

## CROSS CONNECTIONS—JANUARY 2024

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*  
Hebrews 13:8

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Another year has come and gone. We've all made our New Year's Resolutions – and many have already been broken. We look back at 2023 and see a year filled with war and unrest. As we look forward to 2024, we pray for peace and security for all people. This is what a New Year brings – a time of reflection and hope, but it's a moment in which we can't linger too long.

It's hard to live in the present when we spend time looking back. Remembering what has been, can bring many emotions - from contentment to frustration, happiness to sadness, or joy to anger. Whatever these emotions are, they take time and energy away from today.

Spending too much time looking ahead doesn't serve us well either. We find ourselves dreaming about what might be, or dreading what is to come. We think about all those things we hope to change – and about those things we wish others would change. Planning and plotting for the future takes time and energy away from what we can, and need, to be doing right now.

It is good to learn from the past, just as it is good to find hope in the future. Life, though, is lived in each day, hour, minute, and second. With the passing of time comes lost chances and opportunities. With each moment we spend in regrets about the past, we lose a moment we could spend living today.

Learning to trust that God was with us then, God is with us today, and God goes with us into tomorrow can help take the weight of the past off our shoulders and to release tomorrow to tomorrow. Trusting God to forgive others and ourselves frees us to live today. Knowing that God walks ahead of us gives us the freedom to head into the future with confidence.

As you finish reading this, my prayer is that you are thinking of ways to live boldly right now. Who can you reach out to with a message of encouragement? In what ways can you reach out to your neighbors with a helpful and caring hand? How is God challenging you today? Who can you pray for right now – right where you are?

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Let Jesus have those emotions from the past. Let Jesus be your guide and friend going into tomorrow. And today? Live boldly, knowing that Jesus lives boldly right next to you.

In Christ,  
Pastor John

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of Pastor John**

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## MISSION COUNCIL—November 21, 2023

**Present:** Pr. John Brink, President - Andy Johnson, Vice President – Ryan Jazdzewski, Rachel Bennett, Joyce Etter, Claudia Kreuzscher, Secretary Patty Oldenburg.

**Guest:** John Oldenburg

**6:35** – Called to order.

**Opening Prayer** – Claudia shared a devotion from the book “Devotions for Church Leaders and Small Groups”, by Lynne Modranski, and led us in prayer. Ryan will share a devotion in January.

**MOTION** – by Pastor John, second by Joyce, to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2023 meeting. – **Approved**

### **Pastors’ Report:**

Pastor John and Andy went to the “We Love All” event at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Waukesha that discussed RIC. They attended break-out sessions that were very informative. The key-note speaker was dynamic! The event was very exciting and they are so glad that they went.

The upcoming new member class will have three adults and a newborn.

There were eight students that attended the first communion class.

Advent is coming! On Saturday December 23 a Christmas cantata will be performed by the choir at the 5:00 service. On Christmas Eve Day, Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, the cantata will again be performed at the 10:00 service. The 4:00 service will be a family Christmas service and the 10:00 service will be the traditional candle light service.

Pastor John shared he had recently performed a funeral service for a non-member. Her family was extremely grateful that he was available to fulfill their request.

### **Major Ministries**

**RIC update** – Andy gave us an update on our RIC journey. He learned at the Waukesha RIC event that we can use bits and pieces of the suggested path that churches take. Each church should be on their own journey and use the tools that best suit us as a congregation. We have three confirmed volunteers that will be on our Core Team. We are still looking for one or two more.

### **Minor Ministries**

**Parking Lot and Lighting** – Council discussed the status of the current parking lot surface and the fact that it is very dark near the parking lot doors. It was decided to have a congregational listening session early in 2024 to discuss options and ideas on how to proceed with updating the parking lot. There are current funds available from the last parking lot project. We will be looking for a task force to start the new project from scratch. John Oldenburg agreed that Building & Grounds feels there needs to be a new concept of the parking lot size and layout. John also noted that the current driveway patching will hopefully be completed by Asphalt Contractors in 2023. It depends on weather conditions.

**Digital Sign Update** – John Oldenburg gave an update on the sign. Burli Signs in Burlington has provided a mock-up drawing and proposal using our existing foundation as a base. Dennis Spankowski has been very helpful in creating a sign that will work for Cross. He also has done all of the leg-work with the city and is familiar with the city codes and restrictions. Council discussed the cost and our plan options in moving forward.

**Thank You Notes** – Andy, Patty & Ryan

**Closed with The Lord’s Prayer.**

**Meeting adjourned** – 8:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting** – Tuesday, January 16, 2024 – 6:30 in person, church library.

**Devotions** – Ryan

**NOTE** – No meeting will be scheduled in December.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Cheryl Theis	1/1	Nichole Jones	1/18
Thomas Koldeway	1/1	Tonia Manka	1/19
Tina Zabler	1/3	Christine Glader	1/20
Braden Lejcar	1/3	Shelby Everett	1/20
Everett Plehn	1/3	Emily Mundt	1/20
Jerry Graff	1/4	Eric Kreuzscher	1/21
Darrel Eisenhardt	1/5	Luke Barczak	1/21
Colleen Eisenhardt	1/5	Ginny Richards	1/23
Marilynn Hansen	1/6	Eric Vorpapel	1/27
Craig Steffen	1/6	Lauren Torhorst	1/27
Melissa Henning	1/6	Aaron Denko	1/27
Deanna Kalsen	1/10	Evie Wessing	1/27
Johnathan Robshaw	1/11	Joslyn Jazdzewski	1/27
Betty Olson	1/14	Donald Brink	1/28
Dale Welke	1/14	Tim Kumbier	1/28
Ann Westra	1/14	Nicole Heckler	1/29
Nyle Anderson	1/15	Lydia Longo	1/31
Brent Whiteside	1/17	Beau Davis	1/31
Anita Sharpee	1/17		



## CROSS PRAYERS LIST



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

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

## ASSISTING MINISTER SCHEDULE

**January to March 2024**

Special Service	Saturdays	Name	Sundays	Name
	1/6	Nancy Dey	1/7	Polly Burright
	1/13	Ryan Jazdzewski	1/14	Rachel Bennett
	1/20	Brenda Belot	1/21	Bruce Tate
	1/27	Anita Mucci	1/28	Barb Tate
	2/3	Nancy Dey	2/4	Polly Burright
	2/10	Ryan Jazdzewski	2/11	Rachel Bennett
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	2/14	TBD		TBD
	2/17	Bob Remer	2/18	Bruce Tate
	2/24	Anita Mucci	2/25	Barb Tate
	3/2	Brenda Belot	3/3	Rachel Bennett
	3/9	Ryan Jazdzewski	3/10	Bruce Tate
	3/16	Polly Burright	3/17	Barb Tate
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	3/23	Nancy Dey	3/24	Polly Burright
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	3/28	TBD		TBD
<b>Good Friday</b>	3/29	TBD		TBD
<b>Easter Vigil Saturday</b>	3/30	Bob Remer		
<b>Easter Sunday</b>			3/31	Rachel Bennett

**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.”*



# CONNECTING TEAM





# Christmas Caroling—2023

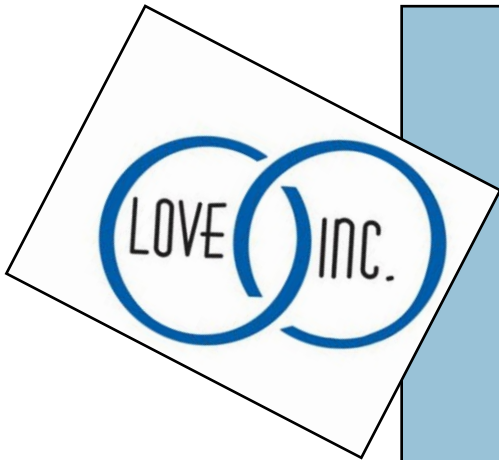


## SERVING TEAM

Thank you for your generosity in fulfilling the wishes of the two families chosen from the Love, Inc. Adopt-a-Family for Christmas Program. The Serving Team also purchased two Pick'nSave gift cards for each family. The parent(s) and four children in each of the adopted families were blessed by your kindness and thoughtfulness.

In January, the collection for the Love, Inc. Food Pantry will be breakfast foods. Your donations of foods such as oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup and cold cereal can be placed in the boxes in the narthex.

*Thank you*



### 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](http://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](http://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.

Clarisse's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday is on January 10, 2024. Clarisse is sponsored through World Vision. She lives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) which is a country in central Africa.

Sponsors are needed for Clarisse and Mapenzi for 2024. Each girl can be sponsored for \$40.00 a month or both girls for \$80.00 a month. Checks can be written to Cross Lutheran Church with "World Vision Sponsor" noted on the memo line.

Calendars for 2024 were provided by World Vision for Clarisse and Mapenzi. A message was written on them and they were signed and returned to World Vision. A check for \$18.00 (\$9.00 each) was enclosed to help cover the cost of overseas delivery for the calendars. The President and CEO of World Vision, Edgar Sandoval, Sr. wrote: "This new calendar is filled with holidays that are celebrated around the globe. Some are educational and some are just for fun. And we make sure to provide this calendar in a language your sponsored children can understand. By sending this calendar to your sponsored children, you can convey the truth that God's love is unstoppable and His mercies are new each morning (Lamentations 3:22-23)".

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 November 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.	\$20,911.85	\$21,090.21	-\$178.36
Nov.	\$24,235.92	\$21,105.27	\$3,130.65
Dec.			\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>			-\$9,740.05
Major Maintenance			\$49,938.31
Parking Lot Fund			\$42,289.58
Parking Lot CD			\$125,000.00
General Scholarship		2024	\$650.00

### ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD

The Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund of Cross Lutheran Church had a zoom meeting on December 7, 2023. One of the items of business was the discussion of the annual Endowment Congregational meeting planned for February 4, 2024. Two trustees need to be elected at that meeting,

Another business item was the donation of the 2022 dividends and earnings. A total of \$20,817.60 was donated from the Regular Account to charities and organizations in the community, state, nation and world that address homelessness, hunger, health, disasters, and Christian education. A total of \$7,170.33 from the Spiegelhoff account was donated to special needs of Cross Church.

The next Board of Trustees zoom meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 29, 2024.

# 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



# JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>7</p> <p>8:50am Sunday School—Sings 9am Adult Bible 9am Coffee hour <b>10am Worship</b></p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 373 Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p><b>9:30am Gospel Gatherings (Epiphany Breakfast)</b> 10:45am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Business Board Meeting 6:30pm Webelos Meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6pm Confirmation 6pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30pm Bear Den Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p><b>ALL ANNUAL REPORTS DUE FROM COMMITTEES/BOARDS FINAL</b></p>	<p>13</p> <p>9am Men's Minister <b>5pm Worship Service</b></p>
<p>14</p> <p>8:50am Sunday School 9am Adult Bible 9am Coffee hour <b>10am Worship</b></p>	<p>15</p> <p><b>Martin Luther King Jr Day</b></p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30am Gospel Gatherings 10:45am Staff Meeting 1:30pm Pastor John at Pine Brook 6:00pm Building &amp; Grounds Meeting 6:30pm Mission Council</p>	<p>17</p> <p>NO Confirmation 6pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11:15am Pastor John at Oak Park Place 7pm Ruth Circle</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9am Men's Minister <b>5pm Worship Service</b></p>
<p>21</p> <p>8:50am Sunday School 9am Adult Bible 9am Coffee hour <b>10am Worship—CHOIR SINGS</b> <b>11am Communications Gathering</b> <b>1pm Family Bowling</b></p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:30am Gospel Gatherings 10:45am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>24</p> <p>2pm Pastor John at The Bay 6pm Confirmation 6pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p><b>NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE</b></p>	<p>27</p> <p>9am Men's Minister <b>5pm Worship Service</b></p>
<p>28</p> <p>8:50am Sunday School 9am Adult Bible 9am Coffee hour <b>10am Worship</b></p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:30am Gospel Gatherings 10:45am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6pm Confirmation 6pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal</p>			





**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**