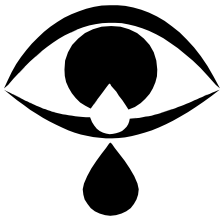




Cross Section

April 2006



Senior Pastor's Message

I pray the Lord continues to fill my eyes with tears over the plight of the lost. The alternative is much sadder.

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

Recently, after a Sunday service, one of our older seasoned beautiful faithful "saints"

complimented me on the message. She seemed quite emotional as she related her feelings about faith issues. Although I cannot accurately quote her words, the following is a content accurate statement from her heart: "Pastor, I do not care what you change or how things are done, as long as you keep preaching Christ to us!"

Then, as she turned away from me to continue walking down the hallway, she said, with tears in her eyes, "We are trying, Pastor, we are really trying." Those words have haunted my thoughts for two days.

This beautiful lady has such a warm and sunny disposition. In her quiet way she goes about greeting people each week in church. She has a special love for the visitor or stranger, and goes out of her way to make them feel welcome. I know

and have seen her love for Jesus demonstrated week after week. And yet, she was telling me, with tear filled eyes, that my flock was trying.

I cannot answer for her, nor would I attempt to tell you her mind. However, it was clear to me that she felt challenged to the place where tears substituted for words. As a Pastor, I could relate to those tears, for they have often flowed from my eyes on the way home from worship. I try, and I try, and I try some more, but the feeling of failure weighs heavily upon my heart. So often I feel as though I am hindering the progress at Cross of Christ more than helping. She and I share one important thing, a burning desire for others to know how much they are loved by Jesus. "We are trying" could be the ardent prayer from every heart at Cross of Christ that burns with the desire for others to know the Savior's love! St. Paul was speaking to us when he said, "Let us not grow weary in well doing (i.e. sharing Christ" love), for we will soon reap a reward, if we do not lose heart."

If I have pushed to the point where tears of frustration have filled your eyes, and have wearied your heart with challenge, please forgive me. I never preach to you without first having to agonize over it in my own heart. What I want for others I cannot give. My human effort alone will never fill heaven. But, I have learned that prayerful, fervent effort will ultimately accomplish far more than apathy. I pray the Lord continues to fill my eyes with tears over the plight of the lost. The alternative is much sadder. I thank my dear friend for reminding me that I am not alone in my tears of frustration over the work of the Lord. But, oh my, the rewards are ultimately worth all the effort and tears! May God keep you faithful in your work for the Savior you love. May God keep each of you growing in His grace. May God continue to enable us to love one another more and more. God will one day wipe all those tears from our eyes.

My Love in Jesus,
Pastor Jon

PRAYER FOCUS

"Let us not grow weary in well doing, for we will soon reap a reward, if we do not lose heart."

Galatians 6:9

Inside this issue:

Budget Process

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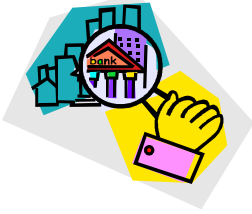
Easter Schedules

Mentoring Program for Women

Mission Ideas

Reports from Seminary Students

Important Dates, Info and Address Changes



Last year, the proposed budget contained a \$33,000 deficit and touched on some unpopular cuts. I mention this simply to raise awareness that balancing the budget will require some difficult decisions.

Church Council: Budget Work Starts

As many of you know, the fiscal year at Cross of Christ runs from July 1 through the following June 30. This means the budget committee starts working on the proposed budget starting in March.

Over the past few years, the budget that was presented to the voter's, and eventually passed, included a deficit. Each year this has been done for a different reason. In some years, the deficit seemed like a short term need just for a given year. Yet in other years, it has been proposed because the remaining cuts would have been unpopular.

At this point, the budget committee is planning to propose a balanced budget this year. We will base the income side of the ledger on three items: congregational

giving from the current fiscal year, signed leases with both Cook's Academy and Shema, and, finally, historic rental income from groups renting our facilities.

Efforts are under way to review the expenses as well. One effort will review the various insurance policies to ensure we have the proper coverage and that our rates are competitive. Another effort is to ensure our maintenance expenses are reasonable. This includes costs associated with maintaining the grounds, as well as the building's custodial needs.

Last year, the proposed budget contained a \$33,000 deficit and touched on some unpopular cuts. I mention this simply to raise awareness that balancing the budget will

require some difficult decisions. Over the next few months, I plan to share more details about the proposed budget in this space. Hopefully, with more information, we can all move forward together into next year comfortable with the church's fiscal direction.

To that end, we recently started to include a budget summary table in each week's bulletin. The purpose is to let everyone know how we are tracking against the current budget. As of this writing, we are currently running a \$21,000 deficit for fiscal 2005. That is consistent with the original proposed budget deficit of \$33,000.

Sincerely,
Jeff Grunewald,
Council Chairman

At Whom Are You Looking?

The disciples were thrilled. They had their Lord back in their presence once again. Since His Resurrection, He had appeared to them and others several times. They were still a little confused, though, when He talked about "waiting for the gift [His] Father promised" (Acts 1: 5), and, then, "He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight" (Acts 1:9).

You can imagine their bewilderment. He had died and been buried and then had risen from the dead! He had walked among them and taught them again, and now ... He is taken up into the clouds. No wonder they stood there - probably with mouths

agape looking into the sky where they had last seen Him.

It took "two men dressed in white" (Acts 1: 10) to bring them back to their senses.

"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, Who has been taken from you into Heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into Heaven" (Acts 1: 11).

Back they went to Jerusalem. Their eyes were no longer on the clouds, but they were still looking at Jesus. They waited. They prayed. They chose another disciple. And they waited some more - all the

while looking at Jesus.

At whom are you looking? Yes, Jesus has ascended. We can only imagine His joyful, triumphant return as all the hosts of Heaven welcomed back the risen, victorious Savior. Because He is that Savior, because He is the Author and perfecter of our faith, "let us fix our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2). Through His Word and Sacraments, He will lead us in His ways; He will teach us obedience and self-sacrifice; He will teach us love for our neighbors. Keep looking at Jesus until in Heaven you see him face to face!

God Is In Control Of Everything

It seems our Cross of Christ members have been fraught with an abundance of pain, suffering and death during this short year of 2006. I'm sure many people feel, "why Lord?" "Why do you let this happen?" I certainly don't claim to understand God's way. Maybe He is simply saying listen, pay attention to your life, love me; I'm in control....

I received the following letter today from a man who is suffering the final ravages of cancer:

I have never been one to express much thankfulness. I have always been a very proud and self-sufficient person and have lived most of my life taking care of my family and myself in my own power and only relying on God from time to time just until the situation allowed for me to get back in the driver's seat and once again take care of myself in my own power.

God has chosen to allow cancer in my life. I have no

control over it and no control over my future. I guess I thought I had control over it before – but I know now that I really didn't. I don't have control over my family's future either. I guess I thought I had control over that too! God has taught me that only He has control over the future and that I have to trust Him! That was hard for me.

Since I allowed God to take over the job of taking care of my family and me, I have experienced a quality of life that I had never experienced before. I have a joy inside of me that is incredible and indescribable. I get butterflies in my stomach just thinking about what God allowed me to do today and what He is going to allow me to do tomorrow. I get so excited about the relationships that God brings into my life. I enjoy every waking moment. I never had that before. I know that this may seem odd, but I thank God for bringing me to this place in

my life even though He used cancer to do it. God is an awesome God!

Rick Moore

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 -

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Rick passed away Thursday night, March 2, while a crowd of about 300 surrounded the dorm where he and his wife lived as part of their ministry to the students at the college. The crowd was singing his favorite hymn, "It is Well with My Soul", when he died.

Merl Terry



God has taught me that only He has control over the future and that I have to trust Him! That was hard for me.

EASTER EVENTS AT CROSS OF CHRIST

CHILDREN'S EGG HUNT

A fun children's event will be held on **Saturday, April 8, from 9 am to 12 noon.**

Children will be participating in games and activities in the Light Center and, weather permitting, will take part in a big Easter Egg hunt on the Cross of Christ property. Besides candy, the eggs will contain Bible verses with information about our risen Savior. A pizza lunch will be served.

Registration is from now until April 3 through the church office. The cost is \$8 per child, \$15 for two children, and \$20 for three or more children. Contact Diane Stanke or Tracey Fish for more information.

LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesday, April 5 – Dinner served at 5:30 pm and service at 6:45 pm featuring a pastor from the circuit.

EASTER WORSHIP

Thursday, April 13 – Maundy Thursday service at 7 pm (no dinner beforehand).

Friday, April 14 – Good Friday services at 12 noon and 7 pm (no dinner).

Sunday, April 16 – Easter Morning services at 8:15 am and 11:15 am with Easter Breakfast between at 9:45 am in the Light Center.

43rd
Annual
Show!
Oct.
12-14!



Bloomfield
Antique Show
sponsored by
Cross of Christ

New this year!
Charity Preview:
October 12,
2006

Public Show
Dates:
OCTOBER 13-
14, 2005

PLEASE SAVE
THESE DATES!

Proceeds
Support the
Missions of
Bloomfield
Cross of Christ
Antique Show

Lots of help is
needed, plan
on getting
involved!

Call Wendy
Scrimger at
(248)426-7554
or
email

[wsscrimger@
peoplepc.com](mailto:wsscrimger@peoplepc.com)

or Don
Berkemeier
(248)851-2691
email
[dberkem@
comcast.net](mailto:dberkem@comcast.net)

MINISTRY NEWS AND NOTES

Library Corner: Easter and Marriage Resources Available

April is here, and Easter is not far away. The library has several video donations with an Easter message. *The Easter Story Keepers* is a 70-minute animated movie targeted towards ages 6 to 12. It is the Easter message set within an adventurous tale featuring the Story Keepers' characters. *The Story behind the Cross* is recommended for ages 6 and up, but especially for teens. It is also the Easter message within another story, the story of a field trip to Jerusalem by a group of teenagers. *The True Easter Story* is a cultural immersion travelogue to Israel, and it helps enlighten viewers about aspects of the Easter

Story with which they may be unfamiliar.

The library has two donations on the topic of marriage. *Passages of Marriage* by the doctors of the Minirth-Meir Clinic and *Together Forever* by Thomas Walker for the Aid Association for Lutherans. *Together Forever* is intended for engaged couples, but has lots of helpful ideas for married couples too, such as "Praise each other often" and Listen to understand, not to judge. After listening, summarize your partner's comments, before you share your own." (43). *Passages of Marriage* outlines the five love stages of successful marriages; young, realistic,

comfortable, renewing and transcendent love, each with their particular challenges and joys. Once you recognize your own marriage's current stage, you can read about the risks during that stage and how to safeguard your marriage from them. If you are experiencing typical problems for your stage, you get advice for healing those problem areas.

Thank you for your donations, and please try and remember to bring your selections back after you have enjoyed them, so that others can benefit too.

Heather Sherk

Parish Nursing: Mentoring Class Benefits Women

Dear Church Family,

Last month I discussed a grief support group that will start at Cross of Christ the week after Easter (watch the bulletin for details). If you are interested, please let me know. Please keep the group and those who will attend in your prayers, that they find may find healing and the peace that only God can give.

Another group I would like to see happen this year is a Woman -to-Woman Mentoring group. In our hectic society, younger women are "hungry" for the spiritual and emotional support an older, more mature woman can offer. I

can visualize the class being a blessing to both age groups.

The idea for this program is based on 2 Titus 2:3-5 "...the older women likewise, that they may be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed." I am looking at a 6-week program, "Apples of Gold", which has lessons on loving your

husband and children, kindness, submission, purity and hospitality. Each session includes a one hour cooking class, a one hour Bible study based on the Titus passage and a fellowship time enjoying the food prepared in class. Lasting friendships are made through this type of ministry. If you are interested in being a mentor or receiving one, let me know.

May God bless you in this Lenten season and draw near to you as you seek Him.

Love in Jesus,
Mary Lou Temple RN
Parish Nurse

MINISTRY NEWS AND NOTES

FINANCE MINISTRY: Giving Is Not A Four-Letter Word

I wonder how many people will skip over this article after reading the title. Many people think "Give" is a four letter word and that it shouldn't be used in a church.

I must admit, when it comes to telephone solicitations, I have become a little impatient myself. You know the calls, "Thanks for donating last year, month, week, this time can you do better" or "would you send 10 letters to your friends and relatives, asking for donations – again." It gets to a point we want to hold up our hands and shout, "all they want is **my money!!!**"

One certain fact is that organizations do need and want money. Christian as well as secular organizations that work to benefit mankind need money to provide their services. They usually have no way to generate profit dollars through product sales and what sales they make usually cover only a small amount of their actual expenses. Services provided by non-for-profits are generally in a market (research, benevolence) that doesn't generate income.

We know all this, but what

bothers us is that we think to ourselves, "they" want **my money** exclusively. "Hey," you think, "give me a break, quit calling me, I gave last year, **I only have** so much money to spread around in so many places, I have to support **my family** and save for **my future.**"

The Crown Financial Ministries has helped a lot of people in our church and around the world recognize that most of us, as, Zig Ziggler used to say, suffer from "Sinkin Thinkin." The money that we worry about giving was never ours to begin with. God gave money to us to manage and enjoy. He gave it to us to give to people He loves and who are hurting. He provided us with money and possessions so that we could help fund the Great Commission.

God is Creator, King, Boss and Owner of everything in this world; including us and the money in our pockets and purses. The phrase on U.S. currency that reads, "In God We Trust," is, in a sense, backwards. If God had written the line, it would read, "In You I Trust." Because, that is what He has done with His money; He has entrusted it to us.

For those who read this far, I just want to say thanks and confess that I still get irritated by the many phone calls I receive from charities and vendors. But, I try really hard to be kind to the non-for-profits. Whether they realize it or not, they are doing the kind of work God prescribed to all of us. They are giving love and compassion to their neighbors.

Money is important and needed in Kingdom work and money is important in our lives. Remember who owns it and that He expects you to return it with interest. "Money can buy a bed, but not sleep. Money can buy a wedding ring, but not love. Money can buy an education, but not wisdom. Money can buy jewelry, but not beauty. Money can buy insurance, but not safety. Money can buy a crucifix, but not a Savior."

A Christian can never serve God and money, but they must learn to serve God with money.

Your comments are welcomed, e-mail the Ministry of Finance at terrycrown@comcast.net.



MOM-TO-MOM SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH 2006
10 am – 1 pm
Admission \$1

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

Invite your relatives, friends, and neighbors! Great Bargains on all kinds of things for kids and moms-to-be!

For further information, visit our website at www.coclc.org, e-mail Mom2Mom@coclc.org, or call Sue (248)375-2332



WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP TEA

MAY 7, 2006

3P-5P

FEATURING TEA, LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AND "THE HAT LADY"

WATCH FOR SIGN-UP INFORMATION!

GriefShare Support Group To Begin After Easter

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group for people who are grieving the loss of someone close to them. It's a place to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You'll learn valuable information about recovering from your grief and renewing your hope for the future. (each session is self-contained, so it's ok if you miss some!) The seminar will start the week after Easter. Watch the bulletin for dates and times. Contact Mary Lou Temple if you are interested...248-626-4076 .



**JET
(Jewish
Evangelism
Training)**

will be held

Friday evening,
May 5th
6pm – 9:45pm

and

Saturday, May
6th
1pm – 5pm

Cross of Christ
Lutheran
Church Chapel

John Denson
Shalom
Ministry
Presenter

Come and
learn how to
share your
faith
with your
Jewish friends,
relatives and
neighbors

To register, call
248-618-
9080.

MISSION NEWS AND NOTES

The Mission Meeting on Sat. March 25th was fairly well attended. A variety of mission opportunities were presented. Detailed information on:

1. Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac
2. Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity
3. Burnstein Community Health Clinic in Pontiac
4. CPC (Crisis Pregnancy Center)
5. POBLO
6. Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism (Messianic Friendship)
7. To Every Tribe
8. Alaskan Mission Trip

The presentations greatly expanded our understanding of these missions, established ideas on how COC can be an

active part of the missions we support financially, and also presented other mission opportunities that we might want to be involved in.

There are many more Mission opportunities that we will still be investigating.

Watch for up coming information sessions.

We encourage you to attend the mission meetings. Everyone is welcome!!

There are opportunities for ALL. Just to name a few:

1. Making lunches for COC workers at Habitat construction sites
2. Supervised construction opportunities
3. Painting
4. Gardening and yard

work

5. Greeters at work sites
6. Clerical & computer opportunities
7. Medical & dental volunteer jobs
8. Tutoring students & adults (GED)
9. Community service hours for teens
10. Other areas that interest YOU !!

No One is Left Out !!

Come check out a meeting, the Burnstein Clinic, a mission team... you might like it. I did.

God Bless Your Day.

Dianne Ruprich

Logos Hope: Photos and Video Available Online

Logos Hope News No. 116
Tuesday, 7 March 2006

Written by Lloyd Nicholas,
Project Director

CO-ORDINATION OF SYSTEMS INSTALLATION

The ship conversion work has entered into a busy and complex phase as subcontractors are now arriving and onboard to begin installing electrical cabling, piping, bulkheads, ventilation trunking, and a multiplicity of equipment and sub-systems.

SEEING GOD'S PROVISION

It is a great blessing to see how God has moved many people to partner in the project so far. We

remain dependent on the LORD for Him to provide the personnel and funds required to see the project continue to move forward on schedule. Following his recent visit to Trogir, OM's Founder writes: "With the eye of faith, we can see millions ministered to by this new ship, but we urgently need people who will join with us now in specific prayer and steps of faith."

IMAGES ON THE WEB

It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Along with news and information, the Logos Hope web site has a database of video footage and hundreds of

photographs of the conversion work. Go to www.logoshope.org and click on the "News and Pictures" or "Videos and Downloads" tab on the web site sidebar menu to see the latest photo reports.

GIVE THANKS/PRAY FOR:

- * Pray for good management and co-ordination of the subcontractor works.
- * Pray for good rest for the project leaders and for strength, joy and health for all of the Logos Hope team in Trogir.
- * Pray for a further boost in funding for the project.
- * Praise the LORD for His goodness and faithfulness throughout the project.

MISSION NEWS AND NOTES

Seminary Student Working With Messianic Jews

March 11, 2006

Shalom, Dear Brothers and Sisters of Yeshua!

The first week of classes here has already come and gone. My professors have wasted no time in piling on the lengthy reading assignments and papers.

It has become apparent how important it is to have a solid foundation, for each class steadily builds on the concepts of the ones before it.

This building isn't in a linear fashion either. Each class draws upon skills and knowledge of classes in other disciplines. The threads of historical, practical, systematic, and exegetical theologies intermix to such a degree that it's sometimes difficult to label something as belonging to one or the other.

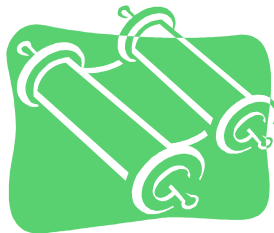
Part of what I'm coming to understand, from my studies and from working at my field church, is the tremendous amount of work your pastors put in to keep a church operational and healthy, especially one of the size and complexity of Cross of Christ. Much of the work they do most of us never even realize.

From event planning, to board meetings, to organizing and running Bible studies, shut in calls, administrative tasks, to planning and running the

weekly worship service we commonly see them at.

Please keep them in your prayers, asking the Lord to continue to grant them health and sanity, and grant them time enough in which to complete the tasks set for them and still spend time with their family and loved ones. Please also thank them for devoting their lives to watching over your temporal and eternal wellbeing. We often don't consider the magnitude of the burden placed on them with this important earthly duty.

As I mentioned in my last letter, my time at Lutheran Senior Services has drawn to a close, and I've now been assigned to a local Messianic Jewish community. The rabbi invited me to join them for their Purim celebration this last Wednesday.



This is a yearly festival where everyone gets together to recount and celebrate the events in the book of Esther. The rabbi reads the book while children act out the parts of Esther, the King, Mordecai, and Haman. The audience gets in to the story and cheers on Mordecai and boos at the evil Haman.

When the book is done, the rabbi instructs the congregation on the nature of the book and its messianic prophecy. The rabbi here also showed off a traditional parchment scroll he had, containing the book of Esther in the original Hebrew. The scroll was made in the early 1500's, so he didn't let the other students and I handle it, but he did let us try to read the text.

Having not grown up in a community that celebrates these sorts of things in a tight knit group like they do, it was a very different experience. It was also enlightening one, for these groups bear the closest resemblance to what the earliest churches would have been like, since the earliest Christians were Jewish.

I continue to pray for all of you here, asking God to bless and protect you, and that His Will would remain foremost in your hearts and minds. As we continue in the Lenten season, let us take a moment out of our busy lives and reflect on the redemptive sacrifice of Christ and what means that He was born and died specifically to reconcile us.

Yours in faith,

Richard Davenport

CHORAL MINISTRY TEAM

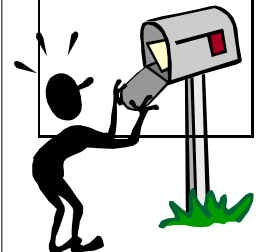
Meets 3rd
Tuesday of Every
Month

Visiting our
brothers and
sisters at home,
hospital, or
nursing homes in
need of prayer
and spiritual
uplifting through
traditional hymns.

6 p.m. Pizza &
Fellowship
6:45 p.m. Bus/
Carpools

Contact:
Julie Atwood
248-203-2050
julie@
Atwoodcabinetry.
com or the Church
Office

To receive a reminder postcard of upcoming Mission Meetings—call the Church office and request to be put on the mailing list or contact Verna Besancon @ 248-253-0289.





Dear Friends in Christ,

Here is my "offering," year-to-date, and my Lenten offering.

God has been good to provide our daily needs. I want to give as much as I can. This may be my offering for the year, but, hopefully, I can contribute more!

Thanks to all who have cared for me while I undergo this continuing battle with cancer.

Your time, thoughts and prayers are precious gifts, as is the most precious gift of all, forgiveness by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I love Him so! I love you all. Thanks you!

Yours, with love in Christ,
Sandy Miller

THANK YOU...THANK YOU...THANK YOU...

Dear Cross of Christ,

*"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."
Philippians 4:4*

Thank you for your continued prayers and support to Concordia Seminary students like myself. You continue to be a blessing to both my wife and me.

The end of the Winter Quarter yielded a two-week break and gave me much to rejoice about. The previous five weeks were quite stressful, but God saw me through. I am very thankful to be beyond the papers, projects, and exams, being able to rest and relax for a few weeks.

The winter in St. Louis has

been quite mild. Outside of a few cold spells, the temperature has stayed relatively warm. I appreciate this in that I am able to run and bicycle outside more easily than I would have been able to in Michigan. In fact, earlier this week, when it was 60 degrees, I went mountain biking for the first time with a professor and another student. The first time for me was equally muddy as it was fun.

My wife, Amie, is in her second year of teaching elementary music. She is much more at ease being a second year teacher than a first year one like last year. She finds herself much more organized than last year, being able to plan days, weeks, even months ahead.

We still have more to rejoice about. I applied for an exchange program in Cambridge, England, for next year, and found out recently that I have been accepted! This means that we will spend the next school year in England, studying both at the Lutheran Seminary as well as Cambridge University Divinity School. We are both excited at the opportunity to live in another country, learn another culture, and form community with followers of Christ in another part of the world.

Thank you again for supporting us. You are truly a blessing.

Joy in Jesus,
Ryan & Amie Winningham

Thank you to all you wonderful women of Cross of Christ. The luncheon for Bart was wonderful. I appreciate all of your love and work in preparing this meal. Gladys Ulmer received a payment from my brother-in-law the day of the luncheon. Thank you again, so much.

Jill Larive



SUPPORT MINISTRIES THROUGH SHOPPING CARDS

Help us raise funds with Kroger Gift Cards. We need you, parents, friends and members, to purchase Kroger Gift Cards. Cross of Christ receives a \$250 check for every \$5,000 in recharges and cards purchased.

You may purchase your gift cards for \$10 from Katie Moigis, Loree Frank or the church office. Use your gift cards as a credit card when shopping at Kroger. Your receipt tells you how much you have left on the card. Before the gift card is empty, go to your in-store Customer Service and re-load your gift card using cash, a debit or credit card.

You have 4 easy steps:

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1... | 2... | 3... | 4... |
| Purchase Card | Purchase Groceries | Re-load Card | Repeat steps 2 & 3 |

As an extra bonus, for \$10, purchase extra cards to give away as gifts so your friends and family can support Cross of Christ also. Monies earned from Kroger Gift Cards will be used towards: Women's Retreat and SonLight City.

THANK YOU...THANK YOU...THANK YOU...

THANK YOU! And GOD BLESS YOU!

How does one adequately thank their church family for the love and support recently given to our family and me during Ron's illness and death?

I have written hundreds of thank you notes – doesn't seem like enough. I have thanked people personally as I encounter them at church – still doesn't seem like enough. So – FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART – GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU AND PLEASE ACCEPT MY GRATITUDE.

Several people have asked me about the Visitor Center which we have designated as the memorial for Ron. Several years ago this

summer, a sub-committee of the Beautification Committee (of which Ron was chairman), met to design a Visitor Center for the Narthex.

We (Kris Atwood, Matt LeBarre, Lucy Grafe, Ron and myself) came up with a design about which we were very enthusiastic. It would be made of the same wood as is in the Narthex with angles to match the pillars between the glass. It would have a granite counter similar to the one on the Baptismal Font. The center would be on wheels and of a size that would be moveable around the Narthex depending on activity. The front of the center would be fairly plain which slots for materials. The backside of the center would have

storage for church materials.

It is also our plan to have volunteers work the Visitor Center whenever there is an event at the church. As a person approaches the Visitor Center, we want someone there to welcome them and answer questions. It is my opinion that we need to be more open to people coming into the sanctuary. If you have not already done so, please consider a gift in memory of Ron to make this center a reality.

Again — thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Diann Richards



Contributions to special funds can be made through the Church Office. Please note the fund name on the memo line of your check. Contact Church Secretary Sheila Buller with any questions.

Dear Church Family,

Everything is going well. Alicia's surgery went well. She finally opened her eyes this morning (surgery was Wednesday). Not much swelling which is great. She had her eye lid lifted so that is really what is hurting more than the muscle surgery. That's lots of good prayers!!!

I am feeling great! Always have, God has blessed me through thick and thin without ever feeling yucky. I continue to work very hard on my speech and handwriting. Needless to say my speech has come much farther than my writing skills! I am not getting real

far with the surgeons at Karmanos. It all boils down to I have to get off the Plavix, which I am on from the heart surgery. I am at a high risk of stroke for the first 6 months.

The patch has a rough side for the first six months and without the Plavix a much higher risk of clotting. So I still have not had the 3 new spots biopsied. They are quite sure that they are the same thing as last year, called DCIS (ductile carcinoma institu). It is a noninvasive cancer but will need treatment again. So I have to make a personal choice to stop the Plavix and get the program going so that this can be another

chapter in my book of blessings.

Who would have ever guessed that this has all been a blessing in disguise! Every last rotten problem I have had has been turned into a positive in one way or another. Whether its been witnessing to a Doctor or my family or proving that prayer works! God has been so good.

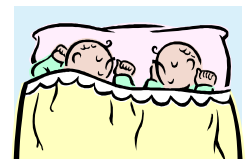
Thanks you for being such a blessing to the children. Alicia and I so incredibly lucky to have such an awesome church family and an awesome GOD!

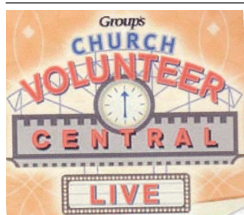
Juli Garretson

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for graciously allowing us to have two recent meeting in your beautiful facilities. You have always been so supportive of us and are great partners with us in the effort to protect human live. We so appreciate you!

God Bless You,
Diane Fagelman
Right to Life-
Lifespan





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

EASTER BREAKFAST

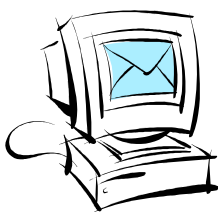
Easter Sunday
Help is needed with set-up, serving and clean up

Call Wendy Scrimger 248-426-7554.

MOM-TO-MOM SALE

Help is needed with table set-up and take-down as well as volunteers to work the day of the sale!

Call Sue Grunewald 248-375-2332.



Reminder: The deadline for the Cross Section is the 10th of the preceding month. Submit your information via email to jbkalu@glis.net or wmiller5@sbcglobal.net.

THANKOFFERINGS AND MEMORIALS

TO THE BAPTISMAL FUND: In honor of the baptism of Alex Balla by Susan & Matthew Balla; In honor of the baptism of Ben Covert by Carla & Brian Covert; In memory of Edith East & Maurice Watson, parents of Sharon Watson; In honor of Braden Vogel's baptism by William & Lorie Vogel; In honor of the baptism's of Louis, Matthieu and Nils Skrzypczak by Nicolas and Cecile Skrzypczak.

TO THE SONLIGHT CITY FUND: In memory of Ron Richards from Arthur & Bettye Kelsey

TO THE GENERAL FUND: A thank offering from Peter Martin; In memory of Gail Sutter's father, Dick McGregor, by the Dan Sutter family, Phil & Carol Tonkin, Dave & Pat McGregor and Ruth McGregor. In memory of Luther Hertler, Larry Maisch and Howard Klausmeier by Wanda Craig Hildgendorf

TO THE WILLIAM RIDENOUR MEMORIAL FUND by: Mary Ridenour

TO THE JOHN RAKOLTA MEMORIAL FUND by: In memory of John Rakolta and parents Flora & Milan Rakolta by family of Ann & John Fusoiu.

TO THE SOCIAL MINISTRY FUND: In memory of Luther Hertler from Merl and Trudy Terry.

TO THE RON RICHARDS MEMORIAL FUND by: Jim & Kathy Atkin and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Smith, Shawn Smith & Mabel Babb; Jill Leader; Wanda Craig Hilgendorf; Pastor Jim and Justine Ackerman; Kris & Julie Atwood; The Jameson Family; Ann Labarge; Rosemarie Killenberger; Clem & Cheryl Wolfrom; Frank & Linda Turner; Betty Wright; Dennis & Linda Toth; Eugene & Marjorie Sumney; Sheila Buller; Russ & Lillian Marley; Bill & Claire Fuhrman; Tami Scott; Chris & Cindy Elliott; Gordon & Pat Anderson; Merl & Trudy Terry; Pat Marion; Fred & Mickey Wilkinson; Gladys & Don Ulmer; John Basso Sr.; John & Sonia Basso; Harold & Annette Stieg; Sheryl Swiderski; Mary Ridenour; Lawrence & Linda Savel; Duane & Catherine Soldan; Irma Hoops; Sharon Manthey; Peter & Tina Prevas; Dr. Robert & Jacqueline Wilson; Terry & Sandra Treat; Harvey & Marie Stromer; Daniel & Katrina Mattice; Gerald & Denise Atkin; Ed & Esther Gazel; Andrew & Vanessa Eskelinen; Maria Dioyenis & Tina Prevas; Arthur & Carolyn Atkinson; Dee Dee & Steph Essayan; Karen & Ray McGill; Mary Zerba; William & Mary Staehlin; Linda Schaible; Judith Wallace; Fred & Sally Restum; Tim & Mary Zimmerman; Richard & Barbara Krueger; Ron & Johanna Bauer; Verna & John Besancon; Kenneth Burchill; Scott & Edie Duggins; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Carter; Jeff & JoAnn Johnson

TO THE BART LARIVE MEMORIAL FUND by: Pastor Jim and Justine Ackerman; Debbie, Bruce, Christopher & Brittany George; Chris, Cindy, Callie & Carrie Elliott; Sharon Manthey; Celia Zielesch; Scott & Edie Duggins; David & Betty Bradbury; Arthur & Bettye Kelsey; Konrad & Susan Kohl; Carol Schave; Gordon & Pat Anderson; Merl & Trudy Terry; Jean & James Mackey; Eugene & Marjorie Sumney; Rosemarie Killenberger; Barbara & Richard Krueger; Wanda Craig Hilgendorf

TO THE JIM WOOTEN MEMORIAL FUND by: Tom Scott; Bill & Claire Fuhrman; Merl & Trudy Terry

TO THE SEMINARY FUND: In memory of Bart Larive by Russ & Lillian Marley; In memory of Larry Maisch by Russ & Lillian Marley; In memory of Jim Wooten by Russ & Lillian Marley; In memory of Irene Fischer by Russ & Lillian Marley; Thanksgiving for successful surgery for daughter Terri Winchester by Russ & Lillian Marley; In memory of Bart Larive by Heinz & Dorothy Wernecke; In memory of Bart Larive by Tom Scott; In memory of Ron Richards by Heinz & Dorothy Wernecke.

TO THE STAINED GLASS WINDOW FUND: In memory of Clarence W. Bay, father of Bruce & Esther Bay.

TO THE CROWN FINANCIAL MINISTRY by: In memory of Lawrence Allen, father of Sheryl Swiderski, by Cheryl Thomas.

APRIL CHURCH CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

ONGOING EVENTS

SUNDAYS

8:15am Worship
9:30am SonLight City
9:45am Worship;
Adult Bible Studies
11:15am Worship
6pm KidsTime Gym (2nd/4th
Sundays)

MONDAYS

9:30am Int'l Friends Walking
Club (Somerset Mall)

10am Adult Bible Study
6pm Stephen Ministry

TUESDAYS

7am Men's Bible Breakfast
10am Adult Bible Study
10am MOMS Group
12noon Internat'l Friends
5:45pm Prayer Time
7pm Volleyball

WEDNESDAYS

9:30am Int'l Friends Walking
Club (Somerset Mall)

4:30PM 4Cs
5:30PM Dinner
6:30pm Bible Classes for Kids
& Adults/Confirmation Class
6:30 Crown Financial Class

FRIDAYS

6p Scrapbook Outreach (4/7)

SATURDAYS

5:30pm Worship



CALENDAR ON THE WEB!

Go to
www.coclc.org
and click on the
"Calendar" link .

Wendy Scrimger
should be
contacted for
calendar changes
or room
scheduling. Her
phone number is
248-426-7554
and email
address is:
[wsscricrger@
peoplepc.com](mailto:wsscricrger@peoplepc.com)

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/1 Alexandria Miller	4/10 William Kube	4/22 Shane O'Connell
4/2 Chuck Gilcher	4/10 Anne Stieg	4/23 Dean Daniels
4/3 Doc Myrold	4/11 Robert Schulte	4/23 Konrad Kohl
4/3 Eric Rem	4/12 Ryan Boggs	4/25 Lynn Brown
4/3 Carol Wright	4/12 Jake Hammarlund	4/25 Sarah Fox
4/3 Mary Zimmerman	4/13 Derek Atkin	4/25 Mary Staehlin
4/5 Amy Alexander	4/13 Ashley Kuehl	4/26 Alysaa Aiello
4/5 Kevin Kittle	4/14 Kris Atwood	4/26 Leanna Schulte
4/5 Tara Streng	4/14 Tom Eley	4/27 Kathy Dowbenko
4/6 Ryan Alexander	4/14 Jennifer Everson	4/27 Arynne Loebel
4/6 Jane Levine	4/14 David Schaefer	4/27 Cherie Ritter
4/6 Vivian Olter	4/16 Bryce Evans	4/27 Cary Schwab
4/6 Marc Robb	4/16 Eleanor Gebert	4/27 Heather Sherk
4/6 Sharon Ulmer	4/16 Krystyn Irvine	4/28 Tarah Ehlert
4/7 Alberta Lupin	4/17 Eric Domeier	4/29 Debbie Alexander
4/8 Melinda Duggins	4/17 Amber Lampkin	4/29 Ryan Manthey
4/8 Janet Henke	4/19 Madison Duggins	4/29 Jessica Schaefer
4/9 Sharon Emery	4/19 Arthur Eckert	4/30 Brendan Rogers
4/9 Nicholas Primeau	4/19 Gladys Ulmer	4/30 Donn Ulmer
4/9 Wendi Suitt	4/21 Amir Khamseh	

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: SAVE, PRAY, SEND CARDS

DIRECTORY ADDITIONS:

Danielle Nickerson &
Nathan Eller (soon to be
married); 1288 Liza Blvd.
Pontiac, MI 48342; 248-
340-1866

Richard Scott & Nicholas
Scott (son); 911 Dreon,
Clawson, MI 48017; 248-
341-3663

randscott@aol.com

DIRECTORY DELETIONS:

The Irvine family
Krystyn, Ashlynn & John

SHUT-INS:

Richard Robb, Farmington
Health Care Center, 34225
Grand River, Farmington, MI
48335-3440

Lillian Spellicy (mother of
Doug LaFontaine)
Edna Foss (mother of Lois
Casey)
Waltonwood Retirement

Living, 3450 West 13 Mile
Rd, Royal Oak, MI 48073

Jan Hartman, Sunrise
Assisted Living of West
Bloomfield, 7005 Pontiac
Trl, W Bloomfield, MI 48323

MILITARY:

Ryan Alexander, PO Box
70786, Ft. Bragg, NC 28307

Douglas Quitmeyer; PRG 6-
3 (1); APO AE 09354 -
3005



Jeff Sue Grunewald
4/8/89

Erik & Shelly
Alexander
4/20/2002

Bill & Vera Dreger
4/14/1950

Scott & Edie Duggins
4/12/1975

Armand & Eleanor
Gebert 4/24/1976

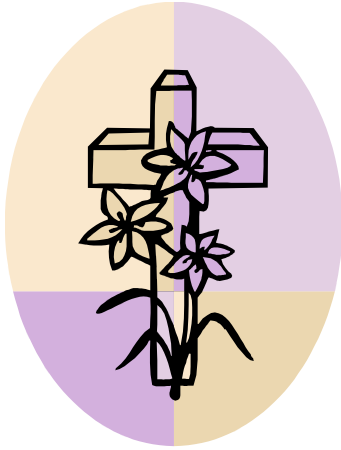
Steve & Miriam Maki
4/3/1976

Bruce & Ellen Markel
4/27/1974

Rick & Wendy
Scrimger 4/5/1991

John & Mary Lou
Temple 4/14/1973

John & Kim Zaidan
4/24/1998



**Reaching Beyond
Our Walls**

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

1100 Lone Pine Road
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

Phone: 248-646-5886

Fax: 248-646-5968

Email: info@coclc.org

REV. JON W. REUSCH,
SENIOR PASTOR
REV. JAMES ACKERMAN,
ASSISTANT PASTOR
REV. STEPHEN GRAFE,
ASSISTANT PASTOR
BETH KALUSNIAK, CO-EDITOR
KAREN MILLER, CO-EDITOR
KIM STEIN, DISTRIBUTION

Grace Notes: He Is The Air We Breathe

*"This is the air I
breathe..."*

So, exactly how much do we need Jesus today? Odds are we're not reading this on a Sunday, so if it is the middle of the week, could we get by without bothering Him or waking Him up with all that singing and drums and noisy organ music we use on "worship day"?

Can we even get by without thinking about Him at all? I mean, can we talk? Do we really need Him today? And, if so, for what? If there isn't any pressing crisis or dire emergency, could we coast through the day without crying out for His intervention? Have we ever collapsed into bed at night realizing, with a sigh of relief, that we've negotiated our way

through the day without sending out some kind of plea for supernatural help?

But, what if He isn't there just for "help"? If we are to believe the words of Matthew 6:25-32, we need Him for everything, not just 9-1-1 emergencies.

As the Author-of-life, He is responsible for everything we need to live; food, clothes, a roof over our head, the ground we walk on and the air we breathe. It is He who keeps our hearts beating, our brain waves waving, gives our eyes sight and our ears hearing. It is He who keeps every molecule in our body living and functioning every nanosecond of life.

And it is He who holds FOREVER in the palm of

His hand - and alongside it, our soul - with the promise that it will never die. It is His *intention* that a moment never comes when we won't need Him. We will never draw a breath which is not His gift. So, if you haven't spoken to Him yet today because there were no emergencies, go ahead, lift up your spirit and give Him thanks...for everything else.

*"This is my daily bread;
Your very Word spoken
to me. And I, I'm
desperate for You. And
I, I'm lost without You."*

Song texts from :
BREATHE by Marie
Barnett © 1995
Mercy/Vineyard
Publishing

Bob Alexander,
Worship and Music
Director

Your Son for a Quarter

Several years ago, a new preacher moved to Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget, it's only a quarter. Who

would worry about this little amount. Anyway, they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, then handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change." The driver with a smile replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town? I have been thinking lately about going to church somewhere. I just

wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you Sunday."

When the preacher stepped off the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, "Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter." Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. Always be on guard and remember that you carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself "Christian."