



Cross Lutheran Church & School  
New Braunfels, Texas  
The Lutheran Church Missouri-Synod

# Cross Ties

November 2023



I will

*praise*

the name

of

*God*

with a song, and will

magnify Him

with

*Thanksgiving.*

Psalm 69:30, NKJV

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Church Family,

As we approach Thanksgiving, a time when we gather with loved ones, enjoy delicious meals, and reflect on our blessings, it is important to remember the true spirit of this holiday. Thanksgiving is not just about the food on our tables or the material possessions we have; it is about expressing genuine gratitude for all that God has bestowed upon us.

In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, it can be easy to overlook the countless blessings that surround us. It is in these moments of reflection that we are reminded of God's goodness and faithfulness. The apostle Paul encourages us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, saying, "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

This Thanksgiving, let us come together as a church family to cultivate an attitude of gratitude. Let our hearts overflow with thankfulness for the love and grace we receive from God each day. Here are a few devotion points to help guide our reflections together:

1. **The Gift of Life:** Take a moment to thank God for the precious gift of life. Reflect on the opportunities He has given you, the relationships you cherish, and the experiences that have shaped your journey.
2. **Provision and Abundance:** Recognize the ways in which God provides for both our physical and spiritual needs. Consider the blessings of shelter, sustenance, and the abundance of His grace in our lives.
3. **Relationships and Community:** Express gratitude for the people God has placed in your life. Think about the support, encouragement, and love that flows through our church community, and how it strengthens us in our walk with Him.

## FROM THE PASTOR

4. **Spiritual Growth:** Thank God for the transformative work He is doing in your life, molding you into the image of Christ. Reflect on the ways in which He guides and challenges you, fostering spiritual growth and maturity especially in hard times.

5. **Salvation and Redemption:** Above all, give thanks for the ultimate gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Remember His sacrifice on the cross and the forgiveness we have received, leading us to a renewed life in Him.

Let us commit ourselves to living a life of gratitude beyond the Thanksgiving season. May our hearts continually overflow with thanksgiving, not just for what we have, but for who God is and the unending love He bestows upon us.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyous Thanksgiving and please join us for our Thanksgiving eve. service at 7PM!

With gratitude and love,

Pastor Joeckel

### Psalm 100

**“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”**

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



A movie I have always enjoyed is Pollyanna starring Haley Mills. It's an oldie, but the message is always relevant. In the movie, Mills plays the irrepressible Pollyanna. She has a firm belief that there is nothing in life that can't be overcome with an optimistic spirit and a can-do attitude. As an orphan, she is taken in by her Aunt, and through a variety of adventures, spreads her special type of joy to the entire town. In each situation that she encounters, Pollyanna tries to find the positive. For example, she employs a method called "The Glad Game." In the game, Pollyanna teaches her new friends that in every situation there is something to be found for which one can be glad. For example, as a missionary kid, she received a care box, and instead of toys, it contained crutches. Pollyanna noted that she was glad that she didn't need to use them!

As Christian brothers and sisters, we have our own version of The Glad Game. You can see it right there in Paul's letter to the Philippians, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (4:4-7, ESV)

In these last several months, our church and school family has experienced our fair share of conflict and challenges. I have personally experienced the sting of gossip, hurtful comments, and some false assumptions being made about how I lead our school ministry team and manage the budget. I have seen the hurt my sisters in Christ that work with me in the office have experienced. There are days when my team and I feel discouraged and disheartened. We are reminded that we serve a God that reminds us to "Rejoice in the Lord always." And we do. We rejoice that God continues to use our school ministry to reach into the hearts and lives of hundreds of children each year. We rejoice that God enables us to offset a huge portion of our school ministry expenses with tuition dollars. We rejoice that our school ministry is blessed to be an outreach of a congregation that has provided for the needs of physical space and all that entails. We rejoice that no matter what is said about us, we are still God's dearly loved children. And we rejoice in the graciousness of so many congregation members as they raise up in prayer and express words of encouragement.

As His children, we are working hard in our school ministry to carry out the work Christ has called us through our Calls and contracts to do. We strive to provide an excellent academic experience that is Christ-centered and student-focused. We work to ensure that every student that attends our school has their needs met and that they meet Jesus in the process. We do, in fact, work diligently to carefully manage our income and expenses in a way that demonstrates careful stewardship—keeping in mind that the most valuable gift God has entrusted to our stewardship care is the hearts and minds of the students that walk through our doors each day. We balance limited resources with the pressure from parents that have high expectations for a private, Lutheran school education balanced with the understanding that our resources are not unlimited. We, like you, know that we all have room for improvement. We seek to be better each day as we serve Jesus and the people He has called into our midst. We invite you to stop by to discuss any questions you might have!

As His children, we know that there are some anxious hearts in our congregation when it comes to school ministry and how it operates. We pray along with you, that God would continue to give us reason to rejoice in all things—including our school ministry. It is a treasure with which God has blessed our congregation. As we seek to serve Him in all things, we are reminded to trust Him in all things. We are all in this together, dear brothers and sisters. As your school principal, I desire to see this congregation thrive and flourish. We are all on the same team. We're not always going to agree on how to get things done, but God continues to give us good work to do. And the good work you and I are doing in school ministry and all of the other ministries at Cross is important kingdom-building work. God is using you and me to communicate Christ's love to the community gathered here at Cross, to New Braunfels, and to the world! Please keep the school ministry staff in your prayers. We are certainly praying for you!

In Christ,  
Corey Brandenburger, Principal

JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING SCHOOL MINISTRY EVENTS:

Veteran's Day Brunch	Friday, November 10 (10:00 am)
Veteran's Day Program	Friday, November 10 (11:00 am)
Volunteer Opportunities	Any Time! Contact the School Office for more info.

## Raise Right (Scrip)

Did you know that purchasing a gift card through the Raise Right (Scrip) program can help pay off the debt on the church building? When you buy an HEB, Walmart, Walgreen or any one of the 700 cards available a portion goes to the church and benefits a couple of programs. The rebate on a card is divided between the rebate account which pays for shipping of the cards and an account of your choice. You can choose to donate to the Building Fund, Youth Group, Camp Lone Camp Fees, School Endowment Fund (scholarships), and School Tuition. Between January and June, \$301.25 has been given to the Building Fund with \$60.17 given to the School Endowment Fund.



You can purchase cards before Sunday School or online. When you purchase online and choose an e-gift card there are no shipping charges and the card is available within 5 minutes. You can purchase online with a credit card or with your bank account. When you connect your bank account you only pay \$0.15 per transaction.

We all go to HEB and Walmart for groceries or gas. Use a gift card and give a little back to the church. Stop by the kitchen on Sunday mornings, grab a taco, donut and cup of coffee and talk with Alissa about setting up an account or just pick up a gift card.

### **We need help keeping the PowerPoints and the Livestream going during our Sunday Services!**

Let us train you in the A/V booth, or on Livestream all you need are basic computer skills, we will show you everything. Contact Steph in the church office: 830-625-3969 or [sfulker-son@crossnbtx.org](mailto:sfulker-son@crossnbtx.org) if you are willing to help out and serve in this way.

## Attention Cross Congregation Men

If you are a male member of Cross Lutheran Church and eighteen or older, the Men's Club wants you. The Men's Club is recruiting new members. A former Cross Lutheran Men's Club member has provided funds to help recruit additional Men's Club members. The Men's Club will pay the 2024 dues (all or a prorate share of the funds provided) to all men joining now and through January 2024. The Men's Club will forgo the prorated 2023 dues if joining before December 31, 2023. The Men's Club is a member of Lutheran Hour Ministries/ Lutheran Laymen's League and provides funds annually to support their programs and do numerous good works for Cross Lutheran church. If you have any questions or desire to join the Men's Club, please contact Glen Hendricks at 210-287-2498 or email: ghendricks001@att.net.

### MEMBERSHIP TRANSACTIONS

Death: Carolyn Skov died September 19; funeral service held October 1st and committal held October 2nd.

Membership IN by:

Transfer:

Rick & Martha Martin, from Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio, Texas.

Membership OUT by:

Transfer:

Donald Phillips, to Epiphany Lutheran, Pearland, Texas.

Resignation:

Michael Cutler

Removal:

Elsie Bischoff  
Mary Schmoldt

# NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
			1 3pm Sch <b>See Mu</b>
<b>5—SOS Food Drive</b> 8:30am Worship Service 10am SS/Bible Class 11am Comm Service <b>Voter's Meeting</b>	<b>6</b> 9am World Relief Quilters	<b>7—Election Day</b> 4:30pm Kinderchor 6:30pm Board of Elders	<b>8</b> 3pm Sch <b>See Mu</b>
<b>12</b> 8:30am Comm. Service 10am SS/Bible Class 11am Worship Service 12pm Evangelism Meeting	<b>13</b> 9am World Relief Quilt. 2pm Ruth Circle	<b>14</b> 1pm SOS Food Bank 2pm Mary Martha Circle 4:30pm Kinderchor 7pm Stewardship Board	<b>15</b> 3pm Sch <b>See Mu</b>
<b>19</b> 8:30am Worship Service 10am Bible Study 10am Sunday School Christmas Practice 11am Communion Service	<b>20—No School Office Closed</b> 9am WR Quilters 1pm Braille Team	<b>21—No School Office Closed</b> 4:30 p.m. Kinderchor 7pm Men's Club Meeting	<b>22—No Office C</b> 7pm Tha vice After ser Practice No Bells
<b>26</b> 8:30am Comm. Service 10am Bible Class 10am Sunday School Christmas Practice 11am Worship Service	<b>27</b> 9am WR Quilters	<b>28</b> 1pm SOS Food Bank 4:30 pm Kinderchor	<b>29</b> 3pm Sch 6pm Sun Christma <b>See Mus</b>



Thu	Fri	Sat							
<p><b>School Chapel</b> <b>Music Notes</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> 9am Hand Quilters</p>	<p><b>3—No School</b> 6:30am Men’s Breakfast Bible Class 9am Bulletin Crew</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>						
<p><b>School Chapel</b> <b>Music Notes</b></p>	<p><b>9</b> 9am Hand Quilters 9:30am Rachel Circle</p>	<p><b>10</b> 6:30am Men’s Breakfast Bible Class 9am Bulletin Crew 10am Veterans Day Brunch &amp; Program</p>	<p><b>11—Veterans Day</b></p>						
<p><b>School Chapel</b> <b>Music Notes</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> 9am Hand Quilters 10am Dorcas Executive Board 7pm Church Council</p>	<p><b>17</b> 6:30am Men’s Breakfast Bible Class 9am Bulletin Crew</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>						
<p><b>School Closed</b> Thanksgiving Ser- vice: Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>23—Thanksgiving Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 9am Hand Quilters</p>	<p><b>24—No School</b> <b>Office Closed</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>						
<p><b>School Chapel</b> Sunday School as Practice <b>Music Notes</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> 9am Hand Quilters</p>	<div style="border: 3px double #0070C0; padding: 10px; background-color: #E0F0FF;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b><u>Music Notes</u></b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"><b>5:15pm</b></td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"><b>Glory Notes</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"><b>6:00pm</b></td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"><b>Grace Notes</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"><b>7:00pm</b></td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"><b>Choir Practice</b></td> </tr> </table> </div>		<b>5:15pm</b>	<b>Glory Notes</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Grace Notes</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
<b>5:15pm</b>	<b>Glory Notes</b>								
<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Grace Notes</b>								
<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>								

# *Stewardship Board*

## Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has,

more will be given, and he will have an abundance .

– *LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)*

## “The Lutheran Hour”

“The Lutheran Hour” is heard locally on WOAI 1200AM, San Antonio on Sunday mornings at 6:00 a.m.; KLBJ 590AM, Austin on Sunday mornings at 7:06 a.m.; KWCB 89.7FM, 1580 AM, Seguin on Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m., and Floresville on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. It is also broadcast live via the internet on: [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org). Down-

November 5  
**"Times of Mourning, Times of Blessing"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes

In our times of mourning, Christ comes to us with His Word of hope and healing.  
**(Matthew 5:4)**

November 12  
**"Again and Again and Again"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
**(Matthew 18:1-4)**

November 19  
**"Until that Day"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook  
**(1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)**

November 26  
**"Loving Mercy"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy  
**(Matthew 25:34-40)**

### November Greeter Schedule

	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
<b>11/05</b>	Ernie & Jan Simon	CJ & Jessica Panichi
<b>11/12</b>	Russell & Sherry Behrens	Jerry & Glenda Chandler
<b>11/19</b>	Roger & Mary Kay Wilkie	Lee & Lori Roberts
<b>11/26</b>	Dan, Tammy, & Laurie Meyer	Joyce Steele

**SOS FOOD BANK –  
A Community Service supported by Cross Lutheran**

The first Sunday of each month is food ingathering day at Cross for our support for the Spirit of Sharing (SOS) Foodbank, one of the food banks in the New Braunfels community. We also hold a Thanksgiving collection during November, in partnership with our Lutheran School children and families. Thank you for your ongoing and generous support for this ministry to those in need! The Foodbank is open Monday through Friday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., and Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Do you know someone who is hungry? Please have them call the Foodbank: 830-629-3663. Volunteers from Cross work on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. Do you have questions or want more information about joining the Cross Team of volunteers? You are invited to call Verlea Potter at 830-625-3720.

**November A/V Schedule**

	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>
<b>11/05</b>		Lee Roberts
<b>11/12</b>	Dane Lundquist	Andy Chantos
<b>11/19</b>		Jerry Miller
<b>11/26</b>		

## November Elder Schedule

	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
<b>11/05</b>	Todd Wood	Jeff Langemeier, <i>Greg Douglas</i>
<b>11/12</b>	Jeff Fink, <i>Richard Gabriel</i>	Charles Woodall
<b>11/19</b>	David Luckemeyer	Dave McCabe, <i>Roy Price</i>
<b>11/26</b>	Ernie Simon, <i>James Smith</i>	Mike Weiss

## November Altar Guild Schedule

<b>11/05</b>	Jo Anne Goebel and Sue Wittenborn
<b>11/12</b>	Lois Horton and Marsha Marmolejo
<b>11/19</b>	Susan Daley and Debbie Weiss
<b>11/22</b>	Thanksgiving food set up Vicki Haeck and Lori Roberts
<b>11/29</b>	Barbara Arnold and Cindy Perankovich

## November Digital Ministry Schedule

<b>11/05</b>	Courtney Mann
<b>11/12</b>	Courtney Mann
<b>11/19</b>	Steph Fulkerson
<b>11/26</b>	

**WORSHIP SERVICE  
RECORDED AND  
BROADCAST**

Each Sunday morning, under normal circumstances, the 8:30 a.m. Worship Service is recorded as well as broadcast live on the internet. You may find the livestream on either Facebook or YouTube by searching “CrossNBTX” to find our page.

**Newsletter Deadline!**

If you would like to include an article in the December newsletter, please submit it to the office no later than the 15th of November. You may leave it in the box outside of the church office door or you may email it to: [sfulkerson@crossnbtx.org](mailto:sfulkerson@crossnbtx.org). Thanks!

**November CPH Schedule**

<b>11/05</b>	Cross Fifth Graders!!
<b>11/12</b>	Mary Kay Wilkie & Hillary Cadra
<b>11/19</b>	LeAnne Fraker & Melanie Douglas
<b>11/26</b>	Mary Sue Cheatham & Barbara Arnold

**November Acolyte Schedule**

	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>
<b>11/05</b>	Lillia Vasek & Lauren Whitson	Tristan Melcher & Juliann Lanphere
<b>11/12</b>	Kade Lundquist & Wade Krause	Kateleigh Crandall
<b>11/19</b>	John Henry Bostick & Callum Haley	Cash Backus
<b>11/26</b>	Nathan Bostick, Jr. & Claire Volkmann	



**Cross Lutheran Church and School**  
2171 Common St.  
New Braunfels, Texas 78130  
830-625-3969 (*Church & School*)  
830-625-5019 (*Fax*)

**Worship: Sunday @ 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday School/Bible Classes: 10:00 a.m.**

Interim. Pastor – Rev. Toby Joeckel  
702-523-6210  
tjoeckel@crossnbtx.org

Principal— Dr. Corey Brandenburger  
cbrandenburger@crossnbtx.org

Steph Fulkerson, Church Admin. Assistant  
sfulkerson@crossnbtx.org

Corinne Swientek, School Admin. Assistant  
cswientek@crossnbtx.org

Church & School Website: [www.crossnbtx.org](http://www.crossnbtx.org)



ONE IN CHRIST WE GATHER. ONE IN MINISTRY WE GROW. ONE IN MISSION WE GO.