



Cross Section



Senior Pastor's Message

Dear Friends in Christ,

I sincerely hope your lives are filled with the joy and peace only Jesus can provide. In these rather uncertain times it is very comforting to know we have built our lives on an Eternal Foundation. The words of one of our hymns remind us, "On Christ the Solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand." The children in Son-Light City love the song that has the refrain, "Jesus is my Fortress I shall not be shaken....Hope's Celebration!" Personally, I rejoice to know our children are learning the importance of a secure foundation for their lives. I also rejoice to be part of a congregation that has remained positive and determined through these difficult times. The image of our members joyfully greeting one another, worshipping enthusiastically, and praying with confidence is an image that will serve our youth extremely well throughout their lives. My gratitude to God for the privilege of serving among such outstanding individuals abounds within my heart. Well done good and faithful servants of Jesus!

Updates:

The voters were able to pass a budget without any major cuts. We feel positive that our members want to move forward through these times of uncertainty. Thank you for your faithful giving to the ministry at Cross of Christ.

The Youth Committee is actively seeking a person of incredible love for Jesus and young people to lead us forward in this ministry. Quite frankly, our congregation has been weak in this area and we pray for a brighter tomorrow. Join us in prayer for this ministry.

During this fiscal year we will be focusing on discipleship. Regardless of an individual's spiritual life, we are all expected to grow in the grace and knowledge of God's Son. Discipleship is the Holy Spirit' driven desire to assist everyone to become fully devoted followers of Jesus. We pray all members and visitors will join us on this journey.

Finally, on August 15, 2009, I will complete forty years in the ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. I am truly amazed to be able to say "forty years of service to Jesus and His Church." Most who knew me in 1969, students and faculty, are still shaking their heads in disbelief. Reusch? You have got to be kidding! (Yes, there are also those present today who keep shaking their heads in amazement)

(Continued)

JULY/AUGUST
2009

*You have made
known to me the
path of life; you will
fill me with joy in
your presence, with
eternal pleasures at
your right hand.*

Psalm 16:11

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Pastor Jon, Continued

A special blessing is that sixteen of those forty years I have served at Cross of Christ. It is your prayers, forgiveness, encouragement, support, trust, and love for Jesus that has allowed me to reach this milestone in my life. On behalf of my family, especially Betty, I want to thank you for your consistent love and support. I love you, also!

And now, saving the best for last, I want you to join me in praise to our gracious Lord for the blessing of forty years of marriage to my incredible wife, Betty. On July 26, we will mark our fortieth year of life together. The blessings are beyond numbering, and the speed of those years leaves me awestruck. I feel, of all men who have ever lived, the most privileged, for I have the privilege of loving and living my life with Betty. Again, thank you for loving and supporting us through sixteen of those years. May Jesus keep all of us growing in His grace.

Love in Jesus,
Pastor Jon

My Awesome God—The Greatest Intelligent Designer

By Heinz Wernecke

My God is an aeronautical engineer as He designs the sparrow with hollow bones for weight savings. The sparrow also needs 'air brakes' so He designs a flipping tail to allow this. Then we have to have male and female types. Oh, and the bird has to fly too...wings do that. Ok, now we have a couple of sparrows. Enough for me, but not for my God.

He makes cardinals, crows, robins, finches, woodpeckers, chick-a-dees, toucans, parrots, bluebirds, hummingbirds and many more types. But wait, there is more...each bird, like people, have a DNA code. So my God knows each bird personally, even each sparrow, He cares!

He provides everything for the sparrow. None can fall, without God's knowing. Is this amazing?

So God has a super-hyper laptop computer to keep track of all these DNAs and creatures. So far we have touched on the birds, but my God also has mammals, sea creatures, reptiles, etc...

Oh, and ALSO MAN!

It is obvious to me that My God is an infinite detail person. Nothing escapes His notice! Now, on a dark night, look at the sky. Talk about design! All the stars move, except ONE. How does He do that?

Now the design that boggles my mind is the snowflake! Why is each one different? POOF and they are gone. Why make each one an individual? How much easier to make them all alike.

Not so for my AWESOME GOD!

EXPERIENCES FROM THE LATVIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grace and Peace to you, our dear friends at Cross of Christ!

This past school year has been a whirlwind! It was a challenge to keep up with studies and home life, yet graciously our Father gives ample energy to tend to that, which is most important. I am grateful for the supernatural energy that our Lord gives those who serve Him. (Col. 1:28-29)

In May, I boarded a plane and headed to Riga, Latvia. I was one of eight students from Fort Wayne who attended a class at our sister seminary, Luther Academy in Latvia. Our class met for 3-hours daily, and the afternoons we were able to meet with area pastors and various congregations throughout Latvia. The class was excellent, but the real education came in visiting with Latvian pastors and members.

Latvia is one of the former countries of the Soviet Union. Until 1991, the church was severely persecuted by the Soviet regime and many Christians fled to the west. As a consequence, the average age of their clergy is just 31 years of age. There are a few older pastors; all who are "confessors of the faith." These pastors bear scars in their bodies from the KGB. Today, each of their churches is well attended, not because of their preaching or programs, but because of their witness to the faith of the Lord Jesus. These pastors and Christians are held in high esteem.

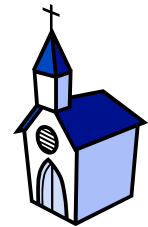
When interviewed, none claimed that they were anyone special. There was no hint of pride, just perseverance by the grace of God. One idea that was clearly expressed by several of these pastors was the importance of the Holy Communion service. The emphasis on the cross of Christ and the gift of the Sacrament gives the nourishment to endure extreme hardships. As they celebrated the Holy Supper, each were aware that the next celebration could be with the Lord.

In this sacrament, God gives His real, abiding presence. God did not protect His own Son from death; instead He saved us through it. God does not save us from death, but ties us in baptism to the death of Jesus Christ. Christ's death upon the cross gives salvation and meaning to our own sufferings and death. This gives great comfort to those who know sacrifice and pain.

The Latvian Lutheran Church faces uncertain times ahead. Economic collapse and global recession affects their nation in an acute way. As the country "westernizes," a malaise overshadows the faith of many young people. Yet in the midst of uncertainties they promise to continue to cling to the one thing that matters. "This is My Body... This is My Blood."

The Latvian Lutheran Church has a website! More information can be found in English at: <http://www.lalb.lv/en> Join me in remembering and praying for brothers and sisters in Christ. Also, thank you for remembering my family. Your prayers and financial support is appreciated!

In Christ,
Mike Blodgett



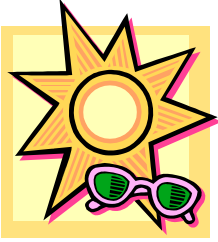
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Dear Cross of Christ,

Thank you for all the courtesies you have given the Women of Bloomfield during our rummage sale.

Enclosed is a check for \$400.

Sincerely,
Jan Laird



MISSION NEWS AND NOTES

July and August, 2009 Plate Offering Recipients

Continuing during this fiscal year, 100% of the plate offerings will be for mission support. From time to time throughout the year various requests are received for immediate mission support. To meet these needs 10% of every month's mission offerings (plate and envelope) will be set aside for that purpose.

The July and August offerings have been designated for special projects at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pontiac. Some of these needs are: an outside bulletin board, painting bathrooms, making electrical repairs, putting in glass block windows for security purposes, installing a diaper changing station in the restroom, doing some parking lot repair, and helping to stock their food pantry. Costs, priority, and available funds will determine what will be done.

Haiti Mission Trip

The construction and Vacation Bible School trip to Haiti in July has been cancelled because a team of volunteers was not available this year. Haiti Team Leaders will gather information and explore new areas of service for future trips to Haiti. All donations that have been collected will be given to support Haitian mission efforts.

About 25 boxes of T-shirts, shoes, Mom-To-Mom Sale clothing donations, school supplies, medical products, and hygiene items will be shipped via Agape Air to Pastor Louie for distribution to needy Haitians.

Please continue to hold the Haitian people in your prayers. For more information contact Linda & Dennis Toth at 248-338-3606 or dtoth250117MI@comcast.net, Diane & Ed Stanke 248-334-9737 or Dekbmr@aol.com, and Kip Ewing - kip@kipewing.com.

VBS at St. Paul Lutheran Church

St. Paul Lutheran Church on Joslyn Road in Pontiac, MI will be holding its VBS for the neighborhood children from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. during the first full week in August (3-7). Needs include: teachers, assistants, craft helpers, and lunch preparation assistance. For more information, please contact Loree Frank (Cross of Christ) at 248-539-0659 or lnm003@earthlink.net and Becky Gladden (St. Paul) at 248-758-9019 or prayerisworship@comcast.net.

Mission Committee Meeting

A mission committee meeting will be held on Thursday, July 23rd, at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room A with the following agenda:

- Set criteria for monthly offering recipients.
- Select monthly offering recipients for the coming fiscal year.
- Plan for "hands on" mission service.

For more information contact Verna Besancon at 248-253-0289 or servantvb@gmail.com.

Tuesday A.M Bible Study Mission Support

Each Tuesday morning the Bible study group passes around a large pickle jar and a mite box to receive mission donations. Mite box offerings are sent to the LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) for the organization's mission projects throughout the nation and world. The group decided to donate the pickle jar offerings from this term (\$311.00 divided equally) to U.E.M.I. (India Mission) for child support and to Children's Christian Concern Society for Christian education of children in third world countries.

Trip Preparations for Trip to Uganda

As I write you this e-mail, I am filled with joy, excitement, and anticipation. With all of your support and prayers, He has made it possible for me to begin my journey to Uganda for two months of my summer. I will be leaving on Sunday, June 14th and will be returning in the afternoon on August 15th.

First of all, I want to thank you for all you have done for me. Thank you, your prayers, money, and excited conversations will be traveling with me, you have truly become a part of my journey.

I will be staying in a guesthouse in Kampala, Uganda for the majority of my stay, however there is only one computer with internet access. I will be trying as much as possible to update a blog at the following URL. (<http://emilymichelle8.blogspot.com>) Feel free to check for updates on that as much as you would like, and comment on anything.

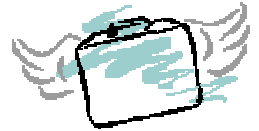
Also, I do have an address which I will list below where you may send me letters (or fun packages...) if you would like. However, for packages it will take 3-4 weeks for delivery (just a warning.) Here is the address where you may reach me:

Emily Kirschbaum
c/o Empower A Child
PO Box 33273
Kampala, Uganda

Well, I must get back to my GIANT to-do list. Even though these preparations are thoroughly exhausting in every way, my dream of the red Ugandan soil under my feet keeps me moving. I want to ask you all to be in prayer for me during this time. I am hoping that He will draw me close in these two months, allowing me to live daily in His presence. Teaching me how to recognize His love and blessings in each conversation, smile, friendly exchange, gust of wind, rustling leaves. That each child He has made and wants me to touch would be touched. That His Will would be done through me, that I would be obedient to Him in a way that would prove my everlasting love for Him. That my eyes, heart, smile, embrace will reflect His love to each and every one of them. That each of them would glow in the light of His embrace. That they would bless me, and I them. Lastly, that He would speak. Speak through the relationships I will be making in regards to His plan for me in each uniquely crafted day, but also in regards to the future He is preparing me for. I would like to ask you to pray for me for these desires of my heart, as well as anything else you would like.

With that, I will end this message with some passages that I have come to adore, and others that I wish upon you as well. Thank you again for all you have done for me, I am truly blessed by each one of you.

In His Love,
Emily

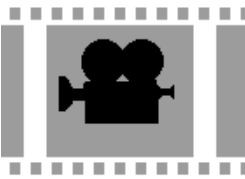


Jeremiah 22:16
"He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?" declares the Lord.

2 Corinthians 3:3
You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Genesis 28:15
I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

Psalms 12:5
"Because of the oppression of the weak and the groaning of the needy, I will now arise," says the Lord.



God Provides

As a former business person working in the financial services arena, I can understand why most businesses don't work with about one-half of the world's population. You see, three billion people are the poor and ultra-poor of the world—the ultra poor earning less than \$1 a day and the poor earning less than \$2 a day. In some countries of the world, unemployment is at 70% and people are grateful to earn \$40 to \$50 per month. The cost of doing business in these markets is high, the return on investment—virtually zero. Even many missionaries find it difficult or impractical to serve people in this segment of the world's economy.

To many people, Crown Financial Ministries is a local Christian organization or, at most, U.S. based and servicing people in North America only. In reality, Crown has been a global non-profit for the last nine years. That affords terrific opportunities to reach God's people here and abroad who otherwise may not come to know His Word.

God Provides is a new film series produced and directed by Crown Financial Ministries to be released sometime in September, 2009. The vision of the project is to reach the poorest of the poor and illiterate with teachings from God's Word. Chuck Bentley, CEO of Crown, was recently in Africa showing the film in several African countries. You can hear his report by clicking on www.crown.org and then clicking the archives for June 12, 2009.

I was privileged to view the first of the new films *The Widow and Oil*. So, I am anxious not only to see the next films, but to have the opportunity to use them here in the State of Michigan. The films contain six Bible verses and communicate the truth of God's Word in a way that informs the mind and touches the heart. They are designed to be used in a teaching system where people can watch, learn, be moved and talk about what God is showing them. If you would like to see a preview of the films, please drop me a note at terrycrown@comcast.net. (You will need QuickTime to view the download.)

Please send questions, comments and or suggestions to terrycrown@comcast.net or call me at 248-373-8525. If you would like to become a part of this ministry, I would love to talk with you. Our goal is to teach God's financial principles so that people may be free from money concerns; concerns that may be keep them from serving their Lord without competition or conditions.

Blessings,
Merl Terry

Dear Pastor Reusch and the faithful Brothers and Sisters at Cross of Christ:

**"I no longer trust my own goodness or my ability to obey God's law,
but I trust Christ to save me" (Philippians 3:9).**

As we trust Christ alone, through the proclamation of his powerful Word, the Kingdom of the Lord is established among the nations. That is the motivation for the Lutheran Heritage Foundation: proclaiming God's Word through literature that is faithful to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, translated into the languages of the nations. And, on Sunday (May 17) I was very pleased to present to your congregation this work of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

I am deeply grateful that you have designated the Lutheran Heritage Foundation as your May "mission of the month." Throughout history, and today also, attempts have been made to silence the Word of Christ. But, with assistance from people like you, the work of LHF will continue to stifle those who would bind the Word of God. How? As you know, LHF has produced nearly 500 publications in dozens of languages, distributed where there have been very few Christian writings. LHF makes these books available to lead the world to Christ. Many times LHF has heard the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us," and LHF has produced over three million copies of books, distributed free of charge.

You know the great world-wide need for Lutheran literature and missions; therefore, LHF is deeply indebted to you for the generous support that you continue to offer.

**In Christ,
Rev. James E. Fandrey, Executive Director**

Teens Make Money Without Going To Work

If you're like a lot of my teenage friends, you may be having a tough time finding a job that pays money this summer. Now, if you have a job, don't stop reading! I plan to tell you also how you can make money—make more money. And do it God's Way.

Wouldn't it be great to just say, "OK money, go to work"? Then just sit back and let it go. Well, it's not quite that easy, but following a few sound rules of godly money management can make it happen.

If you have, as we talked previously, begun to keep a budget—that is if you are writing down on a piece of paper or in your word processor the amount of your total income (wages, birthday gifts of money, graduation gifts of money, allowance, Grandma "I love you bucks", etc) and keeping specific track of the amount of money you are spending on "stuff"—like books, gifts, snack; then you need to be keeping a Long Term Savings account.

Money placed in long term savings is money that is not to be spent until sometime in the future, like a savings for college or a car or a large expense item. So, that money should be kept in a safe place that is not easy for you to reach; for example, a bank savings account or a Certificate of Deposit or no-load Mutual funds.

Before we go any further, remember that making God's money make money is a godly thing to do. It is not a sin. God blesses a good steward (Matt 25: 14 – 26). As you begin to use the money from your savings, remember to use it responsibly as God directs you. God has a plan for you and who knows, maybe the money you saved will not only provide for your needs, but help other people through you.

Here are some tips:

- Don't use long term savings for things that go down in value. (a pair of shoes, a video game, snacks). Use long term savings for things that increase in value—like an education which makes you more valuable.
- Don't borrow money from long term savings to buy something now with the hope of paying it back later. Any amount of money that is spent from a long term savings results in you losing interest on that amount of money.
- A Short Term saving account is another way to save, but these savings can be used to buy important stuff you need that may decrease in value. (clothes for college, computer, a movie)
- Set a goal for spending the money you have saved and spend it on those goaled items only.
- Give yourself some thinking time before making a purchase. (30 days is a good rule)
- Look for the "best" price. That's not necessarily the lowest price. It is the lowest price, with high quality (you must determine the level of quality that you want)
- Spend only what you have saved. Do not borrow money to purchase anything that depreciates in value.

Making money make money is a lot easier than most adults think. First, however, you have to learn to spend less than you earn. If you spend more than you earn, you will have to borrow. If you borrow, you pay more for the purchase because you must pay for the item purchased and the interest amount for borrowing.

If you have any questions, or would like to see other topics in the Teen Corner, please send them to terrycrowne@comcast.net .

Blessings,
Merl Terry



"As you begin to use the money from your savings, remember to use it responsibly as God directs you. God has a plan for you and who knows, maybe the money you saved will not only provide for your needs, but help other people through you."



Now gather the leftovers, Jesus told His disciples, so nothing is wasted

Luke 9:17 John 6:12 Mark 6:42 Matt 14:20

Have you ever noticed that as we read about the miracles of Jesus, we tend to see only the results, like a blind person receives vision or 5,000 people are fed when only a small amount of food is available? Sometimes we miss the nuances or subtleties as Jesus teaches. After saying that, I think to myself, “how subtle is it when Jesus says something that is mentioned four times in the Gospels and yet I missed the significance my entire life?”.

I’m referring to the command that Jesus gave to his disciples when he increased the amount of food that was available to feed 5,000 men (not including all the women and children that were present). Jesus said, “Gather the leftovers, so nothing is wasted”.

While Jesus demonstrated His compassion for people in need, He was also making a statement that everything belongs to God, that none of God’s gifts should be wasted or treated frivolously.

Sometimes we get caught up in the immediate gratification game - “I like it, I want it therefore I need it, so I’ll buy it now syndrome”. Today’s American way? You might say, I can afford spending my hard earned dollars anyway I choose—and you would be correct. You can do anything you want with God’s gifts. He is so cool, He won’t interfere. He has already told you how to handle His gifts and left it up to you and your conscience to decide whether to spend money or use possessions His way or yours. It is good to remember that while the freedom of choice is also a gift of God, choice can be an imposing consideration. There is a downside to wasteful use of God’s generosity.

When the leftovers were collected, the twelve baskets were filled; One basket for each of the disciples. Interesting how Jesus attempted to impress his closest followers that God would always provide for them. But, it took His death and resurrection before they really understood his teaching. Mark says, immediately afterwards Jesus walked on the water and when the disciples saw Him, they were terrified.

God is blessing you and me everyday, some perhaps more with earthly treasures than others. Stewardship isn’t about how much God has given us individually, it’s about how well we use it. Do you use your gifts to God’s glory? Are you making the “right” buying decisions?

Your questions and comments are always welcomed, contact Merl Terry
terrycrown@comcast.net.

Dear Pastor Reusch,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$6483.31 to Grace Centers of Hope. It is our belief that America is the greatest mission field on the face of this Earth. The light that shines brightest at home shines further abroad.

As you know, Grace Centers of Hope does not receive government funding; rather, we depend on the caring support of our friends and neighbors to carry out our ministry. We are thankful to count you amongst our very best partners. If there is anything we can do to assist you or your church, please call on us. In the meantime, know that Grace Centers of Hope exists to serve you as well by providing volunteer opportunities and outreach that will make an impact in the lives of those we serve.

On behalf of our residents, staff, and Board of Directors we are grateful for your support which allows us to serve the homeless and hurting in our community.

In Christ,
Pastor Kent W. Clark, Chief Executive Officer



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

PARISH NURSING: LEAVES OF THREE...LET IT BE!

Dear Church Family Members,

It looks like summer is here after a cool and rainy spring. It's been perfect for gardening. I like getting out and working in the dirt; it must be the "farm girl" in me! I have a little garden marker that says..."The kiss of the sun for pardon; the song of the bird for mirth; one is nearer God's heart in a garden; than anywhere else on earth." I do a lot of thinking as I work outside...thanking God for His many blessings, confessing my sins, and asking for His blessing and protection on my family. I see a lot of symbolism as I pull out weeds; it reminds me of the imperfections in my life and if I don't keep them cleaned out, they can overtake and ruin my garden (and myself.)

I had poison ivy a few years ago; now I really keep my eye out for the plants with 3 leaflets to a stem. What an aggravating, itchy problem that can be...here's more info on it.

Poison ivy is a common cause of skin irritation called contact dermatitis. It causes red, itchy skin with small bumps, blisters and swelling. The rash develops 12-48 hours after exposure, and may last up to 3 weeks. Skin must come into direct contact with the oil of the plant (called urushiol) to be affected.

Poison ivy is a weed-like plant that may grow as a bush, plant or vine; it has 3 leaflets to a stem. It takes only a small amount of the irritating substance to cause a reaction. It easily attaches to skin, clothing, tools and pet fur; it's very sticky and doesn't dry. You can get a reaction if you directly touch the leaves, roots or berries of the plant, unknowingly rub the oil onto other areas of your skin, touch the oil left on clothing, tools, or a pet, or burn the plant and inhale the smoke.

The rash itself is not contagious. The blister fluid does not contain the oil and won't spread the rash.

See your doctor if the rash is widespread or severe, affects your eyes, mouth or genital area, the blisters contain pus, you have a fever over 100 degrees or the rash doesn't go away after several weeks.

You can use over the counter creams or lotions to relieve the itching...calamine or caladryl lotion. Severe reactions can be treated with steroids like prednisone.

If you're exposed to poison ivy, you can apply a barrier cream that contains bentoquatam (Tecnu); it will absorb the oil and prevent or lessen your skin's reaction to the oil. Know where poison ivy lives and avoid it! Take precautions outdoors; kill the plants with an herbicide. Clean anything contaminated with detergent and water. Wash your skin with soap and after exposure.

Remember...leaves of three...let it be!

Enjoy your summer; be careful and enjoy the beauty of God's creation!

Blessings in Jesus,
Mary Lou Temple RN, Parish Nurse

I am Lutheran Missouri Synod and Proud of It!

As Lutherans, we are people of grace and forgiveness. We are people who care about our vocation as people of God. We are people of God in this place and time, by God's own design, for God's own purpose. We are a "chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who call you out of darkness into His wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

We have and proclaim the gospel like no other church on the face of the earth. It's time for all of us to be passionate believers of the truth which we believe.

Heinz Wernecke, Since 1922



American Red Cross Offers Scholarship

The American Red Cross will give a college scholarship to a high school student in southeast Michigan who helps with a blood drive, getting donors, advertising, etc. The Scholarship Blood Drive awards and qualifications are as follows :

- ✦ Must be a high school student or graduating senior (class of '09)
- ✦ The high school they attend must have already had a blood drive within the school year
- ✦ The blood drive must be held on a date from May 18 to Sept. 6
- ✦ The student must collect a minimum of 30 pints (see chart for awards)
- ✦ Parents/guardians must be involved with the process and monitor the drive participation along with the student

Productive Pints	Scholarship Levels
30-55	\$500
56-100	\$750
101-150	\$1000
151-200	\$1250
201-250	\$1500
250+	\$1750

The scholarship award will be held until the student arrives at their university/college of choice. The monies will be sent to the school in the school's name and the student's name.

If you are interested, please contact Mary Lou Temple at mltemple7@yahoo.com.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Ann Boggs	7/1	Keith McAllister	7/9	Joan Irwin	7/18
David Budaj	7/1	Janice Milz	7/9	Kathleen Kaiser	7/19
Josh Budaj	7/2	Jhansi Kodi	7/10	Fred Wilkinson	7/19
Betty Reusch	7/2	Kevin Rem	7/10	Joseph Guettler	7/20
Kevin Larive	7/3	Skylar Ehler	7/12	Celia Zielesch	7/20
Tom Ritter	7/3	Sherry Elliott	7/12	Kerry Streng	7/21
Kirk Sattelmeier	7/3	Will Ridenour	7/12	Lynda Scott	7/23
Faith Reusch	7/4	Hanna Halstead	7/13	Lauren Wilkie	7/23
Emily Stieg	7/5	Rebekah Irwin	7/13	Kenneth Burchill	7/24
Brock Winchester	7/5	Logan Lampkin	7/13	Julia Kalusniak	7/24
Derek Gilcher	7/6	Steven Peacock	7/13	Alicia Simpson	7/24
Rosmarie Killenberger	7/6	Jon Reusch	7/13	Jeffrey Kehoe	7/26
Grace Alexander	7/7	Rob Zewatsky	7/14	Matthew Kehoe	7/26
Ryan Greene	7/7	Mackenzie Kostizen	7/15	Gwen Ofiara	7/26
Brent Kozel	7/7	Sheryl Swiderski	7/15	Ethan Bivens	7/27
Paul Melcher	7/7	Brandon Cassar	7/16	Mary Putinta	7/27
Martin Pachla	7/7	Markus Michal	7/16	Bill Ridenour	7/27
Sarah Scholz	7/7	Michael Ruprich	7/16	Kim Zaiden	7/27
Zachary Walton	7/7	Tiffany Duggins	7/17	Keith Wright	7/30
Carol Pachla	7/8	Peter Hoke	7/17		
Craig Dudley	7/9	Verna Besancon	7/18		

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Sydney Elliott	8/1	Don Ulmer	8/10	Emily Irwin	8/20
John LaBarge	8/1	Mark Frank	8/11	Christian Winchester	8/20
Vera Dreger	8/3	Katie Kos	8/11	Melvin Gaines	8/21
Beth Hamada	8/3	Jordan Kuzera	8/12	Alexa Ritter	8/21
Cristian Kuzera	8/3	Merl Terry	8/12	Rachel Scrimger	8/21
Steve Barron	8/4	John Artemenko	8/14	Kathryn Gruits	8/23
Hunter Halstead	8/4	Bob Weidendorf	8/14	Betty Kelsey	8/24
Fran LaPlata	8/5	Pamela Bartush	8/15	William Lethemon	8/24
Johanna Wurst	8/5	Patrick LaFontaine	8/16	Andrea Lorey	8/25
Matthew Duggins	8/6	Ellie Balagna	8/18	Lisa Viselli	8/25
Andy Zewatsky	8/6	Wanda Hilgendorf	8/18	Catelyn Hoke	8/27
Bob Alexander	8/8	Diann Richards	8/18	William Beslock	8/28
Robert Lambertsen	8/8	Peggy Budaj	8/19	Stacey Bivens	8/28
Solene Skrzypczak	8/9	Elizabeth Stieg	8/19	Kristina Schaefer	8/29
Leslie Evans-Peacock	8/10	Brian Strohmaier	8/19	Kaeli Fish	8/30
Roy Hoke	8/10	Steve Boergert	8/20	Bill Miller	8/31
Betty Kittle	8/10	Benjamin Guettler	8/20		



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: PRAY, SEND CARDS

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

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

Mrs. Jinny Polrler (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 Qultmeyer (family member of Betty & Pastor Jon)
699 14th Street , #525
San Diego, California 92101

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

JULY-AUGUST CHURCH CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

ONGOING EVENTS

SUNDAY

8:30 Worship
9:00 Classes
10:30 Worship

MONDAY

10am Adult Bible Study

TUESDAY

7am Men's Bible Breakfast
10 am Adult Bible Study
11:45 Primetimers (7/7, 8/4)

WEDNESDAY

FRIDAY

6:00 Scrapbook Crop
(7/3—cancelled, 8/7)

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.

JULY and AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

John & Laura Artemenko	7/17/1976
Dave & Cathy Boggs	8/20/2005
Tom & Betty Daykin	8/29/1964
Larry & Carole DeYoung	7/29/1961
Leonard & Amber Dionne	8/17/1996
Scott & Lisa Dudley	8/12/1989
Paul & Jan Eminger	8/30/2008
Jerry & Sharon Everson	8/17/1960
Josh & Kelly Fink	7/10/2004
Brian & Tracey Fish	8/17/1996
Hilman & Mildred Fortney	7/13/1944
Perry & Ardis Greene	7/24/1982
John & Beth Kalusniak	7/6/1991
Kevin & Bettye Kittle	8/31/2002
Jeff & Christina Marchione	8/1/1987
Russ & Lillian Marley	8/21/1954
Doc & Nan Myrold	8/19/1950
Kris & Joyce Myrold	8/1/1998

Gary & Gwen Ofiara	7/6/1996
Martin & Carol Pachla	8/18/2001
Gary & Pam Poteete	7/18/1992
Jon & Betty Reusch	7/26/1969
Cary & Mary Schwab	8/18/1984
Alfred & Heather Sherk	8/6/1977
Kelly & Joey Skutt	7/19/2003
Bill & Mary Staehlin	8/3/1996
Edwin & Diane Stanke	8/1/1992
Brian & Andrea Strohmaier	7/29/2000
Eugene & Marjorie Sumney	8/18/1951
Merl & Trudy Terry	8/16/1957
Brian & Janette Ulmer	8/2/2003
James & Karen Valenti	8/29/1992
Sandro & Lisa Viselli	8/5/1995
Dave & Terri Winchester	8/15/1987
Jack & Carol Wright	7/10/1976
Timothy & Mary Zimmerman	8/1/2003





De-Baptism—Living in Denial

Taken from *Breakpoint*, June 4, 2009

There's a bizarre trend going on in Great Britain. Former church members are getting "de-baptized." As *Time* magazine reports, "More than 100,000 former Christians have downloaded 'certificates of de-baptism' in a bid to publicly renounce the faith."

Now, there have always been people who have walked away from their faith. But what's behind this public display? And why are so many downloading an apostasy certificate?

Terry Sanderson, president of the National Secular Society, has some theories about why his group's idea has found unexpected popularity. He told *Time* that "churches have become so reactionary, so politically active that people actually want to make a protest against them now...They're not just indifferent anymore. They're actively hostile."

Well, maybe. But the Church has always been active in public life, standing against wrongdoing in the culture. And there have always been people who resented that.

Sanderson also states that the "de-baptism" rite is meant to "mock the practice of baptizing infants too young to consent." But again, infant baptism has long been a subject of debate within the Church. There's nothing new about that either.

I'm more interested is something on the NSS website, which reads in part, "Liberate yourself from the Original Mumbo-Jumbo that liberated you from the Original Sin you never had."

Now that, I suspect in an idea that is appealing to a large number of people. Believing in your own innate goodness isn't exactly new—it has its roots in the lie that the serpent told Eve. But in this postmodern, therapeutic culture, I can understand how "liberating" it might feel not to believe in personal sin or evil.

And that should terrify us. Where does most of the evil in our world come from, if not from people who believe they're incapable of evil?

Is it really possible to look at the past 10 years even—from Enron, to 9/11, to Bernie Madoff, to dozens of other scandals—and not believe in the sinfulness of human nature?

In my opinion, a person who can do that is a candidate not for "de-baptism," but for a padded cell.

I don't mean to be too harsh, but that attitude is a total denial of everything that human history and human culture teaches. And yet that just might be the attitude the "de-baptized" are celebrating.

The eminent scholars Alan Jacobs, professor of English at Wheaton College, puts it well in his book *Original Sin: A Cultural History*. As Alan explains, even though the doctrine of original sin is unattractive and difficult to understand, we cannot deny it's effects on our world. He writes, "Again and again the literature and culture of the West have returned to this doctrine, worrying over it, loathing it, rejecting it—only to call it back in time of great crisis or great misery."

Let's hope it doesn't take another catastrophe to bring the "de-baptized" back to their senses.

The sad truth is that every time we think mankind has liberated itself from the dusty old notions of sin and evil, we discover how disastrously wrong we were.



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