

# Cross and Crown Lutheran and School Newsletter

January 2022



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## Pastor Ted's Take

January 6 is Epiphany. January 9 is Epiphany Sunday.



“The Eve of the Eve of Epiphany” by Alexander Cummins (1915)

The magi or kings were most likely astrologers coming from today's Iran, ancient Persia. This might explain why they were following a star. The thousand mile plus journey suggests that Jesus is God's gift to the world, not just to Israel. The gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh symbolize recognition of Jesus' kingship. The entire life of Jesus—birth, teaching, miracles, death on a cross, and resurrection—are for us an epiphany of God's grace and promise. We can be as thankful at Epiphany as we were at Christmas.

## **The Pastor's Knees**

You might recall that your pastor underwent a full right knee replacement in September. We have scheduled a repeat surgery for the left knee in early February. This means I might need to pray standing up rather than kneeling for a while.

## **Praying for CCLCS**

We've been praying persistently and relentlessly for five months now with one thing in mind: we ask the Holy Spirit to show CCLCS the way to the future.

Each Tuesday at 1:15 the **World Prayer Circle** gathers on Zoom and lifts up prayers on behalf of all of us connected to CCLCS. Some members pray daily at 7:30 am in their homes. Now, we've planned a **Prayer Vigil** in the sanctuary for Wednesday, January 12, 2022, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. Drop in. Pray. Pray spontaneously. Or, if you'd like a prompt prayer, just take this with you and read it.

*O Holy Spirit, you have appointed us to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in Rohnert Park and the world. We ask that you inspire us to revere your Holy Word, maintain a loving and forgiving communal life, and share the gospel message with the community around us. We ask that you lead us around the next corners into unforeseen yet genuine ministry. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.*

When you arrive on Wednesday the 12th, other prompt prayers will be available. We trust that God hears our prayers and plans to answer. If you have any questions, contact Tandy Whittaker. No coffee will be served. Can you believe it? Lutherans without coffee? Wow! We must be serious.

## **Sin Boldly!**

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll learn from Elizabeth Hoelter that we will resume our weekly seminars on sin and grace. For each weekly meeting we'll read one chapter from Ted Peters, *Sin Boldly!* (Fortress Press, 2015). We'll hold three in February and three immediately following Easter. If you do not yet have the book, it's easy to order from Amazon or other online book services. Begin with Chapter 7 on self-justification. Here are the Tuesdays.

### Before Easter

January 18. Chapter 7: Self-Justification

February 1. Chapter 8: Ethics for Bold Sinners

February 22. Chapter 9: Scapegoats and Broken Souls

### After Easter

April 26. Chapter 10: Faith as Belief

May 3. Chapter 11: Faith as Trust

May 10. Chapter 12: Faith as the Indwelling Presence of Christ

The value of this discussion will be in our close examination of how we humans engage in sin. No condemnation. Only deepened understanding.

After all, we live in God's forgiving grace. The very experience of forgiveness makes it easier for us to be truthful about sin. That's part of the magic of the gospel.



## Letter from the Congregational President

Greetings to Cross and Crown Family and Friends.

How very **heartening and hopeful** to see so many of you in attendance at our Christmas eve services. While contributions have increased and more pledges have been received, we still have more work to do to meet our expenses.

We **ask your prayers** for our **call Committee** as they begin their work: Sue Michaelson (chair), Brian Brozovic, Curtis Schmidt, Joyce Rogers, Nancy Umland, Rudy Mappus and Jean Bashi.

Plan to **attend our Prayer Vigil** to pray for the future of Cross and Crown Church, School and Community January 12 between 4 and 8 pm in the Sanctuary. Also continue to pray daily at 7:30 am and 9:00 pm.

You will be receiving a copy of our revised Church Constitution which has been amended to meet requirements of the Model Constitution of the ELCA. We will vote on this at our **Annual Meeting February 6**.

A big thank you to Tandy Whitaker for all her work to secure worship assistants at our Sunday Services.

May the Holy Spirit lift you up and surround you in this New Year!

Peace & Love,  
Myrna Kappler, Council President



## Update from Cross and Crown Lutheran School

With the beginning of every calendar year, I can't help but spend some time reflecting on my family and the growth and changes that have taken place throughout the years. What holds me in awe is seeing the hand of God in it all. Forty years ago I was a single mom of three preschoolers. Living paycheck to paycheck was "the good life" because there was a paycheck. The kids wore hand-me-downs, ate lots of PBJ sandwiches and camped in the backyard for summer vacations. They didn't know much about buying our food with Food Stamps, or why we stood in line for milk and cheese at the Veteran's Building, but they didn't mind. There was barely enough money for the necessities, but I knew that God was watching out for us by making sure we had what we needed. We never were hungry, never were behind in our utility or

mortgage payments, and although there was nothing left over, God saw to it that everything was paid.

Our lives today are so completely different, and those lean years seem so long ago. Yet every time I am stopped at a light and come face-to-face with the homeless, those years leap to the forefront of my mind. The thought comes that this could have been me and my family. Then I feel God tugging at my heart to reach out and be “Jesus with skin”.

We have a wonderful program at Cross and Crown where this very thing can happen; it’s called “Blessing Bags”. Members supply food items, warm socks, water and The Word. Our school children and others help put these items into gallon bags. Then members and school parents pass out the bags to those in need who are standing in front of shopping centers and on street corners. Our members directly, and our children indirectly are answering God’s call to “Go”! Go and bring the Gospel of Salvation to all His people meeting them where they are while showing compassion and His love. We become His instruments following His direction yet not knowing the impact our gesture may have or how we are being used by God for His purpose in the lives of others. What an amazing way to teach our school children to care for the less fortunate!

The staff and I wish a Happy New Year to everyone! It is our prayer for God’s blessings to be given to all our families and friends at CCLCS in the coming year.

In His Name!

Jean Bashi  
Administrator



## Update from NOAH

December was a busy month at NOAH. We tried to give our guests extra food to help over the holidays and were able to give out turkeys to those who wanted them. We also gave out chickens. We made holiday meals by providing stuffing, cranberry sauce, baking items, instant mashed potatoes, eggs, soups, and fresh produce.

Helping with distributions were Claudia Theis, Bob and Sharon Wambold, Skip Wellman, Shelley Slingland, Jim and Carole Bossaller, Sue Michaelsen, Jim Carter, John Umland, Elena Atkins (Gerda’s daughter), and Ken Schlesinger. These are faithful workers and appreciated by all.

Thanks to all who continue to volunteer and pray for our mission to feed those in our community who need help with their food budget. We are also responsible for the distributions in January so call me (707) 308-5969 if you want to help.

Bruce and Elizabeth Hoelter



# Financials

## Monthly Reports on how we are doing:

### For the Month ending Sunday, November 30 2021

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

### For the Month ending Sunday, December 29. 2021

Envelope Giving	\$26,963
Simply Giving	<u>\$ 3,555</u>
Total Giving	\$30,518
Misc. Income	<u>\$ 2,505</u>
Total Income	\$33,023
Expenses	<u>\$36,267</u>
<b>Monthly Deficit</b>	<b>(\$3,244)</b>

**2 Month Deficit, Nov. 2021 & Dec. 2021 (\$3,623)**



## Milestones

### Wedding Anniversaries

None

### Birthdays:

January 12	Norma Grubb
January 19	Jim Stark
January 27	Sarah Cornett
January 28	Kathy Teixeira



## Prayer List

### Grief

Family of Cory V.S. (wife of Kim B.'s friend)

### Healing

Eleanor (Pastor Bob's granddaughter – former CCLC pastor)

Didier (Elizabeth and Bruce's friend)

Derek (Jean B.'s nephew)

Charles (husband of Johnetta – director of Harold's Home)

Jessica (school parent and sister of Katy B.)

Connie (friend of Joanne B.)

### 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 January

January 2

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalms 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:1-18

January 9

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalms 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 16	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11
January 23	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21
January 30	Jerimiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30



## Events

### Prayer Vigil

A number of CCLC members have been meeting at 9:00 AM on Sundays and discussing Thomas S. Rainer's book, "**Anatomy of a Revived Church.**"

One statement by the author made a tremendous impression on all of us: ***"We have seen again and again in our anatomy of revitalized churches that every sustained church revitalization is undergirded by a powerful movement of prayer. Every. Single. One. It's just that important."***

Consequently, we all have **committed to praying daily** for Cross and Crown Lutheran Church and School, asking God to show us the way forward so that this congregation can grow, expand its ministries, and be a blessing both within and outside of our walls. Some of us have committed to praying at specific *times* every day, either **7:30 AM or 9:00 PM**, or both, so that we are regularly united in a "circle of prayer" even when not physically together. If you are not already involved in this prayer ministry, we invite you to join us!

In addition to these daily prayers, we are planning an evening prayer vigil. **On Wednesday, January 12, from 4:00-8:00 PM, the sanctuary will be open for silent prayer.** Anyone who wishes may come in during that time to pray. You may stay for hours or for minutes; it's up to you. If you are concerned about the future of Cross and Crown, please join us. If you cannot be physically present, we invite you to join us in spirit by spending some time in prayer during this time, knowing that other hearts are joined with yours to pray for revitalization of our beloved church and school.

Blessings,  
Myrna Kappler  
Congregation President

### **Sin Boldly! Book Study Resuming**

Pastor Ted will be holding discussion dates for his book Sin Boldly! beginning on January 18 at 7 p.m. in the Welcome Center. Please join us for a glass of wine and a light snack as we delve into the book. Please see Pastor Ted's article for further information on the event.

### **CCLCS Kids' Club Valentine Event**

**Saturday, February 5, 2022**  
**5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Room #7**

**Celebrate the Valentine's "holiday" with  
Stories, Songs, Crafts and Games**

**Parents, you may stay for the fun,  
or take these two hours to spend some  
uninterrupted time with your special Valentine!!**

**RSVP – [jbashi@cclsrp.org](mailto:jbashi@cclsrp.org)**



## **How You Can Help Others**

### **Blessing Bag Donations Needed**

We need of the following items for our ongoing mission project of Blessing Bags: individually wrapped cookies, fruit cups or applesauce, fruit snacks and bags of nuts or raisins. You are welcome to grab any completed bags to take and give to someone in need in the community or take a few moments to make up some bags for others to take. Thank you for helping with this important project.

### **Worship Assistants – Volunteer Signups**

It takes many helping hands to make worship services run smoothly. *MANY THANKS* to all those who volunteered to be worship assistants for the month of January!

Volunteer opportunities are now available for February and March.



The sign-up board for Worship Assistants is now on a standing tripod, located between the Welcome Center and the sanctuary. Pencils are attached so you can easily write in your name where you want to serve.

The categories are: Greeter/Usher, Scripture Reader, Communion Assistant, Communion Set-up, and Communion clean-up. If you would like to volunteer for any of these jobs but are hesitant because you don't quite know what's involved, Kim can provide training.



## Miscellaneous Information

### Shoeboxes Needed

The office always needs empty shoeboxes for storage in our Sunday School closet. Please drop off the boxes in the church office. Thanks!

### Calling All Leaders of the Church -- Annual Reports Needed

It is that time of year when the church office compiles all the reports for the Annual Meeting. Please turn in your report to the office electronically no later than January 19. Please make sure the document is in an editable file so the office can format it. Thank you!

### Reviving Cross and Crown

Each Sunday morning at 9 am, a group of members have been meeting to discuss and implement ideas sparked from the reading of Thom Rainer's book, *The Anatomy of a Revived Church*. We have discussed mission, outreach, reaching young families, increasing visibility in the community and the importance of prayer. We invite you to **read the book** which is available to borrow in the Welcome Center and/or join us. Some of the things that have happened from our discussions include:

- Kid's Club Advent Event – December 18 with over 20 children attending
- Banner made & hung for Christmas Eve Services
- Prayer Vigil organized for January 12
- Ad in Press Democrat and Petaluma Courier for January
- Signups for Worship Assistants



## Save the Date

February 5  
February 6

Kid's Club Valentine Event – 5:30 p.m. (Room 7)  
Churchwide Annual Meeting – 11:15 a.m.