

CROSS CONNECTIONS

Dear Fellow Members of Cross,

Several years ago, at a Synod Assembly, I heard seminary professor and theologian Mark Allen Powell speak about stewardship, specifically about financial stewardship. In his book, *Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life*, he speaks openly and frankly about financial giving as being not only a "way of life," but also a "good way of life."

The problem is that many of us forget that giving, tithing, offering gifts back to God is part of our faith life – just like reading scripture and prayer. Too often we see the church as just another bill to be paid. The bills come in every month, and so we need to pay them. We forget that the church is so much more. It is a place of worship, a place where ministry ideas begin, and a place through which God works.

As faithful Christians, we have to look at the finances of the church and wonder why the church struggles with meeting financial obligations? One reason is that many see money as a means to exert power. We use our money to show the importance of things. As we read in Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Money gives significance to issues, programs, and institutions. With money, we have the power to sway decisions by our choice to give or not.

The opposite of money as power is the fear of scarcity. We live in this fear when we look at our limited income and fear that God cannot help us once the money is gone. When this fear drives our giving philosophy, we choose to give to God only what is left over – once all the bills have been paid. It's a struggle for us to choose to give to God first. The Israelites were called to bring the first fruits of their harvest to God, and so are we - not in obedience, but in faith and thanksgiving. We are called to give in recognition that all we have comes from God.

Mr. Powell shares an interesting image in his book. He talks about money related to baptism and thinks of it as a person being baptized, but holding his or her wallet out of the baptismal waters. We give all we are to God in baptism, but "save the wallet."



God calls us to give, and give generously – not as a burden, but as a gift of thanksgiving. In Scripture we see that a tithe – 10% - is a good and acceptable practice. I've been asked before if that means net or gross income. I don't know that it matters as long as we spend time in prayer asking God for guidance.

Recent statistics show that, on average, giving to the church averages less than 2% of income? We are all in different places in our lives. We have different financial goals and financial responsibilities. This means that our giving is also going to look very different. Giving generously looks different for each one of us. Giving joyfully can look the same.

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Please consider a challenge. First, sit down at some point and take a good look at your personal giving pattern. If you give occasionally – when you have spare change - try and become a “regular” giver. Make a plan to give a certain amount each week or month. If you are already giving regularly, figure out what percentage of your income you give. Then make a plan to increase that gift. Perhaps you want to raise it by 1%, or maybe by 50 cents or even \$5. Remember, generosity looks different for each one of us.

All things are done through prayer and supplication. But in the end, it will be good to find joy in giving. Giving as a response to our baptismal call, not as another bill to pay. Giving as a way of worship, not a debt. Giving in finding joy in the ways in which God lives and moves and has his being here in this place. Thanks be to God!!

In Christ,
Pastor John



CROSS PRAYERS LIST

Cody Baumgart	Bev Leonard
Taylor Baumgart	Ted Melynychuck
Connor Brink	Howard Murrah
Don Brink	Gene Noel
Jim Brink	Etta Olson
Dale Burright	Kim Peuschold
Pat Christopherson	Bob Remer
Liam Finucane	Char Rizzo
Tiffany Freiwald	Delta Shine
Richard Griebel	Addison Smith
Ples Ivy	Barb Tate
Jim Kohler	Lisa Tate
Lorie Kruppstadt	Ryan Tate
Kari LeDuc	Laura Whiteside

Jessica, Mapenzi and Clarisse, the children
we sponsor through World Vision.

“Pray for another, so that you will be healed”
James 5:26

CROSS LUTHERAN BOWLING EVENT—JANUARY 2023



EPHESIANS 2:10

"For we are God's

workmanship,

*created in Christ Jesus
to do good works,*

which God prepared in

advance for us to do."

ASSISTANT MINISTERS

We are always looking for
Assisting Ministers.

If anyone is
interested, or you may
know of someone who
would be interested in,
please call the church office
at 262-763-6570.

ALTAR GUILD

We are looking for
someone to set-up
before and clean-up after
service on Sundays. It
takes roughly 10 minutes to
set-up and maybe 20
minutes to clean-up.
Please consider being part
of the Altar Guild team. If
interested or have
questions, please call
Marlene Remer at
262-210-7465

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



2/1	Amon, Mrs Arlene	2/11	Lindh, Mason
2/1	Christopherson, Mrs Patricia (Pat)	2/12	Oliver, Mrs Doris
2/1	Dunn, Mrs Cynthia (Cindy)	2/12	Smith, Mr Brandon
2/1	Gosseck, Henry Berwyn	2/15	Remer, Mrs Marlene
2/2	Fanter, Mrs Brenda	2/15	Taylor, Samantha
2/2	Demjen, Miss Cheryl Lynn (Cheryl)	2/16	Jones, Mr Zeffiniah
2/3	Anderson, Ms Michele	2/18	Follis, Mrs Jenny
2/3	Everett, Mr Lee	2/18	Jones, Mr Robert D.
2/3	Manka, Xavier (Xavier)	2/18	Diggins, Murphy James
2/4	Oldenburg, Mr Reid Kenneth	2/18	Jones, Nova Decklin
2/4	Metzger, Roman Noel	2/20	Owen, Miss Emsley Ann (Emsley)
2/5	Krueger, Sydney	2/21	Hammitt, Mrs Mary
2/7	Schneider, Mrs Lisa	2/21	Robers, Adam
2/8	Tate, Mr William (Bill)	2/24	Westra, Mrs Lori A.
2/8	DeLassus, Mr Aaron	2/24	Mundt, Mr Tyson
2/8	Repsa, Mackenzie	2/24	Lamb, Maquel Ashley
2/9	Diggins, Mrs Faith	2/27	Oldenburg, Mrs Carrie
2/10	Schmidt, Mrs Sandra (Sandy)	2/27	Brink, Eli
2/10	Sharpee, Mr Scott	2/28	Hefty, Mrs Debbie Jean (Deb)
2/11	Lindh, Madison	2/28	Salaja, Mr Eric
		2/29	Schreiber, Porter Jensen

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS: Assisting Ministers

DATE	TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER
February 4	5pm	Bob Remer
February 5	10am	Annie Bailey
February 11	5pm	Brenda Belot
February 12	10am	Polly Burright
February 18	5pm	Polly Burright
February 19	10am	Rachel Bennett
ASH WEDNESDAY		
February 22	7pm	Brenda Belot
February 25	5pm	Brenda Belot
February 26	10am	Barb Tate

SERVING TEAM



SOUP SUPPERS

Soup suppers will be done again this year during Lenten services. Watch for upcoming information and also sign-up sheets!



The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time.

Psalms
34:19

A BIG THANK YOU FROM YOUR SERVING TEAM

The serving team thanks everyone for the generous donations to Love Inc for the breakfast foods collected in January.

For February the serving team will be asking for donations of diapers and baby wipes that will be delivered to Love Inc. These items can be place in the boxes in the Narthex.



CONNECTING TEAM—SAVE THE DATE!

"Save the date".

This is a story of Max and John, neighbors who have been feuding for most of their lives. Invigorated by their shared affection for their beautiful new neighbor across the street, they face-off as romantic rivals until their hilarious shenanigans finally bring about a resolution to their long-standing differences. Based on the 1993 film, this stage adaptation captures the lovable crotchety characters through twinkling humor, great songs, and the affectionate depiction of a small town that feels like home to everyone.

We have reserved seating for
May 6th for the matinee. The sign up sheet is in the Narthex.



Our Featured Menu

April 13 - May 28, 2023

Choose your entrée in advance for Thursday, Friday, and
Saturday Matinees, Saturday Evening, and Sunday MIDDAY.

Chopped Salad

A mixture of finely diced Spring Greens, Hard-boiled Egg, Red Onion,
Grape Tomato, Avocado, Cucumber, Jones Cherrywood Smoked Bacon Chips, and Wisconsin Cheddar
Cheese. Topped with The Fireside's
Pepper Cream Dressing and Crisp Tortilla Ribbons.
Freshly Baked Breads from our Artisan Bakery

Pretzel Crusted Stuff ed Chicken

Skinless Breast of Chicken stuff ed with Havarti Cheese, dipped
in egg, rolled in Pretzel Crumbs, sautéed to a golden brown and
baked, served with a Balsamic Raspberry Sauce.

Grilled Pork Ribeye

A Boneless Pork Chop seasoned and grilled until perfectly
tender and finished with a rich pork demi-glaze.

Rainbow Trout

Seasoned with Salt, Pepper, and Lemon Butter and baked.
Served with Garlic Parmesan Orzo and a Corn and
Red Pepper Medley.

Oreo Delight

Crushed Oreo Cookies in our Homemade Vanilla Frozen Custard with a
layer of Fudge in an Oreo Crust.

Coffee, Tea and Milk



*The righteous
person faces
many troubles,
but the Lord
comes to the
rescue each
time.*

Psalms 34:19

SUPPORT GROUPS

- ◇For **Women's AA** contact Marlene K. at 262-210-5918 for more information.
- ◇The **Family Caregiver Support Group** that met at Cross the 3rd Wednesday of each month is a part of the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Racine County. This group is not meeting at this time. When they resume meetings, we will share information.
- ◇**Healing Hearts Support Group** (normally met the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm in the upper level at the Coffee House) is currently not meeting. For future information on reopening, contact: healinghearts@mail.com.

SAFE FAMILIES

This organization is dedicated to help families in crisis. It helps give temporary aid when needed. If you can help in any way, please call Terry Erb of our congregation for more info at 262-492-8615.

LOVE INC.

Love, Inc. is always in need of volunteers to help in their food pantry or sorting through donations.

Please visit love-inc.net/volunteer/opportunities for the most up to date list of volunteers needed.

For more information on how to donate and what to donate, please visit love-inc.net/donate.

Make sure to follow Love, Inc. on Facebook (@Loveincwi) for the most up to date information on hours of operation, donations being accepted and more.



World Vision is a Christian Humanitarian Organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

Sponsors are needed for Mapenzi, Jessica and Clarisse, the three World Vision girls sponsored by Cross . One girl can be sponsored for \$40 a month or all three girls for \$120 a month. Currently the Sign up sheets are located in the Narthex. Designate "World Vision Sponsor" on the memo line of your check. "Your donations get combined with other sponsors' gifts to support community-wide projects that benefit" Mapenzi, Jessica and Clarisse and other vulnerable children in areas like "CHILD PROTECTION, CLEAN WATER, HEALTH, EDUCATION, ECONOMIC ENMPOWERMENT and SPIRITUAL NURTURE." "This approach means more kids can thrive, not just those who are sponsored!"

Clarisse Nkengibe Mambueni, one of the three girls sponsored by Cross through World Vision, will be 17 years old on January 10, 2023. A birthday card provided by World Vision was signed and returned to be delivered to Clarisse. Along with the card, \$35 was enclosed for a birthday party and an additional \$9 to help with overseas delivery of the card. In a progress report received in October, Clarisse indicated that she was in primary school studying in grade five. Clarisse lives in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) which is a country in Central Africa. The official language is French. DRC is among the five poorest nations in the world. In 2021, nearly 64% of Congolese, just under 60 million people, lived on less than \$2.15 a day."

Christmas cards for Clarisse, Jessica and Mapenzi were received, personalized and returned to World Vision. The pop-up cards tell the story of Jesus' birth. The President and CEO of World Vision, Edgar Sandoval Sr. wrote "We are so blessed to be able to participate in God's good work by helping bring joy into the lives of children at Christmas" and "I am grateful for your continuing presence in your sponsored children's lives. Your support truly gives them hope.

~Serving Team Members

Mission Council Minutes—

Mission Council Minutes – January 17, 2023

Present: Pr. John Brink, President Andy Johnson, Vice President Marie Way, Rachel Bennett, Terri Erb, Secretary Patty Oldenburg.

6:32 – Called to order.

Lord's Prayer – All

MOTION – by Terry Erb, second by Marie Way to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2022 meeting. – **Approved**

Pastor's Highlights;

Pastor John, shared a short video that he will be showing at the annual meeting. He hopes the video will spark conversation. He feels that sometimes, "Churches can be defined by who they exclude." He would like to emphasize that, "You are welcome here." He would like to have the congregation think about, "Who we can be."

Pastor John and his family will be vacationing in FL next week. He will be returning to the office February 1st.

Major Ministries

Annual Meeting – The Semi-Annual Meeting will be held February 5th. A luau pot-luck lunch will be served after the 10:00 service. The Connecting Team will be providing pulled pork sandwiches. This will be an in person only meeting. No Zoom availability.

Nominating Committee Update – A **MOTION** was made by Marie Way to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendation for Joyce Etter to be the new Mission Council member. Rachel Bennet, second. **Approved**. Joyce will be completing John Hakala's term. The Nominating Committee reported that they have candidates for all of the Team/Committee open positions except for the Stewardship Committee. They are also having difficulties finding candidates for the Mission Council.

Minor Ministries

Prayer List – Patty has offered to contact those that are on the prayer list. She will ask if they would still like to have their names read on Sundays, and to keep them in our prayers. The Mission Council goal is to keep the list current. Going forward, the church office will keep track of the length of prayer requests. Those requesting the prayers will always be contacted before being removed from the list.

Thank You Notes –Marie

Closing prayer – Pastor John

Meeting adjourned – 7:55 p.m.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 7, 2023 - 6:30 in person.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Oldenburg - Mission Council Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT—As of 11/30/2022

	INCOME	EXPENSES	
Jan.	\$17,486.34	\$34,593.49	-\$17,107.15
Feb.	\$29,996.83	\$32,339.39	-\$2,342.56
Mar.	\$21,026.08	\$22,907.64	-\$1,881.56
Apr.	\$25,838.34	\$27,189.47	-\$1,351.13
May	\$27,084.93	\$22,226.27	\$4,858.66
Jun.	\$16,213.78	\$20,700.08	-\$4,486.30
Jul.	\$21,145.58	\$22,379.30	-\$1,233.72
Aug.	\$19,893.06	\$19,926.78	-\$33.72
Sept.	\$17,333.08	\$17,399.98	-\$66.90
Oct.	\$20,007.64	\$18,666.11	\$1,341.53
Nov.	\$30,649.42	\$23,826.42	\$6,823.00
Dec.			\$0.00
Totals			-\$15,479.85
Major Maintenance			\$110,817.96
Parking Lot Fund			\$177,764.14
General Scholarship		2023	\$935.00

BUILDING AND GROUNDS UPDATE

News from your Building and Grounds team

In the near future the main Narthex entrance door will be replaced with a sliding glass door. The glass side panels on both side of the door will be replaced as well. The new door will have an electric eye that will sense when a person is approaching and automatically open. This will be a great improvement for handicap accessibility. The new glass panels will be clear tempered thermo-pane glass that will provide improved natural lighting in the Narthex as well as being more energy efficient. The new door should be installed in late January or early February.



Cross Lutheran Staff & Ministry Leadership Teams

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturdays In-person - 5pm

Sundays In-person & On-line - 10am (9am Summer)

* Facebook: [@crossburlington](#)

* YouTube Channel

* Website: www.cross-church.org

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor - Pastor John Brink

Church Office Administrator - Carol Fischer

Financial Administrator - Bobbie Abel

Custodian - Bob Remer

CHURCH MUSIC STAFF

Organist - Ginny Richards

Part-time Organist - Brian Plehn

Contemporary Music Director - Brian Plehn

Joyful Voice Director - Brian Plehn

Chapel Bells Director - Open position

CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Friday—9:30am to 2:30pm

Cross Office: 262-763-6570

Emergency: 262-757-8111

E-mail: crossbur@cross-church.org.

Noah's Ark: 262-767-9095

Website: www.cross-church.org.

Facebook: [@crossburlington](#)

Instagram: [@crosslutheranburlington](#)

BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSIONS

Call the office for further information

LUTHERDALE REPRESENTATIVES

John Hakala

Blaine Warren

LIFETIME LEARNERS SCHOLARSHIP

Dorothy Hakala

Matt Nie

SYNOD VOTING MEMBERS

Cheryl Theis

THRIVENT REPRESENTATIVES

Scott Herrmann: 262-716-5454

Call 800-Thrivent to direct your "choice" dollars

MISSION COUNCIL

Andy Johnson, President

Marie Way, Vice-President

Patty Oldenburg, Secretary

Rachel Bennett

Terry Erb

John Hakala

BUSINESS BOARD

Lois Berg, Director

Chuck Stublely, Secretary

Doug Bouchat, Treasurer

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Scott Bourassa

John Oldenburg

Brian Erb

Rodney Oliver

Terry Long

Bob Remer

CONNECTING TEAM

Anita Mucci

Pam Murphy

Marlene Remer

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dorothy Hakala

Pam Murphy

Anita Mucci

Beth Oliver

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Patricia Christopherson

John Oldenburg

John Hakala

Chuck Stublely

SERVING TEAM

Theresa Bandoli

Marilynn Hansen

Barb Tate

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Bonnie Flitcroft

Suzanne Sorenson

Amy Warren

ENDOWMENT BOARD

Marilynn Hansen, President

Doug Belot, Vice President

Blaine Warren, Secretary

Anita Mucci

Sharon Johnson

Beth Oliver

Annie Bailey

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 8:50am Sunday School 9:00am Adult Bible Study 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship 11:00am Luau Luncheon Endowment & Annual meetings directly follow	6 6:30pm Wolf Den Meeting	7 9:30am Gospel Gathering 10:45 Staff Meeting 5pm Serving/Connecting Team Meeting 6:30pm Scouts Committee Meeting	1 6pm Confirmation 6pm Praise Team 7pm Choir Practice	2 6:30pm Bear Den Meeting	3 9am Quilting Ministry	4 9:00am Men's Ministry Vera Frosch Memorial Service 10:30am Visitation 12:00pm Service 5pm Worship
12 8:50am Sunday School 9:00am Adult Bible Study 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship	13	14—Valentines Day 9:30am Gospel Gatherings 10:45am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Webelos Meeting	15 6pm Confirmation 6pm Praise Team 7pm Choir Practice	16 6:30pm Ruth Circle	17	18 9:00am Men's Ministry 5pm Worship
19 8:50am Sunday School 9:00am Adult Bible Study 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship 11:00am Tentative— Thrivent Gathering	20—President's Day	21 9:30am Gospel Gathering 10:45am Staff Meeting 1:30pm Pastor John @ Pine Brook Pointe 6pm Building & Grounds Mtg.	22—ASH WEDNESDAY 2pm Pastor John @ The Bay 6pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm Choir Practice	23	24 NEWSLETTER DEAD- LINE	25 9:00am Men's Ministry 5pm Worship
26 8:50am Sunday School 9:00am Adult Bible Study 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship 11:00am Communications Gathering	27 6:30pm Tiger Den Meeting	28 9:30am Gospel Gathering 10:45am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Pack Meeting	30	31 9:00am Quilting Ministry		



126 Chapel Terrace
Burlington, WI 53105
(262) 763-6570

Tuesday – Friday: 9:30 am to 2:30 pm
Saturday: Open for worship at 5pm until after service.
Sunday: Open for worship at 10am service

WWW.CROSS-CHURCH.ORG



@CROSSBURLINGTON