

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

24155 Griswold Road
South Lyon, MI 48178
(248) 437-8810

Fax: (248)437-7708

Web: www.crossofchristlutheran.org

Email: crosslut@bignet.net

JANUARY, 2006

Dear Beloved Members and Friends,

Happy New Year! I pray that God will richly bless you in this new year of 2006.

January is a month that contains the Church Year seasons of *Christmas* and *Epiphany*. The Wise Men are men from the Bible who transcend those two seasons. The Wise Men are associated with Christmas because they came to visit Jesus after He was born in Bethlehem. Many creches include the Wise Men. They are associated with Epiphany because Christ was revealed to these Gentiles. The Apostle Matthew's account of the Wise Men visiting and worshipping Jesus is the appointed gospel lesson for the "*Epiphany of our Lord.*"

The Wise Men were probably priest-sages from Persia. They were well educated specialists in medicine, religion, astronomy, and astrology. The Wise Men may have encountered the Old Testament because of the Assyrian captivity of the nation of Israel and the Babylonian captivity of the nation of Judah. They might have been familiar with the Messianic prophecy written in Numbers 24:17, "*I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel.*"

The Wise Men saw the newborn King's star in the east. The star in the east the Wise Men saw was probably the

conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation Pisces. This meant to the Wise Men that a divine and cosmic ruler was to appear in Palestine at a culmination of history. God used His star in the east to draw the Wise Men to come to Jesus and to worship Him.

After coming to the house in Bethlehem, the Wise Men saw the Christ Child with His mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped Him. The Wise Men worshiped Jesus with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gift of **gold** proclaims that Jesus is a King. The gift of **frankincense** was used in the temple and in synagogues during times of prayer. The gift of **myrrh** proclaims Jesus' death and burial. Myrrh was used as an anesthetic and burial spice.

Let us worship Christ the King with our bodies in 2006. We can make the resolution to worship our Lord every Sunday in 2006. Let our mouths and voices speak praise and thanks to Jesus. May our voices and mouths sing thanks and praise to our Lord. May our bowed heads and folded hands express reverence to Christ our King. We can praise our Lord by standing.

Let us worship Jesus with our offerings in 2006. Our offerings are tangible ways we worship Christ our King. With our offerings, we praise and thank our Lord for being our Savior, King, and High Priest. Let us worship Jesus with first-fruit proportionate generous offerings throughout

2006. By faith in Him our Lord accepts and receives our worship.

May God abundantly bless you during this month of January and throughout 2006!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Pastor Terry Nelson

Thank you to our beloved members and friends at Cross of Christ for your beautiful Christmas card and generous gift. Thank you for recognizing my 25 years of service in the pastoral ministry of our Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod with a beautiful clock and meaningful card. We are overwhelmed and grateful for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

I am thankful for the opportunity and privilege of serving seventeen of the twenty-five years here at Cross of Christ. What a joy it is to serve such a wonderful congregation!

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Terry & Chris Nelson

2006 CALENDARS

Pick up a *free* 2006 CALENDAR in the Gathering Hall. Our calendars are a gift from *Casterline Funeral Home*.

WEB PAGE NEWS

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

www.crossofchristlutheran.org

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

In the new year, 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.

**Help take down
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
Saturday, January 7th
10 a.m.**

We need your help to take down Christmas decorations. Thank you to all who helped make the sanctuary so beautiful for the Christmas season.

NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH

The Out-to-Lunch Bunch invites you to a NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH at the home of Bill & Ettie Ann Hirth (10800 Seven Mile Rd., Northville - west of Napier) on Friday, January 6, 2006, at 11:30 a.m. Men and women are welcome! *Bring a friend*. Call 248-349-2545 for directions. *Sign up on the Information Center Board or call Ettie Ann.*

2006 OFFERING ENVELOPES

PLEASE PICK UP your 2006 OFFERING ENVELOPES in the Fellowship Hall. They will be mailed at the end of the month if not picked up. *Thank you!*

ALTAR FLOWERS

The beautiful Altar Flowers are provided by Bakman Florist in South Lyon. SIGN UP to purchase ALTAR FLOWERS in 2006! Sign up for those special dates to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or in memory of loved ones. Cost is \$15 per vase. Two families can sign up per week. Flowers may be taken home after the worship service. (The sign up chart is located in the hallway leading to the Fellowship Hall.)

JANUARY MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

4	Wed.	Evangelism	8:00pm
5	Thurs.	Elders	7:00pm
9	Mon.	Trustees	7:00pm
17	Tues.	Church Council	7:00pm
21	Sat.	Women's Outreach	10:00am
24	Tues.	Preschool Board	7:00pm

ELDER WELCOME

WELCOME to our new Elder, Aaron Nelson. May God richly bless Aaron's service to Him and His people!

2006 BUDGET

A Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, December 4, 2005. The 2006 Budget was passed as presented. Copies are available in the church office if you were unable to attend the meeting.

CHOIR

The Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. People of all voices (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass) are invited to join our Choir in singing to the Lord in 2006!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES and Adult Bible Class resume on **Sunday, January 8**, at 9:15 a.m. *All are welcome!*

WE THANK the Sunday School children for their beautiful presentation of "Voices of Christmas" on December 16 and 18. *Special thanks* to Debra Blackwell, Youth Director, for directing the play. We also thank her many assistants.

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE 2006

1st & 3rd Sundays

JANUARY	Board of Trustees
FEBRUARY	Board of Evangelism
MARCH	Youth Groups
APRIL	Board of Stewardship
MAY	Women's Outreach

THANK YOU

- to Dennis & Donna Evans for their donation of a church website.
- to all who ordered Poinsettias this year and to all who helped decorate for Christmas.
- to Bill & Ettie Ann Hirth for hosting a get-together for the Christmas carolers at their home!
- to Ettie Ann Hirth and Debra Blackwell for preparing the Advent by Candlelight service and our young people for participating.
- to Mark & Elizabeth Earl for their generous donation of snow removal for the church again this year.
- to Steve Klamik & Bill Hirth for extra snow shoveling.
- to Bill & Ettie Ann Hirth for preparing for the Circuit Pastors' Lunch and to Arlene Balko and Clarice French for helping serve.
- to all of our church officers, board members, and those who use their gifts and talents to serve the Lord at Cross of Christ throughout the year!
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WOMEN'S OUTREACH

WOMEN'S OUTREACH will continue to meet the 3rd Saturday of the month. The Christmas Bazaar will be discussed at the January meeting. Please plan to attend if you have any likes, dislikes, ideas, or suggestions— Saturday, January 21, at 10 a.m. in the conference room.

We had a profit of over \$3,000 this year! *Thank you to all who helped out, shopped, and donated items to our Christmas Bazaar!*

We thank THRIVENT FINANCIAL for contributing \$650 in matching funds for the Bazaar through their *Care in Congregations* program.

ACTIVE FAITH

During this season of giving, remember those in need in our community with your gifts and food donations to ACTIVE FAITH. A box is provided as you enter church.

Your offerings are also needed. Our church has committed to continue to give \$250 a month to Active Faith.

COLLECTIONS

Our YOUTH GROUP is collecting clean, plastic gallon-size milk, juice, etc. CONTAINERS. Please drop off in the church kitchen.

We are also collecting metal pop can tabs for the RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE. Save yours and drop them off in the container provided in the church kitchen. *Thanks!*

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Thomas Hermann
3 Marlene Miller
Jim Schilling
Tammy Smith
5 Richard Hare
6 Jon Russell
Michael Schuett
7 Debra Blackwell
8 Janet Head
Beverly Pixley
12 Julie Candela
13 Edward Schlacht
Robin Wyman
Rory Wyman
14 Rob Lockard
Donald Stolz
16 Charles Eldridge
Heather Gilbert
19 Robert Bugar
21 Onnalee Lach
23 Elizabeth Earl
24 Ryan Tisher
27 Rachel Barnett
Jeremy Marsh
Jim Zimmerman
29 James Baker, Jr.
Paul Blackwell
30 Caden Chambo
31 Chris Nelson

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

19 Augie & Linda Fernandes
20 Tom & Sherri Harman
30 Ray & Sue Brown

<p><i>Please submit any corrections or additions to the church office. Thanks!</i></p>
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MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

+ + In memory of Roland & Ann Shoemaker, a gift has been given to the *General Fund* by Charlie & Rose Hall.

+ + In memory of the birthday of Wendell Mayer on Thanksgiving Day, a gift has been given to *Debt Reduction* by Evelyn & Brian Mayer.

+ + In memory of Violet Burkowski, a gift has been given for a *Poinsettia* by Carol Nelson.

+ + In memory of Daniel Neilson, a gift has been given for a *Poinsettia* by Dolores Jaech.

+ + In honor of the Baptism of John Milo Gilbert, a gift has been given to the *Preschool Scholarship Fund* by Joshua & Heather Gilbert.

Thank Offering:

+ + In thanksgiving for 42 years of marriage, a gift has been given to *Debt Reduction* by Rob & Darlene Leiendecker.

+ + In memory of Jenny Klamik, a gift has been given to the *Garage Fund* by Evelyn Oliver and Leona Hart.

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

+ + +

DEADLINE for information for the FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER will be Sunday, January 22, 2006.

MEMBERSHIP

BIRTHS:

+ + John Milo Gilbert
November 23, 2005
Child of Joshua & Heather Gilbert

BAPTISMS:

+ + Elliott Edward Joseph Krause
Nov. 20, 2005
Kevin & Pamela Krause

+ + John Milo Gilbert
Dec. 18, 2005
Joshua & Heather Gilbert

TRANSFERRING IN:

+ + Dana Faust
From Zion Lutheran, Kalamazoo, MI

AREA NEWS/REQUESTS

CHILD CARE NEEDED:

Care giver needed for 2 ½ and 1 month old children in their home. Call Maryann at 248-486-6529.

CHILD CARE PROVIDER:

Home day care will be provided by woman with 30 yrs experience. Call Kristina at 734-657-6761.

DRIVER NEEDED:

An adult daughter is looking for someone to drive her mother to adult day care at Woodland Center on Grand River Ave. in Brighton (9:00 a.m. Monday through Friday). This is a paid position. If interested, please call Linda at 586-805-9867.

Youth News!
January



Our blessings have been counted as the year ends and we continue to celebrate the unending love God has for us. He gave the ultimate gift...His Son. As we reflect on that love, many of us will make resolutions for the New Year. Youth...make it count! Resolve to return His gift by serving Him. Get involved in *your* youth group! Resolve to share God's Son with friends who do not know Him. Sign your friends up to join *you* for an event or service project! Make it count! *John 12:26..."and where I am, there shall also my servant be; if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."*

*Don't forget...*our new website! You can find information about all our youth group activities and details by going to crossofchristlutheran.org. Click on the events area and read the calendar. If it says "youth event" in the date box, click on it and see what's up! Any questions can be directed to me at TeamTrinity@crossofchristlutheran.org or call me.

The Christmas performance was a big success again this year! Thanks to all those who helped make it a gift unto our Lord. All the children and youth who participated did a wonderful job. Thank you!

Children's Church will continue after New Year's on Sunday, January 8th, during our 10:30 Worship service.

Team Trinity youth group will be having their annual Valentine's Day fundraiser. Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 12th, after 10:30 Worship service, to buy your "special"

someone...something special! Cost will be only \$1 each for a Valentine frosted heart sugar cookie wrapped in a special Valentine "card". Delicious and Unique! All proceeds go toward our summer camp event.

God Squad

Twenty-seven children participated in the "Happy Birthday Baby Jesus!" party. Everyone had a great time celebrating Jesus' birth! This year's theme was the Christmas tree. We read "The Tale of Three Trees" book, made Christmas tree crafts, played Christmas Bingo, and ate Christmas tree cakes, as well as sang "Happy Birthday!" to baby Jesus!

A "hang out" day will be announced soon. We will play games (including ping-pong!) and enjoy Christian fellowship with our friends. Watch the website calendar, announcements, and youth bulletin boards for a sign up sheet!

Team Trinity

Thank you to all the youth who served our Lord by participating in the Advent by Candlelight service. You did a great job and everyone enjoyed the program.

Remember, we will be having a "Winter Blast" fundraiser event when we expect a good amount of snow to be on the ground. Watch the website calendar, announcements, and youth bulletin boards for more information.

We will also be having our annual Valentine's Day fundraiser on Sunday, February 12th. Watch the youth bulletin boards for more information!

In Christ,

Debra Blackwell
Youth Director