

AUGUST 2014



the

DISCIPLE



Holy Cross Lutheran Church
4041 W. 120th St., Alsip, IL 60803
Phone: (708) 597-5209, Web HC-LC.ORG

THE FAMILY

Dear friends of Holy Cross, let's think about what a family is. We know the traditional idea is a mom, dad, kids, and possibly a dog. The fact is, however, only one out of every six people in the United States live in a traditional setting of one mom being married to one dad one time with children from that marriage only. So, what about the remaining 84%? Is their family life doomed forever? No, of course not. If your home has been broken by death or divorce, God has not turned his back on you. Whatever family situation you find yourself in right now, he wants to help you be the strongest family you can possibly be.

The Census Bureau defines a family as people who live in the same house. Others would define a family as people who share the same last name. There is much more to it than that.

J.C. Watts played quarterback for the Oklahoma Sooners, and led them to

two consecutive Orange Bowl victories. Watts was exposed to the same life-style that ambushed so many other careers, but it didn't phase him. He graduated with a degree in journalism, and went on to play in the Canadian Football League. Eventually, he went back to Oklahoma and ran for public office. He was a member of the House of Representatives (1996-2003). He has been given several high-profile assignments by Republican leaders-including delivering the Republican response to Bill Clinton's 1997 State of the Union address and was elected Chair of the House Republican Conference in 1998. What has made the difference in this man's life? His family. His father was a pastor, and J.C.'s home life was more than just religious, it was spiritual. He grew up knowing that he had a calling on his life to serve God. When you hear him talk today, you quickly discover that his political life is more of a ministry than a career. This is be-

Cont'd on page 2.

IN THIS ISSUE

- **THE FAMILY**
- **FEASTING WITH THE LORD**
- **CONFIRMATION**
- **THANK YOU & GET READY**
- **VBS CAVALCADE**
- **SERVANTS IN WORSHIP**
- **CALENDAR**

OUTREACH

“FEASTING WITH THE LORD”

By Billie Salzman

Isaiah 25:6 says, “On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats, and the finest of wines.” In this passage the prophet Isaiah tells us about a banquet that depicts the blessings of God’s Kingdom.

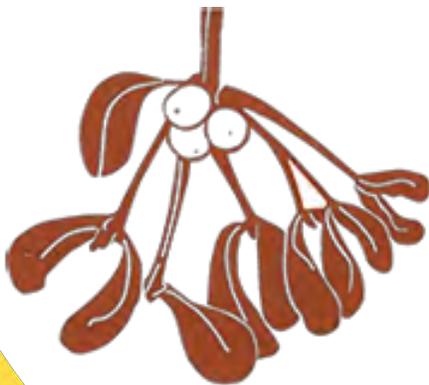
In Rev. 19:9 we read, “then the angel said to me, “Write”: “Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” and he added, “These are the true words of God.”

Jesus also refers to this feast in Matt. 8:11 “I say to you many will come from the East and the West and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of Heaven.” After Jesus called Levi (Matthew) to follow Him, Matthew held a banquet in His honor and a large group of tax collectors were there. The Pharisees questioned why Jesus would fellowship with

sinners and the Lord responded, “It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick.” Luke 5:27-31. And of course we read how Zacchaeus turned his life around when Jesus stayed at his house one day!

There are many passages in the Bible that refer to Jesus dining with people. It appears that He used this time as a means of teaching and connecting with them. Often articles on evangelism and outreach stress that the most effective means of outreach is to connect with people in the community by meeting them where they are and helping them with their needs.

Thanks to our new member, Joan Opyd, and other members of Holy Cross, for initiating a new ministry at Holy Cross. We are serving a free home-cooked meal every 2nd Tuesday of the month for the Homeless, Seniors, Single Parents, Low Income families, and anyone who would like a home cooked meal in a welcoming atmosphere. Moments like eating a meal and fellowshiping may lead us to an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with new friends. Perhaps we may reach someone who will someday join us in the feast of the Wed-



FEASTING on the WORD

The Family, cont'd from page 1.

cause he grew up in a family committed to spiritual values that taught him to live life with an eternal perspective.

Is your family committed to spiritual values or are they simply an intrusive and unwanted addition to your weekly routine? Jesus wants us to know Him in an intimate way like Jesus knows the Father- to get back to our Garden of Eden heritage where God’s will and way were

not just known but prized, respected and eagerly followed. That can only happen through the power of the Holy Spirit who works faith in us by the Word of God- faith to hear, understand and believe spiritual values- faith to comprehend that what happened on a cross to the Son of God means freedom for us from the curse of sin- eternal death and freedom to live with spiritual values.



confirmation

update



Congratulations and God's richest blessings to **Kaitlyn Cheyenne Shelton**. She was confirmed in the Christian faith, June 29, after three years of instruction. She is shown in the photo above with her mother and stepfather, Julie and Ron Wedster. A reception with cake, coffee and soft drinks was held for her immediately following the worship service that day. Social Ministry organized the reception.

“Confirmation is a public rite of the church preceded by a period of instruction designed to help baptized Christians identify with the life and mission of the Christian community. The rite of confirmation provides an opportunity for the individual Christian, relying on God’s promises given in Holy Baptism, to make a personal public confession of the faith and lifelong pledge of fidelity to Christ.” [*Luther’s Small Catechism*].

The council met May 12, 2014, 7:30 pm.
 Attendance– Jim Boltz, Tom Griffin, Dorothy Lux, Pat Minet, Pastor Chris, Barb Piekosz, Billy Salzman and Liz Wilczynski.
 Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the April minutes.
 Treasurer’s Report– General Fund is in better shape but the Trustee Repair Fund is still low. There is \$235 in the 75th Anniversary Fund. Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the treasurer’s report.
 Motion was made, seconded and approved to designate the \$30.30 Lenten Denial Folder money to Rev. Gaugert’s mission to Togo, West Africa.
 Elders reported a new directory is being created. There are three new elders.
 Evangelism—Billie is working on publicity for VBS, the Yard Sale, and Community Meals.
 Education– Yard Sale is June 7. During the sale, information on our church will be handed out. VBS is July 13-17 with a picnic on Friday.
 Trustees– A new carbon monoxide detector, and an electric broom was purchased.
 A motion was made, seconded and approved for the Trustees to have regular meetings and to have a report for the Council every month.
 Stewardship –A silent skit was held Sunday.
 Social Ministry– The owner of Demon Dawgs will contribute food for the monthly Community Meals.
 Christian Organizations– Easter breakfast was well attended. The LWML Spring Tea was also well attended.
 75th Anniversary—The Garden Chalet will be the caterer for the banquet. Tickets will cost \$25. Carpet Crafters will be the vendor for the church carpeting.
 Motion was made, seconded and approved to purchase the carpeting from Carpet Crafters.
 The next Council meeting is Monday, June 30.

THANK YOU & GET READY! By Pat Minet

Our stewardship program is about to end, and Pastor Chris and I would like to thank everyone who gave of their time, talents and treasures and those who participated in the skits and lay talks.

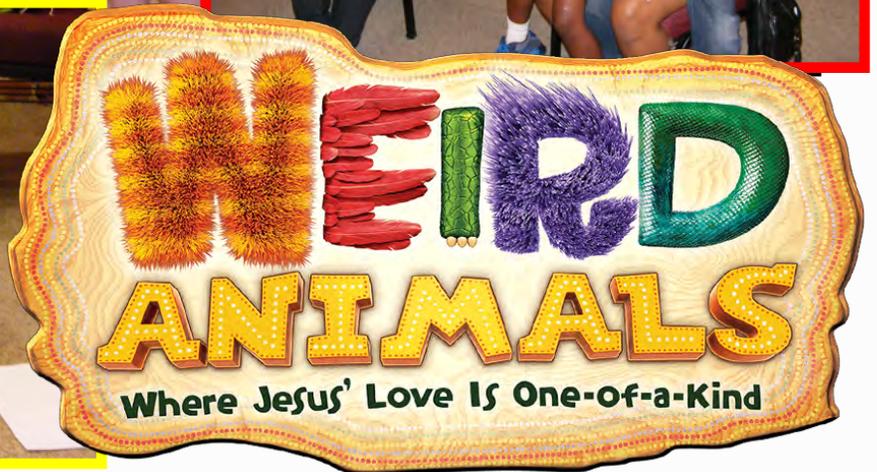
Shortly we will be starting a new stewardship program "Living Each Day as a Steward". This new program will be exciting and new and hopefully will get you as excited as I am to serve our Lord.

Remember that all we have comes from God and we should give back fully to Him. By serving and giving we are making a difference in someone’s life. Being a good steward is our way to show our gratitude to Jesus for all He has given us.

Open your hearts to the love God instills in you. God loves you tenderly. What He gives you is not to be kept under lock and key, but to be shared. The more you save, the less you are able to give. The less you save, the more you will share.

We have much to be thankful for. Stir us up Lord to venture into stewardship as our hearts lead us.

Thank You!!



SERVANTS IN WORSHIP - AUGUST, 2014

DATE	TIME	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTER	GREETER	PROJECTIONIST
03	8:00 am 10:30 am	Martha Stevens Tom Griffin	James Bolz	Donna Judd Donna Meilahn	Kaitlyn Shelton	Barbara Piekosz Jeanne Simovic	Faith Schulz Donna Meilahn	Joy Maddox Carole Vrshek	Mike Meilahn Pam Rutkowski
10	8:00 am 10:30 am	Martha Stevens Tom Griffin	Bob Schulz	Faith Schulz	Chris Caban Carly Potts	Barbara Piekosz Jeanne Simovic	Dorothy Lux Doris Kracht	Joy Maddox Carole Vrshek	Mike Meilahn Pam Rutkowski
17	8:00 am 10:30 am	Martha Stevens Tom Griffin	Terry Vrshek	Joy Maddox Sue Wilczynski	Geno Caban Kaitlyn Shelton	Barbara Piekosz Jeanne Simovic	Carole Vrshek Terry Vrshek	Joy Maddox Carole Vrshek	Mike Meilahn Pam Rutkowski
24	8:00 am 10:30 am	Martha Stevens Tom Griffin	Ron Wedster	Almee Wilczynski	Onon Simonson Carly Potts	Barbara Piekosz Jeanne Simovic	Faith Schulz Donna Meilahn	Joy Maddox Carole Vrshek	Mike Meilahn Pam Rutkowski
31	8:00 am 10:30 am	Martha Stevens Tom Griffin		Pam Rutkowski	Kaitlyn Shelton	Barbara Piekosz Jeanne Simovic	Pauline Griffin Nancy Fehser	Joy Maddox Carole Vrshek	Mike Meilahn Pam Rutkowski

“ EACH OF YOU
 SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT
 YOU HAVE RECEIVED
 TO SERVE OTHERS,
 AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF
 GOD'S GRACE
 IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS. ”

AUGUST 2014

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 Pastor's Day Off Billy Salzman (b)	2 10:00am Musicians Susan Bolz (b)
3 Food Pantry Sunday 8:00am Worship (C) (Traditional) 9:15am Tech Meeting 10:30am Worship (Contemporary)	4	5 4:30 pm Food Pantry	6 Noon Evangelism Meeting	7 10:00am Srs. Group Marousek/Hammond rehearsal	8 Pastor's Day Off Alisa Bahr (b)	9 4:30 PM Marousek/ Hammond Wedding 10:00am Musicians
10 8:00am Worship (Traditional) 9:15am Lectors Meeting 10:30am Worship (C)(Contemporary)	11 7:30 PM Church Council	12 5:00 PM Comm. Meet	13 7:00 PM Confirmation	14 10:00am Srs. Group Greg Beukema (b) Mary Tumas (b)	15 Pastor's Day Off	16 10:00am Musicians
17 8:00am Worship (C)(Traditional) 10:30am Worship (Contemporary)	18	19 Charryl Murphy (b)	20	21 10:00am Srs. Group Pastor Chris (b)	22 Pastor's Day Off	23 9:30am Bd. Of Education 10:00am Musicians 4:30 PM Elders
24 Disciple Items Due 8:00am Worship (Traditional) 9:15am Ushers/Greeters Meeting 10:30am Worship (C) (Contemporary) Megan Love (b)	25	26	27 4:30 PM NEM Meeting	28 10:00am Srs. Group	29 Pastor's Day Off	30 10:00am Musicians
31 8:00am Worship (Traditional) 10:30am Worship (C) (Contemporary)						

75th Anniversary. Holy Cross is continuing to plan its 75th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, November 9. In preparation for this special event, there are a number of expenses that will be occurring before the actual date. In addition to these celebration expenses, the gift of new carpeting will be installed in the church, Narthex and entryway to beautify God's house. The cost of the carpeting is approximately \$25 per square yard. If you would like to donate to help fund the cost of the carpeting or toward some of the additional anniversary celebration expenses, in addition to your current church donations, please do so by marking "75th Anniversary/Carpeting" on the "other" line on your envelope. Thank you for your donations and please plan to join us as together we thank and praise God for all the blessings He has given to our church these past 75 years. **Tickets will go on sale beginning in August.**