

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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NOVEMBER, 2007

Dear Beloved Members and Friends,

During the month of November we celebrate Thanksgiving Day on Thursday, November 22. We will celebrate Thanksgiving during our worship services on Sunday, November 18 (8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.) and on Wednesday, November 21, at 7 p.m.

We will gather together to give thanks to our good, gracious, and great God. We will give thanks to God by singing hymns and liturgy. We will thank God by speaking liturgy and prayers. Whatever our circumstances, we can give thanks to God.

Giving thanks to Him in all circumstances is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. It is good for you to thank God in all situations. If you are married or single, thank God. Whether or not you have children, give thanks to God. Whether or not you have grandchildren, thank God. If you are employed or retired, thank God. If you are healthy or injured, give thanks to God. If this is a good time or tough time financially, thank God. Whether or not you are a member of Cross of Christ, give thanks to God.

We can give thanks in all circumstances by being joyful always. A joyful heart is also a thankful heart. The Christian life is the truly joyful and happy life as it merges into eternal joy. The Holy Spirit gave you the fruit of joy when you were baptized. You can be joyful always because you have been baptized. Your joy does not depend on your circumstances.

You can be joyful always because God has given you the forgiveness of sins in Christ. God sent Jesus into the world to accomplish the forgiveness of your sins. The Bible connects the forgiveness of sins with joy. Christ endured the cross to achieve the joy of the forgiveness of your sins. Jesus endured being nailed to His cross for six hours to win the forgiveness of your sins. Christ took your sins away by His crucifixion. Jesus prayed to His Father to forgive you. God raised Christ from the dead, demonstrating that His sacrifice for your sins was acceptable to Him.

You can give thanks in all circumstances by praying continually. Pray every day. Pray the Lord's Prayer every day. When we pray, "give us this day our daily bread" we give thanks to God our Father for the daily bread He graciously gives us. Martin Luther writes "we pray to God for daily bread, which includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, because Christ wants us to receive our physical blessings with thanksgiving. Include giving thanks to God as you pray continually.

In your continual prayers, thank God for one another. Please pray for other members and families at Cross of Christ. When you mention them in your prayers, always thank God for each other. Continually remember before God their work produced by faith, their labor prompted by love, and their endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus. Thank God that they received and accepted His Word. Give thanks to God that His Word is at work in them.

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

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Pastor Terry Nelson

NOVEMBER WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our fall 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.

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.) TEAM TRINITY Bible Group meets the first and third Sundays of the month for young people in 6th-12th grades for Bible Study and fellowship.

. . . 10:30 a.m. (1st Sun. of month)

. . . . 9:15 a.m. (3rd Sun. of month)

Note time change due to the Thanksgiving Dinner on 3rd Sunday.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:

This year's Christmas Program will be held on Friday evening, December 14, and Sunday, December 16, during our 10:30 a.m. worship service. The children will practice during Sunday School, which is held the same time as the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Mark your calendars! Any questions, call Amy at 248-446-9598.

HELP is needed to co-teach the 3 rd -5 th grade Sunday School class, Sundays at 10:30 a.m. We also need SUBS for each of the classes. Contact Amy Lockard at 248-446-9598 or Pastor Nelson.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP is held the first Sunday of the month 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.

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 for the study *The Quest for Spirituality*. Explore the relationship between science, technology, and faith – how this relationship affects our culture – and how you can biblically respond.

2008 PLEDGE FORMS & TIME & TALENT INVENTORIES

Thank you to all who turned in their 2008 Pledge forms. We also appreciate your taking the time to fill out the Time & Talent Inventories. Pledge forms can still be returned (in the offering plate or mailed to the church office). There is a tray available for Time & Talent Inventories on the table in the Gathering Hall.

CROSS OF CHRIST CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

"Preschool With a Plus"

"Being Thankful" will be the main theme for November. The children will celebrate a *"Feast of Favorites Day"* later in the month. We thank God for Mrs. Lach and our Aides and the children He has entrusted to us.

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. A few children are moving out of the area this fall, so we have a few openings available.

The Preschool Board will meet on Monday, November 5, at 7 p.m. If you would like to consider joining our Board, please give Janelle a call at 248-486-5644.

* * *

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

CHOIR

People of all voice ranges are invited to join us as we sing praises to our Lord! If you enjoy singing to God, please prayerfully consider singing in our Choir. Choir practices are held Wednesdays at 7 p.m. (If the practice time is keeping you from joining us and another time would be better, let us know.)

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

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

Join the Out to Lunch Bunch at *Fortuna Inn* in South Lyon, on Friday, November 2, at 11:30 a.m. Invite a friend. Men and women welcome!

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our Congregation is again reaching out to needy children in desperate situations around the world through "Operation Christmas Child." Please fill your own box (plastic or **standard-size** shoe box). **BROCHURES are available on the table in the Gathering Hall.** Suggested items are listed in the brochure. (They also ask for a **\$7** donation per box to cover shipping and expenses. Cash or checks made payable to "Samaritan's Purse" may be placed inside the box on top of the items.) **FILLED BOXES ARE DUE BACK TO CHURCH BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11.**

ACTIVE FAITH: Adopt a family through Active Faith for the Christmas holiday. Contact Lisa at 248-437-9790 if you can help out or have questions. Families will be assigned beginning November 1.

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday, November 18 Noon

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Come and celebrate Thanksgiving with your Church family on Sunday, November 18, after the 10:30 a.m. service.

Enjoy an excellent turkey dinner with all the trimmings. We appreciate your donations to cover the cost of the dinner. (Cost to the church is approximately \$7.50 per person.)

Please SIGN UP on the information Center Board so that we can get an accurate count. Donations of desserts are requested. HELP is also needed for CLEAN UP on Sunday.

POINSETTIAS

*Help make our church beautiful for
Christmas!*

Sign up on the Information Center Board to purchase POINSETTIA plants for the church sanctuary for the Christmas season. Plants will be available for \$14.00 each and may be taken home after the Christmas Day worship service. (Sixteen plants have been ordered.) Cash or checks made payable to "Cross of Christ," designated "Poinsettias" may be placed in the offering plate.

CHURCH DECORATING

CHURCH DECORATING for Christmas will take place on Saturday, December 2, at 9 a.m. *Mark your calendars.* HELP is needed to decorate the sanctuary for this special time of the year. A few brave men are needed to help assemble the very tall Christmas tree.

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE
NOV. , 2007 – MAY, 2008
First & Third Sundays

NOV.	Preschool Board
DECEMBER	Board of Elders
JANUARY	Board of Trustees
FEBRUARY	Board of Evangelism
MARCH	Team Trinity
APRIL	Women's Outreach
MAY	Church Council

MEETINGS AT A GLANCE . . .

Thurs. Nov.	1	7:00pm	Elders
Mon. Nov.	5	7:00pm	PS Bd.
Tues. Nov.	6	7:00pm	Evang.
Mon. Nov.	12	7:00pm	Trustees
Sat. Nov.	17	10:00am	Women's Outreach Council
Tues. Nov.	20	6:00pm	

WOMEN'S OUTREACH

Cross of Christ Cook Books for Sale! - \$7 each

Pick up a number of copies to give as Christmas or birthday gifts. Be sure to get one for yourself. Make some of those special dishes you have enjoyed at Cross of Christ potlucks and dinners, made by our members.

APPRAISAL FAIR UPDATE

Thank you to all who helped at this year's Appraisal Fair. It was a very interesting and fun day for those of us who participated – a great community event! We were fascinated by the items brought in to be appraised. Thank you to Carla Geelhood for organizing the Fair for Women's Outreach. Our profit of \$300 was matched through *Thrivent's Care in Congregations* program.

The next Women's Outreach meeting will be held on Saturday, November 17, at 10 a.m. *All ladies are welcome to attend!*

THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans matched our earnings from the recent *Appraisal Fair* in the amount of \$300 through its *Care in Congregations* program. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a not-for-profit Fortune 500 membership organization that helps Lutherans and their families achieve financial security and give back to their local communities and congregations.

Nicole Harmon is our Thrivent representative and can be reached at (734)432-7777 for all of your financial needs.

In order for us to continue to receive matching funds from Thrivent, we need to have three Thrivent policy holders to serve as Congregational Coordinators. Our congregation representatives are Chris Nelson, Carol Erb, and Rob Leiendecker. Due to Rob Leiendecker's leaving our area, we are in need of a replacement. Chris is presently handling most of the tasks required, but we need to have three people in order to receive funds. Please call the church office if you can help us out in this area.

THRIVENT West Oakland County Chapter

WHAT: All Pro DAD EVENT at Ford Field
 WHEN: December 8, 2007 – ½ day event

Thrivent members will be allowed to pre-register before the general public.

Contact: Ed Smith (248-624-6433) or eismith3@yahoo.com

Dads and kids will spend a few hours in the afternoon learning from the Detroit Lions team and All Pro Dads about being an All star Dad.

NAME TAGS

We encourage our members to wear the name tags on Sunday mornings provided in their mail boxes. (Most members have been provided a name tag; some are still being made. Please inform Chris if you are in need of one.) We thank the Board of Evangelism for providing our new name tags. Visitors will be invited to wear a disposable name tag, provided on the table as you enter.

POP CAN TABS

We are 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!*

2008 CALENDARS

Pick up a *free* 2008 CALENDAR in the Gathering Hall. The calendars are a gift from *Casterline Funeral Home* in South Lyon.

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.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Showing Our Gratitude

God gives us His love, goodness, and mercy daily. He has given us victory over sin and death through His son. Christ has given us the blessings of forgiveness, justification, a new life, and an eternal hope. Because of His bountiful blessings, we should be compelled to show our gratitude. Do we? Could we, at times, be taking all that we receive for granted?

If Christ were to come into our homes in physical form, certainly we would express our thanks in tangible ways. We would make Him comfortable, run errands for Him, offer our best food, and give Him our time and attention. However, we don't have that opportunity, so we show our gratitude in different ways.

One way that we express our gratitude is to give thanks throughout the day in our prayers and thoughts. When we see life and its blessings as gifts, we are prepared to offer our thanks. Our thanksgiving is expressed when we use the faith God has given us to live in obedience to His Word. God hears and sees our gratitude through the lives we live. When we generously share our time and money with others in Christian love, we show our thanksgiving for our gifts. Our giving reflects Christ's love in us. We extend our thanks to our heavenly Father when we give Him praise and glory in weekly worship and privately throughout each day.

As stewards, we find that our gratitude to God opens our hearts to receive more of God's love which enables us to be more faithful with our time, talents, and treasures. In response to God's love and grace, we give ourselves and our resources. When we acknowledge God as the creator and owner of all, we will serve the Lord faithfully out of gratitude for all His gifts to us. Our gratefulness to God will enable us to give thanks even during bad times because God promises to comfort and sustain us in all things.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Emily Deeds
Bertha Johnston
5 Sarah Walrath
11 Christine Brinkel
Gary Michalak
Rebecca Precht
Deanna Sieting
12 Barbara Elandt
13 Ed Hempel
Taylor Opfermann
15 Dee-Edda Hyman
Louise Rucker
16 Amy Lockard
Esther Schlosser
17 Jan Flook
18 Juanita Tunis
20 Drew Hantz
21 Diana Baker
23 John Gilbert
Pastor Nelson
24 Matthew Barnett
Jeannine Hosbach
Colleen Martin
Dawn Petz
25 Mitchel Brown
27 Amy Deeds
28 Hazel Richardson
Drake Wyman
29 Dianne Klamik
Kenneth Taber
30 Nicholas Stevenson

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Neil & Annie Nichols
7 Jerry & Carla Geelhood
12 Gary & Nancy Cash
24 Peter & Julie Loukas
27 Julius & Marjorie Saner

MEMBERSHIP

TRANSFER IN:

- + + Jeff & Kristen Bowman
Alexis & Brooke
From St. Paul - Northville

Removed by Board of Elders:

- Arvo, David & Sharon & family
Barber, Delores
Chambo, Matthew & Virginia & family
Hare, Richard & Linda
Zabik, Tim & Traci & family

TRANSFER OUT:

- + + Delbert & Darlayn Dirks
To St. Michael, Wayne, MI

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A new member welcome is planned for Sunday, October 28, during the 10:30 a.m. service. Following are the families we warmly welcome:

- Jeff & Kristen Bowman,
Alexis & Brooke

Richard & Viola Chambers

Mark & Betsy Cornellier

Scott & Tammy Lanam,
Austin, Hailey, and Kirsten

MEMORIALS

+ + In memory of Arlean Adams, a gift has been given to the *Lutheran Hour* by Neil & Annie Nichols.

+ + In memory of Gil Schroeder, a gift has been given for *Garage Debt* by Evelyn Oliver.

+ + In memory of Gil Schroeder, a gift has been given to *Debt Reduction* by Myron & Jo Ann Nims.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
+ Indicates Holy Communion				1 6:30-8:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Elders	2 11:30am Out to Lunch Bunch – <i>Fortuna Inn</i>	3
4 8:00am Worship 9:15am Contemporary Worship 10:15am TeamTrinity Yth. 10:30am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am Coffee Hour	5 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers 7:00pm Preschool Board	6 7:00pm Bd. of Evangelism	7 4-5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir	8 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts	9	10
11 8:00am Worship + 9:15 am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship + 10:30am Sunday School	12 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers 7:00pm Trustees	13	14 4-5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir	15 6:30-8:30pm Girl Scouts	16	17 10:00am Women's Outreach
18 8:00am Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 10:30am Sunday School Noon Tksgiv Dinner	19 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	20 6:00pm Church Council	21 4-5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Thanksgiving WORSHIP 8:00pm Choir	22 Thanksgiving Day	23	24
25 8:00am Worship + 9:15am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship + 10:30am Sunday School	26 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	27	28 4-5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir	29 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts	30	

