

Cross Lutheran Church Newsletter

January 2017



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Dear Cross Family,

Upon writing this report, I thought it prudent to look at what I had identified as our growing edges both collectively and personally two years ago. In retrospect, I think we have done pretty good on mission. Our **“Mission”** statement is: **“To share the Good News of God’s love in Jesus Christ, to serve our community and the world, and to advocate for justice.”**

We have been very diligent in bolstering our partnership with a number of our Lutheran and community partnerships enabling us to offer quality ministries and programs. This is not to say that we still don’t have work to do around leadership and ownership. There have been improvements, but we still need to raise the bar higher with respect to our expectations, execution and leadership.

The blessings have been abundant allowing us to create three new positions in 2016 and one more for 2017: A Parish Administrator & Community Program Manager, Men’s Wellness Coordinator, Food Justice Coordinator via the Lutheran Volunteer Corp, (LVC) and Educational Coordinator for the Bridges Tutoring program & enrichment.

Through the extremely generous donation of her time and talent, Chris Doerfler, our grant writer has greatly assisted us in receiving new grants from the Zilber Foundation, Greater Milwaukee Foundation and the Mary Nohl Foundation. The first two grants cover staffing and infrastructure and the last one for a Mural across the back of Cross Lutheran & Shalom High School to complete the urban beautification and complement the new park and basketball courts installed last summer. She continues to be in concert with staff for the Siebert Lutheran grants and Outreach For Hope grants which help sustain our programs and ministries along with Lutheran partnership dollars and brothers and sisters as volunteers.

I cannot overstate in a time such as this how our ministries and programs positively affect people’s lives and their economic and social development in many ways. Volunteering and empowerment skills improve our outcomes both in terms of qualitative and spiritual acknowledgment in the participant’s lives. The positive role of empowerment extends beyond its impact on this community: it gives adults higher levels of foundation skills which are much more likely to make individuals feel that they have a voice that can make a difference in social and political life. These results confirm that empowerment can lead to skills that have

a profound relationship with economic and social outcomes across a wide range of contexts and institutions. This is also key to tackling inequality and promoting social mobility. Investing in the beloved community is the single most effective way of not just promoting growth in our church and community, but also of equipping saints to live out our mission and create a more just and equitable society for all of God's children in Milwaukee.

Unfortunately, we are still struggling in the following areas: discipleship and growth. Personally, I think we have a thriving church with an abundance of ways to connect and be involved. Yet, for the life of me, I cannot fathom why some people are sitting on the sidelines? I know that lives are busy & crazy for many, routine for others and apathetic and complicit for yet a few. (The sick and shut in are not among this demographic.) But let's get some clarity, discipleship is more than about ourselves and our egos; it is about being a child of God and sharing the joy and responsibilities that it entails. As a disciple at Cross Lutheran, we are extremely blessed to be able to participate in a wide variety of worship, spiritual, educational, medical, social, justice and fun activities. We truly do offer something for everyone.

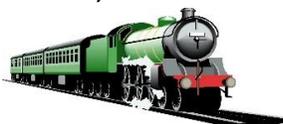
Our long history of multiculturalism and diversity along with a solid history of community organizing allows us to craft spaces for people to learn from each other, advance our shared mission and vision. Hopefully, we are still willing to engage in thoughtful reflection and to experiment with new ways and approaches of being and building the church.

Keeping our church faithful, fresh and relevant will keep us on our journeys of being change agents and a community of transformation. The saints at Cross through our Word and Sacrament ministries and programs strive to develop the capacity for continued independent learning and deeper reflection. The ultimate aim is to equip the saints to be more committed to living out the gospel and be financially self-sustaining over time.

Let us be like the **"The Little Engine That Could"**. I think we can...

The train is leaving the station, make sure you are on board. I guarantee it will be a ride for a lifetime. Choo choo,

Pastor Michelle





Notes from the Parish Nurse

Linda Radder

I have spent a delightful week doing whatever I wanted to. One of things I decided to do was to sift through the hundreds of articles that I had saved with information that might be needed to write newsletter articles or to give a presentation to the Adult Center, the Women/Men of Faith groups, and the BOHEM Meal participants, as well as the Sunday morning congregation. I was able to throw out many items – which only makes more room for me to collect more articles. However, I did come across these thoughts from a dear friend of ours, Pastor Janis Kinens – the pastor at one of our Partner churches- Advent in Cedarburg. He is a gentle man, fighting for justice at every turn, and always appearing mindful and in the moment. He was recently diagnosed with bladder cancer, but the good news is that the cancer was only in the lining of the bladder, not the muscle itself. He will still have to undergo some treatment, but he seems optimistic. So when I read what he had written to end the year 2016 and to think about how he would live in 2017, I had to share it with you. I am going to paraphrase a bit and add a few of my own thoughts and prayers as well. Please remember Pastor Janis in your prayers as well as another great man of faith from Advent – Ed – who recently had a stroke and is working hard at St. Luke’s to gain his strength and function back. We could not do the things we do here at Cross without our beloved partners – we are grateful to all of them.

Every year it is popular to make New Year’s resolutions. Give up sweets, eat more healthy, exercise more, quit smoking, read more books, pay attention more to each other, really listen to one another, and attend church more regularly and with more enthusiasm. As you all know, we often forget about many of these resolutions as “life” picks up speed and our day to day responsibilities become front and center again. Many of us miss the “grace moments” – the beautifully, simple events that occur in our lives while we are waiting for the “big moments”, that may or may not come.

A few thoughts to remind us that it is important how we live our lives – **Our Life is What our Thoughts Make It**

A man (or woman) is what he/she thinks about all day long – If we think happy thoughts, we’ll be happy all day. If we think miserable thoughts, we’ll probably be

miserable all day. If we think failure, we will certainly fail, and if we wallow in self-pity, others will shun us. **You are what you think you are!!!!**

Norman Vincent Peale

John Wesley writes: **Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, as long as ever you can.**

Finally:

Don't ever save anything for a special occasion – being alive IS the special occasion!!!!!!!!!!!!

Praying that whoever reads this will have a Happy and Healthy New Year and receive many blessings and have the ability to recognize those blessings and appreciate them.

Sincerely,

Your Parish Nurse/Nurse Practitioner

From the Parish Administrator

Linda Carr-Carlson



The New Year is upon us providing new opportunities to achieve excellence in our delivery of services to our community and each other. Consequently, we want to move forward with the idea and understanding that we will do our part to make our 2017 performance better than 2016 in many respects. As we reflect on performance, we know there are areas in which improvement can be accomplished.

We know, as we all commit to excellence our goal can only be achieved through a concerted effort on everyone's part to work together. In this regard, we have done a praiseworthy job. The other piece of the equation involves having the appropriate tools available to get the job done. In the coming months we plan to focus on improving our communication tools. This includes our telephone system, our internet and Wi-Fi service, our computer software and our website. Stay tuned.

For now, I would like to put forth one last thought about communications which involves our interpersonal communications. Good effective communications in the workplace is a priceless asset that every employee, volunteer, visitor and stakeholder can master. Although we all recognize there are a variety of ways in which one can communicate a message, we often forget it is not always what we say as much as it is how we say it. Just remember how *you say it* is at least half of the message. Content and body language are part of the other half. Speaking to others, as we would have others speak to us, can be a strong starting point in improving effective communications in our workplace environment. Practice leads to perfection.

Just So You Know

Upon the retirement (or semi-retirement) of Brother Les Brockman, we were forced to analyze our cleaning needs around Cross Church and evaluate our options. As a result, we investigated the possibility of outsourcing our cleaning needs and subsequently contracted with Encore Cleaning Systems, a small up and coming Milwaukee Company. Gary and Curtis, our Encore on-site cleaning service employees, are anxious to please us, and we want to be pleased. Therefore, if there are areas that require fine-tuning we need to let Encore know immediately. If you notice something that you believe requires attention, let me know so that I can pass along the information to Gary and Curtis. Also, if you happen to see them working around the building, please be sure to say hello.

No unpleasant aroma will be coming from the kitchen grease trap. Praise God! During the first week of the New Year the old grease trap was removed and a new one was installed. Though the new grease trap will require some maintenance, it is highly unlikely that it will make its presence known in a big aromatic way.

Cross Lutheran Church 2017 Election Results

President	Ann Hogan
Vice President	Tina Polk
Secretary	Alicia Barr
Treasurer	Lisa Quam

Finance	Tom Jackson	
Evangelism/Hospitality	Francisco Mojica	
Worship	Carolyn Jackson	
Human Resources	Fran Love, Emory Churness and Terry McGee	
Stewardship Chair	Open	
Youth/Sunday School	Peggy Drana	
Elders (Newly Elected)	Richard Coleman Kim Sallis	
Elders (Currently Serving)	Craig Dent Comeco Ghoston Tracy Harris Rochelle Jackson Cynthia Mounger Czerda Riley Janet Williams	
Endowment (Newly Elected)	Judi Hunter Brian Mickelson Sarah Olson	
Endowment (Currently Serving)	2014-2017	Paulette Barr Sandy Adams Trish Dent
	2015-2018	Peggy Drana Deb France Tina Polk

Trustees

Mark Drana
Bradley Hausler
Jamaal Polk

Cross Lutheran Church 2017 Caregivers

Gloria Wright, Chairperson

Debra Taylor, Secretary

Members: Pastor Michelle Townsend de Lopez, Pat Coleman, Lula Williams, Betty Miner, Janet Williams and Katrina O’Neal.

Caregivers meet the second Wednesday of every month, and would like you to know, if there is someone who wants to be put on the prayer list, call Gloria Wright at 414-562-0229.

**All People’s Gathering & Cross Lutheran
Blast Youth Group & Confirmation Calendar
November 2016 to February 2017**



JANUARY

Day	Event	Location
Jan. 18	BLAST	APC: Havenwoods
Jan. 25	BLAST /Confirmation	APC: Havenwoods

FEBRUARY

Day	Event	Location
Feb. 1	BLAST	APC: Harambee
Feb. 8	BLAST/Confirmation	APC: Harambee
Feb. 15	BLAST	APC: Harambee
Feb. 22	BLAST /Confirmation	APC: Harambee

Help Needed

As we get further into the new year, we are still in need of volunteers to provide the meal for our twice-weekly tutoring program here at Cross on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The meal starts at 6pm, and we usually have 20 people. We would love for you to cook for us, but also feel free to have food ordered. If the time doesn't work for you, feel free to deliver food ahead of time and we'll warm it up. There are many dates still available, and we would love to have your help feeding our hardworking students and tutors! Email Emily Dufford (duffem01@luther.edu), Food Justice Organizer, to sign up for a date or with any questions.

Thank you so much! Your help is greatly appreciated!

January/February 2017 Calendar of Events

Date: Saturday, January 14, Quilting

Time: 10:00 am

Place: Cross Fellowship Hall

Date: Sunday, January 15, CYPT Performance

Time: 10:00 am

Place: Advent Lutheran Church, W63N642 Washington Ave., Cedarburg

Monday, January 16, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Cross Office is Closed

Date: Tuesday, January 17, MICAH Immigration Task Force Meeting

Time: 10:30 am

Place: Cross Conference Room

Date: Tuesday, January 17, BOHEM

Time: 3:00 pm

Place: Cross Conference Room

Date: Tuesday, January 17, **Bridges Tutoring**

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Cross Conference Room

Date: Thursday, January 19, **Bridges Tutoring**

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Cross Conference Room

Date: Saturday, January 21, **Line Dancing Class**

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: Cross Fellowship Hall

Date: Sunday, January 22, **CYPT Performance**

Time: 3:00 pm

Place: Good Shepard Lutheran Church, 611 Randolph St., Oak Park, Ill

Date: Tuesday, January 24, **Bridges Tutoring**

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Cross Conference Room

Date: Thursday, January 26, **Bridges Tutoring**

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Cross Conference Room

Date: Saturday, January 28, **Quilting**

Time: 10:00 am

Place: Cross Fellowship Hall

Date: Tuesday, January 31, **Bridges Tutoring**

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Cross Conference Room

Date: Thursday, February 2, **Bridges Tutoring**

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Cross Conference Room

Date: Saturday, February 4, **Line Dancing Class**

Time: 1:00 pm

Place: Cross Fellowship Hall

Date: Tuesday, February 7, **Bridges Tutoring**

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Cross Conference Room

Date: Wednesday, February 8, **Caregivers' Meeting**

Time: 4:00 pm

Place: Cross Conference Room

Date: Wednesday, February 8, **Open Door with Nurse Linda**

Time: 9:00 – 11:30 am

Place: Cross Church

Date: Thursday, February 9, **Bridges Tutoring**

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Cross Conference Room

Date: Saturday, February 11, **Caregivers' Meeting**

Time: 10:00 am

Place: Cross Fellowship Hall

In the Community

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Justice Program and March will be held **Monday, January 16** at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1927 N. 4th St. 1:00 pm – program indoors, and 2:30 pm – march. For more information, contact George Martin 414-745-5740.

The Public is invited to **16th Annual "King Fest" Celebration Event to recognize 88th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** On **Monday, January 16**, **Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs** will help mark the national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by leading the 16th Annual **"King Fest"** in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 88th birthday at the **Wisconsin Black Historical Society**, 2620 W. Center St. **The celebration will start at 12 pm** and will feature activities

until close at 6 pm. The event's keynote speaker will be **Attorney Rose Sanders**, activist, historian, playwright and Alabama's first Black judge. Alderwoman Coggs will also be a featured speaker during the event, which is **free and open to the public**.

Event special features:

From: 12 pm to 2 pm – Vendors and video (*Reflection 54 Years Later*).

From 2 pm to 6 pm – Drumming, spoken word, songs, Praise Dancers, and local/national keynote speakers.

Friends and neighbors of Johnsons Park and Alice's Garden will meet **Thursday, January 19**, from 6 to 7:30pm at the Running Rebels Café at 1300A West Fond du Lac Avenue. The café entrance is off of 13th and Vine Street. Street Parking is available. The purpose of the meeting is to: Determine which organizations and groups are using the park now and in what capacity; identify programming gaps for youth, families, and seniors; develop plans to fill those gaps; create a summer program calendar for Johnsons Park/Alice's Garden by April 2017; and, identify resources (staff, funding, volunteers, Friends of the Park, etc.) needed to support these activities. Snacks will be provided. Please RSVP by Monday, January 16th to Ritaf@milwaukeeerotary.com to confirm your attendance.

Skilled Trades Collaborative (STC) Meeting will be held **Monday, Jan 30**, 5:00 pm at Laborers' Local 113, 6310 W. Appleton Ave., Milwaukee, to enhance & expand their opportunities for success. Every year, 177 new carpenters are needed in Southeastern Wisconsin. Join Southeast WI Area Carpentry JAC for its 2017 informational sessions, where you can learn about increasing Wisconsin's talent and economic dividend with a thriving career.

Enrollment Sessions:

- Wednesday, January 11th
- Wednesday, February 8th

Where:

Southeast WI Area Carpentry JAC
N25 W23055 Paul Rd., Suite 3
Pewaukee, WI 53072

Please arrive at the Southeast WI Area Carpentry JAC by 8:45 am. Doors will close by 9:20 am.

Enrollment Process:

1. Go in person during enrollment sessions to learn about interview process and opportunities be sure to bring a driver's license, official high school transcripts, Accuplacer test results and/or ACT (at least score of 15)
2. Sign up for classes and interview with Joelle Hunter
3. This is a paid opportunity at 45% of journeyman's salary (\$16.00 est.)
4. Books are included with a \$ 400 valued toolkit (free of cost to student)
5. Once completed, start at \$35.78/hour

Please see the attached flyer for more information, or contact Joell Hunter at [262-574-6995](tel:262-574-6995)

Additional Reminders

- The Church office is closed on Fridays.
- Worship is scheduled for Sunday at 9:30 am.
- Sunday school for children grades K4-6 commences after worship @ 11:15 am. Classes are held on Sunday after service until 12 noon, unless otherwise specified.
- Adult Center meets on Tuesdays at 9:30 am.
- BOHEM meets on Wednesdays at 11:45
- Men's Wellness Group meets on Thursdays from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
- Quilting meets Saturdays from 10:00am - 4:00 pm
- Cross Youth Choir will practice Saturdays at 10:00 am.
- Cross Praise Choir continues to rehearse every Saturday in the Sanctuary from 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm.
- **Cross Church Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm. The Church office is closed on Fridays.
- **If you have a pastoral emergency,** please call Pastor Michelle at 414-434-9620.

- **Concerning Sunday Bulletin Announcements:** Please submit announcements for the bulletin to the church office by 10 am on Tuesday. Please email them to clc@crosslutheranmilwaukee.org or leave a message on the office voicemail.
- **Cross' Mental Health Advisory Committee** would like to pass along the following resources for people who are looking for a listening ear. *Warmline* is a non-crisis, supportive listening phone line for people with mental illness. All of the staff and volunteers are **people with** mental illness. Call us, we've been there. 414-777-4729 or email us at <http://warmline-milwaukee.webs.com>.