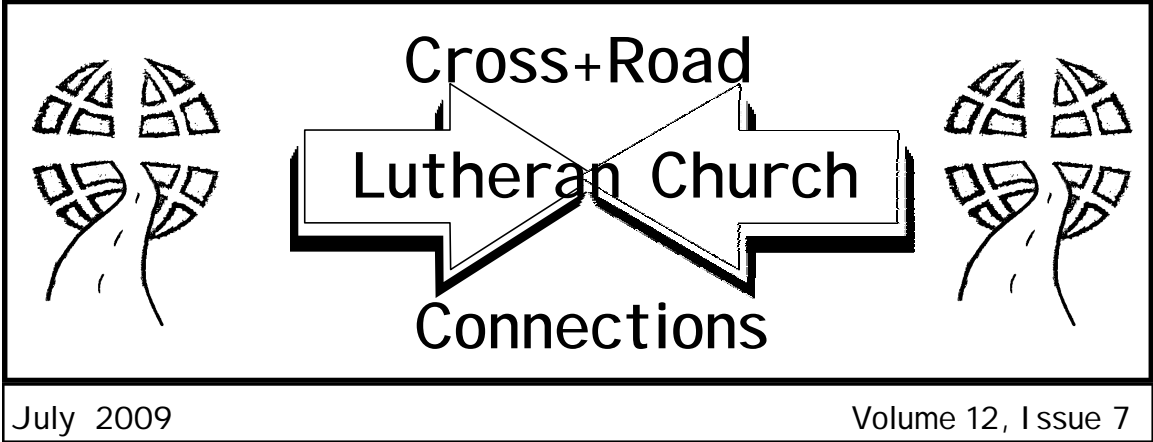


THE NEWSLETTER FROM:  
CROSSROAD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
5101 Lakeshore Drive West  
Orange Park, Florida 32003  
Office: (904) 264-6575  
Fax: (904) 264-6576  
www.crossroadlutheran.com  
Rev. James Graeser, Jr.  
& Rev. Jon C. Fredrickson  
Pastors

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A Non-Profit Organization  
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Orange Park, FL 32073

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



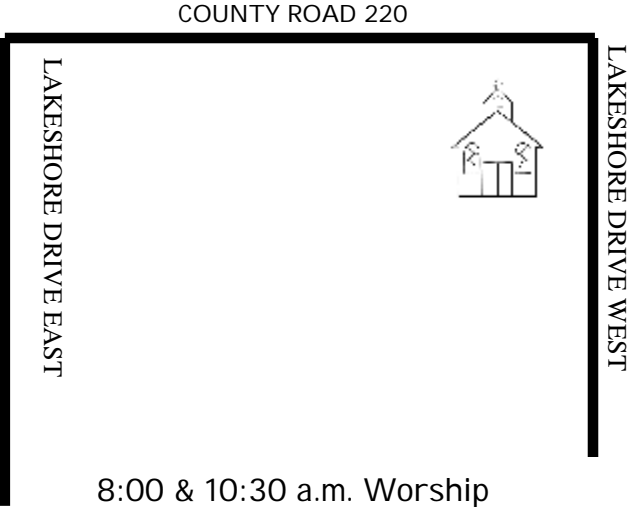
### Pastor Jim begins his sabbatical-

There is a poem that appears in The Lord of the Rings' first book, The Fellowship of the Ring. It is titled "All that is gold does not glitter." The second line reads, "Not all those who wander are lost." I was reminded of that line the other day as I was thinking about sabbatical. The Lord of the Rings trilogy is a wonderful story about a road trip in one sense. And whereas I am not leaving the Shire nor does Theresa call me "Frodo," I do expect a great experience that will significantly shape my life. And whereas I do not consider myself lost, I do expect to find things along the way. And the things I expect to be the most meaningful discoveries are the things I don't expect to find—the things that will find me.

But as go most good road trips, they are more meaningful when done with others. So obviously, I am looking forward to the time with Theresa and the opportunity to reconnect since we lead such busy, scheduled lives. But as went the Hobbits, it was not just them on the journey. Their community went with them, for their trip had as much to do with their group of origin as it did the individuals on the road. In that same spirit, all of you travel with us; for we know full well that what happens on our road will shape our community, too. You can journey with us via Cross+Road's website: just register under the members tab on the main page. This will give you access to pictures and blogs along our way. But even more so, I beg for your prayers. As with the Hobbits', there is some risk involved on our trip; so pray for our safety as well as our findings.

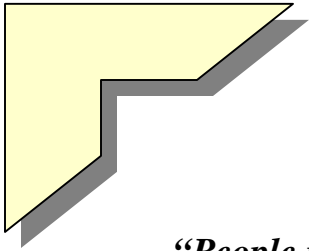
As much as I look forward to sabbatical beginning, I also look forward to its end, or more specifically, our reunion. Not only will I be anxious to share with you what found me, I will be anxious to hear what found you while I was away—what did you learn, what did you discover? The great Christian road-tripper Paul closes his first letter to the church at Corinth this way: "Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love" (1 Corinthians 16:13-14). Until we see each other in October... -Pastor Jim

WE ARE LOCATED  
AT THE CORNER OF  
LAKESHORE DRIVE WEST  
AND COUNTY ROAD 220



8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship  
with Holy Communion  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

TO GATHER..  
TO EQUIP..  
TO SEND...



# Pastor's Corner

## Reflections from Pastor Jon:

*“People need loving the most when they deserve it the least.”*

**--John Harrigan**

When life is flowing benevolently along and our hands are full of aces, we need little support and affirmation. It is when things turn mean and all light seems to have gone from the sky that we most need support and love—especially from ourselves.

All of us make mistakes. All of us are far from perfect. Failures take many forms—some serious, and some repeated despite many promises that this would not happen again. It may be something small to others but big to us—going back on a pledge not to binge eat or catching ourselves being consistently negative. It may be large—walking away from a relationship that could have worked. When we fail is when we need to remind ourselves of our humanity and treat ourselves with love.

We so often forget what works. There is always grace and there is always forgiveness in Christ Jesus. When we have failed, we need not take vengeance on ourselves, but rather, find a way to regain our feet as quickly as possible. The more loving we are to ourselves, the easier it is to get up and start again.

At the congregational meeting on Sunday, June 21, 2009, a resolution was passed allowing the council to enter Cross+Road into a loan agreement with Thrivent Financial for \$1.4 million. This loan accomplishes two things: 1) our existing \$1.016 million loan with Mission Investment Fund will be paid off (the balance now transferred to this Thrivent Loan) and the remaining \$400,000 (almost) will be available to build our new education unit (along with the \$320,000 in building fund pledges). After finishing detail work with our builder, Keith David Building Solutions, we hope to see site work begin this summer and the new building up by the first quarter of 2010. This is another important step for Cross+Road as we develop our ministries! Please continue to pray for Cross+Road during this exciting time. Feel free to speak with any council person regarding details and/or questions about the project.

### Congregational Meeting



### Thank You!

Volunteers who worked at St. John's Lutheran Church on the outreach project. We will continue to schedule additional work days, watch the bulletins for dates and times. Any assistance you give is a blessing to St. John's. Speak with Art Harnack for further info.

The next Bunko night is Friday, July 10th at 6:30 p.m.  
Hosted by the Fellowship Team.  
Sign up sheets are in the Narthex.



Pray for our youth who will be attending *Jesus Justice Jazz-2009 ELCA Youth Gathering* beginning on July 21<sup>st</sup>. The theme draws from the rich faith history, diverse cultures and arts of New Orleans. It will stretch our understanding of what it means to live in relationship and service with each other in the manner of Christ...for life... wherever we are!

### Lemonade for Hunger Aid

The Second Harvest Food Bank of North Florida and Panera Bread have teamed up to help fight hunger in Jacksonville through a program designed to involve area children in the process. Panera Bread will match any money raised by children operating summer lemonade stands around Jacksonville (up to \$5,000) and will also donate \$1 to the Second Harvest Food Bank for every frozen lemonade sold in their Jacksonville area stores during the summer.



**Financial Report  
Through June 22, 2009**

**Total Income=\$214,932.74  
Total Expense=\$238,146.50**

**Budget Income=\$210,629.58  
Budget Expense=\$244,130.35**

**Net Profit/Loss= -23,213.76**

**Average weekly  
regular giving=\$6,675.00**

**Capital Campaign**

**Total Amt  
Rec'd=\$190,940.14**



**Complete detailed  
financial reports are  
available at the Church**

**STATISTICALLY  
SPEAKING**

**May 24**  
8:00 am Attendance=123  
10:30 am Attendance=166

**May 31**  
8:00am Attendance=120  
10:30 am Attendance=187

**June 7**  
8:00am Attendance=128  
10:30am Attendance=166

**June 14**  
8:00 am Attendance=134  
10:30 am Attendance=170

**June 21**  
8:00 am Attendance=91  
10:30 am Attendance=165

**COTTAGE MEETING RECAP**

We have just completed our series of seven cottage meetings. Small groups of 10-15 people gathered to talk about Cross+Road's next ten years. Meetings opened with each participant sharing what he or she thought were Cross+Road's chief strengths. Common themes emerged: our relationships with each other and the quality of those relationships, worship both in terms of quality of music and preaching but also in terms of exciting atmosphere and radical welcome, our openness to thinking outside the box, and our commitment to youth and families.

The next question asked, "What do you think is the next thing Cross+Road needs to address; of all these strength that are in place, what is the next need we could attempt to meet?" Again, common themes that surfaced repeatedly were: greater presence in our community particularly in service ministries, expanded youth programming emphasizing relationship-building, empowerment of parents as the primary teachers of the faith to their children, potential for a Lutheran school for various ages, and identifying people's gifts and better utilizing them in the life of the congregation.

I then offered four topics for feedback: 1) how many is too many? How big would we like Cross+Road to be before we ourselves plant a new church? 2) not only how do we grow our youth ministry, but now Cross+Road is aging and needs to be more intentional about ministries with homebound members and with active retirees with so many gifts to use. 3) to remain a church committed to reaching unchurched and dechurched people, we must recognize that people new to church will be slow to venture into church giving; how do we not only teach newcomers the importance of financial church giving but how do we keep us long-timers excited about increasing our giving and becoming committed tithers in order to keep expanding our outreach to the unchurched? 4) if every program or ministry must have a pastor's hand on it, that is a natural limiter to how many ministries can be on-going; how do we continue to identify lay leaders who have wonderful gifts for operating ministries so that the pastors are freed to keep visioning and expanding all of the ministries Cross+Road could launch?

So these are the thinking points I take with me on sabbatical. And these are the thinking points we leave with each other while I am away. I am excited to see where these conversations and questions lead us. I anticipate many of you greeting me with outstanding ideas in response to these. And I look forward to an amazing next ten years.--Pastor Jim



*To Gather..*

*To Equip..*

*To Send ..*



Newsletter Articles for August are due Thursday, July 23rd E-Mail to [crossrd@bellsouth.net](mailto:crossrd@bellsouth.net) or call 264-6575.

**REMEMBER TO BRING NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS FOR THE GREEN COVE SPRINGS FOOD PANTRY THERE IS A SHOPPING CART LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX FOR YOUR DONATIONS. THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

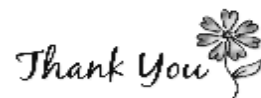


**THANK-YOU FOR DONATING TO THE ALTAR FLOWER FUND**

June 7- Big Cat's Pest Control



June 14-Bill & Nancy Olewiler- 1st Wedding Anniversary



June 21- Elaine Friedmann in memory of Emil Friedmann

June 28- Ron & Debbie Harris in celebration of 29th Wedding Anniversary



# Cross+Road Lutheran Church

## JULY 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30pm Band Rehearsal Church Worship Room	2 1:00pm Women of Faith Bible Study	3	4
8:00am Worship 10:30am Worship	5	6 6:30pm Fellowship Team Meeting	7 6:30pm Evangelism Team 6:30pm Band Rehearsal Church Worship Room	8 6:30pm Band Rehearsal Church Worship Room	9 6:30pm Bunko Night	10 11
8:00am Worship 10:30am Worship	12	13	14 6:30pm Band Rehearsal Church Worship Room	15 6:30pm Band Rehearsal Church Worship Room	16 1:00pm Women of Faith Bible Study	17 18
8:00am Worship 10:30am Worship 9:15am Property Team Meeting	19	20 National Youth Gathering → 7:00pm Council Meeting in Conference Room	21 6:30pm Band Rehearsal Church Worship Room	22 6:30pm Band Rehearsal Church Worship Room	23 Newsletter Articles Due	24 25
8:00am Worship 10:30am Worship	26	27	28 6:30pm Band Rehearsal Church Worship Room	29 6:30pm Band Rehearsal Church Worship Room	30	31