

CROSS OF CHRIST

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FEBRUARY, 2006

Dear Beloved Members and Friends,

During the month of February we celebrate the *Transfiguration* of our Lord. The *Transfiguration of our Lord* Sunday is February 26. Our Lord's transfiguration may not be as well known or popular as Valentines Day, but it is worthy of remembrance and celebration.

Jesus took Peter, James and John up a high mountain by themselves. Christ was transfigured before them. Jesus' face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. On a sunny winter day, we can imagine how Christ's face appeared when He was transfigured. Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with our transfigured Lord. Peter said to Jesus, "*Lord, it is good for us to be here.*"

Christ led His three disciples up this mountain to be transfigured in their presence. Mountains in the Bible are places of revelation. Our Lord wanted to make this revelation of His divine glory to His three disciples.

Church is a place of revelation. Through the preaching and teaching of His Word, Jesus reveals Himself and His will for our lives. Christ leads us to church to spend time with Him and to hear His Word. Jesus reveals to us that He is our God and Lord. Our Lord reveals to us His glorified appearance in heaven. Christ reveals to us that He is the beloved Son of God the Father who is well pleased with Him. Jesus reveals to us that God wants us to listen to Him. Christ wants to silence our fears.

By faith in Christ, you have the hope that you will shine like the stars forever in heaven. The prophet Daniel wrote,

"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens and those who lead many to righteousness like the stars for ever and ever." (Daniel 12:3) Your Lord makes you wise with His Word. You will shine like the brightness of the planets. You can lead people to righteousness by telling them the good news of Jesus. You will shine like the stars forever in heaven. Christ will change your body so that you will shine and live forever in heaven.

Our Lord brought His departure to fulfillment by His crucifixion, resurrection and ascension near Jerusalem. Jesus' spirit departed His body and was commended into His Father's hands on Calvary. Christ's body departed the tomb when He rose from the dead. Our Lord's body departed the earth when He ascended into heaven. Jesus brought His departure to fulfillment at Jerusalem so that you can live with Him forever in heaven.

You are God's beloved child. God loves you. You are God's child by the sacrament of Holy Baptism and by faith in Him. God is well pleased with you. God is well pleased with you as you do good works of faith that He has prepared for you to accomplish.

It is good for us to be in God's house hearing His Word, praying and receiving Holy Communion. It is good to hear the gospel. It is good to serve God and people in our vocations. Jesus will be with you to bless you.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Pastor Terry Nelson

FEBRUARY MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

1	Wed.	Bd. of Evangelism	8:00pm
2	Thurs.	Board of Elders	7:00pm
13	Mon.	Board of Trustees	7:00pm
18	Sat.	Women ' s 10:00am	Outreach
21	Tues.	Church Council	7:00pm
28	Tues.	Preschool Board	7:00pm

2006 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2006 are still available!
If you are a member and need your 2006 offerings envelopes, please see Bruce Mach, Pastor Nelson, or your elder.

2005 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The 2005 Financial Statements for income taxes (record of your church offerings) will be mailed early in February.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Flower chart for the 2006 calendar year is displayed in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up for those special birthdays and anniversaries. ALTAR FLOWERS are available for \$15 per vase. Two vases are available each Sunday. (You do not need to sign up for both.) *Make checks payable to Cross of Christ - designated Altar Flowers - and place in the offering plate.*

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE 2006

1st & 3rd Sundays

FEBRUARY Board of Evangelism

MARCH Youth Groups
APRIL Board of Stewardship
MAY Women ' s Outreach

LENTEN DINNERS

Delicious dinners prepared by Ettie Ann Hirth and hosted by various Boards will be held on Wednesdays during Lent at 6 p.m., beginning March 1. The menus will be posted in the March newsletter and weekly bulletins.

CROSS OF CHRIST CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Our year has been blessed by the Lord. Many fun winter activities are being enjoyed. The highlight of January was a visit from *Mother Goose*. She shared many nursery rhymes with the children and they enjoyed acting one out together.

Cross of Christ Preschool's Annual fund raiser will soon be available:

MORLEY CANDY
on sale Sundays
February 26, March 5 & 12

An order form will be available on the table in Gathering Hall. Thanks for your support!

Tentative fall REGISTRATION DATES have been set:

Church Family Registration:

Sunday, March 12, after the 10:30 service

Current Preschool Families:

Mon. & Tues., March 20 & 21

Past Preschool Families:

Wed. & Thurs., March 22 & 23

Community Registration:

Sat., March 25 - 9:00 a.m.

Gifts to our Preschool Scholarship Fund are welcome to give families with financial need the opportunity to attend our school.

Join us for our next Board meeting on

Tuesday, February 28, at 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Trenton Lach
- 3 Mike Conrad
- 4 Rosalynne Lockard
Zachary Hare
- 5 Dwight Miller
- 7 Marjorie Saner
Marie Smith
Marci Wasilko
- 10 Leslie Blackwell
Carter Brown
- 14 Cyrus Opfermann
- 15 Janice Moser
- 17 Virginia Massoll
Myra Prueter
Amanda Van Pelt
- 18 Michael Faust
- 19 Mary Gremel
- 20 Jane Hibbard
- 21 Dominick Eldridge
- 22 Patricia Wadkins
- 23 Tammy Wyman
- 26 William Reinwand
Andrew Schrom
- 28 Paige Conrad
Theodore Lockard
Ryan Pagels
Dustin Wyman

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Mike & Sherry Bugar
Charles & Rose Eldridge
- 22 Mark & Elizabeth Earl

Let us know of any corrections or additions to the above birthday/anniversary list.

DEADLINE for information for the **MARCH NEWSLETTER** will be **Sunday, February 19, 2006.**

CHRISTMAS PLAY TAPES: *The Voices of Christmas* @ VHS tapes are available for \$2 each. Sign up on the Information Center Board if you would like to order one.

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

The Out-to-Lunch Bunch will meet at *CONEY STATION* in South Lyon on Friday, **February 3**, at 11:30 a.m. Men and women are welcome; invite a friend!

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A new member welcome will be held on Sunday, February 19, at the 10:30 a.m. service. The Board of Evangelism will host a Coffee Hour following the service.

KATRINA AID

Remember our friends in the South this New Year!

Our Metro West Region has been assigned two congregations from the Southern District to help after Katrina. The two congregations we are helping are Christ Lutheran Church - Chalmette, LA (Rev. Phillip Miller) and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church & School - Biloxi, MS (Rev. Eric Hollar). Relief money can be designated for these two congregations and sent to:

Michigan District LCMS
3773 Geddes Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-3098

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP:

St. Paul's Lutheran School in Northville (248-349-3146) is holding a KINDERGARTEN Roundup on Wed., February 1, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Anyone interested in learning more about the program or registering for next fall, please attend.

COAT MIX-UP:

Check to see if you have the correct men's black wool coat at home. A coat was mistakenly taken home on Sunday, January 8. The other men's coat is in the church coat closet.

WOMEN'S OUTREACH

A big snow storm is coming Friday night and Saturday morning and, of course, it's the 3rd Saturday of the month; Women's Outreach meeting!! If it's too bad, no one will come and we should cancel. However, there wasn't that much snow and the roads were only wet. But that didn't seem to make a difference, as there weren't many ladies there either. There were six: Sherry Bugar, Joann Stolz, Carla Geelhood, Edda Albin, Donna Evans, and me (Ettie Ann). I must say we were the magnificent six, and the only thing that would have made our meeting better would have been another magnificent six or eight. We spent the first 15 minutes talking current events in our lives (and sitting in a chair at a table sure beats standing in the parking lot!) We opened our meeting with prayer, asking God to be with us as we discussed last year's events and made plans for this year. Read on: Everyone felt the **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** was good; \$3,000 is really good. We plan on doing the same next year, renting tables at \$35, members donating their handmade items, bake sale, and gently used items. Now's the time of year to be thinking and doing Bazaar donations, while the days are still short and the evenings are long. The Bazaar will be held the first Saturday (the 4th) of November.

Every year we donate and wrap gifts for eight lady shut-ins at **THE BERRY HOME**. Gifts are donated (8 alike gifts) and in the past we have had a girl's night out (at Sue Zimmerman's) wrapping gifts, chatting and of course munching. When we were done we had eight large gift bags full of surprises for eight lonely shut-ins. But this year it didn't work out as busy schedules and weather prohibited getting together. But the tradition still went on as Sherry took charge of

wrapping the gifts and filling and delivering the Christmas bags. She was so disappointed that there were so few gifts, and she went out and purchased more gifts and wrapped them. So each lady glowed as they opened their bags, and I'm sure Sherry glowed too as the feeling of giving is so much greater than the feeling of receiving. Thanks Sherry for covering for us, and I know Sherry doesn't need our thanks, but I just want everyone to know what we missed out on and that we will not miss out two years in a row. We will be there with our eight little gifts this Christmas. And because there are so many things going on in December, we agreed to start collecting in October, and we will start reminding you in September. We can all glow with Sherry as eight lonely shut-ins open their Christmas bags of gifts.

Now, for the big first time event of the year. We are planning an APPRAISAL DAY here at Cross of Christ on **Saturday, September 30**, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. People will bring their items in to be appraised by local appraisers. Carla Geelhood presented this idea last November and everyone thought it was a great idea to be further discussed in January. And we are there! She has done research and made some contacts with appraisers. To be a success it must be well organized and well publicized. And any good organization needs a dedicated chairman and we have Carla. However, Carla would be overwhelmed alone, so she needs a co-chairman. We will need many sub-committees, hoping for each to have two co-chairman. Many hands (and minds) make light work. We felt September 30 would give us enough time (between back to school and the Bazaar). We are excited about this event and hope you will be too.

Our February meeting will be a really special one. We will hold our meeting at the **ACTIVE FAITH** building. (It's right behind the South Lyon Wendy's.) Carol Erb is the Active Faith Director, and we will serve a continental breakfast. We will tour the building and Carol will tell us about all the good things that they do for those in desperate need. All many of

us know is that we have Active Faith envelopes and a tub in the corner for non-perishable items. Active Faith is so much more, and I know it will warm your hearts to know that this small town has such a wonderful Christian organization, as it sure overwhelmed me the first time. **This is not just for Women's Outreach ladies, but for all members to see.** We are hoping many will come and we promise you will leave with Active Faith in your heart and not just words on an envelope. And God bless Carol Erb for her dedication. Mark your calendars . . . WOMEN'S OUTREACH - Saturday, February 18, at 10 a.m. at ACTIVE FAITH.

God's Blessings to all,
Ettie Ann Hirth

WEB PAGE NEWS

If you haven't already done so, check out the new web page for Cross of Christ:

www.crossofchristlutheran.org.

The Calendar, Newsletter, and Youth News will be available each month on this web site.

We would like to begin e-mailing this Newsletter to those who would like to receive it via email to save on postage. FILL IN the slip located in the church office or email us at crosslut@bignet.net.

MEMBERSHIP

BAPTISMS:

+ + Lea Elaine Faust
Child of Michael & Dana Faust
January 8, 2006

MEMBERSHIP IN:

+ + Kindsey Nelson
By Adult Confirmation

TRANSFER OUT:

+ + Craig & Maria Powers
Erikah, Easton, Savannah
St. Matthew, Walled Lake, MI

MEMORIALS

+ + In memory of Husband, Parents, Siblings, and Children, a gift has been given for *new fellowship hall tables, sacristy wine cabinet, and kitchen cabinets* by Evelyn Oliver.

AREA NEWS

LUTHERAN CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES of Michigan will be participating in an on line AUCTION event hosted on eBay between February 26 and March 8, 2006. The event is called *Trading Graces* and is done in partnership with Lutheran Services in America, Thrivent Financial and other agencies. Visit www.lutheranservices.org to view the e-catalog of auction items available. Call Dawn at LCFS to make a donation 989-686-7650.

EPIPHANY HYMN FESTIVAL at St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth on Sunday, February 5, at 4 p.m. Free will offering.

Have you ever considered being a pastor or deaconess? If so, Rev. Wally Becker from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis would like to meet with you at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, on Thursday, February 23, from 3 - 5 p.m. Reservations not needed, but you may call 734-995-7328 to set an appointment.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY MUSIC:

US Army Field Band Pentagon Winds, Thursday, February 2, 7:30 p.m., Chapel of the Holy Trinity. Adults \$15.

Hymn Festival, Tues., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m., Chapel of the Holy Trinity. Free-will offering.

Youth News!
February

This is the month we celebrate love! On Valentine's Day, we express our thankfulness to those we love with cards and treats. The best valentine you can give someone is the valentine we get every day from God...an everlasting, powerful love given to anyone who wishes to embrace it. This is the perfect time to share it with someone. Tell someone about God's love and His Son, Jesus Christ...Happy Valentine's Day!

“Winter Blast!” Fundraiser! CONGREGATION INVITED... Come out of the cold and celebrate a “Winter Blast!” of fellowship with us! After 10:30 Worship service on February 5th, Team Trinity youth group will offer a luncheon of soup, cole slaw, rolls, and cookies. FREE WILL DONATION! All donations will go to our summer camp-retreat fund.

Team Trinity will be having their annual **Valentine's Day fundraiser** on Sunday, February 12th, after 10:30 Worship service. Come ready to buy your “special some ones” a special treat! A frosted, heart, sugar cookie wrapped in a special Valentine “card” will be sold for \$1.00 each. Delicious and unique! All proceeds go to our summer camp-retreat fund.

Event: Team Trinity youth group (grades 6th – 12th) will have a movie/hang-out night on Saturday, February 18th, 7pm – 9pm. We will view the 30-minute movie, “After the Fall”...a rock climber's true story of facing death and relying on God. Bring a friend and your favorite dessert. Pop and pizza will be provided.

Event: God Squad youth group (grades K-5th) will have a movie night on Saturday, February 11th, from 6pm – 8pm. The movie being shown is “Racing Stripes”...a movie about an adopted zebra who has a heart for horse racing! A funny movie!

Sunday school starts at 9:15am...bring a friend! Bring Mom and Dad for their Bible study, too! It's a lot of fun with your friends and we get to learn all about Jesus!

Children's church is averaging 15-18 children ages 3 years to 5th grades. We will be continuing our “All Stars for Jesus!” curriculum now that we have celebrated the holidays. We will begin with God's promises to us, that God always keeps His promises, and how we can take all our troubles to God in prayer.

Don't forget...our new website! You can find info on all our youth group activities and details by going to crossofchristlutheran.org. Any questions can be directed to me at TeamTrinity@crossofchristlutheran.org or call me.

In Christ,

Debra Blackwell
Youth Director



