberg.

Arnie called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.

Devotions were led by Pastor Schneider. Mark 4 – the Mustard Seed.

Approve the agenda, Secretary's report – May 7th minutes, Financial report from Stan (all reports previously distributed via email and reviewed) Jeff motioned to accept the reports and minutes and Angie seconded. Motion passed.

Bridge Pastor: Pastor Schneider joined us for our council meeting to discuss his duties as a Bridge Pastor. Arnie led the discussion. The Synod will guide us in the appropriate Financial package for a Bridge Pastor according to what we agree will be his duties. Pastor Kristin had suggested that a Bridge Pastor usually bridges the gap between an Interim and Called Pastor. Duties usually are Sunday worship, shut-in visits, emergency pastoral care, council meetings. After discussion Council agreed that Pastor Schneider's duties would include the above mentioned duties. It was not felt he needed to have office hours, but if any member needed to talk with him they could call him. Terri will put his telephone number and email in the weekly bulletins. Arnie will contact Pastor Kristin to let her know our decision and to guide us on the financials.

Committee Reports

- a) Worship – Supply for July 8 will be Pastor Kelly Taylor-Schauss. Picnic is June 24th at Elmo's. Laure suggested to drop the readings from the bulletin and put in the music instead to eliminate bringing hymnals. Rain plan is to just have worship at church. Terri to put in the announcements along with bringing chairs. Angie will contact Tammy for Bean bag toss game. Arnie will bring tents. Use plates/napkins etc from church.
- b) Maintenance updates – Steeple work is done. Dusk to dawn to be programmed by Pete Monis. The steeple company took off \$325 from the bill (that was an overcharge from the trip fee the first time they came to church. Hwy 16 sign update: The sign that is there is not in great shape. Conversation about options ensued. Elmo said that he would contact Mark Schneck to see what the process was for this in the past. Stan updated the lights on CW. The lights in the Fellowship have been replaced except for one. Angie suggested moving the broken fixture to the corner fixture so it can't be seen.
- c) Call committee update: Dave West reported to Arnie that the next step is that both Call committees will meet with Pastor Kristin at the end of the month where she will present the name of the first candidate to the groups. After that the interview will be scheduled. Discussion pursued about the pros and cons to this Call process.
- d) Decorating Committee update: Two paint bids are in. One quote to paint the paneled walls on the altar, the church area and the back closet was for \$7700 from Elmo's friend Jerry. The second (partial) bid is from Andy Badura for the altar paneled walls, the dome ceiling and the sacristy for \$1500.
- e) Exterior Restoration Committee: will be Brian and Sherrie Tietz and Dyan Pasono. Brian suggested Kurt Ketcham also.
- f) Cemetery report. Edgar's going to brief Arnie on cemetery maps etc. Arnie will get a hard copy form of what Edgar has. Stan and Virginia updated the garden.

New Business

Ruth Behling estate – the lawyer has been hospitalized so that is where the delay has been. Donna reported that another attorney has taken over.

Endowment Update: The Endowment suggests a \$300 gift to the Gosling Nest in Watertown. The Gosling Nest is a ministry that gives gently used clothes and backpacks to students in the Watertown school district. Angie motioned to accept the Endowment's suggestion with a second by Elmo. Motion passed.

Septic system three year inspection is due. Terri will talk with Pete Monis tomorrow to see if he would inspect it. If Pete cannot, Terri will contact Kory Van Dorf.

Troy mowed the side hill and under the sign on CW. Barb suggested that we pay for his gas for mowing. Angie will ask Troy if he wants to be reimbursed for the gas for the tractor.

Terri reminded that she would like to step down as Administrative Assistant 1-2 months after the new pastor is on board.

Highway clean up had 5 people picking litter and filled 8 bags.

Next meeting July 16 6:30 at church.

We closed with the Lord's prayer

Arnie adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Watermolen
Council Secretary