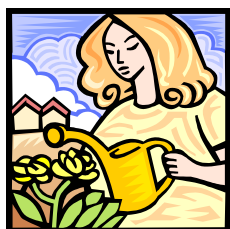




Cross Section



Senior Pastor's Message

Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope and pray this glorious time of the year finds your life abundant with new life and new joys in Jesus. Have I ever mentioned the intro to the newsletter is actually a statement of fact? You are truly my dear friends in Christ! I actually enjoy being part of our church family. Like my own family, there are problems and challenges. And, yes, as with my own family, I was and still am part of the cause of those problems and challenges. The past can and does still haunt me and rises up to attempt to submerge me in guilt and sorrow. However, dwelling on the past doesn't change or improve anything, unless we can learn something such as, the past can serve to remind me of Jesus love and faithfulness, teach me to be thankful for blessings received, encourage me to better love God and others, and point me forward. I freely acknowledge that I am a work in progress, still growing, and still at my best when consciously growing my relationship with the Lord. Yes, even Pastors become lazy in the exercise of the spiritual disciplines that create growth. We learn the hard lessons when we drift from God and His Word. There are no easy or simple answers to the journey of faith and the success of the church. To be open to God's leading requires time with God, and an openness to move as the Spirit leads.

The recent Reveal Spiritual Life Survey taken by half of our members shows we are suffering from a lack of growth. Not growth in numbers, but growth in individual lives. WE have spent too many years looking for programs and ideas to grow Cross of Christ, and sadly, we have often neglected our personal growth. First and foremost, Jesus wants to grow us into fully devoted followers. As we grow and mature in our walk with Christ, we will also grow in our desire to share our best friend with others. As we grow and mature personally, our love for God and others will grow. As we grow and mature into fully devoted followers of Jesus, others will want to come along side of us. The methodology of the early Christians still is God's way to grow the Church....and make no mistake, God does desire to grow His Church! All of this leads to one simple question for each of us. Do we want to grow into fully devoted followers of Jesus?

Over the next several months, the leadership of this church family will focus on assisting every member and visitor to grow into fully devoted followers of Jesus. This requires two things:

1. The leadership has to be serious about their personal devotion to Jesus.
2. Members and visitors must desire to join in this devotion to Jesus.

Does this all sound too simple? I promise you, it is not! Everything in life tends to war against growing into fully devoted followers of Jesus. It begins with the decision to rise up and get into the game. I'm in! How about you?

Love in Jesus,
Pastor Jon

JUNE 2009

The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:20-21

Inside this issue:

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Important Dates and Info

MISSION NEWS AND NOTES

June, 2009 Plate Offering Recipients

This month's offerings have been designated for Lutheran City Ministries, whose headquarters are in Detroit, MI.

Lutheran City Ministries, Inc. (LCM) is a Lutheran, gospel-driven, city ministry reaching out to the urban hearts and souls. This 21st century venture is reaching people in new ways. LCM especially seeks to touch those who do not have a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ – to nourish them in body and spirit.

The ultimate goal is to create pathways for the unchurched to be connected with Word and Sacrament ministry. Every activity is strategically designed to carry God's Word to the places where people live, work and play.

Hurricane Katrina Relief Mission Trip

Thirteen members from Cross of Christ will travel to Camp Restore from June 13-21. This will be our third visit to the area. The weekends will be used for travel time, and the work week (15-19) will be devoted to construction activity. For more information contact Ruth and Doug LaFontaine at 248-935-7231 or [lafontainedoug@aol.com](mailto:jafontainedoug@aol.com). Please keep the team and their efforts in your prayers.

Haiti Mission Trip

This year's trip is scheduled to be a construction/VBS trip during the summer from July 4 - July 11. There is a team of seven people going from Cross of Christ.

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

For more information, please contact the team leaders:

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

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

Kip Ewing - kip@kipewing.com

Pontiac Mission Service Opportunities

St. Paul Lutheran Church, on Joslyn Road in Pontiac, will hold its Vacation Bible School from August 3-7, 2009. Class times are from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., and lunch will be served. The theme will be "Fiesta". **Assistance is needed in the following areas:** teachers, craft aides, snack help, and lunch help. Please see list to the left for other needs.

For more information and/or to volunteer please contact Loree Frank at 248-539-0659 or lnm003@earthlink.net.

Local Mission Opportunity

On the third Saturday of each month, a group of volunteers distributes clothing, blankets, etc. to the needy – many of them homeless - in Detroit. For more information and/or to volunteer, contact Sharon Yarlagadda at 248-855-8955.

India Mission Trip

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

Immediate needs at St. Paul follow:

- Teachers for ESL
- Staples for the food pantry
- Board games for Youth Night
- Painting bathrooms
- Outside Bulletin Board
- Zip lock bags
- Roof repair
- Lighting repair
- Parking lot repair

Ryan Winningham Called To Holland, Michigan

Dear Cross of Christ,

As of last Wednesday, I have been officially called to serve in Christ's church. As I stood there waiting, the words following my name were: Associate Pastor, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Holland, Michigan." Five years of studying and moving came down to that moment, and it was an exciting one! Amie and I went to Hope College in Holland and have been members at Zion ever since, so it is like going home. God is doing exciting things in Holland, and we are eager to become a part of His work, making disciples of all nations. My parents were able to be there and celebrate with us on Call Day.

Aside from the excitement, nervousness, and anticipation that come along with the Spring Quarter at the Seminary, we have been quite busy. Before the quarter started, I had the opportunity to visit my aunt in Salt Lake City, who has been terminally diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). It was meaningful and hopeful even in the face of death because of the hope we share in Jesus.

This spring I raced on the Seminary's cycling team. You may have seen the article in The Reporter (LCMS Newspaper). I am proud to say I am a part of the first cycling victory for Concordia Seminary! Three of us won a 10-mile team time trial at Purdue University's weekend of races. Amie and I also made a trip to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, for a reunion with all of the people we lived with in England. Then we went to Akron, Ohio, to be with my grandpa for Easter, and then briefly up to Michigan to visit Amie's grandma.

Amie is still really enjoying teaching music at the Missouri School for the Blind. She really cherishes the unique relationships she has with her students. In addition to teaching them music, she is working hard to prepare them for their spring concert. Also, Amie continues to lead Faith & Fitness, an aerobics class for seminary women set to worship music. Right now she is training a leader to take over for her next year.

As we prepare to move this summer, please continue to pray for us, that God would provide a smooth transition in our lives. We are excited to be moving to Holland, and I am humbled and honored to be called to serve in Christ's church.

Thank you, again, for your prayers and support over these past number of years. I am very appreciative that you have helped us along the road of seminary. May He continue to bless your ministry.

In Christ,
Ryan & Amie Winningham

Jon,

Thank you so much for your support of Ryan and Amie through their Seminary years. I know it meant a lot to them, and they really appreciated it.

What a wonderful ministry you do for the Seminarians. God bless you for it.

Thanks again

**In Christ,
Dave Winningham
Ascension Lutheran Church, East Lansing**



"All authority on heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go, and make disciples of all nations..."

- Jesus (Matthew 28:18-19)

THANKOFFERINGS AND MEMORIALS

TO THE GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND: In memory of Bill Johnson by Gordon & Pat Anderson, Bill & Claire Fuhrman, Ken & ChiCee Burchill, John & Verna Besancon, Greg & Marlene Kehoe, Derald & Barbara Katterman, Pat Marion, Roy & Carlene Fanning, Mrs. L.W. MacLeón, Gene & Margie Sumney, Don & Gladys Ulmer, RSM McGladrey, Inc.

TO THE BENEVOLENCE FUND: In memory of Bill Newell by Wanda Hilgendorf; In memory of Shirley Flannery by Russ & Lillian Marley

TO THE NARTHEX STAINED GLASS FUND: Offering of thanks by Richard & Ann Walton, Matt & Erika Lebarre, Wanda Hilgendorf, Rosemarie Killenberger, Harold & Annette Stieg, Jon & Betty Reusch, Marian Kuhlman; In memory of Dean Pascoe by Arlene Pascoe

THE SEMINARY FUND: In memory of Bill Johnson by Russ & Lillian Marley

TO THE HAITI MISSION FUND: Offering of thanks by Aubrey & Jeane Lee, Ed & Diane Stanke, Dennis & Linda Toth, Chandra & Saru Yarlagaadda, Helen Hertler, Elizabeth Stieg, Ron & Kathy Rae, Sharon Emery, Mary Ridenour

TO THE FIRST COMMUNION FUND: In honor of Andrew & Sonia Massey by Punam Massey

TO THE BAPTISMAL FUND: In honor of Zachary's baptism by Joey & Kelly Skutt

TO THE CONFIRMATION FUND: In honor of Dirk Greene's confirmation by Gordon & Julie Bentley.

Pray for those in Authority

A few months ago, we Americans experienced a change in government. Some are happy with the change, while others think our country is heading in the wrong direction. Regardless of our feelings regarding our leaders, we are commanded to pray for them. Paul, writing to Timothy "urges" that "*requests, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority. . .*" (1 Timothy 2:1-2). While it is Paul who writes the words, we know that it is God Who gave the message. In other words, this command comes from Almighty God Himself! And why? We are given several reasons:

- *that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness*" (1 Timothy 2:2)
- because "*there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God*" (Romans 13:1).
- because "*they keep watch over [us] as men who must give an account*" (Hebrews 13:1 7a)
- "*so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to [us]*" (Hebrews 13:1 7b)

At the same time, as stewards of the Gospel and as those who put God's Law above manmade law, "*We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard*" (Acts 4:20). Therefore, it is our Christian duty and responsibility to be involved in our government, first and foremost through prayer for our leaders as well as for our fellow citizens, through speaking the truth in love relating to decisions and policies put forward and/or enacted, and then through informed voting as we educate ourselves on the issues confronting our great nation.

Certainly we give thanks to God our Father Who has given us this great land where we enjoy many privileges, greatest among them, the right to assemble for worship, to pray unhindered, and to speak the message of salvation to all who will listen.



PARISH NURSING: MEDICATION GUIDELINES

Dear Church Family Members,

The beautiful weather is finally here, after a long, cold winter. This is why we live in Michigan! I pray you will all have a relaxing and healthy summer.

I would like to share some general guidelines about medication use this month. Medications are a great help in treating and curing diseases, but they need to be treated with care and careful monitoring.

Consider yourself a partner with your doctor in your health care. If you can't hear, see or understand instructions well, take someone along with you to the doctor's office. Take notes and ask questions.

Make sure ALL your doctors know ALL the medications you are taking. Include prescription, over the counter, herbal remedies and vitamins.

You should know the names of all your medications, their purpose and potential side effects. Keep a current list handy, and take it with you on doctor's visits.

Medications can interact with each other, either making effects stronger or canceling them out. The more meds you take, the higher the risk for this to occur.

Use only one pharmacist; they will help you keep track of all your prescription medications and watch for potential drug interactions.

Take your medication as prescribed; if you choose not to, let your doctor know, so they can monitor your condition.

Use some type of pill container to keep track of your medications. (It's so easy to forget!)

Elderly people are at risk for adverse medication reactions (they take more meds, have more chronic diseases, see more doctors and may absorb, metabolize and excrete meds differently than a younger person.)

Store your meds in a cool, dry place. (Medicine cabinets are not ideal.)

Don't take meds after the expiration date...they lose their effectiveness.

Have a wonderful summer! If you would like a home, hospital or nursing home visit, please let me know! I'd love to come to see you.

Mary Lou Temple RN
Parish Nurse



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

A Good Foundation

If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. 1 Corinthians 3:14-15

It's been a good many years since I was in Yankton, South Dakota. Even so, I'm incredibly proud of the 500 families who make up St. John's Lutheran Church, and I give thanks for the pastors who serve as under shepherds of that flock.

And if you're wondering why they were selected for honorable mention in today's Daily Devotion, I will be more than glad to share: right before Holy Week, St. John's Church had a fire, a fire which caused about \$2 million worth of damage.

After close inspection, the state fire marshal and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives investigators agreed: the fire was the result of arson.

What a tragedy! What a terrible cross for a congregation to carry!

But tragedy does not make me sing the praises of these folks. No, I am thankful that these pastors and this parish have had their faith built upon Jesus Christ, the Savior.

Immediately after the fire, church leaders started salvaging personal effects and hauling debris to the dumpsters. The preschool was relocated and an alternative site was found for worship.

But what is most Pleasing is this: Pastor Gunderson Said, "People will come together over this." He is right Knowing the Power of the Holy Spirit, the pastor was able to preach a faith message about how their gracious God will bring the congregation through this test of faith.

That's what he said. Then he added, "Our goal is to continue to lift high the cross.

Did I say this fire was a tragedy? Let's change that to "this fire has become an opportunity for St. John's to witness to their invincible Lord!"

That is the kind of witness Christian martyrs have made over the centuries; it's the kind of proclamation Christians continue to make every time they entrust their future into the hands of the crucified and ever-living Savior.

It's the kind of witness that allows believers to say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" (Hebrews 13:6b)



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Jack DeBrincat | 6/1 | Leslie Miller | 6/10 | Carolyn Williams | 6/21 |
| Betty Wright | 6/1 | Dolores Schihl | 6/10 | Cassie Jack | 6/22 |
| Matthew LeBarre | 6/2 | Patricia Marion | 6/11 | Robert Pahlow | 6/22 |
| Kevin Schaible | 6/2 | Noreen Rosin | 6/11 | Carol Schave | 6/23 |
| Elizabeth Dameron | 6/3 | Deborah Lampkin | 6/13 | Brian Swank | 6/24 |
| Clara Valenti | 6/3 | Catherine Boggs | 6/14 | Wendy Zewatsky | 6/25 |
| Barbara Armbruster | 6/4 | Joshua Brown | 6/14 | Denise Gosselin | 6/26 |
| Kirsten Kozel | 6/4 | Thomas Daykin | 6/14 | Jennifer Kubit | 6/26 |
| Pierce Mason | 6/4 | Alice Holt | 6/14 | Razili Stanke | 6/26 |
| Ashley Peacock | 6/5 | Brent Pifer | 6/14 | Alexandra Azzam | 6/27 |
| William Dreger | 6/6 | Chase Ehlert | 6/15 | Christin Brown | 6/27 |
| Kyle Kos | 6/6 | Dain Evans | 6/15 | Hilman Fortney | 6/27 |
| Jake Michalski | 6/6 | Vijay Kodi | 6/15 | Yvette Hunter | 6/27 |
| Scott Miller | 6/6 | Kelly McAllister | 6/15 | Suzanne Loebel | 6/27 |
| Luke Dameron | 6/7 | Andrea Strohmaier | 6/15 | Shelby Davidson | 6/28 |
| Matthew Kozel | 6/7 | Adam Romanko | 6/17 | Scott Dudley | 6/28 |
| Liam Cesal | 6/8 | Erika Dudley | 6/18 | Jack Wright | 6/28 |
| Michael Stein | 6/8 | Jamie Kohl | 6/18 | Sharon Schaible | 6/29 |
| James Brown | 6/9 | Annette Stieg | 6/19 | Jordan Scrimger | 6/29 |
| Linda Boergert | 6/10 | Jonathan Behr | 6/20 | Charlotte Wright | 6/30 |
| Lucy Grafe | 6/10 | Phillip Krause | 6/21 | | |

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

Transferred Out

- Dick & Doris Bland
- Neil and Kathy Strohmaier

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)

JUNE 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 (6/2)

WEDNESDAY

FRIDAY

6:00 Scrapbook Crop
(6/5)

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.

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

James & Lynn Brown 6/21/1997
David & Peggy Budaj 6/22/1985
Bob & Kathy Dowbenko 6/8/1990
Bill & Claire Fuhrman 6/10/1950
Chuck & Karen Gilcher 6/22/1991
Joseph & Debbie Guettler 6/1/1998
John & Wanda Hilgendorf 6/21/1980
Steve & Cyndy Kirschbaum 6/6/1987
Konrad & Sue Kohl 6/16/1984
Fred & Ruth Korzon 6/1/1946

Brad & Debbi Lampkin 6/11/1994
George & Fran LaPlata 6/23/1946
Eric & Andrea Lorey 6/20/2003
Mike & Dianne Ruprich 6/18/1983
Jeff & Sue Saracsan 6/6/1970
David & Kristina Schaefer 6/10/1995
Robert & Julie Schulte 6/30/1990
Richard & Diane Scott 6/10/1989
Fred & Mickey Wilkinson 6/25/1950





THEREFORE...

One of the most motivational and challenging words in Scripture is the word “therefore.” It is motivational and challenging because it is often used to mobilize us into action. The writers of the Bible often used “therefore” to prompt us to respond to who God is and to the wonderful blessings that come from Him. In essence, we turn from hearing and knowing to putting our faith into action. Webster’s Dictionary defines “therefore” as follows: “for this or for that reason, hence.” Although “therefore” is used in numerous places in the Bible, we will focus on the following three verses:

1 Corinthians 6:20: Here the apostle Paul tells us that, because of what Jesus has done, we “*are not [our] own; [we] were bought at a price. Therefore honor God. . .*” Jesus paid the ultimate sacrifice with His precious blood. Therefore, in light of His sacrifice, what does God desire and deserve from us? He deserves nothing less than our total praise and devotion. “Therefore” is the link from knowing to doing. Through faith, we know what Jesus did for us, and, again through faith, we are empowered to honor God. We honor Him in many ways. As stewards, we honor Him when we use our time, talents, and treasures in ways that advance His kingdom. In essence, we honor Him with all that we are and have.

Romans 12:1: “*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship*” (Romans 12:1). In the chapters preceding this verse, Paul repeatedly references God’s abundant mercy to us. Using the word “therefore,” Paul directs us, in light of God’s mercy, to “*offer [our] bodies as living sacrifices.*” Because God is merciful and does not punish us as we deserve to be punished, we are to present ourselves to God as sacrificial gifts. We are to surrender and submit our lives to Jesus. A living sacrifice implies that Jesus is the Lord of every area of our lives. Having received God’s mercy, we are motivated to live lives of obedience and faithfulness.

Matthew 28:18: “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations. . .*” Jesus is Lord of all and has received from the Father all power in heaven and earth. With the word “therefore,” He gives us the Great Commission. We are commanded to go to all nations to spread the Gospel.

With this inspiration from Scripture, therefore, let us express our faith. As the Holy Spirit speaks to us through God’s Word, let us obey His promptings to live out our faith. Therefore, go and let others see His light and love through you.



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