



Cross Lutheran Church Proclamation May 2019

Pastor Doug Andersen
W710 Gopher Hill Rd, Ixonia, WI 53036
CrossLutheranChurch.com

Facebook.com/CrossLutheranChurch
Sunday Education at 9:00am Sunday Worship at 10:00am
(920) 474-7242

Dear friends in Christ,

A number of years ago this story was shared in Seattle. I realize it sounds almost too outlandish to believe, but the truth is that my native town is one of the few areas where such a story would be taken seriously and immediately assumed by all to be true.

Jessica, 16, told KIRO Radio's [Dori Monson Show](#) that a week before spring break, the students commit to a week-long community service project. She decided to volunteer in a third-grade class at a public school, which she would like to remain nameless.

"At the end of the week I had an idea to fill little plastic eggs with treats and jelly beans and other candy, but I was kind of unsure how the teacher would feel about that," Jessica said.

She was concerned how the teacher might react to the eggs after a meeting earlier in the week where she learned about "their abstract behavior rules."

"I went to the teacher to get her approval and she wanted to ask the administration to see if it was okay," Jessica explained. "She said that I could do it as long as I called this treat 'spring spheres.' I couldn't call them Easter eggs."

Rather than question the decision, Jessica opted to "roll with it." But the third graders had other ideas.

"When I took them out of the bag, the teacher said, 'Oh look, spring spheres' and all the kids were like 'Wow, Easter eggs.' So they knew," Jessica said. (Taken from www.mynorthwest.com, April 13, 2011)

Hoax or not, it is true that most religious holidays have been taken over by the secular world and have lost much of their original meaning. We just need to look at Christmas to see the truth of that. James Martin, a writer for *Slate* (an online magazine) wrote an article a few years back on this topic. He said,

"To the secular mind, the story of Christmas goes like this: A young couple named Mary (pretty, pregnant, wearing a flattering blue gown) and Joseph (a little older, quite handsome, sporting a well-trimmed beard) journeyed on a trusty donkey all the way to O Little Town of Bethlehem. Since there was no room at the inn, the young couple bunked in a cozy stable filled with cuddly farm animals. There, Away in the Manger, Mary gave birth to Jesus, her adorable baby boy. Soon after, Angels We Have Heard on High came to the rustic shepherds to tell them What Child Is This. And then We Three Kings of Orient Are—or, rather, showed up.

Despite the awesome theological implications (Christians believe that the infant lying in the manger is the Son of God), the Christmas story is easily reduced to pabulum (*information that is bland or trite*). How pleasant it is in mid-December to open a Christmas card with a pretty picture of Mary and Joseph gazing beatifically at their son, with the shepherds and the angels beaming in delight. The Christmas story, with its friendly resonances of marriage, family, babies, animals, angels, and—thanks to the wise men—gifts, is eminently marketable to popular culture. It's a Thomas Kinkade painting come to life."

But Martin points out that Easter has successfully resisted this trend, asking

“(Are you) sending out hundreds of Easter cards this year? Attending way too many Easter parties? Doing some last-minute shopping for gifts to place under your Easter tree? Getting tired of those endless Easter-themed specials on television?” “I didn’t think so.”

He goes on to say,

“The Easter story is relentlessly disconcerting and, in a way, is the antithesis of the Christmas story. No matter how much you try to water down its particulars, Easter retains some of the shock it had for those who first participated in the events during the first century. The man who spent the final three years of his life preaching a message of love and forgiveness (and, along the way, healing the sick and raising the dead) is betrayed by one of his closest friends, turned over to the representatives of a brutal occupying power, and is tortured, mocked, and executed in the manner that Rome reserved for the worst of its criminals.”

And,

“Even the resurrection, the joyful end of the Easter story, resists domestication as it resists banalization... Unlike Christmas, it also resists a noncommittal response.” “Easter is an event that demands a “yes” or a “no.” There is no “whatever.””

Because this Easter message can’t be watered down to a cute story that everyone can love, Easter continues to be a Christian Holy Day. But, although we celebrate Easter on a certain day, the truth is it is a season. We are in the Easter season from now until Pentecost Sunday on June 9. We can, on Easter Sunday, enjoy our “spring spheres”, but like those discerning 3rd graders let’s not forget that we are celebrating Easter. We are celebrating our risen Lord. Despite the bunnies and the eggs and the chocolates the world hasn’t been able to “...tame that person, tame his message, and, moreover, tame what happened to him in Jerusalem all those years ago.”

Pastor Doug

(If you want to read James Martin’s entire article you can find it here: <http://www.slate.com/id/2249525/>)

Worship:

Holy Communion is on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays.

Confirmation will be held on Sunday, May 19th. Confirmands are: Olivia Thrane, Brianna Yucker, Britney Yucker and Ian Hoffman. Congratulations! Please stay after worship to celebrate with the confirmands in the fellowship hall.

Worship Team: If you would like to serve on the Worship Team, please let Pastor Doug or Sue Genz know. The team will be meeting in May to discuss summer and fall worship.

We would like to use baked bread on Sundays when possible. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to bring bread if you would so choose.

Education:

Sunday school/Confirmation Classes

Sunday school and Confirmation classes are held at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Pastor Jim Stein teaches Confirmation on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays and Pastor Doug teaches the 3rd Sunday.

Because of the Pork chop dinner, Sunday school will not be held on May 5th. However, Confirmation classes will be held at the usual time of 9:00 a.m.

Confirmation classes will end on May 19th

Sunday school classes end on May 12th.

Confirmation will be on Sunday, May 19.

Serving:

Endowment committee: Endowment committee elected to donate funds to the following organizations this quarter: \$400 to Lutheran Disaster Relief for the cyclone in Mozambique and \$200 to Mary's room in Watertown.

Ixonia School: Please continue to bring in your BoxTops for Education for the school.

Ixonia Food Pantry: Ixonia food pantry is in need of jello and pudding products. Thank you for your donations!

Family Promise: We will not be serving Family Promise with Whitestone for quite a few months because of their construction on their church building. However, we have volunteered to help two churches during the 2019 rotation. I will keep you posted on those dates when we know them!

Bread and Roses: We are serving for Bread and Roses on Sept. 19. Mark your calendar!

Highway Clean-up: Is scheduled for Sunday, June 2nd after coffee hour. Thank you Jeff C for leading!

Leadership:

Council will meet on Tuesday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

2019 is the year that our ELCA Churchwide Assembly is returning to Milwaukee. It is scheduled for August 5th - 10th. The location is at the Wisconsin Center in downtown Milwaukee. This year's theme is "We are the Church." Considering that it might be several years before a national convention returns, we hope that we can all participate. We suspect that there will be a large need for volunteers from our area to help out. Expect more information on this event to follow.

Pork Chop Dinner is on May 5th. Thank you everyone who has signed up to help in any way that you can! And thank you Troy Thrane for his leadership and organization!

Church Secretary position We are currently looking for an individual who can work in the office 5 hours/week. It is very helpful if they are familiar with Microsoft Word and Publisher. If you know of anyone who might be interested in the position, please talk with one of the council members.

Fellowship:

Friends of Cross Lunch will be held at Café LaBelle on Wednesday, May 15 at 11:00 a.m. Come and be fed with good food and light conversation! All are welcome!

Coffee Hour because of the Pork Chop dinner and Confirmation there will not be coffee hour in May. But please stay for fellowship after Confirmation on May 19th. There will be cake to help celebrate the young adults who are being confirmed that day. Our next coffee hour will be on June 2nd before the Highway Clean-up.

Cross Book Club will be meeting on May 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Cathy Stein's home. The group will be discussing "*The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper*" by Phaedra Patrick.

Coffee Shop conversation with Pastor Doug. Come and have casual conversations to get to know Pastor Doug. He will be at either Roots or Whelan's on Fridays from 10am until 1pm. He will announce in church which coffee shop he will be at on the following Friday.

Maintenance:

Carpet/Interior work. The Decorating Committee is comprised of Elmo Wendorf, Cathy Stein, Mary Frankiewicz and Terri Watermolen.

We are now looking forward to having the carpet replaced sometime this summer. The Pork Chop dinner and Rummage sale revenue will go toward the replacement of the carpet along with donations from members. By raising \$5000 through donations, rummage and Pork Chop dinner and through the generosity of Karl and Ruth Behling, we will be able to pay for the carpet replacement. There are envelopes located in the hallway for donations for this exciting project! You can place your gift in the offertory plate during worship. Thanks!

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

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

Parsonage Update: We have the parsonage rented out! Thank you to the rental committee: Todd Watermolen, Elmo Wendorf, Jon Nord, Kurt Ketcham and Tom Frankiewicz. The council welcomed our new neighbors with a basket of goodies donated by council members.

Upcoming Events:

- **May 5: Pork Chop dinner**
- **May 9-11: Rummage Sale**
- **May 14: Home Grown flower pick-up at 4:00 p.m.**
- **May 19: Confirmation**
- **June 2: Highway Clean-up**
- **June 23: Church picnic with Zion**

Thoughts to Ponder:

Rummage Sale The Rummage sale is set for May 9-11th.

Thursday, May 9: 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday, May 10: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 11: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

You may bring rummage items in after May 5th.

If you can help set up before the rummage sale or if you can help staff the rummage, please talk with Tammy Ninmann or Mary Frankiewicz.

Announcements Pastor Doug will be leading the announcements at the beginning of worship each Sunday. If you have an announcement, please let him know before worship time.

Home Grown Flowers can be picked up on May 14th at or after 4:00 p.m.

Worship Assistants

May 5

Lector: Sandy West

Communion Assistant: Sandy West/Olivia Thrane

Ushers: Bev Paulsberg/Roger Lindsay

May 12

Lector: Barb Nyland

Ushers: Bev Paulsberg/Roger Lindsay

May 19

Lector: Jeff Campbell

Communion Asst: Jeff Campbell/Lily Mireau

Ushers: Arnie Groehler/Mary Frankiewicz

May 26

Lector: Jeannette Christian

Ushers: Arnie Groehler/Mary Frankiewicz

May Altar Guild: Michelle Nord

Willing to serve? Contact Jeannette Christian if you're willing to serve as an usher and Sue Genz if you're willing to serve as a lector or communion assistant. Thank you!

Need to switch? Please find a replacement and contact Jeannette or Sue.

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

Pastor Doug's number: 608-306-3149

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

2019 council members:

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

Mary Frankiewicz: frankim7@yahoo.com Cell: 920-988-9533

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

Beverly Paulsberg: biffpaulsberg@hotmail.com Home: 920-474-4972 Cell: 920-988-5838

Jeff Campbell: jtsoup314@gmail.com Cell: 715-572-9888

(President) Arnie Groehler: jmgroehler@aol.com Home: 262-468-4218 Cell: 262-490-9363

Elmo Wendorf: elmowendorf@msn.com Cell: 414-758-0639

(Treasurer) Stan Jaeger: sjaeger1@wi.rr.com Cell: 414-745-4979

(Recording Secretary) Terri Watermolen: twatermolen@gmail.com Cell: 414-614-9243

**Cross Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2019**

Present: Pastor Doug, Jeff Campbell, Arnie Groehler, Terri Watermolen, Bev Paulsberg, Mary Frankiewicz, Angie Thrane, Barb Nyland.

Arnie called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.

Pastor Doug led devotions. John 12 and Lent.

Approve the agenda, Secretary's report – February minutes, Financial and Pastor's report
Angie motioned to accept the reports and minutes and Bev seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor reviewed shutin visits. He also mentioned that he is holding Friday coffee shop talks. 10 am-1pm.

Team Reports

- a) Worship Team – Cross will host Maundy Thursday worship at 7pm. Zion, along with Holy Name will host Good Friday worship at 7pm. Holy Name will hold a Saturday vigil. Easter Sunday will stay with the usual schedule which is 8:30am at Zion and 10:00am at Cross. Angie brought up Easter breakfast. Jeff is leading the Easter breakfast with assistance from Kurt Ketcham. The breakfast will be at 8:30am. Set up at 7:30am.
- b) Education Team – There were no Sunday school children last Sunday. Need teacher support for some behavior issues of SS students. Discussion about the age range of small groups. If we get more teacher involvement next year, we can divide the classes into more groups.
- c) Decorating Team – Reviewed carpet quotes. And moving forward with this project. We will hold another matching fund drive. The goal would be to raise \$5000 from members and \$5000 would be from the estate of Ruth Behling. Pork Chop dinner and Rummage sale revenue will go toward the carpeting.
- d) Maintenance Team – Dishwasher installed and working. Snow plowing. Lengthy discussion on snow plowing and the frequency of plowing and salting. We have budgeting \$2000 for plowing and we are over this by \$320. We discussed looking into getting other estimates for this work, but that we know that we can count on the current snow removal business to have us plowed on Sundays. We will continue to keep an eye on this.
- e) Mission Team – this is a new Team. Arnie volunteered to be on this Team. We will need to have further conversations on this and what it means to Cross. Pastor stated it should be aimed at both local and global mission. We need to learn what it means, be active about it and educate other members.

Church Secretary Position Update: Terri handed out Secretarial responsibilities and an overview of her time and activities from the last month and a half. We discussed hiring the Zion secretary. We need to share the position description with Danielle (Zion Secretary) along with financial information. Zion pays her \$15.50/hr. We have budgeted \$3000 for her fee. Mary mentioned the potential candidate that she has heard of that she tried to contact awhile back. Mary will contact her again and if she doesn't reply within 24 hours we will not pursue her and will go with Danielle from Zion. Then Terri will talk with Danielle about the position, Elmo will talk with her about financials. If both candidates are interested, we will need to go through the interview process.

Parsonage Update: Terri gave Todd's update. The rental was placed on Craig's List on Feb. 27. They have shown it to 6 families. Four of these families have an interest and have filled out the application. Two of these families had very poor references so have been excluded. Of the two remaining, one had a poor reference from their current landlord and the committee is asking for clarification. The other remaining family is comprised of 4 adults (two generations), 6 children and are from Illinois. References are being checked. The committee has refreshed the ad on Craig's List. Barb motioned to request that the applicants are non-smoking. Angie seconded. Motion carried. Kurt Ketcham finished the bathroom in the parsonage.

New Business

- a. **Cemetery Eligibility:** council members reviewed the Cemetery policy. Bev and Mary will make contact with other churches with cemeteries and see what they charge.
- b. **Rummage:** Joe and Tammy and Mary are leading this. The dates are May 9-10, 11.
- c. **Fellowship Hall:** Council members reviewed the Fellowship Hall policy. Discussion continued on how we could get the word out to different community groups that our Fellowship Hall is available for use. Some ideas were cub scouts, girl scouts, 4H meetings, AA meetings.
- d. Angie brought up having a piece in the local newspapers announcing Pastor Doug's new position with Cross and Zion.. This has been done already in both Watertown and Oconomowoc newspapers.
- e. Mary received Youth group statement of \$483.82. Suggested pizza party for youth and teachers at the end of the year.
- f. **Safety Deposit Box:** Ixonia Bank called the office recently and stated we needed to update who is on our Safety Deposit Box at the bank. Mary Frankiewicz motioned to appoint Pastor Doug Andersen, Arnie Groehler, Stan Jaeger, Angie Thrane to be representatives for the Safety Deposit box at Ixonia Bank Angie Thrane seconded the motion. Motion passed. Terri will email the document list along with whether or not she found the keys to the Safety Deposit Box.

Determine next meeting date: Council will meet on the second Tuesday of each month. Next meeting is April 9. Barb N motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mary F seconded. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Watermolen
Council Secretary