

A Note from the Pastor

He is Risen!!! He is Risen, Indeed!!! Alleluia!!! And so we enter this wonderful time of the fulfillment of God's promises through God's only son, Jesus, our Savior and Lord! In the death and resurrection of God's son, we have been shown a freedom that is in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. The freedom to share God's Gospel in so many various and creative ways....are you ready? We are called and sent from the glorious empty tomb into the kingdom of God right here and right now....try and name at least 5 blessings each day...That is God at work in you and through you and with you! You are claimed as God's own, promised that death never has the last word, and sent into the kingdom renewed and re-created in the name of Jesus our Savior.

In gathering together in the name of God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, we give thanks as we are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit to share God's grace...by serving those who are on the outskirts of society, by becoming advocates for those who have no equality, by seeking those on the outskirts of society and inviting them to experience that they are enough in Christ!!!! We are blessed. We are blessed beyond measure and it is with great thanksgiving that we go out and SERVE THE LORD!

He is Risen!!! He is Risen, Indeed!!! Alleluia!!! What are we waiting for? The kingdom of God is here...right now...right here...let's celebrate and dance and laugh and share this gift of God's grace! The Lord be with you!!! Go and Serve the Lord! Happy Easter!

Pastor Sherry McGuffn

Prayer Partner

The Synod maintains a Prayer *Trinity Lutheran in Manton; St. Partner list and each church is Luke's in Norton Shores; Victory assigned a specific date. Cross of Trinity in Ludington; Hope Lutheran Christ's date was in February and in Plainwell; Grace Lutheran in we received wonderful notes from Lansing; Grace Lutheran in Alpena; many congregations including, but and Bethany Lutheran in Kaleva. not limited to:*

WinSome Women

Do you have questions about God? Do you have a problem understanding your mate? Do you know how to put on the garment of praise? WinSome Women retreat is presenting Philip Yancey, Shaunti Feldhahn, & Robin Mark who will encourage you on your journey through these questions. Don't miss

out. Be sure to come with your friends & experience enriching speakers, uplifting worship, & the ambiance of The Grand Hotel on beautiful Mackinac Island. Spring retreats May 17 & 18, 18 & 19, 19 & 20. Register online at www.wswretreats.org.

Month at a Glance

Noisy Offering: North/West Lower Michigan Synod for Outreach and Education

April 3rd and 17th

Paper Pantry:

5—7 PM April 14th (prep @3:30)

9-11 AM April 28th (prep 4/27@3:30)

Soup Kitchen:

April 14th and 28th (see article)

Useful Info:

Diaper Changing Stations are available in the main level ladies' room and in the lower level unisex restroom.

Due to office:

Hard Copy Newsletter submissions:

April 10th

E-submissions for Newsletter:

April 15th

Unavailable to serve in June:

April 15th

Committee Meetings:

Management: 7 PM April 4th

Worship & Music: TBD

Council: 7 PM April 18th

Readings for the Month

April 03, 2016

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

April 10, 2016

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

April 17, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

April 24, 2016

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

Finances at a Glance

FUND STATUS FOR THE PERIOD: Jan. 2016 THRU Feb. 2016

BALANCE:	GENERAL FUND	PROP.	BENEV.	MEMORIAL	TOTAL
OPENING	-4,789.81	-2,223.66	6,029.11	46,473.83	45,489.47
+ INCOME	18,726.82	1,612.83	2,964.94	800.00	24,026.01
-EXPENSE	20,726.82	2,223.34	2,678.30	204.85	25,833.31
ENDING	-6,868.39	-2,834.17	6,315.75	47,068.98	43,682.17

AUTOMATIC GIVING: Anyone interested in signing up for automatic giving, or making changes to an existing automatic giving account, needs to fill out the VANCO / Simply Giving / Thrivent form which can be located four mailboxes to the left of the Secretary box. Completed forms (with voided check for new sign-ups) may be placed in the FINANCIAL

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SECRETARY mailbox or slid in the slot in the church office door if you prefer. If you have any questions about the program, please contact our financial secretary, Gail Drake at smittenxgail@gmail.com or 231-347-0773.

Ministry Information

Bible Studies Contact: Pastor Sherry 347-5448

Monday Night Study

Monday Night Bible Study will resume in June. Thank you to all who have participated and we look forward to new faces and new places this summer. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Sherry at 231-881-1212 by calling or texting or email her at pastorsherry@sbcglobal.net

Ladies' Bible Study

Time: 1 PM
Date: April 20th
Our focus will be on the Scripture readings for that week... studying different materials and historical documents that will help us dive deeper into the Scripture readings. Bring your Bible. Need one? Let the office know.

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

Date: April 8th
Time: 12:30 PM
Location: The Perry
RSVP: Norm Cutshall 487-1707

All retired members are invited to join us. We are planning an outing, more information coming.

Youth Groups Contact: Pastor Sherry 347-5448

Elementary

Date: Sunday, April 17th
Time: 11:30-1:00pm
Where: lower level fellowship area

Middle/Senior High

Date: Sunday, April 24th
Time: 7-9pm
Where: 314 W Lake Street

Make pizzas and play games together along with music and crafts! Families are encouraged to attend if they can! Please RSVP in the sign up book or by emailing pastorsherry@sbcglobal.net or using our Facebook page for our youth!

A cook out and bonfire if weather permits. If weather does not permit we will play games and eat in the house! RSVP by Sunday, April 17th by signing up in the red book, sending an email to pastorsherry@sbcglobal.net or using our Facebook page for youth.

Ministry leaders and volunteers

Do you find yourself in need of support from the church office? Wondering how to go about requesting help such as address labels, copies, getting the word out to the congregation? There is an

“Office Support Request Form” available in the similarly labeled mailbox. Just fill out the form and place it in the Church Secretary Mailbox with sufficient lead-time and we’ll do our best for you.

Adopt a Highway

The spring Adopt-a-Hwy Clean up for Cross of Christ is **Sunday, April 17, 2016**. We pick up the highway (US-31N) from the parking lot in Alanson to Cupp Road (2 miles). We will meet at the parking lot in Alanson (on the left hand side of the street past the light at US-31N and M-68) at 1 p.m. Dress for the

weather, whatever it may be. Bring gloves if you have them. We will have extra plastic gloves available. There is a sign-up sheet in the EVENT Binder located at Sign-Up Central. If you have any questions, call Priscilla or Wayne Meyer at 347-8567.

Lutheran World Relief

This year we are collecting items for Personal Care Kits. This first item we'll be collecting will be "one light-weight bath size towel between 20" x 40" or 52" x 27" dark color". The towel must be new. We will be collecting the towels for the next few

weeks. The goal this year is to collect enough items to make up at least 25 kits. Watch the bulletins and the newsletter to find out what next month's collection item will be. Contact: Cyndi Yingling 231-525-8950

Elliott Drake

Elliott Drake will be attending seminary at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago (LSTC) in September. We will begin fundraising for his educational fund in May. There will be a spaghetti luncheon in May as well as a noisy

offering collection. If you would like to volunteer in any way, please contact Pastor Sherry at pastorsherry@sbcglobal.net or sign up to volunteer or to donate food for the dinner in the EVENT notebook at Sign-Up Central.

SOUP KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR APRIL

Our Soup Kitchen month is April and, looking ahead to summer, June and August. Sign up in advance. Be prepared to cook for 20+ people... if you can only cook for a few, let us know and we will seek more volunteers.

Thank you for offering your gifts of sharing food with those in our

community. The Sunday School makes placemats filled with joy & thanksgiving & you fill tummies with warmth & love... thank you so much & thanks to Ken Michelson who is our faithful volunteer at the Presbyterian church where the soup kitchen is held.

Building Use

Do you need to use our church grounds for non-church events/activities? Please be sure to fill out a Facility/Building Use Form, so we can get your activity on the

calendar and minimize the chances of timing conflicts. Completed forms should be placed in the Church Secretary Mailbox.

COLLECTION REMINDERS

We have recently re-done our collection containers located in the wooden display across from the Ladies' room.

In the designated black containers, you may place:

- Campbell's UPCs/Lids for assisting Shepherd's Ministries
- Pop can tabs for assisting the Ronald McDonald House
- Oleson's receipts for Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- Used household batteries for recycling (please tape the contacts of any 9V to prevent a potential fire hazard)

Other items that we continue to collect for various programs in our church and in our community include:

- Returnable cans and bottles for Youth fundraising
- Ready-to-Redeem Frequent Diner Reward Cards (from

places such as Bob-In) can be placed in the Church Secretary Mailbox. These are used to provide a meal for those in need.

- Used Cell Phones (functional or not) and related accessories can be placed in the designated container across from the Ladies' room
- Used prescription glasses for the Lions Club can be placed in the *bottom left* section of the wooden display.
- Unused Full Hospitality Toiletries from your travels can be placed in the *middle left* section of the wooden display. These items are used to assist those in emergency need, such as those leaving domestic abuse situations.
- Paper Pantry donations are always welcome. Donated items for Pantry can be placed along the half wall outside the sanctuary/near the stairs.

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 at the altar and then spreads outward to our families and then to 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

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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 un-churched 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 in which our Evangelism Team could use your help:
 - 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 visitors' hands.

SUMMER READY?

Our volunteers are planning bike rides and picnics and worship and music specialties. Do you feel like you want to share your creative ideas or ministries with our congregation and community? Just let us know! We are a yes kind of people!

VBS COORDINATOR NEEDED

This summer's VBS program will be held in conjunction with Emmanuel, Petoskey United Methodist, and other area churches. We are seeking a coordinator. Please contact Pastor Sherry if you are interested and/or have any questions.

Worship and Music

SINGLE 10 AM Service on April 3rd. Sunday, April 24 we encourage you to invite someone to meet you at church! Invite a teacher, co-worker, friend, or family member to join us for worship... Come and see what the Lord has done! Looking forward to fun new faces!

Pastor Sherry will be at synod assembly following church on May 17th-19th. If you are interested in

joining her at synod assembly, please contact the church NO LATER THAN APRIL 15!!!!

NEED HELP FORMING A SUMMER BAND FOR CHURCH!!!!

Please contact Pastor Sherry by April 24th if you want to play, be a song leader, or offer other musical gifts! Thank you!
pastorsherry@sbcglobal.net or 231-881-1212.

THANK YOU NOTES

Received following the death of Elvira Kortesoja:

We thank you for your prayers. The last few years were very hard for our mother. We had a wonderful celebration of her life. She did very well. She enjoyed Elderberries and travels with all. Peace to you. The family of Elvira L. Kortesoja

From Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce:

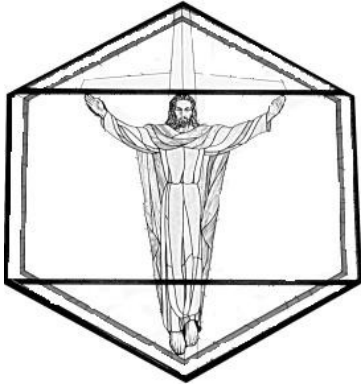
Your annual investment in the Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce arrived recently. Thank you so much for continuing to support our work...You can take comfort in knowing that you are a part of one of the leading chambers of commerce in the state of

Michigan...Your chamber is healthy, is widely recognized, and continues to focus on its mission of helping area businesses succeed while protecting the area's quality of life.

From First Christian Church:

Thank you so much for your participation in this year's Lenten lunch series at First Christian. We are happy to report that attendance was up considerably this year. After the services we hear comments of the spirit of the Lord moving and inspiring those who attend these solemn services. That is just one measure of the meaningful contribution each of you made.

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 for updates on advocacy, worship,
the Bishop's Letter, and other Church Wide information.**



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