



Cross Section



Senior Pastor's Message

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

May our gracious Lord bless each of you throughout these beautiful Summer months. May these be days filled with special blessings in the company of those close to you, those blessed by your love. We truly are the blessed of the earth! "Jesus loves me, this I know" never ceases to lift my spirits, and I thank God for the privilege to sharing that love with each of you are Cross of Christ.

On behalf of the leaders at Cross of Christ, I thank all of you who so faithfully serve the Lord through the ministries of our church. Each of you is a blessing sent by God. How the Lord must smile to observe so many pouring out their lives for the sake of Jesus.

Congratulations to each of our graduates for a job well done! May each future step be lighted by the love of your Savior. Our church family is so richly blessed by our young members.

Since June is the month

designated by our nation to honor fathers, we join our voices and praise God for the faithfulness and love received from our fathers. May we all join to pray for the day when every father will view the invaluable position he holds within the family, and respond in love to those who need his unconditional love. May each celebration be filled with joyful celebration and collect phone calls.

On June 13, 2006, at 7 o'clock in the evening, our membership is invited to gather for the annual approval of the congregational budget. Information is available from the Church Office. We sincerely thank Scott Dudley for his efforts with our website, and encourage you to visit and provide us with information as needed. Questions or concerns about the website should be directed to Scott Dudley, Pastor Steve, or Beth Kalusniak. Questions or concerns regarding the budget should be directed to Steve Peacock, Steve Boergert, or Jeff Grunewald.

Our finance committee

is to be commended for working diligently to provide a balanced budget. Their efforts were totally under-girded by prayer and love for Jesus and His Church. The members of the committee are hopeful that we will be able to do even more than the budget proposes, however, we refuse to spend money the membership has not willingly committed. Please take time to express your appreciation to our leaders for their Godly stewardship.

Finally, in order to prevent a Voters' Meeting like the last one, may I say on behalf of every member of Cross of Christ, "WE LOVE PASTOR JIM!" The proposed budget was not balanced at the expense of our dearly loved Pastor Jim. The finance committee was simply following the directive of the Church Council, who, in turn, was responding to a proposal from Pastor Jim. Several years ago, Pastor Jim and I talked openly and honestly about the situation at Cross of Christ.

Continued on next page...

June 2006

PRAYER FOCUS

"...for I have chosen him, that he will charge his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice...."

Genesis 18:19

Inside this issue:

Voters' Meeting June 13

New Web Site Goes On-Line

Antique Show Announces Missions Recipients

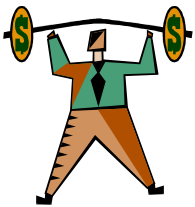
Recruiting Like Jesus

Thank You Letters

Important Dates, Info and Address Changes

The Voice of Hope and Light

We would never release a dearly loved staff member because of dollars. ...Under the proposed budget, Pastor Jim will continue to make some of the visits for our church family. In return, we will pay all of his medical insurance costs and reimburse him for his mileage.



**Voters' Meeting
June 13 at 7pm
Agenda:**

- **Changing Pastor Steve Grafe's designation from Assistant to Associate Pastor**
- **Re-election of Council members**
- **Annual budget (available online at bloomfieldcross.org/events)**

Senior Pastor's Message – Continued...

Continued from previous page...

WE were blessed with three Pastors, while many congregations had none. Pastor Jim and I knew Cross of Christ did not really need the services of three Pastors. However, since we love Jim, and Jim loves us, and we all like to be comfortable, we never moved forward to change the situation.

At our last Voters' Meeting, things became rather muddled. The problem was the result of poor communication. We would never release a dearly loved staff member because of dollars. In fact, we told Pastor Jim that we would continue to pay for his medical insurance even if he never gave any time.

Under the proposed budget, Pastor Jim will continue to make some of the visits for our church family. In return, we will pay all of his medical insurance costs and reimburse him for his mileage. This was Pastor Jim's original proposal prior to the last Voters' Meeting.

This is not about love or money, but love for the Kingdom! Pastor Jim will be free to preach on a regular basis at area churches in need of a Pastor. He has the freedom to work elsewhere, or not at all. I brought this man to Cross of Christ many years ago. I love him with all of my heart and thank God for all Jim has done and continues to do for my life and ministry. If anyone wants to keep him more than me, I would truly

be surprised. However, the work of Jesus is more important than our needs and wants. We will be served well whether he is present or absent.

In the future, should finances ever become an issue for Pastor Jim, I promise, on behalf of our incredible church family, that we will be there to provide whatever he needs. Please direct your questions and concerns regarding this issue to Pastor Jim. May the Lord of the Church continue to guide and bless us as we move powerfully forward in the Spirit of God!

May Jesus keep you growing in His grace....

Love in Jesus,
Pastor Jon

Voters Can Review Budget in Advance of June 13 Vote

The Church Voters' Meeting is quickly approaching. It is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13th at 7pm in the Sanctuary. At this point, there appears to be three topics on the agenda. One topic will be changing Pastor Steve's designation from Assistant Pastor to Associate Pastor. This change will not affect his duties or his salary, it simply allows him to vote at district conventions. The second topic will be to re-election of council members whose terms are up for renewal. The final topic is the annual budget.

While working on the

budget, the Church Council received notification the Shema congregation plans to relocate. They will be moving up Telegraph to Bloomfield Baptist in August. The stated reason for wanting to move was concerns with parking availability on Saturday mornings. Therefore, the budget for next year only includes two months worth of rent for them.

This year the budget committee presented a balanced budget for the first time in a number of years. The Church Council was able to review and approve the budget at a recent Council

meeting. This means a completed budget is ready much earlier than in previous years. In response to requests from previous Voters' Meetings, we will have copies available on line and in the church office for your review. Questions regarding specific expense line items should be directed to the leader of the specific ministry. Any questions related to the revenue side of the budget can be directed to me.

Happy Reviewing!

Jeff Grunewald
Church Council Chairman

Pastor Steve: Missionary Work Difficult, But Testimony Moving

Many of us often find ourselves on the other side of the door from a person canvassing our neighborhood asking for a minute of our time. Sometimes it's a fundraising enterprise, other times it is from someone who wants to talk to us about their religious beliefs. Many of those times the callers are from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, also known as LDS or Mormons.

The article below is from a fellow pastor friend of mine from the Seminary, Matt Nelson, whose call was to the Rocky Mountain District as an evangelist to the Mormons. It is never easy to try and lead someone out of darkness into the light of Christ; this is especially true when their beliefs seem to be on a Christian scale, but in reality are not.

This is the testimony from one of his members who has now left the Mormon cult and is walking in the true light of Jesus. I found it to be both enlightening and moving. Always remember that your offerings and tithes go not only for the work of Jesus here at Cross of Christ and for the various missions that we sponsor, but also a portion goes to fund Synodical endeavors that enable Pastors like Matt to reach and to go where we cannot in order to bring "freedom" to the captives.

"As I reflect on my life with its twist and turns, I am full of gratitude to God who lovingly watched over me.

Despite many stumbling blocks, he has led me to Him.

For 20 years I was immersed and caught up in a religion that captured my loyalty and obedience. Having been raised as a conscientious person, I did my utmost in the Mormon Church where I became a wholehearted, "exemplary" member.

Ironically, as I became more "perfect" in following the prophet's admonitions (thinking they were God's commands), the Holy Spirit slowly made me aware of my futile busy-ness. I was merely trained to be obediently hard-working. However, inwardly I had become increasingly thirsty for the real God, not for the one according to the Mormon concept. My spirit yearned for the real Jesus. Instead of becoming more "worthy" to enter the Mormon Celestial Kingdom, I realized I was going nowhere, stuck inside the vacuum of this church's organization.

My Mormon concept of Jesus was hindered by Mormon teaching that human beings were "spirits" who pre-existed and co-existed with God before gaining physical bodies and coming to earth. Further, that Jesus was the eldest of all these spirits.

I had great respect for this extraordinarily wise, perfect and valiant role model. But I did not grasp the awesome disparity between Almighty God Jesus and us, mere

sinful creatures of His. Latter-Day Saints fervently place their faith and confidence in their church leaders who sincerely feel they can lead and guide them to the "Celestial Kingdom." The members must obey the church's commandments and live "worthily." They are expected to obey the Ten Commandments, the Word of Wisdom, fulfill church assignments and advancement requirements – temple marriage, temple works, genealogical research and baptism for the dead ancestors, missionary work, visiting and home teaching, etc....

In this formidable work system, it's easy for the members to acquire a false sense of security based on their performance – on the accumulation of Divine blessings through works. It dawned on me this was like owning a worthless insurance policy!

I prayed for enlightenment. I read the New Testament and conservative Christian authors' works. I attended Bible study fellowship. Eventually, I quit attending the Mormon Church, much to my staunch Mormon spouse's dismay and opposition. This road has not been an easy one for the last 13 years, but internally my spirit has been set free. I am so grateful to God and to my kind Christian teachers and friends."

Daniel



"It is never easy to try and lead someone out of darkness into the light of Christ; this is especially true when their beliefs seem to be on a Christian scale, but in reality are not."

Haiti Mission Trip

I am working on forming a trip to Haiti in Oct. 2006, hopefully with a few people from the HLMS (Haiti Lutheran Mission Society) in Nebraska. If you are interested in more information or would like to be a part of this trip please contact:

Dianne Ruprich
630-325-7478 home
248-202-5974 cell
druprich@gmail.com
 (email)

Trips to Haiti are happening now. Hope Lutheran in Warren, MI, is traveling to Haiti in May and another group from HLMS was down there recently. It is my hope and prayer that COC will continue to be a part of this beautiful mission.

Blessings,
Dianne Ruprich

MISSION NEWS AND NOTES

Antique Show Announces Mission Recipients

The Bloomfield Antiques Show hosts more than 35 dealers and 900 guests over a 2-day period and raises between \$10,000 and \$15,000 for local and international mission organizations.

It is a great community outreach, a wonderful time of fellowship for our members and nearly 120 volunteers, and a financial blessing to many Christian missions. The show strives to do God's will and God's work and let HIS Light shine through us.

2006 Show...This year's Bloomfield Antiques Show takes place from 10a to 6p, Friday, October 13, and 10a to 4p, Saturday, October 14, 2006. The show, in its 43rd year, will showcase

collectible china, furniture, prints, jewelry and linens. A \$6 donation for admission benefits our mission efforts.

Charity Preview...We are setting aside a special evening in 2006 for a Charity Preview Party! Guests will be served drinks, appetizers, and a light dessert as they stroll through our show and get the first opportunity to see the amazing antiques and buy from our wonderful dealers. Information on tickets to the Charity preview will be available soon.

Mission Recipients...This year's show proceeds will be divided among the following charities:

- Alaska Mission Project, Hoonah, AK (a summer

mission trip in conjunction with St. John Lutheran in Rochester, MI, that provides practical help, Vacation Bible School classes, and other support to the Tlingit people living in this island village, most of whom have subsistence lifestyle)

- Crossroads Pregnancy Center, Auburn Hills, MI
- Detroit Urban Lutheran School, Detroit, MI
- Grace Centers of Hope, Pontiac, MI
- Seminary Students at Concordia Seminaries

Please support the Show!

In Christ,
Don Berkemeier and Wendy Scrimger,
 2006 Show Co-Chairs

Sem Student Looks Forward to Summer Classes

Dear Christian Brothers and Sisters,

My first official year here at the Seminary has finally drawn to a close. I can look back at the last nine months and see that I've learned quite a bit and that I've grown spiritually.

I'll be sticking around to take classes over the summer, but I have a short reprieve that I'm taking full advantage of before they start. Homiletics, Confessions 2, and the Synoptic Gospels will be

keeping me quite busy this summer. My professors have already started giving out homework for us to do beforehand. I continue to enjoy my classes here, and they have gotten more interesting as I go along. I am particularly looking forward to some of the Systematics classes I'll be taking next year. Classes in Ethics and Apologetics have also caught my eye, so I will be trying to work those into my schedule at some point as well.

There is still quite a bit for

me to learn, and I still don't know exactly where God intends to use me in His ministry. I continue to persevere with His guidance. I thank you for your continued prayers and support, not only for myself, but for all the students here. The more we seek to serve God, the harder Satan works to dissuade us. It is your support and reassurance that helps strengthen us to stay on course.

Yours in faith,
Richard Davenport

MISSION NEWS AND NOTES

Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism Group Shares Gospel

In April, I attended a board meeting for Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism (LIJE) in Cincinnati, OH. LIJE has branches in MI, MO and plans to start one in Cincinnati, OH. The goal is to start a "branches" in cities that have a significant Jewish population—over 20,000 people.

LIJE is a RSO (registered service organization) of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, but receives no funds from them. Churches and individuals contribute to its support. The new Executive Director is Pastor Kevin Parviz, a Jewish believer and LCMS pastor in St. Louis, MO; he leads a Messianic congregation and teaches cross-cultural ministries at the seminary. The two-fold purpose of LIJE is: to promote direct Jewish evangelism to Jewish people and educate the church body regarding the need for evangelism and the richness of the Jewish roots of Christianity. For the past four or five years, we have had a Messianic Friendship Group (a part of LIJE) at our church. We live in a densely

populated Jewish area, where most Jews are "secular" and many don't even believe in God. It's a tough mission field.

I was invited to attend a Messianic B'nai Mitzvah at Cross of Christ in March. A Jewish believing dad, David Goldstein, and his two daughters, Olivia and Hannah, proudly proclaimed their faith in Jesus as their Messiah, Lord and Savior to a packed crowd of their friends and family in our sanctuary. Later on the next week, David explained the significance of the ceremony (much like our confirmation) to our Messianic Friendship Group.

If we believe and are obedient to the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20), we need to share the Good News about Jesus with our Jewish as well as Gentile friends. Paul said in Romans 1:16 "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." Jews need to come

to God the same way we do, through faith in Jesus. Read Romans 9-11 if you think Jews are saved merely because they are Jewish. God's word is very clear: there is one Way, and His name is Jesus.

Do you care about where your Jewish (and Gentile) friends spend eternity? Learn how to be more effective in sharing your faith story with them. Check out LIJE.org for a Bible study that could help a Jewish person meet Jesus for themselves...without using the New Testament. Don't worry about your theological knowledge; just share your heart with them. They will respect you for it, and may begin to ask questions. God promises to send His Spirit to lead, direct and bless you.

Please pray for the direction of our Messianic Friendship Group; attendance has been low. Contact me if you're interested in helping to plan the program for next fall.

Blessings in Jesus,
Mary Lou Temple



**ATTENTION:
THOSE OF YOU
WHO HELP IN
YOUR
COMMUNITY!**

We would love to hear what you do in and around your community whether it is volunteering at a hospital, reading and/or visiting the elderly, planting a tree — anything that you are involved in outside of Cross of Christ we would love to hear about. We would like to share what you do with our church family (with your permission, of course!).

Please submit your information to the Church Office 248-646-5886.

Thank you!

**Nancy Wilkie
Director of
Assimilation**

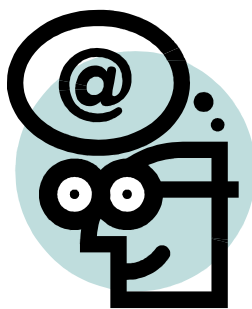


Invite your friends and neighbors to ...

**TREASURE COVE
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Adventures aplenty for preschoolers to 6th graders at Cross of Christ
July 24—July 28 from 9 am—12 noon

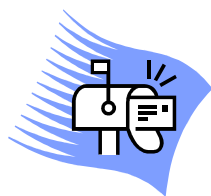
See www.bloomfieldcross.org for more details and to register!
Volunteers needed...contact Cyndi Settecerra at vbs@bloomfieldcross.org



Check out the new Cross of Christ web site! See calendar items and upcoming events, get information on service times and ministry programs, see the newsletter, hear sermons, and much, much more! Tell your friends and neighbors!

Staff emails have changed... please change your address books accordingly.

Use first initial last name@bloomfieldcross.org (e.g.,sbuller@bloomfieldcross.org).



New Web Site Offers Upgrades, Additional Information

On June 1, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church officially launched its new web site: www.bloomfieldcross.org.

The new site was designed to be easy to use and graphically pleasing for visitors and people seeking information about Cross of Christ and its activities.

Scott Dudley has been voluntarily working diligently on the myriad of details that go into the design and production of a new site. He arranged for the hosting and new name, researched and implemented design ideas, created and found graphics, uploaded text, and much more behind the scenes that users will never see — all while making sure the site conformed to web site

standards. Beth Kalusniak and Pastor Steve Grafe assisted Scott on the text portions of the site.

One of the major reasons for the new site was to move the responsibility for updating the site in-house. The site has been designed so that many of the tasks that go into keeping the site current can be transitioned to the Church Office and any other volunteers who have skills and interests in web administration.

In addition, the new site takes advantage of many new web technologies that improve navigation and text searches, and allows for more accessible media-related items such as pdf files, sermons, and music.

The previous site, www.coclc.org will be continued for the next couple of months until users get used to going to the new site. “Our many, many thanks go to Derek Atkin for the hosting and design of the previous site,” said Pastor Steve Grafe. “He was generous with both his time and talent.”

All staff emails have been changed to first initial and last name @bloomfieldcross.org (e.g. sbuller@bloomfieldcross.org). Please change your address books accordingly.

Additional content will be added to the new site in the upcoming months.

Library Corner: Collection Offers Many Biographies

June’s arrival means that summer vacation is just around the corner. The library’s June additions, numerous biographies, as well as an autobiography, would be both enlightening and encouraging reading during vacation. *Goliath* by James Penner is about Robert Schuller and his wife and how they overcame obstacles and personal tragedy to realize their dreams, dreams which benefited millions of people. It is a story of facing Goliath, yet finding the courage and faith to stand up for godly goals, and win. A quote from Dr. Schuller says “Tough times don’t last, but tough people do.” He certainly had his share of tough times before his eventual success. *Nearer My God* is an

autobiography of faith by William F. Buckley Jr. It relives his childhood, with glimpses into pre-WW II America and England. He speaks about his religious experiences as well as the religious experiences of other famous people and examines the meaning of the love of God.

Women of the Bible and *Daughters of Eve* are both collections of biographical stories. The stories are taken from the *Bible* and mixed with commentary to help the reader better understand these women as living, breathing people with personalities and concerns, just as we have today. *All the Women of the Bible* and *The Women of the Bible* are exhaustive

documentations of both named and unnamed biblical women’s lives. They are more in a reference book style, rather than leisure reading.

There is also an addition for children; *My Golden Book About God*. This picture book for age five and under tells about God, “God gives us flowers, the songs of the birds...He sends the sunshine to make things grow...He gives us memories of yesterdays, so that the happy times and people we love, we can keep with us always in our hearts... for God is Love.” Sometimes it is good to read children’s books, so we can be reminded of these truths too!

Heather Sherk

Finance Ministry: A Paradigm of Trust

As part of the Crown Biblical Financial Study, a question is asked, "What part of your spiritual life needs the most work?" In the past, I answered the question by saying "trust" and then did little to change my life. During a quiet time this morning, I asked myself, "What is the barrier that makes me think I can't rely on God for everything?" "Do I need to develop a new paradigm?"

Not too many years ago all bicycles were equipped with identical type seats. Small, hard and uncomfortable; they all looked alike. After all, bicycle seats were designed as simple conveniences to enable the rider to sit and avoid standing—right? I can hear people saying, "You can't change a bike seat, I mean what else would work any better than what was available?" Then it was discovered that different shapes, sizes and even configurations could reduce fatigue and increase athletic

performance. Today, hundreds of seat variations exist to facilitate almost every form of biking. A new paradigm was discovered.

Donald McKenna was our champion miler at Detroit Lutheran High School in the 50's. Don held the record for running the mile in five minutes. No one could beat him. We were all certain no one could ever run the mile in less than five minutes. Don was our paradigm, but he had never heard of Roger Bannister.

I'm sure Roger Bannister grew up hearing that a four minute mile was impossible. I'm sure he was told he couldn't do it. But when he did it, his example changed the world of track.

Perhaps you have been told that you can't make it, you can't be successful; you just don't have what it takes to make a change in your life. Don't believe it. You can break those paradigms of the past! You can move

forward, change your life, and the lives of your children through your new example of Faith. Interestingly, when Roger broke the four minute mile, others followed. They realized that there really was no barrier in the way of success. He established a new example that could be replicated.

My prayer, for you and me, is that God will open our eyes to see whatever spiritual barriers that Satan places in our path, and then to recognize that God wants nothing but success and goodness for each of His children.

No matter how many failures we have experienced, or the hardships or setbacks we've suffered, God wants us to trust in Him to do new things in our lives. Join me as I try not to let my past determine the future. Let's set a new paradigm of trust in God—above all things.

Merl Terry, Ministry of Finance

Parish Nursing Ministry Shares Heart Health Facts

Dear Church Family Members,

I am so grateful for my Christian mother who led me to faith in Jesus. She gave me the best gift she could! Just a few thoughts this month on women and heart health...

One out of two women die from some form of heart disease. This includes heart conditions that can lead to heart attack and stroke: coronary artery disease, abnormal heart rhythms, heart failure, heart valve disease, congenital heart disease and others. Here are some facts I read in the "Rite Aid Healthy Heart Guide" that surprised me: Heart disease is the number 1 killer of women over age 25. One in three females in the U. S . has some form of heart disease. Cardiovascular disease claims more female lives than the next five causes of death combined. Every year since 1984, more women than men have died from cardiovascular disease. Heart disease rates in women after menopause are two to three times higher than those of women prior to menopause.

Risk factors that can be controlled: Smoking, High cholesterol, High blood pressure, Physical inactivity, Diabetes, Obesity . Ladies and moms: God has given you one physical body to use to serve Him and others; please take good care of it!! You are so needed!

Blessings in Jesus, *Mary Lou Temple RN, Parish Nurse*

Raise Money For Cross of Christ...

Go to www.goodsearch.com

Designate Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Bloomfield Hills MI as your charity of choice.

We raise one penny per search for God's Kingdom!



"Troubadours of Joy" is an informal choral gathering that ministers to the sick, hospitalized and/or home-bound. We sing traditional hymns and some contemporary songs.

We leave church at 6:30pm (car pools only) every third Thursday of the month and return around 9 pm. Join us!

Contact Julie Atwood at julie@atwoodcabinetry.com if you have any questions.



Thanks to Kelly at Confection Perfection (248-821-0174) for providing scrumptious cheesecakes, delicious tortes, mouthwatering cookies, delectable desserts, and yummy cookies for Weekday Church School this past year. We were blessed by your talents and generosity!

**Corine Streng,
WCS Director**



Gifts to memorial funds can be made through the Church Office or the offering plate. Please clearly mark the Fund name in the memo line and attach a note if needed. Contact Sheila Buller in the Church Office at sbuller@bloomfieldcross.org or 248-646-5886 with any questions.

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

Dear Cross of Christ,

"Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!" Psalm 115:1

I have two weeks of the Spring Quarter at Seminary before we break for the summer. Now is the crunch time of papers, projects, and studying for exams. It also comes at a time when many rather play outside in the sun than read in the library.

My part time job has also picked back up. I work at Busch Stadium for the St. Louis Cardinals selling souvenirs. Yes, I am that guy who carries around big foam "#1" hands, yelling at the top of my lungs, "SOUVENIRSH!" I have a lot of fun as I am able to interact with people

as well as see part of the baseball game as I walk around the stadium.

As I finish my second year of Seminary, most of my classmates received their Vicarage Call, which will be their one-year internship, but I did not receive one. As I mentioned before, I will be participating in a study-abroad program in Cambridge, so Amie and I will be spending the next year in England. We are very excited for the opportunity to live there for a year. We will leave near the end of September and return near the end of June 2007.

Amie has just over four weeks left of her second year of teaching elementary music. For her, the year has gone by quickly. She enjoys building relationships with the children she teaches as

well as her coworkers. One of her coworkers has had some large life difficulties in the past two years and Amie has had the opportunity to show as well as tell her friend about the love of Jesus. She has also recently begun a distance education Masters degree through a seminary in Indiana, focused on the area of Women's Ministry, something near to her heart.

Thank you for your love, prayers, and financial support throughout this year. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. You are truly a blessing to us.

In Christ,
Ryan & Amie Winningham
6411 Clayton Rd. Apt. 2E
St. Louis, MO 63117
(314) 727-2354

THANKOFFERINGS AND MEMORIALS

TO THE BAPTISMAL FUND: In honor of the baptism of Christian Faulkner by Tami & Nathan Newman-Faulkner; In honor of the baptism of Whitney Dionne by William & Susan Bayton

TO THE GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND: In memory of Ann Sims by Vivian Dezur; Doc & Nan Myrold; Meryl Barwick; Emma Monk; Lynn & Marianne Barber; Lynette Brown

TO THE GENERAL FUND: In memory of Janice Schneider by James & Sharon Connelly

TO THE RON RICHARDS MEMORIAL FUND by: Tom & Pam Danckaert; Dan & Sandra Richards; Karen Curione; Pam Richards; Roy & Virginia Hoke; Mike & Pat Lawrence; Dave Libby; Doug & Ruth LaFontaine; John & Beth Kalusniak; Karl & Shirley Kreft

TO THE BART LARIVE MEMORIAL FUND by: Bill & Vera Dreger; Ann LaBarge; Bill & Claire Fuhrman; Mary Ridenour; Glen & Lorraine Sattelmeier; Robert & Jacqueline Wilson; Ken & Chice Burchill; Fred & Mickey Wilkenson; Diann Richards; Jeffrey & Jo Ann Johnson; Tom & Lisa Fockler; Harold & Annette Stieg; Anne Williams; Karen Valenti; Doug & Ruth LaFontaine; John & Beth Kalusniak; Karl & Shirley Kreft

TO THE JIM WOOTEN MEMORIAL FUND by: Mary Ridenour; Jeff & Jo Ann Johnson; John Loos & Mary Leitao; Doug & Ruth LaFontaine

TO THE STAINED GLASS WINDOW FUND: In memory of Ron Richards, Bart Larive and Larry Maisch "With love and great respect" by Perry, Ardis, Perry IV, Ryan, Allison & Dirk Greene; In memory of Jim Wooten by Karl & Shirley Kreft

TO THE CROWN FINANCIAL MINISTRY: In memory of Lawrence Allen, father of Sheryl Swiderski by: Ray Swiderski; Merl & Trudy Terry; Mark & Karen Sylvester; In honor of Merl Terry with Crown Ministry by Sheryl Swiderski

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

Easter 2006
Dear Friends and Family,

After seven months we have relocated to the city of Taylor Lake Village in Texas. Our post office is in Seabrook, Texas. We are off the NASA Parkway which borders the Johnson Space Center, between Houston and Galveston. Your generous gift helped us significantly with the down payment on this house.

We are attending Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Nassau Bay where Leo served as the first pastor ages ago. We were able to purchase the house at a much lower price than anything we

could locate in New Orleans or at any other site we considered. Your help made our purchase possible.

We still own the house in New Orleans with the outside walls of the gutted house intact. No one is living in the area. Nor are plans finalized about which house may be rebuilt and which ones are to be demolished. All these properties have been significantly devalued.

We are doing just fine. Much of our wellness can be credited to the good Lord and to the family and friends like yourself who have sustained us with

prayers, gifts, words and acts of support. For this we regularly thank the Lord and each of you - some of whom we have known for years; others we have met briefly and some we have never been privileged to meet.

Thank you all. God bless you.
Our new address: 1002 Parkstead Drive, Seabrook, TX 77586. Phone: (281) 474-3801. Emails: leosymmkgmail.com, [rosemerl\(&.bellsouth.net](mailto:rosemerl(&.bellsouth.net)
Let's stay in touch.

With love and care,
Leo and Rose Merle Symmank

On behalf of the Grace Centers of Hope Board of Directors, staff and those we serve, I'd like to thank you for your generosity. Your gift of \$2500, dated April 14, 2006 will provide vital services to the most needy in our community.

Grace Centers of Hope

exists to bring help and hope to all the men, women and children who find themselves lost and in despair. For over 60 years, we have lovingly provided a warm plate of food, a safe place to sleep, clean clothing, spiritual guidance and much, much more.

In closing, thank you for allowing Grace Centers of Hope to continue our tradition of caring for the homeless. Words cannot express what a wonderful gift you have made to help those in need.

Best Wishes,
Kent W. Clark, CEO

On behalf of the Birmingham Bloomfield Community Coalition Youth Action Board, I want to extend our sincere thanks to you and to the Cross of Christ Lutheran Church for your generous donation of your facilities once again for our teen dialogue day, *Choices* 2006, on April 6, 2006.

The Birmingham Bloomfield Community Coalition Youth Action Board (YAB) is a group of volunteer high school students from public

and private schools in the Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills school districts, who meet on a regular basis to plan and organize events that are safe, fun and substance free. The students in our Youth Action Board planned *Choices* for teens in the community to gather and discuss teen use and non-use of alcohol and drugs.

Throughout the afternoon of *Choices*, everyone at the church was so helpful and

accommodating. It was the perfect location and set-up for our event. The students felt welcomed and very comfortable. Thank you Wendy for your assistance in getting the facility for us. And, please pass this and my thanks along to Pastor Steve and the everyone there who helped make the event possible for us.

Sincerely, *Kelly Michal*
BBCC Youth Coordinator
Jessica Brown and Meredith Reynolds, YAB Co-Presidents



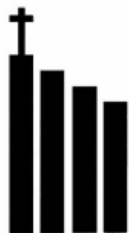
My heartfelt thanks to all of those people who have provided dinners, cleaned my house, helped with yard work, done grocery shopping, assisted Alicia, given me rides to the doctor and to church, and, most of all, prayed for me.

I am waiting for the doctor to tell me when I can begin treatments on my eyes, but know that everything is in God's timing.

I am very blessed!

Juli Garretson





**BLOOMFIELD
ANTIQUÉ SHOW
OUR 43rd YEAR**

Bloomfield Antique Show

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

**October 13th and
14th, 2006**

**Friday
10 am to 6 pm
Saturday
10 am to 4 pm**

**Charity Preview
Thursday, October
12, 2006
6:30 pm-9 pm**

**Verbal Appraisals
by DuMouchelle's
Saturday 10-1**



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

Jesus Masterfully Recruited Volunteers

The following is an article from Group Publishing and Church Volunteer Central - an Association that helps churches accomplish the goals of their ministries by developing a strong volunteer network. As stated - Jesus, the Master Recruiter, set quite an example in enlisting his followers!

Please prayerfully consider serving within the many ministries here at Cross of Christ - you'll be so glad you did!

*In His Service,
Nancy Wilkie
Director of Assimilation*

Recruiting as Jesus Did by Joe Murphy

How can you effectively enlist all the volunteers you need? The best method is to look to the Master Recruiter. Jesus followed seven steps to recruit, and his approach can work for your ministry, too.

1. Jesus' commitment was ultimate. He was committed before he asked others to commit. Too often we plow forward in search of volunteers without taking the time to first

commit ourselves to our ministry.

2. Jesus communicated his vision well. When he spoke, people listened. Great leaders simplify their organization's vision and mission into brief, understandable terms. They tell marvelous stories of changed lives resulting from their organizations' efforts. If people see that you're enthusiastic, visionary, focused—that you know what you want and how to ask for it—they'll want to join you.

3. Jesus needed disciples. They had to become the leaders after he returned to heaven! Constantly teach and equip others to be able to run your ministry, even if you never leave. Let people know specifically how they can help.

4. Jesus clearly set forth qualifications. Jesus' disciples knew they had to leave life as they knew it and give away everything they owned. Tell people precisely what's required to be an effective volunteer. You'll have less turnover if volunteers are encouraged to "count the cost" ahead of time.

5. Jesus pointed out the ups and downs. He warned his disciples how the world would react to them, but he also assured them of his presence. Be honest and open with volunteers about potential challenges or hurdles; then explain how your church prepares and supports its volunteers. Also let recruits know what they're likely to receive for their efforts.

6. Jesus was encouraging. He constantly informed his followers about the rewards that lay ahead if they followed him. Encourage volunteers regularly and become their biggest cheerleader. Believe in them, and they'll believe in themselves.

7. Jesus called people to action. He asked them to commit and follow him. If you've followed the first six steps, most people will be willing to try volunteering. Immediately offer a sign-up list or a card to fill out, and let them know when they can hear from you. Then follow up as promised.

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Obedience and Service Are Response to God's Love

We become God-pleasing stewards when God's will becomes our will. The psalmist wrote, "Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God" (Psalm 143: 10). Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we begin to understand what God's will is. Through faith, our desire to seek God's will leads us to do His will. "I desire to do Your will, O my God, Your law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8). St. Augustine confessed to God, "When I vacillated about my decision to serve the Lord my God, it was I who willed and I who willed not and nobody else. I was fighting myself ... All You

asked was that I cease to want what I willed and begin to want what You willed."

Obedience is vital in order for us to be God-pleasing stewards. Out of love for and gratitude to God, we become obedient and faithful stewards. Faithful stewards love the Lord with all their hearts, souls, and strength and their neighbors as themselves (Mark 12:30-31). God's love for us and our response to His love create a personal and intimate relationship. By grace, God walks in close fellowship with us as He fulfills His promise to

draw near to those who draw near to Him (James 4:8).

An integral part of loving and obeying God as God-pleasing stewards is the serving of the Lord by serving others. At Jesus' return, "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you & I for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me'" (Matthew 25:40). Our love and obedience for the Lord is expressed in love and compassion for others. "Share with God's people who are in need; Practice hospitality" (Romans 12:13).

JUNE CHURCH CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

ONGOING EVENTS

SUNDAYS

8:15am Worship
 9:30am SonLight City
 9:45am Worship;
 Adult Bible Studies
 (NO 9:45 worship on 6/18 –
 SonLight City Pancake Break-
 fast Celebration
 11:15am Worship (through
 6/18; no 11:15a worship
 6/25 – summer schedule)

MONDAYS

9:30am Int'l Friends Walking
 Club (Somerset Mall)
 10am Adult Bible Study
 NO Stephen's Ministry

TUESDAYS

7am Men's Bible Breakfast
 10am Adult Bible Study
 10am MOMS Group(6/6 only)
 NO Internat'l Friends
 5:45pm Prayer Time

7pm Volleyball

WEDNESDAYS

9:30am Int'l Friends Walking
 Club (Somerset Mall)
 NO Weekday until September

FRIDAYS

6p Scrapbook Outreach (6/2)
 7:30p Family Fridays (6/9)

SATURDAYS

5:30pm Worship

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Andrew Bergstrom 6/1	Dolores Schihl 6/10	Robert Pahlow 6/22
Betty Wright 6/1	Edwin Stanke 6/10	Trevor Skipworth 6/22
Matt LeBarre 6/2	Patricia Marion 6/11	Jacob Sutter 6/22
Gail Sutter 6/2	Jeff Schoolcraft 6/12	Carol Schave 6/23
Clara Valenti 6/3	Debbi Lampkin 6/13	Brian Swank 6/24
Kirsten Kozel 6/4	Catherine Casey 6/14	Wendy Zewatsky 6/25
Pierce Mason 6/4	Tom Daykin 6/14	Denise Gosselin 6/26
Vincent Valente 6/4	Alice Holt 6/14	Jennifer Kubit 6/26
Ashley Peacock 6/5	Brent Pifer 6/14	Sara Robb 6/26
William Dreger 6/6	Chase Ehlert 6/15	Razili Stanke 6/26
Kyle Kos 6/6	Vijhay Kodi 6/15	Hilman Fortney 6/27
Jake Michalski 6/6	Kelly McAllister 6/15	Christian Kehoe 6/27
Scott Miller 6/6	Andrea Strohmaie 6/15	Shelby Davidson 6/28
Luke Dameron 6/7	Glenn Schulz 6/16	Scott Dudley 6/28
Matthew Kozel 6/7	Adam Romanko 6/17	Jack Wright 6/28
Kevin Williams 6/7	Erika Dudley 6/18	Sharon DeYoung 6/29
Michael Stein 6/8	Jamie Kohl 6/18	Jordan Scrimger 6/29
James Brown 6/9	Annette Stieg 6/19	Beth Dameron 6/30
Linda Boergert 6/10	Jonathon Behr 6/20	Charlotte Wright 6/30
Lucy Grafe 6/10	Claire Atwood 6/21	Connie Zorn 6/30
Leslie Miller 6/10	Carolyn Williams 6/21	
Jennifer Moss 6/10	Amy Barron 6/22	

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: SAVE, PRAY, SEND CARDS

DIRECTORY CHANGES:

Transferred Out:

Sweet family
 Joy Collins and family

Transferred In: Carol Powrie,
 children Kylie and Bobbie;
 5941 E Miller Way,
 Bloomfield Hills MI 48301;
 248-646-7708

Change: Linda Fry to Linda
 Scott, 41218 Allspice Dr,
 Sterling Hts, MI 48314; 248-
 721-588

Change: Carla & Brian

Covert, 2645 Fox Cove,
 Oxford MI 48370; 248-236-
 4196

SHUT-INS:

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

Lillian Spellicy & Edna Foss
 Waltonwood Retirement
 Living, 3450 West 13 Mile
 Rd, Royal Oak, MI 48073

Jan Hartman, Sunrise of
 West Bloomfield, 7005

Pontiac Trl, West Bloomfield,
 MI 48323

Glen Schultz, Campbell
 Nursing Home, 1900
 Lakeville Rd, Leonard MI
 48367

MILITARY:

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

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

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

CALENDAR ON THE WEB!

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



- Joseph & Debbie Guettler 6/1/1998
- Fred & Ruth Korzon 6/1/1946
- Steve & Cyndy Kirschbaum 6/6/1987
- Jeff & Sue Saracsan 6/6/1970
- Robert & Kathy Dowbenko 6/8/1990
- Bill & Claire Fuhrman 6/10/1950
- Brad & Debbi Lampkin 6/11/1994
- Richard & Jane Robb 6/14/1963
- Konrad & Sue Kohl 6/16/1984
- Kris & Julie Atwood 6/18/1994
- Mike & Dianne Ruprich 6/18/1983
- Barnard & Kathy Gulowski 6/20/1998
- Eric & Andrea Lorey 6/20/2003
- James & Lynn Brown 6/21/1997
- John & Wanda Hilgendorf 6/21/1980
- Chuck & Karen Gilcher 6/22/1991
- George & Fran LaPlata 6/23/1946
- Doug & Linda Ebert 6/24/1994
- Fred & Mickey Wilkinson 6/25/1950
- Dennis & Jane Levine 6/27/1993
- Welton & Roswitha Marsh 6/29/1962
- Jeff & Heidi Peckens 6/29/1996
- Bill & Anita Johnson 6/30/1951
- Robert & Julie Schulte 6/30/1990



**Reaching Beyond
Our Walls**

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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Phone: 248-646-5886

Fax: 248-646-5968

Email: info@bloomfieldcross.org

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

Grace Notes: A Voice of Hope and Light

"Thy strong Word did cleave the darkness, at thy speaking it was done."

You need not read very far into the Bible to develop the distinct impression that since the fall in Eden, God's ability to communicate with His people has been severely hampered. The moment the forbidden fruit was tasted, a veil fell over the eyes and ears of God's most cherished creation. The lying words of the serpent brought a dense virtual pall of darkness over them. And the precious days of perfect mortality and perfect deity intimately walking and communing together on earth – knowing and being known – were over.

Eavesdropping on this seminal moment in Genesis 3:8-13, you don't really have to strain your ears to hear the heartbreaking sound of grief in the voice and words of God.

Yet, even in the mourning of that loss, in the words that promptly followed, the voice that said, "Let there be light," spoke a beacon of hope. The last Word would still be His. One would come who would pierce the darkness. And even deaf ears would hear the message when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (see *John 1:1-14*).

And so, we have become the beneficiaries of His reverberant voice. The Holy Spirit has inspired the words that herald

The Word that opens our ears to hear the word and see His light through any darkness that could surround us. Shall we praise Him for it? We certainly shall. Now and always. Focusing a lens on our eternal future, the apostle John describes the Light and the Creator, the Word, and the reaction of all heaven now and after. See and hear for yourself in Revelation 4:2-11 and 22:5. Then go ahead and sing along! In eternity, you already are! ***"Alleluia, alleluia, praise to Thee who Light dost send. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia without end!"***

Song Texts from: *THY STRONG WORD*, words by Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976

By Bob Alexander
Director of Worship

Download Christian Music from the Web

Reprinted in part from *Thrivent Magazine*, Summer 2006.

By Sarah Asp

You've seen iPods at the gym, on the bus and permanently attached to your teenager's ears. Since Apple introduced the personal digital music player in October 2001, 42 million have been sold. And the Christian music scene isn't being left behind. Here's a brief listing of Web

resources to help you fill your iPods with God-praising tunes:

iTunes and Napster both have Christian music and inspirational sections. Search for specific titles and artists or browse the category. Downloads are 99 cents each.

Check out www.SongTouch.com. Dubbed the "Christian iTunes" the site is packed with contemporary Christian

hits (Windows operating systems only).

For old-time hymns and gospel, look to www.musicoffaith.com.

To catch up on your Bible reading between songs, go to a site like www.discipleshiplibrary.com for free or inexpensive passages, sermons and lessons.

For a comprehensive listing, go to www.thrivent.com/magazine/links.