

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FEBRUARY, 2009

Dear Beloved Members and Friends,

We will celebrate the season of Epiphany during most of the month of February. Epiphany means "*revelation.*" Our Lord reveals His glory to us in His Word and Sacrament throughout Epiphany.

On Sunday, February 22, we will celebrate *The Transfiguration of our Lord*. It will be good that we gather in the sanctuary that morning. It will be good that we hear God's Word and worship Him on *Transfiguration Sunday*. We will see Jesus through the eyes of faith. We will hear Christ speaking with His three disciples, Elijah and Moses. We will hear God the Father speak from the cloud. We will hear our Lord give orders to His disciples. We will see and talk with believing family members and friends. We will worship God with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We will sing good hymns and liturgy. We will hear God's good Word in Scripture lessons, sermon and Bible class. We will worship our good God with our offerings. We will participate together in our Lord's Supper. We will receive all the good blessings our Lord gives us in His Word and Sacrament. Parents, it will be good for your children to hear and study God's Word in Sunday School.

Jesus was transfigured before His three disciples. Jesus and His appearance were transformed. Jesus' transfiguration reveals His divine nature. Jesus' "*clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone could bleach them.*" (Mark 9:3) Matthew recorded that "*His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.*" (Matthew 17:2) Luke recorded that, "*as He was praying, the appearance of His face changed and His clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.*" (Luke 9:29) Jesus' transfiguration demonstrated that He is God.

Moses and Elijah appeared and were talking with Jesus. Elijah and Moses came down from heaven and talked with Christ. Luke recorded that "*they spoke about His departure which He was to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.*" (Luke 9:31) They spoke with Jesus about His imminent death, resurrection, and ascension. When Jesus died, His Spirit departed His body and went into His Father's hands in heaven. Christ rose from the dead and departed from His tomb. Our Lord departed this world and ascended into heaven.

It will be good for us to be in our sanctuary with Christ on Sundays in February. Our Lord will be with us. We will pray with and for one another. Our Father in heaven will hear and answer our prayers. We will experience some heaven on earth in our worship and in our Lord's Supper. Jesus will come down from heaven to give us His body in the bread and His blood in the fruit of the vine.

Christ will bless us with forgiveness of sins, life, salvation, love, joy, and peace in His heavenly feast. We will proclaim our Lord's death until He comes again in glory.

God the Father speaks to you in His Word, the Bible. God the Father loves His Son. You are God's child by Holy Baptism and by faith in Him. God loves you. Our Father in heaven commands us to listen to Jesus. Let us love Christ by obeying all His teachings. It will be good for us that we listen to our Lord.

May God bless you and your family during this month of February and always!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Pastor Terry Nelson

WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

Holy Communion is celebrated on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of the month. The 8 a.m. worship service and Adult Bible Class are not held the 1st 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 5th grade. (The children are dismissed after the opening hymn from the worship service.)

ADULT BIBLE CLASS is held in the Fellowship Hall Sundays at 9:15 a.m., except for the first Sunday of the month. Join us as we continue the study of the book of Revelation.

TEAM TRINITY:

Young people in grades 6-12 meet the first and third Sundays of the month for Bible Study and fellowship.

Sunday, February 1 -- 10:15 a.m.
Sunday, February 15 – 11:30 a.m.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP is held the first Sunday of the month at 9:15 a.m. *Our next praise service will be held on **Sunday, February 1, at 9:15 a.m.*** A praise team leads the congregation in singing contemporary music in an informal worship setting.

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

FEBRUARY MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

Tues., Feb. 3	7pm	Bd. of Evangelism
Mon., Feb. 9	7pm	Bd. of Trustees
Sat., Feb. 14	10am	Women's Outreach
Tues., Feb. 17	7pm	Church Council

LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Midweek Lenten worship services will be held on **Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.**, beginning *Ash Wednesday, February 25*. The theme of the service will be "*A Wounded Savior for a Wounded People.*"(Joel 2:12-19) Holy Communion will be celebrated.

LENTEN DINNERS

Lenten dinners will be held on **Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.**, beginning *Ash Wednesday, February 25*, through April 1.

Ettie Ann Hirth will prepare the delicious meals, with various boards hosting. The boards will be responsible for set up, clean up, and will provide beverages and desserts, and make the coffee.

Following are the hosting boards:

February 25 Board of Trustees
(Ham, scalloped potatoes, salad)

March 4 Church Council
(Sauerkraut, spaetzle, salad)

March 11 Board of Elders
(Lasagna & salad)

March 18 Bd. of Evangelism
(Corned beef & cabbage)

March 25 Women's Outreach
(Salad Buffet)

April 1 Preschool Board &
Sunday School
Teachers
(Hot dogs, Chili, Salad)

CROSS OF CHRIST CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

The month of January was fun for the children as they learned about our solar system and enjoyed playing in a home-made space ship.

Our annual ***Morley Candy*** fund raiser will be available to our congregation on Sundays, February 8 and 15. An order form and brochures will be available on the table in the Gathering Hall. *We appreciate your support of the Preschool.* About 40% of the sales go to the preschool. Other items, in addition to candy, will be available for purchase this year, including frozen cookie dough.

REGISTRATION DATES for fall classes have been set:

Church Family Registration:

Sunday, March 22

after the 10:30 a.m. service

Current Preschool Families:

Mon., March 23 – 9:30 a.m.

Past Preschool Families:

Wed., March 25 – 9:30 a.m.

Community Registration:

Sat., March 28, 9:00 a.m.

A \$50 registration fee is due at the time of registration.

If you are new to our congregation and would like more information, please call the church/school office. Classes are held for children who are three and four years old.

The Preschool Board will meet on Monday, March 2, at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We are having a lot of fun in Sunday School, learning about the Bible, playing games, making friends and for those who participated, we had a great Christmas Program! Thank you to all of the Sunday School teachers and helpers: Angie Baker, Kristen Calder-Bowman, Amy Deeds, Karleen Duff, Janelle Lach, Onnalee Lach, Dawn Lanczki, Dawn Miller, Shari Stevenson, and Marci Wasilko. We look forward to learning more about Jesus and the Bible this year and have a blast doing it!

Upcoming:

February 15

“Jesus Loves Us” Valentine’s Day Celebration – during Sunday School

April 5 Palm Sunday class and Easter Egg Hunt after worship

April 12 Easter Sunday
–no Sunday School

May 17 Last Sunday School class until Fall

The children will sing during the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, February 15.

We are looking for a “few good men” (and/or women!) to teach Sunday School on an approximate monthly basis. No experience is necessary. All you need to bring is your love of God. Easy to use curriculum and supplies are provided. Teaching Sunday School is a fun and very satisfying and enriching experience.

Amy Lockard

Jesus Loves Us Valentine’s Day Celebration

Sunday, Feb. 15

(during Sunday School class time)
Bring one non-perishable food item

for Active Faith

Sing, make treats and a craft,
and play a game.

2 0 0 9

FLOWER CHART

The 2009 ALTAR FLOWER CHART is up in the Fellowship Hall hallway (near the kitchen.) Sign up for those important dates in celebration of birthdays, anniversaries, etc. or in memory of loved ones. Vases are available for \$16 each and may be taken home after worship. Two vases are available each Sunday. (You do not need to sign up for both.) Checks are made out to “Cross of Christ” – designated “Altar Flowers.”

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE FEBRUARY– MAY, 2009 *Third Sunday of the Month*

FEB. 15	<i>Continental Breakfast Evang./Altar Guild</i>
MARCH	<i>Women’s Outreach</i>
APRIL	<i>Stewardship</i>
MAY	<i>Church Council</i>

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

The next New Member Welcome will be celebrated on Sunday, February 15, at the 10:30 a.m. service. A Continental Breakfast will be held after the service.

WEB PAGE

Throughout the month, you can go online to check out our church's web page:

www.crossofchristlutheran.org

The Calendar and Newsletter are available each month on this web site. Also, if you would prefer this newsletter be emailed to you, rather than mailed, email us:

crosslut@bignet.net

LUNCH BUNCH

*1ST Sunday of the Month – 11:30 a.m.
Sign up on the Information Board
Or Call Ettie Ann: 248-349-2545*

Feb. 6	Deadwood – Northville
March 6	Chinese – Novi
April 3	Genittis – Northville
May 1	Riverbank – South Lyon

The Lunch Bunch will meet at *Deadwood* in Northville on Friday, **February 6**, at 11:30 a.m. (Deadwood is located on Northville Rd., south of Seven Mile.) All are welcome!

Thank you Ettie Ann & Bill for hosting the New Year's Brunch at your home!

2008 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & 2009 OFFERING ENVELOPES

2008 Financial Statements for your Income Taxes will be mailed the beginning of February. A few member 2009 Offering Envelopes remain on the table in the Gathering Hall.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Trenton Lach
2	Zachary Lanczki Christopher Stevenson
3	Mike Conrad
4	Rosalynne Lockard
6	Charles Hamlet II
7	Marjorie Saner Marie Smith Marcy Wasilko
10	Carter Brown
9	Alexandra Hackbardt
14	Betsy Cornellier Cyrus Opfermann
15	Lauren Lanczki
17	Myra Prueter Amanda Van Pelt
18	Michael Faust
21	Dominick Eldridge
22	Patricia Wadkins
23	Denise Gerke Tammy Wyman
26	William Reinwand Andrew Schrom
28	Paige Conrad Kelli Hackbardt Theodore Lockard Dustin Wyman

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

10	Warner & Arlene Krause
14	Mike & Sherry Bugar Charles & Rose Eldridge
22	Mark & Elizabeth Earl

THANK YOU

. . . . Thank you to Steve Klamik and Bill Hirth for all of the snow removal the past two snowy months!

. Thank you to Ettie Ann & Bill Hirth for hosting the New Year's Brunch!

FOR SALE

CHAIRS FOR SALE: The orange chairs from the Fellowship Hall are for sale for \$2 each (70 available). See one of our Trustees for more information or call the church office.

MEMBERSHIP

BIRTH:

+ + Benjamin Bray
Child of Larry & Lindsay Bray
January 17, 2009

WEDDING:

+ + Michael Laten & Ashley King
January 3, 2009

CALLED HOME:

+ + Alec Chaklosh
December 18, 2008

MEMORIALS

+ + In memory of Husband, Parents, Siblings, and Children, gifts have been given to *The Carpet Fund* and for *Pastor's Vacation* by Evelyn Oliver.

+ + In memory of Alec & Thelma Chaklosh, a gift has been given to the *Carpet Fund* by Evelyn Oliver.

AREA NEWS

ACTIVE FAITH

We are collecting **TUNA** for the month of February. Always needed are new or gently-used blankets, sheets, and towels. Donations may be placed in the bin as you enter church.

JOB OPENING

The Church Extension Fund of Ann Arbor has a staff position opening for a Loan Clerk. This individual handles all facets of mortgage loan processing. Preferred is 1-3 years experience in the financial services or title insurance industry. Good communication skills and a high level of accuracy required. Forward resume to Ronald L. Steinke, CEF, 3773 Geddes Road, Ann Arbor 48105 or ron.steinke@mi-cef.org.

SPECIAL FUNDS

*Looking to donate to a special need?
Consider the following funds*

Cement Work Fund	Snow Blower
Debt Reduction	Carpet Fund
Garage Fund	Copier Fund

WOMEN'S OUTREACH

Women's Outreach was cancelled on January 10th due to "snowy" conditions. It was rescheduled for the 17th. Due to "snowy" conditions, only six ladies attended.

Thanks to Claudia for beginning the meeting with a good devotion on New Year's resolutions.

The following was our agenda:

MEETINGS:

It was decided we need to meet each month if we continue to have monthly events. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, February 14, from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. *All ladies are invited to join us!* New faces with new ideas are always welcomed.

"SOUP-ER BOWL" LUNCH on January 25 was finalized, and hopefully, I'll have a good report for the next newsletter.

"CHOCOLATE EXTRAVAGANZA": **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2-4 pm**

A \$10 donation is payable that day. A great two hours is planned, with chocolate decorations. Claudia will begin with a chocolate devotion. A chocolate program, chocolate games, chocolate prizes, and chocolate refreshments will make this a memorable two hours. Mark your calendars to attend the one and only Cross of Christ "*Chocolate Extravaganza.*" There will be a sign up sheet on the Information Board.

BABY SHOWER: (Sunday in March)

Emily & Ryan Schoenberg are expecting twins (boys) in May. We would like to shower Emily with "boy things." They have a daughter, Ella, who is 18 months. Date and time will be in the Sunday bulletin.

"VALENTINE BAKERY": **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8th**

We would appreciate any Valentine goodies or any of your favorite baked goods. Our bakeries have done very well. With money from the Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Bakeries (and matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans), we have purchased 70 new "beige" chairs for the Fellowship Hall. (70 "orange" chairs are for sale at \$2 each.)

LENTEN DINNER: Women's Outreach will host March 25

The ladies' annual Salad Smorgasbord is always a favorite!

EASTER BAKERY: **SUNDAY, APRIL 5**

Mark your calendars.

If you have any ideas, suggestions, or questions, please give me a call.

God's blessings to all,
Ettie Ann Hirth - (248-349-2545)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

The Gift

So many people are hurting these days. Companies downsize, and jobs are lost. Retirees who looked forward to enjoying their grandchildren and traveling find their benefits are being cut when they need health care the most. "For Sale" signs fill neighborhoods as lovely homes sit empty for want of buyers with purchasing power.

If our thoughts and desires are focused on things of this world, we could easily lose our joy. If we're looking for security and pleasure from this world, we'll find them fleeting, at best.

From Adam and Eve to the present, God has known our need. He has known how to give us security and eternal pleasure. He gives joy in abundance through THE GIFT of His Son.

Mary and Joseph watched over the infant Jesus with tender care, fleeing to Egypt in order to save the infant life. That life was saved until the right time, the time of God's own choosing. Just as God sent His Son "*when the time had fully come*" (Galatians 4:4), so He chose the time when Jesus would "*lay (His life) down of (His) own accord*" (John 10:18) for us! And He promised, "*I give (you) eternal life, and (you) shall never perish, no one can snatch (you) out of My hand*" (John 10:28).

As Jesus gave His life for us, let us dedicate our lives to Him. With true commitment, let us sing,

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

FEBRUARY 2009

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15am Contemporary Worship 10:15am Team Trinity Yth. 10:30am Worship 10:30am Sunday School	2 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	3 7:00pm Bd. of Evangelism 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts	4 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation	5 6:30-8:30pm Girl Scouts	6 11:30am Out to Lunch – Deadwood, Northville	7
8 8:00am Worship + 9:15 am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship + 10:30am Sunday School 11:45am Choir Rehearsal (Valentine Bakery)	9 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers 7:00pm Trustees	10 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts	11 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation	12	13	14 10:00am Women's Outreach Meeting
15 8:00am Worship 9:15 am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship (New Member Welcome) 10:30am Sunday School Valentine's Celebration 11:30am Team Trinity 11:30am Continental Breakfast	16 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	17 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Church Council	18 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation	19 6:30-8:30pm Girl Scouts	20	21 2:00-4:00pm <i>Chocolate Extravaganza</i>
22 8:00am Worship + 9:15 am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship + 10:30am Sunday School 11:45am Choir Rehearsal	23 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	24 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts	25 <i>Ash Wed.</i> 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Lenten Dinner 7:00pm WORSHIP+	26	27 6:00-9:30pm Girl Scout Event	28 + Indicates Holy Communion

