

Cross Lutheran Church

Summer Proclamation 2022

Pastor Doug Andersen
(920) 474-7242

WHAT'S A CONGREGATION TO DO?

A study conducted by Pastor Dave Daubert, author of *Living Lutheran: Renewing Your Congregation*, found that among 1,000 Lutherans he surveyed 23 percent who attended church regularly were functionally agnostic (someone who neither believes nor disbelieves in the existence of God). Many said they didn't believe their church had helped them grow spiritually –and they seemed satisfied with that spiritual stagnation. Many respondents said they attended a church because 'my grandfather made the baptismal font, because my mother was involved in the altar guild and that's what we do in our family'. Daubert said their involvement in church was based on life stories and traditions. They weren't engaged on a faith level or based on faith at all, but rather they were grounded in apathy and tradition.

So what's a church to do? Is it possible to honor beloved, age-old traditions while infusing life and vitality back into the lives of members and the community?

Daubert thinks now is the perfect time for renovation. "The work of the church is renewing its people," he said. "We were trying to renew congregations and you can't do that. You can only renew its people and let them renew the congregation. God isn't interested in a bigger church as much as God is interested in transforming lives that make a difference in this world. And that means reconnecting the church with what God is up to in the world."

For Daubert, that means teaching church members how to recognize God as a living, breathing, dynamic part of our lives. This includes helping them recover a sense of the vibrancy and activity of a God who is determined to break into our lives. Too often we've gotten involved in ministries without preparing God's disciples. The central part of a renewing church is renewing our spiritual life first, then God-centered ministry work second, worship and fellowship third, and then finally healthy growth should happen. It's not a numbers game, it's spiritual belief and passion that leads to church growth.

While conversion is a word seldom used in Lutheran circles, it is important for us to focus on more than just serving others. We also need to devote energy to the spiritual growth and well-being of the people who call Cross or Zion Lutheran Church home. Transforming and renewing our spiritual lives should be front and center as a focus of the church's mission. There is nothing wrong with a mini-conversion, the kind that happens in a Bible study or during a worship service or when we share with one another God's miraculous work in our lives. Make no mistake, we need to stay on track through regular worship participation, but if that is all we are doing we are not engaging and strengthening our faith. As a church, we should focus on activities that help people grow in their relationship to Jesus.

Adult bible studies and fellowship are things we are already doing. But what other activities can we look at? Take time this summer to reflect and imagine what we could be doing to grow ourselves and to invite others. Share your ideas with council members or me (Pastor Doug). Let's break free of stagnation and look at how we can grow – not just in terms of attendance on Sunday Morning or dollars in offering, but in our faith.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Doug

Free Firewood: Recently we removed some trees from the property. There is a lot of free firewood available. If you would be interested in picking some up, we have a big pile at the corner of the parking lot. It is free for the taking!

Sunday School: Sunday school has finished for the season. Thank you to all of the families that took part this year. It is wonderful to see the little ones learning and laughing together. Thank you especially to the leaders that took their time and planning to make each month's lesson special. We'd like to thank Jeff Campbell for his time a dedication to the ministry. Thank you to all the volunteers who prepared meals and cleaned up, thank you for your hospitality. Stay tuned for updates as we get closer to the Fall.

Adult Education: Adult Education has finished for the season. It shall resume in the fall. Stay tuned for details regarding scheduling and study topics as we get closer to Fall. Reminder, all are welcome to attend, and you do not need to be a "bible scholar" to have impact. Attending as you are able, benefits all attendees and makes for great discussion with many voices. Stay tuned for more!

Serving:

Ixonia Food Pantry: We received updated letters from the pantry coordinators, see the bulletin board in the narthex to read what they have to say. 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: Thank you to all you helped and donated for bread and roses, we will be volunteering again soon. Stay tuned for more details!

Leadership:

Church Council: Council will meet again August 9th. There is no meeting in July. The meeting will be held off site. Council meetings are usually open meetings. If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor or Barb Nyland know ahead of time. Thank you!

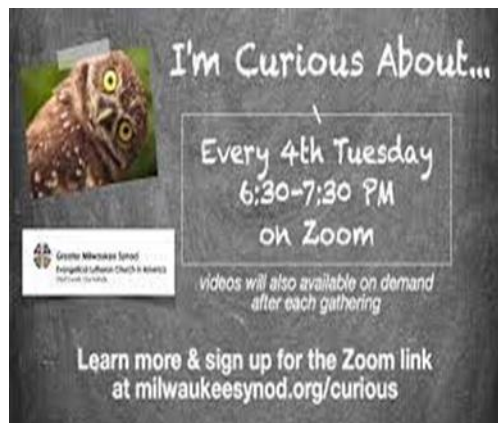
Fellowship:

Church Picnic: We will be hosting an all-Church Picnic on July 24th at Harnischfeger Park. Worship will be in the park at 10:00am with a potluck to follow. Please bring a side or salad to share. The main course will be pulled pork and hotdogs. We will be joined by Zion. Everything is taking place outside this year. Please plan on bringing lawn chairs. If you would like coffee, please bring a travel mug. Due to the limited access to electricity at the pavilion, please plan ahead to keep dishes warm/cold with supplies from home. In the event of rain, the event will be moved to Cross Church.

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 on the boardwalk behind Roots once again this summer (weather permitting). This time on Monday's from 10-12. Pastor's next gathering will be July 11th after the holiday.

Mark your Calendars! Zion's Oktoberfest will be October 2nd.



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:

- July 3rd Joint Worship at Zion 8:30am
- July 24th Church Picnic at Harnischfeger Park

Usher Schedule: July 10th Tod Schwefel and Rodger Lindsay
July 17th, 24th, and 31st Jerry Genz and Arnie Groehler

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:

July 10th: Cindy Kuehn/ Tracy Thom
July 17th: Tammy Ninmann/ Elmo Wendorf
July 24th: Picnic / Tammy Ninmann
July 31st: Cindy Kuehn / Jeannette Christian

August 7th: Jerry Genz/ Elmo Wendorf
August 14th: Jeff Campbell for Both
August 21st: Cindy Kuehn/ Jerry Genz
August 28th: Cindy Kuehn/ Jeannette C.

Altar Guild for July: Laure Schwefel and August: 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:

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

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

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

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

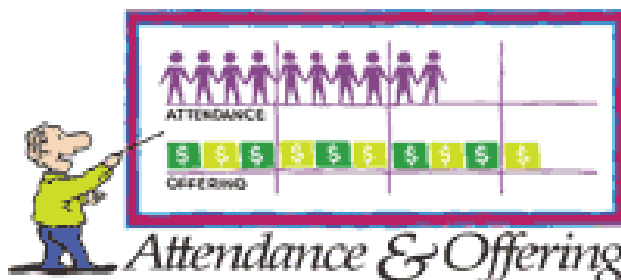
(Treasurer) Janice Bartel: janicerbartel@gmail.com (262) 370- 3638

Cindy Kuehn: countrygirlcsk@gmail.com

Val Scott: (920) 285-5237

May Attendance

1 28
8 45
15 48
22 40
29 19



Collections

May 1: \$870
May 8: \$1210
May 15: \$2246
May 22: \$751
May 29: \$478

Cross Lutheran Church
Council Meetings Agenda
May 10, 2022
6:00pm.

Establish quorum: present were Angie Thrane, Barb Butscke, Cindy Kuehn, Val Scott, Elmo Wendorf Jr. and Pastor Doug

Devotions were selected by Janice Bartel and presented by Pastor Doug, it was about taking time to slow down and realize that life is not always a race and that you have to go faster and faster, but instead appreciate where you are and what you have.

Approval of last month's Secretary's report the financial records and the pastors report. It was moved by Angie to accept the reports and seconded by Cindy, Motion carried.

Team reports:

1. Worship Team, Confirmations is set for this Sunday and Barb N. will do the presentation to the conferment, with a short reception to follow in the fellowship Hall.

2. Sunday School: will have its last session on May 22nd before summer break.

3. Decoration team: Presented two bids for the shingling project on the north end of the Church after some discussion the Bid was awarded to Phil Nicholson.

We discussed his suggestion of adding a drain spout from the upper roof down to the main drain and we all agreed to go ahead with, and we will ask Phil to do this also.

4. Maintenance Team: Elmo presented two proposals for the concrete work at the front entrance of Church, We are waiting for several more proposals so no decisions were made tonight. For the refurbishing of the front no bids have come in and the President ask Elmo to recontact those contractors and ask them to have their bid in by May 18th.

5. Mission Team: no report

6. Cemetery Team: had no report

New Business

A. Confirmation to join Zion for Octoberfest Oct. 2nd, Council approved to be apart of Octoberfest and Elmo will represent Cross Church on the committee.

B. Council wanted to thank everyone who has helped with the Parsonage, prayer garden, lawn, and asparagus patch clean up.

C. The contract for lawn cutting has been accepted with John Kohn, but we will ask for donations for gasoline to cut the grass.

D. Bread and Roses will be on 6/9/22 from 4-6 and Barb will put out a sign-up sheet next Sunday.

Next Council meeting will be 6/14/22 6:45pm council just put it out to see if anyone would like to host either June or August meeting at their home. No meeting in July.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Angie moved to adjourn the meeting and Val second it meeting was adjourned at 6.58.

Respectfully submitted by, Elmo Wendorf,
Secretary