

# CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## DECEMBER, 2008

Dear Beloved Members and Friends,

*Merry Christmas!* What a joy it is to celebrate our Savior's birth during this month of December. Let not the economy, the weather, physical afflictions or anything else decrease our joy this month. The Child born in a stable in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago is with us this month in southeastern Michigan. Christ is with us during this month of December as we gather together in His name. Our Lord is with us in His Word and Supper. Jesus will bless you when you hear His Word and partake of His Supper this month.

The prophet Isaiah wrote, *"for to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given."* Proud parent says, *"we have a baby!"* You may have sent out birth announcements by email or by snail mail. You might have received one or more birth announcements from family members and friends this past year. God gave us a birth announcement in Isaiah's prophecy.

Jesus is no ordinary child. The Christ child is called *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.* The Child is a wonder of a counselor. Jesus is wisdom incarnate. Mighty is heroic. We have a Lord who acts heroically. Jesus

made peace with God for you by shedding His blood on the cross. Christ gives you His peace by His Word.

Weakness clothes the child born of Mary. Jesus is strong to save His people from our sin. Jesus means *"Savior."* Jesus saved us from our sin by His perfect life, death, and resurrection.

God acted for us by giving Christ the King to us. Martin Luther wrote *"above he spoke of the greatest affliction, of darkness and the shadow of death. Likewise of the Law, of sin and of death the most oppressive tyrants. Against them He now places the King born and given to us who is to set us free from them and implant us into His peaceful and happy reign."*

The Baby born of a virgin in Bethlehem is ever reborn among us through the Word. We sing in the Christmas hymn, *"O little town of Bethlehem," "O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!"* Jesus is God with us. Jesus said, *"surely I am with you always to the very end of the age"* (Matthew 28:20b). Christ will forgive and cast out your sin.

God's Word invites us to the manger of the Church where Christ is laid. Our Lord is near us in His Word and Supper. Our Lord will answer our sung prayer *"be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay, close by me forever and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and take us to heaven to live with Thee there.* (#364, v. 3- LSB)

*Chris, David and I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!*

*Pastor Terry Nelson*

WORSHIP	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
	<i>(traditional service)</i>
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP	9:15 a.m.
	<i>(first Sunday of the month)</i>
SUNDAY SCHOOL:	10:30 a.m.
ADULT BIBLE CLASS:	9:15 a.m.

Holy Communion is celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. The 8 a.m. worship service and Adult Bible Class are not held the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month when the Contemporary service is celebrated.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** is held at 10:30 a.m. in the classroom building for children ages 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. (The children are dismissed after the opening hymn from the worship service.) The children are currently working on the Christmas Program during Sunday School time.

**JR. CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION** is held on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:30 p.m. for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Call the church office for more information.

## DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

	<u>December</u>	<u>Time</u>
Wed. Adv	3	7:00pm
Sun.	7	
	<i>Contemporary</i>	9:15am
	<i>Traditional</i>	10:30am
Wed. Adv	10	7:00pm
Sun.	14	8:00am +
		10:30am +
Wed. Adv.	17	7:00pm
Fri.	19	7:00pm
	<i>Children's Christmas Prog.</i>	
Sun.	21	10:30am
	<i>Children's Christmas Prog.</i>	
	<b>No 8am service</b>	
Wed.	24	5:00pm +
	<i>Christmas Eve</i>	7:30pm +
Sun.	28	8:00am +
		10:30am +

(+ Indicates Holy Communion.)

**TEAM TRINITY Bible Group** for young people in 6th-12th grades meets for Bible Study and fellowship.

10:15 a.m. (1<sup>st</sup> Sun. of month) **Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**  
*following the Contemporary service.*

### The SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS

**PROGRAM** will be performed on **Friday, December 19, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, December 21, at 10:30 a.m.** PRACTICES are being held during the Sunday School time (during the 10:30 a.m. service) and a **DRESS REHEARSAL will be held on Sunday, December 14,** after the 10:30 worship service. Any questions, call Amy at 248-446-9598.

**No Sunday School classes will be held on Sunday, December 28.**

## THANKSGIVING DINNER

We thank Sue & Jim Zimmerman (Sarah & Jackie too) and Ettie Ann Hirth for all of their time and preparation for the Annual THANKSGIVING DINNER. Thank you also to Steve Klamik and Bill Hirth for setting up the tables. With over 100 people served, it was a wonderful day of fellowship and giving thanks as a church family!

## COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

*Held after the 10:30 a.m. service on the  
third Sunday of the month.*

DECEMBER	Elders
JANUARY	Trustees
FEBRUARY	Altar Guild
MARCH	Women's Outreach
APRIL	Stewardship
MAY	Church Council

## CHRISTMAS DECORATING

THANK YOU to all who helped put up the Christmas tree and decorate for Christmas. It looks beautiful!

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to all who prepared a gift box for Operation Christmas Child. Twenty-eight boxes were delivered from our congregation this year. "Operation Christmas Child is a great way to bring joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need of hope." – Franklin Graham, President – Samaritan's Purse.

## OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

*1<sup>ST</sup> Friday of the Month – 11:30 a.m.  
Sign up on the Information Board*

<b>Dec. 5</b>	<b>Alexanders – S. Lyon</b>
Jan. 2	Hirths – New Year's Brunch
Feb. 6	Deadwood – Northville
March 6	Chinese – Novi
April 3	Genittis – Northville
May 1	Riverbank – South Lyon

The LUNCH BUNCH will meet at *Alexander's* in South Lyon on Friday, December 5, at 11:30 a.m. (*Alexanders* is located at 22225 Pontiac Trail – in the shopping center with Busch's.) Sign up on the Information Board if you plan on attending.

## CONGREGATION MEETING

A Congregation meeting will be held on Sunday, December 14, at 11:45 a.m. to consider approval of the 2009 Budget.

### ***Cross of Christ's AFTERNOON ADVENT AFFAIR***

***SATURDAY, DEC. 6<sup>th</sup>***

***2 - 4 P.M.***

***Fellowship Hall***

***\$5 Donation***

***Enjoy . . . Christmas Desserts  
Discover . . . The Carols of Christmas  
Recall . . . The Sweet Story of  
Christmas  
Sign up today or call the church  
office!***

## **CROSS OF CHRIST CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL**

December will be a busy month filled with Christmas songs, crafts, activities, and telling of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Preschool families are participating in a TOY DRIVE (new or gently-used – with all of their parts and batteries) for needy families in Detroit, organized by *Families Building Faith* in South Lyon.

Cross of Christ Christian Preschool provides a play-based program for three and four year olds in a Christian environment.

There will be a few openings the first of the year in the three year old classes which meet on Tuesday and Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m. Call the church/preschool office (248-437-0871) for more information.

The children will be out of school December 22 through January 1 for Christmas break. The Preschool Board will not meet in December.

## **CHOIR**

People of all voice ranges are invited to join us as we sing praises to our Lord! If you enjoy singing to God, please prayerfully consider singing in our Choir. Choir practices are held the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 11:45 a.m. Any questions, see Pastor Nelson.

*“I will sing to the Lord for He has been good to me.” (Psalm 13:6)*

## **POINSETTIAS**

*Help make our church beautiful for  
Christmas!*

Sign up on the Information Center Board to purchase POINSETTIA plants for the church sanctuary for the Christmas season. Plants will be available for \$14 each and may be taken home after the second Christmas Eve service. (Sixteen plants have been ordered.) Cash or checks made payable to “Cross of Christ” and designated “Poinsettias” may be placed in the offering plate.

***Many are still available!***

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

*Look for the 2009 FLOWER CHART to be posted in December!* Flowers may be purchased for \$16 per vase in celebration of special events or in memory of loved ones. (Two vases are available each Sunday, but you can purchase just one vase if desired.)

## **THANK YOU THRIVENT**

We thank Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for providing matching funds for two recent fund raisers:

*The Halloween Bakery - \$230*

*The Thanksgiving Bakery - \$160*

The total received is \$390.

Contact our local Thrivent representative, Raeann Kusch at 734-432-7777.

## ***Special Christmas Collection***

*Last year our congregation adopted a family for Christmas through Active Faith. This year we are receiving cash (or checks made out to "Cross of Christ" – designated "Christmas family") for a family in our congregation (through Sunday, December 14). If you can help to brighten a family's Christmas, please give your donations to Chris in the office or to Ettie Ann Hirth.*

### **BERRY HOME LADIES**

For many years Women's Outreach has sponsored a gift collection to provide gift baskets for the ladies at Berry Foster Home in South Lyon. See the board for suggested items. Please send in **6 small** similar-type gifts and place in the box provided by Sunday, **December 14<sup>th</sup>**.

*Christmas  
Caroling  
Sunday, December 14  
4:00 p.m.*

Join us as we sing Christmas carols to a few of our home-bound members.

### **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Adults & Children both!

Share the spirit of Christmas with those who are unable to worship with us during this special Christmas season.

Sign up on the Information Center Board so we can get an approximate count.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### WELCOMED:

We welcomed our new members on Sunday, November 23:

+ + Russell & Karleen Duff,  
Shannon & Scott  
From Shepherd of the Lakes,  
Brighton, MI

+ + Arveda Mach  
From Shepherd of the Lakes,  
Brighton, MI

### BAPTISM:

+ + Sage Wendel Miller  
Child of Eric & Elizabeth Miller  
November 30, 2008

## **2009**

### **CALENDARS**

Pick up a *free* 2009 CALENDAR in the Gathering Hall. The calendars are a gift from *Casterline Funeral Home* in South Lyon.

## **AREA NEWS**

### CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ANN ARBOR:

Tickets for the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual BOAR'S HEAD FESTIVAL are still available and can be purchased online at [www.cuaa.edu/kreftarts](http://www.cuaa.edu/kreftarts) or by calling the box office at 734-995-4612. For the December 5-7 performances, students, faculty and staff come together to enact medieval Christmas traditions and the story of Christ's birth in this moving spectacle, with musical direction by Brian Altevogt.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Michael Bugar  
3 James Morrison Jr.  
4 Robert Martin  
5 Rose Eldridge  
Deirdre Gerke  
Julius Saner  
7 Jo Ann Nims  
8 Shannon Duff  
Abigail Hackbardt  
9 William Pratt  
Crystal Schulze  
10 Austin Lanam  
Kenneth Miller  
12 Asher Zoeller  
13 Joann Stolz  
16 Arlene Krause  
Adam Reichert  
21 Robert Holman  
Matthew Nelson  
23 Robert Hosbach  
25 Robert Walrath  
28 Patricia Hicks  
Esther Reinwand  
31 Ruth Trosin

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Bill & Earlene Reinwand  
5 Steven & Stephanie Petsch  
27 Thomas & Kelli Hackbardt  
Robert & Karin Wolski  
31 James & Carole Bedard

## MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

### HONORARIUM:

+ + A special gift has been given to *Debt Reduction* by Julius & Marjorie Saner in thankfulness for their 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

### MEMORIAL:

+ + In memory of Thelma Chaklosh, a gift has been given to the *Copier Fund* by Frank & Elsie Huber.

## **WOMEN'S OUTREACH**

Welcome to December and the beginning of the end of 2008! Our Women's Outreach started out a little slow, but we are finishing the year with a bang, and looking forward to bigger and better times in 2009.

Our November 29<sup>th</sup> meeting was too late for this newsletter, but we will have lots of good things in the January newsletter.

For years we have talked about replacing the "orange" chairs, however, talk didn't do the trick. So we had to come up with another plan. What is the famous church women's plan? . . . a bake sale. And we did it! We had "the Halloween Bakery" (we decided we need theme bake sales). We made \$230 (thanks to the bakers and buyers!) Thrivent Financial for Lutherans matched it, and we have \$460 in our fund. "The Thanksgiving Bakery" gave us \$157 and with Thrivent's match, we received another \$157, totaling \$314. (Thrivent will match up to \$1300 to our congregation each year.) Now our chair fund is up to \$774 and wasn't that easy . . . almost as easy as "talk" but with a profit. So ladies we can do it, and we will do it!! I purchased one chair (beige buff is the color). They are on sale at Lowe's for \$8.98 (from \$12.98). A decision will be made soon so we can take advantage of the sale.

OUR USED BOOK SALE gave us \$26. A decision will be made and reported in January. If you have any input, let me or Chris know as to good, bad, continue or discontinue, or other suggestions.

### **CROSS OF CHRIST COOK BOOKS:**

We still have a lot of cook books, so keep some on hand for small gifts or hostess gifts. Remember, ladies love cook books, even if you do not have room for one more. So give gifts of Cross of Christ Cook Books.

### **AFTERNOON ADVENT AFFAIR, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, from 2pm – 4pm**

Ladies this is for you. Only two hours out of your busy schedule. Come, relax and enjoy an enlightening program, yummy desserts, and feminine fellowship in a charming Christmas setting. A perfect beginning to our Christmas season. Sign up in the Gathering Hall or call Chris. There will be a \$5 donation to cover expenses.

THE CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKERY is in our plan, but you will have to read the Sunday bulletins and check the Bulletin Board for the final details. So make your baking plans and on November 29, we will finalize the plans. And remember, we are "The Ladies of the Church" and we are going to make it happen . . . no more just talk!!!

May we all have a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year, and may we all remember even in those trying moments of the season that "JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON."

God's blessings to all.     - - - - - *Ettie Ann Hirth*

# DECEMBER 2008

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>+ Indicates Holy Communion</b>	<b>1</b> 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	<b>2</b> 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>3</b> 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Advent Worship	<b>4</b> 6:30-8:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Elders	<b>5</b> 11:30am Out to Lunch Bunch – <i>Alexanders- South Lyon</i>	<b>6</b> 2:00pm Afternoon Advent Affair
<b>7</b> <b>No 8:00 a.m. service</b> 9:15am Contemporary Worship 10:15am Team Trinity Yth. 10:30am Worship 10:30am Sunday School	<b>8</b> 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	<b>9</b> 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>10</b> 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Advent Worship	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:00am Worship + 9:15 am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship + 10:30am Sunday School 11:45am Prog. Rehearsal 11:45am Cong. Mtg. 4:00pm Caroling	<b>15</b> 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	<b>16</b> 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>17</b> 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Advent Worship	<b>18</b> 6:30-8:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>19</b> 7:00pm Children's Christmas Program	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>No 8:00 a.m. service</b>  10:30am Children's Christmas Program 11:30am Coffee Hour	<b>22</b> 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> 5:00pm Candlelight Worship + 7:30pm Candlelight Worship +	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:00am Worship + 10:30am Worship + 11:45am Adult Choir	<b>29</b> 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	<b>30</b> 6:00pm Wedding Rehearsal	<b>31</b> <b>New Years Eve</b> 5:30pm Wedding			

