

Cross Lutheran Church

February Proclamation 2023

Pastor Doug Andersen
(920) 474-7242

Dear friends in Christ,

February is upon us, which I just realized means that I have been your pastor for four years already. Yikes, it seems to me that I just started here but looking back I realize we've been through a lot together. Of course, the one thing that stands out about these four years is the pandemic that threw so much of our lives into chaos. We've recovered and are moving forward.

But February isn't really about the years I've been here; instead, we remember that the season of Lent is upon us.

The Lenten season begins February 22nd with Ash Wednesday. According to the ELCA website, "Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday of the seventh week before Easter and the first day of Lent. The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice which many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy." Many people find the idea of marking our foreheads with the sign of the cross in ashes weird. When we were out in Seattle Starr, our son John and I would go out to dinner after Ash Wednesday Services, usually to Applebee's. We'd walk in and get many strange looks and then we'd remember that we still have that sign on our foreheads. Nobody, not even the waiters/waitresses, ever asked about them but I'd bet some people wondered what that mark was all about.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence: Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. On Ash Wednesday ashes are a penitential substitute for water as a reminder of our baptism. Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried: "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.

So, ashes are a symbol both of judgment and condemnation and of cleansing and renewal. And the ashes used here on Ash Wednesday, mixed with a little water, are a reminder to us that even as God condemns sin he loves the sinner and that in Baptism an opportunity for new life and renewal has been given to each of us.

I invite all of you to join us on Ash Wednesday; I invite you to receive the sign of the cross made with ashes on your forehead as a sign of your repentance and renewal in the grace of God; and I invite all of us to walk the Lenten journey together. To remember we are fallen and broken, condemned in sin. To repent, to turn from our sinful self-centered ways, and follow after Jesus. Like Jesus, let us place God in the center of our lives so that we too can say, "... yet not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:42) And, most importantly, to remember that we are forgiven and beloved children of God. To God be the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Pastor Doug

At the Annual meeting in January, Cross members voted to change the worship time from 10:00 to 10:30am. This change will take place on February 5th.



Ash Wednesday Worship will be on February 22nd. Worship will be held here at Cross at 5:30pm and at Zion at 7:00pm.

Lenten Worship Schedule:

For Lent, we will be taking part in a Round Robin Worship schedule again this year for Wednesday evenings. Services will start at 7:00 PM, after worship the host congregation will serve a light meal and fellowship time. If you are unsure where these services are, please ask Pastor Doug.



March 1st - Holy Name of Jesus at Zion Lutheran

March 8th - St. Catherine's

March 15th - St. Paul's

March 22nd - Cross Lutheran

March 29th - St. Olaf's

Sunday School: Sunday School will be meeting once again in the new year. Please stay tuned for more information, planning is in progress. Lily Mireau, Gina Altreuter and Michelle Nord have taken

over leadership since the departure of Jeff Campbell. Thank you, ladies, for your dedication to the kiddos!

Adult Education: Adult Education Class will be from 10:00-11:30am at Zion on the 1st- 4th Wednesday mornings. It's a great time to join in. All are welcome! At this time, we are doing text study on the weekly scripture readings. Readings are available for pick up the Sunday before class on the table in the narthex.

Homegrown Flower orders: Order forms are available in the narthex and as part of the email blast. All orders should be returned to Elmo Wendorf. Thank you!

Serving:

Ixonia Food Pantry: February 12th we will be celebrating **Soup-er Bowl**. We will be collecting food and monetary donations for the food pantry as part of Worship as a "noisy offering". Bins will be marked with the teams in the Super Bowl, when you take your offering forward put it in the bin for the team you think will win.

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 except expired food. Thank you!

Bread and Roses: Arnie Groehler has taken over as coordinator for this ministry at Cross. Thank you, Arnie for representing our church and organizing volunteers!

Bread and Roses will be continuing curbside at this time. The 2023 dates we are scheduled to serve are June 15th and December 14th.

Adopt a Highway: Arnie Groehler has taken over this ministry. Thank you, Arnie, for serving as coordinator!

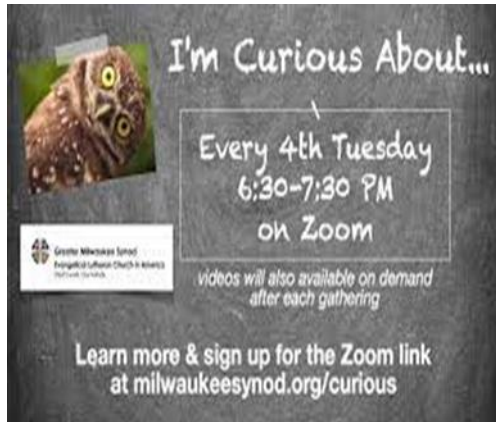
Leadership:

Church Council: Council will meet again February 14th at Church. Council meetings are usually open to the congregation. If you are interested in attending, please let Tod Ninmann or Pastor know ahead of time. 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@milwaukee-synod.org with questions

Maintenance:

The restoration project is complete on the front of the church. It looks lovely! Drive by slowly and check it out! We are still collecting offerings for the project to offset the costs.

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 5th New worship time
- February 12th Souper Bowl
- February 14th Council Meeting
- February 22nd Ash Wednesday

Usher Schedule: February 5th & 12th John and Barb Butschke
February 19th & 26th Cindy Kuehn and Elmo Wendorf

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 5: Cathy Stein / Jim Stein
February 12: Cindy Kuehn / Jeanette Christian
February 19: Tammy Ninmann / Tammy Ninmann
February 26: Jerry Genz / Elmo Wendorf

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

Altar Guild for February: Cindy Kuehn

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:

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

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

(Financial Secretary) Tod Ninmann: ninmann@charter.net

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

Cindy Kuehn: countrygirlsk@gmail.com

Val Scott: (920) 285-5237

John Butschke: turtlepacer5@yahoo.com Cell: 920-723-6062

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

**Cross Lutheran Church
Council Secretary Minutes
December 13, 2022**

1. Establish quorum Present-Barb Nyland, Tod Ninmann, Val Scott, Cindy Kuehn, Janice Bartel, Pastor Doug, and Elmo Wendorf Absent Angie Trane. Meeting was held at Starr and Pastors Doug's home with a Christmas party after the meeting.
2. Devotions – Where lead by Pastor Doug with a challenge for January Council meeting, what do we want to see the accomplished at Cross Church in 2023
3. Approve the agenda, secretary's report, previous minutes (Nov. 8th), financial and pastor's report (all reports previously distributed and reviewed - consent agenda - motion to approve). Tod Moved to accept, Cindy 2nd, motion carried
4. Team Reports
 - a. Worship Team -Holiday Services in place for Dec. and Jan. 1st.
 - b. Sunday School – Holiday service is on Dec. 18th at both churches
 - c. Maintenance team- The front of church is completed except for the railing to be put in and that will happen soon. Brian Tietz is to be contacted to see how he is coming along with the Lights on the north end of the church.
 - d. Mission Team- Mission festival will be in spring of 2023 and we will discuss it at the Feb. meeting.
 - e. Cemetery Team- no report
5. Old Business
 - a. Bread and Roses- We are looking for a new chairperson to head up this project which meets twice a year.
 - b. 150th Anniversary celebration will be announced at the annual meeting/begin forming the committee.
 - c. new council members? Has anyone stepped forward to fill the vacant position. As of now no one has.
 - d. Church schedule change- we will have to vote at the annual meeting if Cross Church will be willing to change our service time from 10:00 to 10:15 and Zion is going to start earlier at 8:20. The reason we will no longer have Pastor Stein as our relieve pastor for the Sunday each month that pastor Doug is at Zion. And its over \$2900.00 in savings with out milage so it is going to be a major cost saver for both churches if we don't have to have a guest Pastor once a month.
 - e. Budget review will be completed at the Jan. council meeting.
 - f. All committee reports are due at the office by12/31/22
 - g. Review of the 145 Anniversary – everyone thought it went very well and was enjoyed by all to have a potluck dinner once again.
6. New business

- a. Sign in front of Church and on Hwy CW advertising our Christmas Eve service at 6:00pm.-Tod volunteered to create the signs and to get them into place the week before Christmas Eve Service
- b. Wreath on lights in front of church for decoration- this has been completed and looks very good.
- c. Laure will be gone 2/13-4/21/22 and Debbie will fill in except for 2/19/22 and 2/26/22 and Ash Wed. is 2/22/23
- d. Pastor Stein is retiring in 2023 from doing services at Cross Church and we will plan a date for a retirement party after we talk to Pastor Stein what dates are available for Cathy and himself.
- e. Council had to deal with the washer and dryer in the house Terri submitted an estimated bid of 1,400.00 dollars for both and the council decided to replace both since they are 12 years old and it would cost a minimum of \$400.00 to repair the washer.

7, Determine the next council meeting, 1/10/23 at 6:30 at church

8. Closed with the Lord's Prayer

9. Adjourn- Cindy moved and Elmo 2nd motion carried meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Elmo Wendorf
Secretary



ATTENDANCE

December 4: 30	\$1652
December 11: 35	\$1593
December 18: 47	\$1127
December 24: 65	\$1090