

Cross and Crown Lutheran and School Newsletter

August 2022



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Pastor Ted's Take

A new pastor is coming

In a few weeks Cross 'n' Crown will be welcoming Pastor Bill Wessner and Susan Wessner. Hooray!

We knew already in January 2020 that this day of transition would come. Even so, it'll be sad to leave. Both Karen and I and even Angie have loved you at Cross 'n' Crown. We will miss you.

What next for Ted?

Many of you have asked me what I will do next. Here is my plan. I plan to take at least one week for loafing. And, of course, watch the Oakland A's.

After that, I'll do some volunteer consultation and online seminar teaching. I will continue to write and serve on the editorial board of a magazine I would like to introduce you to, *Pax Lumina*. Published in India, this excellent magazine is dedicated to peace and justice in Asia and the world. [<https://paxlumina.com/>] Subscribe online.

A new institute for advanced interdisciplinary studies will be opening later this year in Kerla, India, sponsored by the Jesuits. I tentatively plan to serve as an academic consultant and lead seminars on contemporary topics. This should be enough to keep me off the streets and out of trouble.

More Leona Foxx

I've made no other professional plans as of this writing. Karen has been urging us to get going once again on fiction writing. I had put on hold writing our saga of Leona Foxx, the hybrid pastor and CIA operative who is the protagonist in our series of espionage thrillers, beginning with *For*

God and Country. The fourth volume, titled *Golden Gate*, was abandoned in nearly completed form two years ago. So, we'll pick up where we'd left off. Good's gotta triumph over evil, ya know. [Yes, Amazon].

Karen to New Jersey

In September Karen will make a trip to New Jersey for a high school reunion. While there, she'll attend worship with Bruce and Elizabeth Hoelter in the church where Karen was confirmed: Grace Lutheran at Somers Point.

Would you like to join us in Bali?

Some of you may know that Karen has a special interest in Bali, Indonesia. We are planning to lead a guided tour to this island paradise in March 2023 just in time for the Balinese New Year festival, Nyepi. I will ride along and provide background presentations on Balinese history and culture.

Curiously, Bali is a Hindu island. Very colorful. We will learn about agrarian Hinduism and engage traditional arts and crafts. This will be quite a cross-cultural experience.

Would you like to join us? If you are a senior citizen and walk slowly, can you still come? You betcha!

Just contact Karen for more information: kandercom@aol.com.

Pastor Ted's Web Site & Blog Site

I do plan to update my website [TedsTimelyTake.com] periodically and continue to post weekly on my *Patheos* blog site, "Public Theology" [<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/publictheology/>]. Visit frequently!



Introduction to Our New Pastor

Susan and I moved to California in 2014 to be near our children and grandchildren. We have many years of church experience behind us as Deacon and Pastor serving congregations in Illinois and Ohio. Our Sierra Pacific Synod called on me to serve the Gospel as an Interim Pastor in Petaluma, followed by the same, here at Cross and Crown in Rohnert Park, then in Santa Rosa and most recently Sacramento. It is with great joy that I return to Cross and Crown as the "Called" Pastor. Thank you, Cross and Crown Lutheran Church and School, for this new and familiar work. How very exciting it is to be with you all again. Together we, will continue to explore ways to "Make the Love of Christ Known" in church and school, the community, our Synod, our ELCA, and all of God's world.



Come and see!

Peace

Pastor Bill

(707) 782-8703 cell & text

Pastor Bill's first Sunday will be on August 28th. Come be a part of this new chapter in Cross and Crown.



Letter from the Congregational President

Greetings to Cross and Crown Family and Friends:

We give prayers of thanks for -

- Our well **attended congregational meeting**
- The vote to call **Pastor Bill Wessner**
- The vote of approval for his compensation package
- The diligent work and discernment of our Call Committee: **Sue Michaelson**, chair, **Brian Brozovic**, **Jean Bashi**, **Curtis Schmitt**, **Rudy Mappus**, **Nancy Umland**, and **Joyce Rogers**
- For the leadership and ministry of **Pastor Ted Peters** and support given by his wife, **Karen** these past two and half years.

I enjoyed seeing so many of you in attendance at our Congregational Meeting and the **hope** that gives as we move forward.

May the Holy Spirit lift you up and surround you!

Love and Peace,
Myrna Kappler, Council President



Update from Cross and Crown Lutheran School

Jean is currently gallivanting across the Western United States with her grandson, Henry. When she comes back, she will be jumping back into getting the school ready for the 2022-2023 school year. Our first day of school is September 6th.

We are offering Summer School for four weeks this year. Thanks to Mandy McCarthy, Lissete Preciado-Martin, Mackenzie Lowe, Jenny Brokaw, and Marisa Hardina for being available to teach our youth.

Starting in the fall we will be saying good-bye to Lisette and Jenny who will be going on to other endeavors. Mandy, our preschool director, has hired two new teachers: Allison Klein and Keyley Peterson. Welcome to the Cross and Crown family.

We have a giving tree up on the bulletin board next to the church/school office. If you would like to help out the school and purchase one of the items, please take the leaf and return the donated item to the office. We appreciate your support.

The other big item for us is the 50th Anniversary celebration of the school. We are having an open house on Saturday, September 14th from 2 – 5 p.m. Come join us for a celebration of joy and fellowship. Classrooms will be open and outside games will be provided. Please let your friends and family know who previously attended. More information will follow next month.

Finally we thank you for all the prayers the last two years. Please continue praying for the staff and our new group of students as they begin a new year at Cross and Crown.



Update from NOAH

Several members of our church helped out with NOAH distributions in July. We are scheduled to handle distribution for the month of October so I will be reaching out to ask for volunteers then.

Last month Sharon Wambold, Jim Carter, Sue Michaelson and her two grandnieces Harlow and Hazel, Bruce Hoelter, and John Umland, volunteered at the distributions. Thanks to all of them.

Faith Adam brought fresh produce from the gardens in her neighborhood as well as some staples which were enjoyed by our guests. NOAH received a \$50 dollar donation from Cross and Crown and a large amount of canned goods from the NOAH barrel. We are grateful for the support of the congregation as we continue our mission to help local families with their food budgets.



Financials

**Monthly Reports on how we are doing:
For the Month ending Sunday, June 26, 2022**

Envelope Giving	\$19,940
Simply Giving	<u>\$ 3,555</u>
Total Giving	\$23,495
Misc. Income	<u>\$ 2,505</u>
Total Income	\$26,000
Expenses	<u>\$34,690</u>
Monthly Deficit	(\$8,690)

For the Month ending Sunday, July 31, 2022

Envelope Giving	\$25,741
Simply Giving	<u>\$ 3,555</u>
Total Giving	\$29,296
Misc. Income	<u>\$ 2,505</u>
Total Income	\$31,801
Expenses	<u>\$34,690</u>
Monthly Deficit	(\$2,889)

2 Month Deficit, April & May 2022 (\$11,579)



Milestones

Wedding Anniversaries

August 13 John and Nancy Umland

Birthdays:

August 4 Lora Brenner
 Deborah Klipfel

August 6	Henry Perkett
August 7	Robert Asper
August 9	Emily Burns
August 10	Cathy Fusco
August 11	Cheri Underwood
August 13	Kent Bjugstad
August 18	Caitlin Burns
	Gabe Brenner
	Brandon Boccaleoni
August 19	Bruce Hoelter
August 22	Karen Grey
	Tony Burns
August 25	Greg Slingland
August 28	Nathan Gornowicz
August 29	Vicki Brauer



Prayer List

Grief

Family of Peg, aunt of Tony B.
 Family of Pastor Leon
 Family of Renee, aunt of Lynne C.

Healing

Tim, brother of Lynne BS
 Karen G.

Long Term Healing

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

Homebound Members

Norma C.
 Robert and Leona A.
 Janice S.



Scriptures for August

August 7
Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 14
Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 21
Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

August 28
Proverbs 25:6-7
Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14



Events

Open Sanctuary

Just a reminder that, throughout the month of August, we are continuing to offer “Open Sanctuary for Meditation and Prayer” every Thursday from 12:00-2:00 PM. You may stay for a few minutes or the entire two hours.

There is no speaker or program — just our beautiful sanctuary with soft music where you can meditate and pray in silence. Prayer prompts are available for those who would like to use them. This is open to the community; persons of all faith traditions are welcome.

Hiking Group

This month there will be a **walk** on **Saturday August 6**. We will meet at **10:00 am** at the church and walk over to Sonoma State and around the campus. If you have not been walking in a while this is a good way to begin and visit with others. Give me a call or send an email if you plan to join us. Myrna Kappler, 707-795-6964

Good-bye and Thank You Brunch for Pastor Ted and Karen Peters

Pastor Ted's last Sunday is August 21st. We are planning a single worship service at 9:30 a.m. for our congregation followed by a brunch for Pastor Ted and Karen. There is a sign-up board in the Welcome Center for the following items: warm casseroles, fruit, baked goods, champagne. Please help by signing up this Sunday or you may call or email Kim at the office (795-7853 or church@crossandcrownrp.org). We will also be collecting a love offering for them. Please write on your check or envelope love offering. Pastor Ted will still be in the office through August 24th if you are not able to make the Sunday. We will miss them both!

Holiday Craft Faire – Craft Prep and Sales

As previously announced, we will hold a Craft Faire at CCLC on November 18 & 19th. Prior to then, Lori Newzell is holding a series of crafting sessions for those who wish to make items to be sold, with proceeds to be donated to the church. Lori plans the activities and provides all the materials and instruction.

Ten people participated in our first crafting session on Saturday, July 30, and we not only made a bunch of cute items to sell but had a great time doing it! Future sessions will be held on September 10, October 1, October 15, and November 5. Sign up forms are available in the Welcome Center, or you can just let Lori or Tandy know when you'd like to participate.

If you know of anyone who is crafty that would like to sell items at the event, please contact Lori Newzell at (707) 481-3940 or newzell@sbcglobal.net.

There are several options for craft booth tables.

- Pricing for booth space to sell your crafts:
- Members \$40 for one day, and \$30 for 2nd day
- Non church members - \$50 one day & \$40 for 2nd day
- Members & non-members donating their proceeds – pricing zero
- Provide the first table and any Extra table (if available, need table count) - pay CCLC \$20 or \$25

Women's Book Club

The book club will meet on Tuesday, August 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Welcome Center. We will be discussing "Hamnet" by Maggie O'Farrell. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

Tamales Sales – Primera Iglesia Bautista Church

The Spanish church will be selling tamales in our parking lot on Saturday, September 3. Come out and support their church!



How You Can Help Others

Worship Volunteers Needed for August

We need numerous volunteers for the 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. worship services. Positions needed are: ushers/greeters (hand out bulletins and pass offering plates), communion assistants (help distribute communion), readers (read the scriptures), communion set-up (place wafers on the plates, pour wine and juice into cups, place all on the altar), clean up communion (return plates and trays to sacristy and dispose of empties, return unused wafers to refrigerators). Training is available. Please check the sign-up board in the Welcome Center for the dates and services still needed.

World Prayer Circle

Each Tuesday at 1:15 p.m. Pastor Ted and a group of people pray for the needs of our congregation, community, and the world. If you have a prayer request you would like us to pray for, please submit your requests to Kim at crossandcrownrp.org. If you would like to be a part of this group, please let us know. New members are always welcome.

Reminder - Prayers for Cross and Crown Continue!

Some months ago, a number of CCLC members committed to pray daily for the life and future of our church. Some of us committed to pray at 7:30 AM and 9:00 PM, and some of us just agreed to pray morning and evening without a specific time. We have seen the Holy Spirit at work in these recent months!

This is a just a gentle reminder ... if you've "kind of forgotten" about that commitment, please renew your efforts to talk to God every day about the future of our beloved church! And remember, SHORT prayers are fine — Pastor Ted (and Martin Luther) said so!

Blessing Bags

The bins for our ongoing mission project, blessing bags, are still in the Welcome Center. Please take time to make a bag or two to take to someone in need in the community. Check if the bins are running low and donate the items for that bin. Non-perishable individually wrapped items include:

- Peanut butter or cheese and crackers
- Applesauce cups or fruit cups
- Fruit snacks
- Cookies
- Trail mix or raisins
- New pairs of socks



Miscellaneous Information

Let's Manage our Waste

The congregation of Cross and Crown is obligated to properly manage our waste. The Lord calls for his people to be good stewards of the world which he made.

Every week you will find in our garbage bin items that can be recycled and items that can be composted. By failing to recycle, we are minimizing the ability to provide materials to make useful products at reduced cost and requiring less energy usage. By failing to separate compostable items we increase methane emissions from landfills and increase the amount of carbon stored in soil.

We have for several years placed blue bins around the building to collect recyclable materials so that they will not go to the landfill. We still find large amounts of recyclable paper, and plastic items including plastic water bottles tossed in the garbage cans. All members of the congregation have an obligation to ensure that we are not being wasteful of what the Lord has provided.

A new law effective last January requires that all residents and businesses divert organic materials from landfills. This includes food scraps, plant trimmings, unlined soiled paper products. These items are to be placed in the green bins for composting. We have begun maintaining a green bin next to the exterior from the kitchen and a green bin will be placed in the Welcome Center.

In the future the State will impose fines beginning at \$100 to as much as \$500 per infraction. Please assist this congregation in purposely managing our waste.

John Umland, Facilities Chairman

Revival of Cross and Crown Group

Each Sunday a group of people meet in the Welcome Center between the services to come up with ideas to help grow Cross and Crown. Here are some of the items they are currently working on:

- Creating a mailer to reach out to the community
- Discussion of a QR code to help the community find our website and events
- Updating the website
- Update on the Open Sanctuary Events
- Article on Gen Z and how Cross and Crown can learn from this

If you would like to be a part of this group, please join them at 9 a.m. in the Welcome Center. New people are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Eucharistic Ministers Starting Soon

Pastor Ted has been in conversation with several members of our church about reaching out to our homebound members and bringing them communion. The team of people include Sue Michaelson, Jim Carter, Myrna Kappler, Kathy Teixeira, Nancy Umland, and Deborah Klipfel. For those persons who are unable to get to church, you will be receiving a call from one of these people about setting up a time for someone to come visit you. If you do not receive a call in the next month, please contact the church office (707-795-7853) so we can get you on the list of people to visit.

Pastor Leon Holm – Died on August 25th

Our founding pastor, Pastor Leon Holm, died last week at age 101. He founded the church in 1968 and went on to serve other congregations around the country. He and his wife, Evelyn, returned to Rohnert Park where they retired to be near their son, Dave, and daughter, Vicki. Both Evelyn and Dave died within the past ten years. Pastor Leon has been living with Vicki in Santa Rosa. Prayers for the family. They have scheduled a memorial service for October 8th at Cross and Crown. All are welcome to attend.

Pastor Laura Ziehl – 25th Anniversary of Her Ordination

The church received a call from Pastor Laura's church regarding her 25th anniversary of her installation. The church is having a celebration on August 28th and would love to have written memories or video clips sent to them to add to a memory book or slide show. If you were around when Pastor Laura was here and would like to submit something, please email Suzi Westmoreland at suziwestmoreland@hotmail.com. This is a momentous occasion, and every little bit is a precious memory that Pastor Laura would treasure.

Churchwide Synod Assembly

The ELCA Church is holding their churchwide assembly on August 8-12 in Columbus, Ohio. If you would like to watch the livestream, please go to this link: <https://elca.org/cwa-2022>



Save the Date

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| September 24 | Cross and Crown Lutheran School 50 th Anniversary Celebration |
| September 30 | Pastor Bill's Installation (Time TBA) |
| October 8 | Pastor Leon Holm's Memorial Service at 1 p.m. |