

**Cross Lutheran Church**  
**Proclamation January 2022**  
**Pastor Doug Andersen**  
**(920) 474-7242**

Dear Friends in Christ,

I received an email a while back from a member with some thoughts about how they struggle to put into practice what they believe – what they believe about what God is calling them to do and be, what they believe about the power of God to work in their lives, and what they believe about God’s desire for them. The writer gave me permission to edit and use their words however I wanted, but I have left their words unedited. It is raw and personal and, I think, very powerful:

*“I just read [“Duck Dynasty’ Defenders: Have You Committed the Sin of Gluttony?”](#) and it got me to thinking. Yes, I have committed the sin of gluttony a lot. It is one I struggle with every day. Almost 15 years ago our pastor preached on the sin of gluttony and it has come up many times in bible studies. I have been a part of faith-based weight-loss programs. I have read and researched many others that I have not been a part of. But I open my refrigerator and see it stuffed with food, I go to the grocery store and over spend, I make too much food for our small family and end up throwing a bunch away, and I eat too much of it myself. At this time of year there is always the “New Year’s Resolution” moment where people try to get over the sin of gluttony. Most of us fail.*

*In thinking about why we fail and in my own struggles, I have to admit that I never really give this sin over to God and repent of it. I keep it to myself. I want to fix it through my own power. I want to be the one to get in control of my eating behavior. When I go to the faith-based weight-loss groups, I am full of doubt. I don’t believe that it will work. I don’t trust that God has the power to fix this problem in my life. And that perhaps is the root of the problem. We own our bodies too much – we believe that they are wholly ours, when, like everything else, they are God’s on loan to us. Which is why we are to treat them like a temple, and not defile them; but we do, in so many ways, and we don’t repent of it – we keep on thinking this is the area that we can control and fix. How often do we put our faith in human agents rather than in God. I am going to try and put the faith in God and give thanks for the human agents that he works through, but not put my faith in them to be the answer.”*

I invite you to join me in a serious inward examination of our lives. For the writer of the email the issue was/is gluttony, but the same words can be said about so many things – coveting, lying, cheating, sexuality and others. Do we dare be as honest with ourselves as this writer? I believe that when, and only when, we understand that God loves us and does not condemn us for our sins, we can look inward and not be appalled at what we find. Instead, certain of God’s love for us, we can move forward.

Blessings,

*Pastor Doug*



The Annual Meeting Report deadline is Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please send in your reports as soon as you can.

**Sunday School:** Thank you to all the families that participated in this year's Children's Program!

**Adult Education will meet on January 19<sup>th</sup> at Zion at 10:00am. January 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at Cross. We will be rescheduling the class for January 5<sup>th</sup> due to a funeral at the church stay tuned for the new date.**

### **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!

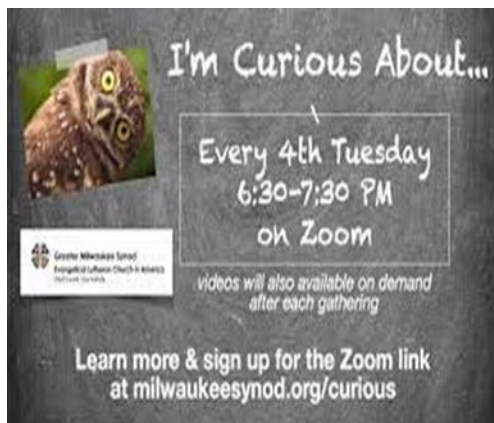
**Volunteers:** We are looking for helpers and readers to assist with worship Sunday mornings. If you are willing to Serve on a regular basis please contact the Church office via phone or email. Thank you!

### **Leadership:**

**Church Council:** Council will meet next on Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Fellowship:**

**Coffee Shop conversations:** The next Coffee Day will be January 7<sup>th</sup> at Whelan's.



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@milwaukeesynod.org](mailto:matt@milwaukeesynod.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](mailto:kketcham@wi.rr.com) or Brian: 920-988-4949 or [trs@netwurx.net](mailto:trs@netwurx.net)

## **Upcoming Events:**

- **January 2<sup>nd</sup> Epiphany**
- **January 11<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting**

**Usher Schedule: January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Jerry Genz and Cindy Kuehn  
16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> Jon and Michelle Nord**

**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:**

**January 2<sup>nd</sup>: Multiples**

**January 9<sup>th</sup>: Phil Dobberfuhl / Mary Jo Dobberfuhl**

**January 16<sup>th</sup>: Cindy Kuehn / Barb Nyland**

**January 23<sup>rd</sup>: Barb or Tammy / Stan Jaeger**

**January 30<sup>th</sup>: Terri Watermolan / The Steins**

**Altar Guild for January: Terri Watermolan**

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

The Office emails: [pastor@crosslutheranchurch.com](mailto:pastor@crosslutheranchurch.com) and [office@crosslutheranchurch.com](mailto:office@crosslutheranchurch.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

### **2021 council members:**

Barb Butschke: [butschke0690@charter.net](mailto:butschke0690@charter.net)

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

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