

# *The Disciple*

February 2016

## **Letter from Pastor**

Dear friends in Jesus Christ, in the month of February, Feb. 10 to be exact, the Christian holy season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Upon the conclusion of Lent we come to the culmination of the Lenten season with the celebration of Easter. But we don't celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus on Easter without first preparing ourselves in Lent. Lent is a time for the Christian to soberly reflect on his/her life in relation to God. How have we responded to God's gracious blessings we have received every day? Have we offered thanks to Him by loving Him and our neighbor? Are we listening to what He has to tell us in His holy Word through personal devotions, gathering with others to let the Holy Spirit teach us in corporate Bible study, thanking Him publicly by attending worship weekly, supporting His work by returning to Him for Christian ministry a goodly portion of what we have received from Him, helped with our presence and hands to make a difference in someone's life for Christ? These and many others are appropriate responses to the singularly best love anyone has ever shown us in giving us Jesus Christ.

God's gift of Jesus Christ to you and me has brought about a substantial and by God's grace, unalterable change in our lives. We are now children of God, by faith. That means God is our Father and Jesus is our brother. We weren't always members of His family. We were once dead in our sin and estranged from God. But God, in His inestimable love reached down to us orphans of God and made us His very own beloved children through Holy Baptism.

Children are led, guided, instructed, protected and loved by their parents and it's no different in the family of God. God is instructing us in how to live by His holy Word, guiding us by His commands, leading us by His Spirit, protecting us by the host of heaven and loving us by paying the price for our sins with Jesus suffering, death and resurrection. Now we live as growing people of God, not yet having reached our destiny but living in the joy of the promised destiny of heaven that awaits us. This fantastic blessing is ours and that's what makes the difference in how we live, love and serve.

Is that enough to make a difference in your life this Lent by changing your actions? Will you allow God to speak to you in Sunday and midweek Lenten worship services by attending? Will you permit God to touch your lives (yes, even the sore spots) with His Gospel salve that will heal you? Will you change what you have "always" done before and attend a Bible Study this Lenten season? I pray you will and I know you will not ever regret it, ever, but instead, joy in it.

May Lent 2016 be allowed to be a significant blessing in your life!  
Pastor Chris Ongstad

## **Mark Your Calendar**

2.1

**Elders Meeting**

2.2

**Food Pantry**

2.2-3

**Western Circuit Conference**

2.4,11,18,25

**Confirmation Classes**

2.6

**Social Ministry Meeting**

2.7

**Food Pantry Sunday**

2.9

**Community Meal**

2.10

**Ash Wednesday**

2.10,17,24

**Lenten Worship**

2.14

**Valentine's Day**

2.15

**President's Day**

2.22

**NEM Meeting**



**MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS OF HOLY CROSS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**

**December 2015**

- ◆ A motion was made and approved to accept the November minutes.
- ◆ **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Envelope offerings are still low. A \$20,000 check was received from the sale of the property of Nazareth Lutheran Church. A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report.
- ◆ **\$20,000 GIFT DISTRIBUTION REPORT** – 1) A motion was made and approved to **add enough to the General Fund to cover the 2016 budget deficit balance and the remainder to the New & Enhanced Ministry Fund.**
- ◆ 2) A motion was made and approved to **donate \$500 to Lutheran Charities** (200 to Comfort Dogs, 200 to Military Dogs and 100 to the General Fund).
- ◆ **2106 BUDGET REPORT** – A motion was made and approved to **accept the budget as presented by Tom, and bring it to the Voters in January.**
- ◆ **THRIVENT REPORT** – Donna is on the South Cook Chapter Board and explained that the board is closing in September 2016, the fund raisers will be different. A motion was made and approved to **host two South Cook Chapter meetings** June 8, and August 10 at 7 pm in 2016.
- ◆ **EVANGELISM REPORT** – Four of our people including Terry helped out at the recent Alsip Christmas event. The Chamber of Commerce asked if our church would participate next year.
- ◆ **TRUSTEE'S REPORT** – The fundraising goal for the parking lot is \$55,000.
- ◆ **SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT** – The owner from Positively Heaven donated a large amount of hats, scarves, & gloves that are being collected for PADS.
- ◆ **CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS REPORT** – The Carsons' fund raiser sales were low this year.
- ◆ **NEW BUSINESS REPORT** – A motion was made and approved to **give our non-paid musicians a \$50 gift card** ( Mike & Kevin Habrelewicz, Barb Piekosz). **Lenore** will receive a \$25 gift card.
- ◆ The next Council meeting is January 18. The next Voters' meeting is January 24 after the late service.

**STEWARDSHIP...STEWARDSHIP... STEWARDSHIP**

By: Pat Minet



- You may be getting weary of the articles and skits. Sometimes I feel as if I am a beggar or nagger, but I am only trying to be an encourager.
- There are so many ways to practice good Stewardship. Working around the church, helping others that are in need, putting aside your donation money.
- You don't have to have any special talents and there are no set hours. You don't need a special degree to practice good Stewardship. It doesn't matter how big or how small, you are still giving back to God.

We busy ourselves with a lot of activities that are important to us but "How much time are we investing in the lives of others and giving back to God?"



*You are the body of Christ!  
Each one of you is a part of it.*

**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



*Many Hands Lighten The Load...Where Could You Help?*

**Board of Christian Education**  
**By Pauline Griffin**

TIME, everyone has it, 24 hours in a day 365 days a year. What we do with our **time** is usually what defines us.

Think about the amount of **time** you spend in your leisure time. How much **time** do you spend in reading books, watching TV or playing on your computer or iPhone?

Now, how much **time** do you allot for your Lord? Do you spend **time** every Sunday worshipping? Do you take **time** to pray (not just for something you want)? Do you spend **time** with devotions? Do you attend at least one of our three adult Bible Studies during the week? Do you take the **time** to bring your children, grandchildren etc. to Church and Sunday School or include them in your devotions, prayer **time**?

How much of your **time** is spent for the benefit of others such as helping at our food pantry, community meals, visiting those in nursing homes, or giving a helping hand to fellow Christians?

*I said, "Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the **time** to seek the Lord, that He may come and shower righteousness upon you." Hosea 10:12 NLT*

Rev. Mark W. Wood says "**Time** is precious because it is limited. We will experience a final moment in which **time** will cease for us. So we count **time** in ways that are meaningful to us. And that help us make the best use of it."



**ALSIP COMMUNITY EXPO**

Saturday, March 5, 2016  
9:30 am - 3:30 pm  
at Prairie Jr. High

Holy Cross will be participating with a manned booth, giving away water, mementos and information about upcoming events at our church. We could really use your help. Would you be willing to spend some time at the Expo greeting and giving away items. No experience necessary. If you have questions or if you would like to help please talk to Jim Boltz. Thank you for your support in reaching out to our community.



**COUPON BOOKLETS**



Once again, Holy Cross will be selling Carson's Community Days Coupon Booklets for \$5.00 each. The sale dates are Friday, February 26 and Saturday, February 27. Our church keeps all the money from the sale of these coupon booklets. Each booklet contains a \$10 off coupon, a 30% off a single item coupon, a 25% off savings pass to be used over and over again plus many other bonus buys. To purchase booklets, please see Martha Stevens, Liz Wilczynski or Dorothy Lux.



This year we will be serving refreshments after each of the 5 Wednesday night Lenten services. If you would like to bring a refreshment for one of the services, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board. Thank you in advance.



Come and enjoy a different dining experience. On Saturday, February 27 at 5:00 p.m. the Dinner Club will be going to La Voute Bistro. This unique French restaurant is located inside the La Banque Hotel at 2034 Ridge Road in downtown Homewood.

This former bank building has been converted into the LaBanque Hotel and the restaurant, La Voute. The focal point of the restaurant is the bank's vaults, which inspired the logo for both the hotel and restaurant. A massive pneumatic door inspected and signed by former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover secures the vault providing a unique backdrop for dining. If you'd like to experience this special location and restaurant, please view the menu on the bulletin board and sign-up on the sheet found there. See Faith Schulz for more information.



# Free Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 12 at 11 a.m.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
4041 W. 120th Street in Alsip

Call to register 708-597-5209

Or at our website [www.HC-LC.org](http://www.HC-LC.org)



## LUTHERAN CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

"A Lifetime of Positive Relationships"

February 2016

Your first childhood memory is likely to be of an event that occurred when you were four or five years old. Early recollections seem to be related to the onset of language. Interestingly, much of what we learn about relationships occurs in the years prior to our memories. Our experiences as infants and young children become the prototype for relationships later in life. In nurturing parent-child relationships we survive and thrive.

The day an infant is born a special exchange begins between parent and child. The infant cries and the parent tries to soothe and comfort the infant. If a caregiver is sensitive and responsive, the child begins to experience security and comfort when they are together. The parent provides a secure attachment. There are three main components to a secure attachment relationship:

- Physical connection, which means plenty of comforting touch and eye contact
- Emotional connection with parents responding accurately to cries and needs
- An environment that is consistent, predictable and safe

These same components remain essential for life. An infant who experiences secure attachment becomes a child who has positive peer relationships, a positive sense of self, experiences joy and learns to regulate his or her emotions. These relationship skills continue throughout life.

Emotional connection problems occur when a parent is unavailable or rejecting, care is inconsistent or when a child's needs remain unseen or ignored. An infant who experiences an insecure attachment can become a child who struggles with peer relationships, has clingy and anxious behaviors, cannot cope in stressful situations and has a negative sense of self.

Patterns of parent-child attachment are passed on from one generation to the next. But it is never too late to create positive change in a parent-child relationship. Your relationship is the foundation for your child's future relationships.

*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 LCFS at [lcsf\\_info@lcsf.org](mailto:lcsf_info@lcsf.org) or 800-363-LCFS (5237). Discover LCFS and the services we offer at [www.lcsf.org](http://www.lcsf.org) and [www.facebook.com/LCFSIL](http://www.facebook.com/LCFSIL).*



# Let's Celebrate

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

James Bahr (3)  
George Lux (5)  
Peggy Medeiros (9)  
Giovanni Caban (13)  
George Meyer (19)  
Martha Stevens (20)  
Donna Judd (20)  
Bill Love (23)  
Ron Wedster (25)  
Marye Meyer (25)  
Julie Wedster (27)  
Chris Fuller (27)  
Chris Vrshek Jr. (28)



### FEBRUARY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Karen Vrshek (2)  
Samuel Meilahn (12)

### FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Bob & Faith Schulz (14)



### OUR FAMILY WITH HEALTH CONCERNS

Doris Kracht  
Marylin Long  
Joe Bradley  
Kathy Ridder  
Rita Joyce  
Jeanne Simovic  
Edna Wendt  
Erna Sherman  
Barbara Piekosz  
Johanne Kernahan  
Bob Long  
Danielle Beukema





**“Irony” is not a word** that most people would ascribe to Jesus' passion. However, certain events in the gospel accounts—Caiaphas' unintentional prophesy, the Jewish leaders' hypocrisy, and others—are actually quite ironic. **Lent begins Feb. 10, 7 p.m. with Ash Wednesday worship.** This Lenten season's theme is “Ironies of the Passion”. Each Wednesday night during Lent the ironies of the passion will be used to help us learn about the unique and lasting significance of Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection.

**DISCOVER**  
The Official LCMS Radio  
*Wherever you are 24/7*  
**Worldwide**  
**KFUO**  
Apologetics, Lutheran Confessions Study, Bible Studies,  
Global Lutheran News, Morning & Evening Drivetime Devotions,  
Lutheran Sacred Music Stream, and much more!  
St. Louis, Missouri & Surrounding Area - AM850      Worldwide Listeners - [KFUO.org](http://KFUO.org)



## WHAT IS YOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD DOING IN MISSIONS?

### Overview — Past and Present



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been involved in mission and outreach since 1851, when it established its first mission board.

In 1894, the LCMS sent its first overseas missionary, Rev. Theodore Naether and family, to India.

Today, the LCMS trains, sends and supports called and appointed career, long-term and short-term missionaries in various countries around the world where there are mission stations, partner churches, schools or mission relationships.



### Role of a Missionary — What Do Missionaries Do?

The main priority of a missionary is to bring the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to people who have never heard the Good News. LCMS missionaries usually share that Good News in the language of the people they serve.

When the Holy Spirit begins to gather people into Christian fellowship, missionaries assist these new Christians in forming their own indigenous church leaders.

LCMS missionary teams are made up of people who focus on planting churches, leadership formation or some type of locally initiated holistic services in areas of health, agriculture, community development, English-as-a-

Foreign-Language classes or partner support activities.

Missionary teachers also serve in international schools where missionary children, expatriates, and often national children attend. Agricultural and medical missionaries are utilized when their work will strategically contribute towards reaching and gathering a communities of believers, so that churches can be planted.

Missionaries usually spend a good deal of time when they first arrive on the field developing language skills and learning about the culture and mastering a foreign language.

The overall LCMS mission “team” consists of ordained pastors, directors of Christian education, directors of Christian outreach, deaconesses, teachers, lay ministers, Directors of Parish music, medical professionals, agriculturalists, vicars, church work program interns, retired Lutheran laity and college graduates. All are scattered across the globe working together with national partners to tell the Good News of the salvation that is found only in Jesus Christ.

### Serve Now

There are more than 200 opportunities available to serve with the LCMS, ranging from one week to a lifetime. Visit our mission opportunities page for more information- <http://www.lcms.org/service> .

### Support Now

Give to a Specific Missionary or Worker. Through your prayers and/or financial support, you have the unique opportunity to partner with missionaries and workers who are telling the Good News about Jesus around the world or helping others do the same. See the current missionaries you can help at <http://www.lcms.org/missionarysupport#> .

**Pray Now** - use the downloadable prayer card. Choose one at: <http://prayercards.lcms.org/> .

The downloadable prayer card is an easy-to-print document that provides background information and specific prayer requests for each family or individual. The right side of each prayer card is a support form, which can be filled out and mailed in to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to set up ongoing giving towards their service.

Each individual's or family's online giving page provides background information and prayer requests, along with a Give Now link to immediately give online towards supporting their ministry or setting up ongoing financial support of them.

## SERVANTS IN WORSHIP - February, 2016

DATE	TIME	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LECTOR	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTER	GREETER	PROJECTIONIST
7	8:00 am 10:30 am	Jim Boltz Bob Schultz	Terry Vrshek	Donna Judd Donna Melahn	Barb Piekosz Jeanne Simovic	Pauline Griffin Nancy Fehser	Sue Boltz Jeanne Simovic	Martha Stevens Pam Rutkowski
10	7:00pm	Jim Boltz	Jim Bahr		Barb Piekosz Jeanne Simovic	Terry & Carole Vrshek	Donna Judd	Martha Stevens Pam Rutkowski
14	8:00 am 10:30 am	Jim Boltz Bob Schultz	Ron Wedster	Liz Wilczynski	Barb Piekosz Jeanne Simovic	Dorothy Lux Doris Kracht	Sue Boltz Jeanne Simovic	Martha Stevens Pam Rutkowski
17	7:00pm	TBA			Barb Piekosz Jeanne Simovic	Donna Melahn Faith Schutz	TBA	Martha Stevens Pam Rutkowski
21	8:00 am 10:30 am	Jim Boltz Bob Schultz	Bob Long	Joy Maddox Sue Wilczynski	Barb Piekosz Jeanne Simovic	Pam Rutkowski Marye Meyer	Sue Boltz Jeanne Simovic	Martha Stevens Pam Rutkowski
24	7:00pm	TBA			Barb Piekosz Jeanne Simovic	Terry & Carole Vrshek	TBA	Martha Stevens Pam Rutkowski
28	8:00 am 10:30 am	Jim Boltz Bob Schultz	Tom Griffin	Aimee Wilczynski	Barb Piekosz Jeanne Simovic	Donna Melahn Faith Schutz	Sue Boltz Jeanne Simovic	Martha Stevens Pam Rutkowski

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



# February, 2016

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> 4:30PM Women's Bible Study 7:30PM Southwest Chorus 7:30PM Elders Meeting	<b>2</b> 4:30PM Food Pantry  <b>9:00AM Western Circuit Conference</b> 7:30PM LifeLight Bible Study	<b>3</b>  James Bahr (b)	<b>4</b> 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering 1:00PM Confirmation Class	<b>5</b>  George Lux (b)	<b>6</b> 10:00AM Musicians 10:30AM Food Pantry 1:30PM Social Ministry Meeting
<b>7 FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY</b> 8:00AM Worship/Traditional (C) 9:15AM Bible Class/Sunday School 10:30AM Worship/Contemporary	<b>8</b> 4:30PM Women's Bible Study 7:30PM Southwest Chorus 7:30PM Council Meeting	<b>9</b> 4:30PM Community Meal 7:30PM LifeLight Bible Study  Peggy Medeiros (b)	<b>10</b> <b>ASH WESNESDAY</b> 7:00PM Lenten Worship (C)	<b>11</b> 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering 1:00PM Confirmation Class	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00AM Musicians 10:30AM Food Pantry  Giovanni Caban (b)
<b>14</b> <b>VALENTINE'S DAY</b> 8:00AM Worship/Traditional 9:15AM Bible Class/Sunday School 10:30AM Worship/Contemp. (C)	<b>15</b> <b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b> 4:30PM Women's Bible Study 7:30PM Southwest Chorus	<b>16</b> 7:30PM LifeLight Bible Study	<b>17</b> 7:00PM Worship	<b>18</b> 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering 1:00PM Confirmation Class	<b>19</b>  George Meyer (b)	<b>20</b> 10:00AM Musicians 10:30AM Food Pantry  Martha Stevens (b) Donna Judd (b)
<b>21</b> 8:00AM Worship/Traditional (C) 9:15AM Bible Class/Sunday School 10:30AM Worship/Contemporary	<b>22</b> 9:00AM NEM Meeting 4:30PM Women's Bible Study 7:30PM Southwest Chorus	<b>23</b> 7:30PM LifeLight Bible Study  Bill Love (b)	<b>24</b> 7:00PM Worship	<b>25</b> 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering 1:00PM Confirmation Class  Ron Wedster (b) Marye Meyer (b)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:30AM Board of Ed. 10:00AM Musicians 10:30AM Food Pantry  Julie Wedster (b) Chris Fuller (b)
<b>28</b> 8:00AM Worship/Traditional 9:15AM Bible Class/Sunday School 10:30AM Worship/Contemp. (C)  Chris Vrshek Jr. (b)	<b>29</b> 4:30PM Women's Bible Study 7:30PM Southwest Chorus					

...now is a very acceptable salvation  
behold, now is the day of salvation  
2 COR 6:2