

Cross and Crown Lutheran and School Newsletter

December 2020



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Message from Pastor Ted

“Weird!” “Uncanny!” “Foreboding!” How do you describe the year 2020?

I recall that I first joined you at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church and School on Christmas eve 2019. During worship, I quipped that we’d improve our vision to 2020 in 2020. Some laughed. Not everyone appreciates my sense of humor.

But our eyesight and insight into the meaning of things seems to have gone dim this year. Dark, actually. We have been overtaken by events we cannot control. The number of hospitalizations and death toll due to coronavirus is so staggering as to numb us. Could this be the beginning of the apocalypse? No, it’s not the apocalypse, even if it looks like it. Rather, the present moment is better described by Shakespeare’s Hamlet as a time “out of joint.”

The time is out of joint—O cursèd spite,
That ever I was born to set it right!

I suspect we’re all thinking about the forthcoming vaccine. Like a valiant warrior riding into the battle on a great white steed, we expect medical science to vanquish the dreaded SARS-CoV-2 enemy. If this victory comes soon, we’ll thank God for gifting us with science.

In the meantime, the Gospel texts for Advent and Christmas remind us to keep faith in the darkness of unknowing. God is present in the darkness with us, just as God was present in the darkness of the first Christmas eve and the darkness of Good Friday. Beyond the darkness comes the dawn. Many dawns, actually. We can expect each coming dawn to give us joy in its anticipation until the final dawn of God’s everlasting kingdom. Even if the present time is out of joint, we can keep that timeless dawn on our minds and in our hearts.

For Pastor Ted's Other Mischief...

Visit my website for various kinds of resources.
TedsTimelyTake.com

Check-In Sundays at 11:30 am

Please join us for sharing live online each Sunday morning at 11:30. Just prior, go to the website and click on "Worship on Line." Watch the worship service. Then, click on the Zoom link below to join the rest of the congregation live.

Join Sunday Check-in at 11:30am: New Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83112184837>

Meeting ID: 831 1218 4837

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,83112184837# US (San Jose)

Tuesday Zoom Study 7:00 pm

If you'd like to exercise your brain to ward off dementia, join us each Tuesday at 7:00 pm to engage one another in matters of faith, spirituality, and personal challenges.

Join Zoom Meeting at 7:00 pm Tuesdays

Join Zoom Meeting for Tuesday Study

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89630699060>

Meeting ID: 896 3069 9060

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,89630699060# US (San Jose)



Letter from the Congregational President

Greetings to Cross and Crown Family & Friends

The God of love and peace shall be with you.
II Corinthians 13:11 KJV

We sure need God's love and peace as we walk through this Advent season of 2020 and approach the celebration of our Lord's birth. I will miss worshipping and singing together. Hopefully, you viewed our service for the first Sunday in Advent. As usual, I was touched and moved by the hymn *Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel* (a lifelong favorite). Although the service was virtual, I appreciated being a part of our traditional lighting of the Advent candle. May your home be filled with Love, Hope and Peace.

Thank you for returning your Stewardship Packets. If you have not yet returned yours, you still have time. Meeting our church's expenses is a continuing challenge. Cross and Crown needs your compassion and generosity for our church, school, and community. Having pledge information helps us to plan for the coming year and what we can afford in calling a new pastor.

After a pause, our Transition Team is getting ready to finish their report and send it the Synod office. The Synod will make their recommendations and return it to the Team which will then submit it to Council. We can then formalize a Call committee.

Love and Peace,
Myrna Kappler, President



Update from Cross and Crown Lutheran School

Do you believe Cross and Crown Lutheran School has already completed its first trimester??? We've held eleven weeks of successful, COVID-19 free, in-person instruction!! Plus, the elementary teachers held successful conferences the week before Thanksgiving with grateful, trusting parents. All thanks and praise go to the One above Who has kept our children and their families healthy and safe.

As one might expect, this school year is like no other.....not in any way. Our annual Christmas program will be as well. This year, due to COVID-19, our Christmas program,

"A Child's View of Christmas with 2020 Vision", will be on YouTube with a "private" link for parents and friends. Each class, preschool through 4th grade, will prepare Christmas songs while my 5th/6th grade class will bring the Christmas story to life through readings. Our school bell choir will play two selections as well. All will be videoed and compiled by our 3rd/4th grade teacher, Amy Der. We thank God for the technology involved to spread the story of the birth of Christ and a staff member skilled to put everything together.

One of the most difficult things while teaching during this time is the lack of staff contact throughout the day. Each teacher is "confined" to her cohort, (class), in keeping with county and state health protocol. There's no more lunch around the table in the staff room or playground camaraderie between classes through the cyclone fence. No more Reading Buddies or combined Chapel on Wednesdays in the sanctuary. As I stated earlier, even our Christmas program this year will be on-line. However, what each of us DOES know is that the woman in the room next to us or through the fence and across the playground has our back at any given moment. We've had a couple unexpected family deaths this past month. Our staff shared words of comfort and prayers for the grieving staff members and their loved ones. There's nowhere else I'd rather "work", than with this staff and with these children and their families. Cross and Crown Lutheran Church and School is truly a place abounding with the active love of Christ of which we are reminded on a daily basis.

Thank you for your constant support and daily prayers.

Blessings of the Christ Child to you all this Christmas Season!

Jean Bashi
Administrator



Update from NOAH

NOAH is back to weekly distributions under strict social distancing guidelines.

Cross and Crown will run the distributions on December 2, 9, and 16. We are closed December 23 and 30 and will reopen on January 6, 2021.

In November we gave out fresh produce, soup, peanut butter and jelly, sausage patties, ground turkey, ground chicken, canned fruit and vegetables, tuna, pasta and sauce, canned beans, yogurt, bread, tortillas, and Amy's meals.

Cross and Crown members continue to donate staples, produce from gardens, and money. NOAH is grateful for your support and prayers as we provide for people in need.

Faith and Gordon Adams along with Rancho Grande neighbors collected items from boxes of food given to them from the Redwood Empire Food Bank. We received gallons of milk, yogurt, macaroni and cheese, frozen chicken patties, produce, and staples. Thank you, Faith, for organizing this.

If you know someone who can use help with food, please tell them to come see us on the above dates between 4 and 6 p.m.

Volunteers from Cross and Crown last month included: Claudia Theis, Sharon Winterfeld, Skip Wellman, John Umland, Ken Schlesinger, and Sharon and Bob Wambold.

Our generator has been installed and we thank those of you who supported that project.

Please continue to support this outreach to our community. Recipients are very appreciative and thank us. We thank you in this season of gratitude for our many blessings.

Blessings.
Elizabeth and Bruce Hoelter



Financials

November 1	\$ 2,220
November 8	\$ 5,438
November 15	\$ 1,240
November 22	\$ 1,710
November 29	\$ 2,115
Simply Giving	\$ 3,635
Online Donations	\$ 808
Total	\$17,166



Milestones

Wedding Anniversaries

December 17	Gabe and Lora Brenner
December 19	Bill and Cathy Fusco
December 20	Merlyn and Connie Pfeiff
December 21	George and Jane Kaczmarek
December 28	Steve and Sherry Wren
December 30	Mike and Kelly Byrd

Birthdays:

December 2	Scott Clark
December 3	Sean Dapiran
December 4	Amanda Burns
December 10	Elizabeth Hoelter
	Carol Roth
December 13	Sofia Broski
	Karl Olson
December 14	Teri Koehler
December 18	Pat Anderson
December 20	Rudy Mappus
December 22	Carole Bossaller
December 28	Janis Brokaw
December 29	Kirsten Perkett
December 30	Suzette Lillidahl



Prayer List

Healing

Don (brother of Tandy)
Debby (family friend of Tandy)
Alexandria and Family (Hoelters)
Linda (Joanne B's friend)
Scott (brother of Lynne BS)
Linda (Joanne B's friend)
Pam R.
Bob R.
Dutch A.
Charles (Jackie N.'s son)
Richard (Sue's friend)
Jan and Terry (sister and BIL of Lynne BS)

Homebound Members

Dick and Dorothy N.
Ruth M.
Pastor Leon H.
Beverly L.
Ginny C.
Norma C.

Long Term Healing

Joanne (Kim B's friend)
Carole B.
Gabe B.
Chris (Mandy Mc.' BIL)
Mark (Curtis S's friend)
Chris (Diane C's son)
Ed (Vicki B's dad)
Carole B.
Sawyer (Michelle S's friend)

Grief

Family of Julian (BIL of Jean B.)
Family of Barb A. (former CCLCS member)
Family of William N. (friend of Kim B.)



Daily Advent Devotionals

We are continuing our daily devotionals through Epiphany. The devotional will be emailed out daily to those with current email addresses on file with the church. They will also be available on the church website. Forward them to someone else who may benefit from them.



Advent Worship Schedule

With numbers of covid cases spiking in California, we are planning to have all worship services available online through our website.

Sunday Worship Services	available after 8 a.m. each Sunday
Christmas Eve Service	available on December 24 after 4 p.m.
Christmas Day Service	available on December 25 after 8 a.m.

The Christmas season may look different then most years but remember Jesus is still the focus and we will praise his name in person, online or in our homes by ourselves.



Campus Closed

The church campus will be closed from December 24 – January 3. Kim will be working from home. Please contact her by cell 694-3643 or by email at church@crossandcrownrp.org.



Phone Issues

This past week when the power went out on November 30, it caused the internet to go down. It took until Friday afternoon to get it back working. What this meant is that the phone system was also down because our phones work with the internet connections. Sorry for the inconvenience.