

## A Note from the Pastor

Yes, the beginning of this month continues the walk through the Lenten journey and for us here at Cross of Christ, through the small catechism. We continue to worship and share a meal of soup and bread on Wednesday nights and we look forward to folks joining us whenever you can! And finally we come to the day of Palms! We gather in our upper level fellowship hall for the blessing of the palms and we begin the journey as we give thanks to God for the King of kings! We come into the sanctuary with singing voices and an energy that has been pent up for six weeks...and we come, gathered to greet our Lord as he comes to us...meet us yet again, right where we are and asks nothing else.

And then, right in the middle of the service, we turn towards the cross as Jesus is taken prisoner and begins the violent journey to death...but not for long...because April brings us the fulfillment of the promise of resurrection life...the day that the curtain was torn in two and the earth shook...this day...the day of resurrection when the promise from our God and Creator was fulfilled in God's only Son, Jesus our Lord...that death does not have the last word...EVER...that there is life everlasting and together we can shout ALLELUIAS! AND HALLELUJAHS! ALL THE DAY LONG! HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

And so what does all of this mean for those of us who are still here in God's kingdom here and now...well, the confirmation students have posted some scripture notes on the window in the upper level fellowship area and they are great reminders of the gift we have been given in forgiveness and reconciliation....we get to love one another...we get to share in care giving and healing and feeding and friendships and lifting up one another in prayer...we get to give and share and love like never before...without expecting anything in return...we have been given everything already. As brothers and sisters in Christ our lives have been changed in an instant. We are able to give of ourselves without expectation from others. We can share and heal and pray and live like never before...this is the resurrection life.

This Easter we get to celebrate resurrection life with the Baptism of Ophelia Braddock, the daughter of Betony and Keith Braddock and the first Communion of Tyler Breakey, the son of Jamie and Toby Breakey. This is the resurrection life! Alleluia!

Lots of times though we want to say...now now...we can't just do something for nothing...but isn't that Christ has just done for us? He has given his own life that we might live forever and we most certainly didn't do anything for that! This is God's grace in action...in

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## Month at a Glance

**Noisy Offering:** as determined by  
Synod Assembly  
4/2 & 4/16

**Paper Pantry:**  
4/13 5—6 PM (prep @ 3:30)  
4/27 9-11 AM (prep@3:30 4/26)

**Soup Kitchen:**  
4/13 & 4/27

**Due to office:**  
Hard Copy Newsletter submissions:  
April 10th

**Due to office:**  
E-submissions for Newsletter:  
April 15th  
Unavailable to serve in June, July, &  
August  
April 15th

**Committee Meetings:**  
Management: 4/3 7 PM  
Worship & Music: 5/8 9 AM  
Council: 4/17 7 PM

## Note from the Pastor (continued from page 1)

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love action and we are called to join in! Our lives are changed in an instant! This is the resurrection life! What a gift! What a life! He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

## Finances at a Glance

YEAR TO DATE	FUND STATUS FOR THE PERIOD:				
	Jan-Feb		2017		
	GENERAL	PROPERTY	BENEVOLENCE	MEMORIAL	TOTAL
OPENING BALANCE	(223.81)	(2,922.05)	1,002.91	47,484.91	45,341.96
+ INCOME	18,954.42	1,488.22	5,483.00	1,490.00	27,415.64
- EXPENSE	22,399.03	2,141.40	4,480.51	313.87	29,334.81
ENDING BALANCE	(3,668.42)	(3,575.23)	2,005.40	48,661.04	43,422.79
<b>2017 CHANGE</b>	(3,444.61)	(653.18)	1,002.49	1,176.13	(1,919.17)

## SPRING GREETINGS ~from Julie Pierpont, Music Director

Our seasons come and go at a faster rate each year. Now we are in the Lent season and approaching Easter. We have another fulfilling opportunity to express our faith through music. If you have that desire, we would love to have additional members sing in the choir or ring with the chimes. This enhances our members' lives and our services with the message of music.

I am grateful to our faithful musicians who give of their talents each week. Please join us as we move to inspire all with the songs of Lent and Easter. It is fun to be together and use the depth of music to spread our Christian message.

Please check our Music Schedule posted on the bulletin board for Wednesday practice times and church services. You may also contact me directly at 231-622-1893. Hope to hear from you!

## Ministry Information

### ADOPT A HIGHWAY

Cross of Christ Spring Adopt a Highway Road Cleanup is tentatively set for Sunday, April 9, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. We will meet in the parking lot on the left hand side of the road just north of the stop light at M-68 in Alanson. We will be cleaning two miles of highway from the parking lot north. Dress according to the weather and bring

gloves. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet by the church office. That way we can call if something changes. If we are still having winter on April 9 we may need to change to the end of the month. We will put any updates in the Sunday bulletins. If you have any questions, call Priscilla or Wayne Meyer at 347-8567.

### Bible Studies Contact: Pastor Sherry 347-5448

#### Monday Night Study

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY meets at Susan Hofmann's home on Lincoln Pl right across the street from the church. Please contact Pastor Sherry at 231-881-1212 or at [pastorsherry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastorsherry@sbcglobal.net) if you plan to attend. We meet at 6pm and end at 7pm.

#### Ladies' Bible Study

Time: 1—2 PM

Date: Wed. April 19th

We will meet at the church in the upper level fellowship hall to read the lessons for April 23: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31.

### CONFIRMATION Contact: Pastor Sherry 347-5448

CONFIRMATION meets at the church from 11:30-1pm. Lunch is provided. Here is the schedule and please note the change from the letter sent out at the beginning of the year:

◇ April 9<sup>TH</sup> : Apostle's creed and prayer

No other meeting in April due to midweek and holy week services

- ◇ May 7<sup>th</sup>: Confirmation paper writing
- ◇ May 21<sup>st</sup>: Mentors and papers and party!

Have a great summer!

## STEWARDSHIP

Remember that you can update or turn in your time and talent sheets at any time during the year. We so appreciate all that you do with your time and talents in sharing the Gospel!

## **Elderberries**

**President: Norm Cutshall 487-1707 Secretary: Cyndi Yingling 525-8950**

Date: Friday, April 21st!

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: Perry

RSVP: Norm Cutshall 231-487-1707

Please note, this is scheduled for the \*3rd\* Friday of the month, as our usual meeting date falls on Good Friday.

## **Youth Groups Contact: Pastor Sherry 347-5448**

### **Elementary**

Date: Saturday, April 22nd

Time: 10—NOON

Where: Church

### **Middle/Senior High**

Date: Wed., April 26th

Time: 5 PM

Where: meet-up at church, then head to Northern Lights

We will learn songs, do some crafts, play some games and make our own pizzas! Bring a topping to share...drinks, pizza crusts, cheese and sauce will be provided. If it is nice out we will be outside for part of the time. Come prepared for messy fun games outside...inside it will be a bit nicer!!!! Please sign up to come so that we have enough pizza crusts because you are making your own pizzas! Sign up in the pink notebook or e-mail Pastor Sherry: [pastorsherry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastorsherry@sbcglobal.net) or sign up on the facebook youth page... OR... you can call at 231-881-1212... can't wait to see you there!

We will be heading to Northern Lights to play Laser tag! We need people to play... bring your friends... we will meet at the church to head over to the bowling alley for pizza and laser tag. *You need to sign up in the pink notebook or let Pastor Sherry know by Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.* She has to call in reservations by the 20<sup>th</sup>! You can also call Pastor at (231) 881-1212 or e-mail her at [pastorsherry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastorsherry@sbcglobal.net) There will also be an event page on the facebook youth page. Cost will be \$10 (covers 1 game and pizza or \$16 which covers two games and pizza... needs to be decided as well!) There are always scholarships available.

## **Youth Fundraising**

We are keeping those envelopes up until they are all filled and turned in with donations! This fundraiser is the scholarship fund to help our children attend church camp during the summer. Parents pay a portion of the camp fund and then we try and supplement the rest of the registration fee because it is a

wonderful faith growth time and friend making time for the larger church. Please support our youth! This is one of the best opportunities for faith growth and experience for them. Half of the envelopes are gone... we only need this second half now!



## EVANGELISM

So, here is short list of 5 simple ways that every Christian can be an evangelist. It's not exhaustive, but it's a start.

**1. Attend** worship services: receive the Lord's Supper frequently, and attend Bible study regularly. Evangelism begins in at the altar and then outward to our families and then our neighbors. If we aren't fed and nourished by the study of God's Word how can we begin to tell our neighbor why they should be fed and nourished? If we don't know what we believe and why, what are we going to share with those who don't believe in Christ? Through his Word, Christ is teaching us to know what we believe and why we believe it so we can give a reason for the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15).

**2. Invite** your friends, family, and neighbors to church or bible study or to any of our events. Even though an invitation isn't the gospel *per se*, it points our neighbors in the right direction. We see this in the New Testament repeatedly: "Sir, we would see Jesus" (John 12:21) and Andrew's famous, "Come and see" (John 1:39). Invitations are easy; the worst people can say is no...and they just might say yes! Whatever the occasion is and whomever you are talking to, the personal contact and relationships we have in our everyday lives are where the best evangelism takes place. *Your vocation is your mission field.*

**3. Greet** a visitor on Sunday morning or any other time you

see a new face around Cross of Christ. Before talking with the people you know and love, greet the unknown in Christ. This isn't the job of the ushers and greeters alone; it belongs to everyone. Look for the visitors in the pews and in the fellowship areas. No need to carry on a long conversation—unless it turns into that. Visitors notice when we go out of our way to say good morning and welcome them to church. It's as simple as this: "It's great to see you here; thank you for coming. We hope to see you again."

**4. Give** a devotion book or any number of useful resources at church to your neighbors or unchurched friends. Use Christ in our home found in the pamphlet holder in the narthex!. These are easy, non-threatening ways to share a comforting word with your neighbors. Are any of your friends grieving the death of loved ones or suffering illness or other issues of body and soul? Let Pastor Sherry know and she will add them to her prayer devotions.

**5. Get involved.** You can start by talking to any member of the council and the pastor. The harvest is plenty and the workers are few. If you're interested in evangelism there are endless ways to use the gifts God has given you to share the Good News with others. And just in case nothing comes to mind immediately, here are some specific areas the BOE could use your help in with:

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- a. Visitor follow up** – help send cards or make phone calls to visitors we receive for services and other events.
- b. Visitor welcome packets** – help assemble these so that we have something to hand out to our guests, telling them what Cross of Christ believes, teaches and confesses.

- c. Preparing visitor mugs** – that’s right, we “mug” our visitors. A coffee cup with a few pieces of information inside is a great conversation starter. We need help making more of these and getting them out on the information cart and into visitor’s hands.
- d. Share the congregational calendar.**

### **PASTOR’S SABBATICAL**

PASTOR SHERRY MCGUFFIN asks your prayers. Pastor Sherry has submitted her sabbatical for 2018 and asks for your prayers. She will learn if the grant application will be accepted in August. The total for the grant includes pastor care for the church, substitute pastors and a piece of art work and presentations at the end. If you would like to read her sabbatical outline and grant submission please see her. She is willing to share.

### **Transitions**

Dear Cross of Christ,

“To everything there is a season”

Lent and Easter are a time of death, grief, transition, and the rebirth of hope. So it is outside worship as well this year.

A decade ago, we began transitioning to a new reality of me being not “only” your sister in Christ but also taking on the mantle of church secretary. It has been my absolute honor to serve all of you these past years.

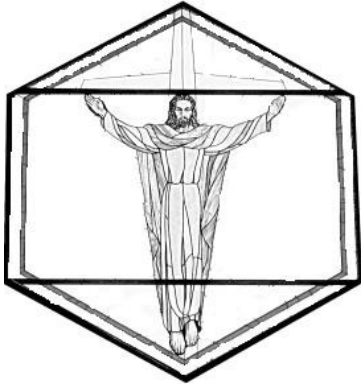
However, Council has decided to eliminate the secretarial position, and so, we transition again as I return to being “only” your sister in Christ.

While, as with all such transitions, there will be a period of time to grieve and acclimate, I am not riding off into the sunset. You were my church family before and you remain my church family now—that doesn’t change!

Thank you for allowing me the honor to serve for the last ten years.

Sincerely,  
**Tricia Rodgers**

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church  
1450 E. Mitchell  
Petoskey, MI 49770



***Empowered by the  
Grace of God to Love,  
Lead, and Serve***

**Check out [ELCA.ORG](http://ELCA.ORG) for updates on advocacy, worship,  
the Bishop's Letter, and other Church Wide information.**



**EASTER EGG HUNT:**

The Easter Egg Hunt will take place at 9:45  
AM on Easter Sunday (4/16).

Sunday School will follow at 10 AM.