

CROSS OF CHRIST



LUTHERAN CHURCH

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DECEMBER, 2005

Dear Beloved Members and Friends,

A baby's birth is good news for a family. You may have experienced the good news of great joy of a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild born to you this year. Parents tell the good news of their baby's birth by phone calls, e-mails, and birth announcements. Family members and friends gladly respond to the good news of a baby's birth. They might go to see the baby. Perhaps they call to congratulate the parents and to hear how the baby is doing. They may send a card or email to rejoice with them and to wish them well. They might tell family and friends about the baby's birth.

During this month of December we remember and celebrate that Baby Jesus' birth is good news of great joy for you and for all people. All our activities and services are focused on remembering, celebrating and proclaiming Christ's birth. We will praise and thank God for sending His one and only Son as a Gift in Bethlehem. We will thank and praise our Lord for coming into our world as a Baby born in a Bethlehem stable.

Rejoice! The angel's birth announcement over 2000 years ago is glad news for you. *"Unto You is born a Savior, Christ the Lord."* Christ calms your fears. Jesus fulfilled God's promises made in the Old Testament about His birth. Jesus is your Savior who saved you from your sins and from hell. Christ is the "Anointed-One" of God. God the Father anointed Christ to be your Prophet, Priest, and King. Jesus is your Lord. He made peace with God for you and for all people by shedding His blood on the

cross. The Baby Jesus is an expression of God's good will to you and to all.

Parents, you can respond to the good news of Jesus' birth by fulfilling your parental vocation. You may have opportunities to help your infant and/or young children get dressed and tucked into bed. You can say bedtime prayers with your children. You can tell your children that Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord is born. You can tell them that Jesus is the Reason for the Christmas season. You can bring up your children in the nurture, admonition, and love of the Lord. You can be God's instruments in meeting their physical and spiritual needs.

You can respond to Jesus' birth by keeping all these things and pondering them in your heart. You can keep Christ's birth, the angel's announcement, the Gloria in Excelsis, and the Shepherd's visit, proclamation and praising God in your heart. You can ponder in your hearts their meaning for you and for all people. You can ponder how Jesus' birth means salvation and peace for you and for all people.

Chris, David and I wish you a Merry Christmas and happy and healthy New Year!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Pastor Terry Nelson

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Note the earlier Wed., Advent worship time of 7 p.m.!

Wed., Nov. 30	7:00 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 4	8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Wed., Dec. 7	7:00 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 11	8 a.m.+ & 10:30 a.m.+ (with Brass Ensemble at 10:30 a.m.)
Wed., Dec. 14	7:00 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 16	Children's Christmas Program 7:00 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 18	Children's Christmas Program 10:30 a.m. (Note that there will not be an 8 a.m. service.)
Sat., Dec. 24	Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m.+ & 7:30 p.m.+
Sun., Dec. 25	Christmas Day 10:30 a.m. + (Note that there will not be an 8 a.m. service.)

+ Indicates Holy Communion

The 8:00 a.m. service will be cancelled on 12/18 because of the Sunday School Christmas Program and on 12/25 because of Christmas Day.

2006 CALENDARS

Pick up a free 2006 CALENDAR in the Gathering Hall. Our calendars are a gift from Casterline Funeral Home.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

About one hundred people attended the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. We thank Sue & Jim Zimmerman for organizing the dinner and Gary Lepak of "Kalloways" in Oxford for preparing the meal. Special thanks to Jim Morrison for donating food for the dinner and those who gave monetary contributions towards the dinner. We also thank Steve Klamik & Gary Albin for setting up all of the tables in the Fellowship Hall!

Thank you to all who helped clean up afterwards and donated desserts!

***"O give thanks unto the Lord,
for He is good."***

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Profit to date from the 2005 Holiday Bazaar is OVER \$2900. Items are still available on tables located in the Gathering Hall if you were unable to attend. Thank you to all who gave of their time and talents to make the Bazaar a success! *Thank you to our shoppers!*

THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS

Supplemental Funds in the amount of \$650 have been received through Thrivent's "Care in Congregations" program for our Holiday Bazaar.

Raeann Kusch is the Thrivent representative for our congregation and can be reached at (734)432-7777 for all of your financial needs.

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!*

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

The Out-to-Lunch Bunch will meet at *CONEY STATION* in South Lyon on Friday, **December 2**, at 11:30 a.m. Come on out and support our friend, Jim Morrison, in his new business venture! Men and women are welcome; invite a friend!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Last year, individuals, families, and churches (about 70 boxes from our congregation) in the Great Lakes Region packed 436,170 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child that were sent to needy children in Sudan, Latvia, Russia, Iraq, South Africa, Botswana, Ghana, Honduras, Jamaica, Sri Lanka, Angola, Ukraine, Indonesia, Peru, Macedonia, Estonia, Rwanda, Uganda, the Congo, Dominican Republic, Guatemala and more.

Thank you to all who once again participated in this ministry!

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING

CHURCH DECORATING will take place on Saturday, **DECEMBER 3**, from **9-11 a.m.** 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.

NEWS

We are very excited about the new CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH web page! Check it out at:

www.crossofchristlutheran.org.

The Calendar, Newsletter, and Youth News will be available each month on this web site. A SPECIAL THANK you to Dennis & Donna Evans for their generous donation for construction of this site. Norm Euker at NJEDesign.com created the site. We thank Lisa Sterling for creating all of the text and Deb Blackwell for the Youth Page.

In the new year, we would like to begin e-mailing this Newsletter to those who would like to receive it via email to save on postage. FILL IN the slip below and send it to the church office or email us at crosslut@bignet.net.

CONGREGATION MEETING

A Quarterly Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, **DECEMBER 4**. The 2006 Budget will be considered for approval.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We will sing to some of our shut-ins on Sunday, **DECEMBER 11**, at **4 p.m.** Food and fellowship will follow at the Hirth's home in Northville. *All are invited to attend! Meet at church at 4 p.m.*

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT
Sunday, December 4, 2005
6 - 8 p.m.

Join us for a very special evening of Christmas music and program, fellowship, friends, family, and dessert! You may be a hostess or sign up to come as a guest. There will be a sign up sheet for tables and also for people who want to attend as guests. Any questions, call Ettie Ann Hirth at 248-349-2545.

POINSETTIAS

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 worship services. (Twenty plants have been ordered.) Cash or checks made payable to "Cross of Christ," designated "Poinsettias" may be placed in the offering plate.

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE
2005 - 2006

DECEMBER	Board of Elders
JANUARY	Board of Trustees
FEBRUARY	Board of Evangelism
MARCH	Youth Groups
APRIL	Board of Stewardship
MAY	Women's Outreach

2006 FLOWER CHART

The Flower chart for the 2006 calendar year will be displayed soon. Plan on being the first to sign up for those special birthdays and anniversaries. ALTAR FLOWERS are available for \$15 per vase. Two vases are available each Sunday. (You do not need to sign up for both.) *Make checks payable to Cross of Christ - designated Altar Flowers - and place in the offering plate.*

WOMEN'S OUTREACH

Thank God for your blessings by remembering our friends at the BERRY FOSTER HOME and participating in our annual holiday gift giving. Can you find it in your heart to purchase 8 small (like or similar) items at a modest price? If so, you'll make a great deal of difference in the life of these ladies at Christmas time. Some gift ideas: health and beauty items, sweets and treats, socks, gloves, scarfs, etc. Please bring your gift offerings to church any time between now and Sunday, DECEMBER 11. The gift offerings will be wrapped and delivered by Women's Outreach at the home of Sue Zimmerman on **Thursday, December 15, at 7 p.m.** Please call Sherry Bugar (248) 348-1956 if you have any questions.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

All Saints' Sunday was November 6, 2005. On that day, we remembered those the Lord called Home to glory this past year:

<i>Carl Sihtala</i>	<i>January 17, 2005</i>
<i>Roland Shoemaker</i>	<i>February 13, 2005</i>
<i>Shirley Beksa</i>	<i>April 20, 2005</i>
<i>Roy Hermann</i>	<i>May 19, 2005</i>
<i>Lily Sihtala</i>	<i>May 28, 2005</i>
<i>Richard Echols, Sr.</i>	<i>June 21, 2005</i>
<i>Norm Balko</i>	<i>June 28, 2005</i>
<i>Ann Shoemaker</i>	<i>October 3, 2005</i>

MEMBERSHIP

TRANSFER OUT:

+ + Raymond & Suzanne Brown
To Trinity Lutheran
Summerfield, FL

TRANSFER IN:

+ + John & Sheila Mueller
Marlene, John Paul & Karl
From Our Savior, Hartland

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Michael Bugar
- 3 James Morrison Jr.
- 4 Robert Martin
Erin Zecman
- 5 Pamela Cabadas
Rose Eldridge
Julius Saner
- 7 Jo Ann Nims
- 9 William Pratt
Crystal Schulze
- 12 Zachary Arvo
- 13 Joann Stolz
- 14 Karen Jones
- 15 Darlayn Dirks
- 16 Arlene Balko
Adam Reichert
- 18 Sandra Schlacht
- 20 Virginia Chambo
Gloria Vanderhaeghen
- 21 Robert Holman
Matthew Nelson
- 23 Robert Hosbach
- 25 Robert Walrath
- 28 Patricia Hicks
Esther Reinwand
- 30 Allison Banchoff
Linda Fernandes
- 31 Ruth Trosin

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Bill & Earlene Reinwand
- 28 Robert & Darlene Leiendecker
- 31 James & Carole Bedard

AREA NEWS

PHILLIPS Funeral Home is holding a holiday workshop for those who are grieving at Salem-South Lyon Library on Thurs., Dec. 1, from 7 - 8 p.m. *No charge. Pre-registration not required. Bring family and friends.*

DEADLINE for information for the JANUARY, 2006 NEWSLETTER will be **Sunday, December 18, 2005.**

MEMORIALS

+ + In memory of Ann Shoemaker, a gift has been given to the Garage Fund by Don & Joann Stolz.

OUR SHUT-INS

Mrs. Arelan Adams
Lutheran Home of Livonia
28910 Plymouth Road
Livonia, MI 48150

Mr. & Mrs. Alec Chaklosh
7533 Grand River - Room 136
Brighton, MI 48114-7386

Dar Dirks (temporary)
25304 Franklin Terrace
South Lyon, MI 48178

Mrs. Vogal Emery
129 Alpena
New Hudson, MI 48165

Mrs. Freda Fanslau
Glacier Hills
1200 Earhart - Room 204 CRC
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Mrs. Peggy Flook
7935 Coyle Road
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189

Miss Helen Gertz
Park Nursing Center
12575 S. Telegraph
Taylor, MI 48180-4075

Mr. Leonard Haack
Medilodge
1333 West Grand River
Howell, MI 48843

Mrs. Leona Hart c/o Nancy Drayton
5247 Bronco
Clarkston, MI 48346-1902

Mrs. Fran Henrikson (Temporary)
61108 Greenwood Dr.
South Lyon, MI 48178

Mrs. Esther Reinwand
27000 Dixboro
South Lyon, MI 48178

Mrs. Marjorie Saner
375 Orchard Drive
Northville, MI 48167

Youth News!

December

Parents!

Sunday school Christmas play practices will be held on:

Saturday, November 19th – 10:30 am – 12:00 noon

Saturday, November 26th – 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

(This date is also the Team Trinity Babysitting Service from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm)

Saturday, December 3rd – 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Saturday, December 10th – 10:30 am – 12:00 noon

Dress Rehearsal will be Sunday, December 11th after 10:30 Worship service until 12:30 pm. Pizza lunch will be served.

Performances:

Friday, December 16th at 7 pm. (Children should arrive at 6pm to dress)

Sunday, December 18th at 10:30 am Worship service.

(Children should arrive at 9:30 to dress. NO Sunday school)

Also: Saturday, November 26th from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. will be the Team Trinity Christmas Shopping Babysitting Service! This is a time for moms and dad's to shop for Christmas without the little ones (and some bigger ones!) peeking. The older Youth group members will be doing the babysitting. Donations only and they will go toward our summer retreat costs. Sign up and details are on the Youth bulletin boards.

Team Trinity youth group members! Contact Mrs. Blackwell to serve the Lord during Advent by Candlelight! You just need to speak clearly a reading for the presentation. A table will be set up for the youth group to enjoy fellowship together.

Team Trinity youth members...don't forget to sign up to baby sit for the children of our church and preschool on Saturday, November 26th. All donations will go to defer the cost of our retreat in the summer. It's an easy and fun way to serve God in your church.

Team Trinity youth group is collecting CLEAN, plastic, gallon-size, milk jugs (can be from apple cider, orange juice, etc...just that size and shape). We need approximately 200 of them for a winter project. You may leave them on the kitchen counter or on the desk in the Youth Director's office. Thank you for your help!

God Squad youth group will celebrate with a "Happy Birthday Baby Jesus!" party on Saturday, December 10th from 1:00 pm. – 2:30 pm. Sign up on the youth bulletin boards so I can have a count of participants. A Christmas story, craft, and game will be part of our celebration of our Lord's birthday. Come have fun and celebrate with God!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In Christ,

Debra Blackwell
Youth Director