

Cross and Crown Lutheran and School Newsletter

September 2022



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Message from Pastor Bill

On my first day of kindergarten my mother wanted a picture of me getting onto the school bus to send to her mother. It was my job to step up onto the bus, turn around, smile and wave. She had her camera ready, shutter finger itchy. As the bus pulled up, she repeated the instructions. The doors opened, I dashed on, eager to find my seat, the driver closed the door and pulled away. Mother missed the shot. But the second day would do for such a picture. This time the instructions were repeated and as she focused on the step and snapped the shot, the door closed, and the bus pulled away. No picture. She had a couple of the bottom of my feet and finally one in the ordered pose, smiling and waving. All this in the era of a still box cameras and negative processing at the camera shop. Yes, I am that old. I never saw those pictures. They are, no doubt, in my grandmother's archives or since disposed. But to be sure I heard the story many times growing up.

Today was the fifty first, first day of school at Cross and Crown. And from a distance outside (isolating*), I greeted the preschoolers. Some who drug their parents, with some parents doing the leading, and many who walked with a confident, backpack laden, swagger. Abundant were the first first days, for both parents and children. There was also at least one disappointed younger sibling who wanted their first day to happen today! Many pictures were taken. But again the stop action was difficult because the real focus was to get inside.

First days stand out for us all because transitions travel with many companions: change, novelty, excitement, curiosity, adventure, opportunity, but also uncertainty, unfamiliarity, vagueness, fear, loss of routine, and just plain loss. No wonder we often greet the new with such resistance. Remember even Moses had his list of excuses: Exodus 3-4 (I count 7). And God removes them all, as if in a practical way, to "prove" God's faithfulness to the promise: "I am with you." -Exodus 3:12

For fifty (now beginning 51) years Cross and Crown Lutheran School has been in this community as a place receiving curious, excited, trepidatious children into the loving arms of the God who is always with us. Again and again in ridiculously difficult times for this community, our School has been the embodiment of God's faithful promise: I am with you. This is a body of work that uses vision, direction, energy, intelligence, flexibility, diligence, and faithfulness at such a wide variety of skills, it cannot be done by one person, or ten. The integration of the lives of Cross and Crown School and Church is so deep that we refresh one another, like rivers to oceans to clouds. There are children at the school whose parents were students. And we will help them celebrate such at Grandparents Day (9/14). And this Sunday (9/11) we will be Blessing the Backpacks and Installing our Teachers and Aids. Come and see.

And on Saturday September 24, we will have a community wide celebration of this Ministry. (More details in this newsletter.) As you read this, reach out to those "alumni" -children, parents, supporters, any connections, of Cross and Crown School and Cross and Crown Church who are local and distant and let them know. We will make this a time of gathering memories and recommitting to all our first days, new days.** Come and see.

Welcome back. See you in Church. Peace.
Pastor Bill

*Keeping post symptom protocol.

**send in your first day pics - I'll take them at PastorBill.CrossAndCrown@gmail.com



Letter from the Congregational President

Greetings to Cross and Crown Family and Friends:

Wow, Cross and Crown is experiencing **renewed energy** and **growth**. Our prayers are being answered. My experience is the **Holy Spirit** is nurturing many seeds which have been planted. I've enjoyed seeing new and returning folks. Pastor Bill has begun his ministry here running. As I was visiting my mother in PA, I enjoyed viewing the service on You Tube.

We give prayers of thanks for -

- Well attended Good-bye brunch for Pastor Ted and Karen. Thank you, Kim and team.
- **Tandy Whitaker** for behind-the-scenes coordination of Sunday morning worship assistants, Open Sanctuary and publicity.
- **Sue Michaelsen** for organizing and getting **Kid's Club** off the ground.
- The **opportunities** to share our **talents** and **prayers**.

Please plan to attend the **school's 50th Anniversary Celebration** on **September 24** and **Pastor Bill's Installation** on **September 30 at 6 pm** (mingle at 4:30 and dinner at 5pm). **Sunday,**

September 25 is the tentative date for Primera Iglesia de Bautista to host a Mexican dinner for Cross and Crown after our 10 am service. We bring dessert.

May the Holy Spirit lift you up and surround you!

Peace & Love,
Myrna Kapler, Council President



Update from Cross and Crown Lutheran School

During the time of Christ, there was a city on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee named Hippos. It was one of the ten cities of the Decapolis and the closest to Capernaum where Christ spent the last three years of His ministry. In May of this year, I was able to visit the Holy Land and walk through the ruins of Hippos. The city was high on a hill, and when standing at the top, one can see the city of Tiberius directly across the lake and Capernaum to the north. Hippos is not specifically named in the Bible, but in The Sermon on the Mount, from the northwest corner of the Sea of Galilee, Christ addressed the crowd and said, *"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden."* (Matt. 5:14). Can you envision Christ looking up from the crowd and gesturing to the east at the city of Hippos, the **only city** high on a hill? It gives me chills.

Cross and Crown Lutheran Church and School is also a light, but to the community of Rohnert Park. Several times throughout its 50-year history, closure has been mentioned at council and school board meetings. I've been in attendance at those meetings, where our church and school leadership has lifted our concerns up in prayer to keep the light from being snuffed out. Praise God, we can *"Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!!!"* (Ps. 98:1) Pastor Bill Wessner has been called as our shepherd, and we are still open to continue the work God has given us. We are a "light" in our community that "cannot be hidden". The Lord has spoken!

This year marks our 51st year for our school in Rohnert Park. September 6, we open our doors to 82 students and 12 staff members. On Saturday, September 24, from 2-5 p.m., our church and school are hosting a celebration of joy and thanksgiving for 50 years in the Rohnert Park community. We invite all past staff members, students, and the public to join in the celebration. Please spread the word and bring your families and friends to the festivities!!! We'll be looking for you!

Blessings,

Jean Bashi
Administrator



Update from NOAH

NOAH continues to have weekly distributions for those in our community who rely on us to help with their food budgets. Each week we are able to provide them with canned goods, fresh produce, dairy products, some frozen meat, and bread. Local gardeners are sharing produce with us which is greatly appreciated.

Last month Sharon Wambold, John Umland, and Claudia Theis helped with distributions. We are scheduled to run the distributions in October so please consider assisting on Wednesdays from 3:45 until 6:00. New volunteers are always welcome. Contact me for more information.

NOAH received a \$100 donation from Cross and Crown in August as well as items in the barrel. Thank you for that.

Elizabeth Hoelter
(707) 308-5969 or Sfborn8320@scbcglobal.net



Financials

Monthly Reports on how we are doing: 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)

For the Month ending Sunday, August 28, 2022

Envelope Giving	\$11,049
Simply Giving	<u>\$ 3,555</u>
Total Giving	\$14,603
Misc. Income	<u>\$ 2,505</u>
Total Income	\$17,108
Expenses	<u>\$34,690</u>
Monthly Deficit	(\$17,582)

2 Month Deficit, April & May 2022 (\$20,471)

Stewardship Corner: Thoughts about Giving

From Pastor Brian Stoffregen: Many years ago I attended a workshop on stewardship. The presenter made a comment that has stuck with me. He stated that he always makes it a point to give more to his church through his offerings than he gives to the government through his taxes. That was a way he could indicate the place of his greater allegiance -- who has the greater authority over him. I'm not suggesting this as a new law, but I think that we all need to struggle with how we apply God's authority over us, which is to be greater than the state's authority. We need to struggle with giving our whole selves to God -- doing what God would have us do -- in our everyday lives, which include death and taxes. -Brian P. Stoffregen www.crossmarks.com

Loyalty is always a struggle. This is the reason a First Fruit is from the top: Gross Income; so that even if the government got to the money first through payroll withholding, the voluntary proportion math nullifies the compliance "loyalty" of the enforced government subtraction.

First Fruit

A First Fruit gift is:

- a proportionate amount (a percentage)
- from our gross income
- given first before other spending:
- at the time we receive income.

A First Fruit gift:

- reflects gratitude
- demonstrates trust in God to provide
- sets worldly priorities behind Heavenly priorities.



Milestones

Wedding Anniversaries

September 10	Jim and Doreen Brog
September 11	Fred and Janis Brokaw
September 30	Joe and Mary Cornett

Birthdays:

September 3	Bob Roth, Jr.
September 5	Janet Leroux
September 8	Roxie Clark
September 11	Matthew Kaczmarek
	Carole Bratton
September 12	Gene Winterfeld

September 13	Claudia Theis Tony Padilla
September 14	Norma Cowden
September 17	Caroline Roth
September 18	Amber Gornowicz
September 20	Kevin Der Brian Brozovic
September 22	Lori Newzell
September 24	John Umland Kahlia Bashi
September 25	Teresa Santana
September 30	Mike Byrd



Prayer List

Grief

Gene and Sharon W.
Linda, family friend of Kim B.

Healing

Tiffany, friend of Ed S.
Bob, BIL of Elizabeth and Bruce H.
Amber, daughter of Gabe and Lora B.
Tim, brother of Lynne BS
Molly, daughter of John and Nancy U.
Trisha, community member
Sandy B.

Long Term Healing

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

Homebound Members

Norma C.
Robert and Leona A.
Janice S.



Volunteer Schedule for September

	8:30 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
September 11		
Greeter/Usher	Rudy Mappus	John and Nancy Umland
Reader	Rudy Mappus	Fred Albrecht
Communion Asst.	Rudy Mappus	Carole Bossaller
Communion Set-Up	Nancy/Kathy/Kim	N/A
Communion Clean-Up	N/A	Nancy/Kathy
Kid's Club Teacher		
Younger Kids	N/A	Kirsten Perkett
Older Kids	N/A	Myrna Kappler
September 18		
Greeter/Usher	Skip Wellman	Fred and Janis Brokaw
Reader	Skip Wellman	Ed Slingland
Communion Asst.	Skip Wellman	Pat Anderson
Communion Set-Up	Nancy/Kathy/Kim	N/A
Communion Clean-Up	N/A	Nancy/Kathy
Kid's Club Teacher		
Younger Kids	N/A	Susan Wessner
Older Kids	N/A	Janis Brokaw
September 25		
Greeter/Usher	Glenn Illian	Ed and Shelly Slingland
Reader	Kim Burns	Mary Rita Williamson
Communion Asst.	Glenn Illian	Mary Rita Williamson
Communion Set-Up	Nancy/Kathy/Kim	N/A
Communion Clean-Up	N/A	Nancy/Kathy
Kid's Club Teacher		
Younger Kids	N/A	TBA
Older Kids	N/A	Sue Michaelson

Scriptures for September

September 4	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 1 Philemon 1-21
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Luke 14:25-33

September 11
Exodus 32:7-14
Psalm 51:1-10
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

September 18
Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

September 25
Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31



Events

Pastor Bill's Installation Dinner and Service

Put Friday, September 30th on your calendar. It is an important day for Cross and Crown Lutheran Church and School. Bishop Claire Burkat, interim bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod, will be at Cross and Crown for several events.

At 4 p.m. she will meet with the pastors of the Sierra Mountain Conference. At 5 p.m. we will gather for a delicious Texas BBQ dinner, by the culinary genius of Brian Brozovic. Following dinner at 6 p.m. we will gather in the sanctuary to be present as Bishop Claire formally installs Pastor Bill as our new pastor of Cross and Crown Lutheran Church and School. Following the service, we will gather back in the Welcome Center for refreshments.

How can you help us with this event? We need several people to help set-up and clean-up, four more servers, and twelve homemade pie bakers. Please fill out the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center or contact the church office.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Hiking/Walking Group

Walk on Saturday October 8. We will meet at 9:30 am at the church and walk on the Copeland Creek bike path. Plan is to walk about an hour. We want to be able to attend the service for Pastor Leon. 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

Holiday Craft Prep Event

The church is hosting a Holiday Faire on November 18th and 19th. We are gathering on numerous days to make items to sell at the faire. The next date is Saturday, September 10th from 9 a.m. to noon. The group will be making beaded suncatchers. Contact the church office to RSVP.

Lunch with Primera Iglesia Bautista

The members of the Spanish-language church which meets here during the week would like to host a lunch to thank us for opening our campus to their ministry. We will gather and break bread together on Sunday, September 25, following the 10 a.m. worship service. We look forward to seeing you there!



How You Can Help Others

Do You Have Use Soccer Equipment

Jackie and Fred's son, Trevor, needs soccer equipment this year. He is in 8th grade and needs the following items:

- Shin Guards
- Long Socks
- Cleats (size 9)
- Tennis shoes (size 9)
- Shorts

Please bring the donated items to the church office. Thanks for your help.

Blessing Bag Donations Needed

Cross and Crown has deemed blessing bags an ongoing mission project. The bins of non-perishable foods are in need of replenishment. Please help by providing the following individually wrapped items:

- Peanut butter or cheese and crackers
- Applesauce or fruit cups
- Cookies
- Fruit snacks
- Raisins or trail mix
- Packages of new socks

If you have a few minutes before or after the services, make a bag or two and keep in your car. This way you will be prepared to help someone when you see a need.

Prayer for School Classrooms

Prayer is one of the greatest things we can do in life for someone. Jean Bashi has asked for people to take on the task of praying for one of the classrooms during this school year. You will be informed if there are special needs – divorce, struggles with school, etc. Please contact Jean at jbashi@cclsrp.org if you would like to take up this task.

Families from Afghan Needing Help

Sue Michaelsen is working with a group from St. John's in Petaluma trying to find housing for some Afghani families. The men worked as interpreters for the U.S. government prior to moving to the U.S. They had been supported by the ULM Family Foundation for the first year, but that support is going away shortly. They need to find housing and the problem they are facing is that they don't have any credit history here yet. They all work for a company that subcontracts with P.G and E and can afford \$2,000-\$2400 per month rent. Below is a summary of family member size etc. Please reach out to any and all that you might know that own rentals, manage property/apartments or any other ideas.

Families: 3 need to find a place by October 2 and 9.

- 5 people total, 2 small children, 1 infant
- 3 people total 1 4-year old
- 4 people total 6 and 5-yr old
- 8 people total, 6 children
- 6 people total, 4 adults (2 sisters, 1 brother, 1 husband) , 2 children
- 3 people total, 1 infant

They have had some government assistance but it is ending which is why they need to find a place. They take very good care of the property as they use their houses as places to pray so their home is like their church.

Please email me at Sue@KMProperties.biz or call/text 707-292-5612

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.



Miscellaneous Information

New Directories

Now that Pastor Bill and Susan are here it is time to update the church directory. The office will print off what information we currently have on file for your family. Please double check the draft

of it in the Welcome Center. The new one will be available in early October. If we do not have your information on file, please provide it so we can include it in the newest publication.

Condolences for the Winterfeld Family

Long-time members, Gene and Sharon Winterfeld, who moved to Oakland last year, have both died within the past few weeks. If you would like to send your condolences, please mail a card to their daughter, Carol Vicker. She is handling all the condolences.

Carol Vickers
552 Santa Clara, Ave.
Alameda, CA 94501

Open Sanctuary

Now that school has started, we are no longer having weekly open sanctuary time. During the month of September we have scheduled Wednesday, September 21 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. for a time of meditation and prayer. You may stay for a few minutes or the entire three 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, and persons of all faith traditions are welcome!

Nametags

We are starting to get a lot of new people here at Cross and Crown. If you are a long-time member, you know most people. Visitors and those fairly new to CCLCS do not. Just a reminder to wear your nametag to help people learn who you are. If you need one, please contact the church office. Cost is \$9.



Save the Date

Pastor Leon Holm's memorial service – October 8th at 1 p.m.

Coming Soon

- New Member Class
- First Communion Instruction
- Confirmation

Make your interest known to Pastor Bill or Kim.