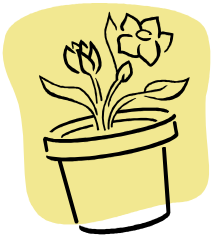




Cross Section

Senior Pastor's Message



Please plan to attend the Confirmation service on Saturday, May 13, at 5:30p.m. Our young men and women would be blessed by your loving presence. This is a wonderful opportunity to reaffirm your own promises to God. Then, return on Sunday for a celebration of Jesus and Mom.

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

The joyous strains of "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" are still echoing in my ears. What a wonderful Lent and Easter we celebrated at Cross of Christ! Our dress rehearsal for eternity surely made the heavens rejoice. Don't you think God is pleased to hear the praises of those on earth who remember and rejoice in His Son? Yes, indeed, the praises of mankind still rise from every location on earth. I am so thankful to be part of a loving family of believers who still find time to give praise, honor, and glory to Jesus! I hope each of you shares that sentiment.

Well, that's enough rejoicing and celebrating for one newsletter...how about we all tithe to the praise, honor, and glory of Jesus? Now that would fill heaven with amazement and rejoicing. After all, God delights in faithfulness more than in praises. The old bumper sticker says, "Honk if you love Jesus!" How about a bumper sticker that

says, "Tithe if you love Jesus — any fool can honk!"

Here is a noble challenge for the members of Cross of Christ. Beginning in May, try giving the Lord what rightfully belongs to Him. The Tithe is His, not ours. During May, June, and July, test the Lord through the Tithe. Taste and see that the Lord is good! "Test me," says the Lord almighty, "and see if I will not open the storehouse of heaven and pour out blessings upon you." God is not simply speaking of money, but blessings from His gracious hand. If after three months of tithing, you find yourself in financial difficulty because of that act of faithfulness, come talk to me, and I will assist you. I am so confident in God's ability to care for us that I will gladly make that offer.

At this point, you are probably thinking Cross of Christ is in serious financial trouble. However, that is not the case. WE have put together a balanced budget for 2007. If everyone simply

continues to give at their present level, we will make our budget. So why tithe? If God doesn't need my money, and the church doesn't need my money, why tithe? The answer is rather simple, because you need to experience the trust that comes when we free ourselves from slavery to money. And just think of all the resources freed up for missions! Want to learn more about God's financial principles? I strongly recommend everyone take a Crown Ministry Class.

Well, I started this letter on a joyful note...slipped in the terrible "T" word... and now intend to finish strong. I wish everyone a most blessed Mother's Day! Moms are a gracious gift from God. Each of us has life through our Mother. May every memory and every mention of "Mom" fill your heart and hers with joy. If your Mother is in heaven, ask Jesus to deliver a blessing for you. God bless and keep you growing in His grace.

Love in Jesus,
Pastor Jon

May 2006

PRAYER FOCUS

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." Malachi 3:10

Inside this issue:

John Peter's Upcoming Visit

Jesus, the Bible and the Bread of Life

Mission Opportunities

Finance Ministry Grows

Thank You Letters

Important Dates, Info and Address Changes

Surrendering Ourselves to God



All plate offerings in May, 2006 will be given to John Peter for the United Evangelical Mission which trains pastors to evangelize and start congregations in India.

INDIA MISSIONARY COMING TO CROSS OF CHRIST

On Saturday/Sunday of May 20th and 21st John Peter from United Evangelical Mission will be here at Cross of Christ. He will be the speaker for these services. In addition he is also invited to speak at the Sabbath service of Shema. It should be an exciting weekend.

United Evangelical Mission is an evangelistic organization dedicated to the training of Christians to be full time missionaries. UEM works with Christians in India from all denominations. John Peter Kirubakaran, the founder and director of UEM is himself a life-long Missoruri Synod Lutheran. Our sister church body in India is known as the Indian Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC).

In the last few years, UEM has been working almost exclusively with the IELC. They are training Lutheran laypeople to be missionaries who go into villages and found churches there. These missionaries are trained 12 at a time. Their training consists of classroom/ personal study for three months. The teacher is a local Lutheran pastor. Then for the next months, these 12 trainees are assigned to various villages where they live with the people of the villages, share Jesus with them, and organize prayer cells and small group Bible studies. They then return to the classroom for three more months. This alternating classroom/hands-on training has proven itself to be most effective. This was the method Jesus used to train the 12 Apostles.

By the time two years have

passed, these trainees will have founded new congregations. About 8 of the 12 missionaries on average will gather enough people together to form a new congregation that will continue to grow in grace as well as numerically. The founding missionary becomes that church's pastor. Within five years or less this new church will be completely self-supporting and become a new congregation added to the IELC.

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has been working in India for over 100 years. We sent missionaries there. There are hundreds of congregations there. However, it has been years since new congregations have been started; and the existing congregations for the most part have not grown. They are too much like us here in the States. We taught them too well. That's why what UEM is doing to start new congregations in the IELC is so exciting. New joy and enthusiasm for evangelism is infecting the whole body.

A very interesting statistic is the fact that when the leadership of the IELC in India announced their partnering with UEM to train missionaries calling for volunteers from among the ranks of the laypeople that 250 stepped forward. That level of volunteerism boggles my mind. I am quite certain that if I were to make a trip to all the congregations of the Michigan District and invited laypeople to step forward to be trained full time as missionaries for the next two years that I would

get very few takers.

I had the joy of seeing and hearing 12 such missionaries who had just completed their two years of training. They were given new bicycles and commissioned as missionaries. They were so excited. Each of them stepped forward and began to tell the stories of how the Holy Spirit had used them and the Gospel to bring many people into the kingdom. They also reported that God performed miracles of healing and the casting out of demons. These demonstrations of God's love and grace caught the attention and the hearts of people.

Once more every one of you will have the opportunity to share in this ministry by adopting a missionary. The cost is \$100 per month for 24 months. John Peter's ministry also extends to orphaned children. He currently has 300 of them that are housed and cared for by Christians in rented buildings. Sponsorship of such an orphan that includes food, clothing, and schooling is also an opportunity to help. Sponsorship is \$25 per month. Once you sponsor a child it is vital that you keep doing so.

Please pray for United Evangelical Mission that the hand of God's continued blessing may rest upon this vital ministry of outreach. As you pray, honestly ask the Lord to what extent you can help.

Pastor Jim

A Note from Pastor Jim: Holy Week

I am writing this in the middle of Holy Week. I have never understood just why we call this week "Holy." This week is just like any other except for the fact that we pause during this week to remember the most important events in human history. Certainly that week so long ago when these events took place was not "holy" either. In fact that week was anything but "holy". The climax of that week was the crucifixion of the Son of God. He was carrying the punishment of the collective sin of all humanity.

The reason we can call this

"Holy Week" is because Jesus bore our sins in His body on that cross so that we could be declared righteous or "holy" in God's sight. In that sense this is indeed "Holy Week;" but it isn't the week that is holy. You are holy. I am holy. It is not a holiness of our own; but the holiness of Jesus the Son of God. We are holy because He took our sin and gives us His holiness. This week makes all true believers holy in God's sight. We are holy people celebrating that week so long ago that makes our holiness possible.

Meditate upon this carefully. The Holy Spirit who lives in you and me is most desirous to enable us to grow up into this holiness, which we have in Jesus. However, He will not do so against our will. So all believers are absolutely holy with the holiness of Jesus Himself; but they are also in the process of having that holiness actualized in their hearts and lives. Meditate upon this mystery so that your hearts will become more and more open to the "Holy" Spirit who lives in you and whose purpose it is to make you into the image of Jesus.

"We are holy people celebrating that week so long ago that makes our holiness possible."

Library Corner: Additions Address Prayer, Women

May with its sunshine and flowers is finally here. The library has a variety of new books for May. Two of them deal with approaches to prayer and spiritual living; *Intercessory Prayer* by Pastor Dutch Sheets, and *Pathways of Spiritual Living* by Susan Muto. *Intercessory Prayer* effectively explains just about everything anyone could think to ask about prayer; it is both instructional and inspirational. *Pathways of Spiritual Living* offers a spiritual handbook on how to live a holy life in the midst of secular pursuits. The author includes prayer, but also adds such pathways as silence, reading, journal-keeping, contemplation and service. Two other May additions deal with life challenges; *Where in the World is God?* by H. Senkbeil and *Finding a Break in the Cloud* by K. Antares. The first is a book of meditations on

various scripture selections, while the second is a guide for helping anyone afflicted with an eating disorder.

For those of us with curiosity about the different religious denominations, *Handbook of Denominations* by F. Mead is a useful reference book. It describes the basic beliefs, history and organizational structure of most of the current denominations functioning within the United States. It deals with both Christian and non-Christian faiths. However, I found that it was sometimes confusing to figure out if a particular belief system was Christian or not, since it might adhere to quite a few Christian beliefs, but then add in something non-Christian, such as that everyone, irrespective of their actions or beliefs, goes to Heaven. The author did not attempt to enlighten the reader on this

significant point during his descriptions of the denominations.

For the ladies, with Mother's Day approaching, the library offers *Making our Marriage Last a Lifetime* by the Aid Assoc. for Lutherans and *Chicken Soup for a Woman's Soul* edited by J. Canfield and M. Hansen. *Making our Marriage Last a Lifetime* discusses various areas which can cause difficulty, such as communication, conflict resolution, managing finances and spiritual beliefs. It even gives quizzes for spouses to take, so that they can assess how they are doing in various areas. *Chicken Soup for a Woman's Soul* is a collection of anecdotes on such topics as motherhood, overcoming obstacles and living your dream.

Heather Sherk

Borrowers, when you have finished reading your selections, please return them to the box on top of the bookshelves, rather than shelving them. Thanks.



For updates on Logos Hope Ships, please see

www.LogosHope.org
or www.omships.org

OM Ships International - Bringing Knowledge, Help and Hope

MISSION NEWS AND NOTES

Seminary Student Enjoys Spring in St. Louis

Greetings to my Dear Christian Brothers and Sisters!

With the yearly celebration of Christ's death and Resurrection past, we now work to keep the event and the person of Jesus forefront in our minds as we continue on with the church year.

Here on campus that becomes a bit of a struggle as Call Day is only a couple of days away and the second and fourth year students pray for patience. Most are already collecting

their things and making plans to move to wherever God has called them to be vicars and pastors in His church. Next year at this time, I will probably be under as much stress as they are, but for now I'm glad to be able to focus on my classes. Spring term is starting to wind down and my summer schedule is already set.

The seminary campus is an even more wondrous place during the spring than winter. Flowers have sprouted up all over, trees full of leaves and flowers provide pleasant shade,

and, unlike Michigan, you can go a whole day without seeing a cloud in the sky. It makes being stuck in the library all day even more difficult, but God grants us the strength to persevere.

I pray for you, my Christian family, that will God continue to watch over you and provide you with all that is necessary for your spiritual life and wellbeing in His Word and Sacraments.

Yours in faith,

Richard Davenport

"For the Children"

...a concert to benefit "Gifts for All God's Children"

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 47120 Romeo Plank Rd, Macomb

Thursday May 18, at 7:00 p.m. A complimentary reception will follow the concert. A freewill offering will be accepted with proceeds from the concert being used to purchase school supplies, uniforms and needed clothing and gifts for urban children through "Gifts for All God's Children".

Concert participants will be:

- Garritt Gooch, Christian Performer
- Rev. Roosevelt Gray, Emcee
- Pastor Alan Sheffield, President, Joy of Jesus Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries Choir
- Lutheran City Ministries Children's Choir
- Train Up A Child Drill Team (preschool team that drills to scripture)
- Children of Immanuel Choir

For more information contact Nancy Kruger nkruger@immlutheran.org, Dan Karlin dan@trinityutica.com or Patti Jacques 248-651-2616.

You're Invited!

8th Annual Women Helping Women Fashion Show & Luncheon

Celebrity Hosts!

Doris Biscoe, Heather Catallo and Teresa Tomeo

Saturday, May 6th at the Royal Park Hotel, Rochester, Michigan

This Fundraiser supports GRACE CENTERS OF HOPE, Oakland County's oldest and largest homeless shelter.

To purchase tickets or get more information on how you can get involved in this Annual Fashion Show event as a sponsor, volunteer or table sponsor please call Shannon Grace

MISSION NEWS AND NOTES

Haiti Lutheran Mission Society Reports on Recent Trip

The Executive Director of the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society supplied a trip report from his latest March/April 2006 visit. Some of the highlights include:

- Church dedication at Carrideux
- Teaching
- Providing food to poor

members of the congregations

- Photographing current and future sponsored children
- Obtaining NGO designation from the Haitian Government
- Long-term planning for leadership of mission work there including

interviews of lay Pastors.

They ask that you join their prayers for young leaders to make themselves available for training. The leaders in Haiti are praying for the Lord's blessing on their work. He also thanks each of you who prayed for their trip and their safety.

Support Scott Miller and The Stand Strength Team

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

I sincerely pray you are still basking in the joy of Easter, the prelude to eternal celebration. This note is to lovingly encourage each of you to invest some prayer and financial assistance in the mission and ministry of our Senior Youth Leader, Scott Miller. As you can see from the following letter, Scott is involved in an ambitious ministry to young people. Scott has a deep commitment and love for the future of the Church. In order to accomplish this God-given mission, he needs our support. I pray each of you will be very generous with your gifts. Scott's vision is only possible by the working of God Himself. No human being is capable of accomplishing this task. I hope God is calling you to be His heart and gift to this ministry. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Jon Reusch (248-646-5886) or Scott Miller (248-670-8449). I thank you in advance for your love and generosity. Love in Jesus, Pastor Jon

Dear Friend:

This letter is in reference to Mr. Scott Miller, also known as the "Bull Dog." Scott has been serving the Lord faithfully with me in the ministry of The Stand Strength Team for almost two years.

In all areas of conduct and character he has been and is above reproach. Scott is humbly obedient unto The Lord and will without hesitation do anything asked of him in the gospel ministry. For me personally, Scott is the type of person one can take into the hottest battles, he will stand with you and remain faithful in the fight with undying allegiance!

The thing that has impressed me the most about the "Bull Dog" is his great compassion for the youth of this nation and around the world. He has the vision to reach the next generations of young people with the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. This makes him a perfect fit in the ministry of "Stand."

Presently, Scott is enrolled in

our bible institute and is working toward his four-year theology graduate degree. In the ministry of The Stand Strength Team, Scott will be responsible for the following:

- Preaching and teaching the word of God
- Leading his own team & doing strength presentations as team captain
- Building our out-west division by developing a strength team in California
- Putting together youth conventions & work shops around the country with youth pastors from various evangelical churches

I'm asking that you would personally invest in the ministry of "The Bull Dog." He is definitely called by God and worthy of support! - Anything you can do to help put our brother on this mission field would be a blessing!

God Bless...Love in Christ
Your servant in the ministry
Evangelist T.A. Nalian
Executive Director of Stand

Anyone interested in the possibility of a Mission Trip to Haiti this coming Fall please contact Dianne Ruprich at druprich@gmail.com or 248-202-5974 cell or 630-325-7478 home.



THE GARY BURNSTEIN COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

May 23,
Shenandoah Golf Course
West Bloomfield, Michigan

Shot gun Start,
Scramble Golf
Outing begins at
Noon.

6:00 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Live
Auction and
Silent Auction

Contact Brian
Harris for further
information to
sign up to golf or
for volunteer
opportunities.
248-709-6794 cell
248-758-1690 clinic



“Let’s take some time to feed our Spirits. Let’s open our minds to God’s word and let God breath Life into us.”

The other day I was at a church meeting. I’d been in work meetings all day long and I was not looking forward to another long meeting. As is our custom in this meeting we start with prayer. We go around the room and everyone prays.

When it got to my turn I cried out in my dryness, “Jesus I just want to see your face. I just want to see your face.” I’m sure the other people in that meeting thought, “Uh oh! He’s losing it.”

Later I heard Jesus in my heart ask, **“Do you really want to see me? If you really want to find me, I’m available anytime. I’m right here in your Bible.”**

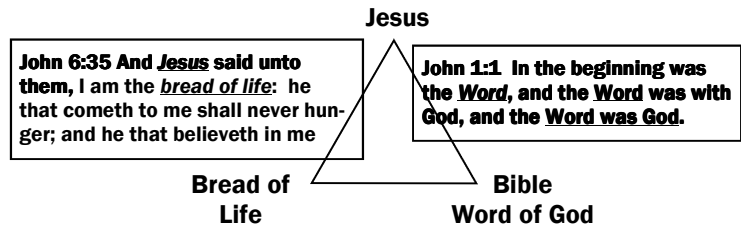
At the risk of seeming a little too spiritual or mathematical, I’ve been thinking about the triangular connection between Jesus, the Bible and the Bread of Life.

How many of us go much more than a few hours without something to eat? How long do we go without the bread that fills our spiritual hunger? How often do we search the Word of God to find those glimpses of Jesus?

Consider the great stories like that of Abraham and Isaac. What a picture of the sacrifice God would make for us. Little glimpses of Jesus like Ruth 3:9, “Spread the corner of your covering over me, for you are my family redeemer.” Is that just an historical quote of Ruth talking to Boaz or is that a prayer God has given us to ask Jesus - to cover us with His cloak of righteousness? I believe it’s both and **I love to pray God’s words back to him.**

How often do we look for

Jesus, the Bible and the Bread of Life



God’s great promises in times of great trouble or just in those minor annoyances of day to day life? Promises like:

Philippians 1:6 “And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

John 15:16 “You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.”

John 6:40 “For it is my Father’s will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life—that I should raise them at the last day.”

How often do we look for God’s guidance in our daily life? Here’s one example God gave me just the other day.

Philippians 2:14 **“Do all things without complaining and disputing,”** That’s one I need to remember every day.

Paul talks about putting on the full armor of God. In Ephesians 6:15 he says, “For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the **Good News**, so that you will be fully prepared.” He is saying we need to prepare ourselves to take the **Good News** to others. To be prepared we need to read it and study it. Psalm

119 says that God’s Word is sweeter than honey. “How sweet are Your words to my taste; Sweeter than honey to my mouth!” “Or more precious than silver or gold,” The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver.”

People say, “If only I lived at Jesus’ time and saw all the miracles. It would be so much easier to have faith.” But would it? We have one of the greatest miracles God has given humanity available to us any time we want it. How often do we search its mysteries? It’s a book that has over 40 authors it was written over 1500 years and yet it does not contradict itself. It predicted the future. It depicts the human condition better than modern psychology. Most of all, through it tells a story. A story so wonderful that we need to hear it over and over just to believe it. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

Let’s take some time to feed our Spirits. Let’s open our minds to God’s word and let God breath Life into us.

Your brother in Christ,
E. John Stanke

Finance Ministry: Crown Financial Ministry Grows

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your support of the local Crown Financial Ministry. God continues to bless our ministry as it bears fruit and impacts people for a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

"We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ"
Colossians 1:28

During the 2005-06 fiscal year, your prayers, words of encouragement and funding have been essential in helping the local Crown Financial Ministry grow. This year, together we have taught 5,942 people God's financial principles in church programs throughout Michigan. Last year at Cross of Christ alone we graduated 24 people; a total of 48 people in two years. Together, we have enabled people to experience Biblical Financial Studies, Financial Freedom seminars, Money Map Coaching and Financial life changing workshops. God continues to bless our efforts.

Highlights of 2005-06

Previously, I shared with the Church Council that Small Group Leadership training was growing. During 2005-06 God permitted us an even greater increase. To our original two training sites, Clinton and Grand Rapids (approximately 120 people trained last year), we added training events in Canton (30 leaders trained), Saginaw (40 LCMS leaders trained) and Port Huron (14 leaders trained).

Additional volunteers have stepped forward to serve the local ministry in Eastern Michigan. In the thumb, Sandy Chalou, Local Contact; Lapeer county and St Clair county, Don Mandley, Local Contact; Plymouth, Sherry Swiderski, Local Contact; Wayne Pirmann, Seminar Instructor; Dave Appleby, Seminar Instructor; Trudy Terry, Prayer Captain. Four additional people have volunteered to be considered to serve in various capacities. We are praying that God will provide direction.

As this ministry moves forward, it is important to understand that none of our

"missionaries" receive remuneration from Crown Financial Ministries. In fact, all of the Michigan volunteers have pledged personal financial support. Any money donated to the local ministry is used to offset expenses as we reach out to touch lives through Jesus Christ.

Please continue to join us by pledging your financial and spiritual support of the local Crown Financial Ministries. The local ministry will need additional dollars to expand our efforts in Michigan and I am confident that God will find a way to provide it. If God is moving you to assist in this ministry, call or e-mail me.

We can never out-give God, and He challenges us to try. The disciples gave 5 fish and 2 loaves of bread, and Jesus fed 5,000. His mother gave Him water and He gave her wine; God gave us His only son and He gave us everlasting life.

Love in Jesus,
Merl Terry, Director,
Michigan Crown Financial Ministries



**Raise Money For
Cross of Christ...**

**Go to
www.goodsearch.com**

Search Engine Raises Money for Church

Now you can raise money for Cross of Christ just by searching the Internet at GoodSearch.com. You use GoodSearch.com like any other search engine - the site is powered by Yahoo! - but each time you do, money is generated for us. Here's how it works:

Go to www.goodsearch.com

Type *Cross of Christ Lutheran Church* into the "I support" box and click on "verify" (make sure it is for the Bloomfield Hills location).

Search the Internet just like you would with any search engine.

Since GoodSearch shares its advertising revenue with charities and schools, every time you search the web at GoodSearch, you'll be earning money for us. GoodSearch also has a toolbar you can download from the homepage so that you can search right from the top of your browser. You can keep track of our estimated earnings by clicking on "amount raised" once you designate us as your organization of choice. The more people who use the site, the more money we'll earn, so please spread the word!



The Choral Ministry is now officially called "Troubadours of Joy." We leave church at 6:30pm (car pools only) every third Thursday of the month. Contact Julie Atwood at julie@atwoodcabinetry.com if you have any questions.

Church Helping, Praying for Member

Editor's Note: *Chris Micha delivered this information to our congregation April 23rd. It provides background on Juli Garretson's medical condition and what we can do to help.*

I am speaking to you this morning to give you an update on one of our member's, Juli Garretson. To give you a better understanding of her medical condition, I will list a summary of what has happened to her.

- In December 2004 Juli was diagnosed with breast cancer.
- In August 2005 she suffered a Stroke, and in searching for the cause found hole in her heart.
- In January 2006 they found more breast cancer.
- In March 2006 Juli started seeing floaters in her eye, had a detached retina

& bleeding, and then she went blind in her left eye.

- Two weeks later she started having similar problems in her right eye and she is almost totally blind in that eye also. She was hospitalized last week and released several days later.

The good news is, an Optic Neurologist who diagnosed Juli believes that with Laser Surgery Juli's right eye can come back to near 100% vision of where it was and that the left eye can come back to 40% vision.

We are continually praying for Juli and ask that you do as well. She has gone from the primary care giver of her daughter Alicia, to the one who is in need of our help. Help such as:

- Rides to the many doctor's appointments
- House cleaning

- Babysitting Alicia while Juli is at the Dr.'s office
- Hot meal every now and then
- Yard work

Many Cross of Christ members and groups have offered Juli assistance. In order to maximize our congregational effectiveness, **I am asking that if you feel so moved to help Juli with a given task, please call the church office and speak with Nancy Wilkie.** This will ensure that Juli has the help she needs with no gaps or overlaps in offers of assistance.

In closing, we know that our Heavenly Father has a plan for Juli and her life. Through all these things she has suffered, her demeanor is a wonderful example of how we Christians should act.

Thank you. *Chris Micha*

Editor's Note: *Bobbi Weidendorf provided the following detail of our Lord at work, as a group supported Juli with prayer and song in a hospital ER.*

Many heartfelt thanks to the 20-plus people who came to the hospital last night to pray with/for Juli and to sing for her. I think we broke all the hospital rules. You should have been inside the ER when the buzz went around about... "she" asked if 5 or 6 people could come back and pray not 20 people... I knew they were talking about me. They said no way could all those people come back. I asked if I could wheel Juli out to the waiting room. Answer

was no way because that would take her out of the protective area of the ER. Well, God stepped in and just then sent a non-believing internist to examine Juli. I think he might be Hindu or Muslim based on his last name. The group had to wait about 20 or 25 minutes while he took her history, listened to her heart, etc. He found out about the big group waiting. Juli asked him if he'd like to join the group in prayer. He said he's never prayed in his life only meditated, but he'd really like to join us for just a few minutes because he had a number of other patients to see. Popped Juli in a wheelchair and off we went

into the waiting room where everyone else said was off limits for Juli! Non-believing doc joined hands and bowed his head and was very respectful during prayer. He was very curious about the oil and anointing that Pastor Jim did. I kept it simple and explained that it's a symbol of God's healing ability. What a powerful witness to him and others in the waiting room. Of course I can't tell you what it meant to Juli. She was so uplifted spiritually, emotionally, and physically. I wish all of you were there to see her beforehand and afterward. Words can't describe the change.

Bobbie Weidendorf

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

I want all of you, the congregation, to know how much I appreciate all of your prayers and the love that has been shown to Alicia and I. A wonderful man in our congregation shared with me that this is satan (little s intended) he is continuously messing with me because he is angry—because of the plan GOD has for me! Another wonderful man in our congregation shared with me that I am the most prayed for woman in Oakland County! What a blessing!

Every morning as I wake, I raise my eyes to the heavens and I give thanks for what HE has blessed me with. I realize that this is the best day of my life! If I were never broken how would I know that HE can make me whole! This is all part of the plan and I will continue to follow the glorious path HE brings forth and know that HE will never leave my side. What peace that has given me! Take today and give thanks for all the wonderful things you have been given. We don't always see things the way GOD does. HE wants us to rejoice in each new day. God's plan for me is being at Cross of Christ, embraced by the most loving family. Encouraged by all of your strength. Growing my daughter's faith day by day, surrounded by people who love us. I give thanks that my trust in HIM doesn't waiver, that I don't question His plan but follow, until one day I will shed no more tears, have no more pains. And in the process of this all—remember that my mission here on earth is to bring many to Christ. Share HIS love with the world who doesn't know him. Share the peace and love that I have in my heart with others who are lost. JESUS CHRIST is the only way!

The following is a note sent by Juli to Pastor Jon. It has been edited for length.

Pastor Jon,

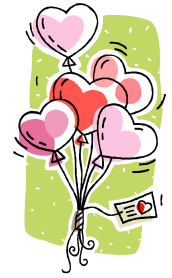
I wanted to take time to tell you Thank You for meeting with me yesterday. I knew that I had to get out of my comfort zone and get some answers. I just simply needed to rely on the people that I trust and know love me for help. Big step for me! I had to stop using the crutch - 30 years of pretending that I didn't need to be loved, hugged or wanted wasn't moving me ahead. It has created barriers that not only affect me but also the people around me. It is simply not what God wants for me. Just as Alicia is my child, we are God children and HE hurts when he sees me longing inside to be loved, hugged and wanted. It is a free gift and I need to embrace that love from people around me and more importantly the love He offers me every minute of the day.

On Tuesday, I wasn't seeing well out of my left eye. Things were blurry and I could only see shapes. It wasn't going away so I went to the doctor. The doctor found a lot of blood and something was terribly wrong with my retina. As I sat there I started to pray. *Please Lord, I really don't need to have another problem. I am still working on fixing the others and I am just about out of energy to deal with anything more.* I began thanking God for all the good in my life (trying not to focus on the negative).

Both my eyes were hemorrhaging. My left eye had bled and my retina was almost detached. I was lucky (NO I am blessed) that my left eye had bled because had it not, I would have lost my complete vision within days. For whatever reason (totally a GOD thing)! The bleeding had stopped short of my completely losing my vision in my left eye.

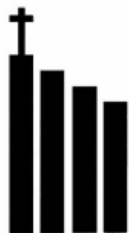
Wait, stop the press, I have an 8 year old daughter. How can I take care of my daughter? How will I provide for her? What on earth am I going to do? I am going to trust. Trust that God will guide me through this. Trust, yeah, I am going to trust. It has worked so far I can give in now. I am not going to let Satan win, NO I am not going to let him win. TRUST! GOD must have one heck of a plan for me! There are no coincidences with GOD. We had just had a 2 hour talk about how it takes 21 days to change a habit. Reality hit me like a brick. 21 days, no I don't have 21 days to change. Tomorrow is promised to no one. I had today to change. One day I will not be able to see Alicia's face to kiss her. I need to touch her face TODAY. I need to tell her, looking in her eyes, that I love her. I need to give her the confidence that I am here for her and she means the world to me. I need to tell her that now. And everyday forward. I want my eyes to fill with tears, I want to feel. I want to feel the love around me with my heart and not just my mind. I want to feel the warmth of God smile on my face. God knew that I needed to be in your office. He was sending a message to me through you. He wanted me to be equipped with HIS knowledge of how important today is. I am so blessed to have received that message. God wants me to keep my head high and trust. Trust him with all my heart—hold nothing back, turn it over to HIM. I am going to get through this just as I have gotten through everything else. HE will give me peace. HE has given me peace as I sit here at 4 am typing this. It will be OK no matter what the outcome.

Love,
Juli Garretson



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
On February 23 a wonderful man, Bart, left us to go home to His Heavenly Father. Since that day, the feeling of loss and sadness is almost unbearable, but I also am experiencing tremendous love from my church family. From the day I had to begin letting people know that Bart was gone from us, I have felt your prayers & concern for our family. Thank you to everyone who loved Bart, for your calls, meals, cards, visits, and help you generously gave. Bart would have loved the funeral, and I cannot thank everyone enough for everything that was done to make it one that everyone I know is still talking about. May we all bow down in gratitude to our Lord for the Assurance He gives us that we will see our loved ones again. God bless you all.

—Jill Larive



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@sbcglobal.net.

Parish Health Ministry – What's it All About?

Purpose: to help the congregation care for one another - to help attain, maintain, or regain the best "whole person health" that can be experienced.

What is a parish nurse?

A parish nurse is a registered nurse who is committed to Jesus Christ's healing ministry and facilitates wholistic health in the congregation.

Christ, the Great Physician, gave us the model of whole person wellness. Parish health ministries, utilizing the knowledge and skills of health care providers and volunteers, are an ideal avenue for faith communities to reclaim and reaffirm their role of being concerned with the whole person.

Biblical Basis/ Philosophy

God has called us to be Christians..." to preach the Kingdom of God and heal

the sick." Luke 9:2

Health is the integration of body, mind, spirit and relationships.

Christians are called to exhibit in word and deed Jesus' compassion and care for those in need. (Luke 6:36, Matt. 14:14)

Stewardship of God's creation calls Christians to promote a lifestyle that cherishes human life and sustains Christian hope. (Matt. 12:11-13, Matt. 6:25-34)

Areas of Ministry

Health Counselor
Health Educator
Integrator of Faith and Health
Referral Agent
Health Advocate
Coordinator of volunteers
Developer of support groups

The parish nurse at Cross of Christ is involved in the

following areas:

- Hospital, home and nursing home visits (with a spiritual focus)
- Educational classes for Primetimer's, Sr. Youth, MOMS' group, and confirmation classes
- Blood pressure Sunday once a month between church services
- Monthly health related article in Cross Section
- New mom and baby home visits
- GriefShare support group

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Mary Lou Temple RN, parish nurse. 248-626-4076 or mltemple7@yahoo.com

Blessings in Jesus,
Mary Lou Temple, RN
Parish Nurse

Messianic Friendship Group—Join Us!

Our Messianic Friendship Group (a local branch of Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism) meets monthly (except the summer) on the 3rd Thursday at 7pm . The purpose of our group is to:

- discover the Jewish roots of our Christian faith
- educate and empower

us to witness to our Jewish friends, relatives and neighbors

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. Romans 1:16

Check out the Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism web site www.lije.org

Also, Congregation Shema Yisrael, a Messianic Jewish congregation of Jewish and Gentile believers, meets to worship in the chapel every Saturday at 10:30am. Join them when you are able!!

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 13: Spring Rally at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Warren; 8:30a-12:30p. Cost \$6.

Friday, July 21 through Sunday, July 23: 31st Biennial Convention, Amway Grand Hotel, Grand Rapids.

Contact Pat Marion for more information at 248-332-4030.

MAY 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

9:30am Int'l Friends Walking
 Club (Somerset Mall)

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
 7pm Volleyball

WEDNESDAYS

9:30am Int'l Friends Walking
 Club (Somerset Mall)

4:30PM 4Cs
 5:30PM Dinner
 6:30pm Bible Classes for Kids
 & Adults/Confirmation Class
 (ends 5/17)

FRIDAYS

6p Scrapbook Outreach
 (5/12)
 7P Family Fridays (5/12)

SATURDAYS

5:30pm Worship

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/2 Barbara Holt	5/9 Nicolas Viselli	5/21 Marjorie Sumney
5/2 Patricia Mott	5/11 Richard Davenport	5/22 Jason Bardallis
5/3 Michael Gruits	5/11 Lexie Peckens	5/22 Aditya Kodi
5/4 Leeza Barnes	5/12 Todd Duggins	5/22 Pam Richards
5/4 Jean Pahlow	5/13 Robert Schulte	5/24 Lee Fortney
5/4 Amanda Peacock	5/13 Corine Streng	5/24 Kris Myrold
5/5 Linda Ebert	5/15 Erika LeBarre	5/24 Diane Stanke
5/5 Catherine Hechtman	5/15 Claire Ollila	5/24 Kimberly Stein
5/5 Jim Holste	5/16 Scott Kos	5/26 Alexandra Ulmer
5/5 Nathan Reusch	5/16 Betsy Markel	5/28 Ann Bauer
5/7 Ron Milz	5/16 Robert Peckens	5/29 Shirley Krefit
5/7 Nellie Wooten	5/17 Lindsey Rem	5/31 Cameron Fish
5/8 Rhea Berry	5/19 Corei Elliott	5/31 Dirk Greene
5/8 Emily Levine	5/19 Mark Hoke	5/31 Dave Winchester
5/8 Kristi Michalski	5/19 Elsie Paeselt	
5/9 Kamryn Harding	5/20 Heather Ollila	

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: SAVE, PRAY, SEND CARDS

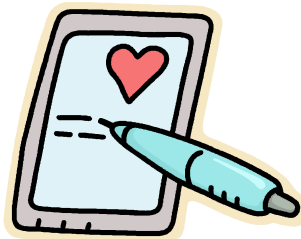
DIRECTORY CHANGE:

Glenn Schulz
 Campbell Nursing Home
 1900 Lakeville Rd.
 Leonard, MI 48367

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, West Bloomfield,
 MI 48323

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.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.



Walter & Patricia Mott
 5/2/1981
 Todd & Desiree
 Duggins
 5/3/3003
 Tim & Beth Dameron
 5/5/2002
 Bill & Kathie Ridenour
 5/7/1994
 Daniel & Stacy Bivens
 5/9/2003
 Doug & Ruth
 LaFontaine
 5/12/1979
 Hugh & Tammy
 Simmonds
 5/16/1992
 Dick & Doris Bland
 5/18/2003
 Dennis & Linda Toth
 5/18/1974
 Donn & Sharon Ulmer
 5/22/1971
 Kenneth & Paula
 Behr
 5/27/1995
 Robert & Jean Pahlow
 5/27/1950



**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: Surrender Ourselves as Offerings

“We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you, we are an offering”

“There they go again,” I remember thinking. Visiting a church with friends many years ago – one of those “Holy Spirit” filled churches – I remember looking around me during worship, seeing all the arms and hands in the air like swaying reeds and thinking, “How strange is THAT?” A little pew card explained it to me, pointed out verses in Psalms and 1 Timothy giving scriptural precedents for raising hands in prayer and worship.

“OK,” I thought, “I’ll give it a try.” I flitted my hands up in the air for a few seconds. But, it felt so unnatural, I abandoned it quickly. In the ironic timing of God, the deeper message I needed to hear wasn’t going to

come until after that particular service was over.

After weaving my way to the nursery to retrieve my child, only two or three years old at the time, I rounded the corner and spotted him. Even at a distance, I could see his eyes were watery and his nose was red. He had not had an easy time with this brief separation. Hurting for him, I simply called out his name. He quickly looked up, hearing the familiar sound. When his eyes found me, he dropped what he was doing and ran. Toward me. Arms up. Hands open. Relief, hope and expectation in his face.

And in that snapshot moment, it came to me. I understood more about the posture that had earlier puzzled me than any of the Bible verse I had read. It wasn’t unnatural at all. It was childlike. It was

surrender to love. It was relinquishment of fear, a gesture of hope – an expression of joy. Now, when I am worshipping, and I realize that I am being way too much of an adult, too unsundered, too fearful and too hopeless, I close my eyes, hear the voice of the One who calls my name and lift up my hands. It’s the most natural thing I could do.

“Lord, use our voices, Lord use our hands, Lord, use our lives they are yours, we are an offering, we are an offering.”

Song Texts from: WE ARE AN OFFERING by Dwight Liles © 1984 Bug and Bear Music

One in a series of articles by Bob Alexander, Director of Worship, on Worship and Praise at Cross of Christ

LEST WE FORGET...

Dear Church Members,

I read with interest the article in the Michigan In Touch magazine about Lighthouse Lutheran, the first new church in Pentwater, Mich, in 106 years. Lest we forget how far we’ve come, here is an excerpt...

To charter church members the church was nothing short of a

miracle. “When the church bought this property, it had just the right amount of money,” said Rev. John Kayser. In the eleven months it took to build the church, whatever they needed often simply appeared, like the person who overheard a conversation in a restaurant and turned to say “I have a bell to donate.” On Sunday,

Christmas morning (2005), 44 worshippers gathered in the new sanctuary.

“From everyone who has given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” Luke 12:48

*In Christ,
Diann Richards*