



Cross Section



Senior Pastor's Message

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus:

Our church family will begin a year of celebration on **Sunday, September 13, 2009**, marking our Fiftieth Anniversary as a congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The celebration will culminate with a dinner on **Friday, September 10, 2010**, at a banquet hall off-site. We will follow the dinner with a festival service on **Sunday, September 12, 2010** commemorating fifty years of God's grace and blessings. Truly, we have much to be thankful for as we wander over the past fifty years! One immediate blessing comes to mind, the continued presence of our founding Pastor, The Reverend William Grafe. Pastor Bill will be the preacher on **September 13, 2009** at both services. What an amazing blessing to have Lucy and Pastor Bill within our church family! Since we anticipate everyone wanting to be present on **September 13**, there will be **NO SATURDAY WORSHIP ON** September 12.

Many of you receiving this letter have only begun your journey of faith at Cross of Christ and may wonder about your part in the fiftieth celebration. Well, each of you is the reason this congregation was started in the Bloomfield area. Jesus called His Church to go into all the world and make disciples. Each of us, no matter how many years we have been members, is one of those disciples. Only eternity will be enough to express our gratitude for a God who made provision to reach and win us to Jesus. We sincerely pray our church will renew its dedication to the mission our Lord has given us, and join in joyful celebration of the blessings He has given through Cross of Christ.

Please plan to attend this service on **September 13, 2009 either at 8:30 or 10:30am**. Following the 10:30am worship, there will be a fellowship luncheon in the Light Center. This will be the first of seven celebrations scheduled over the following twelve months. Our heartfelt prayer is that every member will attend these festival weekends.

If you have questions, concerns or desire to volunteer, please contact Diann Richards, General Chairperson or one of the committee members. If you have current addresses for former members of Cross of Christ, please send them to Diann's attention in the Church Office or put them in her mailbox.

To God be all the glory for His marvelous grace to us!!!

Love in Jesus,
Pastor Jon

**SEPTEMBER
2009**

Celebration Key Dates:

**Kick Off
with Pastor Bill
September 13,
2009**

**Banquet
September 10,
2010**

**Festival Service
September 12,
2010**

Inside this issue:

Financial Success After
High School

Kidney Donation

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Thank You Letters

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Anticipation! Preparation! A Year of.... Celebration!

Beginning Sunday, September 13, 2009 – and at both services – we will begin a year's celebration – a year “CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS.”

The celebration will mark the Fifty Year Anniversary of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church at the end of the year on September 10 & 12, 2010. You recently received a letter from Pastor Jon – out lining all the details.

Mark your calendars. Volunteer to help. Tell your friends and relatives about our wonderful news and our celebration plans.

We are most certainly blessed – and — we will “Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise, give thanks to Him and praise His name. Psalm 100:4

THANKOFFERINGS AND MEMORIALS

TO THE GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND: In memory of Bill Johnson by the Stock Family, Carole & Benjamin Hill, Darlene Bolz, Fred & Mickey Wilkinson, Wanda Hilgendorf; in memory of Mary & Arnold Everson by Jerry & Sharon Everson

TO THE BENEVOLENCE FUND: In honor of Mary Rakolta by Linda Rakolta; in memory of Mary Benefield by Russ & Lillian Marley; in memory of Howard Lappin by Russ & Lillian Marley

TO THE NARTHEX STAINED GLASS FUND: Offering of thanks by Sharon Watson, Jerry & Sharon Everson

TO THE MISSION FUND: Offering of thanks for God's faithfulness by the Tuesday Morning Bible Class

TO THE BAPTISMAL FUND: In honor of Connor's baptism by Brian & Janette Ulmer; thank offering by John & Melissa Cesal



What Happens after High School?

Whether College is in your future or not, our U.S. economy is requiring that high school graduates get at least some advanced education or skills training. Many companies expect new employees to hold Master's degrees and some even require Doctoral studies.

Regardless of your academic prowess, you will be faced with the question of how to pay for the education. As a result, some students resort to borrowing money from government "student loans", credit card spending, borrowing money from family, or gambling—yes, gambling is a rapidly growing problem on campus. The American Bankruptcy Institute reveals that 19% of the people who filed for bankruptcy last year were college students. That means one in five bankruptcy filings were by very young people who started their lives as financial failures.

We know that it's not necessary for young people to start their economic productive years in a "dark hole of debt". And, we know the key to helping you build a financially successful life. But, it's up to you to get started today—not after graduation from college or trade school—not after you find yourself burdened down by debt and the stress that brings.

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church wants to help you learn how to handle money God's way. The Bible talks about money and possessions over 2,350 times. God knows how important money is in your life. Do you? God tells us clearly how we are designed for success. Do you know what he says? Do you know where to find what He says? We want to help you find and understand what God says about financing a college education, about ethical conduct, about the work you plan to do now and when you graduate.

Here's what we want for you. We want you to begin your career with a plan for success. We want to provide you a Godly, collegiate level study written by Crown Financial Ministries. When you learn a principle, there will be a financial exercise to help you apply it.

Here are some of the class studies: God's part, Our Part Deed/Career and Financial Goals; Work-Resume/Job Interview, Debt, Honesty, Budgeting, Counsel, Giving, Investing-Insurance/Investing, Your Future-Checking Account/Budget Summary. And while all this is going on, you will build a closer relationship with Jesus. If you want to be financially successful after high school is over— if you want to see how God will make it happen for you—then you need to talk to the people at Cross of Christ who can help you through this important phase of your life.

How can we deliver these classes to Youths here at home and at schools around the county? First, we plan to offer the classes in small group settings at our church campus; socialization is a tremendous asset which facilitates learning. Plus, the one-on-one interface with instructors can get questions answered personally and quickly. We will also offer an online curriculum for those who are remote from our church campus. All of the details haven't been worked out, but since the Lord is in this, we are expecting success.

Your feedback is really important. Contact a member of the Ministry of Finance with questions and comments or call the church office at 248-646-5886.



We know that it's not necessary for young people to start their economic productive years in a "dark hole of debt".... it's up to you to get started today—not after graduation from college or trade school—not after you find yourself burdened down by debt and the stress that brings.

MISSION NEWS AND NOTES



September, 2009 Plate Offering Recipients

The plate offerings and mission envelope contributions collected during the month of September are designated for LAMP (Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots). The organization has been providing spiritual witness and nurture in communities in northern remote areas of Canada for over 35 years, through the ministry of pastor/pilots, and short and long-term volunteers-in-mission. LAMP presently works in 60 communities, teaching Vacation Bible School, youth and adult Bible study, and leading soccer camps in the summer months. More information is available at www.lampministry.org.

January – June, 2008 Mission Support

The synopsis of plate offerings follows:

January – Jews for Jesus - \$4,215.27
 February—City Mission - \$4,587.25
 March - Touch One (Kodi's) - \$7,761.50
 April – Grace Centers - \$6,483.31
 May - Lutheran Heritage Foundation - \$7,350.07
 June - Lutheran City Ministries - \$4,563.00

Other donations of varying amounts were given to:

- POBLO (Ministry to Muslims)
- Camp Matz (Our youth at Bethesda)
- Crossroads Pregnancy Center
- Katrina Mission Trip

K4 – Four Years Since Hurricane Katrina—Mission Work Continues

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf coast between New Orleans, Louisiana and Biloxi, Mississippi resulting in the worst natural disaster in U.S. history. Whole communities were wiped out and are still in the process of rebuilding. Some have estimated it will take ten years to recover.

Over the last four years there has been progress – much of which can be attributed to church mission work from all over the nation. Cross of Christ has been honored to serve in this capacity for the last three years. In 2006 we had a team serving in the Biloxi area. In 2007 and 2008 we sent teams to the New Orleans area.

The most recent mission was the week of June 15 at Camp Restore in New Orleans. Our team leaders in the field – Walter Loebel and David Winchester – were joined by Ron Bereznicki, Brock Winchester, Katie Moigis, Vic Moigis, Doug LaFontaine, Ruth LaFontaine, Kim LaFontaine, Nate Ellison, and Rhonda Linton.

The major effort this year consisted of finishing off much of the reconstruction that was begun on a duplex residence. This involved painting, some finish wall boarding, tile flooring, installing floor molding, and hanging doors. Some members of the team were involved with helping out at a counseling center, a nearby nursing home, and moving the tool room at Camp Restore.

There is still much work to be done – 60,000 blighted properties in the New Orleans area alone. Camp Biloxi and Restore (New Orleans) have over 2,500 families on their waiting list. Cross of Christ does plan to send another team in 2010 – probably late spring. However, there is no reason to wait – Camp Restore welcomes volunteers at

(Mission News, Continued)

any time as individuals. If you are interested in volunteering before Cross of Christ sends a team or if you can donate financially to help support the Camp, please go to www.RAIAministries.org for more information.

God Bless and thank-you for supporting our mission work to help those still recovering from Hurricane Katrina. If you would like to know more about this mission, please contact Ruth or Doug LaFontaine.

Son Light City Summer Mission A Great Success!

Thank you to all the Son Light City children for their hard work in filling the cookie mix jars for the mission fund raising project "Turn On The Tap". Thank you to all the great Son Light City volunteers who assisted the entire effort at each stage of the mission project. Thank you to the Tuesday morning Bible Study for finishing up and decorating the cookie mix jars that were sold. Lastly, a BIG thank you to our Cross of Christ congregation for graciously supporting Son Light City and the efforts of "Turn On The Tap" in providing clean water to the villages of Africa and South America.

Update on Team Ministries Homeless Outreach Mission

By God's grace and provisions we are planning out outreach events for Winter 2009. If you are interested in having the experience of being the hands, feet and voice of Jesus to the homeless and under-privileged of inner-city Detroit for a few hours, please contact us. Sharon Yarlagadda 248-766-8450. Our Winter Saturday Outreach Dates are as follows: Sep.19, Oct.17, Nov.21, Dec.19, Jan.16, Feb.20, and Mar.20. We will serve in the Cass Park community in Detroit and the timings will be in the afternoons for 2-3 hours as each volunteer group signs up and specifies. This is a great local mission opportunity for Bible Study/Small Groups, Youth Groups, Worship Teams/Choir Groups and families. We also collect materials and monetary donations throughout the year. We look for mostly men's clothing and shoes, all large and extra-large coats, blankets and comforters, hygiene products and food items for preparation and distribution. Please call Sharon Yarlagadda 248-766-8450 if you feel the leading to help! All for our Savior's Glory, Thank You!!



Vacation Bible School at St. Paul, Pontiac

G.A.D.G.E.T. (God's Always Doing Great Exciting Things) was the theme for the VBS week at St. Paul Lutheran Church during the first week of August. There were over 50 children in attendance! Cross of Christ volunteers included: Diane Stanke, Linda Toth, Shelley Seelbinder, Blake Seelbinder, Derek Seelbinder, Alicia Simpson, Cyndi Settecerci, Lauren Settecerci, Andrew Settecerci, Daniel Settecerci, Jhansi Kodi, Sharon Yarlagadda, and Rahul Yarlagadda. Over half of the children do not attend a church.

Camp Matz Senior Youth Servant Event

The senior youth servant event was held at Camp Matz, a summer camp experience for residents at Bethesda Lutheran Home in Watertown, Wisconsin, from July 11-17. Participants included: Amani Kodi, Jennifer Dudley, Carley Serowoky, Allison Greene, Lauren Settecerci, Andrew Settecerci, Jeff Marchione, Elise Marchione, Erin Marchione, Austin Marchione, Shelley Seelbinder, Derek Seelbinder, and Blake Seelbinder. They thoroughly enjoyed and were blessed in their activities.



Thanks For Support

To my family and friends at Cross of Christ,

First of all, I would like to inform you that I have made it back from Uganda safely and soundly a little over a week ago. Thank you so much for all you have done in supporting me the past two months. By your contributions, you allowed God to work through the EAC team and me this summer to make some incredibly life-changing impacts in some amazing kids. Some of these impacts, I got to witness first hand, which was incredible, but others I will never know about. Just know that by your contributions, the weight of your prayers, your encouragements on my blog, and your letters were crucial in making my time there as amazing as it was. So thank you all for believing in me and supporting me in living out the best two months of my life.

In that, this was the best two months of my life I'm pretty sure. I got to experience and see things that I have dreamed of ever since I saw the Invisible Children film. I got the chance to live out my dream, and in doing that I realized that this really *is* my dream. One day I know I will make it back there, because I can't imagine living the rest of my life and not going back. I met a lot of very influential people, and God taught me so much more than I could have even imagined.

I am now getting ready to go back to school, and even though I miss everything about life in Uganda more than anything, there is peace in my heart as I return to normal life. I know that for those two months, Ntinda, Kampala, Uganda was exactly where I needed to be and where I was supposed to be. But now, I know that where I am supposed to be next is at school. We'll see where God takes me next, but one of the biggest things God has taught me from this experience is that I need to take it one day at a time, because He's got the future under control and that even if I tried to control my own future, I wouldn't want to, because He is planning an incredible adventure for my life that is going to be the best for me. Hopefully I will be able to make my way back to Uganda soon so I can see my kids and my friends who I have grown so close with, but today I am supposed to go back to school. I am supposed to explore my classes and see which path God has prepared for me in that. I am supposed to enjoy my amazing friends there and the amazing opportunities God has already laid before me for this year.

Again, thank you so much for all you've done in my trip. I will be making a slideshow video montage of my pictures and videos that I will send to Pastor Jon to play in church sometime, because I probably won't be home again until Thanksgiving. You will be hearing more from me soon I'm sure. I can't thank you all enough.

In Love,
Emily Kirschbaum

New resources available on Thrivent.com to help members searching for jobs



With double-digit unemployment rates across the country, it's likely there are thousands of Thrivent Financial members facing job hunts, career changes and financial uncertainty. In direct response to the high percentage of members who find themselves suddenly out of work in this economy, Thrivent Financial has developed and introduced an [online job transition resources](#) area on Thrivent.com (Thrivent Community > Programs & Outreach > Job Transition).

Content covers educational, financial and spiritual topics

The job transition content is organized in three categories: educational, financial and spiritual:

[Online educational resources](#)

This category includes eight self-directed modules, which range from 20 to 40 minutes, so users can complete them at their convenience:

- General Advice
- Resumes and Cover Letters
- Networking
- Interviewing
- Using Job Boards
- Personal Branding and Differentiation (coming soon)
- Using LinkedIn and Social Media (coming soon)
- Negotiation (coming soon)
- Complementary resources, such as sample resumes, cover letters and business cards, also are available to download.

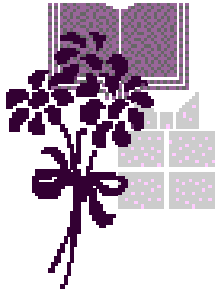
We partnered with the largest employers' association in the Midwest, [MRA](#), to create these educational resources. A not-for-profit organization, MRA has extensive experience in career coaching and helping displaced workers.

[Navigating Financially](#)

Members and other visitors can see lists of financial considerations based on their situation: anticipating job loss, currently unemployed and newly hired. Users are encouraged to contact their financial representative to discuss their unique financial decisions.

[Navigating Emotionally and Spiritually](#)

Visitors can link to spiritual gifts assessments from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) websites. A Job Transition Values Exercise is included to help people consider how their values may affect their job search.



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for the very generous gift of \$2,500 to POBLO. This is so meaningful to the ministry especially considering the economic situation our churches are facing.

Your prayers and support encourage our missionaries and help us to continue reaching out to the lost. Imagine, there are many people who have never had the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Even reading a bible or talking to someone about Christ could bring death. The missionaries in these countries face danger and hardships, but continue to spread the love and salvation of our Lord.

God bless you and the members of your congregation for partnering with POBLO in the "Great Commission" as He directed us.

In His Service,
Dolores Bacon, POBLO

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for your donation of \$1,950.00! Please know that your financial support continues to help Katrina survivors hear the words "Welcome Home!" After four years of being displaced this is an especially meaningful phrase.

I heard "Welcome Home!" yesterday (without the same drama!) as I drove in from a month-long "RAI Thank-You Tour." In the past three months, we have gone to 35 conventions across the country to say "Thank You" for all the prayers, volunteers, aid and assistance that have been given to us by good people from all over the continent.

We're a little tired, but we're greatly encouraged by the many people who told us they were looking forward to returning as volunteers and to helping us raise funds through K4* to keep this good work going!

With God's help we look forward to hosting volunteers for years to come! Together we will continue to restore faith, home and community to the survivors of Katrina! This is our prayer!

God Bless Cross of Christ! You are a Blessing!
Pastor David M. Buss, Executive Director, RAI Ministries (Camp Biloxi and Camp Restore)

Dear Cross of Christ Family:

God is SO awesome! LCM received your more than generous gift of \$4,563. 00. This gift is very much needed and greatly appreciated.

Lutheran City Ministries is so blessed to be included in your missions you support.

It is so amazing what God does in the hearts of His people. My words will not be able to share what joy came over me when I opened your letter and saw that huge check. I continue to say thank you Lord! We are so very grateful to God for allowing all of us to work in His mission and ministry.

We praise God for His grace and mercy. We thank Him for Cross of Christ. We thank Him for your prayers, and blessing Him for allowing me to share the LCM ministry story with you. It was so good to worship with you.

May God continue to bestow His many blessings upon the mission and ministry of Cross of Christ. I am praying for you.

Sincerely,
Mary Smith, Development Director, Lutheran City Ministries, Inc.

LATVIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH FACING UNCERTAIN TIMES

Grace and Peace to you, our dear friends at Cross of Christ!

This past school year has been a whirlwind! I cannot believe that one academic year has come and gone. It was a challenge to keep up with studies and home life, yet graciously our Father gives ample energy to tend to that, which is most important. I am grateful for the supernatural energy that our Lord gives those who serve Him (Col. 1:28-29)

In May, I boarded a plane and headed to Riga, Latvia. I was one of eight students from Fort Wayne who attended a class at our sister seminary, Luther Academy in Latvia. Our class met for 3 hours daily, and in the afternoons we were able to meet with area pastors and various congregations throughout Latvia. The class was excellent, but the real education came in visiting with Latvian pastors and members.

Latvia is one of the former countries of the Soviet Union. Until 1991, the church was severely persecuted by the Soviet regime and many Christians fled to the west. As a consequence, the average age of their clergy is just 31 years of age. There are a few older pastors; all who are "confessors of the faith." These pastors bear scars on their bodies from the KGB. Today, each of their churches is well attended, not because of their preaching or programs, but because of their witness to the faith of the Lord Jesus. These pastors and Christians are held in high esteem.

When interviewed, none claimed that they were anyone special. There was no hint of pride, just perseverance by the grace of God. One idea was clearly expressed by several of these pastors the importance of the Holy Communion service. The emphasis on the cross of Christ and the gift of the Sacrament gives the nourishment to endure extreme hardships. As they celebrated the Holy Supper, each were aware that the next celebration could be with the Lord.

In this sacrament, God gives His real, abiding presence. God did not protect His own Son from death; instead He saved us through it. God does not save us from death, but ties us in baptism to the death of Jesus Christ. Christ's death upon the cross gives salvation and meaning to our own sufferings and death. This gives great comfort to those who know sacrifice and pain.

The Latvian Lutheran Church faces uncertain times ahead. Economic collapse and global recession affects their nation in an acute way. As the country "westernizes," a malaise overshadows the faith of many young people. Yet in the midst of uncertainties they promise to continue to cling to the one thing that matters. "This is My Body... This is My Blood."

The Latvian Lutheran Church has a website! More information can be found in English at: <http://www.lalb.lv/en>. Join me in remembering and praying for brothers and sisters in Christ. Also, thank you for remembering my family. Your prayers and financial support is appreciated!

In Christ,
Mike Blodgett



**Blessings Dear
Friends at Cross
of Christ!**

**This month has
been busy. I
have been
getting ready to
preach at my
field work
church. What a
joy to prepare for
worship! Our
senior Pastor
retired, so there
is a lot of
opportunity to
grow with the
added work.
August is a slow
month at the
seminary, it is
the lull before
the storm. I am
getting ready for
Fall — bring it on!**

**Thank you for
your prayers and
financial support.**

**Blessings and
Prayers!
*Mike Blodgett***



Please do not forget our "Benevolence Fund". Many of our family at Cross of Christ need assistance. God bless you!

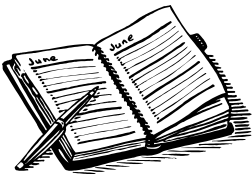
GIVING AN OBLIGATION OR OPPORTUNITY?

As the Apostle Paul traveled to churches, he collected offerings for the Christians in Jerusalem who were experiencing hard economic times. When Paul was speaking to the Corinthians, he used the Macedonian believers as an example of people who, in spite of their own economic troubles, gave joyfully to the distressed Christians in Jerusalem. The Macedonians' love for Christ and their concern for their fellow believers moved them to give beyond their ability. The Macedonians "*gave themselves first to the Lord,*" Paul said, and then, they "*urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints*" (2 Corinthians 8:4). It was the grace of God at work, prompting their giving. In Christ, they saw their giving as an opportunity to help other believers in need.

Does someone who views giving as an obligation plead for the opportunity to give? Probably not. When giving is an obligation, we will give, but giving as an obligation will not give us the joy or the attitude of pleading for the privilege to give that the Macedonians had. As God's people, we have both an obligation and an opportunity. Scripture is clear that we are called to give. Paul said, "*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made*" (1 Corinthians 16:2).

Giving is an obligation, but, just as God changed the hearts and minds of the Macedonian people, He changes us so our giving becomes an opportunity rather than an obligation. As renewed and changed people, our attitude toward giving changes from a "got to" to a "get to" attitude. We stop giving grudgingly, and we start giving willingly and cheerfully. We want to give, because giving is an expression of our love and gratitude to God for who He is and what He does for us. The more we give of ourselves and our gifts the closer our relationship with Christ becomes and the more we want to give, and the more God blesses us which enables our continued giving. "*You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God*" (2 Corinthians 9:11).

These are difficult economic times. As responsible stewards, we look for areas where we can cut back in our spending. If you're considering a reduction in your giving to the Lord, read 2 Corinthians 8-9. Go to the Lord in prayer and ask Him what He would have you do. Then give as you are able, thanking God for the opportunity and privilege to be a part of His mission on Earth.



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

Stewards Need God's Wisdom

As stewards, we have the responsibility to be knowledgeable and wise. In order to be effective in our stewardship, we need to seek God's wisdom. *"For the Lord gives wisdom and from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding"* (Proverbs 2:6).

God's Word illustrates the poor consequences that result when we think and act foolishly. For example, in Matthew 7:26-27, we read of the man who built his house on the sand, and, when the rain came, the house came crashing down. Wisdom teaches us to build our houses on solid ground.

Yet another example of not acting with wisdom is the Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13).. Five virgins did not remember to bring enough oil so they missed the wedding celebration. By not thinking ahead, they missed the festivities. Jesus didn't condemn these people for their wickedness but rather their lack of preparedness.

Jesus uses the Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21). to point out more foolishness. In this parable, Jesus tells us about a successful farmer who built bigger barns for the purpose of becoming wealthier. Jesus called him foolish because he didn't acknowledge God as the provider of all that he had, nor did he choose to share his wealth. When God took his life, his wealth was meaningless.

Just as Jesus is critical of foolish thoughts and activities, He praises those who act wisely. In the Parable of the Shrewd Manager (Luke 16:1-15), Jesus praises the dishonest steward for how quickly and astutely he handled things when he was told that his job was coming to an end. Although the Shrewd Manager was dishonest, Jesus said there are even things that unbelievers do that we as believers can learn from and do. After the master told the Shrewd Manager his job would be ending, he became very wise, creative, and alert with his master's money, and he assured himself of his temporary earthly future. In the same way, we can use the money God has given us to make friends who will welcome us into eternal dwellings.

As God's stewards, we can best fulfill our calling when we seek and use His wisdom. With God's wisdom, we will build on solid ground; we will acknowledge God as our source of all things; and we will be prepared for Christ's coming again. Because God grants us His wisdom, we can be God-pleasing stewards.

For the Lord gives wisdom and from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding" (Proverbs 2:6).

Our next Living Waters session will be starting in September.



Living Waters is a Christ-centered discipleship/ministry program for men and women seeking healing in areas of sexual and relational brokenness including pornography addiction, sexual addiction, homosexuality, sexual ambivalence, childhood sexual abuse, transgender issues, and difficulty in establishing and sustaining healthy intimacy in relationships.

Meetings are held every Monday night from 7pm – 9pm at The Fisherman's Net Church in Utica. The program runs for twenty weeks, and includes worship, a large group teaching time, and small group ministry with an emphasis on healing prayer. Special discount for early enrollment. For more information, call 586.739.5114.



Jews for Jesus

Dear Members of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church,

Shalom to you in Bloomfield. I am grateful to God for your partnership and especially the encouragement of your prayers. Your generous gift on March 12th for the upcoming Behold Your God campaign is needed and much appreciated. Thank you for your faithful support of our ministry in Israel. We are praising God for His faithfulness and provisions.

The chief goal of a mission like Jews for Jesus is to see Jewish people coming to faith in Christ. It is a miracle watching as God draws Jewish people like Iris and Ephraim to faith in Messiah Jesus. Both are fruit of our *Behold Your God* (BYG) outreach. This outreach is our commitment to bring the Gospel to the twelve geographic regions of Israel. We are committed to conduct evangelistic campaigns in each one of these regions over the next 5 years. BYG Israel was launched in the spring of 2008 and so far we have completed three of the twelve campaigns. Through these campaigns we have seen over 130 Israelis come to faith in Messiah Jesus and over 6,000 Israelis gave us their contact information wanting to know more about the Lord. Iris and Ephraim are only two of many. I hope that you are rejoicing in this fruit as you have been partners in this ministry. This is your fruit as much as it is ours.

The next campaign will be held in the fall of this year. I have the privilege of co-leading this campaign together with one of our younger Israeli staff. The campaign will be held in a region called *Emek Yisrael* (Jazreal Valley). This region includes many significant Biblical sites such as the valley of Armageddon. There are about 100,000 Israelis living in this region. We will be proclaiming the Gospel in cities like Afula and Beit Shean where most people have never had the opportunity to hear the Gospel in Hebrew, in a clear and direct way. We hope to change that and that every person will be reached for Christ. We need your prayers for this campaign. Please pray that God will give us wisdom as we strategize for this outreach during political transition and difficult financial times. Also pray for openness among all of the people that will see our billboards, meet us on the streets or get a phone call offering them a free copy of the New Testament.

As the leader of Jews for Jesus in Israel, I have the responsibility to speak to media that results from our campaign. Over the past year and a half I have had two TV interviews and countless newspaper interviews. These present a great opportunity to broadcast the message of Jesus to the masses. With this great opportunity comes hardship as well. As the spokesperson for our ministry in Israel, my family and I have become the target of the anti-missionary groups. On June 24th we received a threatening phone call to our home. Dinah answered the phone, since I was at work, and the person on the other line threatened the welfare of our children. A year ago, in our neighborhood a flyer was distributed with my picture, name, and address on it warning our neighbors to stay away from "the cult leader who is out to convert them". We need your prayers. Pray for protection for our family and that the Lord will use this persecution for His glory so that all may hear the Good News of the Gospel.

I hope you can see the spiritual fruit and the need for our ministry in Israel. We recognize that in the current economic turmoil, many believers are limited in the ways they can support our missionary effort. We are grateful for your partnership and sacrificial giving. Thank you for stepping out in faith. Let us know how we can pray for you (e-mail: dsered@gmail.com).

In our Messiah,
 Dan Sered, Israel Director, Jews for Jesus

PARISH NURSING: KIDNEY DONATION

Dear Friends,

As you probably know, Bruce Markel is on the waiting list for a kidney. Currently, miraculously, Bruce's kidney has held up well enough to avoid dialysis, a mechanical, synthetic process that filters waste materials out of the blood. There is a long waiting list for a deceased person's kidney, but the best option for Bruce is to have a kidney from a living donor. A person who receives a kidney from a living donor has twice the survival rate of someone who gets a deceased person's kidney, because a more exact match is possible, and the new kidney starts to function immediately.

Currently, there are 2500 people in Michigan waiting for a kidney transplant. Nationally, over 6000 people donate a kidney annually.

We, at Cross of Christ, have the rare opportunity to help our brother in the Lord by offering to donate one of our kidneys to him. It's the Gift of Life, but doesn't require that we give up our own life! We can live perfectly well with one kidney.

Prerequisites for a kidney donor for Bruce are:

- Good general health
- Between the ages of 18-60 (up to 80's if in excellent health)
- Normal kidney function
- Blood type O (to match Bruce's type O)
- Successfully passing a physical and psychological exam

The first step is to contact William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak; this is the transplant center with whom Bruce is working. Beaumont does over 70 kidney transplants each year; over 20 of them utilize a living donor.

Call 248-551-1033, option #4, and speak with Renautta. Ask for the donor booklet, "Your Kidney Donation Decision: What You Need to Know" and information packet.

Fill out the medical history form and return it to the hospital. You will be contacted in several weeks to have your blood drawn for type and tissue (gene) matching.

If you are a match, you will be contacted again to return to the hospital (with Bruce); you will both be tested for cross-cell matching.

If you are still a match, and are willing to donate your kidney, you will meet with the transplant team and have a physical exam, including blood and urine tests, EKG and spiral CAT scan of your kidney to determine your general health. Psychological testing will also be done. The entire process takes 5-6 hours.

A donor kidney is removed by laparoscope; a 2-3 day hospital stay is usually required. Recovery to full activity may take up to 4-6 weeks.

Cost of the kidney transplant is generally paid for by the recipient's Medicare or private insurance. You should not incur any costs.

Bruce and I ask that you pray about whether God wants you to pursue this option. You could save his life! Call Bruce if you have any specific questions (248-321-5713). Check out the website kidney.org/transplantation/livingdonors for more information.

Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."
John 15:13

Blessings in Jesus,
Mary Lou Temple RN, Parish Nurse



*Jesus said,
"Greater love has
no one than this,
that he lay down
his life for his
friends."
John 15:13*

KROGER REWARDS PROGRAM HAS CHANGED



Cross of Christ has received \$4,232.47 since July of 2006 which was the inception of the Kroger Rewards Program. The funds received from this program are used as scholarships for those who are unable to purchase materials for a Bible Study or attend events because of their financial circumstance.

Kroger has simplified the program as of May 1, 2009. As a result of this change, you will now only need to use your "Kroger Plus Card" at the register to help Cross of Christ continue to receive funds. Also, once you have exhausted your funds using the Kroger Gift Cards they will no longer be valid or required.

If you currently use your phone number at the register, you may also use this new simplified program by calling 877.576.7587 to get your Kroger Plus Card Number.

Please use the directions and go online to register. Once you are registered, by simply shopping and using your Kroger Plus Card or phone number at the register, you will be helping Cross of Christ to continue to receive funds from Kroger.

The following are steps to enroll in the Kroger Community Rewards Program:

- 1) Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com
- 2) Select "Michigan", 3) Select "Enroll"
- 4) Under New Customer select "Sign up today!"
- 5) Select your preferred store
- 6) Enter your Email Address and compose a Password
- 7) Optional – you may select Email Subscriptions
- 8) Select Confirm
- 9) Verify the account information. Check "Agree to Terms and Conditions".
- 10) You then will receive a message to go to your Email Inbox & click the link to Confirm and Activate your Account
- 11) Click on "My Account" to login. Sign-in with your email address and password
- 12) Click on "Edit Kroger Plus Card Information" and enter your Kroger Plus Card Number, it's a 12-digit number on the back of your card under the bar code
- 13) Click on "Community Rewards Information", this should show your Kroger Plus Card No
- 14) Click "Save Changes"; Enter Cross of Christ's Organization Number "83185"
- 16) Click "Search"
- 17) Select "Cross of Christ", 18) Click "Save Changes"
- 19) You are now officially registered and Cross of Christ will receive 5% of all purchases

Thanks from Your Sister-in-Christ,
Loree Frank

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Nicholas Burch	9/1	Nancy Wilkie	9/14	Jonathan Toth	9/23
Nicholas Grunewald	9/2	Christie Beslock	9/15	David Weidendorf	9/24
Lois Casey	9/3	Allison Greene	9/16	Libby Zorn	9/25
Greg Kehoe	9/6	Eric Schwab	9/17	Pastor Jim Ackerman	9/27
Marian Kuhlman	9/6	Andrew Nix	9/18	Keith Larive	9/27
Gary Ofiara	9/6	Jennifer Ruprich	9/18	Megan Pearl	9/27
Delaney Plunkett	9/6	Carley Serowoky	9/18	Sharon Everson	9/28
Robin Sherk	9/7	Jon Ziadan	9/18	Michael Kirschbaum	9/28
Ashley Turner	9/7	Chris Micha	9/19	Ruth Korzon	9/28
Lisa Marie Lockwood	9/8	Jacob Potter	9/20	Ann LaBarge	9/28
Miranda Sessions	9/8	Camille LeBarre	9/21	Scott Duggins	9/29
Shelly Alexander	9/10	Mary Rakolta	9/21	Elaine Krueger	9/29
Cynthia Elliott	9/13	Aaron Frank	9/22	Cecile Skrzypczak	9/29
Sandro Viselli	9/13	Miriam Maki	9/23	Cindy Smith	9/30

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: PRAY, SEND CARDS

New Members:

Lisa Chapman
3767 Peabody
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301
248-885-8668

Susan Rakay
1425 Glenwood Dr.
Sylvan Lake, MI 48320
248-681-9839

Edward Azzam
7518 Acorn Hill Ct.
West Bloomfield, MI 48323
248-926-2477

Miranda B. Sessions
706 Scarlet Oak Ct.
Monroe, MI 48162
248-217-9306

Member transfer out:

Jean Richards

Sick & Shut In

Mrs. Florence Arendt
Farmington Hills Inn
30350 West Twelve Mile Road
Farmington, Michigan 48339

Kathleen Kaiser
Elizabeth Briarbank Assisted Living for Women
39315 Woodward
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
(248) 203-2728

Mr. Art Kelsey
50 Merrimac Court
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304-3339

Mr. and Mrs. Chuck (Ruth) Meyka
801 South Long Lake Road North
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

Mrs. Jinny Polrler (sister of Diane Stanke)
2309 Leslie Circle
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105

Mr. Bill Scarlet (father of Debbie Alexander)
4890 Sherwell Drive
Waterford, Michigan 48327

Mrs. Gladys Ulmer
5503 Middlebelt Road
West Bloomfield, Michigan 48323-3661

Mrs. Johanna Wurst
1010 Argyle Avenue
Pontiac, Michigan 48341-2303

Family & Friends In The Military



Mr. Ryan Alexander -
(children: Caleb & Caitlyn)
Sgt. Ryan Alexander
eMail: msualexander@sbcglobal.net

Tyler Barnes
Tylerbarnes@us.army.mil

A1C Garretson, Zachary P. (in Iraq, cousin of
Juli Garretson)
USAF/332nd EAMXS/Tiger AMU
APO AE 09315-9997

Michael and Jena Grufts (son of Diane Stanke)
3937 Plainville Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45227
(children: Avery & Roman)

Sgt. Robert and Mrs. Nicole Luecke
(friend of the Reusch Family)
19049 County Route 189
Adams, New York 13606-3214

Doug Qultmeyer
(family member of Betty & Pastor Jon)
699 14th Street , #525
San Diego, California 92101

Mr. and Mrs. Kelth A.. Waller (godson of
Betty and Pastor Jon) –serving in Germany
for 3 years; (child: Brayden)

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Bob & Debbie Alexander	9/17/1977
Gordon & Patricia Anderson	9/12/1950
Elmer & Shirley Beeman	8/13/1958
Larry & Kris Cassar	9/18/1976
Chris & Cynthia Elliott	9/24/1993
Mark & Loree Frank	9/11/1993
David & Beth Hamada	9/22/1984
Richard & Bobbie Irwin	9/19/1998
Scott & Kathleen Kos	9/6/1997
Robert & Linda Lambertsen	9/22/1980
Matt & Erika LeBarre	9/4/1994
Scott & Alison Miller	9/14/2002
Steve Miller & Cyndy Ross	9/27/1997
Bill & Karen Miller	9/21/1996
Brent & Holly Pifer	9/19/1998
Paul & Lisa Plunkett	9/23/1989
Duane & Teresa Serowoky	9/9/1994
Michael & Cindy Smith	9/6/1985
Craig & Nancy Summers	9/22/1984
Brad & Valerie Swick	9/9/2006
Rob & Wendy Zewatsky	9/7/1990

SEPTEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

ONGOING EVENTS

SUNDAY
9:00 Worship
9:00 Classes & Sunday
School
10:45 Worship

MONDAY
10am Adult Bible Study
10 am Mom's Group

TUESDAY
7am Men's Bible Breakfast
10 am Women's Bible
Study
11:45 Primetimers (9/1)

FRIDAY
6:00 Scrapbook Crop
(9/4)

SATURDAY
5:30 Worship

CALENDAR ON THE WEB!

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





IF ONLY

Most discontented people live in a state of “if only.” Rather than counting their blessings, they play the “if only” game.

“If only” we had our own home/a bigger home.

“If only” we could get out from under this pile of debt.

“If only” our neighbors would move.

“If only” our friends were more fun, more loyal, more thoughtful.

“If only” my boss would appreciate me more.

Maybe you have an “if only” list. Perhaps you, too, think that by making some external changes your life would be all you want it to be. You’d be content. Think about what the Apostle Paul said about contentment: *“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want”* (Philippians 4:12). Paul said external conditions have nothing to do with contentment. He said changing our circumstances won’t make a difference in our level of contentment. He said, *“I have learned the secret of being content.”*



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What is that secret? *“I can do everything through Him Who gives me strength”* (Philippians 4:13). When we depend on the Lord and place our trust in Him, we can be content in all circumstances. We won’t need to dwell on “if only.” God’s grace gives us the ability to persevere and even find joy in life’s toughest situations. Like Corrie Ten Boom. In her book, *The Hiding Place*, she relates that she and her sister Betsy were sent to Nazi concentration camps which were filled with filth, disease, and pestilence. Their particular barracks was infested with fleas, but, by God’s grace, they were able to see the blessings even in fleas. Because of the fleas the German guards chose not to enter the barracks which allowed Corrie and Betsy to gather the other ladies for Bible study and prayer. God’s Word sustained them in their time of need. They didn’t have an “if only” mentality. Instead they followed Paul’s admonition in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: *“Be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

Until we find our rest in Christ we are going to continue searching for contentment. The theologian Augustine said, “Thou hast made us for Thyself, O God, and the heart of man is restless until it finds its rest in Thee.” People or things will never fill us. Only God’s presence will bring us contentment.

REV. JON W. REUSCH,
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REV. JAMES ACKERMAN,
ASSISTANT PASTOR
KAREN MILLER, EDITOR
DIANN RICHARDS, DISTRIBUTION