

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

24155 Griswold Road
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(248) 437-8810

www.crossofchristlutheran.org

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JANUARY, 2010

Dear Beloved Members and Friends,

Happy New Year! We thank God for all the blessings He has given us in 2009. We trust in our good God to bless us with wisdom and many blessings in 2010.

We need wisdom to fulfill our duties in our vocations. We have our vocations as child, spouse, parent, grandparent, disciple, worker, citizen and neighbor. We have good works to do in all these vocations. We want to do good for God and for people in our vocations. We want to serve our Lord and others in our vocations. Sometimes we have lacked discernment and wisdom to do certain good deeds in our vocations.

God invites us in the Bible to ask Him for wisdom and discernment. We need God's wisdom to carry out our duties each day. We can pray for wisdom as we fulfill our duties in our vocations. God will give us discernment and wisdom. God will give us blessings for which we did not ask. God answers our prayers for wisdom.

Jesus invites us to ask God for blessings.

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks the door will be opened." (Matt. 7: 7, 8)

Ask our Father in heaven for wisdom and discernment. Our heavenly Father will give you discernment and wisdom. Seek God in prayer and in His Word, the Bible. You will find our gracious and loving God. Knock on God's door in prayer. God will open doors of service for you.

Praise and thank our Lord for the great kindness He has shown your parents and you. If your parents were faithful to God, righteous and upright in heart, thank Him for these Godly qualities in them. If you are faithful to our Lord, righteous and upright in heart, thank and praise Him. Praise and thank God for all the kindnesses He has shown you in your life. Thank and praise our Lord for your parents, spouse, children, grandchildren, job and all His blessings to you.

Let us pray for a discerning heart to serve God in our vocations. We can ask our Lord to help us to distinguish between right and wrong as we live each day. For those in leadership positions, we can pray for discerning hearts to better lead people.

God is pleased when you pray in agreement with His Word. Your prayers are pleasing to our Lord by faith in Him. God is pleased when you pray the Lord's Prayer.

God will answer your prayers for discernment and wisdom. When you ask our Lord for wisdom and discernment, He will give those blessings to you.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously, to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."
(James 1:5)

Your Lord will give you the discernment and wisdom you need to serve Him in your vocations.

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

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Pastor Terry Nelson

+ + +

We thank you for the beautiful Christmas card and generous gift. We are blessed to serve a giving and loving congregation. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel and for your thoughtfulness.

We thank God for you and pray for His wisdom and help as we serve Him together in 2010.

*God bless you in the New Year,
Pastor and Chris*

WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A CONTEMPORARY worship service will be held on Sunday, **January 3**, at 9:15 a.m. *Invite family and friends!*

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 *Galatians*.

Our winter worship and Christian Education Schedule is as follows:

WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

8:00 a.m.	Worship
9:15 a.m.	Contemporary Worship (1 st Sunday of the month)
9:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Class – <i>Galatians</i>
9:30 a.m.	Youth Bible Study (grades 6-12) (2 nd & 4 th Sundays)
10:30 a.m.	Worship
10:30 a.m.	Sunday School

Holy Communion is celebrated on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of the month. The 8:00 a.m. worship service and Adult Bible Class are not held when a Contemporary worship service is celebrated.

SUNDAY SCHOOL classes are held at 10:30 a.m. for children three years old (by Dec. 1st) through fifth grade. Children are dismissed to their classes from the worship service after the opening hymn. Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, January 10, after the Christmas break.

CONFIRMATION instruction, for young people in 7th and 8th grades, is being held on Wednesdays from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in having your child join the group, give Pastor Nelson a call.

YOUTH in grades 6-12 are meeting periodically for "*Fun Nights*" – games, food, and fellowship. Watch your bulletin for updates.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

THANK YOU to Amy Lockard, our Sunday School Superintendent, for directing the beautiful Children's Christmas Program!

Many people deserve recognition for their efforts in making our Christmas program and Happy Birthday Jesus Party a success.

Sunghee Zimmermann and Sandy Subotich added so much light and love in the way of music.

Carla Geelhood, Dawn Petz, Martina Walrath and Stacy Weigandt gave much needed help with the Happy Birthday Jesus party.

Tom Hackbardt did a great job with the set and set decoration.

Thank you to Susan Hiser for sharing her voice with us during our December 20 Christmas program.

Janelle Lach helps teach Sunday School during our Christmas program practices, and always offers any other help and support needed.

Parents, thank you for bringing your children to participate in the program, so they can teach us all to remember what Christmas is all about.

God has truly blessed our church. May the true meaning of Christmas fill your hearts!

*Blessings in the New Year,
Amy Lockard and family*

PARENT PLANNING MEETING

Parents of the Sunday School children and older youth are invited to a meeting on **Sunday, January 17**, during Coffee Hour to discuss long-term planning of activities for our children. Call Janelle at 248-486-5644 if you have questions.

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 4. 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 (248-437-8810). Classes are held for children who are three and four by December 1st.

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

ADULT CHOIR

The January Choir rehearsal will be held on Sunday, January 10 after the 10:30 a.m. worship 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 2010!

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

NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH

A NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH will be held at the home of Bill & Ettie Ann Hirth, on Friday, January 8, 2010, 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.*

TAKE DOWN DECORATIONS

HELP take down church CHRISTMAS TREE & Decorations on **Saturday, January 9**, at 9:00 a.m. *Many hands make light work!* Thank you to all who helped decorate our beautiful sanctuary for the Christmas season!

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Members, please pick up your 2010 Offering Envelopes in the Gathering Hallway.

2010 FLOWER CHART

The 2010 ALTAR FLOWER CHART is up in the 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."

TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN

We are updating our Telephone Prayer Chain list. If you would like to be added to the list, please sign up on the Information Board.

THANK YOU

. . . Thank you to Bill & Ettie Ann Hirth for hosting the Christmas Carolers for an evening of song, food, and fellowship in their beautifully decorated home.

. . . . Thank you to all who contributed to the Christmas collections for our *Active Faith* family and for the *Berry Home* residents. We are thankful for the love shown. The families were truly appreciative.

. . . . 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 all who baked for and purchased cookies at the *Christmas Cookie Sale*. Women's Outreach raised \$250!

. . . . Thank you to James & Carole Bedard and Bedard Shade Tree Co. for all of their work in keeping our landscaping and trees beautiful and healthy.

. . . Thank you to Steve Klamik for his dedication in keeping up with all of the snow shoveling (and more to come)!

. . . Thank you to all Board members and Chairpersons; and our Officers (President William Hicks/ James Morrison, Vice-President Gary Albin, Treasurer Julie Mattison, Financial Secretary Bruce Mach, and Congregation Secretary Louise Rucker) who serve the Lord the year through! . . Also, our Elders, Sunday School Teachers, Ushers, Greeters, Acolytes, Altar Guild, Organists, Praise Team & Musicians, Money Counters, and Funeral Dinner helpers.

**OUR CONGREGATION
PRESIDENT**

We thank and praise God for William Hicks and his years of service as President of our Congregation. William demonstrated Christian leadership during his time in office. He has stepped down as he and Patty are going to become *snow birds* during the winter months.

We thank and praise God that Jim Morrison has graciously stepped into the position of Congregational President, finishing out William's term. We pray for God's guidance and wisdom upon Jim as he uses his gifts serving our congregation.

NEW ELDERS

We thank the Lord for Bill Pratt and his years of service as an Elder. May God graciously bless him, Leslie, and his family.

We welcome our two new Elders, who will use their gifts to serve the Lord here at Cross of Christ:

Clarke Schroeder and Aaron Zoeller

God bless them both!

NEEDED

We are in need of more *money counters*. Please see or call (248-349-4435) our Financial Secretary, Bruce Mach, if you can serve the Lord in this capacity.

**2nd Annual Soup & Salad
Sunday
January 24th - Noon**

Donations Needed:
Crock pots of soup
Salads
Sweets

Sign up please for
Donations & Attendance

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

*Held after the 10:30 a.m. service
on the 3rd Sunday of the Month*

JANUARY 17	Trustees
FEBRUARY	Altar Guild
MARCH	Women's Outreach
APRIL	Stewardship & Evangelism
MAY	Church Council

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.

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

Debt Fund, Garage Fund,
Cement Work Fund,
New Roof Fund, Carpet Fund,
Gutters and Heat Tape Fund

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
- 17 Benjamin Bray
- 20 Haley Elandt
Hannah Elandt
Hunter Elandt
- 21 Onnalee Lach
- 22 Susan Miller
Cale Zoeller
- 23 Elizabeth Myer-Earl
- 27 Jeremy Marsh
Jim Zimmerman
- 29 James Baker, Jr.
- 31 Chris Nelson

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

MEMBERSHIP

BAPTISM:

- + + Grace Shannon McDonald
Child of Steven & Kelly McDonald
Nov. 22, 2009

Please inform the church office of any missing dates or errors.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

New Year Resolutions

In Chapter 4, beginning with verse 13, James talks about our planning. He reminds us that our lives and plans and futures are in God's hands, and that we should pray, *"If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that"* (verse 15). With that preface, then, we can begin to do some self evaluation of how we can best spend our time, abilities, and resources. A new year can provide a new resolve and commitment to do many things in a new and better way. We may find that our priorities are a little skewed. Our lifestyles could possibly use some redirection, and a New Year's resolution based on God's plan for us could be what we need.

How can we make our resolutions a reality? One way is to talk with one of the members of the church staff or the chairperson of one of our boards and volunteer our time, energy, and abilities. Another commitment may be to spend more time reading God's Word and join a Bible Study group to stimulate spiritual growth. We may find that God is leading us to increase our knowledge and commitment in the area of our financial stewardship as well. God has blessed us so we may be a blessing to others.

The Apostle Paul tells us, *"work out your salvation with fear and trembling, because he adds, "it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose."* (Philip. 2: 12-13) God wants us to have a relationship with Jesus as the head. The personal relationship Jesus develops with us compels us to serve and honor Him through our faithful stewardship. May it be our resolve and commitment to do what we were *"created to do"* as God's workmanship.

JANUARY 2010

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
+ Indicates Holy Communion					1	2
3 <i>No 8:00 a.m. service</i> 9:15am Contemporary Worship 10:30am Traditional Worship	4 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	5 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts	6 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation	7 6:30-8:30pm Girl Scouts	8 11:30am New Year's Brunch - Hirths	9 9:00am Take down Christmas Tree & Decorations
10 8:00am Worship + 9:15 am Adult Bible Class 9:30am Youth Bible Study 10:30am Worship + 10:30am Sunday School 11:45am Adult Choir	11 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers 7:00pm Trustees	12 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts	13 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation	14	15	16 10:00am Women's Outreach
17 8:00am Worship 9:15 am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am Coffee Hour 11:30am Bd. of Elders 11:30am Parent Meeting	18 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	19 7:00pm Church Council	20 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation	21 6:30-8:30pm Girl Scouts	22	23
24 8:00am Worship+ 9:15am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship + 10:30am Sunday School <u>Noon Soup & Salad Lunch</u> 31 8:00am Worship+ 9:15am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship + 10:30am Sunday School	25 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	26 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts	27 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation	28	29	30

