



# Holy Cross *Disciple*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY CROSS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2017

## MOTHERS' DAY COMFORT

Soon we will be celebrating Mothers' Day, the day when we honor Moms. See if anyone here recognizes this Mom: You stand up to take pictures at your son's school play even after they've asked people not to. You insist your child wear a sweater when YOU'RE cold. You tell your daughter how much prettier she looks with her hair out of her eyes. You hear yourself say [things like], "Your face will freeze like that," and "If all your friends jumped off a bridge, would you?" There's a used Kleenex stuffed up your shirtsleeve. The first thing you ask when someone walks into your home is, "Do you want something to eat?" You spend your vacation wondering if you left the iron turned on. Your daughter says smugly that she'll never be anything like you.

Sound like anyone you know? What the Bible says in John 14 is very appropriate. *"I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you."* One translator has Jesus say, "I will not leave you as orphans . . ." Both renderings of the text sound like Mother's Day to me. I don't want to be guilty of over-generalizing or stereotyping, but when most of us think of being comforted, do we think of our Moms or our Dads?

A survey asked boys who they would be most likely to confide in if they had a problem, and about 23 percent said their father. The remaining 77 percent said they would confide in their mother. *"I will not leave you comfortless,"* said Jesus. *"I will not leave you as orphans . . ."* There are a lot of Dads who are doing a splendid job of comforting their children, but in the majority of cases, for comfort, we think of Mom. Yes, God is like a Father, but God is also like a Mother who comforts her children. Where is comfort to be found? That is the question for the day. What is Jesus promising us?

JESUS SAYS, HE WILL COMFORT US BY HIS PRESENCE. *"I will not leave you comfortless,"* he says to his disciples, *"I will come to you."*

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 1

Elders Meeting

May 2

Prayer Gathering

May 5

LWML Meeting

May 7

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

May 8-10

Bd. of Directors St. Louis, MO

May 9

Community Meal

May 13

Board of Ed. Meeting

May 14

MOTHER'S DAY

May 15

NEM Meeting

Council Meeting

May 20

Spring Tea/Sock Hop

May 25

Evangelism Meeting

Ascension Day Worship

May 29

Memorial Day



Cont. page 1

Jesus is going away. But God will send a comforter--the Holy Spirit. They will not be alone. God's Spirit will be with them.

Years ago there was a country-western song titled, "Roses for Mama." In the song, it is Mother's Day, and a man goes to a florist shop to buy his mother a bouquet. He knows he should visit his mother, but he has more exciting plans, so he decides to send her flowers instead. At the florist shop, the man encounters a little boy who wants to buy some roses for his mother, but he doesn't have enough money. The man gives the boy some money, then buys his mother's bouquet.

As the man drives away from the florist shop, he happens to pass by a cemetery. Glancing in the cemetery, he sees the little boy kneeling on a grave, a bouquet of roses in his hand. The man pulls in to the cemetery and asks the boy what he's doing. The boy explains that his mother has been dead a year, and that he comes there all the time to talk to her and, on this special day, to give her flowers.

The man turns around and drives back to the florist. There, he asks the florist if his mother's flowers have been delivered yet. When the florist tells him no, the man tells him to cancel the delivery, he wants to deliver them himself.

There is nothing that says "I love you" like simply being there. Children need parents who are there for them--if possible, both mother and father. Aging parents need children who will come to see them. Jesus is leaving his disciples, but he wants them to know he is not forsaking them. "I will not leave you as orphans," he says, "I will come to you." He will be there. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, he will be with them.

We honor our mothers this month. But more importantly, we honor God who is like a loving parent who is ever present, and ever giving us the strength to overcome. Because God lives, we can live!

Pastor Chris Ongstad



## LET'S Celebrate You!

### May Birthdays

Jim Bahr (1)  
Carole Vrshek (3)  
John Rheinwald (6)  
Pat Minet (6)  
Samuel Meilahn (14)  
Bob Schulz (23)  
Charles Lux (27)  
Bruce McGlin (30)  
Glen Love (30)

### Baptismal Birthdays

Erna Sherman (9)  
Jennifer Wedster (13)  
Marye Meyer (25)  
Pam Rutkowski (31)



### Wedding Anniversaries

Bob & Marilyn Long (4)  
George & Marye Meyer (15)  
Chris & Kate Vrshek (23)



### Disciple Newsletter

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
(LCMS, SELC District)  
4041 W. 120th St.  
Alsip, IL 60803  
708.597.5209

Office: Mon.- Thurs. 8:00am - 12:00pm

Web: [www.hc-lc.org](http://www.hc-lc.org)

Email: [hclc@hc-lc.org](mailto:hclc@hc-lc.org)

**Pastor Chris D. Ongstad**


Worship-8:00am & 10:30am Sundays

Bible Class/Sunday School 9:15am



# ON MOTHERS DAY.....

- +To those who gave birth this year to their first child—we celebrate with you
- +To those who lost a child this year – we mourn with you
- +To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains – we appreciate you
- +To those who experienced loss this year through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away—we mourn with you
- +To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment – we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.
- +To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms – we need you
- +To those who have warm and close relationships with your children – we celebrate with you
- +To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children – we both lament and hope with you



*Charm is deceptive,  
and beauty is fleeting; but a  
woman who fears the Lord  
is to be praised.  
Proverbs 31:30*

- +To those who lost their mothers this year – we grieve with you
- +To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother – we pray with you for healing
- +To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood – we are better for having you in our midst
- +To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year – we grieve and rejoice with you
- +And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising –we anticipate with you.

We Love you!

Your Family at Holy Cross





## "MORE BLESSED TO GIVE"

### Stewardship



"It is more blessed to give than to receive," said St. Paul, quoting our Lord (Acts 20:35). How can this be?

Jesus and His disciples withdrew to a mountain by the shore of the Sea of Galilee. The crowds followed them, for the Lord had just showered upon them the gift of His teaching, the gift of His Word. But the day was waning; the sun was setting, and it was getting late.

Looking upon the crowds, Jesus had compassion on them and asked, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat" (John 6:5)? Philip said that two hundred denarii (a day's wages for two hundred men) could not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.

But Andrew, Peter's brother, brought a young boy forward, who had five barley loaves and two small fish. "But," Andrew asked, "what are they for so many" (John 6:9). Jesus replied, "Have the people sit down" (John 6:10).

Then Jesus, the Son of God, gave them a second gift, a gift from what only He could give—a gift from above. He took the bread and the fish, gave thanks, blessed them, and distributed them to the crowd. Then came the miracle. As these five loaves and two fish were given out, they multiplied. He fed the hungry crowd until they were all full. And twelve baskets full were left over.

But Jesus was not the only one who gave that day. There is one person who also gave from what he had. It was the boy with the five loaves and the two fish. All the others, including the boy, received the gift of a miraculous feast. And they would look back on it with wonder. But the boy, when he would look back on it, would look back and remember not just what he received. He would look back with wonder and delight when the Son of God made his gift into something miraculous. For it is more blessed to give than to receive.

This our Lord does for each of us. He presses our gifts, no matter how big or how small, into His service and works wonders with them. He provides through what we give: water for baptism, bread and wine for the Lord's Supper, a man called and sent for the preaching of the Gospel and Absolution. He provides a building in which we can gather as His children, lights so that we might not gather in darkness. He provides funds for the care of the poor and struggling, for missionaries who preach and teach beyond our borders. He makes Christians, disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in our midst by bringing them to faith and nurturing them in that faith. He takes our gifts and turns them into something miraculous.

Indeed, it is more blessed to give than to receive. Thus we give. We give of what we have. And the Lord works His wonders.



### LWML TEA/SOCKHOP

LUNCHEON & SOCK HOP FEATURING:

DJ service by STEVE-O Saturday May 20th 1-4pm

Donation for ages 5-9 \$7.00 - 10-12 \$10.00 -12-adult \$12.00 children under 5 are FREE.

Proceeds to Salem Ministry for Battered Women. Tickets go on sale April 1. Men, Women and children are invited. Make reservations by calling the church office (708)597-5209 or log on to our website ([www.HC-LC.org](http://www.HC-LC.org)). Please RSVP by May 6. Any questions, call Jeanne Simovic, 708-422-0721. If you would like to donate food items for the LWML Tea, a sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. We appreciate your help.



# **A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO ALL**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings and Easter Blessings in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ!

We write to you all today with great joy and gratitude. After a very challenging period of being displaced from our home in the parsonage and losing a good portion of our belongings to lead contamination in the process, we are very pleased to say that the parsonage has been completely restored and we were able to move our family back in at the end of March 2017.

All of the 5 bedrooms and bathroom upstairs, the living room, dining room, kitchen, den and downstairs bathroom were all stripped down to the bare wood and removed of all cracked lead paint and were repainted in fresh, beautiful colors. New porch windows and stairs, ceiling fans and blinds throughout the house were installed. The downstairs bathroom and kitchen were completely remodeled and updated to meet the needs of a large family including a dishwasher! The old original electric work was updated to code and the original wood floors completely restored so that there is no longer any lead, mold or any other issues related to an older home to worry about. There are still a few odds and ends to fully complete but the progress is astounding.

Our children are in very good health and so pleased to be back home. Their doctor is very confident that all the lead will leave their affected systems in a matter of time and there should be no long term damage. For this we are so grateful and thank God.

Despite a few setbacks along the way, we made it through the extensive repair and remodeling with the guidance of excellent congregational leadership from our President John Sabol and Head Trustee Karin Krchmery and the rest of the church council who worked tirelessly to make sure all necessary repairs were made in a timely manner and with making the best use of available funds.

We also would like to acknowledge Soldiers of the Cross and Reverend Carlos Hernandez whose generous financial support offset the expense of alternative housing for the 5 months in which we were displaced. St. Pul Lutheran Church in Munster, IN where our oldest two boys attend school came to our aid immediately in helping us find housing very close to the school for which we are eternally grateful. The stabilizing force that wonderful Lutheran school provided for our children in a time of transition is also priceless. Also, Lutheran Church Charities held an online fundraiser collecting money to replace our personal belongings of which 100% was directed towards our family. Our SELC district and District President Andrew Dzurovcik were also extremely supportive during this time.

Of course, we also wanted to send a newsletter to all the congregations and individuals who reached out to us to offer support, prayers, and generous gifts to assist us in our time of need. There were many who donated toys and books, and even a new mattress, bunkbed, and furniture. There were in fact more offers to donate items than we could accept! The generous donated funds were so incredibly far in replacing the rugs, upholstered furniture, dressers, linens, and other household items. All of our needs were met through your generous gifts. We have never known to that extent what it meant to be so uplifted and supported in a time of need. We are grateful for your kindness and generosity.

There are no words to express what the support both financial and in prayer has meant to our family and church. It's truly a blessing to be delivered from a hardship and made able to start fresh in the place where God has called us to be. We pray that the kindness we have been shown may be returned many times over.

We realize most are far outside of the area for convenient travel but we will be having a House Blessing and a reception at the parsonage, 1809 Atchison Avenue, Whiting, IN 46394 on Saturday May 6 from 1-4pm. All are welcome to join us in celebration of a new beginning and to ask God's blessings on our "new" home. Any of you are always welcome in our home. May God bless you richly and thank you so much for all you have done for us.

In Christ,

Rev. John and Laura Henry

Johnny, Luke, Silas and Molly June



# **ASCENSION DAY**



**As they were watching,  
he was lifted up,  
and a cloud took him  
out of their sight.**

**Acts 1.9**

**WORSHIP**

**MAY 25th**

**7:00PM**





# Upcoming Events

**WALCAMP** is excited to introduce its new executive director, Brad Weiss. You are invited to a Meet the Director Dinner on Saturday, May 6, at the conclusion of the annual Worker Bee Weekend. A short presentation will be made on this past year at Walcamp and some visions will be shared for the future. For details call 815-784-5141

**FUN FAIR 4 KIDS** Immanuel Lutheran Church, Batavia, and St. Mark's Lutheran Church, St. Charles, are sponsoring free community fun fair with the opportunity to make a donation in memory of Katie Jonak, who was killed in an auto accident last October. The Fun Fair for preschool-Grade 2 is on Saturday, May 20, 10-11:30 a.m., at the West Side Shelters 1 and 2, Fabyan Forest Preserve, Rte. 31 and Fabyan, Geneva. For information contact [church@immanuelbatavia.org](mailto:church@immanuelbatavia.org) or 630-879-7163.

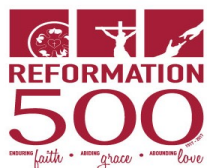
**THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**, is an annual observance held this year on Thursday, May 4, inviting people to pray for the nation. The theme this year is from Daniel 9:19, "O Lord, Listen! O Lord, Forgive! O Lord, Hear and Act! For Your Sake, O My God." Resources and tools are available at [nationaldayofprayer.org](http://nationaldayofprayer.org)



**LUTHERAN SUMMER MUSIC ACADEMY & FESTIVAL** Band, choir, orchestra, piano, and organ students completing grades 8-12 are invited to apply to the 2017 Lutheran Summer Music Academy, held on the campus of Valparaiso University from June 25 through July 23. For families who do not have four weeks available, consider the two-week program, Sounds of Summer Institute (SOSI), on June 25 through July 9. More information can be found at [lutheransummermusic.org](http://lutheransummermusic.org), or call 888-635-6583

**500 ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION** JOIN CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO IN A CELEBRATION OF THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION

## **"Enduring Faith, Abiding Grace, Abounding Love"**



Concordia-Chicago is excited to mark this anniversary with a series of engaging events throughout 2016 and 2017. These events will explore the Reformation and its impact on theology, education, art, history, vocation, the Church, culture, society and the future of global Christianity.

### Event Highlights:

- Johann Sebastian Bach's Clavierübung, Part III Performances  
**March - October, 2017**
- Let the Books Tell the Story: J.S. Bach's Bible and Reformation Treasures  
**October 2017**
- Reformation 500 Celebration Day - A family event for the Northern Illinois District and area congregations.  
**October 28, 2017**
- The Reformation at 500: An Interdenominational Conversation - Key leaders of major church bodies discuss points of divergence and convergence among the three historic branches emerging from the Reformation controversies.  
**October 30, 2017**

## **LUTHER MOVIE SCREENINGS**



Area showings already scheduled for Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed the World include the following with several new dates added. No doubt, more will be scheduled as the movie remains available throughout 2017.

Buy tickets for the following or schedule a screening at another date and time, or another theater, at [NewLutherMovie.com/get-tickets.html](http://NewLutherMovie.com/get-tickets.html).

Thursday, September 7, at 6:30 p.m., St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hawthorn Woods is hosting at the Century 16 Deer Park – 21600 W Field Pkwy, Deer Park, Illinois.



## **FOOD PANTRY CHANGE**

Tuesday food pantry that was held on the first Tuesday of the month has been changed to the second Saturday of the month beginning May 13<sup>th</sup>. We will continue giving out the food each Saturday from Trader Joes.

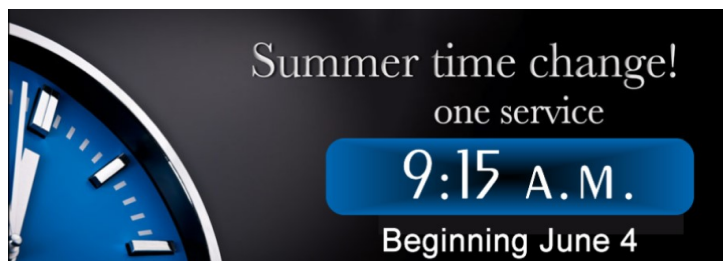
Thank you to all who are giving their time to serve the people who are in need.

We are still looking for more volunteers to pick food up from Trader Joes especially those who have larger vehicles. If you are willing to help in this way please contact the church office, Donna Meilhan, Barb Euman or Pauline Griffin.



## **SOUTHWEST LUTHERAN CHORUS**

Is sponsoring an annual Spring Concert with Christian Patriotic Theme on Sunday, May 21, 3:00PM. You are invited to attend this free event to be held at Zion Lutheran Church located at 9000 S. Menard, Oak Lawn, IL. A free-will offering will be collected. Refreshments of follow.



## **OUR DCE INTERN**

We will be welcoming our new DCE intern in July his name is Joshua Weiser. He grew up in Hutto Texas amidst cows, horses, goats, plenty of farmland, four siblings, and his two parents who also work for the LCMS. He began his journey of DCE ministry through a desire to reach others with Christ with an emphasis on bringing the Gospel to those who don't know it in engaging and relational ways. His last summer was spent in Knoxville, Tennessee, as an outreach intern and he is excited to use everything he has learned in order to grow the Kingdom of God. Josh loves the outdoors, having spent two summers in Colorado as a Christian Wilderness Guide. He is also a lover of good beer, amazing food of all varieties, especially a classic German Bratwurst, and enjoys storytelling of all kinds, from movies, books, poems, and great discussions. He can't wait to enjoy new and exciting things in Alsip!





# Family Matters



Lutheran Child and  
Family Services of Illinois

## ***Do you praise your children or encourage them?***

***May 2017***

Many people view encouragement as another term for praise. Although encouragement and praise both focus on positive behaviors, the purpose and effect of praise is quite different from that of encouragement.

Praise is a verbal reward. Praise emphasizes achievement, is earned and is given for being the best or producing something superior. The message praise gives a child is, "If you do something I believe is good, then you will have the reward of my admiration." Praise is given for well-done tasks or good behaviors. In effect, praise is a method of controlling children in an attempt to make them live up to particular standards.



In contrast, encouragement is freely given for effort and improvement. It focuses on strengths and acceptance. Encouragement recognizes contributions in an effort to help children feel useful and positive through contributing to the common good. It points to the individual as good enough as is; that he/she doesn't have to be superior to others to be of value. Encouragement motivates children through internal stimulation and it avoids placing value judgements on them.

In contrast to praise, encouragement can be given when children feel sad and when they feel they may not be able to meet some of life's challenges. Encouragement instills faith and belief in the child's capabilities.

Although encouragement is often given non-verbally through a smile or pat on the back, there are other times when encouraging comments are due. These differ from praise in these ways:

- Encouraging words show acceptance: *"I'm glad you're happy about your basketball trophy."*
- Encouraging words instill faith and confidence: *"It is difficult, but I know you can do it."*
- They focus on appreciating contributions: *"Thanks for your help. It would be very hard to complete this project without you."*
- They emphasize effort and improvement: *"I can see how hard you've been working."*
- They focus on assets and strengths: *"I really liked the chocolate cake you made."*

**You and your family do not have to struggle alone. LCFS counselors help families generate hope and cope with life's challenges. Most insurance plans accepted; sliding-scale fees are available on a case-by-case basis. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact us at [lcfs\\_info@lcfs.org](mailto:lcfs_info@lcfs.org) or 800-363-LCFS (5237). Discover LCFS and the services we offer at [www.lcfs.org](http://www.lcfs.org) and**







## **5 Important Ways Evangelism Is Shifting In Our Post-Christian World**

*(Part 1)*

In an incisive article on how evangelism is changing published in April of 2015, Carey Nieuwhof examines some of the decisive differences in the way the never changing story of Jesus' salvation is shared. Here is a portion of what Nieuwhof wrote:

Almost every Christian leader I talk to has a passion for reaching people who don't know Christ. But as we've seen before, our culture is changing so rapidly before our eyes that many of the methods we've used to tell people about Christ become less effective with every passing month.

If you keep using methods that worked decades ago to talk to people outside the Christian faith about Jesus, you might see some fruit. But I'm quite certain you'll lose the vast majority of people you're trying to influence, and I'm positive you'll lose the vast majority of people under age 35.

In the post-Christian, post-modern age in which we live, the methods of evangelism have to change in order to keep the mission alive.

So what's changing in evangelism? More than you might think. While there are many things that are shifting in how we should approach evangelism in a post-Christian, post-modern world, these 5 stand out to me as shifts I'm seeing not just in the ministry I lead, but across many churches:

### **1. Embracing The Question Is As Important As Giving An Answer**

For me, evangelism used to be mostly about helping people find answers. In fact, I've been very anxious to get people to answers. I still am.

But, often, in the process of getting people to an answer, I would fail to really embrace or honour their question. Increasingly, that's a massive mistake.

Almost no one likes going into a store and asking a question only to have a customer service person blow past your question or make you feel stupid. In fact, your most positive experiences have likely been those in which someone listens to your question, takes it seriously, appreciates it, and then tries to respond to it thoughtfully and helpfully.

Too often, Christian apologists rush past the question to get to an answer. Church leaders who embrace people's questions will be far more effective in the future than leaders who don't.

Listen to the difference: "So when I die, will be in reincarnated?" Answer: Christians don't believe in reincarnation. So no, not at all. You'll be resurrected in Christ.

or

Answer: That's a great question. Thanks for asking it. Actually, the Christian experience focuses on resurrection. Would you like to talk about that?

*continued*



Which answer would you rather hear?

## **2. Steering The Conversation Is Better Than Pushing For A Conclusion**

One of my favourite environments at our church is Starting Point. It's an eight week small group experience for people who are new to Christianity, new to faith or returning to church after an absence.

Our best Starting Point leaders are not the people with all the answers or the leaders who are always trying to 'close the deal'.

If you have 12 people in a conversation, you're likely to have 12 different world views, many of which might seem "Christian" but in truth aren't. Our best Starting Point leaders are people who can steer a conversation. They don't freak out at people's questions, no matter how strange they might be. They listen without judgment. They affirm a person's intentions. Our best leaders listen, don't judge, thank people for their input, and then gently steer the conversation back toward truth.

Listening, empathizing, and then steering the conversation back toward truth will often get you much further with post-moderns than slamming on the brakes and telling them they're wrong.

## **3. Being Open Is More Effective Than Being Certain**

Don't get me wrong, Christians can be certain. Ultimately, Christians must be certain because our faith is certain. Our faith stands on a sure and certain ground. But, when talking to post-moderns, coming across as certain is far less effective than coming across as open. I mean, people will be able to tell that you have a depth of conviction if they spend more than a few minutes talking to you. But leading with that conviction all the time can be counter-productive.

The person who is always certain thinks they're being convincing when the opposite is often true. You're less convincing because being perpetually certain makes you appear anti-intellectual, closed and a bit arrogant (see below). If you're open to people and their views, they'll be more open to you. Even if underneath all that, you're certain. Because you likely are.

Look for the continuation of this article and the last two changes in evangelism Carey outlines in the June issue of the *Disciple*.





# COUNCIL MINUTES

## HIGHLITES OF HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 13, 2017

The MARCH 13, 2017 Holy Cross Lutheran Church Council meeting opened at 7:35pm with prayer. A motion was made and approved to accept the February minutes.

**PASTOR'S REPORT**– Pat Minet will no longer run the monthly Food Pantry (first Tuesday of the month) but will stay on until someone volunteers to take it over. There will be socials after the Wednesday evening Lenten services and the Elders will host it this week. The Minets will have their wedding vows renewed on July 1st.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**– Envelope offerings are low. Evangelism money is being spent on the Expo. Donations for the Cleaner are low. A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's report.

**ELDERS REPORT**– Letters were sent to non-attending members. A motion was made and approved to have the Maundy Thursday **Prayer Vigil start at 8pm and end at midnight.**

**EVANGELISM REPORT**– Coffee mugs containing church information will be given to visitors who come to services. They are also available for members to buy.

**EDUCATION REPORT**– There will not be a Vacation Bible School this year. We pray that we could have VBS next year. There will be a picnic July 21. Julie will be in charge of games and crafts. May 21 is the last day for Sunday School.

The following motions were made and approved:

- To present the **nomination ballot to the Voters at the March 19** meeting.
- To serve an **Easter breakfast after the worship service** (Terry Vrshek will organize)
- To have a **welcoming event for our DCE, Josh**, when he comes in July.

The Voters' meeting is March 19, elections will take place and decisions on the one service for summer.

The next council meeting is April 10. The meeting adjourned at 9pm with prayer.

## *Faithful* **STEWARDSHIP**

### **PRAYER**

By: Pat Minet

Dear Lord,

You are an amazing God—steadfast in your love, abundant in your mercy, and wise in your actions. You are a wonderful creator God who has provided a magnificent creation with abundant resources for us to enjoy. We recognize our sinfulness and thank you for your mercy and grace extended to us through Jesus on the cross.

Your word tells us in James 1:5 that those who ask for wisdom in faith will receive it. Today, we pray for wisdom and for understanding in how to best steward the resources you have given while demonstrating love toward our fellow man.

Lord, we desire to be good stewards. We do not want to waste resources or use them selfishly with sinful desires of personal gain. Yet, we understand that the second greatest commandment is to love others as ourselves. As we create policies that help us protect the environment and use our resources wisely, please grant us wisdom that we will not value the created earth over humans created in your image. Please allow us wisdom to create policies and practices that allow for human flourishing all across the globe by not increasing the cost of energy and so erecting barriers in developing countries struggling to overcome hunger and habitat issues.

Allow us to align our priorities with yours in valuing the souls for which you died more than the resources we steward. Allow us to have a greater passion for the Gospel and spreading the Good News that changes lives than we have for making sure the earth never changes. God grant us wisdom to know when to speak and when to act so that we live in such a way as to glorify you with all of our words and our deeds, and may your name be exalted among every tribe and tongue. In Jesus name we pray through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR**

Alisa Bahr	James Bahr
Jim Boltz	Rita Joyce
Billie Salzman	John Knoska
Doris Kracht	Bob Long
Marilyn Long	Joy Maddox
Kathy Ridder	Donna Judd
Robert Schulz	



## SERVANTS IN WORSHIP -MAY, 2017

DATE	TIME	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LECTOR	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTER	GREETER	PROJECTIONIST
7	8:00 am	Martha Stevens	Jim Boltz	Donna Judd	Barb Piekosz	Pam Rutkowski Marye Meyer	Barbara Piekosz	Mike Meilahn
	10:30 am	Jim Bahr		Donna Meilahn	Jeanne Simovic		Carole Vrshek	Theresa Boltz
14	8:00 am	Martha Stevens			Barb Piekosz	Dorothy Lux Doris Kracht	Barbara Piekosz	Mike Meilahn
	10:30 am	Jim Bahr	Jim Bahr	Liz Wilczynski	Jeanne Simovic		Carole Vrshek	Theresa Boltz
21	8:00 am	Martha Stevens	Jim Boltz	Donna Judd	Barb Piekosz	Donna Meilahn Faith Schulz	Barbara Piekosz	Mike Meilahn
	10:30 am	Jim Bahr		Sue Wilczynski	Jeanne Simovic		Carole Vrshek	Theresa Boltz
25	7:00PM	Martha Stevens	Ron Wedster	Pam Rutkowski	Barb Piekosz Jeanne Simovic	Terry & Carole Vrshek	Donna Judd	Mike Meilahn Theresa Boltz
28	8:00 am	Martha Stevens			Barb Piekosz	Pauline Griffin Nancy Fehser	Barbara Piekosz	Mike Meilahn
	10:30 am	Jim Bahr	Tom Griffin	Aimee Wilczynski	Jeanne Simovic		Carole Vrshek	Theresa Boltz

***Thank you for all you do for Christ and His Church!***





**MAY, 2017**

**Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm, 708.597.5209 [hclc@hc-lc.org](mailto:hclc@hc-lc.org)**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 7:30PM Southwest Chorus 7:30PM Elders Meeting  Jim Bahr (b)	<b>2</b> 7:00PM Prayer Gathering	<b>3</b>   Carole Vrshek (b)	<b>4</b> 9:00AM Seniors Group	<b>5</b> Pastor's Day Off 10:00AM LWML Meeting	<b>6</b> 10:30AM Food Pantry  Pat Minet (b) John Rheinwald (b)
<b>7 FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY</b> 8:00AM Worship/Traditional (C) 9:15AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemporary	<b>8</b> 7:30PM Southwest Chorus 12:00pm-Bd. Of Directors @ St. Louis, MO, USA	<b>9</b> 7:00PM LifeLight Bible Study 4:30PM Community Meal	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00AM Seniors Group	<b>12</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>13</b> 10:30AM Food Pantry 1:00PM Board of Ed.
<b>14 MOTHER'S DAY</b> 8:00AM Worship/Traditional 9:15AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemporary(C)  Samuel Meilahn (b)	<b>15</b> 9:00AM NEM Meeting 7:30PM Southwest Chorus 7:30PM Council Meeting	<b>16</b> 7:00PM LifeLight Bible Study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00AM Seniors Group	<b>19</b> Pastor's Day Off 10:00AM LWML Set- Up and Table Decorations	<b>20</b> 8:30AM LWML Food Preparation 10:30AM Food Pantry 1:00PM SPRING TEA/SOCK HOP
<b>21</b> 8:00AM Worship/Traditional (C) 9:15AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemporary 3:00PM SWLC Concert/Zion Church	<b>22</b> 7:30PM Southwest Chorus	<b>23</b> 7:00PM LifeLight Bible Study  Bob Schulz (b)	<b>24</b>	<b>25 ASCENSION DAY</b> 9:00AM Seniors Group 9:00AM Evangelism Meeting 7:00PM Worship	<b>26</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>27</b> 10:30AM Food Pantry  Charles Lux (b)
<b>28</b> 8:00AM Worship/Traditional 9:15AM Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemporary(C)	<b>29 MEMORIAL DAY</b> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:30PM Southwest Chorus	<b>30</b> 7:00PM LifeLight Bible Study  Bruce McGlin (b) Glen Love (b)	<b>31</b>			

**HAVE A BLESSED MOTHER'S DAY!!**

