

# Cross and Crown Lutheran and School Newsletter

December 2021



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## Pastor Ted's Take for December 2021

### Advent

Advent marks the beginning of the Church Year. Each of the four Sundays anticipate the coming of the Messiah: Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace. Visit the CCLCS site on Facebook. I'll ask you a question each Monday. Tell us all your answer in the comment section. You will also receive a devotion each Monday through Constant Contact. Enjoy!

Since the advent of Covid 19, our interpersonal contact has been minimized. But in the next few weeks we'll engage much more by adding Thursday evening Soup and Holden Vespers. Come at 6:00 pm for fellowship and worship. Choir practice will follow.

### Pastor Ted's Puzzling Christmas Blog Post

Here's something you might like to avoid. "R Christmas Presents and God's Grace: Are They Really Gifts?"

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/publictheology/>

Read only if you're brave and like scratching your head.



## Letter from the Congregational President

Greetings to Cross and Crown Family and Friends

Pray for Guidance & Rekindling our Faith

**Thank you** to everyone who has gone beyond their normal giving in the past two months. We are also **thankful** to everyone who have been praying daily at 7:30 am and 9:00 pm for renewed direction and guidance for Cross and Crown Church and School. Some of us have been meeting each week between services to identify needs and steps to take. On Sunday, individuals volunteered to distribute our Advent Christmas services postcard to various locations in Rohnert Park and Cotati. All these responses give me **hope**.

Hopefully, you were present for one of the presentations of the Mission Site Profile from the Transition team during the month of October. We **thank the team** for all their work: Sue Michaelson, Brian Brozovic, Curtis Schmidt, Joyce Rogers, Fred Albrecht, Michelle Stewart, and Sherry Wren. Now we are getting ready to firm up the members for the call committee.

Our church continues to be at a crossroad. We **need your prayers and your participation**. As is pointed out in Thom Rainer's book, *The Anatomy of a Revived Church*, there are no **silver bullets**. We cannot depend on a new pastor to save us. Each member of Cross and Crown is responsible to carry out God's mission and be accountable. We **thank everyone** who has turned in their pledge packets. Current pledges for 2022 do not meet our needs for the coming year. **Please** take time to carefully review and return your pledge packet and time and talent sheet if you have not already done so.

May the Holy Spirit touch and surround you and your family during this Advent and Christmas Season.

Love and Peace,  
Myrna Kappler, Council President



## Update from Cross and Crown Lutheran School

August 2022, Cross and Crown Lutheran School will begin its 50<sup>th</sup> year in our community. We opened in 1972 with a preschool named, Little Friends Preschool. Then, in 1984, the elementary program built, and two years later the name was changed to Cross and Crown Lutheran School. The school has always been seen by the congregation as an alternative to public education, not in competition with the schools nearby.

What makes us stand out in the community is our commitment to providing a Christ-centered environment. It is here we can bring the Word of God into the lives of our students and their families, keeping the command of the Great Commission, "Go therefore and teach all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20) Yes, we teach reading, writing, math, social science, science, garden, computer, cooking, music, and physical education; however, our primary mission is to bring the Gospel to every family and service project touched by our school.

Obviously, Christmas time is especially joyful, but our joy extends from the sharing of the true story of the birth of the Christ child through songs, crafts, and our annual Christmas pageant. The staff and students are excited to be able to tell the story in person this year in our sanctuary to the families of our school. Spreading the love God has for us by sending His Son is the best message we can teach our students.

Your prayers and support make certain that happens. Our staff, school board, and administration are appreciative of all your help extended our way. May each of you and your families have a blessed Christmas and peace in the New Year.

Blessings to you all,

Jean Bashi, Administrator



## Update from NOAH

We are thankful to Nikki Boccaleoni and her student council at John Reed Elementary School for their generous food drive for NOAH. Claudia Theis, Skip Wellman, Bob and Sharon Wambold appreciated the help of the student council members in loading up the stash into the pickup trucks. The crew then unloaded the food at the pantry and went to Marguerite Hahn to load up their huge collection for NOAH.

In November Cross and Crown was responsible for distribution on the 17th. Helping were Skip Wellman, John Umland, Shelley Slingland, Jim and Carole Bossaller, and Bob and Sharon Wambold. For a Thanksgiving dinner we gave them a small frozen chicken, cranberry sauce, canned green beans, mushroom soup, a package of instant potatoes, eggs, yogurt, Stove Top Dressing, one-half dozen rolls, and fresh produce. We are buying small hams for our December 18th distributions. We are hosting December 1st, 8th, and 15th and all four Wednesdays in January so please feel free to volunteer to help.

In November we received \$70 in donations from congregation members. Thank you!

Please continue praying for the people who volunteer at NOAH and those that benefit from it.

Elizabeth Hoelter



# Financials

## October

Envelope Giving	\$20,440
Simply Giving	\$ 3,555
Total Giving	\$23,995
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 2,505
Total Income	\$24,500
Expenses	\$36,267
<b>Monthly Deficit</b>	<b>(\$11,767)</b>

## November

Envelope Giving	\$37,074
Simply Giving	\$ 3,555
Total Giving	\$40,629
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 2,505
Total Income	\$43,134
Expenses	\$36,267
<b>Monthly Surplus</b>	<b>\$ 6,867</b>

**October/November Deficit (\$ 4,900)**



# Milestones

## Wedding Anniversaries

- December 17 Gabe and Lora Brenner
- December 19 Bill and Cathy Fusco
- December 20 Meryl 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 10 Elizabeth Hoelter

December 13	Carol Roth Karl Olson Sofia Broski
December 14	Teri Koehler
December 18	Pat Anderson
December 19	Bill Theis
December 20	Rudy Mappus
December 22	Carol Bossaller
December 28	Janis Brokaw
December 29	Kirsten Perkett
December 30	Suzette Lillidahl



## Prayer List

### Healing

Kelly (niece of Elizabeth and Bruce H.)  
Sherry W.

### Long Term Healing

Carole B.  
Zach S.  
Gabe B.  
Chris (Mandy Mc.'s BIL)  
Mark (Curtis S' friend)  
Karl Olson

### Homebound Members

Pastor Leon  
Norma C.  
Robert and Leona A.  
Janice S.  
Roxie C.



## Scriptures for December

December 5	Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Philemon 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6
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December 12  
Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Isaiah 12:2-6  
Philemon 4:4-7  
Luke 3:7-18

December 19  
Micah 5:2-5a  
Psalm 80:1-7  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-55

December 24  
Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-20

December 25  
Isaiah 62:6-12  
Psalm 97  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2:1-20

December 26  
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26  
Psalm 148  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Luke 2:41-52



## Events

The following events are scheduled for this Advent Season:

- **Soup Suppers** on Thursday (December 2, 9, and 16) at 6 p.m. in the Welcome Center
- **Mid-Week Advent Service** using the Holden Evening Prayer service to follow the Soup Supper.
- **Christmas Lunch** on Sunday, December 12 following the 10 a.m. worship service.
- **Kid's Advent Event** on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in Room 7. Contact Jean Bashi
  - There will be story time, songs, crafts, and games for all ages.
  - Parents may drop off their children or stay for the fun.

## Pledge Sunday

Thank you to everyone that has brought in their pledge packets. If you have not had the opportunity yet, there is still time. Council appreciates your responses.



## How You Can Help Others

There are several opportunities for you to help others during this month:

- **Warm Clothing Drive** – we are partnering with Redwood Gospel Mission and collecting warm clothing for our community members who are in need. Please check your closets and drawers for gently used items such as, sweaters, jackets, scarves, gloves, mittens, socks, hats, etc. The barrel arrives this week and will be in the hallway by the church office. We will collect items through December 15.
- **Blessing Bags** – we still have plenty of blessing bags filled that are available for delivering to someone in need. Take a few and keep in your car for when you see someone you can help.
- **Seniors Needing Transportation** – we have some of our older folks that call up the office looking for visitors and/or transportation to appointments periodically. If you would be willing to bless someone with this kind of help, please contact the church office.
- **Worship Volunteers Needed** – now that we are back worshipping in-person we need people to read, serve communion, set up and clean up communion, and usher at both services. We especially need people for our two Christmas Eve services. Please contact the Church Office if you would be willing to volunteer for one or more jobs.
- **Scrip Sales** – one of the ways the school fundraises is by selling Scrip Gift Cards. This year we will have you pre-order your selections and we will have the cards available the week before Christmas. You will find an order form attached to this newsletter. Please get your orders in by December 13<sup>th</sup>. The Scrip cards that we currently have on hand are available each week on Sundays. Please see Kim in her office between services.
- **Harold's Home** – each year the Women's Ministries collect money for a giving tree for the women of Harold's Home, a local shelter for women and children. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please make a check payable to Women's Ministries and drop in the offering plate and bring to the church office. Thank you for remembering these special women and their families.
- **Christmas Cards for Our Homebound Members** – for the first three Sundays in December we will have Christmas cards on the table in the Welcome Center for you to sign. Please take a moment to write a short message or even your name to let our homebound members know they are still in our hearts.



## Miscellaneous Information

Other miscellaneous information for this month:

- Pastor Ted has created weekly **advent devotions** based on the Advent Candles that you will receive electronically on Mondays.

- Pastor Ted has started another form of communication. Each Sunday you should listen to the sermon either in-person or online. Monday morning either through Constant Contact or our on Facebook page he will have a **question of the week** for you to respond. Then the following week he will have a response to your posts.
- Thank you to Jean Bashi's 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders who **decorated our tree** this week. They did an excellent job!
- We have a tree up in the narthex. It is a **Tree of Hope, Wishes and Blessings** for this coming year. Take a colored circle from the basket and write your hope, wish or blessing and then tape a ribbon to the back for a hanger. Place it on the tree and we will pray for these this holiday season.
- **Emergency Contact List** – it has come to our attention that when someone from the church is not attending for a while that we do not always have a contact number to call to check on our member. We are trying to gather a list of emergency numbers (children, neighbor, or other family member) so we have a way of making sure everything is fine. Please contact the church office with your contact information.
- **Advent Calendars** – We have received Advent Calendars from ELCA. Please pick up your copy from the table in the Welcome Center.
- **Congratulations to Kahlia Bashi** who just graduated from Arizona State University with an M.A. in Social Work. Great job on all your hard work!

