

# CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**J A N U A R Y , 2 0 0 9**

Dear Beloved Members and Friends,

Happy New Year! As we begin a new year, it is good to count our blessings. God has blessed us with parents. God has blessed us with life. He has blessed married people with our spouse. God has blessed us with children and grandchildren. He has blessed us with food, clothing, shelter and income. God has blessed us with freedoms of religion, speech, and assembly. He has blessed us with health, grace gifts, talents, and time. Let us thank God for all the blessings He has given us in 2008.

Let us praise God for blessing us with every spiritual blessing in Jesus. We can plan to worship God every Sunday in 2009. We can praise God by speaking liturgy and prayers. Let us praise God by singing hymns, liturgy and spiritual songs. You have been in Christ ever since you were baptized. You received all spiritual blessings by trusting in your Lord Jesus. You received Christmas gifts by trusting in the givers, opening them and keeping them. You receive spiritual blessings by trusting in Jesus, opening the Bible, and keeping them.

God chose you in Christ before He created the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. God chose you in Christ to be baptized. You were

clothed with Christ and His holiness when you were baptized. You are blameless and holy in God's sight.

God loves you by calling you His child. "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! (1 John 3:1) God loves you. You are called God's child. You are a child of God.

In Jesus you have redemption by His blood shed on the cross, the forgiveness of sins in accord with God's grace. You are in a condition of spiritual freedom. You are spiritually free. God's Son has set you free from Satan's tyranny, from fear of death and bonds of sin from all that plagues your soul within. Jesus' blood shed on the cross for you set you free from slavery to sin. "You were redeemed . . . with the precious blood of Christ, a Lamb without blemish or defect." (1 Peter 1: 18, 19)

God has blessed you in Jesus with the forgiveness of sins. Christ accomplished the forgiveness of your sins by His crucifixion. From the cross Jesus said, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23: 34a) God heard and answered His son's prayer. God forgave you for Jesus' sake. In Christ you have forgiveness of sins in Holy Baptism.

God be praised and thanked for these blessings! God has blessed us in Jesus in 2008. God will bless you in Christ in 2009. May God bless you and your family during the month of January and always!

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Pastor Terry Nelson

*We thank you for the generous Christmas gift. We thank and praise God that He has placed us at Cross of Christ, South Lyon, and pray for His guidance and help as we serve His people here.*

*God bless you all in the coming year.  
Pastor & Chris*

## **WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Our winter worship and Christian education schedule is as follows:

WORSHIP	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. (traditional service)
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP	9:15 a.m. (first Sunday of the month)
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.)

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. They will meet on Sunday, January 4, at 10:15 a.m., following the Contemporary worship service.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP is held the first Sunday of the month at 9:15 a.m. *Our next praise service will be held on **Sunday, January 4, 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Call the church office for more information.

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

THANK YOU to Amy Lockard, our Sunday School Superintendent, for directing this year's Children's Christmas Program! Appreciation is extended to Janelle Lach for all of her help. Thank you also to all of the Sunday School children for their commitment to practicing for the program and for their wonderful performance. Thank you to the parents (and grandparents!) for making sure your kids were at Sunday School each week for practice.

Also, thank you to the Sunday School and Church, both children and members, who donated clothing and/or canned food. This was all donated to Active Faith of South Lyon and will go directly to help people right here in our community. Thank you very much to Clarice French who delivered all of the clothing donations to Active Faith weekly!

## **CROSS OF CHRIST CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL**

*"Preschool With a Plus"*

The Preschool children enjoyed a special month celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Projects, stories, and songs all centered around the *Christmas* theme.

Preschool will return to class on Monday, January 5.

*Thank you to our Preschool staff: Janelle Lach, Julie Mattison, Marci Wasilko, Kelly Nuttall and Lynne Lach. They are what make our Preschool so special!*

If you are new to our congregation and would like more information, please call the church/school office (248-437-0871). Classes are held for children who are three and four by December 1<sup>st</sup>. We have a few openings in our three year old classes.

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

## **2 0 0 9 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

MEMBERS, pick up your 2009 OFFERING envelopes in the Fellowship Hall.

## **2 0 0 9 CALENDARS**

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

## **CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Contact Janelle Lach at 248-486-5644 to find out more information about having your child participate in our Children's Choir.

## **ADULT CHOIR**

The January Choir rehearsals will be held on Sundays, January 11 and 25 after the 10:30 a.m. worship services. They sing two Sundays a month, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at the 10:30 a.m. service. Sopranos, altos, tenors, and bases are all needed as we begin a new calendar year of singing praises to our Lord! Prayerfully consider serving God by singing in the Choir in 2009!

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

## **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 JANUARY – MAY, 2009 *Third Sunday of the Month***

JANUARY	Board of Trustees
FEBRUARY	Altar Guild
MARCH	Women's Outreach
APRIL	Stewardship
MAY	Church Council

## LUNCH BUNCH

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

Jan. 2	Hirths – New Year's Brunch
Feb. 6	Deadwood – Northville
March 6	Chinese – Novi
April 3	Genittis – Northville
May 1	Riverbank – South Lyon

A NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH will be held at the home of Bill & Ettie Ann Hirth, on Friday, January 9, 2009, at 11:30 a.m. This is an afternoon we all enjoy. Sign up on the Information Board and plan on attending! *All are welcome! Invite a friend.*

## WOMEN'S OUTREACH

The Cross of Christ Women's Outreach has been very busy the past few months. With funds raised from the Halloween & Thanksgiving Bakeries and the Christmas Cookie Sale, new chairs for the Fellowship Hall have been ordered. Thank you to all who baked for and purchased items at those sales!

Our next event will be a Super Bowl Lunch after worship on Sunday, January 25. Watch the bulletin for details and mark your calendars today! (A sign up sheet will be posted for crock pots of soup, salads, and desserts.)

Help the ladies plan upcoming events at their next meeting, Saturday, January 10, at 10 a.m. *All women are invited!*

## CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS & TREE will be taken down on Sat., **January 10, at 9 a.m.** *Help is needed!* Thank you to all who helped decorate! It was great to see some new faces this year.

## ACTIVE FAITH

Thank you for your donations of non-perishable food items for Active Faith throughout the year. Donations are welcome in the box provided as you enter church. Our church has a monthly commitment of \$250 to Active Faith. Your monetary donations are also invited.

## WEB PAGE

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

[www.crossofchristlutheran.org](http://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:

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## SPECIAL FUNDS

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

Cement Work Fund  
Debt Reduction  
Carpet Fund  
Copier Fund  
Garage Fund

## THANK YOU

. . . . Thank you to Ettie Ann Hirth and Claudia Abrash for planning the *Afternoon Advent Affair*. It was an enjoyable and meaningful event!

. . . . Thank you to Bill & Ettie Ann Hirth for hosting our Christmas Carolers again this year. The food and fellowship were great as always!

. . . . Thank you to all who contributed to the Christmas collections for our Cross of Christ family and for the Berry Home residents. We appreciate the love shown.

. . . . We thank Cub Scout Pack 236 and the Baker family for their donation of the beautiful Christmas wreath hanging in the church sanctuary.

. . . . Thank you to Steve Klamik and Bill Hirth for all of the snow removal, especially during the cold, snowy month of December!

. . . . Thank you to our Church Council and all Board members who serve the Lord the year through! . . . . Also, our Elders, Sunday School Teachers, Ushers, Greeters, Acolytes, Altar Guild, Women's Outreach, Praise Team & Musicians, Money counters, and Funeral Dinner helpers.

## BLOOD DRIVE

Mark your calendars for the next Blood Drive at Cross of Christ:  
Friday, March 6, 2009

## MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

++ A gift has been given to *Debt Reduction* in honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Bob & Karin Wolski.

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

## MEMBERSHIP

### BIRTH:

++ Joshua Petsch  
Child of Steve & Stephanie Petsch  
December 2, 2008

### BAPTISM:

++ Miette Ingrid Olivia Laten  
Child of Michael Laten &  
Ashley King  
December 7, 2008

## THANK YOU THRIVENT

We thank Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for providing funds for a recent service project!

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

## TAB COLLECTION

We are continuing to collect can TABS for *Ronald McDonald House of Detroit*. The tabs are sold for scrap, and the money is used to purchase paper products. Place your tabs in the container provided in the church kitchen.

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Kristen Calder-Bowman  
Thomas Hermann
- 2 John Lanczki
- 3 Jim Schiller  
Tammy Smith
- 6 Jon Russell  
Michael Schuett
- 8 Janet Head  
Beverly Pixley
- 11 Annabelle Hackbardt  
Jacob Lanczki
- 12 Julie Candela
- 13 Robin Wyman  
Rory Wyman
- 14 Rob Lockard  
Donald Stolz
- 16 Charles Eldridge  
Heather Gilbert
- 20 Haley Elandt  
Hannah Elandt  
Hunter Elandt
- 21 Onnalee Lach
- 22 Susan Miller  
Cale Zoeller
- 23 Elizabeth Earl
- 24 Ryan Tisher
- 27 Jeremy Marsh  
Jim Zimmerman
- 29 James Baker, Jr.
- 31 Chris Nelson

## **JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 16 Scott & Tammy Lanam
- 30 Ray & Sue Brown

## **STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

### New Every Morning

It's a new year. Not only do we turn over a page on the calendar, we begin a whole new calendar. For many, a new year brings promise of a new start, but many don't have such an optimistic view.

### New Every Morning

The bills from over-spending at Christmas are starting to come in, and there's no more money now than there was a month ago. Your boss is still the same old hard-to-get-along-with guy he was before. Then there's the problem of the extra ten pounds you put on due to all the goodies you consumed. None of this is new. The calendar may say January 2009, but only the date is new.

Even the Preacher of Ecclesiastes moaned that there's nothing new. *What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun*" (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

Jeremiah, the "Weeping Prophet," had his troubles too. He wrote, *"I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me"* (Lamentations 3: 19-20). But Jeremiah had another perspective, one that we should adopt as well. He follows those words with, *"Yet this will I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness"* (Verses 21-23).

Instead of looking around us at our circumstances or inside ourselves where there is no hope or inspiration, let us look at God's unfailing compassion and His blessings which He pours out on us daily. Let us spend our prayer time in thanks for all He has done for us and provided for us, rather than in lamenting our sorry state. Let us look to His wisdom to manage His gifts to us in a wiser manner so that we might please Him and be of service in His Kingdom. Especially let us thank Him for the gift of forgiveness and the new start He gives us minute by minute.

# JANUARY 2009

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>+ Indicates Holy Communion</b>				<b>1</b> <i>New Year's Day</i>	<b>2</b> 6:30pm King/Laten Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 10:00am Contemporary Practice 6:30pm King/Laten Wedding
<b>4</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>5</b> 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	<b>6</b> 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Evangelism	<b>7</b> 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 11:30am New Year's Brunch – Hirth's	<b>10</b> 9:00am Take Tree & Decorations Down 10:00am Women's Outreach Mtg.
<b>11</b> 8:00am Worship + 9:15 am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship + 10:30am Sunday School 11:45am Adult Choir	<b>12</b> 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers 7:00pm Trustees	<b>13</b> 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>14</b> 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation	<b>15</b> 6:30-8:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9am-9pm Girl Scout Event
<b>18</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15 am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am Team Trinity Yth 11:30am Coffee Hour	<b>19</b> 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	<b>20</b> 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Church Council	<b>21</b> 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:00am Worship + 9:15am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship + 10:30am Sunday School 11:45am Adult Choir Noon Super Bowl Lunch	<b>26</b> 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	<b>27</b> 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>28</b> 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

