



# Cross Section



## Senior Pastor's Message

**“My friendship with each of you in Christ began before the universe was even contemplated by God. Our friendship was formed within the loving and merciful heart of our Heavenly Father. Here in this place, at this time in history, we are simply enjoying what God prepared for those who love Him.”**

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

As we begin another busy season at Cross of Christ, may I take this opportunity to express my feelings for all of you, my friends? Well, since that is a rhetorical question, I'll have to answer it. My response was planned for after the celebration on August 20, 2006, but that would appear to be a response to a wonderful event. My friendship with each of you in Christ began before the universe was even contemplated by God. Our friendship was formed within the loving and merciful heart of our Heavenly Father. Here in this place, at this time in history, we are simply enjoying what God prepared for those who love Him. This friendship is not built on shared circumstances, deep and intimate knowledge of one another, or shared experiences. It is built upon our mutual relationship to God in

Christ Jesus. Just as nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus, so our friendship cannot be separated by anything of the earth. Our bond is Christ Jesus, and it has cemented us together, for better or worse, forever. Whether we like or enjoy fellowship with brothers and sisters in Jesus is irrelevant. We do not choose our companions for eternity, God does..... Jesus said, "You did not choose me, but I chose you.." Knowing all of this to be true, I realized many years ago that those I serve are my friends.

We are not friends in Christ by common affections, for we enjoy different things. We are not friends in Christ by a love for worship, many of our friends rarely or never worship. We are not friends in Christ through mutual service in the Kingdom, eighty percent rarely or never serve. We certainly are not friends in Christ because of our love for

the same music, even the church struggles over this one. We are not friends in Christ Jesus because we all love the new worship schedule, Sunday School direction, temperature of the sanctuary, volume of the music, behavior of members and visitors, menu on Wednesday evenings, etc. We are not friends in Christ because we share a common language, nationality, or ethnic heritage. Our friendship is not based on giving, over half of all church members give nothing. We are not friends in Christ because of our views on social issues, our disagreements are legend. We are not friends in Christ because we love and like one another, I have been condemned, damned, rejected, hated, cursed, avoided, accused of heinous evil, and on and on. We have not earned our friendships, Jesus did that at Calvary.

Continued on next page...

September 2006

### PRAYER FOCUS

**Colossians 3:15**

**Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.**

### Inside this issue:

Fall Schedule

Antiques Show

Grief Support

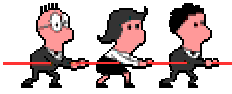
God's Ownership

Thank You Letters

Important Dates, Info and Address Changes

## Senior Pastor's Message – Continued...

May this be our time to rise up, step out in faith, respond to our Savior, and strive by the Holy Spirit to make that eternal difference in the lives of others.



Continued from previous page...

Certainly you are all ready for me to move on and quit belaboring the point. We are friends chosen by God in Christ before the foundation of the world. Jesus said He would build His Church on the common confession of trust in Him as Lord and Savior of all. In His death and resurrection Jesus has gathered believers from every generation since the Garden of Eden. He has given us of His Spirit and made us one in His body, the Church. We are all needed and necessary for that body to function to its capacity and achieve God's purposes for His world. Although the body often limps and aches and suffers, it is the body Jesus uses to advance His Kingdom.

Interestingly, humans are never referred to as the voice of the body, Jesus Word of truth is the voice. At our worst, His

voice is still able to accomplish His purposes. The closer our friendship in Christ, and the more we can put aside our personal agendas in deference to His Lordship, the more effective we are in serving Jesus needs and wishes. Personally, I am indebted to every brother and sister for blessing and enriching and instructing my life in the heart of God. I find greater joy, peace, and comfort in loving those Jesus made my friends than in any other thing or relationship in life.

Dear friends in Christ Jesus, my friends, my co-workers in the Kingdom, my valued companions through life, my co-heirs of Heaven, my inspiration to continue forward in joy, truly we are the blessed of the earth. May this be our time to rise up, step out in faith, respond to our Savior, and strive by the Holy Spirit to make that eternal difference in the lives of others. Our

privilege, together, is to hold Jesus face before the world. God called us together for that purpose. As we enter another September, may we look to the face of our Savior, respond to His gracious voice, and move forward as forever friends, not in a unity forged in love for the things of this world, but the unity of a bond in Christ Jesus our Lord. May the fruit of the Spirit abound in our church family, as we together, seek His face. Finally, may we do it well and to His glory and honor.

May Jesus keep you growing in His grace.

Love in Jesus,  
*Pastor Jon*

P.S. My sincere thank you for the special honor afforded to my family and me on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of my Ordination. I am continually humbled and awed by the privilege God has given me to serve in His Church.

## Council News: Benevolence Fund Established

At its July meeting the Church Council established a Benevolence Fund to assist persons in financial need. The church welcomes contributions to the fund. Donors may feel free to suggest beneficiaries of the fund or contribute to the fund. The committee managing

the fund may consider suggested designations, but in no event is it bound in any way to honor them, since they are accepted only on the condition that they are mere suggestions or recommendations. Donors wishing to contribute to the benevolence fund subject to these conditions may be

able to deduct their contributions. Checks should be made payable to Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, with a notation that the funds are to be placed in the Benevolence Fund. The fund will be managed by a standing three-person committee appointed by the Council.

Continued on next page...

## Fall Schedule Changes

Dear Fellow Members,

Have you considered some of the great possibilities for worship and service here at Cross of Christ as a result of the upcoming fall worship schedule changes?

Wednesdays (Starting September 13, 2006)

Make this a great evening for you and your whole family. Begin with dinner together from 5:30-6:30, and then worship together from 6:30-7:30. There will be a large group activity provided for younger children during worship and a nursery for 0-4y. Older children (First Communion and up) can use this time to worship if they've been participating in SonLight City on Sunday. Don't forget - Wednesday makes a great alternative to Sunday too if you're planning on being away for the weekend.

Sundays (Starting September 10, 2006)

We want as many people as possible to be able to volunteer in SonLight City (SLC). Our desire is to make this learning event the "most important hour" in a child's week and to allow them to bring friends to experience the same. Our 9:30a service will run concurrent with SLC for members who are not able to serve and for parents/visitors to SLC. So that volunteers may still attend Bible Study and work in SLC, classes will be offered from 8:15a - 9:15a before SLC.

Because worship is an integral part of our life here at Cross of Christ, two worship services are available for volunteers: the 11:15a service immediately after SLC or the Wednesday service.

If you are not able to serve in SLC on Sunday and desire to worship, please join us for either the 9:30a or 11:15a service.

Please continue to remember all who volunteer at Cross of Christ with gratitude and thankfulness in your prayers. Please pray that these changes will *bring glory to God, advance His Kingdom, help us reach out to people, and help us all grow spiritually.*

If you have questions please contact your elder or a pastor, if you do not know which elder you are assigned to, please contact the church office.

## Council News—Continued...

Serving on the initial committee are Pastor Jon, Merl Terry, and Mary Lou Temple. The goal of having a standing committee is to be respectful of the potentially sensitive matters involved.

Suggested designations can be shared with anyone on the committee.

On another note, we just

finished two big weekends around the church. The first was the church picnic and the second was the celebration of Pastor's Jon's ordination. Both events required significant efforts to pull together.

Specifically, Julie Schulte took the lead in getting the church picnic organized and Diann Richards led the preparations for Pastor

Jon's celebration. On behalf of the Council I would like to thank both of them, as well as the other members who worked to make these events a success.

In Christ,  
*Jeff Grunewald*, Council Chairman



**A Fun and  
Educational  
Program  
Designed Just  
For Kids!**

**Begins  
September 10th  
9:00—11:00 AM**

**For more  
information or for  
a registration  
form, visit:**

[www.bloomfield  
cross.org/  
programs/slc.htm](http://www.bloomfieldcross.org/programs/slc.htm)



## Fall Financial Studies

**Wednesdays  
beginning  
September 13  
6:30 p.m. - 8:30  
p.m. through  
November 15**

**Saturdays  
beginning  
September 16  
8:30 a.m. -  
10:30 a.m.  
through  
November 18**

**Orientation  
Wednesday,  
September 6 at  
6:30 p.m.**

**Registration  
forms on the  
bulletin board**

**Babysitting is  
available**

**Contact Loree  
Frank with  
questions  
248-539-0659**

## For Adult Ears

What our children are taught when they are young sometimes differs from what they believe as adults. Most Christian parents teach children that God made the sun and stars the earth and animals. "Yes my children", we say, "God made everything". It is an easy principle for a child to grasp, so they happily accept our words and blissfully go on their way to asking more questions and listening to our "philosophical" answers.

Once children get a little older, apparently the idea that God owns everything fades, like their belief in Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. The fact that God owns everything was a nice thought during our Sunday school times, but today it's just not relevant. Intellect or good old common sense tells us grown ups that money and possessions are either acquired by hard work, inheritance or perhaps good luck. It becomes difficult to continue to believe that God alone is responsible. He gives us our abilities and skill and He alone provides for us. The concept that was so easy to accept as a child but as adults, it becomes too difficult to believe. Certainly, it is sometimes too difficult to live as though it is true.

Recognizing God's ownership is difficult. Our culture suggests an

opposing view. Everything around us, the media, the law, says that what we possess we own. "It's My house, my car, my kids." Genuinely acknowledging God's ownership requires nothing less than a new way of thinking. It's easy to say "God owns it all". It's difficult to live as though "God really owns it all".

Once, during a Bible study as we were discussing God's financial principles, it occurred to me that not everyone was "on the same page". While our questions and answers seemed biblically astute, that is, the kind everyone might expect to hear during a Bible class, something told me that not everyone believed that what they were saying was 100% true. "Its OK to believe that God made the trees, and sky and grass and that He owns them, but the Federal Reserve made **my** money, and I earned **my** money because I went to school, I acquired special skills and I labored long hours, give me a break." "God doesn't even care about money let alone own it."

The Bible extols God's ownership and control in a number of places. Here are a few just to get you started: Your Bible may cross reference more, if not, call me to locate additional verses. Psalms 24: "The earth is the Lord's and all it contains; The

world and all who dwell in it." Job 41:11 "Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine" (direct quote by God).

Leviticus 25: 23 "The land is Mine" Haggai 2: 8 "The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, says the Lord" Psalms 50:10-11 "Every beast of the forest is Mine"

And, He does care about money. He cares about it because He understands that it is important to us. He loves you and me more than we can begin to comprehend. He loves you with a love that only God understands. He is the essence of love. He cares about money and how we use this possession of His. By now you know that 2,350 verses in the Bible deal with money and possessions. In fact, Jesus Christ spoke more about money and possessions than about most any other subject.

In light of this, I guess I understand why Jesus said "unless you are like these children, you will not enter the Kingdom of God." He was simply saying, believe in God with your whole heart, your whole sole and your whole mind". As Luther put it "this is "most certainly true"!

Your comments are always welcomed.

*Merl Terry, Ministry of  
Finance*

## MISSION NEWS AND NOTES

**September, 2006**

### **Mission Service Project**

Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., is the day Cross of Christ members and friends have been scheduled to work at the Habitat Build on Mechanic St. in Pontiac (east of Woodward and just south of M-59). Construction experience

is not necessary. Qualified workers will train all volunteers. A maximum of 12 workers will be assisting with light construction at of one of the three houses, and we will be providing lunch for personnel at all of the sites. To make a difference in someone's life and to enrich your own, register on line at <http://>

[habitatoakland.org](http://habitatoakland.org). Construction questions may be directed to Ed Stanke at 248/334-9737. To help with preparing and serving the lunch, call Gladys Ulmer at 248/851-3930. For general information contact Verna Besancon at 248/253-0289 or e-mail to [servantvb@gmail.com](mailto:servantvb@gmail.com).

## BLOOMFIELD ANTIQUES SHOW OCTOBER 13-14, 2006

FRIDAY 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. & SATURDAY 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

### **2006 Proceeds will support**

**Seminary Students**

**Detroit Urban Lutheran School**

**Alaska Mission Trip**

**Crossroads Pregnancy Center**

**Gary Burnstein Free Health Clinic**

**The Country Store** is looking for donations of jams, jellies, mustards, candies, and home baked goods (cookies, breads, other treats), plus handmade items such as cards, purses, scarves, etc.

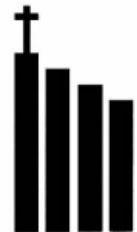
**The Silent Auction/Collectibles** table is seeking donations for this year's show. **PLEASE CHECK YOUR CLOSETS, BASEMENTS, AND ATTICS FOR ITEMS YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO DONATE.**

Silent Auction items could be a highly desirable collectible, or a new item or tickets to see the Shock, Pistons, Red Wings, or Lions. Collectible items can include older silver, glass, or china pieces (cups with saucers, etc.) older linens, doilies, aprons, or hand-made items, older book sets (Nancy Drew, Bobsy Twins, Hardy Boys), old games, and old Christmas ornaments.

**Sign-Up Boards** for workers and donations are already out in the coffee area. **Please sign up to help!**

Working on the Antiques Show is fun, fellowship, outreach to our community and it supports Seminary Students and Christian Missions.

**Questions? Call Wendy Scrlmger or Don Berkemeler**



BLOOMFIELD  
ANTIQUÉ SHOW  
OUR 43rd YEAR

**Bloomfield  
Antiques 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**



**GriefShare  
Support Group  
will begin at  
Cross of Christ**

**Wednesday,  
September 13  
6:15-8:15- PM  
Pastor Jim's  
office**

**GriefShare is a 13  
week seminar  
and support group  
for people who  
are grieving the  
loss of  
someone close to  
them.**

**It's a place to be  
around people  
who understand  
what you are  
feeling.**

**You'll learn  
valuable  
information  
about recovering  
from your grief  
and renewing  
your hope for the  
future.**

**(each session is  
self-contained, so  
it's ok if you miss  
some!)**

**Join us for dinner  
at 5:30 PM in the  
Family Life Center**

**Contact Mary Lou  
Temple if you are  
interested...  
248-626-4076**

## Parish Nursing Ministry: Helping Others Grieve

Dear Church Family  
Members,

Another summer over! It's always a relaxing change of pace, but over too quickly. On the other hand, I look forward to the cooler fall weather, the beautiful colors and the birth of my first granddaughter in late October. Please keep Andrea and Eric (and baby Lorey) in your prayers as the happy day approaches.

A GriefShare support group will begin again this fall for 13 weeks. Encourage anyone you know who might be interested to attend. The general public is also welcome. It's a Christian program and a great outreach opportunity for our church.

A women to women mentoring group will start in early October as part of the young MOM's group. It's a 6 week Bible study taught by a different woman each week to encourage younger women in their roles as wives and mothers. I believe it has great potential to nurture encourage and support

young women as they deals with the pressures of marriage, work, and parenting.

The women who attended the GriefShare group suggested I share these tips about how to reach out to a grieving person.

Open the door to communication. Ask them how they're doing and be ready to listen to their response.

Listen 80% of the time and talk 20% of the time.

Offer specific help ("Can I pick anything up for you at the grocery store?") rather than saying "Call me if you need anything."

Be there for the mourner. Just show up! The gift of your presence is very supportive and encouraging to them.

Don't say, "I know how you feel." Every grief experience is different.

Avoid platitudes, such as "God works in mysterious ways," or "You can have

another child." Statements like this come across as insensitive and uncaring.

Use appropriate physical contact. A hug or touch can mean a lot; words may be unnecessary.

Let them tell their story. It's healthy for them to talk and share memories about their loved one.

Use the name of the deceased; it may make them sad, but shows you haven't forgotten their loved one.

Don't rush the grieving process; everyone grieves differently and at a different pace.

It's normal to feel uncomfortable as you visit a newly grieving person. It's ok to say, "I don't know what to say, but I'm so sorry for you. I love you and care for you."

God bless you as you reach out and minister to others.

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

## Woman to Woman Mentoring Program

A woman to woman mentoring program will start in early October. It is a 6 week Bible study based on Titus 2:3-5 taught by a different woman each week; a cooking class will precede the Bible study. It is based on a book called "Apples of Gold". The purpose is for older, spiritually mature women to encourage young moms or married women to grow in their faith and love their families. If you are interested in learning more or getting on a waiting list for the next session, call Mary Lou Temple at 248-626-4076.

If you cannot attend, and wish to be connected with another woman for 1:1 mentoring, this is available as well.

## Updates from Sem Students

Greetings Dear Christian Brothers and Sisters!

Summer term here at the Sem is finally over. Right now I'm in the middle of a three week vacation before classes start up again in September. Life around the Sem is pretty calm. About the only students left are those taking Summer Greek or Hebrew classes.

Classes finished up pretty well. The workload steadily grew until the last two weeks when St. Louis got hit by a massive power outage and other problems. I learned quite a bit and look forward to what I'll be taking in Fall,

though I only have a tentative idea of my schedule at this point.

So far, August has been a pretty eventful month. The pastor of my field work church went on vacation for a weekend, thus leaving me in charge of the worship service. Another Sem student came in for the sermon, but I was left running everything else. It was the first time I had done it at my field work church and it was a rewarding experience. The week after, I gave my first sermon at my church, based on Ephesians 2:11-22. It was very well received and the

congregation gave me a lot of positive criticism. I may be giving another in a couple of weeks.

Aside from these things, it's pretty quiet and I'm enjoying not having to worry about classes for the time being. I look forward to getting the next Cross Section to see all of the news and events that have been going on there over the Summer. I continue to pray for your wellbeing and the success of your ministry.

Yours in faith,  
*Richard Davenport*

Dear Cross of Christ,

"Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a day of rest to the Lord you God." Exodus 20:9-10

I have to admit that this does not seem like a typical Scripture passage to start a letter with, but it gives you an indication as to what my life has felt like recently. Since the end of May, life has seemed to be racing along at full speed and these words speak truth to me. They remind me to rest in God when I feel busy and overwhelmed, which is why He gave us the Third Commandment, that we may spend time growing closer to our God.

Early in June, Amie and I moved out of our apartment in St. Louis and in with my parents in Saline, Michigan. We wanted to save money for our upcoming year in

England, as well as spend more time with family. Three weekends and a minivan later we were all settled into Saline.

For my summer job I have been working as an intern/vicar at St. John's Lutheran Church in Adrian. Early in May I knew I wanted to gain practical ministry experience this summer, so I called a church. It turns out that they were just in need during this exact time. This summer has been a blessing in many ways and I have been able to do many different things. I have had the opportunity to start and lead a college age and young adult small group, which has been a highlight for me. I have also gotten to work with youth, lead music for worship, lead liturgy, preach, and coordinate other Family Ministry activities. I only have two busy weeks left and will enjoy every minute of them.

As if our summer was not busy enough, my parents will be moving very soon. Now, we are in the process of getting their house ready to sell. My father, David, has taken a call to be pastor as Ascension Lutheran Church, East Lansing, starting in mid-September.

Although it will be hard to leave St. John's, Adrian, Amie and I are very excited about the next step of our lives. We are scheduled to fly to England on September 13, 2006. Hopefully the security concerns will have settled a bit by then.

Thank you, Cross of Christ, for all your prayers and financial support. They all help tremendously. We truly feel blessed and supported by all your generosity.

In Christ,  
*Ryan & Amie Winningham*

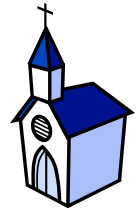
GoodSearch

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

**Go to [www.  
goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)**

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

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



### **Christmas Choir**

**Practice begins  
on Wednesday,  
September 13th  
at 7:30 p.m.  
after Worship, in  
the Sanctuary**





**Dear Congregation, Thank you for my lovely plaque that has my Bible verse on it. I will cherish it forever. Thank you, Skylar Ehlert**



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

## THANK YOU...THANK YOU...THANK YOU...

### We Recognize Those Who Serve

This month we would like to introduce you to the Cross of Christ Worship Team. They each faithfully serve at least once-a-month, arriving at 7:30 am on Sunday mornings for sound checks and rehearsal. They are:

Betty Reusch, Julie Atwood, Jane Levine, Erin Toth, Christina, Andrew and Elise Marchione, Brad and Debbi Lampkin, Erik Alexander, Nancy Wilkie, Leonard Dionne, Marty Pachla, and Robert Schulte.

We especially want to recognize several on the Worship Team who go above and beyond..

Leslie Evans-Peacock programs overheads EVERY WEEKEND! She's incredibly faithful and creative in this position and has taken a huge task off the shoulders of Bob Alexander. Marty Pachla and Robert Schulte also serve EVERY WEEK - when other worship team members have a 2-3 week

break they are scheduled without a single break.

All of these talented individuals serve with selfless joy and dedication. They realize God's great impact and are willing to jump into service and exercise their unique abilities for the cause of adoring Jesus. With their gifts they literally lead others into worshipping Him.

We thank you for your service to our Lord!

Sincere thanks from...

- Grace Centers of Hope...for a donation of \$5,025...helping to minister to those who are "written-off" by most of society and bringing a message of hope through Christ.
- Lutheran City Ministries...for a donation of \$750...answering prayer and granting new ministry opportunities.
- POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach...for a donation of \$2,500...making it possible to continue to sharing the saving message of Jesus Christ with Muslims

## THANKOFFERINGS AND MEMORIALS

**TO THE GENERAL FUND:** In memory of Alvin G. Brown, Sr by Arlene Pascoe

**TO THE RON RICHARDS MEMORIAL FUND by:** Mary Rakolta; Dorothy & Pastor Wes Wilkie;

**TO THE BART LARIVE MEMORIAL FUND by:** Mary Rakolta;

**TO THE JIM WOOTEN MEMORIAL FUND by:** Mary Rakolta; Sharon Manthey

**TO THE 4 C's Music:** In memory of Mark Jablonski by Arlene Pascoe

**TO THE WORSHIP TEAM:** In memory of Mark Jablonski by Bob Jablonski

**TO THE GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND:** In memory of Sandra Miller by John Gerec; In memory of Sandra Miller by The Troubadours of Joy;

**TO THE SONLIGHT PROGRAM:** In honor of Allison Greene's confirmation by Arthur & Bettye Kelsey

**TO THE SEMINARY FUND:** From Russ & Lillian Marley in honor of their grandson, Donald Macmillan Knot, for his confirmation.

# COMING UP...COMING UP...COMING UP...

## How Does This Sound...

Learn how that complicated-looking sound board works!

Serve your church at the sound board without a full-time commitment!

You can do both. First, find out how all those amazing sounds get put together to make a beautiful worship service dedicated to our Lord Jesus Christ and second pick up enough knowledge to serve once in a while operating the sound

and light board. It's really not as complicated as it may look. You won't even have to fly solo at first. After the training session you can be scheduled for training during worship for an upcoming weekend.

Sound board training—Basics has been scheduled for Saturday, September 16th and Saturday, September 30th from 9:30 am until 11:30 am. You may attend either one.

There is an "Advanced" class also scheduled for October 7th and 21st. Only one is necessary, they are identical but you must attend the Basics class first.

For additional information or how to register, please contact Jeff Marchione at 248-814-8701, email: JeffMarchione@ameritech.net or call the church office.

## First Communion Class Schedule

First Communion Classes will begin on Tuesday, September 26th at 6:15 pm until 7:30. There will be no pizza on the first night, but there will be pizza the remaining classes.

Classes will run through 11/28 (no class 10/31) and the First Communion Service will be 12/2 at 5:00 pm.

Please call the church office to register your child.



Bob & Debbie Alexander  
9/17/1977

Gordon & Patricia Anderson  
9/12/1950

Gregory & Trycia Barnes  
9/25/1998

Larry & Kristine Cassar  
9/18/1976

Brian & Carla Covert  
9/26/1993

Chris & Cynthia Elliott  
9/24/1993

Mark & Loree Frank  
9/11/1993

David & Beth Hamada  
9/22/1984

Matt & Lisa Hammarlund  
9/12/1992

Steven & Jennifer Hechtman  
9/7/1989

Luther & Helen Hertler  
9/10/1960

Scott & Kathleen Kos  
9/6/1997

Karl & Shirley Kreft  
9/29/1962

Robert & Linda Lambertsen  
9/22/1980

Matt & Erika LeBarre  
9/4/1994

Warren & Jane Lindh  
9/30/1943

Scott & Alison Miller  
9/14/2002

Bill & Karen Miller  
9/21/1996

Gordon & Cindy Nyquist  
9/12/1981

Brent & Holly Pifer  
9/19/1998

Duane & Teresa Serowoky  
9/4/1994

Michael & Cindy Smith  
9/6/1985

Craig & Nancy Summers  
9/22/1984

Bill & Lorie Vogel  
9/16/2000

Creighton & Kim Weber  
9/4/1983

Rob & Wendy Zewatsky  
9/7/1990



**4C's will rehearse on Wednesday, September 13th at 4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**

**Please contact Betty Reusch with questions.**

## Bridal Fashion Show Fundraiser

Featuring fashions from the Civil War to the present

September 30 at 12 noon with Luncheon and Silent Auction to Follow

Tickets are \$15 for adults/\$5 for children 12 and under to benefit St. John's Lutheran Church & School (one of the two remaining downriver Lutheran schools)

13115 South Telegraph Rd, Taylor, MI 48180  
Call 734-287-2080 to reserve tickets; seating is limited





## Who Is God To Me?

*(Personal testimony by Bruce Markel, continued from the July/August issue of the Cross Section)*

Until we desire the same thing now, today, that we will desire when our time here on earth ends, we are going to be completely confounded and confused. The point at which I am driving is simply this. If our desire now, today, is to be with our God and Lord. To see His face before us, all the time; to seek Him out. To give Him room in our lives to talk, love, discipline and correct us. If our desire is to worship Him for all He is and has done for us; to praise Him for loving us at our very worst, what do we desire? Personally, I want an active and personal relationship with this my God now and always. Heaven to me will be finally having what I've desired all along in my human condition, but unshackled from the sin into which I had been born and enslaved.

If we think that Heaven is a place for playing golf, skiing deep snow under blue skies, or whatever our avocations here have been, we may be disappointed. If we believe it will be reuniting with relatives, friends and loved ones, we may also be disappointed, if they had not elected Christ Jesus to be their savior and advocate. However, if they also loved the Lord, they will be there as He has promised all of us and

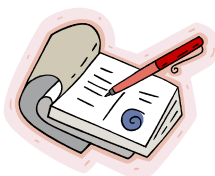
we will celebrate the gift provided us all, however their face will be looking into the face of their first love, God Almighty, or maybe more accurately, bowed down before Him, joyfully, in His deserved and desired worship. Where will your face be directed? The joy for Christians getting home, after our ability to actually see, touch and experience the fullness of our relationship with our God and Father, is the joy of sharing this love of God with others who desire to love, serve and worship the great "I am".

So, what is our testimony? Is our personal testimony based on religion and "book learning" (or the lack thereof)? Or is it based on our personal, active, daily relationship with the one true loving, living God? Is it based on our life changed by this God, witnessed in our ability to forgive, to "prepare a feast before our enemies", to, when asked for our coats, to give not only our coats, but our shirts too", to love when everything inside us wants to hate? Do we testify by our love of our husband or wife as we are instructed in Paul's letters to the Corinthians? I know I fail more times than not. But I also know that because God lives in and with me, He is always refining me. I personally know a God that has made me completely different than the wickedness I know to

be my human condition, separated from Him.

When we are provided the opportunity to speak about the God Almighty, do we sheepishly depend on our knowledge of religion and our ability to quote chapter and verse (not a bad thing), or do we speak of our daily walk with God and what that means to us? Do we speak boldly of a God who changes our lives daily? Do we speak with confidence about the God we know, or attempt to give the politically correct answer, with no passion or conviction?

He has asked us to give a personal testimony to who He is to us. How can we poorly or inaccurately give that testimony? I have rarely been challenged when telling someone who this God is to me. On the few occasions I've been asked how or why I can be so certain about my God and my complete trust in Him, I inform them that until they have come to a place in their lives where they are truly looking and not simply fighting or denying what they cannot comprehend, sadly they will never have a chance to meet and accept what has been offered them.



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

## SEPTEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

**\*ONGOING EVENTS\***

SUNDAYS

8:15 Adult Bible Study  
 9:30 am SonLight City  
 9:30am Worship;  
 11:15am

MONDAYS

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

10am Adult Bible Study

TUESDAYS

7am Men's Bible Breakfast  
 10am Adult Bible Study  
 12:30 Internat'l Friends  
 5:45pm Prayer Time  
 7pm Volleyball

WEDNESDAYS

9:30am Int'l Friends Walking

Club (Somerset Mall)

4:30 4C's Rehearsal (not 9/6)  
 6:30 Worship (beginning 9/13)

FRIDAYS

6p Scrapbook Outreach (9/1)  
 7:30p Family Fridays (9/8)

SATURDAYS

**CALENDAR ON THE WEB!**

Go to [www.bloomfieldcross.org](http://www.bloomfieldcross.org) and click on the "Calendar" link to the right side of the home page.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/1 Iasbel Hechtman	9/13 Sandro Viselli	9/21 Mary Rakolta
9/2 Nick Grunewald	9/14 Nancy Wilkie	9/23 Miriam Maki
9/2 Stacy Sutter	9/15 Christie Beslock	9/23 Jonathan Toth
9/3 Lois Casey	9/16 Allison Greene	9/24 Andrea Kope
9/6 Greg Kehoe	9/17 Eric Schwab	9/24 Gina Schoolcraft
9/6 Marian Kumhlman	9/17 David Staehlin	9/25 David Weidendorf
9/6 Gary Ofiara	9/18 Andrew Nix	9/25 Christina Ladkua
9/7 Robin Sherk	9/18 Jennifer Ruprich	9/25 Libby Zorn
9/8 Ashley Ebert	9/18 Carley Serowoky	9/27 Pastor Jim Ackerman
9/8 Lisa Lookwood	9/18 Jon Zaidan	9/27 Keith Larive
9/9 Roger Grozdon	9/19 Jamie Domeier	9/28 Sharon Everson
9/10 Shelly Alexander	9/19 Chris Micha	9/28 Michael Kischbaum
9/12 Carol Aiello	9/19 Kim Weber	9/28 Ruth Korozn
9/12 John Simmonds	9/20 Julie Bolda	9/28 Ann LaBarge
9/13 Emily Chen	9/21 Richard Bland	9/29 Scott Duggins
9/13 Cynthia Elliott	9/21 Bennett Covert	9/29 Elaine Krueger
9/13 Sarah Grafe	9/21 Camille LeBarre	9/30 Cindy Smith

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: SAVE, PRAY, SEND CARDS

DIRECTORY CHANGES:

REMOVE:

Richard Steele

NEW MEMBER

Erin & Randy Spencer  
 2621 Voorheis Road  
 Waterford, MI 48328

SHUT-INS:

Richard Robb, Farmington  
 Health Care Center, 34225

Grand River, Farmington, MI  
 48335-3440

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

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

Glen Schultz, Campbell  
 Nursing Home, 1900

Lakeville Rd, Leonard MI  
 48367

MILITARY:

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

Douglas Quitmeyer; PRG 6-  
 3 (1); APO AE 09354-3005  
 rgrdoug@comcast.net



Getting Married!  
 Former member,  
 Todd Moore is  
 getting married on  
 Saturday,  
 September 23<sup>rd</sup>,  
 2006, 3:00 p.m. at  
 El Bethel Church,  
 Hillsdale,  
 Michigan, to  
 Renee Watkins.  
 Congratulations  
 may be sent to  
 Todd at 9751  
 Cambria Road,  
 Reading, Michigan  
 49274-9892

Supporting Our Troops—This note was sent to Betty Reusch from her Uncle with information on Doug Quitmeyer:

Dear Family: I just finished talking to Doug on the telephone and he is well. That's the important information. However, except for that, Doug can't say anything about where he is, what he is doing, or anything involving the future. Our impression is that Doug has experienced some very rough times in recent days. Therefore, I am writing this to family members asking you to perhaps email or write to Doug, expressing your support. I know he would greatly appreciate it. But don't expect for him to reply with any meaningful information. This he can't do. Again, thanks to all of you for keeping Doug in your prayers and, perhaps, sending him a note.



**Reaching Beyond  
Our Walls**

## **Cross of Christ Lutheran Church**

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## **Giving Transforms Life**

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Putting these words into practice, we experience the truth of Jesus' statement. In order to help us understand the blessings that come from giving, we can use the illustration of two bodies of water in the Holy Land.

The northern body of water is the Sea of Galilee. This large lake receives water from the melting snow of Mount Hermon to the north. Water flows out of the lake through the Jordan River to the Dead Sea in the south. Around the Sea of Galilee and within the sea is abundant life. On its banks are little towns and beautiful vegetation. The water is

full of life with schools of fish within its waters. In contrast, the Dead Sea is as dead as its name implies. Nothing lives in it, and nothing lives around it. Its waters are stagnant.

The contrast in these two bodies of water points out how giving can transform our lives. The difference is that water flows into the Sea of Galilee and out of it down the Jordan River. It lives because it gives. In contrast, the Dead Sea only takes water in. There are no outlets leaving the Dead Sea. It simply takes without giving. By only receiving and not giving, the water is never refreshed and life is destroyed.

Through our giving we are

either like the Sea of Galilee or the Dead Sea. Do we look for ways to share God's blessings with our church and others so as to resemble the Sea of Galilee, or do we hoard all that we can or, at best, give God some leftovers, which causes us to be similar to the Dead Sea?

By the grace of God, we can give and be transformed. Giving enables us to experience joy and to enjoy more fulfilling lives. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, God can remove our attitudes of greed and covetousness. We can become the giving and generous people that He wants us to be.

## **Refining Silver**

Malachi 3:3 says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."

This verse puzzled some women in a bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver. As she

watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver." She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he

had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?"

He smiled at her and answered "Oh, that's easy, when I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.