

A Note from the Pastor

Greetings to you all in the name of our Triune God. What a blessing to celebrate a year in review with you all at our Annual Meeting...and to look forward to ministry and outreach into 2017. The church is being called to respond to our brothers and sisters in need like never before. Our local agencies are losing funding and those agencies help those in need...so it is up to me and you to make sure that our brothers and sisters are cared for, heard, lifted up in God's kingdom here and now...that is pretty daunting on a daily basis!

Here is a quote that I have on my iPad: "Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." This quote is supposedly from the Talmud which is the collection of Jewish law and tradition consisting of the Mishnah and the Gemara and being either the edition produced in Palestine a.d. c400 or the larger, more important one produced in Babylonia a.d. c500, although we can only find the quote in bits and pieces...but it also rings true for us in Micah 6:8.

We can all do a little everyday and that changes patterns and models love and respect. We get this! We can do this! This is what Jesus has done for us...little by little we are shown through his actions and words how to love others...even others whom no one else trusted...even those who were outsiders or just plain bad

folks...Jesus shows us that we all are connected...that what we truly want is to thrive, to make a difference...to actually make it here and now and to live like we are called by the poet in Ecclesiastes. But it truly is daunting...all of the crime and poverty and emergencies. All of the people for whom we care hurting and suffering...that sometimes we push the joys aside...so find them again...find the joy in everyday living!

Some people stopped by my house the other day and gave me some jam that they had made. That was delightful. They don't have money to share. They don't have time to give away all of the time...but they can their own food...after gleaning from farmers...and then they share the goods! And they never forget me. Makes my day all of the time. They are life changing for me because they remind me what we are called to do...love one another without expecting anything in return.

So...go out of your comfort zone. Say hello to a stranger. Hold a conversation with someone with who holds different values than you do...listen without judgment...just listen...not to add advice, just listen. Sometimes that is all someone needs...and you are so gifted!

Month at a Glance

Noisy Offering:

World Hunger Relief
2/5 and 2/19

Paper Pantry:

5-7 PM 2/9 (prep @ 3:30 PM)
9-11 AM 2/23 (prep @ 3:30 PM 2/22)

Soup Kitchen:

2/9 and 2/23

Due to office:

Hard Copy Newsletter submissions:
February 10th

E-submissions for Newsletter:

February 15th

Unavailable to serve in APRIL:

February 15th

Committee Meetings:

Management: 7 PM 2/6

Worship & Music: 9:30 AM 2/13

Council: 7 PM 2/20

Useful Info:

The Annual Re-alphabetizing of our mailboxes has been delayed this year, but is expected to be completed by the end of February. Please remember to double-check when placing or taking.

Readings for the Month

Feb. 5th

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-12

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Matthew 5:13-20

Feb. 19th

7th Sunday after Epiphany

Leviticus 19:1, 2, 9-18

1 Corinthians 3:10, 11, 16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

Feb. 12th

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

Feb. 26th

Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

STEWARDSHIP

Don't forget that you can sign up for automatic giving at anytime. Please contact Gail Drake for information.

Thank you for working so hard to relieve our debt! You are so very generous and this year ended well. If you have any questions about the finances of our church there are always copies on the folder slot on the bulletin board near the women's bathroom. Please take a look or make a copy and ask questions or give suggestions!

March will be bring a friend month! We ask that you invite a friend...and bring them with you to church! We love to meet new faces in new places! This will be a month of surprises and blessings!

Ministry Information

Bible Studies Contact: Pastor Sherry 347-5448

Monday Night Study

6—7 PM Mondays

We will meet at Susan Hofmann's house, but please check with Pastor Sherry on a weekly basis (231-881-1212).

Ladies' Bible Study

Time: 1 PM

Date: ****Feb. 8th**** [NOT 2/15]

Pastor Sherry will be out of town on the 15th and we don't want to miss it!

Elderberries

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

Date: Fri. Feb. 10th

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: Perry

RSVP: Norm Cutshall 487-1707

All interested retired individuals are invited to join us for lunch at the Perry and some fantastic fellowship and fun!

CONFIRMATION Contact: Pastor Sherry 347-5448

Our confirmation classes for February:

- ◇ Sunday, February 12: Meet at the church for lunch from 11:30-1pm with MENTORS. We will decorate Valentine's Day cookies and deliver them to our homebound.
- ◇ Sunday, February 26: Lord's Prayer and World Hunger focus...meet at the church for lunch from 11:30-1pm. Don't forget your books!

CHANGES IN MARCH AND APRIL CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE DUE TO SPRING BREAK:

- ◇ Sunday, March 12: 11:30-1
- ◇ Sunday, March 19: 11:30-1
- ◇ Sunday, March 26: CANCEL CONFIRMATION
- ◇ Sunday, April 2: CANCEL CONFIRMATION
- ◇ Sunday, April 9: 11:30-1

From *Live and Learn and Pass It On vol. III*, page 17 —

"I've learned the great value of the three Fs:
Forgive, forget, and forge ahead."

Advice from a 47 year-old

Youth Groups Contact: Pastor Sherry 347-5448

Elementary

Date: Sun. Feb. 5th

Time: 11:30-1 PM

Where: Church

What: Make Valentine's Day cards for our shut ins and to make placemats for the soup kitchen. We will also have lunch with our activity.

Middle/Senior High

Date: Fri. Feb. 3rd—Sat. Feb. 4th

Time: overnight

Where: Church

What: Lock-In for World Hunger
The Senior High youth will meet Friday and Saturday for a workshop on world hunger and to make sandwiches ordered by the congregation for a fundraising project for world hunger. Congregation can order sandwiches for \$6 a piece. They come with chips, an apple and a sandwich. (ham or turkey with lettuce and cheese. Please see order forms!

Sign-up sheet for the event is in the magenta binder.

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Worship and Music

ASH WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 1 AT 7PM AT CROSS OF CHRIST AND NOON AT EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Our next committee meeting takes place at 9:30 AM on February 13th. If you are interested in joining us, we would welcome you!

CHIMERS NEEDED! If you are interested in joining our chime choir, please contact Julie Pierpont at 231-622-1893.

From *Live and Learn and Pass It On vol. III*, page 13 —

“I’ve learned that a creative mess is preferable to idle neatness”

~age 85

HELP NEEDED!

**TRANSPORTATION
NEEDED:**

A resident in Independence Village wishes to attend our worship services.

Transportation is needed to get her back and forth.

Anyone interested in helping out (on a regular schedule or even just on occasional Sundays) - please contact the church office for her name and contact information.

**SEMINARY
SPAGHETTI
FUNDRAISER**

Pastor Sherry McGuffin is looking for volunteers to help with our seminary spaghetti dinner. It is time to help with the scholarship fund. We will create a committee and donate the noisy offering as well as proceeds from the dinner to our seminary student, Elliott Drake. We have promised \$1,000 per year.

Sign Up sheet for volunteers can be found in the TURQUOISE binder.

**MALAWI MISSION
FUNDRAISER**

Also, looking to have a Fat Tuesday (February 28) pancake supper at Cross of Christ with proceeds going to Luke Ulrich and his ministry in Malawi. It was a true blessing having Luke and Mark here with us to share the Gospel from Malawi and to see and begin to learn about their ministry and love for empowering people! We need a good planning team of at least 4! Please contact Pastor Sherry.

Sign Up sheet for volunteers can be found in the TURQUOISE binder.

CONTACT INFO FOR PASTOR SHERRY

231-881-1212 or pastorsherry@sbcglobal.net

WANTED: NURSERY ATTENDANT

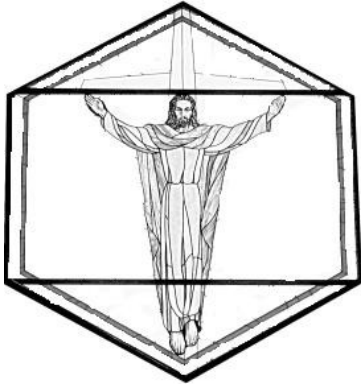
We are still in need of a reliable nursery attendant (paid position). Must be able to pass a background check and either be CPR/1st Aid certified or willing to become so. If you know of anyone who you think would be a good fit for the position, pass our information along or his/hers to Pastor.

From *Live and Learn and Pass It On vol. III*, page 102 —

“I’ve learned that you’re not always perfect on the first try”

A reminder from a smart 10 year old!

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.**

KIDS!

**How many words can you make using the
letters in the word TRANSFIGURATION?**

