



Cross Section



Senior Pastor's Message

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

Well, this is the last effort for 2007, and I hope and pray it finds you all in festive spirits. Thanksgiving is upon us, and Christmas is just around the corner. I truly wish for each of you the most blessed celebrations with family and friends possible. We Christians should be the most celebratory creatures on the face of the earth! Our Lord became a man! How can we not celebrate the wonder of God's love? Actually, for many Cross of Christ members, celebration takes place weekly. It seems we simply cannot find anything better to do with our time than praise and give glory to Jesus! And, surprisingly, we enjoy gathering each week with others who love and appreciate what Jesus did so long ago at Calvary. I wonder how you would feel if half of your family and loved ones absented themselves from every celebration your family hosts. Although they would still be part of the family, it certainly would hurt the heart to have so many absent. Have you ever considered God's heart? Have you ever actually thought about his feelings each week? Does He ever experience sorrow when so many of His children cannot find time to express love for Him? Do you appreciate what God did for His world through His Son?

On December 6,7,8, each of us will have a wonderful opportunity to introduce our friends and family to the love of God. Perhaps you could invite friends to the concerts and take them for dinner afterwards, or even back to your home. Bob Alexander and his cast of hundreds has set the table for you to expose loved ones to Jesus love. There really is no excuse for not taking advantage of this wonderful series of concerts. Isn't it time to take Christ's mission seriously? Merry Christmas is nice once a year, but thank you Jesus is an eternal happening. God bless you as you plan your holiday celebrations. Make it Christmas this year by placing Jesus at the center of all cards, plans, celebrations, parties at work, and other activities. May Jesus keep you growing in His grace.

Love in Jesus,
Pastor Jon

Thanks to all of our Cross of Christ family members for your love and faithfulness to the Savior. Betty, Faith, and I are blessed to be part of such a loving family.

DECEMBER
2007

PRAYER FOCUS

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.
2 Corinthians 12:9-10

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MISSION NEWS AND NOTES

December, 2007 Plate Offering Recipients

Beginning with this new fiscal year, 100% of the plate offerings will be for mission support. This month's offerings have been designated for POBLO.

POBLO's (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach) ministry is to evangelize Muslims and others, to raise up spiritual leaders among them, and to establish Christ worshipping communities for them. Nationalities served are Afghans, Indians, Pakistanis, Arabs, Iranian, and Africans.

Giving Tree

This year's gift program for underprivileged children will focus on stocking the Holiday Store at Baldwin Center. Needy families come to the Holiday Store to select gifts according to their requirements from the stocked shelves. There will be no set dollar limit, and gifts are not to be wrapped. A partial list of items is below. Mitten-shaped tags, which have ages and gift suggestions on the back side, and guidelines, which are printed on bright red paper, are available on a table in the coffee area.

The deadline for bringing these items to Cross of Christ is Wednesday, December 12, 2007. Decorated boxes for receiving the gifts will be in the church narthex, in the chapel narthex, and at Cook's Academy.

There will be several families at St. Paul Lutheran Church and International Center in Pontiac for whom gifts will be provided. These gifts will need to be wrapped. If you would like to sponsor one of these families, contact Verna Besancon at 248/253-0289 or servantvb@gmail.com.

Gift Suggestions:

- *No stuffed animals
- *Please include batteries if needed

Infants and Toddlers (ages 0-5)

- Boys' clothes (pants and tops) sizes 3, 4, 5,6,
- Girls' clothes (sizes 3, 5, 6-6x)

Boys (ages 6-12)

- Clothing: clothes (sizes 6-14) tops & pants, socks,
- Other: trucks, Legos, Lincoln Logs, action figurines, sports balls, train sets, matchbox toys, handheld games

Girls (ages 6-12)

- Clothing: clothes (sizes 6X, 7-8, 12-14) tops/pants, socks, underwear,
- Other: Barbie & Ken accessories & clothes, dolls, Easy Bake ovens, Lite-Brite sets, sleds, art sets

All Boys and Girls

- Videos, puzzles & games, book sets, backpacks, stockings for stuffing

Teen Boys

- Clothing: socks, hats, gloves, clothes (sizes: Boys 14-16, Men's S, M, L, XLG), coats & jackets, underwear
- Other: models, sports equipment, wallets, radios, CD players & CD's, watches, handheld games, sports balls, backpacks, fleece throws, skate-boards, **No hockey sticks**

(continued on next page)

Mission Notes (Continued)

Teen Girls

Clothing: clothes (sizes: S, M, L, XL), PJ's & slippers, jackets, underwear
Other: make-up kits, jewelry boxes, jewelry, watches, hair accessories, hair dryers, toiletries, bath sets, backpacks, fleece throws, teen craft items

General Items

Coloring books, wrapping paper, tags and scotch tape, books for ages 0-5 years and 6-12 years, Christmas cards, games, toothbrushes (all ages), toothpaste, fleece wraps, boom boxes, bulk movie passes, gift certificates, games

Some of the gift tags on the tree are for needy men and women of the community.

Katrina Relief Mission Trip

Late winter or early spring of 2008 is the target date for a return trip to the southern United States to assist with the rebuilding efforts still in process. Skilled construction workers are needed to be part of the team. Contact Ruth LaFontaine for more information at 248/539-8405 or lafontainedoug@aol.com.

Haiti Mission Trip Next Summer

Diane & Ed Stanke and Linda & Dennis Toth will serve as coordinators for the mission trip to Haiti. Dates will be June 30- July 8, 2008 and July 7-July 15, 2008. Watch further newsletters for more details, or contact these couples directly.



CROSS OF CHRIST

Katrina Relief Mission Trip 2008

TO EITHER

CAMP BILOXI, MS or CAMP RESTORE, LA

TRIP DATES—TO BE DETERMINED (LATE WINTER OR SPRING)

Right now we need two things:

- Skilled workers from the building trades: licensed contractors, plumbers, electricians, carpenters, heating and cooling, dry walling, etc. We will build our team(s) around the skilled workers, and choose our date based on their availability.
- Donations of frequent flyer miles from members. We would like to fly down and rent a couple vehicles at the airport for transportation.

To Volunteer and/or for information contact:

Ruth & Doug LaFontaine
lafontainedoug@aol.com
Home phone (248) 539-8405
Cell phone (248) 935-7231



Parish Nursing: Handling Holiday Stress

Dear Church Family Members,

The Christmas Season is upon us. Some of us look forward to this time of year with eager anticipation, while others dread it as a time of added stress and anxiety.

Yes, Christians deal with Holiday Stress, too! We have "normal stuff" + preparations for Christmas = unrealistic expectations. All this is further complicated if we are dealing with the loss of a loved one.

Emotional symptoms of stress are anxiety, nervousness, depression, sadness, moodiness and loneliness. Mental symptoms include difficulty concentrating or making decisions, forgetfulness, and increased sensitivity to criticism.

Here are some suggestions to help deal with the feelings we experience this time of year: Slow down; decide what is a priority; let the rest go. Give thanks for your blessings. Focus on Jesus and what He has done for you. Simplify your life; don't be afraid to say no. Delegate chores to family members. Take care of yourself (food, rest, exercise, don't overindulge). Avoid unrealistic expectations. Enjoy the simple things. Help someone else; give to those in need. Forgive someone.

If you're dealing with a recent loss or missing someone who was close to you: Allow yourself to grieve and express emotions; everyone does it differently. It's OK to change holiday rituals and start new ones. Talk about the person you lost. Accept help for holiday tasks. Join a support group if that would benefit you. Expect to be emotional at unexpected times. Grief is a journey, but there is hope at the end.

May God bless you and your family as you celebrate the birth of His Son, our Savior. May His PEACE and JOY live in your heart!

*In Jesus,
Mary Lou Temple RN
Parish Nurse*

Messianic Music Fest

**Sunday,
December 9th
2pm**

**St. Lorenz
Lutheran
School
Frankenmuth**

**Music by
Congregation
Shema Yisrael**

**Learn about the
meaning of
Hannukkah**

**Buffet and Book
Table**

**For more
information, call
248-626-4076
All are welcome!!**



AN UPWARD MOMENT

On November 15th we held our first evaluation night for the children registered for Upward. The purpose of the evaluation is to simply get an idea of the skill level of each child. It provides the basis for establishing balanced teams.

At some point, during the evaluation night, a little girl approached one of the volunteers and asked about the SonLight City decorations in the narthex area. The volunteer started explaining what a typical SonLight City morning was like. She explained that on Sunday morning the children walk through the crossing gate to go have fun, while the adults have to stay out. The girl was really tickled by that idea! The girl's mother commented on how nice everything was and mentioned that they lived just down the road but had never been to our church. The volunteer invited them to stop by on a Sunday and check it out. The mother seemed quite interested in doing just that. So, hopefully we'll see them stop by one of these days!

That conversation and potential outcome is an example of what Upward is all about. It isn't necessarily about the basketball or the cheerleading. It is about creating opportunities to make connections with someone who may not have otherwise come into our church. Hopefully, through Upward we can plant the initial seed and allow the Holy Spirit to take control from there.

Jeff Grunewald



The Gift of Time

When it comes to things that matter, your time could be the most important thing you share.

by Steven Molin

It's 8:30 on a Thursday morning at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Stillwater, Minnesota. Norman, a 78-year-old retired landscaper, and Scott, a 30-something stay-at-home dad, pull their pickup trucks into the parking lot and begin unloading their equipment. They climb aboard their lawn tractors, cut four acres of grass before noon, share a nice hot cup of coffee, load up their tractors and head home. After mowing the church lawn for three years, the two have become good friends. If either of them missed a Thursday, our first call would not be to their homes to see why they didn't come, it would be to the admissions desk at the local hospital to find out why they *couldn't* come!

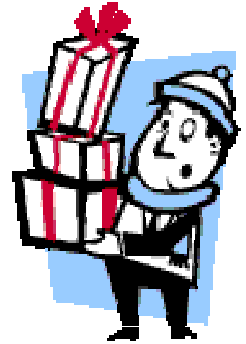
I once asked Norman and Scott why they showed up every Thursday morning, rain or shine, to mow the church lawn. "Because I still can!" Norman said with a twinkle in his eye. Scott was more introspective: "Don't ever ask me to teach Sunday school or sing in the choir; that's not me. But I love this church and what it means to my family, and this is one thing I can do to show my gratitude."

People volunteer for a variety of reasons. Some, like Norman and Scott, enjoy servicing a community they cherish. They see a need and fill it. Others like to touch a life in a significant way or simply lighten the load of a weary soul. Still others enjoy the social interaction found in working together for a common cause. But the shared thread among all of the volunteers I have met is a desire to make a difference in their part of the world. Not everyone can travel to Sudan to feed starving children, but we can pack the food so that others can deliver it. Most of us will not have the opportunity to help rebuild New Orleans, but we can rebuild a crumbling home right in our own community. In fact, most volunteer activity is done within our own circle of influence—in our churches, schools, organizations and neighborhoods.

Every effort, great and small, matters. And no effort is too small — whether it's licking envelopes for a church fundraiser or simply offering a listening ear to a hurting friend, the gift of service is enormous and the reward immeasurable. This desire to serve is an integral part of who we are as Christians. We have been trained by the Master, we have been blessed with remarkable skills and abilities, and we have been commissioned to go and serve our sisters and brothers in this world.

Even in the simplest acts of volunteerism, our motivation is clear: Jesus says, "Whatever you do for the least of these brothers of mine, you do for me." Mowing the church lawn may not seem like a radical act, but Norman and Scott save our congregation thousands of dollars each year. Similarly, each of us can use our individual gifts — from volunteering in a classroom to visiting the sick at a local hospital — in service to the Kingdom and, ultimately, the world.

The Rev. Steven Molin is senior pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Stillwater, Minnesota, and author of If There Were No Lutherans Would There Still Be Green Jell-O? Thrivent, Fall 2007, www.thrivent.com



JOB LOSS

By Crown Financial Ministries

A number of our church members have found themselves out of work recently. While it is never pleasant to become unemployed, the experience can be a good opportunity to make important progress.

- **Don't withdraw** and lose hope in God's leadership and guidance. Admit, accept, and deal with any anger, shame, or fear, then give those feelings to God so that you can be relieved of them.
- **Don't forget your gifts**, talents, and skills. Assess the talents and gifts you already have. Then, based on these, search the job market for jobs that best fit these gifts, abilities, and talents.
- **Identify your abilities**, pray, study God's Word, and recognize your gifts, talents, abilities, and desires. Allow the Lord to reveal to you the assets with which He has gifted you. Ultimately, God's in control of your life.

Search for a new job

Begin a job search with focused, persistent effort. There are no guarantees for immediate success. Seek God's direction through prayer – it's essential during this time. Maintain a good attitude, keep the big picture in perspective, and ask yourself whether you *really* trust God or you just say that you trust Him.

- *Identify your objective.*
- *Identify and secure resources needed to achieve your objective.*
- *Develop a well-thought-out strategy or plan.*
- Network, because the most effective method of finding a new job is through your contacts. These could include family, friends, business relations, business contacts, and church family.

Sell yourself

The best way to convince potential employers that you are the person they are looking for is to know what gifts, talents, and abilities are your greatest and most marketable assets. List them in writing the answers to these questions.

- *What are my accomplishments?* Include business, career, personal, family, community, cultural, and social accomplishments.
- *What skills were needed to accomplish them?* Separate the skills into primary, secondary, and limited categories.
- *What are my values, principles, personal standards, and ethics?* Eliminate from your job search any company where it is immediately obvious that you would have to compromise these values and standards.
- *What are my interests, abilities, skills, talents, desires, and gifts?* Separate them into primary, secondary, and limited categories.

Don't hesitate to share your faith. Remember, when you are hired, you will become a member of a new community. Seek to work in a godly environment.

Concentrate job search efforts on your areas of greatest strength. This shouldn't be a time to learn new skills. Find several companies you'd like to work for and the job position or responsibilities that match your strengths. Contact managers of departments where you'd want to work in the different companies and ask for an interview. If a manager is open to your suggestion, send your résumé, and always follow through.

Work as unto the Lord

Take literally the principle of work in Colossians 3:23-24. "*Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.*" Look to the Lord for a successful job search.



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

Gold, Incense, and Myrrh. . . and a Message to All

How much do babies appreciate the gifts they receive when they are born? Did Jesus, being the Son of God as well as the son of Mary, value the gifts the Magi brought? We would think those gifts impractical for a baby, but then this was not an ordinary baby. That gold bought food and lodging and everything that was needed by the holy family as they fled to Egypt and then got established in a new home. The incense was burned as their prayers ascended to the Father in Heaven, and the myrrh was used some thirty years later to anoint the body later of the Baby grown to be our Savior.

“The gifts are traditional gifts of the East,” the Concordia Commentary on Matthew 2:11 tells us. We can be sure that these gifts were appreciated by our Lord, for St. Paul writes, “*If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have*” (2 Corinthians 8:12).

Were the gifts of the shepherds that first Christmas night acceptable as well? What did the shepherds bring? The Bible does not record their bringing any gift at all — except, that is, the gift of their running to the stable with anticipation, the gift of their humble worship as their anticipation turned to realization, and the gift of their “*spreading*] the word concerning what had been told them” as they returned to their flocks, “*glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen*” (Luke 2:17, 20). It is obvious the willingness was there as the shepherds brought gifts according to what they had. Therefore, according to Scripture, their gifts were acceptable.

We, too, can be sure that our gifts are appreciated by our Lord — the gifts of our treasures — our gold and silver and the gifts of our praise and adoration as we witness to what we have heard and seen. Like the Magi and the shepherds, we are drawn to the manger bed. Like them, we kneel in awe and adoration. Like them, we use the gifts God gives us, wherever we are, wherever God places us, to “*spread the word concerning what [has] been told [us].*”



THANKOFFERINGS AND MEMORIALS

TO THE BAPTISMAL FUND: In honor of the baptism of Eden Kope by Roswitha Marsh; In honor of the baptism of Caleb Bivens by Daniel & Stacey Bivens; In honor of the baptism of Isabella Perez by Luis & Karen Perez and Bernie and Sheila Buller; In honor of the baptism of Geoffrey Wiswall by Chip & Marianne Wiswall; In honor of the baptism of Benjamin Cook by Doug & Gloria Heussner

TO THE SONLIGHT CITY FUND: Offering of thanks by Larry & Elaine Krueger

TO THE GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND: In memory of Geraldine Martin by Ken & ChiCe Burchill and Mr. & Mrs. Negohosian; in memory of Paul Holt by Alice Holt; In memory of Richard Robb by Susan Canon

TO THE SANCTUARY NARTHEX PROJECT: In memory of Ginny Hoke by George & Fran LaPlata; Don & Gladys Ulmer; Marian Kuhlman; Ken & ChiCe Burchill; Wanda Craig Hilgendorf; Pat Marion; Roy Hoke; Marshall & Cindy LaPlata; Diann Richards; Art & Bettye Kelsey; Tom Scott; Elizabeth Light; John & Verna Besancon; Bill & Vera Dreger; Dimitry & Joyce Turin; Bill & Claire Fuhrman; Merl & Trudy Terry; Russ & Lillian Marley; Rosemarie Killenberger; Gordon & Pat Anderson; Carole DeYoung; Mary Ridenour; Fred & Mickey Wilkinson; Celia Zielesch; Harold & Annette Stieg; In honor of Diann Richards 70th birthday and Perry & Ardis Greene's 25th anniversary by Pastor Jim & Justine Ackerman; In honor of Bill & Claire Fuhrman's 80th birthdays by Robert & Jean Goetsch and Delores & Thomas Smith.

TO THE SEMINARY FUND: In memory of Sidney Hoffman by Russ & Lillian Marley; In memory of Mary Everson by Russ & Lillian Marley

TO THE CROWN FINANCIAL MINISTRY: In memory of Mary Everson by Sheryl Swiderski



In memory of E. Richard Robb:

Dear Pastors Ackerman and Reusch,

The enclosed contribution is in memory of Dick Robb. I have known this sweet man since the early 60's. Many thanks are sent your way for the visits to the nursing home and hospice and for your support and prayers. Jane has been a dear and faithful friend for as long as I can remember. She has spoken so highly of you and the wonderful Church that you represent.

Sincerely,
Susan Ganon

Please give my thanks to the gals for visiting me at my home. What a nice warm gesture of love. I am happy to say I'm on the road to becoming independent again. Next week I see Dr. Greene for approval – hope I have driving privileges. Physical therapy to follow for four weeks. Of course, I feel so very privileged to have had the gentle comfort and prayers from pastor Jon, Pastor Steve, Pastor Jim and Pastor Bill! Can you believe all this attention because I had surgery. WOW!! My name can be removed from the sick list – I'm ready to move forward. Slowly making progress with walking alone without support.

Love to each of you,
May Beth Ridenour

I think people are going to get tired of hearing about all the good things our church does for its flock!

Dear Friend of LIFE,

Continuing a firm commitment to upholding the sanctity of human life, Life Chain participants, in southeastern Michigan, on October 7th, peacefully and prayerfully proclaimed the message that "Abortion Kills Children," "Abortion Hurts Women" and "Adoption is the Loving Option."

We want to thank you and your church community for its active participation in this event. There were over 1300 Life Chains formed in the United States and Canada this year—and you will be blessed for having been part of it. You answered God's call to help end abortion. We may not know, in this lifetime, how many lives were saved, but we can be sure that hearts and minds were changed. Just think of the impact all those Life Chain signs had to have on the thousands of passersby.

It was also a special time to call upon God's mercy and forgiveness on our nation, where, incomprehensibly, over 48 million preborn babies, created in the image and likeness of God, have had their lives destroyed in the womb. It is incumbent upon the church community to speak out about this unspeakable act of violence. And you did. Because of your interest and participation, over 30 LIFE CHAINS were formed this year by Lifespan in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Livingston Counties.

Thank you again for your commitment to LIFE and your efforts on behalf of Life Chain. We MUST continue to stand together—there is no other choice. Babies lives are at stake.

God bless you, and please continue to PRAY TO END ABORTION.

Yours for LIFE,
Diane Fagelman
LIFE CHAIN Committee

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Dear Cross of Christ,

Today, my prayer was essentially this. I have been feeling a bit ill the past few days with the usual early Winter cold (sore throat, achy, tired, etc.). As the afternoon wore on I felt more and more drained, but still had to teach Confirmation from 4-5:30 p.m. Having very little energy to give, a student said he needed to talk to me after class, and that it was important. As the rest of the students filed out, I ducked into the other room and prayed that God would be present and give me the strength that I did not have to care for this student. God answers prayer and God provides.

Yes, we have already been in Colorado 3 months, making it hard to believe that Christmas is fast approaching and my vicarage (pastoral internship) is already one quarter over! Things have been busy, but quite rewarding. I helped coach soccer at Bethlehem's school this fall. I enjoyed building relationships around something I really like. The teams ended up doing pretty well, taking 3rd place in a tournament at the end of the season. I also had the opportunity to go to Outdoor Education Lab with the 6th graders. It is a weeklong camp where students learn all those outdoor things you should know, like how to survive in the wilderness, and secret fire starters that no one else knows about (Fritos!). I have also led some discussion and teaching sessions at Bethlehem's semi-annual leadership conference.

Amie has been teaching away. She teaches 2nd, 4th, and 5th grade music, which keeps her busy. Tomorrow night is the 5th grade Veterans Day program, which she will be conducting the little kiddies. She has also been working diligently on a Master's degree on ministering to women in the church. She is nearly halfway completed.

Together we have managed to join the Colorado spirit of the outdoors. It has been a warm fall, so we have been able to mountain bike a lot. Also, we climbed two 14,000-foot mountains! To the left is us on top of Torrey's Peak.

Thank you, again, for all your love, prayers, and generosity. You are in our thoughts and prayers. May God richly bless you this Christmas season.

Enjoying Life in Christ,
 Ryan & Amie Winningham
 Phone:(303)232-3837,E-Mail: winninghams@gmail.com



There is nothing so special as to be loved and appreciated. The overwhelming response to Pastor Appreciation Sunday has left Justine and I so thrilled to be a part of the Cross Of Christ family.

Thank you , thank you, thank you for the many cards and handwritten notes of love and appreciation for the ministry the Lord gave to you through Justine and I. We are humbled by the God given opportunity to so be used. Thank you also for your generous gifts All of you are so kind and giving to us. May the Lord pour out upon each one of you His Spirit in Christ and bless you many times over for the blessing you gave to us.

Our love in Jesus, Pastor Jim & Justine Ackerman

Your \$50 gift was above and beyond any service that I have rendered to Cross of Christ. I consider it a privilege to serve!

*Gratefully,
 Pastor Bill*

**“Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth!”
 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”**

Psalm 36:10-11



LIBRARY CORNER

How can it be possible that Christmas is almost here? If you are anything like me, you have lots to do, lots to get ready, so how about some help from *Christmas at Home No Bake Holiday Recipes*? It is filled with easy recipes for party snacks, desserts, cookies and gift giving. The recipes are interspersed with verses of Christmas-themed scripture. *More Than a Carpenter* gets to the heart of the matter, Jesus presenting himself as not only “more than a prophet or teacher, but as the only avenue to a relationship with God, the only source for forgiveness of sins, and the only way to salvation” p.10. This little book packs lots of faith-building information into few pages. It was written by a self-acknowledged former skeptic, Josh McDowell.

When Angels Appear by Hope MacDonald is mainly about what angels did in biblical days and how they minister to us today. (It contains about fifty angelic stories.) She warns that we must not worship or pray to them and that their purpose is to direct people to Jesus and not to themselves, as it is God’s message and help they convey. *The Complete C.S. Lewis Signature Classics* is a special treat for C.S. Lewis fans, since it contains seven of his most notable books. Whether you reread a favorite over the holidays or challenge yourself with something new, Lewis is sure to enlighten and absorb you.

The Greatest Adventure video series includes “The Nativity” and eleven more animated Bible stories for children. Also donated for children is “The Starlight Escape” the Christmas episode of *The Story Keepers* video series. For teens the “Can I be a Christian without being Weird?” episode from the *On the Air* video series offers encouragement. The current Valparaiso catalog (as well as a variety of informational pamphlets) is available for teens considering applying to a Lutheran university. For families, try PILEUP, a board game which is designed to help the players expand their coping skills. The game kit also includes *The Stress Examiner*, a newspaper style publication and *StressTalk*, an audiotape introduction to stress management. Coping suggestions include the following: find ways to laugh each day, nurture your faith, and build up your strength ... good ideas for over the holidays or anytime.

Merry Christmas to everyone,
Heather Sherk

Volunteers Needed for Mentors Plus

Every child needs a positive adult role model in order to succeed in life. You have the opportunity to be that adult by serving as a Bloomfield Youth Guidance Mentor in the Mentors Plus Program. The mission of Mentors Plus is to provide identified children in the community, ages 6 through 16, with a one-on-one meaningful mentoring experience from a caring adult. The intent is to build a trusting relationship between the adult and child, leading the child toward a more balanced and stable life experience. Adults commit to as little as one hour a week with their match, doing things they both enjoy. We are in need of adults who have a little extra time, want a rewarding experience, and desire to make a difference in a child’s life. For more information please contact Barbara Reinoehi 9248) 626-7827, Sue Boyle (248) 626-7536 or the Bloomfield Youth Guidance Office (248) 341-5680.

One Last Upward Extension

We are sorry if this causes confusion, but we are extending the registration deadline one final time. On December 17th we will start forming teams and placing our uniform order. We realize this “moving deadline” may confuse some people, but we really want to give everyone as much chance as possible to sign up. However, we do have to draw a line in the sand somewhere (so to speak) so we can recruit the correct number of volunteers, get uniforms ordered, contact players with their team assignments, and so on.

So, if you want to sign your child up, or know someone else who does, please get your registration form in to the church office as soon as possible. It’s not too late!



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: PRAY, SEND CARDS

SHUT-INS

Florence Arendt
Fox Run Village
41120 Fox Run, #114
Novi, Michigan 48377-4804

Edna Foss (mother of Lois Casey)
Waltonwood Retirement Living
3450 W. Thirteen Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073
(248) 549-6400

Jan Hartman
Sunrise Assisted Living of West
Bloomfield
7005 Pontiac Trail
West Bloomfield, MI 48323
(248) 738-8101

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

Bettye Kelsey
50 Merrimac Court
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
48304-3339

Mrs. Jane Lindh
3128 Hartslock Woods Drive
West Bloomfield, Michigan
48322-1843

Mrs. Mary Rakolta
1800 Rathmore Road
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
48304-2145

Lillian Spellicy
(mother of Doug LaFontaine)
c/o SunRise of Bloomfield Hills
2080 South Telegraph Road
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302

Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Delores)
VanNorman
8610 Perry Lake Road
Clarkston, Michigan 48348-2955

MILITARY:
LCPL Gruits, M.W.T and Jena
1919 Swamp Fox Trail
Beaufort, SC 29906

Doug Quitmeyer
(do not include a rank)
Unit # 931003
TF TR (1)
APO, AE 09391
Email: rgrdoug@gmail.com

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/1 Helen Hertler
12/1 Duane Serowoky
12/2 Trevor Bardallis
12/2 Drew Dishinger
12/4 Edith Micha
12/5 Brooke Bardallis
12/5 Joseph Bland
12/5 Cody Chontos
12/5 Nicholas Eckert
12/5 Ryan Landkau
12/5 Jessica Scheer
12/7 Betty Cormany
12/8 Kristine Cassar
12/8 Paulette Duggins
12/8 Sue Kohl
12/8 Jennie Myrold
12/8 Ian Sherk
12/9 Jane Lindh
12/9 Trudy Terry
12/10 Katrina Impellizzeri

12/10 Sue Saracsan
12/11 John Besancon
12/11 John Kalusniak
12/12 Marlene Kehoe
12/12 Daniel Nyquist
12/13 Carole DeYoung
12/13 Beth Kalusniak
12/13 Thomas Smith
12/13 Linda Stoup
12/14 Nancy Summers
12/14 Delores VanNorman
12/15 Roger Bree
12/15 Mark McAllister
12/16 Gregory Barnes
12/17 Kathleen Kos
12/19 Ethan Rem
12/20 Cheryl O'Connell
12/20 Laura Pechta
12/20 Stan Pifer
12/21 Erin Toth

12/22 Gabe Abraam
12/22 Jeff Kohl
12/22 Elena Ofiara
12/23 Jean Richards
12/25 Cyndy Ross
12/27 Ryan Cassar
12/27 Timothy Zimmerman
12/28 Dan Bolda
12/29 Charlene Holte
12/29 Russ Marley
12/29 Jenna Ofiara
12/29 Kathy Strohmaier
12/30 John Budaj
12/30 Jacquie Pifer
12/30 Terah Schroeder
12/31 Lisa Plunkett
12/31 Lauren Settecerri



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Tom & Paulette Duggins
12/22/1973
Steve & Sarah Grafe
12/28/1991
Larry & Elaine Krueger
12/2/1960
Paul & Stephanie Melcher
12/13/1997

Ronald & Kathleen Rae
12/20/1958
Nicholas & Sarah Scholz
12/4/2004
Kerry & Corine Streng
12/30/1989
Neil & Kathy Strohmaier
12/14/1968

Bob & Bobbie Weidendorf
12/27/1969
Chad & Heidi Woltemath
12/27/1993
Hermann & Johanna Wurst
12/14/1946



DECEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

ONGOING EVENTS

SUNDAYS

8:15 Worship
9:45 SonLight City (N/A
12/23 & 12/30)
9:45 Worship
11:15 Worship

MONDAYS

10am Adult Bible Study

TUESDAYS

7am Men's Bible Breakfast
10 am Adult Bible Study
11:45 Primetimers
(11/6)
12 pm Intern'l Friends
5:45pm Prayer Time
7pm Volleyball

WEDNESDAYS

4:45-4C's
5:30-Dinner
6:30-Classes
6:30-Advent Worship

THURSDAYS

12:30 Int'l Friends

FRIDAYS

SATURDAY

5:30 Worship

CALENDAR ON THE WEB!

Go to
www.bloomfieldcross.org and
click on the
"Calendar" link to
the right side of
the home page.

A CHRISTMAS TRADITION CONTINUES WITH ONE VERY SPECIAL OUTREACH EVENT



PLEASE ACCEPT THIS INVITATION TO JOIN US FOR A SPARKLING EVENING OF MUSIC AND DRAMA COMBINED WITH AN UNSURPASSED OPPORTUNITY TO TOUCH THE LIVES OF NEEDING CHILDREN THIS CHRISTMAS.

SPECIAL BENEFIT CONCERT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2007, 7:25 PM

FULL PRODUCTION OF "A JOYFUL NOEL"

TO BENEFIT THE ANGELA HOSPICE "MY NEST IS BEST" PROGRAM

A JOYFUL NOEL

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 7:25 PM

&

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 4:25 PM AND 7:25 PM

THE LONG AWAITED

2007 CROSS OF CHRIST CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

*Lobby doors will open 25 minutes prior to the performance for refreshments.
Tickets are free of charge, but required for admittance.
Seating is reserved by row.*

PLEASE CALL (248)646-5667 FOR YOUR RESERVATIONS
TICKETS MAY BE HELD AT THE DOOR IN YOUR NAME

Specify handicapped seating, if required

A FREE-WILL OFFERING WILL BE COLLECTED TO BENEFIT THE MY NEST IS BEST PROGRAM



**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@bloomfieldcross.org

REV. JON W. REUSCH,
SENIOR PASTOR
REV. JAMES ACKERMAN,
ASSISTANT PASTOR
REV. STEPHEN GRAFE,
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
KAREN MILLER, EDITOR
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