

## CROSS CONNECTIONS—November 2023

Dear Family in Christ,

This is a month of Thanksgiving. We begin by saying thank you to all of our veterans who stepped up in service to our country. We end the month with Thanksgiving Day, where we remember in thanksgiving all the blessings we have received.

We are good at being thankful when we are reminded of those blessings. At our Thanksgiving dinners, many will take turns listing those things for which they are thankful. We may grumble at having to do this before we eat, but we usually get through it. We list off things like family, jobs, a home, and other tangible things. We may even go deeper and be thankful for love or the opportunity to love.

If we read Paul's letter to the Philippians, we find a different idea for thanksgiving. He writes, "*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*" (Philippians 4:6)

In other words, when you have concerns, worries, frustrations – pray in thanksgiving. This seems counterintuitive when we think about our normal times of thanksgiving. We usually give thanks for good things, for positive feelings, for success. When we are happy, we say "Thank you, God." When we receive exciting, life-changing news, we cry out, "Thank God!" When we consider the house we live in, the cars we drive, the loving families around us we pray, "Thank you, God, for all you do."

When we are worried, angry, or frustrated our prayers tend to be more in the line of, "Please, God, fix it", or "God, why?!" Much of the time, God is the last one we want to talk to. Yet we are called to pray in thanksgiving – not thanksgiving for those things that worry or frustrate us, but thanksgiving for God's presence and promises.

To get a grasp of this kind of thanksgiving, we have to look further in the Bible. The books of Revelation and Daniel are filled with Apocalyptic imagery. They are written to oppressed peoples in search of hope. In short, they say, "I know you're suffering now, but in the end – God Wins." We can also look to Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Upon hearing that she would bear the Son of God, Mary brings forth her Song of Praise. In it, she says, "*He has shown strength*", "*He has scattered the proud*", "*He has brought down the powerful ... and sent the rich away empty.*" (Luke 1) Mary was praying with thanksgiving for things that had yet to come! She knew what the birth of her son meant for the world. She knew that through Jesus, God was about to do incredible things – not through power and riches, but through the love of His Son.

When our worry and stress bring us to prayer, we are encouraged to pray in thanksgiving because God has NOT deserted us. We pray in thanksgiving because in the end, God wins. We pray in thanksgiving because no matter how dark a place the world may become, the light of Jesus Christ is never darkened. The light will always overcome the darkness.

Paul continues to the Philippians, "*And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*" (Philippians 4:7) We may not understand how God works in the world, but when we are able to open our minds in prayers of thanksgiving – God promises to give us peace, strength, and courage in whatever we are facing.

Be bold in your thanksgiving this year! Be thankful for what God is about to do in the world and in our lives!

In Christ,  
Pastor John



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of Pastor John**

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## Confirmation Class



### **Cross Lutheran Church Confirmation Class of 2023**

*Nathaniel James Holle*

*Mason Urban Lichter*

*Sean Steven Nie*

*Brenna Rae Sagedal*

*Sophia Rose Warren*

#### **Nathaniel Holle**

*I can do all things through him who strengthens me.  
Philippians 4:13*

#### **Mason Lichter**

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.  
John 3:16-17*

#### **Sean Nie**

*We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.  
Romans 8:28*

#### **Brenna Sagedal**

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Romans 8:38-39*

#### **Sophie Warren**

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.  
Jeremiah 29:11*

## BAPTISMS & MEMORIAL



### WE CELEBRATE THE BAPTISM OF:

Kylie Rose Reszczynski, daughter of Travis & Alice Reszczynski, born on January 11, 2023, was baptized on October 15, 2023.

### WE CELEBRATE THE BAPTISM OF:

Liliana Jo Flores, daughter of Oscar & Shawni (nee Mutter) Flores, born on September 8, 2023, was baptized on October 28, 2023.



Our sympathy goes out to family and friends of John Sime, a member of our congregation. John was born on May 2, 1936, passed to eternal life on October 14, 2023. May John rest in heavenly peace.

## Reconciling in Christ Journey



October 19, 2023

Dear Cross members,

Since announcing our intention to become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Congregation, I've received many positive comments about this journey.

To recap, Reconciling in Christ is a program that is a public way for faith communities to see, name, celebrate, and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and people of color. There are 29 other ELCA churches in the Greater Milwaukee Synod with the Reconciling in Christ designation.

At Cross, we are in the process of putting together a Core Team of 3-5 members who are interested in developing our ministry of reconciliation.

### **The Core Team's role**

The Core Team will explore the Reconciling in Christ process and the steps toward receiving an RIC designation. The Core Team will share information with Cross members about what it means to be an RIC designated church and address any members' questions about the RIC process and designation. Some of the team's activities could include holding forums, conducting one-on-one visits and visiting other RIC designated churches.

If Cross decides to become RIC designated, the Core Team will craft a Welcome Statement aligned with RIC guidelines. It's anticipated the process of becoming a Reconciling in Christ designated congregation will take 9-10 months. The process will conclude with a congregation vote.

If you'd like to learn more about our RIC journey or participate on the Core Team, please connect with Pastor John, myself or any Mission Council member. You will hear more about this in the weeks and months ahead. If you would like to learn more about Reconciling in Christ, check out this website: [www.reconcilingworks.org](http://www.reconcilingworks.org).

**“Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God.” Micah 6:8**

In peace,

Andy Johnson  
Mission Council President



DRIVE-THRU  
**TURKEY DINNER**

Saturday, November 11  
4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
126 Chapel Terrace • Burlington



**DINNER INCLUDES:**  
Turkey, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy,  
Green Bean Casserole, Stuffing,  
Cranberry Sauce and Pie!



**DINNER TICKETS ARE \$15 EACH**

Tickets can be purchased online at [cross-church.org](http://cross-church.org) or at the door  
Credit Cards Accepted



**262-763-6570**  
[www.cross-church.org](http://www.cross-church.org)

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## NEW MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION MEETING & FIRST COMMUNION CLASS



### New Member Information Meeting:

On November 12 at 9:00 am, Pastor John will hold a New Members Information meeting in the back half of Luther Hall. This is for anyone who may be interested in becoming a member of our family of faith here at Cross. Please email the church office at [crossbur@cross-church.org](mailto:crossbur@cross-church.org) to sign up.



### First Communion Class:

Do your kids ask to join us for Holy Communion? Please bring them on November 15 at 4:00 pm for a First Communion class with Pastor John. This is for kids of all ages and is not just for first-time participants. All of our kids are invited to come learn more about what Holy Communion means. We never stop learning. Please sign up by sending an email to the church office at [crossbur@cross-church.org](mailto:crossbur@cross-church.org). If you have questions, please talk to Pastor John.

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/2	Welke, Mrs Mildred
11/2	Wendorf, Mr Kristopher
11/3	Enright, Mrs Lou Ellen
11/3	Hammitt, Mr Robert
11/4	White, Mrs Kathy
11/4	Klug, Mrs Carmen Lee
11/5	Spitzer, Mr Robert (Bob)
11/5	Damon Jr., Mr Dale
11/6	Sticklus, Mrs Helga
11/6	Jazdzewski, Mrs Paulette
11/6	Schmidt, Ella Marie
11/7	Larson, Ms Lois
11/7	Rachwal, Mr Ronald (Ron)
11/7	Gesteland, Mr Tim
11/7	Damon, Mrs Angela
11/8	Smith, Nolan
11/9	Walby, Kane
11/10	Heineman, Mrs Virgie
11/10	Stammers, Mrs Linda
11/10	Noel, Mrs Vicki
11/10	Flock, Mrs Amy B.
11/10	Oldenburg, Jaden Lee
11/10	Everett, Weslyn Ruth
11/11	Lee, Mackenzie
11/11	Lee, Nicolas



11/12	Swantz, Mrs Tracy
11/13	Peterson, Mr Jim
11/13	Westra, Mr Christopher
11/14	Swantz, Tanner Steven
11/14	Barczak, Owen
11/15	Peper, Mrs Patti Jo
11/15	Flock, Brianna Marie
11/17	Luger, Mrs Linda
11/17	Nie, Ian
11/18	Jones, Mrs Janet L.
11/18	Kreuscher, Morgan Rae
11/19	Oldenburg, Mr John
11/19	Klug, Mr Mitchell Jeffrey
11/20	Traugher, Mrs Keri
11/20	Salaja, Samantha
11/21	Masiakowski, Mrs Mary
11/22	Wendorf, Kayden John (Kayden)
11/23	Walvoord, Mr Gary John
11/24	Stubley, Mrs Margy
11/25	Fohey, Lennon Joan
11/26	Jazdzewski, Mr Ryan Arthur
11/27	Stardy, Mrs Nancy
11/27	Traber, Mr Allen
11/27	Peterson, Matthew
11/27	Stoughton, Sophia Marie

## CROSS PRAYERS LIST



Annie Bailey	Virgie Heineman
Cody Baumgart	Jim Kohler
Don Brink	Ken Krause
Jim Brink	Ryan Larson
Pat Christopherson	Bev Leonard
Mel Dey	Howard Murrah
Terry Erb	John Oldenburg
Liam Finucane	Etta Olson
Tiffany Freiwald	Bob Remer
Jeff Gayhart	Ginny Richards
Richard Griebel	Delta Shine
Michelle Harlan	Addison Smith

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

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

## Upcoming Events in November . . .



### VETERANS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

There will be a Veterans Recognition Program and Luncheon on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am in Luther Hall.

The following will be recognized: If you are a Veteran and member of Cross  
or if you are a Veteran and an immediate family member is a member of Cross.

Information forms need to be filled out by Veterans for this program no later than Sunday, October 29th. These Veterans Information Forms will be provided in the Narthex along with Luncheon information and the Recognition Program.

All members of Cross are asked to join in this recognition program.

Thank you. John Hakala



### TURKEY DINNER

Cross will serve turkey, once again this year! On **November 11 from 4:30-7:00 pm** we will have our annual drive through Turkey Dinner. Please check the sign-up sheets in the Narthex to see where you can help.



## CONNECTING TEAM—NEXT EVENT



### Lift Every Voice and Sing!

Join Us as we go to a few Burlington Locations Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 10th.

Gather at church at 2:15 pm to sing and bring some **Joy** to people in our community, we can car pool.

If you can't carry a tune, carry bells or small rhythm instruments to play softly in the background.

Bring a friend, a child, a grandchild, A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex so we know how many to plan for.

We will be going to 4 or 5 facilities and then returning to Cross for a light supper as well as cookies and hot chocolate.

## SERVING TEAM UPDATES



Love, Inc. provides Thanksgiving Dinners for needy families. The cost of a family's dinner this year is \$36. There is a basket with envelopes on the Welcome Desk in the narthex for donations to this ministry.



Cross will participate in the Love, Inc. Adopt-a-Family for Christmas activity. More information about the adopted families should be available the first week of November.

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.

Annual progress and thank you reports were recently received for Clarisse and Mapenzi, the two girls that Cross sponsors through World Vision.

Clarisse, 17 years old, lives in the Kintanu Community in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She reported that she is in primary school studying grade five. Her report noted that females with some secondary education in the DR Congo is 40.3 % in comparison to 96.5% of females in the United States. World Vision constantly monitors Clarisse's well-being and her health was good. Clarisse indicated that she and her family participated in and benefited from: School supplies, Reading/writing workshop, Water source protection awareness, Child protection awareness and Children's clubs.

Mapenzi, 10 years old, lives in the Marafa Community in Kenya. She indicated that she was in primary school studying grade five. Her report noted that in Kenya 31.1% of females have some secondary education compared to 96.5% in the United States. She related that World Vision was constantly monitoring her well-being and that currently her health was good. This year, Mapenzi and her family participated in and benefited from: Bible study, School enrollment/attendance awareness, Hygiene education, and Community leadership training.

Cecile, the manager of the Kintanu Area Program and Samuel, the manager of The Marafa Area Program, wrote notes of thanks for the support of Clarisse and Mapenzi and their communities. They stated that because of that support, children's lives were changing and they both ended with “God bless you”.

It was indicated that we can give with confidence because “In 2022, 89% of World Vision’s total operating expenses were used for programs that benefit children, families, and communities in need. World Vision provides hope and assistance to communities through our presence in nearly 100 countries.

## ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH SIMPLY GIVING

If you plan to start giving through Simply Giving, please remember to contact the Financial office.

Forms are in the church office for new requests. We would be happy to email or mail you a copy to fill out and return. If you are changing your giving dollar amount, an email or signed letter is acceptable. Contact Bobbie Abel at [financial@cross-church.org](mailto:financial@cross-church.org).



## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Consider a Contribution to the Cross Lutheran Lifetime Learner Scholarship. Are you looking to help others in our congregation who are guided by Christ get a post-secondary education?

Consider donating to the Cross Lutheran Church Lifetime Learner Scholarship Fund. To do so, mark "Scholarship Fund" on your giving envelope.

This annual fund (totaling \$1000 to \$5000) is awarded to up to three congregation members who are enrolling full time into a university or college for the first time in their lives. A heartfelt thanks for your consideration.

### DIFFERENT WAYS ON HOW TO GIVE:

- ◆ **MAIL a check to: Cross Lutheran Church at  
126 Chapel Terrace, Burlington, WI**
- ◆ **ON THE APP: Click "Give"**
- ◆ **TEXT: "GIVE" TO 608-888-9247**
- ◆ **ONLINE: Visit the homepage [www.cross-church.org](http://www.cross-church.org).**

### **NOTICE OF FILMING & PHOTOGRAPHY**

When you attend service or an event at Cross Lutheran Church, Burlington, you enter an area where photography, audio, and video recording may occur.

If you choose not to have your image used, please see one of the pastors, church leaders, or communications director.

## FINANCIAL REPORT—As of September 30, 2023

	INCOME	EXPENSES	
Jan.	\$22,793.76	\$33,431.50	\$10,637.74
Feb.	\$26,787.59	\$25,281.34	\$1,506.25
Mar.	\$25,204.32	\$23,948.74	\$1,255.58
Apr.	\$21,188.86	\$23,814.90	-\$2,626.04
May	\$24,533.15	\$24,506.18	\$26.97
Jun.	\$19,230.78	\$20,935.44	-\$1,704.66
Jul.	\$22,732.04	\$21,557.26	\$1,174.78
Aug.	\$24,039.85	\$24,409.71	-\$369.86
Sept.	\$17,427.28	\$18,744.90	-\$1,317.62
Oct.			\$0.00
Nov.			\$0.00
Dec.			\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>			-\$12,692.34
Major Maintenance			\$57,985.38
Parking Lot Fund			\$41,609.53
Parking Lot CD			\$125,000.00
General Scholarship		2024	\$430.00



### ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD

The next zoom meeting of the Endowment Board is scheduled for  
6 pm on Thursday December 7th.

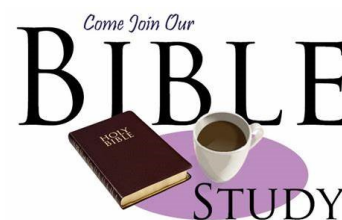
## SEPTEMBER 30th to DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS: Assisting Ministers

Special Service	Saturdays	Name	Sundays	Name
All Saints Day	11/04/23	Polly Burrigh	11/05/23	Bruce Tate
	11/11/23	Polly Burrigh	11/12/23	Barb Tate
	11/18/23	Brenda Belot	11/19/23	Lois Berg
	11/25/23	Nancy Dey	11/26/23	Rachel Bennett
Advent 1	12/02/23	Bob Remer	12/03/23	Ryan Jazdzewski
Advent 2	12/09/23	Anita Mucci	12/10/23	Bruce Tate
Advent 3	12/16/23	Ryan Jazdzewski	12/17/23	Barb Tate



### COFFEE HOUR

All are welcome to coffee hour in Luther Hall from 9:00-10:00 every Sunday morning. Join us for a time of fellowship prior to the 10:00 am service while enjoying coffee, a donut and orange juice.



### ADULT BIBLE STUDY—

Started back up again on Sundays. The Bible study is located in the Church Lounge at 9:00am, Led by Bruce Tate. We will be continuing with the study of Minor Prophets 2.



### Fall Clean-up

Please mark your calendar for Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup> for our annual fall clean-up. We will meet at the church at 8:00 a.m. We need as many people as possible to help with this task. Bring your rakes and leaf blowers to help make the task go smoothly.

## Cross Lutheran Staff & Ministry Leadership Teams as of May, 2023

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturdays In-person - 5pm

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

\* Facebook: [@crossburlington](#)

\* [YouTube Channel](#)

\* Website: [www.cross-church.org](http://www.cross-church.org)

[Online Fellowship](#) - 15 minutes following worship

### 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

Cross Office: 262-763-6570

Emergency: 262-757-8111

E-mail: [crossbur@cross-church.org](mailto:crossbur@cross-church.org).

Noah's Ark: 262-767-9095

Website: [www.cross-church.org](http://www.cross-church.org).

Facebook: [@crossburlington](#)

Instagram: [@crosslutheranburlington](#)

### BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSIONS

Call the office for further information

### LUTHERDALE REPRESENTATIVES

John Hakala

Blaine Warren

### SYNOD VOTING MEMBERS

Jim Hansen

Marilynn Hansen

### THRIVENT REPRESENTATIVES

Scott Herrmann: 262-716-5454

Call 800-Thrivent to direct your "choice" dollars

### MISSION COUNCIL

Andy Johnson, President

Ryan Jazdzewski, Vice President

Claudia Kreuzscher

Patty Oldenburg, Secretary

Rachel Bennett

Joyce Etter

### BUSINESS BOARD

Lois Berg, Director

Brett Metzger, Treasurer

Doug Bouchat, Secretary

### BUILDING & GROUNDS

Brian Erb

John Oldenburg

Terry Long

Bob Remer

Mike Ladd

Steve Schneider

### CONNECTING TEAM

Anita Mucci

Pam Murphy

Marlene Remer

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Terry Erb

Marie Way

Brenda Fanter

### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Patricia Christopherson

Cheryl Theis

John Hakala

Chuck Stublely

### SERVING TEAM

Bonnie Flitcroft

Marilynn Hansen

Lisa Schneider

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Garry Giller

Tammy Hogan

Jenny Morehouse

Betty Olson

### ENDOWMENT BOARD

Marilynn Hansen, President

Doug Belot, Vice President

Blaine Warren, Secretary

Charles Stublely, Treasurer

Annie Bailey, Trustee

Sharon Johnson, Trustee

Beth Oliver, Trustee

# NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
<b>5—DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS</b> 8:50am Sunday School— <b>Sings</b> 9am Adult Bible 9am Coffee hour <b>10am Worship—            ALL SAINTS DAY</b> <b>11am Veterans Program</b>	6	<b>7—ELECTION DAY</b> 9:30am Gospel Gatherings 10:45am Staff Meeting 4pm Connecting Team Meeting 6:30pm Scouts Committee Meeting	8	9	10	11 <b>Fall Clean-up (alternate)</b> <b>8:30am We Love All Event—RIC</b> 9am Men's Ministry <b>4:30pm to 7:00pm TURKEY DINNER @ Cross Church—pick-up ONLY</b> 5pm Worship
12 8:50am Sunday School 9am Adult Bible <b>9am New Member Info Mtg</b> 9am Coffee hour <b>10am Worship</b>	13	14 9:30am Gospel Gatherings 10:45am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Webelos Meeting	15 <b>4pm First Communion Class</b> NO Confirmation 6pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	16 7pm Ruth Circle	17 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	18 9am Men's Ministry 5pm Worship
19 8:50am Sunday School 9am Adult Bible 9am Coffee hour <b>10am Worship—Choir Sings</b> <b>11am Communications Gathering</b>	20	21 NO Gospel Gatherings 10:45am Staff Meeting 1:30pm Pastor John at Pine Brook 6pm Building & Grounds Meeting	22 <b>8am Life Line Screening—            All Day in Luther Hall</b> 1:30pm Pastor John at The Bay <b>NO Confirmation</b> <b>NO Choir Rehearsal</b>	23 <b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING            OFFICE CLOSED</b>	24 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	25 9am Men's Ministry 5pm Worship
26 8:50am Sunday School 9am Adult Bible 9am Coffee hour <b>10am Worship</b>	27	28 9:30am Gospel Gatherings 10:45am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Business Board Meeting 6:30pm Pack Meeting	29 6pm Confirmation 6pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal <b>FINANCIAL SPENDING            PLAN DEADLINE</b>	30		



**Cross Lutheran Church, Burlington, WI**

**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 9am service (summer) &  
On September 10th services go back to regular time—10am**

**[WWW.CROSS-CHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.CROSS-CHURCH.ORG)**



**@CROSSBURLINGTON**