

Cross Lutheran Church

Proclamation February 2022

Pastor Doug Andersen
(920) 474-7242

Dear friends in Christ,

My wife, Starr, made a confession to me one Sunday not too long ago. She drifted away during the sermon! The sermon started with a story from my Junior High School years (Middle School, for you Midwesterners). Of course, it was a story Starr knew well and so she began to think about stories in general. She wondered what it would look like for us if we told our stories the way so many of the stories of the Old Testament are told. What if we told our stories but put God in as the primary actor in our story, instead of focusing on ourselves. So Starr challenged me to tell a story that I have shared before but with the focus on God's activity, not my own.



A story I've been asked to tell many times is how and why I came to faith as an adult. My usual response has been, "I met a girl whose faith was important to her and I liked her and wanted to be important to her as well. So I took the time to read the bible and go to church with her and, over time, my faith grew. When she got smart and dumped me I kept the faith." As I wrote this I realized how trite and dismissive it sounds and how there is no recognition of God's activity. I know why I do it – I don't like to tell personal stories. But it fails to recognize that God's story continues in me (and all of us) today and into the future and we have a

responsibility to keep the story alive.

And so, to respond to Starr's I will try to re-imagine how I can answer the question of how I came to faith.

When I was a young adult God brought a young lady into my life in whom God had been active for many years. Through her family and faith community God had strengthened her faith so that she wanted God to be an active part of all her relationships. As we began to get to know each other God inspired her to share her faith in God and she invited me to be a part of that faith. In her church the Lord had a welcoming congregation that shared their faith stories and invited me to become a part those stories. For over a year God's Spirit was present in me and the faith community as I heard God's story preached and sung, taught and celebrated in Sacrament. The Lord revealed to me His story in Scripture so that, as my relationship with the young lady came to its closing, God had firmly embedded me in God's story. A story that continued in me and through me until God brought Starr into my life a couple years later and I told her that my faith was important to me and God wanted it to be a part of all my relationships.



It's funny, I don't remember telling Starr that last part, but she remembers it! How we tell a story makes a difference for us and for our listeners. Do we see what God is up to in our lives? Do we dare to tell our beloved

stories with God as a (or *the*) primary actor? Both of my stories are true, but one is shallow and egocentric the other full of promise for the future.

So, I'd like to challenge you to pick a story, re-imagine it, and tell it anew in a way that speaks of promises for the future for yourself and your listener. If you are truly bold, I'd love to hear your story. I invite you to share it with me anytime. By the way, this isn't a challenge you can fail, except by not trying.

~ *Pastor Doug*

Flower orders: Order forms are located in the Narthex. Orders are due back by March 5th.

Sunday School: Sunday School will be hosted once a month in the fellowship hall after Worship. Stay tuned for more info.

Adult Education will meet on February 2nd and 16th at Zion at 10:00am. January 10th and 24th at 6:00pm at Cross.

Serving:

Ixonia Food Pantry: Please see the bulletin board for the most recent letter from Sally. Thank you for your help! Remember the food pantry any time you have extra. Thank you and Stay safe!

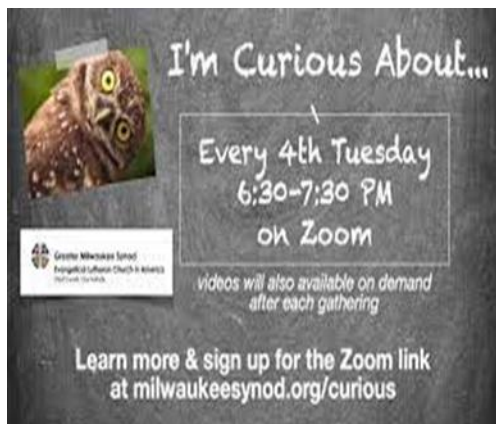
Volunteers: We are looking for helpers and readers to assist with worship Sunday mornings. If you are willing to Serve on a regular basis please contact the Church office via phone or email. Thank you!

Leadership:

Church Council: Council will meet next on Tuesday, February 8th. Council meetings are usually open meetings. If you are interested in attending please let Pastor or Barb know ahead of time. Thank you!

Fellowship:

Coffee Shop conversations: Pastor will be at Whelan's from 10-12 Friday mornings. Please join him from fellowship and conversation.



Beginning on in September, 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@milwaukeeesynod.org with questions.

Maintenance:

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:

- **February 8th Council Meeting**
- **February 27th Transfiguration**
- **March 2nd Ash Wednesday**
- **March 6th First Sunday in Lent**

Usher Schedule: February 6th and 13th Kurt and Joyce Ketchum
February 20th and 27th Tom Schwefel and Roger Lindsay

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:

February 6th: Cathy Stein /

February 13th: Tammy Ninmann / Cathy Stein

February 20th: Jeff Campbell / Jeff Campbell

February 27th: Cindy Kuehn / Tammy Ninmann

March 6th: / Stan Jaeger

March 13th: / Cathy Stein

Altar Guild for February: Jeff Campbell

Altar Guild for March: Tammy Ninmann

If you are willing to participate on a regular basis please let the Church office know. Thank you!

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:

(Vice President) Barb Butschke: butschke0690@charter.net

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

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

Cindy Kuehn: countrygirlsks@gmail.com

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

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