

The Disciple

Monthly Newsletter of Holy Cross Lutheran Church

June 2017

Mark Your Calendar

6.4

PENTECOST

One Worship Service Starts
9:15 a.m.

Food Pantry Sunday

6.6

LifeLight Bible Class Ends

6.11

TRINITY SUNDAY

6.13

Community Meal
Women's Bible Study Starts

6.14

Johanne Kernahan
Memorial Service

6.18

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
Newsletter Articles Due

WE'RE RECEIVING A D.C.E. INTERN!

Have you heard? Alright, the cat is out of the bag. No doubt you have already heard the word. Holy Cross has been assigned a **D**irector of **C**hristian **E**ducation intern for 2017/2018. His name is Josh Weiser. His home is in Texas and he has recently graduated from Concordia University, Austin, TX with a major in theology. He loves the outdoors, has led youth rock climbing adventures in Colorado and has worked a summer as an unpaid intern in Tennessee. His ministry love and training is in outreach/evangelism. This is precisely the talented and gifted man the leadership of Holy Cross wanted and God gifted us. By God's grace Josh will be teaming up with us for a year beginning July 9.

But what does a DCE intern do? First, Holy Cross is participating in the on-site education of the intern. The intern is foremost a full-time student. While graduated from the university he has not yet been certified by our denomination as a DCE. That will take place when he successfully completes his internship. As a student there is course work to be completed, tuition to be paid the university, weekly reports, periodic supervisor visits and a final report. Pastor Chris will act as his mentor and supervisor during his internship.

The intern also works within the congregation. A director of Christian education (DCE) is a synodically certified, called, and commissioned life-span educational leader prepared for team ministry in a congregational setting.

continued...

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In this setting, a DCE is a called minister of the Gospel; a trained parish-education specialist;

a team minister who works with the pastor, staff, and lay leaders of the congregation; a teacher of the faith; and a trainer of the laity for service. DCEs serve in a variety of ways, not only in youth ministry, but also in family ministry, cross-cultural ministry, and outdoor ministry, to name a few.

We have drawn up a job description for Josh that includes the following: meeting with various boards and committees of the church, initiating and leading a Bible Study for those in the community of Alsip, developing a re-vamped VBS for 2018, gather post-confirmation youth from inside and outside the church to meet and grow as disciples of Jesus, explore methods of reaching inactive and non-members and report suggestions to the Board of Evangelism, help train members in Christian outreach, analyze information on those who live around the church so that the church might focus its work on successfully reaching out to those people.

These job responsibilities are listed, in part, to give you a taste of what Josh will be working on in his year long intern experience here.

What can you do to help? Of course, the first thing we all can do is pray for a smooth transition for Josh and the church as he arrives next month. Be willing to give of your time and energy not only in welcoming him but when he and your leaders ask for help in ministry say, “here am I, send me!” We have great hopes for God to use this ministry to save souls for Christ and strengthen Holy Cross’s ministry for years to come.

We are grateful to God that we have secured an apartment in Blue Island for Josh. Please watch your “News and Notes” and a future newsletter about welcoming “partys” for Josh. We want to have a “pantry party” and a “furnishing party” soon. We will let you know how you can participate.

Once Josh arrives please invite him to your house for a meal and to get acquainted with you and your family.

If you have further questions you can bring them to Pastor Chris or any of our Elders.

God’s peace be with you!

Pastor Chris Ongstad



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

Email: hclc@hc-lc.org

Pastor Chris D. Ongstad

Summer Hours

Worship-9:15 am Sundays

Adult Bible Class-10:30 am



Father's Day Prayer

God our Father,
you govern and protect your people
and shepherd them with a father's love.
You place a father in a family
as a sign of your love, care,
and constant protection.

May fathers everywhere be faithful
to the example shown in the Scriptures:
steadfast in love, forgiving
transgressions, sustaining the family,
caring for those in need.

Give your wisdom to fathers
that they may encourage and
guide their children.
Keep them healthy
so they may support a family.

Guide every father
with the Spirit of your love
that they may grow in holiness
and draw their family ever closer to you.
Amen

Author Unknown

Happy
Father's
Day

Prayer Request

Alisa Bahr

Bob Long

Doris Kracht

Joy Maddox

Bob Schulz

Erna Sherman

Edna Wendt

Billie Salzman

John Knoska

Marilyn Long

Kathy Ridder

James Boltz



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

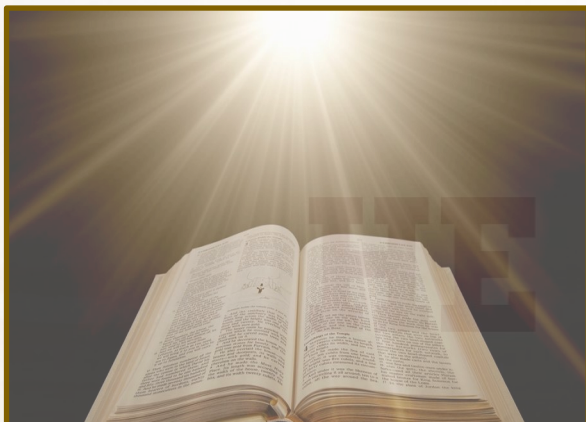
Ivy Bradley (4)
 Charlie Bradley (7)
 Ethan Vrshek (8)
 Ryan Sedam (11)
 Joan Opyd (12)
 Bob Long (17)
 Liz Wilczynski (19)
 Carly Potts (19)
 Kenneth Pollack (23)
 Jeanne Simovic (27)
 Scott Vrshek (27)

JUNE BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Joyce Ongstad (13)
 Bob Schulz (19)

JUNE WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Sue Wilczynski & Michael Greaney (2)
 Barbara & Paul Piekosz (5)
 Tom & Pauline Griffin (13)
 Terry & Carole Vrshek (15)
 James & Rhonda Bahr (25)



Meeting Minutes

HIGHLIGHTS OF HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

April 10, 2017

- ◇ The April 10, 2017 Holy Cross Lutheran Church Council meeting opened at 7:45 p.m. with prayer.
- ◇ **PASTOR'S REPORT**– The food that we were distributing on the first Tuesday of the month will be given out one Saturday per month, along with the Saturday Food Pantry. An intern committee was appointed to make preparations for Josh to move to the area. In June, we will go to one worship service at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays.
- ◇ **TREASURER'S REPORT**– Envelope offerings are low. A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's report.
- ◇ **EDUCATION REPORT**– There was an Easter Egg Hunt on April 8, 2017. We had 33 in attendance, including parents, but not workers. Although there will be no VBS this year, a VBS picnic is being planned for July 21. Carole Vrshek is the new Education Secretary.
- ◇ **STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE REPORT**– Stewardship and Finance is considering a new program for Stewardship- "Consecrated Stewardship Program."
- ◇ **CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION REPORT**– Liz Wilczynski and Marye Meyer will be co-chairmen of Christian Organizations. The following was made and approved: To move forward with the consecrated Stewardship Program.

The next Council Meeting is May 15, 2017.





Stewardship

Time: We are called to use our time faithfully and in the service of others. While we must certainly do the things necessary for our own well-being and keep ourselves from being a burden to others as much as we are able, we should also at all times consider the needs of others along with those of ourselves.

- Redeeming the time also means that we are constantly striving in all things we undertake to glorify God. This is what repentance means, metanoia, as we have learned is a continuous effort on our part to cooperate with God's will and change our hearts to conform to His will.
- We want to strive to see prayer and worship not as "study breaks" or "breaks from reality" but rather as Reality itself because we are, at those times, communing with Him who is Life itself, the Author of all things, both visible and invisible, i.e., Reality.
- We live for this communion; this is what true Life is and so it is for this reason that we must prioritize our lives around the Church and not the other way around.

Talents: How we use our God-given gifts is another question we are challenged to analyze in our lives. We are answerable to God for how we make use of the resources and abilities He has entrusted to us.

- For this reason, service to others as you are able, whether you are the janitor or the bishop, we are all answerable for the gifts and talents we have to use them for the building up of the Church into "the full stature of Christ."
- As you realize certain aptitudes, strive to begin to seek out ways to use these gifts for God's glory.

Treasures: Christ's teaching of the story of the widow's mite, teaches us that our giving to the upbuilding of the Church is not restricted to the wealthy—by whatever arbitrary standard we measure wealth.

- We give back to God of our treasure and resources as an act of recognition and thanksgiving for God's ineffable provision to us.
- Whatever provision we have for ourselves—even if we think we've worked very hard for it—is ultimately by God's provision and bounty.
- We want to lay up for ourselves "treasure in heaven" and avoid earthly extravagance.
- Christ says, "To whom much has been given, much will be demanded."
- The standard for giving is the TITHE, ten percent of our income, but if you are not earning a regular income or are not yet ready to entrust a tithe to the Lord, then consider giving whatever you can—even \$5 or \$10 a month back to God and His work. This would be a faithful start.

Summing it all up:

Giving to God of your Time, Talents, and Treasures requires TRUST and faithfulness, as well as discipline.

Giving back to God is also part of repentance, 'metanoia' in that it requires an attitude of trust and openness to using all of our resources— time, talent, treasure for God's glory.



When preparing a delicious meal, the quality of the ingredients used ensures that the meal will come out with the taste you desire. In the same respect, when a child gets an “ouchie” you get a first aid kit and find the antiseptic to clean the wound and apply the antiseptic ointment to increase the rate of healing. Yet, when it comes to the essentials for a family most might not know what makes a family function the best. Just like cooking or treating a wound, the better you know and understand the items you are working with the more confident you will be in using them.

Introducing the Family Essentials Kit, designed to help your family grow and develop stronger, more meaningful relationships. Each item in the kit provides you with a broad understanding of what it is, how it works and what it looks like being used, so that you can use it effectively. Just like ingredients in a recipe, each piece of the kit serves a purpose; if you leave out one or two ingredients your recipe may become inedible. In the same sense, when we don’t use all of the elements in the kit, we might find our family relationships leaving a sour taste in our mouths.

ESSENTIAL KIT ITEM # 1 - UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

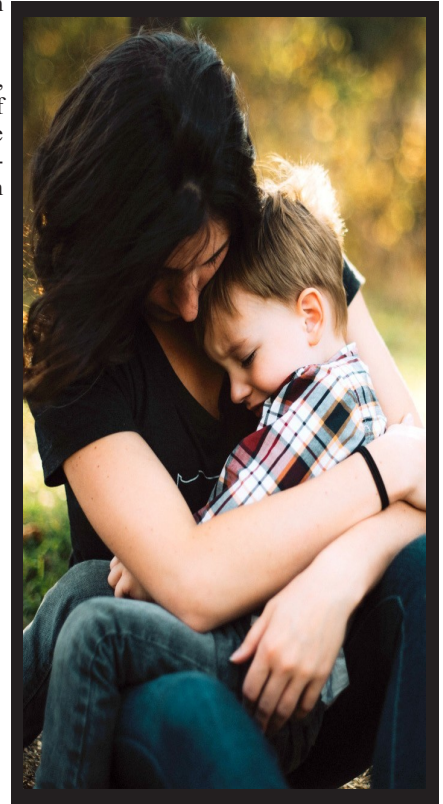
WHAT IT IS – Unconditional love is not creating limits or stipulations in order for a person to receive your love. Love is considered unconditional when it is maintained even in unfavorable situations. Most think that love is a feeling; however the most powerful form of love is not a feeling, but is comprised of commitment and action.

HOW IT WORKS – Unconditional love works by: putting the needs of others before your own, allowing for differing opinions, being forgiving and still loving the person even if we do not agree with his/her choices.

Unconditional love is **NOT** allowing someone to treat you poorly (physically or emotionally) or trying to please everyone at your own expense. There is a difference between displaying unconditional love and being a doormat.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE – For instance, in the movie, “The Notebook,” it was Noah’s **action** of every day retelling his wife their love story that made millions of people fall in love with their story. In your family, unconditional love can look like taking your mother to the store and not asking for anything in return or reading a book to your child every night.

Next month: Essentials Kit Item # 2 - Trust



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 or 800-363- LCFS (5237).

LCFS offers counseling at the following locations:

Central Illinois

LCFS office, Decatur

LCFS office, Springfield

Southern Illinois

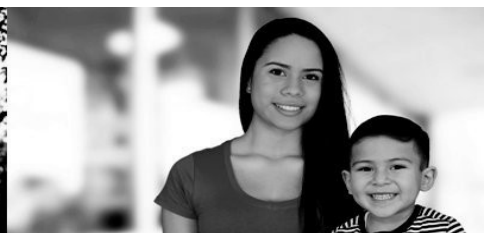
LCFS office, Belleville

LCFS office, Mt. Vernon

To schedule a first-time appointment,

call 800-363-LCFS (5237) or

visit www.lcfs.org for additional information.



EVENTS

A LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING

THE DINNER CLUB will be going to Teibel's Restaurant on Saturday, June 24 at 5:00 p.m. This popular restaurant is located at U.S.30 & Highway 41 in Schererville, Indiana. (219-865-2000) The menu includes their homemade fried chicken, lake perch, frog legs, seafood and roast turkey to name a few. If you would like to go, please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board. See Dorothy Lux for more information.

NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY "Pew Sisters" is the topic of a new women's bible study that will begin on Tuesday, June 13, at 6:00 p.m. The Bible study will be facilitated by Joyce Ongstad in the Ongstad home at 17319 Arrowhead Terrace in Oak Forest, and will meet each Tuesday evening during the summer months of June, July, and August. All women are invited. If you would like to participate, or would like further information, please call or text Joyce at 708-363-3364.

VOICE OF CARE'S MILE FOR MILAGE Mark your calendar for this summer's Voice of Care Mile For Mileage Challenge events: July 22 at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Schaumburg, August 19 at Castaldo Park in Woodridge. Walk and picnic, rain or shine. Walk in person or "virtually" collect pledges online. To register or donate, visit voiceofcare.org/mile-for-mileage.

DIY GOLF FUNDRAISER Add a spin to your weekly golf game, while supporting Voice of Care. Take a foursome and golf at the course of your choice. Each participant tallies up small contributions along the way based on hole score, etc. When finished, total up donations on the report card and submit with payment. For information, visit: voiceofcare.org/diy-golf-fundraiser

BUCKS FOR VETS Military Outreach USA is asking our churches to join a project called "Bucks for Vets." Interested members of your church are asked to donate a buck a day (\$30 a month) to be sent to our local Military Outreach USA. A Chicago mattress firm is making a new, full-size mattress, box spring, metal frame, linens and pillows available for just \$140. Your donations will enable Military Outreach USA to provide this bed set and other personal items to veterans in need. Print flyer for contact information. The LCMS Northern Illinois District is a Military Caring Organization. Learn more...Contact Military Outreach USA at: info@militaryoutreachusa.org for more details on how you can help serve those who have served us.

LUTHER MOVIE SCREENINGS area showings scheduled by LCMS congregations for Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed the World include the following:

Thursday, June 8-2 showings, at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., St. Peter Lutheran Church, Schaumburg, IL is hosting at AMC Barrington 30, 175 Studio Dr. South Barrington, IL

Wednesday, June 14, at 7:30 p.m., Calvary Lutheran Church in Elgin, IL is hosting at Marcus Elgin Cinema, 111 S. Randall Rd. Elgin, IL.

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



(Continued, Part 2)

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

In an 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. We looked last month at 3 of the 5 changes (May, 2017 Disciple). This article will examine the last 2.

4. Arrogance, Smugness And Superiority Are Dead

For too long, Christian apologetics has carried with a tone of arrogance, smugness and superiority. If you want to repel anyone under 40, lead with that. Arrogance is so ingrained in many Christian cultures that Christians don't even see it or hear it anymore. Humility is attractive. Humility is what makes Jesus so much more attractive to people than the Pharisees who lack it. Arrogance is only ever attractive to the arrogant. Arrogance also a sin. So repent and receive Christ's forgiveness. Get over your smugness and superiority. Humbly love your God, love your community, and love the people who don't know him. God does.

5. The Timeline Is Longer

I'm so A-Type I'd love to conclude everything in about 35 seconds. Increasingly, evangelism doesn't work that way. Ever notice that people who come to faith when pressured often leave it after a few years? And that, conversely, the people who come to faith on their own timeline tend to be flourishing years down the road? Jesus said he would draw all people to himself, and he will. But he didn't promise to do it in 3 minutes, or during a 90 minute service or even an eight week class. You need people and leaders who will take the time to go on a journey with people. It kind of took the disciples 3 years to figure out who Jesus was, didn't it? Why do you think your church will be any different? Don't get me wrong, we can't lose our sense of urgency in the mission. I feel that urgency every day. Sometimes I think I feel it more every day. But we need to give people space and we need to give the Holy Spirit space to do His work. So give people time and space to come to faith. Apparently, God does this too.

We need to give these changes in evangelism methods thought and implementation personally and collectively as a church if we are to reach modern mankind. The purpose of all evangelism is to give witness to Jesus as the Savior of the world. That truth of God must be kept the same, but how we package it and present it may change.

SERVANTS IN WORSHIP -JUNE, 2017

DATE	TIME	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LECTOR	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTER	GREETER	PROJECTIONIST
4	9:15am	Martha Stevens	Jim Bahr	Donna Meilahn	Martha Stevens & Dorothy Lux	Donna Meilahn & Faith Schulz	Jeanne Simovic	Pam Rutkowski
11	9:15am	Martha Stevens		Donna Judd	Martha Stevens & Dorothy Lux	Pam Rutkowski & Marye Meyer	Jeanne Simovic	Pam Rutkowski
18	9:15am	Martha Stevens	Tom Griffin	Sue Wilczynski	Martha Stevens & Dorothy Lux	Dorothy Lux & Doris Kracht	Jeanne Simovic	Pam Rutkowski
25	9:15am	Martha Stevens		Aimee Wilczynski	Martha Stevens & Dorothy Lux	Terry & Carole Vrshek	Jeanne Simovic	Pam Rutkowski

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

Called to *Serve*

June, 2017

Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm, 708.597.5209 hclc@hc-lc.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering	2 Pastor's Day Off	3 10:30AM Food Pantry
4 FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY PENTECOST 9:15AM Worship (C) 10:30AM Adult Bible Class Ivy Bradley (b)	5 7:30PM Elders Meeting	6 7:00PM LifeLight Bible Study	7 Charlie Bradley (b)	8 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering Ethan Vrshek (b)	9 Pastor's Day Off	10 10:30AM Food Pantry
11 TRINITY SUNDAY 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM Adult Bible Class Ryan Sedam (b)	12 7:30PM Council Meeting Joan Opyd (b)	13 4:30PM Community Meal 6:00PM Women's Bible Study "Pew Sisters"	14 11:00AM Johanne Kernahan Memorial Service	15 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering	16 Pastor's Day Off	17 10:30AM Food Pantry Bob Long (b)
18 FATHER'S DAY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 9:15AM Worship (C) 10:30AM Adult Bible Class	19 Liz Wilczynski (b) Carly Potts (b)	20 6:00PM Women's Bible Study "Pew Sisters"	21	22 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering	23 Pastor's Day Off Ken Pollack (b)	24 10:30AM Food Pantry 1:00PM Board of Ed.
25 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM Adult Bible Class	26	27 6:00PM Women's Bible Study "Pew Sisters" Jeanne Simovic (b) Scott Vrshek (b)	28	29 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering	30 Pastor's Day Off	31 10:30AM Food Pantry



Happy
Father's
Day

