

Disciple

April 2015 / Monthly Newsletter of Holy Cross Lutheran Church



Mark Your Calendar

4.1

Movie—"Son of God"

4.2

Maundy Thursday

4.3

Good Friday

4.5

Easter Sunday-Easter Breakfast

4.7

Food Pantry

4.14

Community Meal

4.17

Stewardship Meeting

4.18

VBS Coordinators Meeting

4.25

Elders Meeting

He Has Risen! That's What!

Mark 16:1-8

On one of my visits to shut-ins in another community, an 84 year old woman, who was hardly able to walk, bent over from arthritis and having no immediate family left on this earth, wondered out-loud why she should keep on living. "What's the use?" Anna was in depression. She didn't care about her life anymore.

I went to a hair cutting salon to get my hair trimmed. I mentioned that I was a pastor of this church. The lady made the comment that all religions are really the same there isn't much difference between them, they all worship the same god anyway. I asked her what she was planning on doing Easter Sunday. She said she would visit her father. She really couldn't get into worshipping God.

For some, this Easter Holy Week spells only a family gathering and has nothing to say to them about God and what God has done for them. When it comes to the ancient and everlasting news of Easter, Jesus Christ's resurrection, the feeling among many is, "so what?"

Do we entertain doubts about God, who He is and what if anything He has done for us? If so then we are really being robbed of the joy of the Good News of Easter. Easter becomes just another so-so holiday.

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He Has Risen Continued ...

But the facts of the resurrection of Jesus Christ underscore the truth that He has risen for us and that makes Easter and living so much more than, "so-what?". When God makes it clear to us that the Easter news is good-news for us we will gain the amazement and joy, and relief. Let all of us discover that the so-what of Easter is answered with "He has Risen, That's What!"

If Easter is "so-what" to us it is because we do expect to find a dead Christ in the tomb, one who isn't able to help us. I lost my job, see how God doesn't really care for me. I'm sick all the time, where's God when I need Him? My family is falling apart, why isn't God hearing my prayers? With all this doubt and despair over God no wonder many say so-what to Easter, so-what to a risen Christ. Truly it is as if Christ hasn't risen for them.

But the words of the angel prove a risen Christ. *"Don't be alarmed,"* he said. *You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.*" The angel admits Christ was crucified dead on a cross. But the messenger of God says that He has risen. Looking at the place where Jesus had laid, they found Jesus' grave clothes. The clothes lay on the rock slab in the exact position the body lay, suggesting the body of Christ simply rose through the clothes and the clothes fell in their place. As the angel had said so the women were convinced, He had risen!

He has risen and lives to help you with your problems- job, family, relationships or otherwise. He died to give you real life in Him. He cares for you!

That's the truth. He has risen! He lives! He is ready to help you, indeed already is. You are forgiven! New life is yours! Come! Let's celebrate the risen Christ together.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES HILTIES

February 9, 2015

- A motion was made to accept the January minutes.
- Pastor's Report—Pastor attended the Circuit Pastoral Conference in Indiana, also the SELC Board of Directors in Florida and reported both. The keyboard problem was resolved and cost less than \$25. The Alsip Expo is March 14.
- Treasurer's Report—January was not a good month. Donations for the cleaner are low. \$288 was collected for the Concordia Seminary. A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report.
- Elders Report—Meet your Elders Sunday was a success. Members seem to enjoy the services and fellowship. The Prayer Vigil following the Maundy Thursday service starts at 8:30 pm and ends at 8:30 am Friday. All the midweek services will be starting at 7 pm.
- Education Report—The VBS Coordinators' meeting is Saturday. The Easter Egg Hunt is March 21 at 11 am with a light lunch. The Yard Sale is June 13 and VBS is July 12-17. (Motions were made and approved 1) to purchase a tree to plant in front of the church instead of buying one every year for the December tree decorating event. 2) To use the Beautification Fund to pay for it.
- Social Ministry Report—Joan and Pat passed out flyers at Heritage II and two new people came to the Food Pantry. We need more young people to help load and unload and break up boxes on Saturdays.
- Christian Organization Report—Carson's Fund Raiser is February 27-28.
- New Business—Future LWML meetings will start at 1 pm since the Saturday Food Pantry uses the Fellowship Hall in the morning. The Southwest Choir donated \$150.
- Two more motions were made and approved: for Holy Cross to host the following Thrivent Meetings this year: August 12 and September 9 (Wednesdays at 7 pm). To accept the board nominations for the March Elections and hand out the letters.
- The next Council Meeting is March 9 and next Voters' meeting is March 15 at 11:45 am.

Officers and Boards 2015

(Newly elected are in bold)

President—Jim Boltz

Vice President—Ron Wedster

Treasurer—Tom Griffin

Secretary—Liz Wilczynski

Financial Secretary—Sue Wilczynski

Elders

Ron Wedster

Tom Griffin

Jim Boltz

Bob Schulz

Bob Long

Jim Bahr

Terry Vrshek

Scott Vrshek

Evangelism

Nancy Fehser

Terry Vrshek

Curtis Simonson

Christian Organizations

Dorothy Lux

Marye Meyer

Nancy Fehser

Barbara Euman

Liz Wilczynski

Barbara Piekosz

Social Ministries

Pat Minet

Sue Boltz

Donna Meilahn

Joan Opyd

Kathy Ridder

Billie Salzman

Pauline Griffin

George Minet

Stewardship & Finance

Pat Minet

Joan Opyd

Barbara Piekosz

Education

Julie Wedster

Ivy Bradley

Pauline Griffin

Barbara Piekosz

Danielle Beukema

Donna Meilahn

Billie Salzman

Jennifer Love

Trustees

Jim Bahr

George Minet

Terry Vrshek

Robert Hammond

Bill Love

Death/New Life

The Lord has taken to Himself the soul of Charryl Murphy on Wednesday, March 25. May the Lord of the harvest comfort the Murphy family and friends with the knowledge that since Christ lives their beloved now also lives and that on the day of Jesus' return Charryl and all believers will bodily rise from the dead in glory.



Save the Dates

Rummage Sale

Thrivent Financial and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is having a rummage sale. Anyone wishing to donate may drop it off any afternoon from 1 pm to 5 pm Monday thru Wednesday the week of the sale and Thursday April 30th from 1 pm to 8 pm.

8659 S. Sayre Ave.

Burbank, IL

(2 blocks East of Harlem Ave. on 87th St.)

Friday May 1—9am to 3pm

Saturday May 2—9am to 12 noon

(\$3.50 a bag day)

Arts, Crafts & Vendor Show

Alan B. Shepard High School Spring Arts, Crafts, & Vendor Show sponsored by the Band Boosters will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2015 from 9am to 3pm. in the gym.

13049 S. Ridgeland Ave.

Palos Heights

Concessions available all day. Entrance is at the back of the building at door #12. Admission \$2.00 per person, Free parking.

German Fest Fundraiser

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School
4660 W. 95th St. Oak Lawn cordially invites you, your family and friends to come and experience the splendor of Germany. Saturday April 18th from 4:30 to 9:00pm. The admission fee at the door is \$7.00. Food and beverage tickets will also be available for purchase. Our pre-sale ticket is \$14 and includes the price of admission and \$9 in food and refreshment tickets. That's a savings of \$2! Doors open at 4:30pm Entertainment will be provided by the German Band, "Paloma", and dinner will be served from 5-7:00pm. Come early to get a good seat! It's going to be WUNDERBAR! For more information or to order tickets, please call the church office at (708) 423-1040.

FAMILY MATTERS

"Children: the silent victims of divorce"

Lutheran Child and Family Services

"Kids are resilient, they'll get over it" "The divorce is not affecting my child at all." "Actually, the kids are happy we're getting a divorce." How many times have we heard these statements or even uttered them ourselves? Many may mistake these statements as true, when in reality they could not be further from the truth.

Research shows kids are upset by divorce and oftentimes feel the divorce is somehow their fault. They may even fantasize about their parents getting back together. Is it possible to make this traumatic event a little easier on the children? The answer is yes. Research shows that children whose parents behave in a certain way before, during and after the divorce have children who are able to accept the situation in a much healthier way than those parents who behave in ways that show no regard for the children.

First, assure the children that even though you and your spouse are divorcing, you both still love them, and the divorce is not their fault.

Second, never put the children in the middle. Remember, you and your spouse are the ones with the problem. Don't speak badly of the other parent, and don't make a child a messenger.

When dealing with children of divorce, one thing comes through loud and clear: confusion. The children say that even though their parents divorced, they are still fighting. So the children ask, "Why did they divorce? It didn't solve anything."

During this tumultuous time, children need more structure and stability than ever before. Set a schedule with the other parent and stick to it. Remember that the children need quality time with both parents. Allow your child to telephone the other parent frequently. Try to keep your own feelings of jealousy and anger hidden from the children.

While you are feeling emotionally drained and battered from the divorce, it may be difficult to implement some of these things. 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). Discover LCFS and the services we offer at www.lcfs.org and www.facebook.com/LCFSIL.

Worth Township Youth Commission

Registration begins on April 1, 2015 - May 29, 2015 or until camp is full. Spots are limited.

Late Registration June 1, 2015 - June 5, 2015 (additional \$25.00 per family)

(Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm)

Ages 3 - 5 - Kiddie Kamp (T & TH) - June 23, 2015 - July 30, 2015 (six weeks)

Arts and Crafts, Sports, Planned Activities and Theme Days

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (unless otherwise posted)

\$190.00 - Township Resident

\$230.00 - Non-Township Resident

Ages 6 -10 - Day Camp (M-W-F) - June 22, 2015 - July 31, 2015 (six weeks)

Arts & Crafts, Field Trips, Recreational Sports and Weekly Swimming

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM (unless otherwise posted)

\$220.00 - Township Resident

\$260.00 - Non-Township Resident

No Camp on Friday, July 3rd

*** Price of camp includes all bus fees. Please call for more information***

Ages 11 - 15 - Tween Camp (T&TH) - June 23, 2015 - July 30, 2015 (six weeks)

Field Trips, Recreational Sports and Weekly Swimming

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00AM - 3:00 PM (unless otherwise posted)

\$220.00 - Township Resident

\$260.00 - Non-Township Resident

*** Price of camp includes all bus fees. Please call for more information***

Worth Township Youth Commission

11601 South Pulaski

Alsip, IL 60803

(708) 371-2900

(708) 371-2144 fax

Great Achievements

Onon Simonson Has Achieved B Honor Roll status for his first semester of the 2014-2015 school year from St. Laurence High School. In order to be listed on the B Honor Roll a student must have a B Average, and no grade lower than a C.



Disciple Newsletter

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(LCMS, SELC District)

4041 W. 120th St

Alsip IL 60803

708.597.5209

Office: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30 am –12:30 pm

Web -- www.hc-lc.org

Email---- hclc@hc-lc.org

Pastor Chris D. Ongstad

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

Sunday School -- 9:15 AM Sundays

Stewardship a Way of Life, by Patricia Minet

Stewardship is the way to live our lives by answering the call received in our Baptism and realizing that all we have is a gift from God. Stewards are asked to accept these gifts with grateful hearts, develop these gifts, and with a spirit of generosity, share them with their church and their community.

Stewardship as a way of life is more than giving a few moments of spare time or some spare change to someone in need, or a little extra in the collection basket. It is truly a journey of discovery and conversion starting with the individual who asks, "Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? What can I do to make a difference? How am I called by God?" As more and more individual stewards reach out to one another, the entire community of faith can be transformed, and together we can embrace Stewardship as a Way of Life.

“LUTHERAN WITNESS”

“Be Fruitful and Multiply”

by Lucas Woodford,

God’s first command to humanity is, “Be fruitful and multiply” (Gen. 1:28). It’s a command not only to reproduce children, but to reproduce families. There’s much talk about the decline in the Church today, and for good reason. My assessment is that if the Church would boldly celebrate the vocations of life, particularly the virtue of family vocations, where we have countless natural opportunities to pass on the faith to family and neighbor alike, there would be an increase of discipleship and growth in the Church.

Regardless, even with all of the talk about the need for evangelism and the shrinking size of the Church, it seems to me that there has been far too little said about the decline of our family sizes, and how that has not only contributed to the numerical decline in the church, but to the decline of the family as well. Mary Eberstadt tracks this quite compellingly in her recent book *How the West Really Lost God*.

A large part of this concern comes with those couples who desire few to no children. In fact, fertility replacement levels are actually now a worldwide concern. (Fertility replacement is the average number of children per family that need to reach adulthood in order to replace the population and sustain a country. 2.1 is the needed replacement level of any country.)

Countries without families have fewer children. Fewer children mean fewer workers, less production, a smaller tax base, a smaller economy and a smaller army. In fact, in Jonathan Last’s recent book *What to Expect When No One’s Expecting*, he examines America’s current 1.93 percent fertility rate and explores what he views as “America’s coming demographic disaster.” In short, he observes family is not a priority and therefore children are not a priority. Family is out and consumerism is in. People in America would rather buy toys for themselves than have children.

In the face of this, we can celebrate the family—that there is something inherently good about sustaining traditional families—where having children is seen to be virtuous and a desirable thing. We can be bold about lifting up the common good of “family.” We can be audacious about teaching what Christian families stand for and how they contribute to the public good. And we can be active in providing resources for our Christian families to be bold and confident about their virtues and vocations. The family is a blessing.



VBS 2015 Planning has begun!

The theme for this year’s VBS, to be held Sunday, July 12 through Thursday, July 16 is **“Everest: Conquering Challenges with God’s Mighty Power.”** The members of The VBS 2015 Team of Directors for this year are: Joyce Ongstad, VBS Superintendent, Barbara Piekosz, Pamela Rutkowski, and Pastor Chris Ongstad. The team had their first meeting in February to begin the initial phase of recruiting coordinators and site leaders to the VBS staff. At their second meeting on Tuesday, March 17, they discussed the recruitment of VBS crew leaders and additional support staff. Already, many of these recruited site leaders and coordinators have begun preparations. Julie Wedster, our VBS Decoration’s Coordinator has already made a special request to Holy Cross members to begin collecting empty one gallon sized plastic milk and water jugs. We will be needing a lot, so please do not throw yours out. Please listen and watch for further announcements and news concerning **“Everest: Conquering Challenges with God’s Mighty Power.”**

SERVANTS IN WORSHIP - April, 2015

DATE	TIME	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTER	GREETER	PROJECTIONIST
2	7:00pm	Terry Vrshek Tom Griffin	Bob Schulz		Carly Potts	Martha Stevens ----- Carole Vrshek	T. Vrshek C. Vrshek	Pauline Griffin Donna Judd	Pam Rutkowski
3	7:00pm	Jim Boltz Tom Griffin			Kaitlyn Shelton	Martha Stevens ----- Carole Vrshek	T. Vrshek C. Vrshek	Pauline Griffin Martha Stevens	Scott Vrshek
5	9:00am	Jim Boltz Martha Stevens	Tom Griffin	Liz Wilczynski	Carly Potts	Martha Stevens ----- Carole Vrshek	D. Lux D. Kracht	Sue Boltz Sue Wilczynski Aimee Wilczynski	Scott Vrshek
12	8:00 am ----- 10:30 am	Martha Stevens ----- Bob Schulz		----- Donna Meilahn	Onon Simonson ----- Kaitlyn Shelton	Martha Stevens ----- Carole Vrshek	D. Meilahn F. Schulz	Sue Boltz ----- Sue & Aimee Wilczynski	Scott Vrshek ----- Pam Rutkowski
19	8:00 am ----- 10:30 am	Martha Stevens ----- Bob Schulz	Bob Long -----	Joy Maddox ----- Sue Wilczynski	----- Carly Potts	Martha Stevens ----- Carole Vrshek	P. Griffin N. Fehser	Sue Boltz ----- Sue & Aimee Wilczynski	Scott Vrshek ----- Pam Rutkowski
26	8:00 am ----- 10:30 am	Martha Stevens ----- Bob Schulz	----- Jim Bahr	----- Aimee Wilczynski	Chris Caban ----- Kaitlyn Shelton	Martha Stevens ----- Carole Vrshek	P. Rutkowski M. Potts	Sue Boltz ----- Sue & Aimee Wilczynski	Scott Vrshek ----- Pam Rutkowski

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

APRIL 2015

Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 am - 12:30 pm, 708.597.5209 hclc@hc-lc.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 EASTER SUNDAY FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY 9:00AM Worship/Comm. 10:30AM Easter Breakfast	6 EASTER MONDAY 7:30PM Southwest Chorus	7 4:30PM Food Pantry 7:30PM Life Light Bible Study	1 7:00PM Movie Night "Son of God"	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering 7:00PM Worship/Comm.	3 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00PM Worship	4 HOLY SATURDAY 10:00AM Musicians 10:30AM Food Pantry
12 8:00AM Worship/Traditional 9:15AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemp. SELC DISTRICT CONVENTION	13 4:30PM Womens' Bible Study 7:30PM Southwest Chorus Practice 7:30PM Church Council	14 4:30 Community Meal 7:30PM Life Light Bible Study	15	16 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering 1:00PM Stewardship Meeting	17 Pastor's Day Off	18 10:00AM Musicians 10:30AM Food Pantry 12:00PM VBS Coordinators Meeting
19 8:00AM Worship/Comm. 9:15AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30AMWorship Worship/Contemp.	20 4:30PM Womens' Bible Study 7:30PM Southwest Chorus Practice Pam Rutkowski (b)	21 7:30PM Life Light Bible Study	22	23 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering Jim Boltz (b)	24 Pastor's Day Off	25 10:00AM Musicians 10:00AM Bd. of Education 10:30AM Food Pantry 3:30PM Elders Meeting
26 8:00AM Worship/Traditional 9:15AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemp./Comm.	27 4:30PM Womens' Bible Study 7:30PM Southwest Chorus Practice Barbara Euman (b)	28 7:30PM Life Light Bible Study	29	30 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering	EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST Sunday, April 5, 10:30AM	