

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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Email: crosslut@bignet.net

NOVEMBER, 2008

Dear Beloved Members and Friends,

Have you ever been invited to a Thanksgiving Dinner? Perhaps family members or friends invited you to their home for a Thanksgiving meal. You may have brought food or drink to the dinner. You enjoyed the fellowship and friendship of family and friends. You gathered together to give thanks to God and to celebrate. I invite you to give thanks to God and celebrate on Sunday, November 23, at our worship services and Thanksgiving Dinner.

Have you ever been invited to an inheritance taking event? I haven't. I'm not sure there is such a thing. An inheritance taking event will be one of the activities on the Last Day. Jesus will put you on His right side before His throne in heavenly glory. Christ will invite you to take your inheritance the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. Your Lord will commend you for the works of faith you did for Him on earth.

Our King on the Last Day will invite believers to take our inheritance the Kingdom prepared for us since the creation of the world. Jesus will say to us, *"Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."* (Matt. 25:34) You are blessed by our Father with an eternal inheritance in

heaven. Our Father gave you a new birth into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you. Christ has prepared your inheritance in the Kingdom of heaven since the creation of the world. You will move into your inheritance in heaven on the Last Day. Thank God for your eternal inheritance in heaven.

Your Lord will commend you for the works of faith you did for Him on earth. Jesus will commend you for giving Him something to eat when He was hungry. Christ will acknowledge you for feeding hungry people. Our Lord will commend you for giving Him something to drink when He was thirsty. Jesus will acknowledge you for giving drinks to thirsty people. Christ will commend you for welcoming Him when He was a stranger. Our Lord will acknowledge you for welcoming strangers. Martin Luther wrote *"Now there is no greater service of God than Christian love which helps and serves the needy as Christ Himself will judge and testify at the Last Day."* Thank the Lord that He will commend you for feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty and welcoming the stranger.

Jesus will bless you in Holy Communion. Christ will give you His body in the bread that you will eat. Jesus will give you His blood in the fruit of the vine that you will drink. Your Lord

will bless you with forgiveness of sins, life, salvation, love, joy, and peace in His feast of love. You will proclaim Jesus' death until He comes again in glory. Thank the Lord for the blessings He gives you in His Supper!

Let us thank our Lord for the blessings He will give us on the Last Day! Thank Jesus for putting you on His right side before His throne in heavenly glory. Thank Christ for inviting you to take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. Thank our Lord for commending you for the works of faith you did for Him on earth.

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

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Pastor Terry Nelson

FALL WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHEDULE:

8:00 a.m.	Worship
9:15 a.m.	Contemporary Worship
<i>(1st Sunday of the month)</i>	
9:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Class – <i>Revelation</i>
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 a.m. worship service and Adult Bible Class are not held the 1st Sunday of the month when the Contemporary service is celebrated.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL classes are held for children three years old (3 by Dec. 1) through fifth grade at the same time as the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Children are dismissed after the opening hymn. (See *Sunday School News* on following page.)

TEAM TRINITY YOUTH (grades 6-12) meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. They will meet for Bible Study on Sunday, November 2, at 10:15 a.m., following the Contemporary Worship service and Sunday, November 16, at 11:30 a.m., after the 10:30 a.m. service. There is a Coffee Hour during that time on the 16th.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY is studying the book of *REVELATION* Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. God's revelation to John encourages Christians at every age. Key thoughts include the ultimate defeat of Satan and all the forces of evil; the confident hope believers have in their reigning Savior; and the final, glorious destiny of all those who trust in Jesus for salvation.

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.

2009 PLEDGE FORMS & TIME & TALENT INVENTORIES

Thank you to all who turned in their 2009 Pledge forms. We also appreciate your taking the time to fill out the Time & Talent Inventories. Pledge forms and Inventories can still be returned in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.

CROSS OF CHRIST CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

"Preschool With a Plus"

"Thankfulness" will be the main theme for November. The children will celebrate a *Feast of Favorites Day* before Thanksgiving. We thank God for Janelle Lach, our Aides (Lynne Lach, Julie Mattison, Kelly Nuttall, Marci Wasilko), and for the 75 children God has entrusted to our care.

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

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

WANTED . . .

"HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES"

Evangelism is sponsoring a collection for South Lyon school children, grades K-5. Without hats and gloves, the children are not allowed to go out to recess in the cold weather. There is a box in the Gathering Hall for your donations.

PANCAKE BRUNCH

THANKS to all who attended the PANCAKE BRUNCH, sponsored by the Board of Evangelism, on the 19th. Approximately 90 members enjoyed pancakes, sausage, and fresh fruit. Thanks goes to the ladies in Women's Outreach for donating the fresh fruit. *Thank you to our Chef Mike Bugar for flipping pancakes!*

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

^{1ST} Friday of the Month – 11:30 a.m.
Sign up on the Information Board

Nov. 7	Big Boy – South Lyon
Dec. 5	Alexanders – South Lyon
Jan. 2	Hirths – New Year's Brunch
Feb. 6	Deadwood – Northville
March 6	Chinese – Novi
April 3	Genittis – Northville
May 1	Riverbank – South Lyon

MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

Board of Elders	
	<i>Not meeting in November</i>
Board of Evangelism	
	Wed., Nov. 5 7 p.m.
	<i>(Note change of day.)</i>
Board of Stewardship	
	Tues., Nov. 11 7 p.m.
Board of Trustees	
	Tues., Nov. 11 7 p.m.
Church Council	
	Tues., Nov. 18 6 p.m.
	<i>(Note change of time.)</i>
Women's Outreach	
	Sat., Nov. 29 Noon

*Annual
Thanksgiving Dinner
Sunday, November 23
Noon*

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Come and celebrate Thanksgiving with your church family on Sunday, November 23, after the 10:30 a.m. worship 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 or call the church office so that we can get an accurate count. Donations of desserts are requested. HELP is also needed for CLEAN UP after the dinner. Any questions, call Sue Zimmerman at 248-486-1193.

**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 shoe box). BROCHURES are available in the Gathering Hall with suggestions. If able, please include a \$7 donation in the envelope for shipping and place on top inside your box. Filled boxes are due back on **Sunday, November 16.**

MEMBERSHIP

TRANSFER IN:

+ + Arveda Mach
From Shepherd of the Lakes,
Brighton, MI

**TELEPHONE &
ADDRESS DIRECTORY**

Update your Church Directories:

Mrs. Arveda Mach
59715 Ten Mile Road
South Lyon, MI 48178
(248-345-6200)

CHURCH DECORATING

We need your help!

Plan on joining us for CHURCH DECORATING for the Christmas season on Saturday, November 29, at 9 a.m. We need a few brave men willing to help assemble the very large Christmas tree. *Many hands make light work!*

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 each and may be taken home after the second Christmas Eve service. (Sixteen plants have been ordered.) Cash or checks made payable to "Cross of Christ" and designated "Poinsettias" may be placed in the offering plate.

WOMEN'S OUTREACH

Women's Outreach will have three meetings a year. As reported in the September newsletter, we did not have an October meeting. So this will be an update from the September meeting.

We had our "Used Book Sale" on the 19th and added \$17 to our funds. We will have the table at the far end of the Gathering Hall until the middle of November. We will resume the sale again in January. So for now check out the table and save your books until January.

The first Sunday of Advent is November 30, so we need to decorate the church on **November 29**. We will begin at 9 a.m. and with lots of help the church will be beautiful in a couple of hours. And we desperately need "younger" guys to climb the ladders to decorate our huge tree. You don't have to sign up – just show up!

The "Thanksgiving Bakery" will be **Sunday, November 23**. *Bakers and Buyers are needed!*

Results from the Halloween Bakery will be reported on in the December newsletter.

This month we will support *Active Faith* with donations of peanut butter and jelly, and, of course, any non-perishables are always appreciated.

Cross of Christ COOK BOOKS are on sale for \$7. Now is the time to stock up so you will be ready when a little gift is needed.

LUNCH BUNCH will gather at South Lyon's *Big Boy* on Friday November 7, at 11:30 a.m. Family and friends are welcome to join us. It's a very enjoyable time of chewing and chatting!

Our next meeting will be **Saturday, November 29** at **Noon**, following the decorating. A light lunch will be served. Topics for discussion include:

The Used Book Sale
Advent for Ladies – December 6
An Afternoon Affair
(Ideas will be presented & finalized.)
Christmas Cookie Sale in Dec.
(Plans will need to be finalized.)

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 248-349-2545.

... *Ettie Ann*

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

*Held after the 10:30 a.m. service on the **third** Sunday of the month.*

NOVEMBER 16 **Preschool Board**

DECEMBER	Elders
JANUARY	Trustees
FEBRUARY	Altar Guild
MARCH	Women's Outreach
APRIL	Stewardship
MAY	Church Council

2009 CALENDARS

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

STEWARDSHIP

Following is the Stewardship Reading given by Bruce Mach, our Financial Secretary, on *Commitment Sunday*, October 19, 2008.

Good Morning . . . Today is Commitment Sunday, the end of our Stewardship Program for 2008. Our lessons over these three weeks have offered an examination of how we should manage our Time, Talents, and Treasures. In our Stewardship Drives each year, we most frequently refer to Jesus' Parable of the Talents to "measure" our own progress in managing these gifts. In an optimistic fashion, we like to compare ourselves to the First and Second Servants, imagining ourselves as the Good or Better Servant. We rarely or objectively view ourselves as the Third Servant.

At this point, I would like to focus on Matthew 25:18, the Third Servant in the Parable of the Talents . . . "But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole, and hid his master's talent." Our own results over the past years might mirror this Third Servant. Our own efforts at serving our Master might better be described as

Coulda, Woulda, Shoulda and . . . Didn't.

I Coulda increased my Weekly Offering, but I Didn't.

I Woulda helped the Trustees with the Landscaping on Spring Cleanup Day, but I Didn't.

I Shoulda Volunteered to Chaperone a Youth Activity, but I Didn't.

As a result, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church Coulda hired a Director of Christian Education, or Paid Down the Mortgage, but we Didn't.

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church Woulda had Nicer Landscaping, but we Didn't.

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church Shoulda had more Youth Activities, but we Didn't.

Coulda . . . Woulda . . . Shoulda . . . Didn't.

Time, Talent, Treasure buried in the sand. Just like the Third Servant in the parable of the Talents.

The Parable of the Talents is more than a lesson about money. It teaches what the Master expects us to do with what He has entrusted to us. God has given Cross of Christ Lutheran Church to us. Cross of Christ Lutheran Church is our Talent. What have we done with it? What are we going to do with it? Are we the Good and Faithful Servant? Or are we the Lazy, Worthless Servant?

Coulda . . . Woulda . . . Shoulda.

In front of you are a Commitment Card and a Talent Survey. In previous years, I have received, on average, 45 to 50 commitments and less than 5 talent surveys. Typically, between 25 and 30 of the "pledges" are non-commitments, saying they will try to continue contributing, and 15 to 20 are commitments for the same amounts as the previous year. As Financial Secretary, it is my task each year to use the commitments and contribution records to estimate the total funding that we can expect for next year's budget.

This year the Stewardship Board will be reviewing the Talent Surveys. We intend to develop a Talent Database. We would love to be able to call upon a few new faces to help fill the needs of the congregation.

Stewardship Reading continued

Last week I was listening to the Rev. Adrian Rodgers on the radio. He compared the Church to the end of a Pro Football Game. There are 22 tired players on the field all needing a rest. But there are 55,000 people in the stands just sitting and watching. What the church needs are more Players!

So how can we change Coulda, Woulda, Shoulda and become Players instead of Spectators?

Treasure – Increasing your offerings can be easier than you think. Would Two Dollars a Week be hard? How about One Dollar? How about Two 50 Cent Coupons? Take two 50 Cent coupons to use at the Grocery Store and you have One Dollar more to contribute . . . and the Grocery Store will GIVE YOU the Second Dollar FREE. Or maybe the next time you go out for dinner you could skip dessert. Or you can buy Generic Store Brands instead of Brand Names. It's amazing how much money a person fritters away over time.

Time – We waste Time even more than Treasure. How often do we sit and watch television shows that we aren't even interested in? Or football games of teams that we've never heard of? We could be preparing lessons for teaching Sunday School Classes. We could be tidying the house for hosting a Bible Study. Or helping the Trustees . . . The list goes on.

Talents – Can's sing in the Choir or program the Church computers? How about baking a meal for a shut-in or driving a senior to a doctor's appointment? Do you have medical, legal or financial expertise? Many of our members don't know where to turn for advice. You could be an usher or a greeter or another servant where all you need to offer is a smiling face and a pleasant, Christian disposition.

All you need to do is say I Can . . . I will . . . I Shall . . . I Did.

May God Bless us in our efforts to be better Servants here at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church.

***See the following list of Contact People to volunteer in various areas
or to get more information.***

Contacts for Volunteers

<u>Area of Service</u>	<u>Contact Person(s)</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
Evangelism Events	Jim Morrison	248-486-1225
Landscaping/Building Maintenance	Gary Albin	734-455-5166
Ushers/Greeters	Pastor or Chris Nelson	248-437-8810
Funeral Dinners	Annie Nichols	248-437-9599
	Louise Rucker	248-348-1471
Shut In Assistance	Pastor Nelson	248-437-8810
Money Counters	Bruce Mach	248-349-4435
Youth Activities	Janelle Lach	248-486-5644
Choir	Pastor Nelson	248-437-8810
Sunday School	Amy Lockard	248-446-9598
VBS	Julie Mattison	248-437-6012
	Bonnie Reichert	248-349-1555
Thanksgiving Dinner	Sue Zimmerman	248-486-1193
Women's Outreach	Ettie Ann Hirth	248-349-2545

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Emily Deeds
Bertha Johnston
5 Sarah Walrath
11 Christine Brinkel
Deanna Sieting
12 Barbara Elandt
13 Ed Hempel
Taylor Opfermann
Emily Schoenberg
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 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

AREA NEWS

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY is excited to announce a **Graduate Information Night** on Wednesday, November 19, at 7 p.m. Come to the Ann Arbor campus, Riverside A of the Student Union, and learn more about Concordia's graduate programs in Educational Leadership and Organizational Leadership and Administration. The courses are designed for busy adults interested in meeting their academic and professional goals.

Call 734-995-7521 or

graduate.admissions@cuaa.edu.

SPECIAL FUNDS

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

Carpet Fund (Narthex)
Copier Fund
Debt Reduction
Garage Fund

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

++ In memory of Thelma Chaklosh & Clara Brooks, a gift has been given to a *Computer Fund* by Evelyn Mayer.

++ In memory of Thelma Chaklosh, a gift has been given to *Debt Reduction* by Marie Smith.

++ In honor of Ettie Ann Hirth's wonderfully, blessed 70th birthday, a gift has been given to our church by Art & Eraine Witzke.

+ + In memory of Thelma Chaklosh, a gift has been given to the *General Fund* by James & Carole Bedard.

NOVEMBER 2008

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
+ Indicates Holy Communion						1
2 <i>No 8:00 a.m. service</i> 9:15am Contemporary Worship <i>Children's Choir Sings</i> 10:15am Team Trinity Youth 10:30am Worship 10:30am Sunday School Time Change: Fall Back	3 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	4 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts <i>Election Day</i>	5 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Evangelism	6 6:30-8:30pm Girl Scouts	7 11:30am Out to Lunch Bunch Big Boy – South Lyon	8
9 8:00am Worship + 9:15 am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship + 10:30am Sunday School 11:45am Adult Choir	10 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	11 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Trustees 7:00pm Stewardship	12 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation	13	14	15
16 8:00am Worship 9:15 am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship <i>Children's Choir Sings</i> 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am Team Trinity Youth 11:30am Coffee Hour	17 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	18 6:00pm Church Council <i>(Budget Meeting)</i>	19 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation	20 6:30-8:30pm Girl Scouts	21	22
23 8:00am Worship+ 9:15am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship + 10:30am Sunday School 11:45am Thanksgiving Dinner 30 8:00am Worship+ 9:15am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship + 10:30am Sunday School 11:45am Adult Choir	24 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	25 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts	26 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship +	27 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	28	29 9:00am Church Christmas Decorating Noon Women's Outreach Meeting

