

Cross Currents:

Ministry Updates for Cross of Christ January 2024

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
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New Years Eve Worship: 10:00am (no Bible class prior)



Year of Great Change: Our Unchanging God at Work!

God has blessed me to be part of Cross of Christ the past 18 months. My job is to help you define this ministry which God has entrusted to you. Pastors come and go, but YOU have been placed here to be the

voice, the hands, the heart of Jesus to each other and this community. I am so grateful for the work of Pastor Nelson who shaped you to be the Body of Christ. In our time of introspection you have seen the need to continue to be the Body of Christ (caring for one another), better reach families with children and become more a part of the community around you. Consider the things God has accomplished this year:

- Attendance has increase to average almost 80 a Sunday
- Strategic planning was carried out to identify our vision for future ministry and to provide a foundation from which to make ministry decisions
- An electronic sign was installed (fully paid for) to reach drivers on 10 Mile
- Our 50th Anniversary was a great opportunity to celebrate the past & future
- The constitutional by-laws were changed to incorporate the preschool into the overall ministry structure
- The constitutional by-laws were changed to adopt a more efficient leadership model that better fits the size of our congregation
- A website was developed with a focus on reaching people outside the church
- Three new people were elected to the Church Council
- Our children's Christmas program tripled the number of children involved in the pageant (along with some adults) and provided the first opportunity in my tenure to set up chairs as 230 people were in attendance that day!

Keep your eyes on Jesus,
Pastor Heimsoth



Recently Elected Leaders Installed

On December 31st, we installed the following to positions for which they were elected last month. It is our privilege to welcome them and our responsibility to pray for and support them.

Robert Beyer—President
Sharon Pollack—secretary
Bruce Mach—Trustee Board Chair

Steve Petsch—Vice-president
Joy Mach—Preschool Board Chair
Lynda Witcher—Stewardship Board Chair

From Your Past President

It has been a pleasure serving the congregation of the Cross of Christ for all these years. We have been through some good times and not so good times, but we have always persevered. I have been blessed to serve you all and appreciate your support. God Bless.

Jim Morrison

From Your New President

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for selecting me as Council President. I told Jim Morrison that it is going to be hard to follow him. He has given Cross of Christ a long term of excellent leadership...moreover, his personality is larger than life! Bev and I were both educated in Lutheran elementary and high schools, she in St Louis and Chicago and me in Chicago. We met as Freshmen at Luther South in Chicago and we both attended Valparaiso University in Indiana where we made our home post-graduation. We were married between our Junior and Senior years at Valpo. (I still maintain a connection to Valpo as a member of the National Council for the College of Nursing and Health Professions.) Bev was a stay-at-home mom after Jessica was born in '74 and I worked in health care. Our second daughter Becky was born in '77. This is our second time living in Michigan...we came first in 1986 to Port Huron and later Shelby Township for 11 years and after 7 years back in Indiana we came back to Michigan in 2004 when we moved to South Lyon as I started a small consulting practice with a colleague from my days in Mercy Health Services/Trinity Health. I retired in January of 2022. Just a note about our attendance at COC, we do spend a good part of summer at our cottage on Lake Huron in Fort Gratiot, where we often have 13 family members (including 6 grandchildren with us on weekends).

As COC Counsel President, my first priority will be the completion of our Pastoral Call. Our work from there should be focused around the five overarching goals of our Strategic Plan which are in place to support our Mission:

- Developing a more active membership
- Facilitating and active, intentional children's ministry
- Developing a comprehensive communication function
- Expanding our Witness to the community
- Facilitating spiritual growth for members

More about this as we go forward. Again, thanks for your support!

Bob Beyer

New Bible Class:

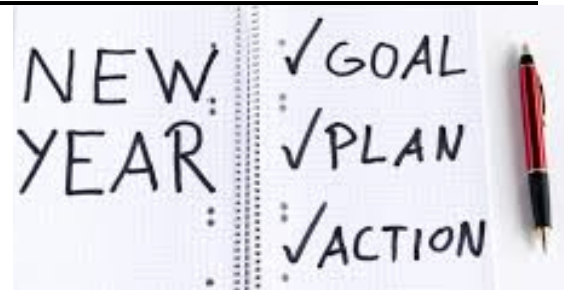
Basic Tips for Sharing Jesus.

Ever wanted to share Jesus with someone, but did not know what to say. Perhaps you thought you knew what to say, but it did not seem to work. Let us help you learn what is useful in opening the doors for gospel sharing and give you tools for speaking clearly the gospel of Jesus Christ. Join the discussion. A friend might thank you eternally for it. 9:00am Sundays



Let God Speak to You!

A number of you read through the Bible last year. Some held back. This is not one of those things meant only for some Christians. ALL of us would like to have God speak to us. God has promised to speak through His Word—the Bible.



If you want to start a program to read through the Bible in a year—we can give you one to follow. If you would like help just getting started reading some part of the Bible—we can help. I needed strong encouragement to get started and have been greatly blessed by it. I want to encourage you—give God a chance to speak to you.



Save the Date—March 15-17

Men—You are invited to a fantastic Men's retreat at the Weber Center (Sienna Heights University, Adrian), sponsored by Our Shepherd, Birmingham. The guest speaker is John Nunes, an amazing communicator whose topic is, "You Good?" He will examine the difficulties of navigating a counter-cultural world as Christian men. Invite a friend!

Pastor & Nancy Heimsoth

Nancy and I thank all of you for your kind words and generous gifts given at Christmas. We continue to be amazed by your generosity. It is an honor to be part of the Cross of Christ family—if only for a short time. God bless!



Mite Box: Bring your LWML mites with you, January 7!



We are invited to the Kensington Circuit Epiphany worship service, January 6 @ 7:00pm. The service will be held at Christ, Milford. The Rev. Dr. Dave Davis, president of the Michigan District will preach. Join with your fellow Lutherans for a special evening.



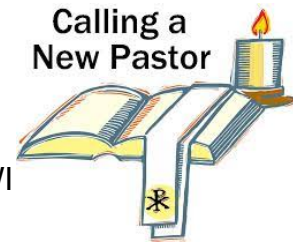
It is going to be a special year at Cross of Christ. The pastoral search team is speaking to pastors on our 2nd list of candidates and are excited by what they see. Even now it is important to work on goals we established for our Strategic Plan. Success calls for EACH of us commits to being more involved in nurturing our own faith and encouraging others in theirs. Be involved. God will bless you for it!

Pastoral Search

Please keep in your prayers the following, who are candidates to be the next pastor of Cross of Christ. Pray that we would listen to God's Spirit and call the one God has already chosen for us!

- *Joseph Bangert*
- *Jake Bellinghausen*
- Mark Gilson
- David Knepfelkamp
- Keith Knea
- Joshua LaFeve
- Paul Pater
- Richard Schneider
- Anthony Sikora
- Steven Stolarczyk
- Matthew Thompson

- St. John, Sandborn, IA
- Grace, Vestal, NY
- St. James, Montague, MI (vacancy)
- St. Peter/St. Paul, Osseo/Whitehall, WI
- Trinity, Evansville, IN
- Immanuel, Leland, MI
- Hope/Shepherd of the Ridge, Sheffield Village/N. Ridgeville, OH
- Atonement, Columbus, OH
- Hope, DeWitt, MI
- St. Paul, Unionville, MI
- Holy Cross/St. Johns, Bismark/McClusky, ND



January Birthdays

- 1 Thomas Hermann
Nancy Hicks
- 2 Patricia Byndas
John Lanczki
- 3 Tammy Smith
- 5 Elena Wood
- 6 Jon Russell
- 7 Diana Hindley
- 8 Janet Kaiser
- 11 Annabelle Hackbardt
Jacob Lanczki
- 12 Julie Candela
Zeke Hudson
Adriene Brode
- 13 Robin Wyman
Rory Wyman
- 14 Rob Lockard
- 16 Charles Eldridge

- Heather Gilbert
- 17 Benjamin Bray
- 21 Onnalee Lach
- 22 Susan Miller
- 25 Sylvia Hindley
- 27 David Bye III
- Jeremy Marsh
- Jim Zimmerman

January Anniversaries

- 16 Scott & Tammy Lanam

