

# **D** *The* **DISCIPLE**



## Holy Cross Lutheran Newsletter

*"Holy Cross Lutheran Church's mission is to proclaim God's Word and reflect God's love in Christ-like service by enlightening people's hearts with the Gospel and seeking to fulfill people's temporal needs."*

**VOLUME 19 Issue 6**

**JUNE, 2007**

*This Disciple and all previous newsletters are now available online at <http://www.HC-LC.org>*

Dear friends and members of Holy Cross,

This month I would like to write to you about an important program that you are participating in through your pastor and his wife. I'm sure not many of you are aware of what PLI (Pastoral Leadership Institute) is about or how it's benefitting Holy Cross.

Thanks to the nomination of our district president and the foresight of those you elected to serve on our church council I am now in my second year of a four year leadership training process called PLI. There are approximately 60 pastors in my class, the class of 2006. The class is divided into what are called "collegial" groups. My collegial group includes pastors and their wives from Missouri, California, Texas and Wisconsin.

The first year's theme for our class was "Leading from Within". Our class of 2006 learned through an April Conference in 2006 that leaders have to know themselves- their strengths, weaknesses and character before they can become effective leaders. We experienced a number of exercises, presentations, and read a number of books on effective leaders to start the process of becoming better leaders. We also spent some time in November at a

"mentoring" congregation where effective pastoral leadership was exemplified.

The second year's theme was "Leading Change". The April conference in 2007 was held in Houston, TX. Les Stroh was the main presenter and helped us to learn what's necessary to initiate, maintain and complete change in a congregation and how to overcome resistance to change. Change is always going to be there in any organization including the church. We need to know how to make it work for the Kingdom. Later in the year a visit to "Grace Place" has been set aside for the pastors and wives of the class of 2006. Finally, in February, our collegial group will be heading to Lincoln, NB to visit our mentoring congregation, St. Luke's.

This four year program on leadership will no doubt help me to become a better pastoral leader for you and enable both you and me to accomplish more with the Holy Spirit's help in bringing others in our community to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Joyce and I want to express our thanks to you, members of Holy Cross, for your support, prayers and words of encouragement that you have shared with us as we have journeyed with PLI over the past

year. We join you in our prayers of thanksgiving to God for His goodness and implore Him together to use us as a congregation effectively reaching the lost for Christ.

Serving Him with gladness,  
Pastor Chris D. Ongstad

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### **Bd. of Evangelism**

#### **Hicham Chehab**

will be a featured speaker  
at Holy Cross:

**Saturday, June 30  
2:00 PM**

Light refreshments will be served.

Invitations are going out to nearby churches and newspapers. Please help us by inviting as many people as you can!

Don't miss this chance to hear about the overpowering grace of God's Holy Spirit!

*Hecham grew up in a world of bitter animosity between Muslims and Christians, which he experienced personally in a physical attack when only about 7. By age 13 he was recruited by an extremist Muslim group and later fought against Christians in the 1975 war in Lebanon. He was preparing to become a Muslim Preacher (Imam) when a car accident laid him up for a year. In*

19080, in his first semester in college, his brother was killed by Christian militia. Hicham's response was to study by day, and by night take out his revenge in attacks on Christians. However, hearing the Sermon on the Mount, in a course of cultural studies (in college), brought him to faith. Later, Hicham earned an M.A. in the history of the Arabs and did Ph.D studies in the history of Islam. Presently, he works as a missionary to the Muslims with the Lutheran Church in Illinois.

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### **Bd. of Stewardship**

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May has been an active month for the Stewardship Committee. We have moved \$40,000.00 to ZIV Investment Company, where the funds are currently earning approximately 4.25% interest in a money market fund. Tom Griffin and Frank Lux have been designated as traders in this account. We hope to invest this money in higher yielding bond funds and other total return investments.

We shall keep you posted on further developments.

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### **Food Pantry/Clothes Closet**

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Thank you to First Lutheran Church of Blue Island for their generous donation to our Food Pantry in May. They are a very dependable donor and we appreciate that. This month we need canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, and pork and beans.

The Clothes closet is in need of spring/summer clothing.

June Food Pantry/Clothes Closet dates are the 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

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### **Hilites of Church Council Meeting Minutes 4/16/07**

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The meeting opened at 7:35 pm with a devotion and prayer.

Motion was made and approved to accept the March minutes.

Pastor's Report- Six Easter baskets were put together by Pastor, Martha Stevens, Pauline Griffin and the confirmation class. Haley Beukema & Brittany Kucia were

confirmed on Palm Sunday. 39 was the average attendance during Lent, 67 for Good Friday and 95 for Easter attendance.

Treasurer's Report- There was an improvement in envelope offerings.

The following motion was made and approved: All investment income from the LCEF CD which matures December, 2007, and its predecessor will be credited to the Scholarship Fund. All investment income which is derived from the proceeds from the sale of the parsonage plus the accumulated earnings from those proceeds shall be credited as follows: 90% shall be credited to the New and Enhanced Missions Fund and 10% shall be credited to the Emergency Fund. All other investment income shall be credited to the General Fund.

Elders- Working on getting information on new service ministry.

Trustees- Landscaping will be done at the church entrance and another area. The Fellowship Hall will be painted. Light bulbs were donated by Gloria's son's company. April 28 is the date for outside Spring cleaning.

Stewardship/Finance- Walter is working on a ZIV application to open the investment account. Tom Griffin will be the trader to act for the church. Frank Lux will be the witness.

The LWML Spring Tea is May 19.

New Business- The Cub Scouts gave the Food Pantry a \$50 check as a thank you for allowing them to use the fellowship hall for their meetings.

The chairman informed the meeting that under the tax law, a minister of the Gospel is not subject to federal income tax on "the parsonage allowance paid to him as part of his compensation to the extent used by him to rent or provide a home." After considering the estimate of Rev. Ongstad of his home expenses, a motion was made by Pauline and seconded by Dorothy and passed to adopt the following resolution: Resolved that of the total cash salary, for the year 2007, \$44,000 is hereby designated as parsonage

allowance. Resolved that as long as Rev. Ongstad is our pastor, the above amount of designated parsonage allowance shall apply to all future years until modified.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm with prayer.

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### **Church Flowers**

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A few dates are available for flowers for worship services in June and July.

If you would like to donate flowers to decorate the Altar on Sundays, please sign your name on the chart on the bulletin board. We do ask that you not double sign until all of the dates are filled.

The cost is \$25 for two vases. You may include this in your offering envelope.

### **THE DISCIPLE**

is the official Newsletter of:

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**  
(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)  
4041 W. 120th St.  
Alsip, IL 60803  
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Website: www.HC-LC.org

This newsletter is published monthly and is distributed to all families of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, as well as interested friends and visitors.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church is a member of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, SELC District.

**Pastor** Rev. Chris D. Ongstad  
**Typist** Jeanne Simovic

We welcome your suggestions and contributions for our newsletter. The deadline for each issue is the third Sunday of the month.

Deadline for next month's *Disciple* is **Sunday, June 17, 2007.**



When taking the flowers home, take them out of the inserts and put them in a plastic bag available in the Sacristy.

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### Dinner Club

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The Dinner Club has decided to continue to meet during the summer months. However, they will be meeting on Friday nights at 7:00 pm.

On May 11 they met at Listone's Restaurant in Palos Heights, followed by dessert at the Griffin's.

On June 15, they will meet at Palermo's, 4849 W. 95<sup>th</sup> St., Oak Lawn, followed by dessert and fellowship at the home of Gloria Samec, 12040 S. Lockwood. Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board if you plan to attend. Any questions? Contact Donna Wedster (708)371-3868.

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### Attention Church Boards

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It's very important that we share information about the work of the church with members, but we can't do that unless all church boards submit newsletter articles highlighting their meetings and upcoming activities.

Please remember that every board is responsible for submitting information no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month.

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### Thank You

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✧ Special thanks to our members who helped with the congregational work day on April 28.

Gloria Samec  
Mike & Judy Meilahn  
Steve Meilahn  
Bob Long  
Mark, Kathy & Steve Kuehner  
Paul & Gail Nelson  
Adam Jedrzejak  
Jeanne Simovic  
Terry & Carole Vrshek  
Tom & Pauline Griffin  
Dorothy Lux  
Joy Maddox  
John Knoska

✧ Thanks to Judy Meilahn for

making the artificial flower arrangements to be used on those Sundays that we haven't been sponsored. She and Mike give the m in me mory of h i s father Leonard Meilahn.

Congratulations!

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✧ to our college graduates:

**Chad Ongstad**, a BS in Computer Information Services, from Benedictine College on May 20.

**Jonathan Ongstad**, a BS in Business Management, from Valparaiso University on May 20.

**Scott Vrshek**, son of Terry & Carole Vrshek, a degree of Master of Computer Science from DePaul University on June 17.

✧ to Tom & Rita Joyce, in honor of the birth their first granddaughter. Carolyn Elizabeth Joyce, daughter of Dan & Cari Joyce and sister to six-year-old Jack and four-year-old Alex, was born on April 19, 2007. She was 6 lbs. 13 oz. and 19" long.

*If we missed your special event,  
it's only because we didn't have  
the information.*

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### Church Directory

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Please make the following changes to the Church Directory:

Address Changes:

**Adam Jedrzejak**  
10436 S. Lawndale  
Chicago, IL 60655  
Cell: 708/653-2703  
Email: fenix\_07\_10@yahoo.com

**Bob Nelson**  
7223 N. Sheridan - Apt. #2  
Chicago, IL 60626  
Cell: 708/990-1771

Telephone Number Change:

**Jennifer Vazquez**  
708/921-5823



- † For those with medical concerns:  
Mary Tumas  
Doris Kracht  
Erna Sherman  
Anne Hansen  
Connie Sauer  
Jim Kernahan  
Donna Wedster  
Jeanne Simovic
  
- † For Marilyn Long who has been  
undergoing medical tests.
  
- † For our members who are  
confined to nursing homes:  
Maureen Diericks  
Louis Rigan
  
- † For our members who celebrate  
birthdays in June:  
01 Frances Schinske  
02 Hazel Wilderspin  
17 Bob Long  
19 Liz Wilczynski  
20 Carly Potts  
24 Bob Nelson  
27 Jeanne Simovic
  
- † For our members who celebrate  
baptismal anniversaries in June:  
Jim Boltz  
05 Katie Lux  
06 Donna Wilcox  
13 Joyce Ongstad  
19 Bob Schulz  
25 Tom Joyce
  
- † For our members who celebrate  
wedding anniversaries in June:  
03 Janice & Dave Alberts (29)  
13 Tom & Pauline Griffin (43)  
15 Terry & Carole Vrshek (33)  
25 Jim & Rhonda Bahr (30)

### SERVANT LIST - JUNE, 2007

Servants...Please, if you can't serve on your Scheduled Date, call your servant leader listed below, or find someone to substitute for you.

DATE	TIME	USHERS	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTER	GREETER
03	8:00am	Tom Joyce	Jim Boltz	Donna Judd	Haley Beukema	Carol Kernahan Jeanne Simovic	Tom & Rita Joyce	Rita Joyce
	10:30am	Bob Schulz Ron Wedster			Brittany Kucia			Jeanne Simovic
10	8:00am	Tom Joyce			Danielle Beukema		Donna Meilahn Mary Ann Cech	Rita Joyce
	10:30am	Bob Schulz Ron Wedster	Ron Wedster	Donna Meilahn	Theresa Boltz	Carol Kernahan Jeanne Simovic		Jeanne Simovic
17	8:00am	Tom Joyce	Frank Lux	Chris Fuller	Haley Beukema	Carol Kernahan Jeanne Simovic	Frank & Dorothy Lux	Rita Joyce
	10:30am	Bob Schulz Ron Wedster			Brittany Kucia			Jeanne Simovic
24	8:00am	Tom Joyce			Danielle Beukema		Carol Kernahan Doris Kracht	Rita Joyce
	10:30am	Bob Schulz Ron Wedster	Tom Griffin	Liz Wilczynski	Theresa Boltz	Carol Kernahan Jeanne Simovic		Jeanne Simovic

Ushers	Bob Tiedema	389-3933	Elders	Frank Lux	422-2893	Greeter/Usher Scheduler	Martha Stevens	597-6169
Flowers	The Church Office	597-5209	Acolytes	The Church Office	597-5209	Altar Guild	Carol Kernahan	371-9310
Counters	Doris Kracht	824-1445	Lectors	The Church Office	597-5209			

**JUNE, 2007**

*Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>2</b>
<b>3 Food Pantry Sunday</b> 8:00am Worship/Communion 10:30am Worship Manna Certificate Orders are Due  <b>Door Collection for Seminarian</b>	<b>4</b> 7:30pm Church Bds Meet	<b>5</b> 4:30-6:00pm Food Pantry 7:30pm Bible Class	<b>6</b> 7:30pm Chime Choir	<b>7</b> 7:30pm "Today's Light" Bible Class	<b>8</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8:00am Worship 10:30am Worship/Communion Manna Certificate Order Pick-Up	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:30pm Chime Choir	<b>14</b> 7:30pm "Today's Light" Bible Class	<b>15</b> Pastor's Day Off 7:00pm Dinner Club @ Palermo's	<b>16</b> Alsip Fun Fest
<b>17 Disciple Items are Due</b> 8:00am Worship/Communion 10:30am Worship Manna Certificate Orders are Due	<b>18</b> 7:30pm Church Council	<b>19</b> 4:30-6:00pm Food Pantry	<b>20</b> 7:30pm Chime Choir	<b>21</b> 7:30pm "Today's Light" Bible Class	<b>22</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:00am Worship 10:30am Worship/Communion Manna Certificate Order Pick-Up	<b>25</b> 7:30pm Elders	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:30pm Chime Choir	<b>28</b> 7:30pm "Today's Light" Bible Class	<b>29</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>30</b> 2:00pm Guest Speaker Hicham Chehab 7:00pm Thunderboltz Baseball Game

**VISIT THE HOLY CROSS WEB SITE at [www.hc-lc.org](http://www.hc-lc.org)**