

# Cross and Crown Lutheran and School Newsletter

December 2022



## Table of Contents

Pastor Bill's Message	p. 1	Milestones	p. 4
Letter from Cong. President	p. 2	Prayers	p. 5
Update from School	p. 2	Scriptures	p. 5
NOAH	p. 3	Events	p. 6
Financials	p. 4	How You Can Help Others	p. 7
		Miscellaneous Information	p. 7



## Pastor Bill's Message

We are underway in the Season of Advent.

Again, the Advent Wreath is with us, and the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love help us track time to discover the Baby in a Manger waiting for us. In the meantime, we cannot help but notice the seasons changing, cooler weather (rain & snow too), shorter days, and we do so much extra to keep the rhythm of our lives even. It is as if the agrarian culture re-emerges. In preparation the Advent question and children sermon quiz appears: "who comes at Christmas?" And then better phrased: "whose birthday is Christmas?"

I know many whose well-seasoned rhythm is changing. Perhaps you too have changes underway: pared down Christmas decorations, parties to attend, or Christmas traveling, perhaps ramping up with extra time for vacations, a move to a new home, even the busyness of a new job or even... a new child. Interesting how the birth of a child changes so much.

The intensity of the season can be a drain or a great renewal of energy. In the midst of all the things that a turbulent world offers, we may choose to take this time to pause, reflect and recharge into what our very faithful God is doing. In the humblest of circumstances, in a tiny moment of history, in a place of promise, God will call shepherds and kings into adoration of the Word made flesh. You too can join again in this adoration: Christmas Eve services at 6, 8:30 and 10. Christmas Day at 8 and 10am (Sunday morning). Many times our preparations are listed here in this newsletter.

Come and see.

*Pastor Bill*



## Letter from the Congregational President

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, we light the **Love** Candle. In my prayers, I ask “**Lord of Mercy, Hold us in Love.**” We sing this phrase in the Holden Evening prayer service. My hope is that we can receive and share this love as we minister to needs within Cross and Crown and to our greater community.

**We give thanks** to everyone who spent hours preparing, staffing and then tearing down our **Holiday Craft Fair**. Special thanks to Lori Newzell for her vision and coordination. We celebrate and **give thanks** for funds that were raised for our **Esther Fund** which allow us to support individuals with special needs.

As we walk together through the season of **Advent** and prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christ’s coming, we have opportunities to worship at our Advent services, participate in daily meditations and pray for those in need. We look forward to seeing you at worship and our Christmas luncheon on December 11.

We invite you to prayerfully consider your commitment for the coming year. Your church, school and community need your continued support. Please take time to complete your Time and Talent and commitment form.

May the Holy Spirit lift you up and surround you during this Advent season!

Love and Peace,  
Myrna Kappler, Council President



## Update from Cross and Crown Lutheran School

About 3000 years ago two recently widowed women, Naomi, and her daughter-in-law Ruth, traveled to a quiet sleepy town located six miles from Jerusalem. They were returning to Bethlehem, Naomi’s homeland, from Moab, the land where they had been living with their husbands. There they met a relative on her husband’s side named Boaz. He allowed Ruth access to his fields where she gleaned the left-over barley grain. It did not look like any miracles were happening, but God had a plan, and it was set into motion. This seemingly insignificant woman would become the great grandmother to the greatest king Israel had ever known, King David.

One thousand years later, out in the fields surrounding a sleepy town, were shepherds tending their sheep. These flocks were kept in fields near Bethlehem later to be sacrificed in the temple in Jerusalem. The quiet shepherds played an important role in the life of the temple and

in the miracle birth about to happen. It did not look like any miracles were happening, but God had a plan, and it was set into motion. These shepherds became the first to receive the news from a choir of angels about the miracle baby born in Bethlehem. This seemingly insignificant child was the

many times great grandson to the greatest king Israel had ever known, King David. Fast forward 33 years and we can follow the irony as the “*Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world...*” (John 1:29), is slain outside the city walls of Jerusalem, a sacrifice for our sin.

These fields, where the angels sang, the shepherds tended, and a many times great grandmother gleaned, hold the message of the miracle birth of a tiny baby, God’s Son, and Savior to the world. Our school children are learning the story and spreading the news. They are modern day angels full of excitement and joy teaching us all to watch for the miracles that are happening every day all around us. They are part of God’s plan set into motion. “*Jesus Christ the Savior is born!*”

Blessings to you all,  
Jean Bashi, Administrator



## Update from NOAH

Sharon and Bob Wambold, Art Peterson, Rudy Mappus, Claudia and Bill Theis, Skip Wellman, and Edith Nazala help pick up the donations from Monte Vista and Marguerita Hahn schools. Both schools had successful drives for NOAH. Thank you to the volunteers who help with the collections.

NOAH continues to serve the community holding weekly distributions on Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. If you know someone who could benefit from help with their food budget, please tell them about the weekly distributions.

Each week we give out staples, fresh produce, bread, and frozen meats.

On December 14th we will be giving new toys to families and we welcome you to participate by contributing unwrapped toys. They can be placed in the NOAH barrel.

Cross and Crown will be responsible for the distributions in January so check your calendars and volunteer to help on a Wednesday. Let Elizabeth Hoelter know if you are available. (Email: [Sfborn8320@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Sfborn8320@sbcglobal.net) or phone (707) 308-5969)

Thank you for your continued prayers, contributions both monetary and items left in the NOAH barrel.

Elizabeth Hoelter



## Financials

November 6	\$ 9,062		
November 13	\$ 3,577		
November 20	\$ 2,469		
November 23	\$ 185	(NOAH -- \$625)	(Thanksgiving Service)
November 27	\$ 3,642		

Simply Giving \$  
Online Donations

Total Giving



## 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
	Carol Roth
December 13	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

Carole B.

Donavon P.

Linda (friend of Elizabeth and Bruce H.)

Darlene (NOAH – manager)

David (brother of Audrey – visitor)

### Long Term Healing

Carole B.

Zach S.

Gabe B.

Chris (Mandy Mc.'s BIL)

Mark (Curtis S' friend)

Karl Olson

### Homebound Members

Robert and Leona A.

Janice S.



## Scriptures for December

December 4

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-10, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

December 11

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalms 146:5-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

December 18

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 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



## Events

### **Christmas Lunch**

We will share a wonderful lunch on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 a.m. following the 10 a.m. worship service. Church will provide ham, rolls, beverage and dessert. We ask people to bring a side dish to share with the group.

### **Hiking Group**

The group, weather permitting, will meet at church at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> or at Schollenberger Park lot off Lakeville Highway in Petaluma. It is a fairly flat trail. Contact Myrna Kappler to let her know you will attend.

### **Mid-Week Advent Service and Dinner**

We gather each Wednesday at 6 p.m. for a light dinner of soup and bread. Then we adjourn to the sanctuary for a service of carols and a short message on waiting during this time for the birth of Jesus. All are welcome – bring a friend!

### **Advent Prayer Stations**

This month's Open Sanctuary event will be on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. You may come and quietly meditate during the time. We will also offer prayer stations around the sanctuary with silent activities to help you focus on the hope, peace, joy and love of this season.

### **Kid's Club Christmas Event**

We will host a Kid's Club Event on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. Parents are invited to drop-off their children and go enjoy a date or finish Christmas preparations. We will have a taco bar for dinner, games, a craft project and an overall fun-time. The event is geared for ages 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. More information will be provided in weekly email blasts and invitations to our school and church families. Friends are always welcome! RSVP to Kim at [church@crossandcrownrp.org](mailto:church@crossandcrownrp.org).

### **Christmas Eve Worship Services**

6 p.m. (Praise and Worship Band lead the music)

8:30 p.m. (Chancel Choir sings)

10 p.m. (accompanist only)

### **Christmas Day Worship Services**

We will have our regular services on Christmas Day at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. No Kid's Club.



## How You Can Help Others

### Blessing Bag Donations Needed

We need to replenish the bins for the individual items for our blessing bags, our on-going mission project. We offer these to people in our community in need of food and a blessing. Please drop the purchased items into the appropriate bins. Food must be individually wrapped.

- Cheese or peanut butter and crackers
- Fruit cups, squeezable fruit packets, applesauce cups
- Raisins or trail mix
- Cookies
- Fruit snacks
- Water bottles
- Pairs of new socks

### Operation Christmas – Help the Nanzala Family

The school and church are partnering to help Jackie and Fred provide a wonderful Christmas to their five children. Each class of the school is taking care of one of the children. The church has the opportunity to provide other needs. The tree in the narthex has white angels on it that list a specific donations needed. Take the angel and return the gift card or certificate to Kim by December 18<sup>th</sup>. Together we can make a difference.

### Worship Assistants

We need a number of assistants for our Christmas Eve services. Please check your schedule and see where you can help. We need four ushers for the 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. service and two for the 10 p.m. service. We will not have communion this evening, so no communion assistants are needed. We will have lots of visitors – let's show them how smooth are services can run!



## Miscellaneous Information

### Thank You

Thank you for welcoming my parents, Eugene and Sharon Winterfled, into your fellowship. They found a home to Worship, celebrate and thrive.

Carol Vickers (daughter of Gene and Sharon Winterfeld)

