

# The Disciple

July / August 2017 | Monthly Newsletter of Holy Cross Lutheran

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

7.1

Minet Renew Wedding Vows

7.2

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

7.4

INDEPENDENCE DAY

7.9

Romeo Michael Wooden Baptism

7.10

NEM Meeting

Council Meeting

7.11

Community Meal

7.16

DCE Intern Consecration & Reception

7.20

Evangelism Meeting

7.21

VBS Congregational Picnic

7.22

Board of Education Meeting

8.6

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

8.7

Elders Meeting

8.8

Community Meal

8.26

Board of Education Meeting

## PASTOR'S LETTER

“Fake News” - have you heard of it? Wikipedia has defined it as, “Fake news is a type of yellow journalism that consists of deliberate misinformation or hoaxes spread via traditional print and broadcast news media or online social media. Fake news is written and published with the intent to mislead in order to gain financially or politically, often with sensationalist, exaggerated, or patently false headlines that grab attention.” President Trump and legitimate news agencies have spoken on the subject and how dangerous it is because it leads people to a false sense of truth. “False Truth” might be a better word for it. And while “false truth” is dangerous for people here, it can be cataclysmic for people eternally. That’s why it’s important to get “truth” from a reliable source.

The Bible (John 16:13) tells us, *“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth.”* God says the Holy Spirit is the unquestionable authority on truth. And when God says something there is no higher court of appeals. There is no higher authority, no more respectable expert than the truth of God found in the Bible and revealed to us by the Holy Spirit.

Not listening to that truth is harmful. You will hear so called “truths” on Facebook, Snapchat, in emails received and from so called experts that there are no absolutes anymore - that nothing is right or wrong but rightness or wrongness is determined by the situation. This premise has led to a country not sure whether same sex marriages are right or not, whether abortions should be performed or not, or whether God’s name should be erased from the money we use or the constitution we follow. Many people simply don’t know anymore what’s right or wrong like St. Paul the Apostle writes in Romans 1:25, *“the world exchanges the truth*

*Continued on page 2...*

for a lie.” It comes down to either hold on to the truth or face the consequences. The authority above all authorities says frankly in His Word (Romans 2:8), *“But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.”*

Yet, the Holy Spirit through the Gospel and the Sacraments, offers truth. The eternal, unchangeable truth of the highest authority- God Himself speaks to us through the Holy Spirit. This is absolute truth, unchanging through the eons of time, without qualification or condition. It's so pure and righteous and it extends so far beyond our thoughts and ways that we can't comprehend this truth without help. The disciples needed help also. Jesus told them in John 16:13, *“I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth.”*

If you are wondering if there is anything besides “false truth” (false news) out there then go to the Holy Spirit and let Him speak to you through the Holy Scriptures. In the Holy Spirit we have a reliable guide to the truth that gives eternal life. Let the Holy Spirit guide you into all truth.

In Christ,  
Pastor Chris Ongstad



**Disciple Newsletter**  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
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Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/hclcaalsip/>  
**Pastor Chris D. Ongstad**  
Summer Worship-Sundays 9:15 am

## THE LORD IS “MY” SHEPHERD AND “YOURS”

One of the best known and beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the Shepherd Psalm. There we learn that the Lord is our shepherd. And since He is our shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord's sheep.

How do we do this? We do it when we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving the gifts that He won for us on the cross, a violation of the First and Third Commandments. We do it when we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we think we don't know what the future will bring, even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters. We do it when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves, we do this because we have a mind set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We do this because we have stopped hearing the call of our shepherd, which comes through His Word.

The Word of God is how our shepherd calls us to himself. Through that Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through that Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead you to your true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here's the good news: The Lord is your shepherd still, even, and especially, for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the shepherd that lays down his

THE LORD IS MY  
*shepherd*  
I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED  
PSALM 23

# COUNCIL MINUTES

## HIGHLITES OF HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

The May 15, 2017 Holy Cross Lutheran Church Council meeting opened at 7:45 with prayer.

A motion was made and approved to accept the April Minutes.

**PASTOR'S REPORT**- There will be a Youth convention in New Jersey July 20-23. Pastor will be attending a Professional Church Worker's conference in September. The District Convention will be held in Lakewood, Ohio in April of 2018.

There will be a memorial service held for Johanne Kernahan at Holy Cross on June 14, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**- Envelope offerings are low. A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's report.

**ELDERS REPORT**- The Elders attended a seminar about Stephen Ministries.

**EVANGELISM REPORT**- Evangelism is looking into getting coffee mugs made to give out to visitors.

**EDUCATION REPORT**- May 21, 2017 will be the last day of Sunday School for the summer. Sunday School will resume in the fall. Education will be hosting a VBS Picnic on July 21, 2017 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

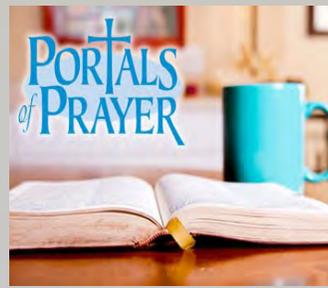
**TRUSTEE'S REPORT**- Did not have a meeting.

**STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE REPORT**- Stewardship and Finance is planning for the 6 week program "Consecrated Stewardship Program"

**SOCIAL MINISTRIES REPORT**- The Food Pantry that was held on the first Tuesday of the month was moved to one of the Saturdays. Please remember to bring your box tops for Education and pop can tops. Community Meal next month will be mostaccioli.

**CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS REPORT**- The dinner club is going to Teibel's Restaurant in Schererville, IN on June 24, 2017.

The next Council meeting is June 12, 2017. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 with prayer.



## PORTALS OF PRAYER AND HOPE-FULL LIVING

devotionals for July - September are available for you to take home and use. Pick up your copy today

(no charge) and be like the Bereans, of noble character, searching the Scriptures.

**A HEARTFELT THANK YOU** to all who have donated to Pastor Boway and family however we are no longer collecting items to send to Pastor and his family.



## RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS

George and Patricia Minet will take place Saturday, July 1 at 2 pm. Congratulations to the Minets who are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary! As God has blessed you with these years, may He bless you with many more!



## *Prayer Requests*

Alisa Bahr  
Jim Boltz  
John Knoska  
Doris Kracht  
Bob Long  
Marilyn Long  
Joy Maddox  
Kathy Ridder  
Robert Schulz  
Julie Wedster





**OUR NEW INTERN WILL BE HERE SOON**

Josh Weiser is our new Director of Christian Education intern. He hails from Texas. He received his bachelor's degree from Concordia University, Austin, TX. You can help ease his transition from student life to professional life, from Texas to Illinois through a number of opportunities listed below:

**BY ATTENDING THE RECEPTION FOR THE NEW INTERN** July 16 after worship. You will have an opportunity to meet, greet and welcome him. A continental breakfast for all will be available. (If you would like to donate food or help with serving please talk to Liz Wilczynski). We would also like to present Josh with a notebook about us. **This is where you come in.** The usher in worship has been handing out to you and all members of your family a sheet of paper with requested information about you. Please fill it out and return it to the church office or in the offering plate. We will gather them together and give them to Josh on July 16.

**BY DONATING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:** Floor lamps, end table, night stand, coffee table or Lazy Boy chair? Josh will be coming with just a few items for his apartment and we are gathering these items to furnish it. If you can help please bring these items to the church (Conference room) by the end of June or, if you need help call Terry Vrshek for pickup. Thanks so much!

**BY PARTICIPATING IN A PANTRY PARTY!** We are collecting food (non-perishable and unexpired), cleaning products and gift cards or anything you think a person living in an apartment could use by the end of June to fill our intern's food pantry before he arrives. Please bring these items to the church conference room.

**BY INVITING THE INTERN TO YOUR HOUSE FOR A MEAL WITH YOUR FAMILY?** What better way to make Josh feel at home in our Holy Cross family and get to know our members than to be invited to our members homes. We would like to make sure that Josh doesn't have to eat alone within the first months of his stay at Holy Cross. Be thinking and planning a time you can invite Josh for a meal at your home. Thanks!



**OUR SYNOD IN MISSION IN KAZAKHSTAN**

Since 1991, communist repression of religion in Kazakhstan under the Soviet Union has given way to greater religious tolerance. In 1993, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod began work in Kazakhstan and has since established the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kazakhstan.

In 1995, the LCMS began support of ELC mercy work with a grant that provided health services for those living in a fishing village. Through these kinds of relationships, built from LCMS projects, LWML grants and partnerships with other LCMS ministries, many doors have been opened to witness to the Lord's great love through acts of mercy.

Currently, LCMS support of the ELC includes:

- New Ministry Starts
- Conference and Worship Facilities
- Handicap Institutional Reform
- Christian Resource Materials (LCMS provides expertise and funding for the translation, printing and distribution of Lutheran materials in English, Russian and Kazakh)
- Support of LCMS Personnel

Other LCMS partners in Kazakhstan have included: Bethesda Lutheran Communities, Concordia Mission Society, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Lutheran Hour Ministries, LWML, MOST Ministries, and Orphan Grain Train.

The ELC is presently comprised of six congregations, seven ordained pastors, numerous small groups and various individual men and women who are receiving training in Lutheran doctrine and worship.

You can support the mission of the Gospel in Kazakhstan by including your gifts in your church offering envelopes designating "Kazakhstan Mission".

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

Ashley Bahr (1)  
 Mike Meilahn (7)  
 Ryan Rummery (10)  
 Adeline Vrshek (12)  
 Natalie Cameron (15)  
 Robert Hammond (16)  
 Noah Beukema (22)  
 John Knoska (23)  
 Tom Griffin (26)  
 Barb Piekosz (26)  
 Hunter Damm (27)  
 Jason Wedster (29)

## JULY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Bob Long (1)  
 Ivy Bradley (1)  
 Carole Vrshek (2)  
 Charles Lux (10)  
 Ken Pollack (16)  
 Tom Griffin (27)  
 Glen Love (27)

## JULY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

George & Pat Minet (1)  
 Mike & Judy Meilahn (22)  
 Ron & Julie Wedster (25)

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Billie Salzman (1)  
 Sue Boltz (2)  
 Alisa Bahr (8)  
 Greg Beukema (14)  
 Pastor Chris (21)  
 Megan Love (24)

## AUGUST BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Jeanne Simovic (3)  
 Mike Meilahn (4)  
 Charles Bradley (7)  
 Ashley Bahr (9)  
 Carly Potts (15)  
 John Knoska (18)  
 Donna Meilahn (21)  
 Jason Wedster (21)  
 Scott Vrshek (27)  
 Noah Beukema (28)  
 Barbara Piekosz (29)  
 Adeline Vrshek (30)

## AUGUST WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Pastor Chris & Joyce Ongstad (5)  
 Bill & Jennifer Love (11)

Vacation  
 Bible  
 School



## VBS/CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC

Come join our congregation on Friday July 21 at 6:00pm for free food, games, and fellowship to help celebrate yet another successful VBS year.



PULL A TAB!

**FRIENDLY REMINDER** - we are still collecting pop tops and box tops for St. Paul Lutheran School in Oak Lawn. You can leave items in the appropriate plastic boxes on shelf near Women's bathroom. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you.  
 Joan Opyd

*Philippians 2:1-4 (MSG) If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care— then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.*



In you our fathers put their trust;  
 they trusted and you delivered them.

Psalm 22:4

GOD ★ ★  
 ★ ★ BLESS  
 America  
 LAND THAT I LOVE



### Family Essentials Kit #2 - Trust

July 2017

When we go to the doctor for a checkup or to have them help us with something that is wrong we trust that he/she will be able to alleviate the pain and fix the problem. Most people believe that this trust is just freely given; however, trust is built from many components. In order to build a strong family, trust is an essential part, especially in terms of primary caregivers. When children lose faith in those watching over them, they may turn to others who don't have their best interests at heart.

The first and most influential relationship for a child is with his/her primary caregiver(s). This relationship helps him/her formulate how other relationships will look in the future. Enabling a child to realize that family has his or her best interest at heart helps him/her feel secure in facing struggles and confidence in his/her ability to succeed despite future challenges.

#### ESSENTIAL KIT ITEM #2 – TRUST

**WHAT IT IS** – Trust is confident expectation of something, which is formed through the understanding of the other person's knowledge, integrity, ability and actions. We trust doctors because they obtained knowledge in their schooling; through their actions and performance we trust that they will be able to help, and if not that they will be honest about it and send us to someone who can.

**HOW IT WORKS** – Trust works through the use of unconditional love and intentional, consistent and genuine behaviors. It has to be worked at and if you break someone's trust it is a long process to earn it back. Yet, when you have formed trust in a relationship you are able to reach a deeper level of understanding.

**WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE** – When trust is formed, you see safety amongst one another. Children are not left wondering when or if their parents will be there for them, and the family in general has less anxiousness or worries about each other.

Trust is built with consistent acts. Consistency is needed in a routine, so when you are more intentional in your routine, trust can be further developed and optimized. Trust is a necessity in order for unconditional love to be openly received. *Watch for next month's Item #3, Family Routine, as we show you the importance of how beneficial a routine is to families.*

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 800-363LCFS (5237). Discover LCFS and the services we offer at [www.lcfs.org](http://www.lcfs.org) and [www.facebook.com/LCFSIL](https://www.facebook.com/LCFSIL).



#### 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 appt  
call 800-363-LCFS (5237)  
visit [www.lcfs.org](http://www.lcfs.org) for additional information





## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Worship Rocks! Kids' Camp** -Worship Rocks! Youth Worship Team Camp is a Christian worship music and arts camp for children in grades 3-8 held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 5211 Carpenter Street, Downers Grove, July 17-July 22, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. with a final performance to be held Saturday, July 22, at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$35. Register at: <http://files.constantcontact.com/8b29e0e6001/e976c51b-eabc-4c06-b945-203df3725556.pdf>

**For God & Country Walk-Run-Crawl** -St. John's Lutheran School, 18100 Wentworth Avenue, Lansing, is hosting their 2nd Annual For God & Country 0.1K, Run Walk or Crawl on Saturday, September 16, at Clock Tower Park, corner of Ridge Road and Grant Street, Lansing. For information contact [stjohnslansingchurch@comcast.net](mailto:stjohnslansingchurch@comcast.net).

**CUC Student Piano Camp in August** -Students entering grades 5-12 are invited to participate in the "Popular Music for Piano" summer camp at Concordia University Chicago in River Forest, Illinois. Both morning and afternoon half-day sessions are available during the camp, which runs August 7-11. Registration closes July 28. Students must be able to play piano proficiently, including basic chords, with three years of previous study recommended. Go to [CUChicago.edu/community-piano](http://CUChicago.edu/community-piano), call 708-209-3141 or email [Billie.Howard@CUChicago.edu](mailto:Billie.Howard@CUChicago.edu).

**Careers in Church Work** -Have you ever thought about a career in church work? Do you want to become a pastor or serve in some other way? What's the next step?

You may think the only way to serve the church is to become a pastor. That's not the case. God's people join together around Word and Sacrament to reach out to a lost world. Dedicated, faithful workers assist and lead people in participating in the fulfillment of the Great Commission, building up the Body of Christ. There are many vocations in which you can serve the Church in its vital ministries, including:

**Pastor  
Teacher  
Deaconess  
Director of Christian Education  
Director of Christian Outreach  
Director of Family Life Ministry  
Director of Parish Music  
Lay Minister**

Ready to learn more?

Read the general roles for various careers in church work here -> <http://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=73>

Explore the educational programs available through the Concordia University System, which includes 10 universities and colleges here -> <http://www.cus.edu/church-vocations/>

Discover what it means to be an LCMS Deaconess here -> <https://www.lcms.org/deaconess>

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne offer many programs, including a Master of Divinity and Deaconess Studies. <http://www.csl.edu/> and <http://www.ctsfw.edu/>

## SERVANTS IN WORSHIP -July, 2017

DATE	TIME	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LECTOR	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTER	GREETER	PROJECTIONIST
2	9:15am	Tom Griffin	Jim Boltz	Donna Judd	Martha Stevens Carole Vrshek	Dorothy Lux Doris Kracht	Donna Judd	Martha Stevens
9	9:15am	Tom Griffin		Donna Meilahn	Martha Stevens Carole Vrshek	Donna Meilahn Faith Schulz	Donna Judd	Martha Stevens
16	9:15am	Tom Griffin	Jim Bahr	Pam Rutkowski	Martha Stevens Carole Vrshek	Pam Rutkowski Marye Meyer	Donna Judd	Martha Stevens
23	9:15am	Tom Griffin		Sue Wilczynski	Martha Stevens Carole Vrshek	Pauline Griffin Nancy Fehser	Donna Judd	Martha Stevens
30	9:15am	Tom Griffin		Aimee Wilczynski	Martha Stevens Carole Vrshek	Terry & Carole Vrshek	Donna Judd	Martha Stevens

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

July, 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> 10:30AM Food Pantry 2:00PM Minet Renew Wedding Vows
<b>2</b> <b>FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY</b> 9:15AM Worship (C) 10:30AM Adult Bible Class	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> 6:00PM Women's Bible Study "Pew Sisters"	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:00AM Seniors Group Gathering	<b>7</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>8</b> 10:30AM Food Pantry
<b>9</b> 9:15AM Baptism of Romeo Michael Wooden 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM Adult Bible Class	<b>10</b> 9:00AM NEM Meeting 7:30PM Council Meeting	<b>11</b> 4:30PM Community Meal 6:00PM Women's Bible Study "Pew Sisters"	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:00AM Seniors Group Gathering	<b>14</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>15</b> 10:30AM Food Pantry
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<b>30</b> 9:15AM Worship (C) 10:30AM Adult Bible Class	<b>31</b>					

HAVE A HAPPY & BLESSED 4<sup>TH</sup>



## SERVANTS IN WORSHIP -August, 2017

DATE	TIME	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LECTOR	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTER	GREETER	PROJECTIONIST
6	9:15am	Jim Bahr	Tom Griffin	Donna Judd	Barbara Piekosz Jeanne Simovic	TBA	Liz Wilczynski	Theresa Boltz
13	9:15am	Jim Bahr		Donna Meilahn	Barbara Piekosz Jeanne Simovic	TBA	Liz Wilczynski	Theresa Boltz
20	9:15am	Jim Bahr	Jim Bahr	Pam Rutkowski	Barbara Piekosz Jeanne Simovic	TBA	Liz Wilczynski	Theresa Boltz
27	9:15am	Jim Bahr		Aimee Wilczynski	Barbara Piekosz Jeanne Simovic	TBA	Liz Wilczynski	Theresa Boltz

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August, 2017

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*Forget* THE DAY'S  
Troubles  
*Remember*  
the DAY'S  
*Blessings*