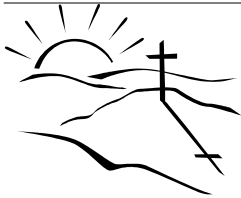




Cross Section



Senior Pastor's Message

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

I pray the Lord is blessing your heart and life in a rich and beautiful way this spring. Since we do not control the economic fortunes of our nation and world, and government is never the answer to the deeper issues of life, may Jesus be the source of your joy and peace. Ultimately, all things are under the control of the God we worship and adore. Knowing He loves us intimately and eternally, we can all echo with St. Paul, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Truly, we are always more than conquerors through Him who loves us! During these uncertain times, may each of us rise above circumstance and live joyfully in the light of God's love. What a marvelous time for Christians to witness their faith and love for the One who made us to be His own.

With the arrival of spring, Easter is always around the corner. I pray every person who calls themselves Christian will add their voice to the shouts of "He is risen!". How blest that we should be called the children of God! He has promised us His presence, and assured us that nothing in all of Creation will ever separate us from His love in Jesus. Can we learn to live above our circumstances and the challenges of life? God is faithful, and He will do what He has promised! The question will only be answered when each of us makes the decision to live in and through the grace of our God. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus promised us His peace. Moving forward, we must consciously strive to live by the Spirit. Just as spring brings renewed life to the world, may the Holy Spirit bring new life and vitality to each of you dear children of God. There is work to be done, and a Savior worthy of being served. There is a plan and purpose for our lives. There is a Savior who is counting upon us to do our part. God help us all to do it for Jesus sake! Happy Easter, dear friends in Jesus, may His love lift and strengthen your life. May you keep growing in His grace.

Love in Jesus,
Pastor Jon

P.S. Remember, the struggles we face today can never diminish the overwhelming joy of eternity with Christ!!!! In Christ, none of our members are retired, unemployed, or without hope. We are the children of the Lord God almighty, the creator, sustainer, and owner of all things. He will provide all your needs in Jesus....Yes, He will!

APRIL 2009

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Palm Sunday
April 5
9:00 & 10:45 a.m.**

**Maundy Thursday
April 9
7:00 p.m.**

**Good Friday
April 10
1:00 and 7:00 p.m.**

**Easter Sunday
April 12
9:00 and 10:45 a.m.**

**NO WORSHIP ON
SATURDAY, APRIL
11 AT 5:30 P.M.**

Inside this issue:

Weathering Hardship Like Joseph Did

Freedom of Choice Act

Mission News

Upcoming Events

Thank You Letters

Important Dates and Info



For information about Crown Financial Ministries, please visit

www.crown.org .
If you would like budget assistance from a certified counselor outside of Cross of Christ, visit

www.crown.org/coaches

Joseph's Life (1805 BC) and Our Life 2009

These are difficult days in America economically. Even Christians are suffering. But as you read through the Bible, you realize none of God's people were spared hardship.

Joseph was no exception. But despite his difficulties, Joseph didn't indulge in self-pity. He continually sought to serve the Lord, and God did some amazing things through him.

Take a look at Genesis 37-50. Here are seven lessons to be learned from his life:

Trust God In all circumstances – Joseph continued to trust God even though he was sold into slavery by his own brothers. When you give yourself to God, you have nothing to fear. Whatever your financial situation, trust the Lord to provide for your needs.

Be obedient – Joseph was faithful to the Lord and served with excellence in whatever job He gave him. God blessed Joseph for his obedience. If you obey the Lord, He will bless you too.

Flee temptation – Joseph fled when Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him, but her false accusations resulted in his imprisonment. However, God blessed Joseph even in jail. Whether it's a financial or other temptation that isn't God's plan for you, flee and stand on the truth of God's Word.

Allow God to use you – Joseph had a heart to serve God, and the Lord put him in a lot of different places where He could serve God's purposes (Potiphar's house, prison, and as ruler of Egypt). No matter where you are right now financially, the Lord can use you if you have a servant's heart.

Save for the future - As ruler of Egypt, Joseph saved food during the seven years of plenty, so there would be enough to eat during the seven years of famine. Saving means, not spending today, so you will have money tomorrow. Seek to save at least 10% of your income and steadily build an emergency fund equal to three months' living expenses.

Be generous – When Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy food during the famine, he gave them what they needed. Joseph later provided land in Egypt for his entire family and their livestock. God blesses you, so you can be a blessing to others. Give as He leads.

Forgive those who hurt you - After the death of Joseph's father, his brothers feared he would seek revenge. But instead, Joseph promised to care for them and their children. When someone wrongs you, don't hold a grudge. Forgive as your sins have been forgiven by Jesus.

As Joseph looked back on his life, he saw God's perspective on what had happened to him. If we apply these lessons from Joseph's life, we'll see our current economic adversity as an opportunity for God to do great things for His kingdom through us.

Please send your comments and suggestions to terrycrown@comcast.net.

MISSION NEWS AND NOTES

April, 2009 Plate Offering Recipients

This month's offerings have been designated for Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac, MI. Grace Centers of Hope is Oakland County's oldest and largest homeless shelter providing hope and help since 1942. Today, Grace Centers of Hope is considered one of the leading faith-based organizations in Southeastern Michigan—daily confronting issues of homelessness, addiction, poverty and spiritual emptiness. On any given night, Grace Centers of Hope will accommodate between 150-200 men, women and children. Each year they serve over 127,000 meals and provide over 55,000 nights of stay.

LWML Spring Rally

Area Lutheran Women will meet for a time of fellowship, worship, and information on Thursday, April 23, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. The evening will include an international potluck, a presentation by Elise Arndt, and a shawl-folding demonstration.

Location: All Nations Church (at Faith-Troy), 37635 Dequindre (north of 16 Mile), Troy
The cost of \$6.00 includes dinner. Childcare will be available at a cost of \$1.00 per child. For more information and to register call Pat Marion (248/332-4030) or Dorothy Wernecke (248/646-0726) by Sunday, April 19th.

Hurricane Katrina Relief Mission Trip

After four years since the worst natural disaster in U.S. history hit the coast of Mississippi and Louisiana, there is still much work to be done. Camp Restore, a Christ-centered ministry of the Southern District Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod Recovery Assistance, is in need of able-bodied volunteers willing to help reconstruct and repair homes and churches in the New Orleans area. This will be Cross of Christ's third visit to the area. Dates for this year's trip are June 13-21. The weekends will be used for travel time, and the work week (15-19) will be devoted to construction activity. Please contact Ruth and Doug LaFontaine at 248-935-7231 or lafontainedoug@aol.com if you are interested in this effort to help our neighbors to the south.



Haiti Mission Trip

This year's trip is scheduled to be a construction/VBS trip during summer from July 4 - July 11. If you cannot go but want to help, there are many jobs to be done here at Cross of Christ. It is truly a team effort. We ask that you pray about your possible involvement and listen for God's message to you. The deadline to register for the trip is April 12, 2009.

There are containers in the narthex and coffee area to receive donations of hygiene and school supplies, which will be distributed in Haiti, as follows: pens, pencils, spiral notebooks, pain relievers (Tylenol, Advil, Aleve, etc.), vitamins (infant, children's, and prenatal), anti-fungal creams, shampoo, bar soap, hand towels, lotions, wound care items.

For more information, please contact the team leaders:

Linda and Dennis Toth - 248-338-3606 delitooth@att.net

Diane & Ed Stanke - 248-505-7298 dekbmr@aol.com

Kip Ewing - kip@kipewing.com

Local Mission Opportunity

On the third Saturday of each month, a group of volunteers distributes clothing, blankets, etc. to the needy - many of them homeless - in Detroit. For more information and/or to volunteer, contact Sharon Yarlagadda.

India Mission Trip

U.E.M.I. invites interested persons to join them on short-term mission trips to India each January. It is not too early to think about the 2010 trip. For more information, contact Pastor Jim.

SECOND UPWARD SEASON A SUCCESS!

The second year of Upward Basketball and Cheerleading came to an awesome conclusion with a Closing Ceremony on March 15th. Entertainment was provided by Dan Wetzel, a basketball entertainer and motivational speaker. Dan encouraged the children to “choose to be a champion”. He told the children that every day they have the opportunity to make good or bad choices and that it is important to continually make good, God-pleasing decisions.

Given our experience from last year, the second season was much less stressful. We were blessed to have 18 children returning from our first season. Of the 48 children in the program this year only 11 of them were from families that are members at Cross of Christ. This means we had the opportunity to connect with 37 children that might not otherwise have stepped foot in our facility. There are 3 families that have visited our church on a Sunday morning. We pray the Holy Spirit would fan the flame of faith in those families.

We continue to be blessed with very dedicated volunteers. The following coaches have been involved in both seasons so far: Ron Bereznicki, Scott Kos, Deb Concannon, and Lindsey Rem. We appreciate their commitment to this program. Upward would not be a success without the assistance of many volunteers, in addition to the coaches. Such as those involved in the following areas:

- Game Day Setup
- Referees
- Devotional Presenters
- Prayer Partners

We look forward to next season. Registration forms will be available around September. If you have any interest in serving in this outreach activity, we would love to hear from you!

Looking Upward!
Jeff & Sue Grunewald



Mom to Mom Sale

Saturday, May 2nd
10:00–1:00
Admission \$1

We are sold out, BUT....you and your friends can still come and find some fantastic bargains on gently used infant and children's clothing, toys, and big stuff...like high chairs, strollers and more!

Contact Sue Grunewald with questions:
mom2mom@bloomfieldcross.org or
248-375-2332



Messianic Friendship Group

Events for April
Join Messianic Jews and Christians...

Passover Seder

Congregation Shema Yisrael
Wednesday April 8th 6 – 9 PM
Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church
3600 Telegraph Rd., Bloomfield Hills
Call 248-593-5150 for reservations
\$20/person
(Seating begins at 5:30 PM)

Holocaust Center Tour

Congregation Sar Shalom
Sunday, April 26th
2-4 PM
28123 Orchard Lake Rd., Farmington Hills
(north of 12 Mile)
Donations accepted

Questions?
248-626-4076

Parish Nursing: Consequences of the Freedom Of Choice Act

Dear Church Family Members,

Thanks to those of you who donated blood at our Blood Drive last month. 26 people actually donated and 7 were willing but unable for a variety of reasons. I'm so glad our church can help our community in this way, and pray for a better response each time we have a drive. Over 900 pints are needed every day in Southeastern MI!

The responses to the colon cancer screening for cancer has been great! I had to order more kits. There may still be some at the Welcome Center; they must be returned by April 10th.

Do you know about the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA)? In the years since abortion became legal in 1973, many states passed restrictions on abortion. If FOCA becomes the law, as the new administration would like, over 580 federal, state and local laws related to abortion restriction, would be nullified.

These laws would be eliminated:

- Partial birth abortion bans (it would become legal)
- Restriction on taxpayer funding of abortion (the Hyde Amendment)
- Women's right to know laws (informed consent)
- Parental consent and notification laws
- Bans on abortion after viability (when a child can survive outside the womb)
- State and federal conscience clauses (would force pro-life doctors and nurses to participate in abortions and other acts they object to; pharmacists would be forced to dispense drugs they object to, like the morning-after pill, which can cause an early abortion)

There is much public reaction to this bill, so it would probably not pass Congress as ONE bill, but would probably be attached as "amendments" to other bills.

This should be very offensive to us as Christians. This is a time where each of us should let our voices be heard. Please write to the President and your congressional representatives and express your concern. I will have more contact information at church if you wish to email, write or call those who make our laws. Watch for this information in early April.

May God bless you as you prepare your hearts for this Easter season,
Mary Lou Temple RN
 Parish Nurse

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Alexandria Miller	4/1	Nick Primeau	4/9	Gabrielle Azzam	4/25
Chuck Gilcher	4/2	William Kube	4/10	Lynn Brown	4/25
Doc Myrold	4/3	Anne Stieg	4/10	Chelsea Davidson	4/25
Eric Rem	4/3	Robert Schulte	4/11	Mary Staehlin	4/25
Carol Wright	4/3	Ryan Boggs	4/12	Leanna Schulte	4/26
Mary Zimmerman	4/3	Dick Walton	4/12	Kathy Dowbenko	4/27
Amy Alexander	4/5	Derek Atkin	4/13	Arynne Loebel	4/27
Kevin Kittle	4/5	Jennifer Everson	4/14	Cherie Ritter	4/27
Tara Streng	4/5	David Schaefer	4/14	Cary Schwab	4/27
Ryan Alexander	4/6	Bryce Evans	4/16	Heather Sherk	4/27
Jane Lozen	4/6	Eleanor Gebert	4/16	Tarah Ehlert	4/28
Sharon Ulmer	4/6	Amber Lampkin	4/17	Trevor Ulmer	4/28
Alberta Lupin	4/7	Ann Walton	4/18	Debbie Alexander	4/29
Adriana Miller	4/7	Madison Duggins	4/19	Ryan Manthey	4/29
Ashley Miller	4/7	Arthur Eckert	4/19	Jessica Schaefer	4/29
Jason Price	4/7	Gladys Ulmer	4/19	Donn Ulmer	4/30
Melinda Duggins	4/8	Dean Daniels	4/23		
Sharon Emery	4/9	Konrad Kohl	4/23		





To all our dear friends and spiritual siblings at Cross of Christ,

Thank you so very much for your selflessness, thoughtfulness and kindness in creating the amazing “welcome home” video for our son, Ryan. (Debbie affectionately refers to it as “Ryan’s Parade”.) It was so moving to see so many people we love knitting their hearts to ours as you wished him well, joyfully welcomed him back to the USA and thanked him for his (and his team’s) service.

Thank you, too, for having joined us these many past months in prayers for his safety while serving in Iraq. God was so faithful to hear your prayers and grace Ryan with protection of heart, mind and body.

Special thanks to Deb Lampkin for organizing and filming and editing the video. Watching this video again frankly reminded us of heaven and that glorious day when each of us in Jesus will be applauded and welcomed to the place our hearts have desired to be for so long.

We can tell you when Ryan saw the video, there wasn’t a dry eye in the house. He felt so embraced, so humbly honored and so loved by you—we know it was a taste of heaven for him, too.

You are the more precious than you know. With all our thanks, we wish you God’s ceaseless blessings.

In Jesus,
Bob and Debbie Alexander

“Grant us your salvation Lord!” Ps 85:7

Dear blessed friends at Cross of Christ,

Your faithfulness is greatly appreciated. Every time we visit we are warmly greeted. We are so grateful for the gift that you have been to our family. We pray the Lord’s blessings upon your ministry and all who enter your doors. We will look forward to visiting with you soon.

Thank you for your financial support.

The Blodgett Family

Dear Pastor Jon,

Thank you to Cross of Christ for your cards and prayers during my illness. I am improving daily. Your prayers carried me through my operation as God worked through the doctors and nurses. I thank God for being with me through my surgery.

Pastor Jon—your visit was very appreciated and uplifting. Thank you so much.

God’s blessings to you and your family and members of Cross of Christ.

*In God’s Love,
Jeane F. Lee*

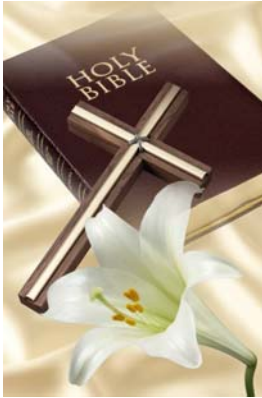
APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Erik & Shelly Alexander	4/20/2002	Brian & Debra Maher	4/30/2004
William & Vera Dreger	4/14/1950	Steve & Miriam Maki	4/3/1976
Scott & Edie Duggins	4/12/1975	Bruce & Ellen Markel	4/27/1974
Armand & Eleanor Gebert	4/24/1976	Rick & Wendy Scrimger	4/5/1991
Jeff & Sue Grunewald	4/8/1989	John & MaryLou Temple	4/14/1973
Aubrey & Jeane Lee	4/13/1956	Jon & Kim Zaidan	4/24/1998



Reminder: The deadline for the Cross Section is the 10th of the preceding month. Submit your information via email to newsletter@bloofieldcross.org

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: PRAY, SEND CARDS



New Members

Marilyn Wittkopf
7633 S. Eston Rd.
Clarkston, MI 48348
248-515-2746

Mr. Brad Winter
Children: Shane & Hanna
558 Weybridge Dr.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
248-758-9241

Sick & Shut In

Mrs. Florence Arendt
Farmington Hills Inn
30350 West Twelve Mile Road
Farmington, Michigan 48339

Kathleen Kaiser
Elizabeth Briarbank Assisted
Living for Women
39315 Woodward
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
(248) 203-2728

Mr. Bill (Arvid) Johnson
(Florida Address)
680 Island Way, #709
Clearwater, Florida 33767

**Mr. and Mrs Art (Bettye)
Kelsey**
50 Merrimac Court
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
48304-3339

Mr. Tom Labrenz
1779 Mansfield Road
Birmingham, Michigan 48009-
7273

**Mr. and Mrs. Chuck (Ruth)
Meyka**
801 South Long Lake Road
North
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

Mrs. Jinny Poirier (sister of
Diane Stanke)
2309 Leslie Circle
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105

Mr. Bill Scarlet (father of
Debbie Alexander)
4890 Sherwell Drive
Waterford, Michigan 48327

Mrs. Gladys Ulmer
5503 Middlebelt Road
West Bloomfield, Michigan
48323-3661

Mrs. Johanna Wurst
1010 Argyle Avenue
Pontiac, Michigan 48341-
2303

Family & Friends In The Military

Mr. Ryan Alexander -home!
(children: Caleb & Caitlyn)
Sgt. Ryan Alexander
eMail:
msualexander@sbcglobal.net

Tyler Barnes
Tylerbarnes@us.army.mil

A1C Garretson, Zachary P. (in
Iraq, cousin of Juli Garretson)
USAF/332nd EAMXS/Tiger
AMU
APO AE 09315-9997

Michael and Jena Gruits (son
of Diane Stanke)
3937 Plainville Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45227
(children: Avery & Roman)

**Sgt. Robert and Mrs. Nicole
Luecke** (friend of the Reusch
Family)
19049 County Route 189
Adams, New York 13606-
3214

Doug Quitmeyer (family
member of Betty & Pastor Jon)
699 14th Street , #525
San Diego, California 92101

**Mr. and Mrs. Keith A.
Waller** (godson of Betty and
Pastor Jon) –serving in
Germany for 3 years
(child: Brayden)



APRIL CHURCH CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

ONGOING EVENTS

*Easter Worship Schedule
on Front Page*

SUNDAY

9:00 Worship
9:00 Sunday School &
Classes
10:45 Worship

MONDAY

10am Adult Bible Study
10am Moms w/young
Children

TUESDAY

7am Men's Bible Breakfast
10 am Adult Bible Study
11:45 Primetimers (4/7)
5:45pm Prayer Time

WEDNESDAY

5:00 4C's
6:30—Classes

FRIDAY

6:00 Scrapbook Crop
(4/3)

SATURDAY

5:30 Worship

CALENDAR ON THE WEB!

Go to
[www.bloomfield
cross.org](http://www.bloomfieldcross.org) and
click on the
"Calendar" link to
the right side of
the home page.



Oh, Come, Let Us Adore Him

The refrain of one of the best-known and most beloved Christmas carols is “Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.” Those words immediately evoke an image in our minds of shepherds leaving their flocks and bowing down before the newborn baby and of Wise Men, traveling great distances to see the Child, kneeling to adore Him and placing their gifts before Him.

It’s a scene that makes sense to us, quite unlike the scene before us on Calvary. Here we picture a beaten and bruised man, hanging on a cross, a tool designed to inflict optimal pain upon a convicted criminal. The man is the Baby in the Manger. Although He has reached adulthood, He has done nothing to deserve this punishment. *“Though He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth”* (Isaiah 53:9), He was *“oppressed and afflicted”* (Isaiah 53:7), *“He was taken away...He was cut off from the land of the living”* (Isaiah 53:8).

And, as for adoring Him, that was hardly the case. *“He was despised and rejected by men. . . Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not”* (Isaiah 53:3). Ah, but there were those who adored Him still, women who stood near the cross, loving Him and adoring Him to the end (John 19:25). Although His disciples initially deserted Him (Mark 14:50), some returned to keep watch with Him in His final hour (John 19:26-27). In horror and grief, they adored Him.

“What would we have done?” we may ask ourselves. Would we have run and hid? Would we have ignored the whole ordeal and gone about our business? Would we, like the centurion, have praised God and confessed, *“Surely this was a righteous man”* (Luke 23:47)?

That question need not take up much of our time. A better question is, “What are we doing with the knowledge we have?” We know Christ did not stay on that cross nor in the tomb. We know we have a risen Savior. He is the One Who deserves our adoration now and forevermore. He is the One Who deserves our gifts, gifts He gives each of us to use as we tell the Good News of the birth, suffering and death, and resurrection of His Son Who came bringing us forgiveness of sins and life eternal. Some of us, like the Wise Men, are blessed with monetary gifts to be used to support mission and ministry. Others of us are more like the shepherds and the apostles, able to *“spread the word concerning what [we] have been told. . . about this Child”* (Luke 2:17). All of us, like the women before the cross, give witness as we adore our beaten and bruised, victorious Savior.



Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

1100 Lone Pine Road
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

Phone: 248-646-5886

Fax: 248-646-5968

Email: info@bloomfieldcross.org

REV. JON W. REUSCH,
SENIOR PASTOR
REV. JAMES ACKERMAN,
ASSISTANT PASTOR
KAREN MILLER, EDITOR
DIANN RICHARDS, DISTRIBUTION