

# Cross and Crown Lutheran Church & School

## January 2023 Newsletter



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### Pastor Bill's Message

How has the New Year begun for you?

I know for some there are new challenges related to health, finances, employment. For others there a long-awaited adventure is beginning. Still there are many who are glad because the Christmas & New Year crush is expiring. Please let the normal begin and regular rhythm return. Yet, it never seems to happen like it used to be.

Well you can always find some "like it used to be" here at Church. You can connect in person, online, in worship, study. We are still a mix of people, stages, energies, abilities, ages, interests at Cross and Crown both Church and School.

We have our set times and routines, and we are anxious to start anew as well as start new.

We are always building relationships. In January we will host our Synod's friend from El Salvador Pastor and Artist Christian Chavarria and receive new members. We will be taking hikes and study and continuing to build bridges between School and Church.

This year we will renew our crafting skills, and the restart of the Rohnert Park Coral. NOAH continues as a flagship reaching further into the Rohnert Park Community, with other ministries to follow. And now more participation in the life of our greater Church, here in the North Bay and Synod and Churchwide. New opportunities are constantly before us.

We will be reaching out to our Alumni. Are you still connected with someone who is not in touch with Cross and Crown?

Are we relating to you well enough? We have many different channels, and we are trying to improve at all of them. Please tell us how to be better. Let us all make new friends and experience the community that we are at Cross and Crown.

Our intention is always inviting, connecting, and growing in our relationship with Jesus.

Come and see.

Peace!

*Pastor Bill*



## Letter from the Congregational President

On Sunday, Pastor Bill told the children about receiving the **Lord's Blessing** (Numbers 6:22-27). He stressed that as we receive the **Lord's countenance** our response is to share his countenance with others. What stuck me is as we are blessed, we are charged to share this blessing with others.

We are **now blessed** to have a full-time pastor. As Pastor Bill fulfills his call, we are blessed and called upon to support the missions of Cross and Crown Church and School. If you have been present at services or events, you will know that there are numerous opportunities to step in and volunteer. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you would like to help and **share the blessings** you have received. This includes financial support.

As we step out in 2023, we also can take time to stop and listen to how we are called to minister to each other and our community.

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

Love and Peace,  
Myrna Kappler, Council President



## Update from Cross and Crown Lutheran School

Fresh out of San Jose State University, teaching credential in hand, I was excited to begin my first teaching assignment at Redeemer Lutheran School in Redwood City. It was 1975, I was 23 years old, newly married, and taking on a class of middle schoolers, seventh grade to be exact.

As the weeks of the school year led into months and my students' personalities became more difficult to deal with, I asked myself, "*What did these parents do to these kids???*" I realized how well prepared SJSU had trained me to teach, but dealing with the social, emotional, and

everyday problems of middle schoolers had not even been addressed! As the years progressed, I began my own family and realized our kids come out of the womb this way!!! Yes, there's this "nurture vs. nature" thing; however, it's God Who created them uniquely. *"For You created my inmost being. You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful; I know that full well. Psalm 139:13-14.*

With the passing of the Christmas season, it is important to remember our children come as gifts directly from our Father, God. They have been lovingly placed in our families, and daily we are given the opportunity to love, cherish and accept them for exactly who God made them to be. We take care of their physical, emotional, and educational needs, but most importantly we have been directed by God to take charge of their spiritual lives as well. *Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14.*

The beginning of the New Year is always extremely difficult for me and my family. January 9 is the birthday of my granddaughter, Dahlila. She passed away four years ago from an unknown lung disease at the age of five. For a very long time I berated myself for not being a better "Oma" to her. She and her mother lived with me, so I had the time and opportunity, but the litany of regret was long. *Why didn't I: read to her more, help her with writing her letters, paint more rocks together, let her help me in my garden, watch "Spirit" on Netflix the thousandth time, dance with her when she wanted, take more bike rides, trips to the park, beach, and local camping sites, and go on that Disneyland trip when she was four?* Then one day God spoke to my heart, and I let all that regret go. *"Jean, you brought her to Jesus."* Dahlila used to come to church with me on Sunday mornings. (We'd sit near the back because she never learned how to whisper.) In her short little life, how she loved her Jesus!!

If you are one to make resolutions at this time of the year, let's resolve to let go of the unimportant and shout our praise to God, thanking Him for the family of blessings He has gifted us. Let's resolve to spend more time showing them of His love and bring their hearts to Jesus.

Blessings to you all,  
Jean Bashi, Administrator



## Update from NOAH

Thank you as we begin another year of helping members of our community with their food budgets. In December NOAH received \$725 from Cross and Crown as well as food which was in the NOAH barrel. Remember only unopened staples should be placed in the barrel. Thank you also for your response to our effort to give out toys at the last two December distributions. Parents and grandparents were glad to have a chance to pick up something to give to their children.

Cross and Crown will handle distributions in January, June, and October so please think about volunteering to help. It is a blessing to share our blessings with the community.



## Financials

December 4	\$ 10,430
December 11	\$ 3,236
December 18	\$ 6,425
December 24	\$ 12,798
December 25	\$ 3,019

Simply Giving	\$ 3,555
Online Donations	\$ 1,385

Total Giving \$40,848



## Milestones

### Wedding Anniversaries

None

### Birthdays:

January 6	Karla Greschner
January 12	Norma Grubb
January 19	James Stark
January 20	Holly Hodson
	Kyle Leroux
January 27	Sarah Cornett
January 28	Kathy Teixeira



## Prayer List

### Healing

All those with covid or exposed to covid this holiday season

Shirley (Susan's sister)

Lunette (Pastor's mother)

Carole B.

Donavon P.

Vicki B.

David (Audrey R.'s brother)

Ditas (Robert's family)

Long Term Healing

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

Homebound Members

Robert and Leona A.  
Janice S.



## Scriptures for January

January 1	Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2"15-21
January 8	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17
January 15	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42
January 22	Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23
January 29	Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12



## Events

### Dinner and Presentation by Rev. Christian Chavarria

You are invited to dinner (*free will offering*) followed by a presentation and conversation with Rev. Christian Chavarría, the Assistant to the Bishop of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church, our companions in “Making Christ Known”. Please RSVP on the sign up sheet in the Welcome Center or call the church office.

Cross and Crown will host this time to gather and eat with our sister congregations in the North Bay area. Please invite your family and friends especially those interested in travel and living in other areas of the world and art. Rev. Christian Chavarría will show us some of his art work. Learn how our mission support dollars work to make Christ’s love known in places we may never get to go and to see how your care touches lives.

To host we need some help from you, please sign up at church or call the church to help with:

- Greeters 2 needed from 5:30-6:15 p.m.
- Set up 4 needed from 5:45-6:45 p.m.
- Clean up 6 needed from 8 until complete
- Kitchen 2 needed from 6-8 p.m.
- Servers Food & Beverages 2 needed from 5:45-8 p.m.

### Hiking Group

The group, weather permitting, is rescheduling their December hike. The group will meet at church at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 14th or at Schollenberger Park lot off Lakeville Highway in Petaluma. It is a fairly flat trail. Contact Myrna Kappler if you plan to attend.

### Ongoing Bible Studies

We have two opportunities for studying the Bible. Both are on Tuesdays.

The first is at the Altamont Senior Apartments at 10 a.m. in the gathering room. They are currently studying a book on the Women of the Bible. Please contact Elizabeth for more information at [sfborn8320@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfborn8320@sbcglobal.net).

Pastor Bill has moved his Bible study to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays. They are currently studying Christian glossary terms. Next week’s word is “forgiveness.” You may also participate through Zoom. Email Pastor Bill for the link.



## How You Can Help Others

### Blessing Bag Donations Needed

We are in 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

### **Women’s Ministries Restarting This Year**

Due to the pandemic and chaos following it the Women’s Ministries has not been completely active since 2019. We are looking to change that this year. We need members to help plan and execute this important ministry. Following the annual Congregational Meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup> we ask all women of the church to remain after to vote in a new slate of officers. The board consists of:

- President – runs the monthly meetings, signer of checks
- Vice President – runs the meetings if president is unavailable
- Secretary – takes notes for the meetings
- Treasurer – signer of checks, keeps accounting records for Women’s Ministries funds
- Mission’s Coordinator – plans the Mission Luncheon
- Event’s Coordinator – helps up the planning for the other events

Currently Kim Burns and Tandy Whitaker have been acting as president and treasurer and will continue to do so unless someone else would like to toss them name in the hat. All board members pitch in to help plan and facilitate the events. We also ask for volunteers who can help.

This is a fun group and a great way to get active in the church. Please see Kim or Tandy for information about the ministry or running for office.

### **Kid’s Club Schedule**

We are in need of people to teach our Kid’s Club program during the month of January. We divide the children into two groups – group one is ages 3 through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and the other is 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. You have approximately 30-40 minutes of time with the children to do a story, activity pages, craft or game. This is a great way to spread to Gospel to our youth. The schedule is below:

	Younger Kids	Older Kids
January 8 – Epiphany	Janis Brokaw	Susan Wessner
January 15 – Jesus Visits the Temple (need a volunteer)		Myrna Kappler
January 22 – Jesus is Baptized	Sue Michaelsen	Kim Burns
January 29 – Jesus Calls the Disciples	Jean Bashi	Sue Michaelsen

## Worship Assistants

	8 a.m. Service	10 a.m. Service
<b>January 8</b>		
Greeter/Usher	Mark Klipfel	Bob and Sharon Wambold
Reader	Deborah Klipfel	John Umland
Comm. Asst.	Mark Klipfel	Myrna Kappler
Comm. Set Up/Clean Up	Nancy Umland/Kathy Teixeira	
<b>January 15</b>		
Greeter/Usher	Bruce Hoelter	Fred and Janis Brokaw
Reader	Claudia Theis	Nancy Umland
Comm. Asst.	Elizabeth Hoelter	Nancy Umland
Comm. Set Up/Clean Up	Nancy Umland/Kathy Teixeira	
<b>January 22</b>		
Greeter/Usher	Bruce Hoelter	Ed and Shelley Slingland
Reader	Bruce Hoelter	Shelley Slingland
Comm. Asst.	Elizabeth Hoelter	Mary-Rita Williamson
Comm. Set Up/Clean Up	Nancy Umland/Kathy Teixeira	
<b>January 20</b>		
Greeter/Usher	Skip Wellman	Fred and Janis Brokaw
Reader	Skip Wellman	Mary-Rita Williamson
Comm. Asst.	Skip Wellman	Mary-Rita Williamson
Comm. Set Up/Clean Up	Nancy Umland/Kathy Teixeira	



## Miscellaneous Information

### Annual Report Due

Our annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for February 5 following the 10 a.m. worship service. The office is beginning to compile the articles for the report. Please have the following reports into the office by January 15<sup>th</sup>:

- President
- Pastor
- School Administrator
- School Board
- NOAH
- Mission Endowment
- Call Committee
- Quilters
- Facilities
- Treasurer



### **New Staff Member**

The preschool has a new aide. Her name is Megan Harper and she lives in Rohnert Park and attends San Francisco State University. We are excited to have her join the Cross and Crown Family.



### **RP Chorale is Restarting**

Do you love to sing? The community chorale group is restarting and looking for members. They will start holding practices on February 1 to May 21 at the Burton Recreation Facility at 7421 Burton Avenue in Rohnert Park. For more information, please contact Karen Ball at 707-293-6108 or email [rpchorale@gmail.com](mailto:rpchorale@gmail.com)



### **Save the Date**

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| February 5  | Annual Congregational Meeting<br>Women's Ministries Elections (following) |
| February 21 | Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner   |
| February 22 | Ash Wednesday Worship Service   |