



CHRIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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FROM A PASTOR'S DESK:

"After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hand. And they cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:

"Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" Rev.7:9-12

The book of Revelation gives us a picture of what is yet to come! It's not always easy to understand what is being spoken of but the pictures that it gives us are meant to encourage us and excite us about what lies ahead for us who accept and love Jesus.

I love the picture given to us in Rev. 7! There is a lot that can be drawn from this scripture but what caught my attention was the description of the people. First it talks of a "great multitude." Have you ever been to a concert? It is fun to be with people who love the same music and performers that you do. To be amid a stadium full of people who are enjoying and are fully engaged in the show is exciting! How much more exciting will it be when, gathered to worship our Lord, are "a great multitude that no one" can even count!

And the crowd is made up of people from every nation, tribe, people and language. That means that our love and appreciation for Jesus will unite us and

overcome all our differences as we gather to worship Him! What a day that will be!

I believe that this account gives us a picture also of how God would love for his body to function even now as we look forward to that day! Wouldn't it be great if the church were not so divided but rather so focused on Jesus that the things that separate us pale in comparison to our love for Him! We probably won't see that day this side of eternity, but we can work towards it. And that is in fact what we will be about on New Year's Eve here at Christ Church.

We have the opportunity to celebrate our mutual love of Jesus with others in the body of Christ as we come together to share a meal and a time of prayer and praise with our brothers and sisters from Christian Fellowship Church. I hope that you will consider being part of the celebration, honoring Jesus and experiencing a little of what heaven will be like right now! Our potluck dinner will begin at 5pm this Sunday, Dec. 31st, and our time of worship and sharing will begin at 6pm. What a great way to usher in a new year!

NEW YEARS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Dec. 31st – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL, 10:15am Worship, 5pm potluck dinner at church with Christian Fellowship Church followed by a Praise and Prayer Service at 6pm.

BRINGING HOPE TO THE TABLE

With Gleaners and Kroger

On January 27th and 28th we will participate with Gleaners and Kroger in Bringing Hope to the Table Program. We will collect money for Gleaners (which goes into our account) and food for our pantry. The Kroger is located on Haggerty Road just north of Six Mile Road. We will need volunteers to sign up for Saturday, January 27th and Sunday, January 28th. Volunteer sign-up sheets with the times will be in the rear entry. Thank you for being willing to help our food pantry "Bringing Hope to the Table".

CHRIST CHURCH – BLESSING THOSE IN NEED!

It was so much fun to be a part of the Christmas blessing to so many families again this year. Parents were once again given the opportunity to shop for toys for their children. And the quality of toys has increased so much since we began our gift distribution! Thank you to all who donated toys and/or money. And special thanks to Todd and Amy and their family for doing such an awesome job of organizing, purchasing, setting up, and distributing the toys!

We also know that homes were transformed into the Christmas spirit by all the decorations that were taken home by the families. So many beautiful things were made available, it was fun to see the joy that the people left with. Thank you to Joan and her team of volunteers for creating such a beautiful display of Christmas decorations!

And we also want to thank Bill Peter and all our hearty outdoor food distributors who bundle up every week and make sure that every car gets at least one box of food! And to Barb and her team of packers who put together the bags for distribution.

We are blessed with a very well organized and well-run program! Thank you to all involved!

CHILDREN/YOUTH

Thursday January 18th the church is hosting its first Winter Wonderland party.

There will be board games, dinner, and cookie decorating. Starts at 5:30 - 8! 1st grade and up are welcome.

CHILDREN/YOUTH BAIR LAKE WINTER RETREAT

It's Winter Blitz time of year again!

3rd - 6th Grade students camp is February 2-4!

7th - 12th Grade students camp is February 9-11!

The price is \$100 for camp, the church will pay \$25 for every church members.

This price includes: Transportation, meals and all activity available at camp

Contact Miss Stephanie if interested in attending by January 14th.

CHILDRENS VALENTINE'S DAY

This year the children's ministries have been focusing on treating others with love. Valentine's Day is the perfect holiday to do this! Saturday February 17th we will have a decorating party to make cards and bags. Sunday February 18th during Sunday school we will be handing them out followed by children's church being a Valentine's Day themed day. Please wear as many hearts as possible!

NURSERY NEEDS

We are still in need of someone or someone's to take the lead in caring for our nursery. Our youngest members deserve a first-class environment to be cared for in. Would you consider helping with this responsibility? For more details on what is needed see Barb Christopherson.

MARRIAGE CONFERENCE SUPPORTING WESTSIDE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

If you are looking for a way to support your own marriage and the work of Westside Christian Academy at the same time, here's your chance.

Friday, February 2 (7-9pm) & Saturday, February 3 (8:30-11am)

at Faith Bible Church, Livonia

Come and join the staff, parents, friends and supporters of Westside for this unique event! Be inspired with other married couples with informative interaction centered on God's Word.

Featuring Frank & Cathy Tanana

Frank, a former major league baseball pitcher and Detroit Tiger, and his wife Cathy have been married for 40 years, have 4 daughters and 13 grandchildren. Frank & Cathy love to help other couples invest in their marriages!

Donations starting at \$150. Donations above \$150 are welcome.

This would be a GREAT gift for your spouse! Invite your friends!

Double your gift and your blessing! A donor has matched all donations up to \$25,000.

To register call (248) 396-7206.