

# GRACESTORIES

*Telling the stories of the incredible people and amazing ministries  
God is working through to make a positive impact in the world.*



The Blachly Family (L-R: Ben, Abby, Liz, Bethany, Mark) pose for a picture in Beijing's Tiananmen Square during a recent trip to China.

## A Global Classroom

**M**ark Blachly, a Cross of Grace Partner in Mission, enjoyed many successes over the 20 years he taught for Indianapolis Public Schools. When his job was phased out, he landed a new position this year teaching physics at New Palestine High School and is looking forward to building new relationships and learning a whole new system at NPHS.

Mark is proud of what he accomplished at IPS. He encouraged many of his students to achieve their dreams by going to college in order to pursue any number of professions. "Part of it was building the dream," said Mark. "Often, nobody in my students' families had ever been to college."

Roughly 50 percent of Mark's students were black, 25 percent were Hispanic and 25 percent were white. Many of the students were from single-mother households where poverty and life struggles were the norm. Mark worked hard at finding scholarships and opportunities to improve the lives of his students, but sometimes life would get in the way.

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**2016-2017  
Annual Report**  
page 6



**CoG 5th-Grader  
is a champion  
water-skier**  
page 9



**Katie Molinder  
campaigning for  
County Assessor**  
page 10

# Cross of Grace Lutheran Church

A community of grace sharing God's love with no strings attached

## **Weekly Schedule** **(starting 9/10/2017)**

### **Sunday**

- 8:30am - Traditional Worship
- 9:45am - Fellowship
- 9:45am - All-Ages Education
- 10:45am - Contemporary Worship
- 4:15pm - Youth Handbell Choir\*
- 5:00pm - "Sunday Night Live" Youth Nights  
(1st & 3rd Sun.)
- 5:30pm - Bells of Grace\*
- 7:00pm - Alleluia Ringers\*

### **Monday**

- 6:30pm - Men's Bible Study
- 6:30pm - Agape Alliance (3rd Mon.)

### **Tuesday**

- 6:30pm - SonRise Ministry†
- 7:00pm - Council (3rd Tues.)

### **Wednesday**

- 7:00pm - Choir Practice

### **Thursday**

- 9:00am - Women's Bible Study  
(starts Sept. 21)
- 7:00pm - Bethel Bible Study  
(start date TBD)
- 7:00pm - Worship Band Practice
- 7:00pm - Yoga
- 7:30pm - Alcoholics Anonymous

### **Friday**

- 7:00pm - Craft Fellowship (3rd Fri.)

### **Saturday**

- 10:00am - HomeBrew Club (3rd Sat.)  
*see online church calendar  
for locations*

*\* contact church if interested  
in participating*

*† meets on Wednesdays until Oct. 10*

**Check online for special events!**



**3519 S 600 W**  
**New Palestine, IN 46163**  
**(317) 861-0977**

Office Hours: M-Thurs 9am-2pm  
[www.crossofgrace.org](http://www.crossofgrace.org)



### **Mark Havel**

Pastor  
[pastormark@crossofgrace.org](mailto:pastormark@crossofgrace.org)



### **Aaron Stamper**

Pastor of Youth & Family Ministry  
[pastoraaron@crossofgrace.org](mailto:pastoraaron@crossofgrace.org)



### **Linda Sevier**

Administrative Assistant  
[churchoffice@crossofgrace.org](mailto:churchoffice@crossofgrace.org)



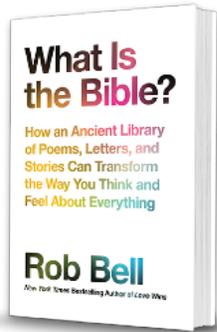
### **Jeannie Ellenberger**

Music Minister  
[jeannie@crossofgrace.org](mailto:jeannie@crossofgrace.org)



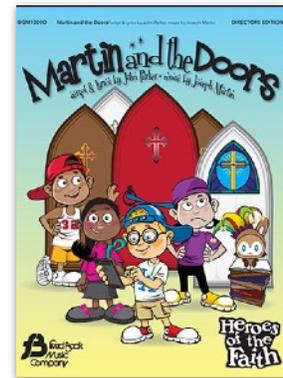
### **Kaitlyn Ferry**

Contemporary Worship  
Music Minister  
[kaitlyn@crossofgrace.org](mailto:kaitlyn@crossofgrace.org)



Pastor Mark and Pastor Aaron are hosting a “Breakfast Club” class to discuss the New York Times Bestselling book, What is the Bible?, by Rob Bell. We meet on Wednesdays mornings, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., for six weeks, beginning August 16th. B.Y.O.B – Bring Your Own Breakfast – and join the conversation, even if you missed the first couple gatherings. Books cost \$18.00 each if purchased through the church.

Both morning worship services on October 30 will feature a production of "Martin and the Doors" – a musical in which Cross of Grace children are on a modern day treasure hunt looking for the five core truths of faith as expressed by Martin Luther. While celebrating the Reformation's anniversary – 500 years this year – through humor and great music we learn some of the most profound truths in the Christian faith.



Rehearsals take place on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. beginning September 10. Speaking parts are for youth in 3rd–5th grades. Contact Jeannie Ellenberger to sign up.

*Cross of Grace Lutheran Church* #156

Please direct the enclosed gift to:

General Operations  
 Building Fund  
 Mission Sunday  
 Mission Endowment Fund  
 Other (please specify) Youth Group

Cash  
 Check

Name John Doe Amount \$ 1,000

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156 156

JAN 1 2017

**General Fund Offering** \$ 500  
Pays our day-to-day expenses. 15% of all General Fund offerings is shared with the national and international work of the ELCA. (General Fund commitments are made for July 1<sup>st</sup> - June 30<sup>th</sup>.)

**Building Fund Offering** \$ 500  
Pays our mortgage and reduces debt. A tithe of these gifts helps to support Roots of Life's mission on Noblesville, and our friends in Fondwa, Haiti, too. (We renew Building Fund commitments each November.)

Name John Doe Total \$ 1,000

Cash  
 Check

A Couple Points About Envelopes

The following tips will make the work of our counters more enjoyable and efficient:

- Always select the appropriate box to indicate whether the contents of the envelope are cash or check.
- If using a pink envelope (either because you forgot your yellow one, or you are giving to a fund other than General or Building), please write in your envelope number on the top right.
- Only print numbers for monetary amounts. Do not use words like “all” or “50%.”
- Double-check you’ve signed your check.

## continued from Page 1

“Some kids who were brilliant would drop out of high school and go to work at McDonald’s,” he recalled. They felt they had to try to make a living if their mother got sick, for example, or if their father wasn’t around to help pay the bills.

Out of about 300 students in each senior class, roughly 40 would head to a 4-year college each year. “A lot more students went to college than would have gone if I wasn’t there,” he said.

When Mark learned that his students couldn’t afford senior portraits, he started shooting the pictures for them. He wrote some grants to acquire additional equipment, such as studio lights and portrait backgrounds. He could order prints at cost, but many of the students just wanted a digital cap-and-gown image so their mothers could share the pictures on Facebook.

“I loved working with gifted kids in the city,” Mark said. “I felt I had found my place. It was a good mix of my skills and serving my community.”

After 20 years, the IPS magnet program began phasing out so Mark decided to make a change rather than continue at IPS. Most of the kids who were in the IPS magnet program are now going to either charter or township schools. “Teaching 9th grade algebra is not my gift,” he said. “And it seemed like a good fit to switch to New Palestine High School,” he said.

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**M**ark was born in Baltimore, Maryland but moved to South Africa when he was only 3 months old. His parents were medical missionaries who worked at a training hospital for black South Africans set up as a mission by the Church of the Nazarene.

When Mark lived in South Africa, blacks were separated from whites under a system of legislation called apartheid. After the National Party gained power in South Africa in 1948, its all-white government immediately began enforcing existing policies of racial segregation. Despite strong opposition to apartheid, its laws remained in effect for the better part of 50 years.

Under apartheid, non-white South Africans, which comprised most of the population, were forced to live in separate areas from whites and use separate public facilities. Contact between the two groups was limited.

Mark – along with his two brothers and one sister – had to go to an all-white boarding school that was 100 miles away from where his parents lived. The black kids would stay at the boarding school for two weeks, come home Friday night and Saturday and then return to the school on Sunday night.

Mark’s parents taught in the black hospital’s nursing program. His mom was a nurse and his dad was a lab tech. “They trained the black South Africans so they could work in other hospitals,” Mark said. “Black people were not allowed to go to medical school.”

South Africa temperatures were comfortable – 80’s in the summer and 60’s in the winter, Mark said. “I never really wore shoes until I came to America,” he said. He enjoyed sharing the countryside with lions, elephants and other animals that inhabited the land.

The family would spend four or five years at a time in South Africa before returning to the States to raise more funds. The American kids in the boarding school were sent back to the States for their senior year because if they stayed in South Africa, they would be required to complete three years of military service upon graduation from high school, he said.



Mark in his new NPHS classroom.

Mark came back to the States when he was 16 and finished high school in Hershey, PA. He later graduated from Eastern Nazarene College in Boston, Mass., majoring in physics and math. He also earned a master's and a PhD in physics from Purdue University.

Even after leaving South Africa, Mark kept track of the country where he had spent his childhood years. Apartheid finally ended in 1991, when the government of President F.W. de Klerk began to repeal most of the legislation that had provided the basis for it.

African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela was released from prison in February 1990 after having been held captive since 1963. "For me, the big moment was when Nelson Mandela was freed," Mark said. "Dismantling apartheid was such a gradual process." Mandela worked closely with de Klerk's government to draw up a new constitution for South Africa.

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In college, Mark met Liz at a leadership conference in Idaho. Liz was attending Olivet Nazarene University at the time. After dating long distance for a year, Mark moved to West Lafayette for graduate school and to be closer to Liz. Mark and Liz married in 1990 and Liz completed medical school at Indiana University while Mark completed his graduate work at Purdue. After they both finished their doctorates, they moved to California where Liz did her residency training and Mark taught college and attended Fuller Seminary.

The couple moved to Indianapolis in 1997. IPS hired Mark to teach physics, math and computer science in a magnet school for gifted kids. Liz, who finished her residency in California, began working as a family medicine doctor for New Palestine Family Medicine. These days, many of the kids she once took care of are coming back to her as young moms and dads.

In addition to her full-time job as a family medicine doctor, Liz is also the medical director of Shepherd Community Clinic, a free clinic that serves the indigent community in downtown Indianapolis on Saturday mornings. Liz oversees the work of 30 to 40 doctors at the clinic, as well as organizes

volunteers. The clinic serves a lot of undocumented workers, many of whom are afraid to seek care at hospitals, Mark said.

After a long journey in the wilderness of infertility, their oldest child, Ben, was born in 2001. Next came Abby, adopted from China. And a few years later, against all odds, Liz became pregnant with Bethany, who was born in 2006. Today, Ben is a high school sophomore and loves to play the piano. He also plays French horn in the school band. Abby, who is in the 8th grade, loves sports. Bethany, who is in 5th grade at Sugar Creek Elementary School, loves art and animals, Mark said.

Through the years, Mark has enjoyed playing sports with his family. He plays tennis with his kids, once coached middle school tennis, and coached soccer for over 10 years. He served as president of the New Palestine United Soccer League for three years and recently resigned.

After Bethany was born they bought a lot and built a house next to Liz's parents, Dave and Linda Duff, also Cross of Grace Partners in Mission. The Blachly kids loved growing up next door to their grandparents, Mark said. Sadly, Dave died this past Christmas of prostate cancer. Coincidentally, Mark's dad (also named Dave) died two years earlier of the same disease.

Both Mark and Liz were raised Nazarene, but their family started attending Cross of Grace around 2008. "We decided that worshipping in our community was more important than our theological alignment within the protestant world," he said.

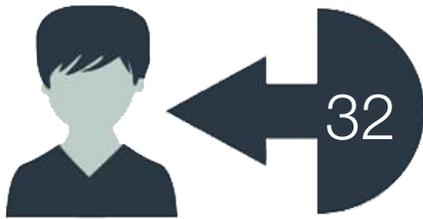
The family serves the church in a variety of ways. Mark has taught GraceQuest and takes portraits of the Partners in Mission for the church directory, Ben shares his gift of piano playing with the congregation and Abby is a regular in the nursery and a volunteer for Vacation Bible School. The family is also part of the church's cleaning crew rotation.

As Mark settles into his new teaching position at New Palestine High School, he looks forward to continuing to serve his school, church and community in the years to come.

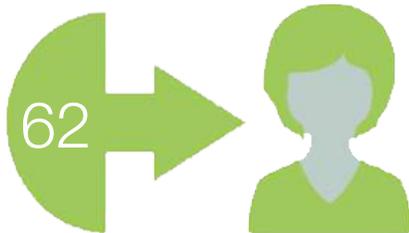
– Bettina Puckett

# 2016-2017

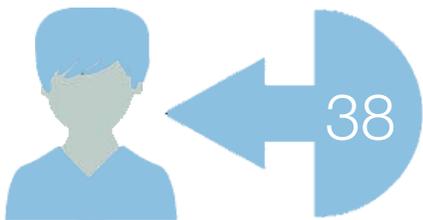
## ANNUAL REPORT



Children in GraceQuest



Children in VBS



Children at Summer Day Camp



51

pets blessed

**\$4,738**

raised for Mission Endowment through annual silent auction

5 Baptized

7 Confirmed

41 New Members

121 Worship Services

10 Funerals

9 First Communion

5 music ensembles

### AVERAGE WEEKLY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE



229

### 2016-2017 Unaudited Treasurer's Report

#### General Fund

Balance July 1, 2016	\$73,030.85
Receipts/Interest	\$443,021.29
Expenses	(\$440,412.98)
Change in Liabilities	\$5,692.19
Balance June 30, 2017	\$81,331.35

#### Building Fund

Balance July 1, 2016	\$103,004.54
Receipts/Interest	\$177,212.17
Mortgage Interest	(\$38,437.87)
Mortgage Principle	(\$140,658.13)
Change in Liabilities	\$2,337.61
Balance June 30, 2017	\$103,458.32

#### Restricted Funds

Balance July 1, 2016	\$31,269.06
Receipts/Interest	\$71,598.11
Disbursements	(\$49,294.98)
Balance June 30, 2017	\$53,572.19

#### Mission Endowment Funds

Balance July 1, 2016	\$106,128.28
Receipts/Interest	\$16,329.96
Disbursements	(\$3,089.39)
Balance June 30, 2017	\$119,368.85

16,700

Website Visits

10,137

Facebook Page Engagements

55

New Facebook Page Likes

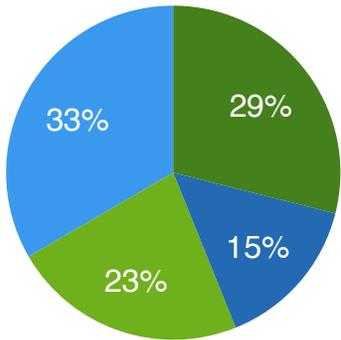
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Sermon Podcast Episodes

**LIVES AFFECTED IN 2016-2017  
THROUGH OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

*(Agape Alliance, Prayer Shawls, Angel Tree, Foster Family Quilts, Mission Sundays, School Bible Studies, etc.)*

2,004  
3



Total of Cash Accounts  
(as of June 30, 2017)

**\$357,730.71**

Remaining  
Mortgage Balance

**\$785,932.15**

**Food Pantry**

-  36 Families
-  109 Total People
-  149 Total Visits

**SonRise Ministry**

-  18 "Friends"
-  20 Helpers

**New Ministries**

-  Pints & Parables
-  Yoga
-  Sunday Night Live
-  Youth Handbells
- Columbarium

**LWR Donations**

-  36 Personal Care Kits
-  37 School Kits
-  14 Quilts

**Contributions**

Haiti  
\$7,500



Roots of Life  
\$9,838

Mission Sundays  
\$10,531



## REFLECTIONS FROM OUTGOING COUNCIL PRESIDENT, JESSE KELJO

**It has been** quite a year at Cross of Grace, and I continue to be humbled by the love, fellowship, generosity, and, yes, grace happening within our walls and out in the community and world at large. There has been much to grieve this past year as we have lost Partners in Mission, friends and family, and members of our community, but, even in this (maybe especially in this), the deep, abiding joy that is ours in Christ has been ever-present in the response to these deeply sad occurrences.

Of course, there have also been times of great happiness as well. We have come together to rejoice in many baptisms, including that of my son, and we have welcomed many new Partners in Mission. We have been blessed by the music ministry of Jeannie Ellenberger and Kaitlyn Ferry who have infused worship with the beauty of their tremendous gifts. Pastor Aaron and Pastor Mark continue to lead and challenge us with their unique gifts for ministry. The mid-week Advent services were a beautiful way to prepare for Christ's birth marked by meaningful uses of music and performance, and the Lenten series on half-truths was filled with smelling salts that helped me wake up and see both how blind I am at times and how much I need the light of Christ's Truth, which is often uncomfortable. The VBS trip to Narnia was also an amazing experience, and I was very grateful to be able to participate since it took place in the evening this year.

I also want to extend my gratitude to those who have served on Church Council and who will be serving, especially Dawn Becker, whose term as Treasurer is ending. Dawn's contributions to ensuring our fiscal health cannot be understated, and I have always appreciated her candor in meetings as well as her tireless commitment to Cross of Grace. I am also thankful for the work of Linda Snow, who greatly assisted Dawn in keeping up with church finances. My thanks and prayers are with our new Council leaders: Angi Johnson (who is succeeding me as President), Katie Molinder (our new Mission and Outreach Team Leader), Carla Hopkins (our new At-Large Leader), and George Searfoss (our new Treasurer) as well as with our returning Council members. Please join me in thanking them for their service, encouraging them, and praying for the work they are doing.

I have only scratched the surface of what has been done and has happened over the past year at Cross of Grace, and it is such a blessing to know that I could not possibly talk about everything we have been doing in a short letter. It is my fervent hope and prayer that we will continue to be the Grace-filled presence in New Palestine and the world that God is calling us to be, and I look forward to continuing to serve Cross of Grace as a Partner in Mission and in whatever ways the Holy Spirit and the church compels me. I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve such amazing pastors, staff, and Partners in Mission.



– Jesse Keljo



## A Cross on the Water

The Cross Family (Jill, Jeff, and Charlie) after the Midwest Regionals in Kansas in 2016.

### Did you know we have a state champion water skier in the congregation at Cross of Grace?

5th grader Charlie Cross (age 10) won the state championship for his age group last year. He went on to compete and do well at both regional and national competitions.

Charlie along with his parents, Jeff and Jill Cross, dedicate a significant amount of time and energy to water skiing. Along with Charlie, Jeff also water skis competitively. Jill Cross feels “blessed we have the time and resources to pursue the sport of water skiing.”

Charlie has always watched his dad ski and began skiing on his own when he was three years old. Charlie practices 1-2 hours per day. His goal is to ski the course at the maximum speed of 34 mph. Once he has attained the maximum speed of 34 mph, the rope will gradually be shortened.

Each time the rope is shortened, skiing the course gets more and more difficult. Charlie competes in the Boys II age division which includes boys ages 10-14. That means, currently, Charlie is one of the youngest boys to compete in this division.

Charlie’s other goal is to someday be a world record holder in the sport of waterskiing. During the winter, the Cross family will travel to Florida to train with their friend, Nate Smith, who is a World Champion water skier. When asked what motivates him, Charlie says, “Nate pushes me. He pushes me to be a better skier”.



Charlie, age 3, learning to ski.

The Cross family joined Cross of Grace several years ago after an invitation from friend and neighbor Kristin Anderson. Charlie enjoys being part of VBS and Church Camp. Not surprisingly, “water day” was his favorite day of Church Camp. In his spare time, Charlie also enjoys baseball and basketball.

Recently the Cross family, along with their dog Marley, moved from New Palestine to Champion Lake in McCordsville. This allows Charlie and Jeff to train in their own backyard.



Most families living on Champion Lake are involved in the sport of waterskiing. Jill explained that being able to train “at home” has made life a whole lot easier. Each time Charlie and Jeff go out to practice, Jill says “a little prayer and prays they stay safe.” Charlie “prays he doesn’t get hurt.”

When you see Charlie at church on any given Sunday, odds are good that he is training for an upcoming competition. Words of encouragement and prayers are appreciated!

– Laura Haeberle

# Assessing Katie Molinder



Katie and family campaigning

**P**artner in Mission Katie Molinder currently has a job she loves, serving as the chief deputy to the Tippecanoe County assessor. But she has even higher aspirations and recently decided to run for the office of Hancock County assessor.

“The current Hancock County assessor is retiring,” Katie said. “I would like to bring all of my knowledge and experience to the community in which I actually live.”

Katie filed to run for the May 8, 2018, primary election as a Republican. She has one opponent from her party so far. But because Hancock County is considered a Republican stronghold and local Democrats may not even run a candidate, the May 8 primary will likely determine the winner of the race before the Nov. 6 general election. If she wins, she would serve a four-year term.

Because Katie has always been a “behind the scenes” sort of person, running for an elected office feels a little intimidating. “But I feel very strongly about my experience,” she said. “I would like to bring methods that work to the office.”

Her only current opponent so far is Cindy Roberts, who serves as chief deputy to the Hancock County assessor. “I’m sure she does a fantastic job, but I think it’s time for things to be done differently,” Katie said.

Katie was born and raised in New Palestine. She is married to Chad Molinder and they have two sons, Mathew, 4, and William, 1-1/2.

Katie met her husband, Chad, who is from Greenfield, when she was still in high school. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduating and she began attending Purdue University. The couple married two years later. Chad deployed to Iraq just before they got married, as well as once afterwards. Katie graduated from Purdue with a degree in Youth, Adult and Family Services.

The couple moved to Oceanside, Calif., where Chad was stationed with the Marines. Katie became a counselor for foster youth at an emergency shelter. Some of the children she counseled had been kicked out of foster homes and needed temporary shelter.

Chad served as an instructor at a Marine Corps infantry school for three years. He later was accepted into the Marine Corps Enlisted Education Program, which enabled him to get his undergraduate degree in history at Purdue and become an officer.

In 2009, the couple moved to Lafayette and Katie earned her master’s degree in Public Administration from IUPUI.

Katie had her first child, Mathew, just 1-1/2 weeks after graduating. After having the baby, she stayed home for a year to care for him. The couple then moved to Washington D.C., where Chad attended Officer Basic Training.

During this time, Chad would often be gone to training for weeks at a time, but Katie understood that her husband had a real passion for the infantry. Eventually, he learned that the Marine Corps Reserve was needing officers and he began the transition into that component.

The couple was thrilled to finally return home to New Palestine in 2014. Katie started a job as a case worker for the Hancock County Department of Child Services on Jan. 1, 2014. Chad landed a civilian job at the Target Distribution Center on the west side of Indianapolis and was eventually promoted to human resources manager. In his Marine career, he drills one weekend a month and two weeks a year at his infantry unit in Terre Haute. Chad, who was the first Marine in his class to be promoted to captain, was recently selected to command a company.

“He is one very motivated and locked-on Marine,” Katie said proudly. Chad has served for 13 years and has plans to retire from his military job when he reaches 20 years of service.

Katie gained a lot of experience working with families in her job as a DCS case worker until, in the summer of 2015, she became Hancock County’s first Victims’ Assistance Coordinator, working for the prosecutor’s office. “I provided support services for victims of crime and helped them through the court process,” Katie said. “It can be confusing, especially for a 10-year-old going through trauma.” She helped victims give depositions and prepared them to testify. She dealt with many victims who had experienced domestic violence, including physical and sexual abuse.

Hancock County lagged behind many other Indiana counties regarding victim resources, but finally hired an attorney who specialized in domestic violence and sexual assault cases. “There’s a special way you prosecute members of this high-risk population,” she said. “It takes more than a run-of-the-mill attorney to take on these types of cases.”

Katie worked as a victims’ assistance coordinator for about a year before she had her second son, William. She was on maternity leave when she received a phone call from the Tippecanoe County assessor’s office offering her a job as chief deputy.

Her experience at the Tippecanoe County assessor’s office will benefit her greatly if she is elected to Hancock County assessor. The state of

Indiana requires assessors to have certification and Katie has achieved a Level 2 and anticipates being Level 3 certified by December.

“All I wanted to do for 10 years was to get back here to New Palestine,” she said. “This position will allow me to have family time and to also serve my community.”

Katie has written grants enabling the police chief of the Cumberland Police Department to bring a men’s mental health unit to Hancock County.

At Cross of Grace, Katie has recently started her Church Council term as the leader of Mission and Outreach. She also enjoys serving as a communion assistant and alter clean-up servant at church.

Several of Katie’s relatives attend Cross of Grace, including her mom, Lisa Kraft and Lisa’s husband Mark. Other Partners in Mission include her brother, Eddie Waldrep (who also served as a Marine), along with his wife Chelsea and their son Kinch, who is one month younger than Katie’s son, William. “It’s a fairy tale,” she said. “I love my family.”

Katie and Chad both grew up Methodist and were married in a Methodist church in Greenfield. But when they returned to Indiana, they were not sure they wanted to join a church. “But Mom would ask me to come with her and I really liked it,” Katie said.

One of her favorite things about Cross of Grace is the supper club. Bernie Augenstein, who sadly died last year, had a wonderful gift of putting people together whom he thought might get along with each other. Katie said her supper club experience “was such a great way to meet people.”

When she isn’t working or politicking, Katie loves to spend time with her family. “We love to travel,” she said. “We don’t need a big house or a nice car. We’d rather see the world!”

– Bettina Puckett

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## LOOKING AHEAD

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Middle School and High School youth are invited to participate in bimonthly gatherings on Sunday evenings called Sunday Night Live. We have dinner together, play games, and discuss important and relevant issues. This year we will gather most 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Check the online calendar for the most accurate and up-to-date schedule.



Mark your calendar on **Saturday, September 9** for the ELCA's annual day of service known as "God's Work. Our Hands." This year we will work on cleaning and easy maintenance at the Talitha Koum recovery house in Greenfield. Plan on purchasing a yellow t-shirt for the day. Anyone wearing a t-shirt at the Indianapolis-Area Reformation Celebration at the Athenaeum downtown on **Sunday, September 10 between 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.** will receive a complimentary beer!



On **Sunday, September 10** we're celebrating the start of the 2017-2018 Sunday School year. Join us at 9:45 a.m. for the first day of GraceQuest, Faith Formation, High School, and adult forums.



Take note that our worship schedule changes on **Sunday, September 10**. First service remains at 8:30 a.m. but the second service moves to 10:45 a.m. The time change makes room for youth and adult education classes offered in between worship services.



Over the weekend of **Sept. 22-24**, current 6th–8th-grade youth are invited to join with youth from across Indiana and participate in the annual weekend retreat at Lutheran Hills Camp in Brown County. Cost \$80 per participant (financial aid is available upon request). Contact Pastor Aaron to register.



Cross of Grace Lutheran Church is providing childcare for up to 50 elementary-age youth for the four days designated as "Professional Development Days" by the Community School Corporation of Southern Hancock County (**Aug. 30, Sept. 27, Jan. 31, Apr. 18**). The church will provide a safe environment for children to complete homework assignments, enjoy a snack, and play games. Registration fee is \$5 per child (cash or check). Cross of Grace is not able to provide transportation. Students may be dropped off beginning at 12:30 p.m. and must be picked up by 4:00 p.m.



Cross of Grace's annual Oktoberfest Celebration will be held on **Sunday, October 29 at 5pm**. Festivities begin with a worship service of special music honoring the Reformation. Stick around afterward for festive singing, sample a beer from Cross of Grace's Home Brew Club, and play a hand at our "Hold 'Em For Haiti" poker & euchre tournament that will raise funds for the 2017 Haiti mission trip.