

Cross Lutheran Church December Proclamation 2022

Pastor Doug Andersen
(920) 474-7242

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." -Isaiah 40:3

When are they coming? Are we there yet? How much longer? As humans, we have had times when we have eagerly anticipated an event in our lives. It could be the day that we leave to go on a vacation? Or maybe to celebrate our birthday? Or maybe getting a new pet? Or a new home?

Often we are not very good at waiting. I remember way back when I bought my first personal computer and a 4800 baud modem. In 1987 that was a fast online connection which meant that, while the computer connected, I only had time to make toast and refill my coffee before I was up and running. Before that, with my dad's 2400 baud modem, I could have made eggs to go with the toast.

How society changes! Today I expect my web browser to connect to the page I am trying to reach in moments. I don't have the patience any longer to listen to the screech of the connection and watch the site load, almost line by line, on my monitor. Like many of us I want what I want when I want it. Waiting is for the birds.

But Advent is a season of waiting. We have a special calendar, that helps us mark the time and be patient :) Advent is an intentional time to prepare for the coming of Christ. We do not want to procrastinate until the last minute, but take our time and not skimp on our chores. Do a deep clean of our hearts and minds. Take an inventory of our blessings and woes. Remember, we are not simply preparing for the coming of Christmas day where we celebrate the birth of Jesus two millennia ago. We are also preparing and anticipating the coming of Jesus in our lives today.

However, the coming of Christ is not something that will happen on our schedule. Like those first online connections it will happen when it happens. Advent is a time of hoping, waiting and reflecting before Christmas. In the rush toward what is, for many, the biggest holiday of the year, sometimes we forget to take time to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus in our own lives. During Advent and the season of Christmas, we experience Jesus born again in us.

Advent is the church season in which we concentrate on our hope for Jesus' renewing presence in our lives and our own readiness to welcome him into our lives and world.

The world around us can seem so frightening with stories of wars and gun violence in our communities; with disease and illness, hunger and poverty. It is in the midst of this darkness that we anticipate the light of Christ.

I need hope. I need light. Do you need it too? Christmas is coming. Christ is coming. In the form of a tiny, vulnerable baby, Christ will come. A miracle for us all.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5).

Blessings in Advent anticipation,

Pastor Doug

Anniversary Celebration: Thank you to all who participated in the celebration this last week. Here are some pictures from the event. It was a fun day of celebration and fellowship.



Christmas Eve Worship: 4pm at Zion and 6pm at Cross
Christmas Day Worship: 9am at Zion
New Year's Day Worship: 9am at Cross (Lessons and Carols)

Sunday School Date Change: Sunday School will be gathering again in December. Stay Tuned!

Adult Education: Adult Education Class will be from 10:00-11:30am at Zion on the 1st- 4th Wednesday mornings. In the weeks leading up to Christmas we will be doing a book study on "A Christmas Carol". There is still time to join in. All are welcome!

Serving:

Ixonix Food Pantry: Thank you for all the donations collected this past month! Lots of wonderful goodies were shared both at the anniversary celebration and at Thanksgiving. It's greatly appreciated by the community. As always remember to donate goods when you can, it's a much-needed resource in our community, especially now. Also, please remember to check the dates on items donated. The food pantry will not accept expired food. Thank you!

Bread and Roses: Bread and Roses will be continuing curbside at this time. We are looking for a new volunteer to coordinate this ministry for Cross. The 2023 dates we are scheduled to serve are June 15th and December 14th.

Leadership:

Church Council: Council will meet again December 13th at Pastor's House.

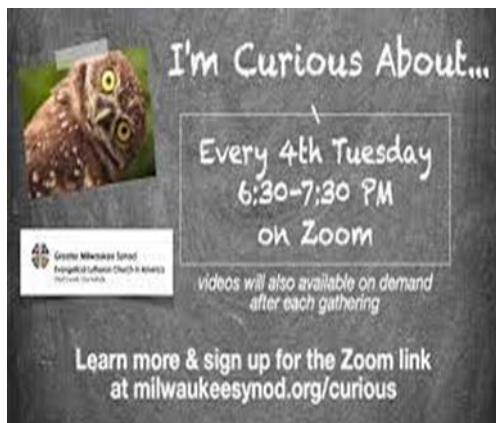
Volunteers: We are in need of some new members to join Church council this next year. If you are interested in volunteering for a three-year term please contact Pastor, Barb Nyland, or another council member.

Annual report deadline: Deadline for reports is January 9th. Please send in your report as soon as you can! Thank you!

Fellowship:

Fellowship Time: Coffee Hour! We will be fellowshiping after worship the third Sunday of the month and are looking for volunteers to bring in treats to share. Sign-ups are available in the Narthex.

Coffee Shop conversations: Pastor will be at Whelan's for the winter. Join him Friday mornings from 10-12. All are welcome!



Our synod's Mission Table will host an hour-long, monthly gathering on Zoom for Christians who want to dream together about where God is leading the Church.

New topics each month, every 4th Tuesday from 6:30 - 7:30 pm, via Zoom. Come, hear inspiring reflections from others. No experience is needed. All voices are welcome.

Contact Rev. Matthew Short at matt@milwaukeesynod.org with questions

Maintenance:

The restoration project is almost complete on the front of the church. It looks lovely! Drive by slowly and check it out!

The Decorating Committee is comprised of Elmo Wendorf, Cathy Stein, and Terri Watermolen.

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

Upcoming Events:

- December 24th Christmas Eve Worship
- December 25th Christmas Day Worship at Zion
- January 1st Lessons and Carols at Cross

**Usher Schedule: December 4th and 11th Jerry Genz and Arnie Groehler
December 18th and 24th Tod and Tammy Ninmann**

Ushers please note: When lighting candles, all of the candles are lit on holidays and special Sundays. On “normal weeks” light only the Altar Candles. Thank you!

Communion Assistant/ Reader Schedule:

December 4th: Tammy Ninamnn / Cindy Kuehn

December 11th: Cindy Kuehn / Tammy Ninmann

December 18th: Cindy Kuehn / Jeanette Christian

December 24th: Barb Butchke / Jeff Campbell

January 1st: Lessons and Carols TBD,

If you would like to volunteer please contact the office or Cindy Kuehn.

Altar Guild for December: Laure Schwefel

The Office emails: pastor@crosslutheranchurch.com and office@crosslutheranchurch.com

crosszionparish@outlook.com

Pastor Doug's number: (262) 490- 8737

Office number: (920) 474-7242

Pastor Doug's office hours: Tuesday mornings and all day on Thursdays

Adeline will be in the office on Thursday mornings

2022 council members:

(President) Barb Nyland: bnylandtuss@gmail.com Cell: 920-390-9054

(Vice President) Tod Ninmann: ninmann@charter.net

(Recording Secretary) Elmo Wendorf: elmowendorf@msn.com Cell: 414-758-0639

(Financial Secretary) Angie Thrane: althrane22@gmail.com Cell: 414-841-8009

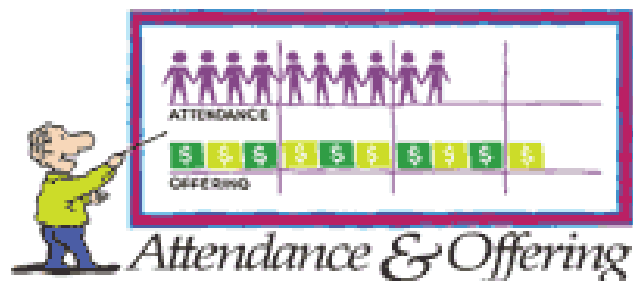
(Treasurer) Janice Bartel: janicerbartel@gmail.com (262) 370- 3638

Cindy Kuehn: countrygirlsk@gmail.com

Val Scott: (920) 285-5237

October Attendance

8 th	36
16 th	68
23 rd	25
30 th	25



Collections

October 2	\$225
October 8	\$2058
October 16	\$782
October 23	\$1008
October 30	\$1441

**Cross Lutheran Church
Council Secretary Minutes
October 11th, 2022**

1. Establish quorum Present-Barb Nyland, Val Scott, Angie Thrane, Cindy Kuehn, Tod Nimmann, and Elmo Wendorf

2. Devotions – Where lead by Elmo, He read the 23 Psalm and stated it was one of his favorite readings, He discussed how lucky we all are never having experienced a war on our soil like Ukraine is doing right now. And he closed with a prayer for peace for all.

3. Approve the agenda, secretary's report, previous minutes (Sept 13th), financial and pastor's report (all reports previously distributed and reviewed - consent agenda - motion to approve). Angie Moved to accept, Cindy 2nd, motion carried

4. Team Reports
 - a. Worship Team – (Baptism will be held on Oct. 16th), (pet service will be in the common room on Oct 23rd). Reformation Sunday will be Oct,30th, All Saints Day will be Nov. 6th, Pastor suggested since we were fortunate enough to not have anyone pass away this year, we would light one candle any members could submit names by the 30th of Oct. of passed family or friends who passed away in previous years, and Pastor would read those names. Council approved a Joint Thanksgiving Eve service.

 - b. Sunday School – Sunday School started on the last Sunday of Sept. with six students attending. Gina Altreuter (Zion) led the class with Jeff Campbell supporting her. Lilly Mireau will be helping with future Sunday School classes.

 - c. Decorating Team – No Report

 - d. Maintenance Team – Elmo told the council that Phil is moving along well with completing the project, Elmo also explained to Phil what we wanted done with the seven pillars since that was never bid on by any one's bids. We will replace the stucco that is cracking and breaking off with a veneer that looks like fieldstone. With the veneer and material and labor the estimate is \$6,000.00, we will still be under budget so we are also going to put on a railing around the front entrance and a railing down the steps on each side so no one will stumble or step off.

 - e. Mission Team – Mission fest will be held on Nov 20th along with celebrating our 145th Anniversary with a guest speaker and a potluck dinner,

 - f. Cemetery Team – It was suggested that the cemetery committee do a walkthrough of the cemetery looking for and then correcting stones that maybe leaning or new cement base improvement.

5. Old Business-

- a. Highway cleanup- was held on the 18th of Sept., it was well attended, and they gathered a lot of items.
- b. Campfire at Church, was held on the 23rd of Sept and the 8th of Oct. it was well attend and everyone had a good time.
- c. Zion Octoberfest- was very well attended by Cross members for the church service and lunch, with a lot of gift baskets to raffle away.

6. New Business

- a. We discussed the 150th Anniversary celebration and suggested to put it on the agenda for the annual meeting in January, Val Scott volunteered at the meeting to be on this committee.
- b. Tod Nimmann volunteered at the meeting to look for a new dehumidifier and see if any are still on clearance this fall, or we can wait till next spring.
- c. Joint officer meeting between Cross and Zion will be Oct. 25 at 6:30 at cross church.

Determine next meeting date and location- 11/8//22, 6:30pm

Closed with the Lord's prayer.

Meting was adjourned at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted
by Secretary,
Elmo Wendorf