

To my Christian Family,

Some of you know me. Most of you will not. My name is Bruce Markel. I have been a member of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Bloomfield Hills, MI for the past 19 years and an elder for the past 15 years. I am the husband of Ellen for the past 35 years and the father of two adult children, Kyle (22) and Betsy (19).

I am a diabetic and due to many circumstances, I was diagnosed with chronic kidney failure in 1990, received a donated kidney in 1991 and have been blessed with a relatively trouble free life for the past 18 years.

In September of last year I was told that my transplanted kidney was now expiring and to begin preparation for another transplant. After tests were run, the transplant team at William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak STRONGLY suggested that I pursue a living donor. The reason is that a well matched kidney from a living donor has a proven productive life in the recipient that is more than double the average of a cadaver donor and would most likely give me more than 20 years of serviceable life. None of my immediate family is the proper blood type so I am now relegated to you, my Christian family.

I believe our Lord God has been working to break my pride and allow me to make this request. If I was on your end of this request, I'm not sure how receptive I might be, but this isn't my concern. God has moved my heart to ask. So I am asking. For me, this is no small thing. If you have blood type "O", are in relatively good health and God is moving you to action, please do not ignore this call. From everything I can determine, believe it or not, if you choose to donate, your quality of life with one kidney is virtually identical to life with two.

The process is fairly straight forward.

Step 1: Please contact me. You may contact me at:

C: 248.321.5713

Email: bruce.markel@comcast.net

I can do my best to answer any of your preliminary questions, explain the steps you will be required to take and place you in communication with the Beaumont Transplant team.

Step 2: You will contact the Transplant team to schedule some blood tests. Depending on the result of these tests, they may need to do another set of tests. The blood for these tests can be collected in your locate and sent to Beaumont or you go to the hospital directly.

Step 3: If all the blood tests indicate you and I are well matched, you would then be scheduled for some diagnostics to determine your overall health. If these are satisfactory, you will visit with the transplant team's social worker.

Step 4: If this screening is successful, surgery will be scheduled for us. The first is to harvest your kidney and the second is to transplant your kidney into me.

You will not be held responsible for any of these expenses. They are paid by my insurance.

I am grateful for your prayerful consideration in this matter.

I love each and every one of you. May God's peace, joy and strength rule in your lives.

As always, in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Bruce