

# CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## NOVEMBER, 2009

Dear Beloved Members and Friends,

You may be planning to have family or friends over to your home on Thanksgiving Day. You will call, text, or email them to invite them. You will buy the turkey and other food for the Thanksgiving Day feast. You will clean your home. If it snows, you will shovel snow and put down salt. You may assign family members one or more tasks to prepare for your guests' arrival. You will prepare the turkey and put it in the oven. You will make the stuffing and prepare a dessert. You will look out the window to see if your guests' vehicles are driving up your driveway or on your street in front of your home. You will watch for your guests' arrival and give thanks on Thanksgiving Day.

Jesus urges us to watch for His second coming. Christ guides us to look for the signs that precede His second coming. Our Lord encourages us to be on guard and alert because we don't know when that time of His return will come. We can do the assigned tasks God has given to us. As we prepare for Jesus' second coming and Thanksgiving, let us watch and give thanks.

Give thanks to our Lord for revealing the signs that will precede His second coming to us. When the sun is darkened during the day, watch for Christ to come down from the sky in the clouds any minute that day. When the moon does not give its light at night, watch for Jesus to come down

from heaven in the clouds any hour that night. Solar and lunar eclipses remind us that Christ is coming back soon. When you see stars fall from the sky, look for Jesus to come down from the sky in the clouds. When you see the planets, moons, and stars shaken, look for Christ to come down from heaven in the clouds. Thank our Lord that He is coming back soon.

You are a servant of our Lord Jesus. Jesus has put you in charge of a portion of His house. Christ has put you in charge in your vocations as disciple, church member, child, spouse, parent, worker, neighbor, and citizen. Our Lord has assigned you tasks in your vocations. Jesus has assigned you the task of making disciples of all nations. Christ has given you the task of loving one another as He has loved you. Our Lord has assigned you the task of honoring and obeying your parents. Jesus has given you the task of loving and respecting your spouse. Christ has assigned you the task of bringing up your children in His instruction and training. Our Lord has assigned you the task of working for Him whole-heartedly on your job. Jesus assigned you the task of loving your neighbor as yourself. Our Lord has assigned you the tasks of rendering to Caesar what is Caesars and to God what is God's. Christ strengthens you to accomplish the tasks He has assigned you. Thank our Lord for the tasks He gives you and for the strength to accomplish them.

Jesus said that He came to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." Christ served you by giving His life as a ransom for you and for many on the cross. Jesus paid the ransom price in full to God with His blood and life. Christ set you free from your sins by giving His life as a ransom. God demonstrated that He accepted Jesus' ransom by raising Him from the dead. Give thanks to our Lord for giving His life as a ransom for us and for many.

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

Holy Communion is celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. The 8:00 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. 1<sup>st</sup>) through fifth grade. Children are dismissed to their classes from the worship service after the opening hymn.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

**Practices** have begun Sunday mornings during Sunday School for this year's Christmas program. Contact Amy Lockard, Sunday School Superintendent, at 248-446-9598 or email her at [dratar@comcast.net](mailto:dratar@comcast.net). We hope your child can participate.

Program Dress Rehearsal & Happy Birthday Jesus Party  
Sunday, Dec. 13

Christmas Program  
Friday, Dec. 18 7:00 p.m.  
&  
Sunday, Dec. 20 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School is sponsoring a *Clothing Drive for Active Faith* October 18 through Dec. 7. Clothing, blankets, coats, shoes, etc. are welcome.

YOUTH in grades 6-12 meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 9:30 a.m. for Bible Study.

CONFIRMATION instruction, for young people in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

An **ACTIVITY NIGHT** is planned for young people in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades on Wednesday, October 28, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. (Games, ping-pong, Guitar Praise, pizza, cider & donuts!)

A CONTEMPORARY worship service will be held Sunday, November 1, at 9:15 a.m.

Remember to set your clocks (*fall back*) for **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME** on November 1st.

## 2010 COMMITMENT FORMS & TIME & TALENT INVENTORIES

Thank you to all who turned in their 2010 commitment forms. We would also appreciate it if you would take the time to fill out the Time & Talent Inventory, if you haven't previously turned one in. 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 our Director/Teacher Janelle Rapson-Lach, our Aides (Lynne Lach, Julie Mattison, Kelly Nuttall, and Marci Wasilko), and for the 72 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.

## LUNCH BUNCH

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

Nov. 6      **Lucas Coney Island-  
South Lyon**  
Dec. 4      South Lyon Hotel

Men and women welcome for good food and fellowship!

## THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Our worship services will focus on *Giving Thanks* on Sunday, November 22, at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

A Thanksgiving Eve worship service will be held on Wednesday, November 25, at 7 p.m.

*Annual  
Thanksgiving Dinner  
Sunday, November 22  
Noon*

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Come and celebrate Thanksgiving with your church family on Sunday, November 22, 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.

## OKTOBERFEST

THANK YOU to the Hirth, Abrash and Albin families for preparing for the OKTOBERFEST DINNER. Delicious German food and fellowship were enjoyed. Thank you to Claudia for the children's treat bags and also to those who helped clean up after the dinner!

## **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). The **BROCHURES** are available on the Gathering Hall table 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 15**.

## **ALTAR GUILD HELP**

We are looking for a few ladies to help with our Altar Guild. We recently had a couple members step down who had served for a number of years. Those who are on Altar Guild generally serve every four or five months on a team of two. Each team is scheduled for the month. They make sure the flowers and linens are on the altar for Sunday and clean the communion ware on communion Sundays. Speak with Pastor Nelson or Edda Albin 734-455-5166 if you would like more information about serving the Lord and our congregation in this capacity.

## **PEW END CANDLESTICKS**

The pew end candlesticks have arrived. We look forward to using them at special services and wedding ceremonies, including the Christmas Eve candlelight worship services. Thank you to Women's Outreach for their fund raising efforts and to all who donated to the Pew Candle Fund.

## **CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY**

Thank you to Tom & Kelli Hackbardt for organizing the Children's Halloween Party on Sunday evening, October 25. We thank the Youth for helping with the games and preparation.

## **CHRISTMAS DECORATING**

*We need your help!*

Plan on joining us for CHURCH DECORATING for the Christmas season on Saturday, November 28, 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.

## **2010 CALENDARS**

Pick up a *free* 2010 CALENDAR in the Gathering Hall. The calendars are a gift from *Casterline Funeral Home* in South Lyon.

## ADULT CHOIR

People of all voices are needed - (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass). If you enjoy singing praises to God, please prayerfully consider singing in the Choir. Speak with Pastor Nelson if interested. Our Choir plans on singing once a month at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. They will rehearse on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 11:45 a.m., and sing on Sunday, November 22 during the 10:30 a.m. service.

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

## COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

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

|                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>NOVEMBER 15</b> | <b>Preschool Board</b>   |
| DECEMBER           | Elders                   |
| JANUARY            | Trustees                 |
| FEBRUARY           | Altar Guild              |
| MARCH              | Women's Outreach         |
| APRIL              | Stewardship & Evangelism |
| MAY                | Church Council           |

## MEMORIALS

+ + In memory of George Tunis, a gift has been given by Juanita Junis.

+ + In memory of Marion L. Moug, great-grandmother of Matthew, Mary & John Gilbert, a gift has been given to the *Carpet Fund*.

## ACTIVE FAITH

Non-perishable food donations and paper products are welcome and may be placed in the box as you enter church. Our congregation pledges \$250 each month to Active Faith. We encourage monetary donations to help us meet that pledge. Checks to Cross of Christ may be designated "Active Faith."

You are invited to stop by ACTIVE FAITH to *SPONSOR A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS*. The Active Faith office is open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Call 248-437-9790 for more information.

## CROSS OF CHRIST CONNECTIONS

### *"Let's Connect!"*

The list on the bulletin board is getting longer . . . . .

Realtors, Photographer, Certified Nurses Aide, Cake decorating, Small Engine repair, Landscaping, Custom shelving, Baker, Baby, Child & Adult sitting, Auto body repair.

If you need any of these services, check out the bulletin board. If you have something to offer, add your name to the list on the Information Board.

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

The Stewardship Board of Cross of Christ reorganized earlier this spring, and the first item on the agenda was to define what stewardship is. The consensus was that stewardship is our responsibility to all the things that are – or should be – important to us (God, Church, Country, Community, School, Family, Self, Friends, Work, Neighbor, Employer, Employee). Our stewardship to our church, for example, would be to attend regularly, evangelize, maybe serve on boards and committees, and yes, to provide reasonable and timely financial support. To our neighbor, we should be friendly, help in times of need, and so on. To our family, to provide a home, to attend church regularly, encourage home Bible study, etc. In the next months, the Stewardship Board will be developing ideas and programs to help us understand the role that good stewardship plays in all of our relationships.

As a timely surprise to me, the final reading in this year's Stewardship program is in Matthew 25, verses 31-46 which shows us that good stewardship to our neighbor is also good stewardship to God. It also shows that ignored opportunities of good stewardship are actually sins of omission. Jesus said, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. The righteous will answer 'Lord when did we

. . . ' The King will reply 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me.' This will be the focus of the Stewardship Board in the coming months – serving our neighbors and being good stewards to them.

Throughout scripture, God connects the giving of our resources, our talents, our time, our mercy, and our forgiveness with receiving. Malachi 3, verse 10, says "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9, verse 6, "Whoever sows generously will also reap generously." And in Luke 6, verse 38, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over . . . " Wonderful promises, to be sure. Yet, we do not give just so we can receive. We give because our hearts overflow with gratitude in response for all that God has given to us. Even if our rewards in this life seem meager to the world's standards, we delight in these words of Jesus: "Well done, good and faithful servant! Come and share your Master's happiness." (Matthew 25:21)

*Bruce Mach, Financial Secretary*

*Continued . . . . .*

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

*Continued . . . . .*

### Brief Financial Report:

General Fund receipts for the year are running pretty close to the total that we based our budget upon. Through nine months, however, we are about \$15,000 below last year's receipts due to three poor months: April - \$3,000 (Easter), June - \$6,000 (school's out), and September - \$4,000 (school's back in). Surprisingly, Easter month and September are traditionally our two highest contribution months. This year, the months of October, November, and December are going to have to be strong for us to reach our financial goals. I encourage the members of the congregation to return to First-Fruits Giving to achieve this. Please put your church contributions right up front with your own mortgage and utility bills, giving to God generously. Don't bring just our leftovers. . . . "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse," says the Lord "that there may be food in my house."

*Bruce Mach, Financial Secretary*

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bryan Lach
- 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 Albin  
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
- 27 Amy Deeds
- 28 Hazel Richardson  
Drake Wyman
- 29 Dianne Klamik  
Kenneth Taber
- 30 Brenden Lach  
Nicholas Stevenson

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

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|---|
| Please inform the church office of any missing dates or errors. |
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# NOVEMBER 2009

## CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office: 248-437-8810

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| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday                                 | Friday   | Saturday  |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| <b>1</b> <i>No 8:00 a.m. service</i><br>9:15am Contemporary Worship<br>10:30am Worship<br>10:30am Sunday School<br><br><b>Time Change: Fall Back</b>  | <b>2</b><br>5:30 & 6:30pm<br>Weight Watchers                    | <b>3</b><br>6:30-8:30pm<br>Cub Scouts<br><br>7:00pm Evangelism       | <b>4</b><br>4:00-5:30pm<br>Confirmation              | <b>5</b><br>6:30-8:30pm<br>Girl Scouts   | <b>6</b><br>11:30am<br>Lunch Bunch<br>Lucas Coney Island | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>8</b><br>8:00am Worship +<br>9:15 am Adult Bible Class<br>9:30am Team Trinity Youth<br>10:30am Worship +<br>10:30am Sunday School<br>11:45am Adult Choir                                 | <b>9</b><br>5:30 & 6:30pm<br>Weight Watchers<br>7:00pm Trustees | <b>10</b><br>6:30-8:30pm<br>Cub Scouts                               | <b>11</b><br>4:00-5:30pm<br>Confirmation             | <b>12</b>                                | <b>13</b>  | <b>14</b>   |
| <b>15</b> 8:00am Worship<br>9:15 am Adult Bible Class<br>10:30am Worship<br>10:30am Sunday School<br>11:30am Coffee Hour<br><i>Thrivent Election</i>  | <b>16</b><br>5:30 & 6:30pm<br>Weight Watchers                   | <b>17</b><br><b>6:00pm</b> Church Council<br><i>(Budget Meeting)</i> | <b>18</b><br>4:00-5:30pm<br>Confirmation             | <b>19</b><br>6:30-8:30pm<br>Girl Scouts  | <b>20</b>  | <b>21</b>   |
| <b>22</b> 8:00am Worship+<br>9:15am Adult Bible Class<br>9:30am Team Trinity Youth<br>10:30am Worship +<br><i>Adult Choir Sings</i><br>10:30am Sunday School<br>11:45am Thanksgiving Dinner | <b>23</b><br>5:30 & 6:30pm<br>Weight Watchers                   | <b>24</b><br>6:30-8:30pm<br>Cub Scouts                               | <b>25</b><br>7:00pm<br>Thanksgiving<br>Eve Worship + | <b>26</b><br><br><b>Thanksgiving Day</b> | <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b><br>9:00am Church<br>Christmas<br>Decorating |
| <b>29</b><br>8:00am Worship+<br>9:15am Adult Bible Class<br>10:30am Worship +<br>10:30am Sunday School<br>11:45am Praise Team   | <b>30</b><br>5:30 & 6:30pm<br>Weight Watchers                   |  |  |  |  |   |

