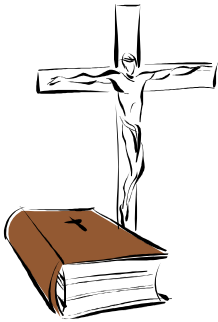




Cross Section



Since the focus of Lent is the spiritual dimensions relating to Jesus suffering and death, rather than give up something, each of us should take time to study the spiritual side of Lent.

Senior Pastor's Message

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

As we begin another Lenten journey on March 1, 2006, may these 40 days provide each of us with an opportunity for some special devotional time. Since the focus of Lent is the spiritual dimensions relating to Jesus suffering and death, rather than give up something, each of us should take time to study the spiritual side of Lent. Perhaps it will be something as simple as reading the four gospels during Lent. Perhaps it will be participating in a small group study of the meaning of Lent. The choice should bring each of us out of our

present comfort zone, and lift us to new awareness of the meaning of the phrase, "suffered under Pontius Pilate, crucified, died, and was buried." A trip to any Christian bookstore can provide you with ample material to enhance your Lenten journey. May God bless each of us with a renewed appreciation and awe as we consider once again, "God so loved the World that He gave...."

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2006, with morning meditation, Holy Communion, the placing of ashes on the forehead, and evening worship at 6:45 p.m. The Sanctuary will be

open from 5a.m. to 11 a.m. for those wishing to receive the ashes of repentance. Also, the Pastors and Elders will be conducting a prayer vigil as we begin Lent.

The remaining Lenten services will focus on the theme, "Truly, this is the Son of God." Each of the five services will feature one of the Pastors from our circuit as the preacher. This will enable you to hear from a variety of Pastors. Please join us for dinner (begins at 5:30p.m.) and then the 6:45p.m. worship. May Jesus keep you growing in His grace.

Love in Jesus,
Pastor Jon

March 2006

PRAYER FOCUS

"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

Inside this issue:

Elders Information

Grief Support Group Starts

Many Books for Parents in Library

Council Update

Thank You Letters

Important Dates, Info and Address Changes

Dancing With God

KENYON COLLEGE CHAMBER CHOIR COMES TO CROSS OF CHRIST

On Friday, March 10th at 7:00pm the Kenyon College Chamber Choir will be performing in the sanctuary at Cross of Christ. This 54-person, a capella choir will delight an audience of all ages with classical and contemporary music in multiple languages. Our own Andrea Daly, a senior at Kenyon, is a member of this group and very excited to have Cross of Christ included in their Midwestern tour this year. This choir performs around the country and promises to be a memorable evening for all who attend. The concert is free, so plan to bring your family and friends and join us! We will be providing a dinner at church before the concert for the students and housing for that Friday night as well. I am looking for volunteers to help with the dinner and for host families interested in taking students home for the night after the concert. If you would like to assist in any way, please call or email Julie Atwood: 248-851-5750 or Julie@atwoodcabinetry.com.



The Church is facing approximately a \$100,000 loss by the end of the fiscal year; our checking account is losing about \$30,000 to \$40,000 each month. On the giving side, December 2005 was a very positive month, one of the best ever, and a continued trend upward in giving would negate some of the expected losses.

Action was taken on the following items at the last Council meeting. The next Council meeting is March 18.

The Council approved Sheila Buller and Steven Peacock as our representatives and signatories for our Schwab Account.

The Church Council unanimously agreed that any item or money donated, given, purchased or otherwise acquired by Cross of Christ Lutheran Church becomes an asset of the church and requires a minimum of the approval of the Senior Pastor, likely the approval of the Church Council, and, depending of the dollar value of the item, potentially the approval of a majority the Church's Members (as defined in the Church's constitution).

Council member Robert Schulte offered to follow up with our Cooks Academy tenants regarding the signing of our lease with them.

Pastor Jim Ackerman approached the Council through President Jeff Grunewald and asked that he be allowed to re-retire and have his status accurately reflected as part-time (less than 20 hours per week) to take advantage of a Concordia retirement annuity funded by Cross of Christ during his time here. Council approved the status change. Under the motion

passed by the Voters' in December 2005 Pastor Ackerman will stay at the same level of pay through June 30, 2006.

The Church balance sheet is currently reflecting a positive cash position and we have paid down about \$150,000 of our mortgage so far this fiscal year. The mortgage needs to be re-amortized in December 2006; at today's rates, our monthly payment would decrease from about \$15,000 to about \$10,700 per month. Of the money collected under Reaching Beyond Our Walls, about \$275,000 remains available. The Church is facing approximately a \$100,000 loss by the end of the fiscal year; our checking account is losing about \$30,000 to \$40,000 each month. On the giving side, December 2005 was a very positive month, one of the best ever, and a continued trend upward in giving would negate some of the expected losses.

Additionally, the For the Sake of the Church campaign pledge of \$150,000 is projected to be fulfilled through loose plate offerings during this fiscal year.

Council has been notified by the Welcome Center committee that the redesign requested by Council has been completed and that approval of an \$8,000 to \$10,000 expenditure will be

required to complete the project. Given the financial status of the church, Council tabled this expenditure for the time being and will revisit the item during the budgeting process.

Pastor Steve Grafe provided an analysis of the expenditures under the Worship Technology category. Based on this information and other information regarding the Education budget, Council re-allocated some spending out of the operating budget and into Reaching Beyond Our Walls.

Pastor Jon Reusch and Pastor Steve Grafe will meet with Wendy Scrimger and Sheila Buller to update facility rental guidelines.

Church Council gave Pastor Steve Grafe approval to seek a volunteer to re-design the church website and move the site to an outside server to allow for more media-intensive items (i.e., videos, more sermons, etc.). The cost is minimal and well within the current communications budget.

President Jeff Grunewald asked Council members to note upcoming meetings on March 18, May 20, July 15, September 16, and November 18.

Elders' Message

To My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the board of elders, I would like to express my most heartfelt thanks to you for the opportunity to serve in the capacity of elder here at cross of Christ. It is truly an honor to assist in the word and sacrament ministry, and also work with such fine men as Pastors Jon, Jim, and Steve.

Brothers In Christ: I'd also like to thank my brothers on the board of elders. These men give so much of themselves in this ministry and work diligently with the pastors in directing the spiritual life of our congregation. Our newest elders, Mark Frank and Steve Boergert have stepped right in and had a positive effect on this ministry. Steve is also part of the church council, working to ensure that the leadership is walking

together.

Assignments: Each family has been assigned an elder, who prays for and encourages in the faith, all those assigned to this care. Look excited when your elder contacts you for prayer requests, family updates, or assist in the worship service in some way.

Prayer Vigil: We will again have an all night prayer vigil in the sanctuary. There will be an elder praying every hour from 10:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday until Noon on Good Friday. Anyone who wishes to come and pray with us is welcome. We will do the same thing on Ash Wednesday from 5:00-11:00 a.m. Come join us then as well.

Lenten Devotionals: I hope everyone will use the devotional 'The Greatest Sacrifice' and the pamphlet 'God's Sacrifice For You' (Max Lucado and Billy

Graham) as part your Lenten season preparation and study. They are great tools to share with those who don't know Jesus.

Connecting with Kids:

Through Sonlight City and the First Communion Examination, we have had a chance to connect with the children by coaching, teaching, and shepherding. We have made presentations on other 'Religions' to the spotlight group (grades 6-8)

In the first chapter of his book 'The Purpose Driven Life', Rick Warren sums up in the life of a Christian in the first sentence: "It's not about you". It is, of course, about he who redeemed us. Let us walk together, mindful of that fact, at all times.

God's Peace

Duane Turner,
Elder

It is truly an honor to assist in the word and sacrament ministry, and also work with such fine men as Pastors Jon, Jim, and Steve.



All My Fountains
Are in You
Psalm 137

Women's Retreat—

Mark Your
Calendar:

This year's women's retreat, "How Deep Will You Drink?" based on Psalm 87:7, will be on **March 31 and April 1 at the Troy Hilton.**

Registration forms should be filled out and submitted to the church office by February 26.

All women are welcome.

Chicago Names Pastor Del Pauling Way

Editors' Note: Pastor Pauling led Cross of Christ from 1960 to 1973.

On June 24, the block of Goethe from LaSalle to Clark was alive with appropriate ceremonies to add another name to the street. The block was designated Pastor Del Pauling Way by the City of Chicago to honor Reverend Delayne Pauling's twenty-three years of service as the Pastor of First Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Pastor Pauling almost spoiled the surprise when he went out that morning to check on the condition of the landscaping. He was concerned about the survival of the plants in the extremely hot, dry spell that the Midwest was enduring. He saw the new protruding bar covered in canvas on the sign pole. He tried to pull the rope hanging down from the cover. Fortunately for the event planners, it wouldn't come down. He was totally surprised by the renaming of the street and considers it a "great honor." He says he doesn't deserve it and is humbled by it. His parishioners and others who know him would disagree, as Pastor Pauling has been a positive force in the Sandburg and surrounding communities during his tenure. The ceremony was the beginning of a weekend send-off for this warm and caring man who has helped First Saint Paul's to grow both in size and mission. His final service as Pastor took place on Sunday, June 26. About 20 of his family members from Oklahoma, Iowa, and as far away as the west coast, came to Chicago for the retirement activities.



Ladies' Night Out March 6

5:30p to 10p

Bring a passing dish and your crafting, knitting, sewing, scrapbooking or other project to work on.

Contact Julie Schulte for more information.



LADIES NIGHT
OUT

Monday March
20 – the first day
of spring!

Come to the Mug on the Run progressive dinner. All are invited! Bring a friend and a mug! Meet at church for appetizers at 6:15pm. (Back by about 10pm.) Sign up at the church. The church bus will be available!

Any Questions call Cindy Nyquist 248-646-0957 or Mary Schwab 248-626-3110

MINISTRY NEWS AND NOTES

Library Corner: Information for Parents Abounds

March Break is fast approaching, so if you would like to be prepared with some worthwhile entertainment for younger children, we have just added three tapes from the Greatest Adventure series; *The Miracles of Jesus*, *Noah's Ark* and *Moses*. These tapes are well done and your children will both be entertained and benefit from them.

For assisting parents of both preschool and elementary school children, the library has been given *Growing Kids God's Way*, a multi-cassette series which can be listened to in its entirety, or by selecting particular topics of interest. Cassette titles include, "How to Raise a Moral Child", "Discipline with Encouragement" and

"Your Child's Conscience" as well as many other useful topics.

Speaking of choices, parents of preschoolers especially, but also parents of older children, must make important decisions about future schooling options – public, private, Christian or home schooling. A workbook and cassette tape resource called *School Choice*, *Making Your Decision* and *Making it Work* has been donated to the library.

Recently donated books include *Glorious Appearing* by Tim LaHaye and J.B. Jenkins and *Mind Siege*, also by Tim LaHaye. *Glorious Appearing* is the twelfth book in the Left Behind Series, a fictional account of the last days of the world.

Mind Siege is a non-fiction book which seeks to inform us about the "threat we face as humanists encroach on areas of life we once considered sacred and safe." On a lighter and happier note, we have added *God is in the Small Stuff*, a small book full of big encouraging ideas for improving our lives. Here is a sampling; "If you express your love to your spouse often enough, you'll never have to ask if your spouse loves you" (207), and "Worrying occurs when God is left out of the process" (122).

Thank you to all of our kind donors.

Heather Sherk

Parish Nursing: Grief Support Group Starts

Dear Church Family Members,

All of us experience grief and loss in our lives. As a church family, we need to support and encourage each other. A GriefShare Support Group will begin at church in the months to come.

If you've experienced the death of a loved one in the past months (or even years), and are interested, let me know. It's a 12-week video/discussion series that will meet once a week.

The topics include:

- When your dreams fall apart
- Seasons of grief
- Emotions of grief (2 parts)
- When your spouse dies
- Your family and grief
- Where is God?
- Your greatest resource
- Stuck in grief or moving on?
- Growing through grief
- Grief Recovery Tool Kit
- God's spiritual hospital
- Longing for heaven

Each session combines

practical information with a biblical, Christ-centered focus on the spiritual issues that accompany the grieving process.

May God bless you in this Lenten season and make you whole in body, mind and spirit.

Love in Jesus,
Mary Lou Temple RN
Parish Nurse

MINISTRY NEWS AND NOTES

Financial Ministry: It's All a Matter of Perspective

Tony Beckett, a pastor friend of mine at Calvary Baptist in Canton, MI thinks I need to join the "young" world of computing. So, he sent me 3 pages of instructions on *blogging* and suggested that I should begin doing it. Now, the crazy thing is, I read it - all 3 pages! And, this is coming from someone who deletes e-mails that contain more than one paragraph.

I understand that teens, college kids and now even missionaries are using this method of communicating on the internet, because it is cheap and quick. After viewing Tony's blog, I think it might be useful for our ministry. It may be a cool way to spread God's Word to a lot of people who don't know about Jesus and His teachings.

Think of the possibilities for demonstrating what we have been teaching at Cross of Christ regarding personal finances. I am beginning to change my perspective on using the computer. And--At my age, that is a very BIG DEAL.

Gary Thomas says he changes his perspective on money every year. He writes:

Thinking about eternity helps us retrieve perspective. I'm reminded of this every year when I figure my taxes. During the year, I rejoice at the paychecks and the extra income and sometimes flinch when I write out the tithe and offering checks. I

do my best to be a joyful giver, but I confess it is not always easy, especially when there are other perceived needs and wants. At the end of the year, however, all of that changes. As I'm figuring my tax liability, I wince at every source of income and rejoice with every tithe and offering check. More income means more tax, but every offering and tithe means less tax. Everything is turned upside down or, perhaps more appropriately, right-side up. I suspect Judgement Day will be like that."

Perhaps we all need a perspective change. Take a look at 1 Timothy 6; this is the "the love of money is the root of all evil", Chapter. One perspective might suggest that God does not want people to be wealthy. However, that is far from the truth. A friend of mine lives at a very prestigious address in a large home. He and his wife hold parties and invite some **very** influential people. Is that a bad thing? No. These folks are missionaries to whom God has given a lot of money. They are using their *wealth* to reach people for Jesus who others do not have enough influence to gain an audience.

God says it's OK to have money or to earn a large income. He only cautions us on how we use it. Don't love it, He says. Don't be greedy for it. Don't let your life's goal be the pursuit of it. (Ecclesiastes 5: 10 -11)

Why did God give us so much? Why did He give you and I so much and some others so little? Could it be that He loves the rich more than the poor? That doesn't equate. God made the rich, rich. Didn't He? **He** took a regular person and gave him wealth. So, why did He do that? From my perspective, He made us rich; gave us excess, so we could share with others. When you give your son or daughter a treat (a bag candy for example) and one of their friends is present, do you suggest that your child share? Sure you do! Could the reason we have more be that God expects us to share with others also?

It is only my perspective, but it appears you and I have something to share. Whether it is the time we take to visit someone who needs comfort or help someone who needs of a ride to church. God gives us every hour of everyday. Does God want you to share your administrative or teaching or mechanical skills in His service?

Here is one last perspective. Jesus talked about money more than any thing else; more that faith, heaven, angels or love. Yet, He never asked anyone to give Him money. Instead, he commanded that we provide for His people. What is your perspective?

Merl Terry
terrycrown@comcast.net



MOM-TO-MOM
SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL
29TH 2006
10:00 - 1:00
Admission Fee
\$1

Cross of Christ
Lutheran Church

Invite your
relatives, friends,
and neighbors!
Great Bargains
on all kinds of
things for kids
and moms-to-be!

For further
information, visit
our website at
www.coclc.org,
e-mail
[Mom2Mom@
coclc.org](mailto:Mom2Mom@coclc.org), or
call Sue
(248)375-2332

**Kenyon College
Choir**

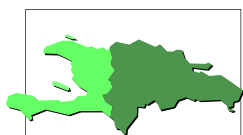
**Sings at Cross
of Christ on**

BREAKING NEWS !!

**Saturday
March 25th @
8 a.m.
(refreshments
will be served)**

**Presentations
in the
Sanctuary.**

**Everyone is
encouraged to
stop in and
learn about
different
Mission
Organizations.
Which ones
will COC
support in the
coming fiscal
year? Help
with this
decision.**



**Requests for the
HLMS
newsletter,
contributions,
and child
sponsorship
information may
be directed to:
Haiti Lutheran
Mission Society
PO Box 22544
Lincoln, NE
68542
402-474-2063
www.haitilutheran.org**

MISSION NEWS AND NOTES

The Mission Committee met February 21. Verna Besancon will continue to lead the committee into a new and exciting year of Mission Service at COC.

HAITI NEWS:

Haiti has finally had its Presidential elections after many months of delays. Preval is now President and hopefully this is a good thing. He has good plans for the country and we pray he will be able to follow through with them. The newspaper articles claim a 'calming effect' in the unrest of Haiti—time will tell.

Dick Bueche, Executive Director, of the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society is planning a trip to Haiti March 29 to April 5 for the dedication of the Church at Carrideux, which COC has worked at, along with a small medical group. Hope Lutheran in Warren, MI has plans for a trip along with a church from Minnesota and people from Wisconsin. They will be going for 9 days the end of May 2006.

Will Cross of Christ once again be called to do the Lord's work in Haiti? Leaders are needed; training is available.

Express your desires to apply to be part of a team or a Leader to Dianne Ruprich @ dlr@aol.com or 248-202-5974. Thanks for your prayers and support !!

MACAU, CHINA NEWS:

It looks like the Holstes will be returning to Macau in October 2006. COC does

help support this mission in Macau. Opportunities are being discussed for mission work in Macau. If you are interested in learning more contact: Dianne Ruprich @ dlr@aol.com.

"A SNEAK PREVIEW":

The Mission Committee will focus on LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL service projects.

Locally: Grace Center of Hope in Pontiac will be one focus and we hope to set up a monthly workday with them—focusing on their needs for our service.

The Burnstein Community Health Clinic in Pontiac is up and running Thursday evenings. Ruth LaFontaine, Corine Streng, Mary Lou Temple, and myself have been volunteering in the Pharmacy and medical assistant areas of the clinic. Pam and Katrina Haratsis, friends of the Christmas Concert, are also involved in office and computer work. Julie Day, a former Haiti trip team member, has worked as a receptionist. Verna Besancon will be joining and helping with office and computer management.

I so look forward to Thursday evenings but opportunities are also available daytime hours. Much HELP is needed to expand services to the local public that are uninsured. See the Display in the Narthex for Information and Sign Up opportunities.

International Friends (IF) is a mission opportunity in our very own building. IF meets

with, but is not limited to, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean ladies that would like to improve their English while living in the US. What an opportunity to have fun, meet wonderful new friends, and talk about Jesus.

Recently we have been also corresponding by email, which improves their English, and email skills.

There is a need for more volunteers in IF on Tuesdays from 1-3pm. Contact Katie Moigis for more information @ 248-332-7592.

MORE! More local opportunities are in the Construction phase. Service at the Crisis Pregnancy Center, and POBLO are only a couple of new areas that we will have more info on soon.

NATIONALLY:

We are looking into a Short Term Mission Trip to support and service the on going needs of the people in the Hurricane Katrina area. Watch for trip details. Other national discussion will be held at the Feb. meeting.

INTERNATIONAL:

Along with opportunities in Haiti, Macau, and India we are also looking into service with POBLO, and M.O.S.T. for travel consideration.

Blessings to you,
Dianne Ruprich

MISSION NEWS AND NOTES

Many Thanks Upon Leaving Cross of Christ

SEEK, GROW, SEND the Mission Statement at COC has become my life statement. I was sought (ask Bettye Kelsey). I have grown at COC and continue to grow in the Lord with the help of many of you. I now feel I'm at the send stage. What does that mean? I'm not quite sure what plans the

Lord has for me but I am willing and content to go. We will be moving to the Chicago area officially starting March 1st. I take with me all of you in my heart as support and encouragement (you may get phone calls to help me with that). While searching and

integrating into a new church family I will continue to work with the Mission Committee at COC. The love of the Lord and of His people will continue to grow through outreach—please join us.

Blessings to you,
Dianne Ruprich

Logos Hope: Team Prepares for Germany Final Phase

Written by Jaylene Schlichting, Project Journalist

BREMEN AND BEYOND
The last week was a busy one for Heike Weigel (Germany) and Nelly Enns (Paraguay), the two-woman preparation (line-up) team that as from March will be based in Bremen, Germany. This will be where Logos Hope enters into the Outfit Phase, the final project phase before she goes into ministry. During the Outfit Phase we

anticipate hundreds of volunteers to partner in the transformation work. Their number one challenge is not having a set arrival date. This project is a journey of faith, one step and one day at a time.

EMPTY SHOES FILLED
Janice Boric (Australia) will be joining the Logos Hope team in early March to take up this role! She is not only coming for several months, but has committed for two years! The Project team has spent much

time praying for someone to come, Janice is a HUGE answer to our prayers and a certain reminder that God is with us. Finally, these shoes have been filled!

GIVE THANKS AND PRAY FOR:
*Pray for Nelly and Heike as they make preparation in Bremen for the arrival of Logos Hope!
*Praise for Janice and her willingness to become the Project Worker Coordinator. Pray that she can adjust quickly.

Seminary Student Continues Classes

Greetings again to my Brothers and Sisters!

Another term has come and gone here at the Seminary. The last couple of weeks have been extremely busy for me. A seemingly endless mountain of reading assignments, translation work, papers and finals stood before me. However, with God's grace, I have surmounted the obstacle and am ready for the new challenges the next term will bring. My classes this time include introductory hermeneutics, the history of

the LCMS, understanding pastoral ministry, and an introduction to the Lutheran Confessions. In addition to that I will be moving on in my field work assignment and will be visiting a local Messianic Jewish congregation to join in their worship and fellowship.

With the completion of my worship class I have begun to my field work church as lector and communion assistant. The knowledge that God would use unworthy and sinful men such as me to proclaim His Word and distribute His Body

and Blood in the sacraments is cause for prayerful thanksgiving.

I continue to pray for all of you, asking that He keep you safe and firm in the faith. I thank you for your prayers. It is reassuring to me that there are so many who wish me well and support me here. I cannot thank you enough for what you do. I hope to see you all again soon.

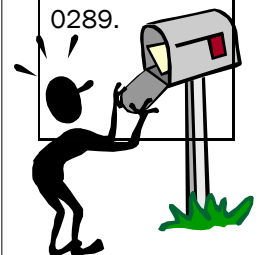
Yours in faith,
Richard Davenport



High School Students and Junior Youth:

Mission Opportunities are great ways to serve the Lord and also fulfill your Community Service Hours. Your friends are welcome and encouraged to come too.

Anyone—Everyone is invited to attend the Mission Committee Meetings. To receive a reminder postcard of up coming meetings—call the Church office and request to be put on the mailing list or contact Verna Besancon @ 248-253-0289.





Trading Graces

Ebay Auction to benefit Lutheran Child and Family Services

Hosted until March 8

Visit www.lutheranservices.org to view e-catalog of auction items available.

LCFS serves vulnerable, abused and neglected children and families throughout Michigan.

TWILIGHT SAINTS

Do you know the "final frontier" in medicine? It has just passed somewhat of a threshold of public awareness, yet only those who are suffering intimately with its plight do not agree that it is as respected or made familiar as other flaws in the anatomy.

You may have heard it called "Bipolar," (formerly known as "Manic Depression").

Because of its twilight state in the minds closed by ignorance, personal invention of reasons, diagnosis, remedies, etc. give arrogant dispositions a twisted need to make a vulnerable fellow saint their project and grab a tasty morsel to fill that craving for control. The Bipolar victims who are "out there" with little guidance and encouragement may take on a false guilt when they are accused of not being spiritual enough if they have to be on medicine (which is not related to spirituality). How I remember those days of condemnation and finally taking myself off meds only to be hospitalized. Do we "accuse" people with other sorts of illnesses and point a finger at them and say it is "your fault for becoming so sick?"

There is the suggestion (to a Bipolar victim who has been on their medicine for a long time) to get off medicine with the statement "...you don't need it anymore, you are doing so well!" Unfortunately for us all there are too many "wanna be doctors" who seem to offer reasonable "ways" when a professional doctor in the long run is the one we come

crawling back to!!

I have the Bipolar condition. My 32 years since my diagnosis (I am 53 years young) fortunately has left me a better person, but not without the hard struggles and a drive to overcome. The 3 steps forward and 2 steps back scenario is still real in my life and I can get discouraged.

Bipolar is a fear-based illness caused by a **CHEMICAL IMBALANCE IN THE BRAIN AND HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SPIRITUALITY**. It can start (as mine did) in the teenage years and has been said to be confused with the natural adolescent tendencies and can affect ones confidence through life. It often at the onset leads to a breakdown because the mind races out of control (not by choice) or it can dive deep in despondency prompting the sufferer the kind of fear which causes one to believe only doom is their fate (in spite of reasoning from authorities in the church and doctors).

This description is subjective but I have experienced, listened and observed. Even doctors cannot pinpoint a "why" someone broke down or is able to completely prevent the verge of one. Medicines have helped tremendously but I find, as I take medicine, I still need to catch in the bud those circumstances, stresses, social situations, etc. which I must avoid to prevent panic and a possible hospital stay (my last one was in 1985 ... PTL!).

I must give testimony that there are wonderful people, educated, compassionate and spiritual fellow believers who do not label a person Bipolar according to their spirituality. I had a bad setback (in 1985 as mentioned) and the church I attended at the time assigned me a deaconess. She called me weekly to encourage me, give me answers to the questions of life, and tips toward my healing which included such things as exercise, helping with chores and getting a sense of belonging in the church **BY SERVING IN THE CHURCH**, and recreation.

One very significant activity with which I have personal identity involved walking the neighborhood (exercise) plus carrying with me index cards on which I wrote scripture verses (having depth and meaning to me) and memorizing one verse at a time "in motion." I built a collection of cards and verses in my mind and inner being. To this day I may come across a verse which still "tickles" from those days and though I may have forgotten some in my mind, they are within my spirit and I know this was a tremendous help to me then and I presently still benefit from the inner knowledge. It must be understood **I WAS ON MEDICATION THEN AS I AM NOW**.

I do not say "I am Bipolar" but that I have a chronic illness, Bipolar and I AM CINDY SIMS!!!

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Counting The Cost

"Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be My disciple

(Luke 14:33), spoke Jesus to His listeners about the cost of following Him. He said we must hate our families and even our own lives if we want to be His disciples. He said that, unless we carry our crosses and follow Him, we cannot be His disciples (Luke 14:25-27).

Jesus is one of those true leaders who commanded only what He Himself was willing to do. He gave up His family; He left the close fellowship with His Father in Heaven to come to Earth. Here He had a family - brothers who ridiculed Him

and "did not believe in Him" (John 7:5). Here He had fellowship with twelve disciples, one of whom betrayed Him (Luke 22:48) another who disowned Him (Luke 22:60-61), and the rest who fled in the face of danger.

And He picked up His cross and carried it to Calvary so that those family members and friends and we, too, might be forgiven for our sins of betrayal and denial and desertion. He carried the cross in our place, for it is we who deserve to die (Ezekiel 18:4). But, "you see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6).

What can we say to the reality of such great love? How can we count the cost of Jesus' sacrifice for our sins? We obey His command to deny ourselves and get rid of all encumbrances, and we pick up our crosses and follow Him. He does not place an unreasonable burden on us. He tells us that His yoke is easy and His burden is light (Matthew 11:30). Like those early disciples who, by God's grace, were reinstated after their failures, we, too, are forgiven our sins and renewed in mind and spirit to witness for our Savior, rejoicing that we are counted worthy to suffer, if need be, for His Name (Acts 5:41).

Twilight Saints, Continued

Just as anyone with a definite illness is respected, shouldn't we give the person who has the chronic illness, Bipolar, a chance to let them introduce themselves and not let prejudice prevent further friendship and intimacy? I know I must not be the only one with Bipolar in our church. There are many who hide in the twilight for fear of judgment. My best friend who lives in VA knows 4 people (all believers) who have this illness 2 are relatives and 2 are friends (of which I am one of the friends).

You can make a difference in the lives of anyone you meet, those with Bipolar or ANYONE!! All illnesses are not healed and probably stay as a thorn in the flesh that we might not think more highly of ourselves than we should. All kidding aside, that description would make Bipolar the perfect thorn and illness!! Maybe I am trying to raise the illness above its stigma by being facetious; however we need not enter the OLYMPICS OF AFFLICTIONS!! A lack of understanding plagues many illnesses just as the one I speak of ... and just as we embrace those with cancer, heart disease, Parkinson, MS, MD, etc. please do not let the twilight saints enter darkness because they needed your embrace and did not get your embrace.

PLEASE EMBRACE EVERYONE without needing to ask yourself first..."now what affliction does she/he have? ROMANS 8:38,39 "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other credited thing will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Cindy Sims

(A friend and member of Cross of Christ Church suggested I write this for the good that may come out of it.)

CHORAL MINISTRY TEAM

**Meets 3rd
Tuesday of Every
Month**

**Visiting our
brothers and
sisters at home,
hospital, or
nursing homes
in need of
prayer and
spiritual
uplifting through
traditional
hymns.**

**6 p.m. Pizza &
Fellowship
6:45 p.m. Bus/
Carpools**

**Contact:
Julie Atwood
248-203-2050
julie@
atwoodcabinetry
.com or the
Church Office**



**Contributions to
special funds can
be made through
the Church Office.
Please note the
fund name on the
memo line of your
check. Contact
Church Secretary
Sheila Buller with
any questions.**



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

I, Jerome Sutton, wish to thank each and everyone who tood the time out to pray and support me in my time of need with my brother's death and my wife's illness. I truly appreciate everyone who helps. A special thank you to Jerry, Pastor Steve, and Sheila.

Please don't hesitate to call on me for anything I can be an assistance with.

*Thank you very much!
Love, Jerome*

Always remember John 3:16

God Bless You All!

Editors' Note: Jerome Sutton is the church's weekend custodian.

Stress Management

A lecturer, when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked, "how heavy is this glass of water?" Answers called out... And ranged from 20g to 500g.

"If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance.

"In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes. "

He continued, "And that's the way it is with stress management. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on." "As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're re-freshed, we can carry on with the burden. "

"So, before you return home tonight, put the burden of work down. Don't carry it home. You can pick it up tomorrow. Whatever burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment if you can. "

"Relax; pick them up later after you've rested.

Life is short. Enjoy it!

And then he shared some ways of dealing with the burdens of life:

* Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.

* Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

* Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

* Drive carefully It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

* If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

* If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

* It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

* Never buy a car you can't push.

* Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

* Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.

* Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.

* The second mouse gets the cheese.

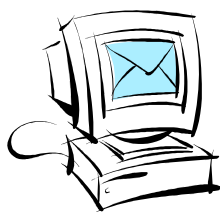
* When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

* Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

* You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

* Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

* We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.



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@sbcglobal.net.

MARCH CHURCH CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

ONGOING EVENTS

SUNDAYS

8:15am Worship
 9:30am SonLight City
 9:45am Worship;
 Adult Bible Studies
 11:15am Worship
 6pm KidsTime Gym (2nd/4th
 Sundays)

MONDAYS

10am Adult Bible Study

6pm Stephen Ministry

TUESDAYS

7am Men's Bible Breakfast
 10am Adult Bible Study
 10am MOMS Group
 12noon Internat'l Friends
 5:45pm Prayer Time
 6:15pm 1st Communion
 7pm Volleyball

WEDNESDAYS

4:30PM 4Cs

5:30PM Dinner

6:30pm Bible Classes for Kids
 & Adults/Confirmation Class
 6:30 Crown Financial Class

FRIDAYS

6p Scrapbook Outreach (3/3)
 7p Family Fellowship (3/10)

SATURDAYS

5:30pm Worship
 First Communion (3/18)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3/1 Cindy Chen | 3/11 Sarah Dameron | 3/20 Sharon Manthey |
| 3/1 Andrea Daly | 3/11 Robert Dowbenko | 3/21 Erik Alexander |
| 3/1 Sarah Kalusniak | 3/11 Karen Miller | 3/22 Brian Fish |
| 3/1 Robert Simmonds | 3/12 Ardis Greene | 3/22 David Robb |
| 3/2 Florence Arendt | 3/12 Arthur Kelsey | 3/23 Anthony Valente |
| 3/2 Jane Smith | 3/13 Terry Lehman | 3/24 Kyle Myrold |
| 3/2 Jennifer Valente | 3/13 Hugh Simmonds | 3/25 Gordon Anderson |
| 3/3 Katerina Milz | 3/14 Mackenzie Guettler | 3/26 Carla Covert |
| 3/3 Mary Schwab | 3/14 Kelly Kopin | 3/26 John Hilgendorf |
| 3/4 Brendon Duggins | 3/14 Jill Larive | 3/26 Maryse Richards |
| 3/4 Chloe Gilcher | 3/14 Elise Marchione | 3/26 Steven Wilson |
| 3/4 Dylan Gilcher | 3/14 Mildred Sewick | 3/27 Ellen Markel |
| 3/5 Max Hammarlund | 3/14 Gary Sutter | 3/27 Mike Ruprich |
| 3/6 Gary Poteete | 3/15 Stephanie Weeks | 3/27 Julie Schulte |
| 3/7 Laura Artemenko | 3/16 Mark Halstead | 3/28 Marilyn Nix |
| 3/7 Ron Bereznicki | 3/17 Stephanie Boergert | 3/28 Gordon Nyquist |
| 3/7 Sean Kubit-Miller | 3/17 Morgan Chen | 3/28 Michael Smith |
| 3/7 Frances Walter | 3/17 Molly Duggins | 3/29 Lyndsie Kehoe |
| 3/8 Warren Lindh | 3/17 Pam Poteete | 3/30 Steve Grafe |
| 3/9 Linda Davenport | 3/17 Rolf Weeks | 3/30 Kelly O'Connell |
| 3/9 Lillian Marley | 3/18 JoAnn Johnson | 3/31 Austin Marchione |
| 3/9 Andrew Settecerri | 3/19 Erik Bolda | 3/31 Brian Ulmer |
| 3/9 Harold Stieg | 3/19 Vern Hammarlund | 3/31 Chad Woltemath |
| 3/9 Wallace Walter | 3/19 Kim Kuehl | 3/31 Bradley Zewatsky |
| 3/10 Veronica Peckens | 3/20 Christina Bergstom | |

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: SAVE, PRAY, SEND CARDS

DIRECTORY ADDITIONS:

Stephen & Christie Azzam
 children: Alexandra &
 Gabrielle
 7518 Acorn Hill Ct.
 West Bloomfield, MI 48323
 248-926-2477

Nicole Myers
1481 (not 1487) Lochaven
 Waterford, MI 48327
 248-613-5338

David & Peggy Budaj
 (children: Tabitha & Joshua

& John)

4923 Hardwoods Dr.
 West Bloomfield, MI 48323
 248-706-1245

SHUT-INS:

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

Lillian Spellicy (mother of Doug
 LaFontaine)

Edna Foss (mother of Lois
 Casey)

Waltonwood Retirement
 Living, 3450 West 13 Mile
 Rd, Royal Oak, MI 48073

Jan Hartman, Sunrise
 Assisted Living of West
 Bloomfield, 7005 Pontiac
 Trl, W Bloomfield, MI 48323

MILITARY:

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

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

Heinz & Dorothy
 Wernecke 3/3/1945

Ted & Diane Kubit
 3/4/1965

Chris & Edith Micha
 3/11/1995

John & Verna Besancon
 3/22/1974

Richard & Janice
 Bachman 3/24/2000

Ralph & Cindy Walter
 3/28/1992

Arthur & Bettye Kelsey
 3/30/1951



CALENDAR ON THE WEB!

All of the important Cross of Christ events, times and details are on the web.

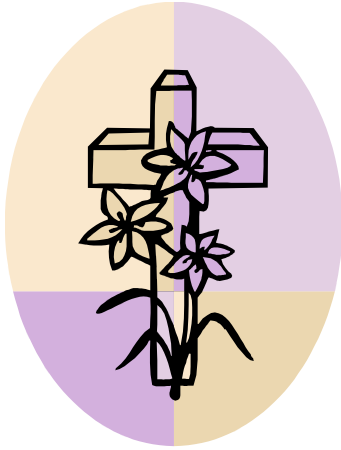
Go to www.coclc.org and click on the "Calendar" link to the left side of the home page.

You can search by month and year or by ministry.

Please Note:

Wendy Scrimger should be contacted for calendar changes or room scheduling. Her phone number is 248-426-7554 and email address is: wsscrimger@peoplepc.com





**Reaching Beyond
Our Walls**

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

1100 Lone Pine Road
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

Phone: 248-646-5886

Fax: 248-646-5968

Email: info@coclc.org

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

Grace Notes: Alas!

*"Alas! And did my
Savior bleed, and did
my sov'reign die?
Would he devote that
sacred head for sinners
such as I?"*

A challenge to all
worshippers at one time
or another is how to
"keep it fresh." Maybe
that is the slightly scary
thing in the back of our
minds concerning
heaven, "Heaven?
Lovely! Wonderful
place. Streets of gold
and jewels. Now just
what do we do there?"

"Well, we worship Jesus
forever."

"I see.... Anything
else?"

Most of us have
dumbed down the
meaning of worship
until it has just become
"what we do on
weekends at our local
church". And while,

with some exceptions,
worship is the objective
of those gatherings, the
experience is rarely
something any one of
us would like to see
perpetuated for
eternity.

That's why it is the
Object of worship which
is so critical to our
understanding of
worship both here and
hereafter. Whether on
this side of life or in
heaven, when our
weary and bewildered
hearts finally realize we
are in the presence of
Jesus Christ, the One
who has loved us and
won the bloody battle to
rescue us from the
horribly terminal fate
of sin, we *will* worship.
Him. In spirit and in
truth. Heart and soul.
And when the veil of
this broken world is
finally lifted from our
eyes, the most natural
thing for us to do will be

unstoppable worship.
We will not need to be
told what to do. One
look at The Lamb will
be enough to motivate
us forever. So, next
time worship here on
earth seems mundane
or dreary, rub your
eyes, peer into the
cross, and see if you
can't get a better look.

*"Thus might I hide my
blushing face while his
dear cross appears,
dissolve my heart in
thankfulness, and melt
my eyes to tears."*

Song text: ALAS! AND
DID MY SAVIOR BLEED,
by Isaac Watts, 1674-
1748.

Bob Alexander,
Worship and Music
Director

Dancing With God

Author Unknown

When I meditated on
the word Guidance, I
kept seeing "dance" at
the end of the word.
I remember reading
that doing God's will is
a lot like dancing.

When two people try to
lead, nothing feels
right. The movement
doesn't flow with the
music, and everything
is quite uncomfortable
and jerky. When one
person realizes that,
and lets the other lead,
both bodies begin to
flow with the music.
One gives gentle cues,

perhaps with a nudge
to the back or by
pressing lightly in one
direction or another.
It's as if two become
one body, moving
beautifully. The dance
takes surrender,
willingness, and
attentiveness from one
person and gentle
guidance and skill from
the other.

My eyes drew back to
the word Guidance.
When I saw "G" I
thought of God,
followed by "u" and "i".
"God, "u " and "i "
dance. God., you., and I
dance.

As I lowered my head, I
became willing to trust
that I would get
guidance about my life.
Once again, I became
willing to let God lead.
My prayer for you today
is that God's blessings
and mercies be upon
you on this day and
everyday.

May you abide in God
as God abides in you.
Dance together with
God, trusting God to
lead and to guide you
through each season of
your life.