

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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NOVEMBER, 2006

Dear Beloved Members & Friends,

We celebrate *Thanksgiving Day* during the month of November. On Thanksgiving Day we count our blessings and thank God for them.

It is good to count our blessings and to give thanks to the Lord. It is good to identify the physical and spiritual blessings God has given us. It is good to thank the Lord for all the blessings He has graciously given us. Like the psalmist we can say, *"give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His mercy endures forever."* (Psalm 118:1) It is good to give thanks to the Lord for we are blessed by Him.

The years of life with which our Lord has blessed us are reasons to give thanks to Him. Let us thank God for the years of life He has given us to live here on earth. O give thanks to the Lord for all the blessings He has bestowed on us through the years!

Our homes are blessings from our Lord. Our homes are places in which we can live. We can enjoy the company and love of family and friends. We can eat, sleep, work, play, read, and pray in our homes. Our homes give us shelter from the cold, wind, rain, and snow. Our homes are places where we can receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

Because you are His chosen ones, Your Lord will give you work that you will long enjoy. God has blessed you with work in your chosen vocations. Your Lord has given you work to do in your occupation. God has blessed you in your roles as child, spouse,

parent, or grandparent. God has given you work to do in these roles. Your Lord has blessed you with work to enjoy at church, at home, in school, on your job, in your neighborhood, and in your community. The Holy Spirit has given you talents and grace gifts that enable you to work with joy.

Parents, God has blessed us with our children. Our Lord blessed our kids with good health. God blessed our children in Holy Baptism. Our Lord blessed them with His name, His care, His protection, a spiritual birth, citizenship in His Kingdom, forgiveness of sins, the Holy Spirit, justification, sanctification, His righteousness, and an eternal inheritance in heaven. God blessed our children with grace gifts and talents. Our Lord blessed our children as they heard and learned His Word. Our Lord blessed our kids to achieve academic, athletic, musical, and occupational accomplishments. Our Lord blessed our children with His presence, forgiveness of sins, life, salvation, love, joy, and peace when they participated in His Supper. Give thanks to the Lord that our children were born to blessing!

In response to God's blessings we can gratefully sing, *"Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices. Who wondrous things has done, in whom His world rejoices; who from our mother's arms has blest us on our way, with countless gifts of love and still is ours today."* (443, v. 1 – LW)

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

Pastor Terry Nelson

MEETINGS AT A GLANCE . . .

Wed.	Nov.	1	8:00pm	Evangelism
Thurs.	Nov.	2	7:00pm	Elders
Thurs.	Nov.	9	7:00pm	PS Board
			7:00pm	Stewardship
Sun.	Nov.	12	11:45am	
Mon.	Nov.	13	7:00pm	Trustees
				Contemp. Worship Comm.
Sat.	Nov.	18	10:00am	
				Women's Outreach
Tues.	Nov.	21	7:00pm	Church Council

FALL WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our fall worship and Christian education schedule is as follows:

WORSHIP:	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOL:	10:30 a.m.
ADULT BIBLE CLASS:	9:30 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 from 5:30-7:00pm for young people in 6th-12th grades.

Our TEAM TRINITY YOUTH BIBLE GROUP will get together from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on **Sunday, November 5**, at the home of John, Julie, & Lillian Candela. (1059 Chestnut, S. Lyon – 248-446-9499). Maps are available on the Gathering Hall table. If you would like to host the Team Trinity youth at your home on the first or third Sunday of the month, call Matt & Kindsey (248-943-2985). *You don't have to be a youth parent to host.* Meetings will be held at church on the Sundays not sponsored.

A NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY is beginning on Sunday, October 29, at 9:30 a.m. Join us for a study of **Heaven and Hell**. The study will uncover common misunderstandings people have about Biblical teaching on life after death. It tells the truth about hell and describes the everlasting joy that waits all who trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:

You are invited to a *WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY* which meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. The topic of study is "The Names of God." All women welcome. Invite a friend. *Come grow with us!* (We will not meet on Tuesday, Oct. 31.)

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS & HELPERS NEEDED:

SUNDAY SCHOOL substitute teachers and helpers are needed. Please contact Angie Baker (248-486-6854) or Pastor Nelson if you can help out.

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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY

The Children's Christmas Program will be presented on Friday, December 15, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, December 17, at 10:30 a.m. If you would like your child to participate in this year's Christmas Play, please contact Angie Baker by Sunday, November 5. (Angie's phone number is 248-486-6854.) The children will be practicing during Sunday School, which is held the same time as the 10:30 a.m. worship service. A dress rehearsal will also be planned for December.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Contemporary Worship Committee would like to identify members interested in serving on the Contemporary Service WORSHIP TEAM. A 9:15 a.m. Contemporary Service is being planned for the first Sunday of each month, beginning in January. Opportunities to serve as musicians, praise song leaders, Scripture readers, greeters/ushers, worship planners, and other support activities are available. For those wishing to use their gifts in the Lord's service, please contact Pastor or Chris Nelson or Michael Abrash.

CROSS OF CHRIST CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

As we near the end of October, completing our themes of pumpkins and safety, we focus in November on giving thanks for all that the Lord has blessed us with. We thank God for Mrs. Lach and our Aides and the children He has entrusted to us.

Our next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9, at 7 p.m. You are welcome to join us!

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 on the table in the Gathering Hall.** Suggested items are listed in the brochure. (They also ask for a \$5 donation per box to cover shipping. - 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 12.** *(They can be placed in the church conference room or secretary's office.)*

COMMITMENT FORMS

Our Fall STEWARDSHIP Program concluded with Commitment Sunday on October 15. If you were unable to attend, you are invited to mail in your commitment form in the near future.

CHOIR

Choir rehearsals are held Wednesdays at 7 p.m. People of all voices are needed. If you enjoy singing to God, please prayerfully consider singing in our Choir. *"I will sing to the Lord for He has been good to me."* (Psalm 13:6)

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

NOV.	Preschool Board
DEC.	Board of Elders

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

Join the Out to Lunch Bunch at Riffles in South Lyon, on Friday, November 3, at 11:30 a.m. Invite a friend. Men and women welcome!

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday, November 19 Noon

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Come and celebrate Thanksgiving with your Church family on Sunday, November 19, after the 10:30 a.m. service.

Enjoy an excellent turkey dinner with all the trimmings. A free-will donation is accepted.

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 \$13.50 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 for Christmas will take place on Saturday morning, December 2.

MEMBERSHIP

TRANSFER IN:

- + + Shari Stevenson,
Christopher Jr. & Ryan
From St. Paul's, Farmington Hills

TRANSFER OUT:

- + + John & Sheila Mueller & Karl
To Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton

CALLED HOME:

- + + Helen Gertz
October 18, 2006

BAPTISM:

- + + Nolan Michael Targosz
Child of Jeffrey & Taryn Targosz
Oct. 15, 2006

Did you Know

Our winter heating bill is about \$1500 per month.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

+ + In memory of Roland & Ann Shoemaker, a gift has been given by the Shoemaker Trust.

+ + In memory of Shirley Beksa, a gift has been given for the purchase of the new *Lutheran Service Hymn Books* by Michael & Claudia Abrash.

+ + In memory of Clara Brooks, a gift has been given for the purchase of "*Lutheran Service Builder*" software, plus *LSB Hymn License.net* by Michael & Claudia Abrash.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

The Annual Holiday Bazaar has been cancelled this year due to lack of participation by area crafters and our members. We hope to gear up again for next year, so save those items you've been working on. We always appreciate your contributions of crafts, baked goods, and never-been-used items.

2007 CALENDAR

Please pick up a 2007 CALENDAR on the table in the Gathering Hall. The calendar is a gift from Casterline Funeral Home in South Lyon.

APPRAISAL FAIR UPDATE

Thank you to all who helped make our first Appraisal Fair a big success! It was a very interesting and fun day for those of us who participated. We were fascinated by the items brought in to be appraised. Thank you to Carla Geelhood for her organizational skills and her family for helping out. Our profit was \$615. Matching funds will be applied for through *Thrivent's Care in Congregations* program.

DOES SCIENCE SUPPORT THE BIBLE'S CREATION STORY?

Order your copy of **In Search of the Genesis World** (Author Erich A. Von Fange) by signing up on the Church Information Board for \$14.99 each. Christians believe that the Bible is a faithful framework for the study of the ancient world. Evolutionists attack this belief with dates and discoveries they claim support the theory of evolution. *In Search of Genesis World* strengthens your knowledge of creationism with a well-researched, Christian response to the origins of the world and universe.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

(Let the church office know of any dates missing or incorrect.)

LADIES' EXERCISE

LADIES' EXERCISE is held on **Wednesdays** from **6-7 p.m.** Bring along weights, resistance bands, and exercise ball (if you have them). *All ladies are welcome!* If you have any questions, contact Kindsey Nelson (248-943-2985).

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.

RED CROSS BLANKET DAYS

Help keep someone warm! Donate new blankets to keep residents of area shelters and disaster victims warm this winter. We are participating in the annual Red Cross Blanket Days for the next couple of months. Blankets can be dropped off in the church conference room. Thanks for your support.

LEUKEMIA RESEARCH

YOUR SUPPORT IS REQUESTED:

Florence Hawkin's granddaughter, Nadine Baron, is running the Honolulu Marathon on December 10, 2006 as part of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team in Training in memory of Florence. Contributions will fund research being done to find a cure for blood cancers. Please make checks out to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and indicate Nadine's name on the bottom. Contributions can be sent to:

Nadine Baron
490 Fairbrook
Northville, MI 48167

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Commitment? – Count Me In! Commitment Sunday Stewardship Message

Matthew chapter 25 relates Jesus' telling of the parable of the talents. The master entrusts his property to his three servants before leaving on a journey. When he returns, he evaluates the efforts and results of those servants. After hearing the success of the servant with the five talents, in verse 21 he replies "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share in your master's happiness!"

Today is Commitment Sunday. God, our Master, has put us in charge of a few things, but I know what some are thinking . . . "Man – I don't want to commit. That means I'll have to be regular in my giving and regular in my church attendance and then I'll get put on a list. The next thing you know they'll be calling me to help out at a dinner or something. . . serve on a committee – or worse yet, a board! Or teach Sunday School class or help with a Youth Group or VBS or something. No-Siree, I don't want to commit . . . that's where it all starts."

You know what? That is where it all starts. But that's not exactly the way it happens. You see, once you've made that first commitment, you'll find out it isn't the end of your life. On the contrary, it's actually the beginning of fulfilling it. You will find that your commitment is less of a burden than you thought it would be. In fact, you will find that it is no burden at all because you are serving God with a glad heart and He will help you keep your commitment. Soon you will see how every service that you give to the church is fulfilling and God-pleasing.

We have many needs here at Cross of Christ. That means many opportunities to serve God. Attending to the needs of the sick and needy, visiting shut-ins, teaching Sunday School, leading Youth Groups, serving on committees and boards, and yes, we still need your financial support. These needs exist not as obstacles to our development at Cross of Christ, but as opportunities to serve God and to show our Christian love. I know that we have the right persons here at Cross of Christ to meet these needs. It is just up to them to make the commitment.

Today is Commitment Sunday I hope I know what some are thinking.
"Commitment? Count me in!"

Bruce Mach, Financial Secretary

NOVEMBER 2006

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
+ Indicates Holy Communion			1 4-5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Exercise 7:00pm Choir 8:00pm Evangelism	2 7:00pm Elders	3	4
5 8:00am Worship 9:30am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am Coffee Hour 5:30-7pm Youth Bible Grp	6 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	7 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	8 4-5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Exercise 7:00pm Choir	9 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Preschool Board 7:00pm Stewardship	10	11
12 8:00am Worship + 9:30am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship + 10:30am Sunday School 11:45am Contem Wor Mtg	13 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers 7:00pm Trustees	14 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	15 4-5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Exercise 7:00pm Choir	16 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts	17	18 10:00am Women's Outreach
19 8:00am Worship 9:30am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:45am Tksgiv Dinner 5:30-7pm Youth Bible Grp	20 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	21 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Church Council	22 4-5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm WORSHIP 8:00pm Choir	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25
26 8:00am Worship + 9:30am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship + 10:30am Sunday School	27 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	28 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	29 4-5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Exercise 7:00pm Choir	30		

