

# Disciple

*June 2015/ Monthly Newsletter of Holy Cross  
Lutheran Church*

## Who Will Serve Their Children

**Joshua 24:15**

A pastor explained how Saturday was a day to get things done around their house because of work, family and church responsibilities. Just a few weeks ago he and his youngest son Jeff who is six years old had finished mowing the lawn and were putting things away. The pastor thought this would be a terrific opportunity to rest and spend a few minutes with Jeff. The two of them crawled up on the family's trampoline and gazed up into the blue sky. With a puzzled look Jeff turned and asked "Dad,...Why are we here?"

The pastor thought this would be great teaching opportunity so he explained how we are children of our Father in Heaven, how he has sent us here because he loves us and wants us to experience the things he has created for us, how he wants us to serve one another, to learn, to grow and to develop those qualities that will allow us to return to live with Him some day. The father paused and asked if that had answered his question. Jeff responded, "Not really". The pastor then began to think how else he might be able to answer the question when Jeff again asked, "Dad,...Why are we here?...weren't we supposed to pick Mom up an hour ago?"

As fathers we don't always remember everything we are supposed to do. In my particular case I can never remember which clothes go together in the washing machine. And sometimes our forgetting has disastrous results - like formerly white clothes now a shade of pink or what used to fit is now two sizes too small. But there are worse choices we make that can bring about eternal consequences.

Joshua, the leader who followed Moses said, *"But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you*

*Continued on pg 2.*



### Mark Your Calendar

6.2

Food Pantry

6.4

NEM Meeting

6.6

Elders Meeting

6.7

Food Pantry Sunday

6.8

Council Meeting

6.13

Yard Sale

6.16

Community Meal

6.20

VBS Staff Meeting  
Dinner Club

6.21

Fathers Day

*will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."*

On the cusp of the future of the nation of Israel Joshua calls for a confession of faith from the people. Will they declare their allegiance to the true God or not? The future of their nation and the eternity of each individual depends upon a good confession of faith.

June 21 is Fathers' Day this year. Fathers' Day is a day of celebration and thanks given to God for faithful and God fearing fathers. But, it also gives us opportunity for Christian men to be Christian men. That is, they are called to make a good confession of their Godly faith in a country, society and world whose gods are calling for a man's confession as well. If serving the Lord seems inconvenient, troublesome, a burden, a weariness, and not a pleasure and delight then choose the pagan gods you will serve- the ones in the country you live or the ones you served before you became a Christian.

Choose among those gods remembering that it wasn't those gods that saved you from your sins and it wasn't those gods that freed you from slavery and it wasn't those gods that blessed you with what you needed. Rather, it was the Lord God who created, purchased, redeemed, forgave, liberated, and filled you with the sure hope of everlasting life.

Confess the true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit to your family, your children and the world in which you live. Say, by actions, words and life, "But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Serve the Lord whether anyone else does or not.

The good confession of faith by fathers or mothers or anyone can be very difficult and the temptations strong to cave in to the pressures of others expectations. But it's just as critical for the future of our family and our country as it was in Joshua's day.

But you can make that good confession! Here's how -the Holy Spirit works through God's Word to create and sustain saving faith. "*Therefore faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ.*"(Rom. 10:17). Let God have

His way with you through His Word. The choice to serve the Lord is not the product of human reasoning, decision making, or willpower. "*God is the one who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*"(Phil. 2:13).

John Wesley wrote, "They that are bound for heaven must be willing to swim against the stream, and must do, not as most do, but as the best do." Fathers YOU are the best hope for your country and your family.

The Spirit working through the Word makes God's people bold to confess:

"Then here will I and mine today  
A solemn cov'nant make and say:  
Though all the world forsake His Word,  
My house and I will serve the Lord."

God bless you fathers!  
Pastor Chris D. Ongstad

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY WITH  
HEALTH CONCERNS**

Mary Tumas  
Doris Kracht  
Marylin Long  
Joe Bradley  
Kathy Ridder  
Eleanor Thiele  
Rita Joyce  
Jeanne Simovic  
Edna Wendt  
Erna Sherman  
Faith Schulz

**Disciple Newsletter**

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
(LCMS, SELC District)  
4041 W. 120th St.  
Alsip, IL 60803  
708.597.5209

Office: Mon.- Fri. 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 9:15am

## FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

By: Pauline Griffin

Sunday School classes ended on May 17<sup>th</sup> for the summer. Ivy had a party for the children in Theresa and her classes. Pam took her youth on a field trip.

Monday and Tuesday Bible Studies will break for the summer and resume in September. **BUT** don't be concerned you have no alternative but to take a summer break from Bible Studies **BECAUSE** there will still be a Bible Study on Sunday Mornings at 9:15.

VBS coordinators and site leaders are busy preparing for the 2015 VBS which will be held July 12<sup>th</sup> thru July 16<sup>th</sup>. A Yard Sale will be held on June 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 3:00pm to help defray the cost for VBS.

False teachings about God are all around us, in schools, our work places and from the secular world. We need to be prepared to counter these false teachings to our children and to those who are being lured by them. To do this we need to know the truth and the truth can only be found in God's Holy Word. What better teacher do we have than Jesus Himself.

Ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes and hearts as we read and study the Holy Scriptures so we are prepared to witness to those in need of hearing the truth of His Word.



### OUR FOOD PANTRY SUPPORTS “RESTORATION MINISTRIES”

Harvey House  
253 E. 159th St.  
Harvey, IL

A free, residential 18-month Christian program for men who have overcome their addictions.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **VBS Yard Sale**

Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. We will start accepting your treasures Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please put your items only in the designated place in the Fellowship Area. Remember no Large furniture or electronics (i.e. computers, TVs, microwaves etc.) No items will be offered on consignment. The church hours are Mon-Fri 8:00 am til 12:00 pm. We will be there on Fridays and Saturday. Call Martha Stevens (597-6169) to make other arrangement for drop off if necessary. Please save paper & plastic bags for the sale. Any questions? Call Martha or Pauline (687-3276).

### **Dinner Club**

The next Dinner Club will be on Saturday, June 20 at 5:00 p.m. at Glenwood Oaks Ribs & Chop House located at 106 N. Main Street in Glenwood. Besides the ribs and chops, the menu also includes steaks, sandwiches, seafood and salads. If you'd like to attend, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. See Faith Schulz for more information.

## **...Daily Devotional...**


### **SUMMER STEWARDSHIP**

By: Mrs. Pat Minet

Summer is vacation time. Christian stewardship, however never takes a vacation. It is an ongoing, joyous activity of managing all things for God - Gods way, every day. Vacations, however, have a tendency to rob God of the worship due Him. Daily devotions should not be forgotten either. In fact, personal devotions could be an effective personal evangelism tool. Inviting newly found vacation friends to participate in devotions offers an opportunity to share the Gospel. God never intended anyone to "burn the candle at both ends". God has no pleasure in "workaholic burnouts". He commanded one day in seven to be a day of rest in order to protect people from overwork. Vacations are supposed to be extended times for rest and relaxation. However, a vacation could become a source of stress. Some return from a vacation more worn out than if they stayed at home. Good stewardship involves properly managing a vacation so it ends up a source of relaxation.

# VBS NEEDS LIST

The following items are needed by our Vacation Bible School Site Leaders and Coordinators so that they can set up the VBS Everest Base Camp Sites in July. If you are able to help out by donating, or lending any of the needed items, please go to the mini Mount Everest located in the Narthex near the bulletin board.

**Follow these Steps.**  Remove the climber (or climbers) with the items that you are able to help out with from the mountain. Locate the items listed on your climber on the list posted on the bulletin board. Write your name next to the items that you will be supplying. Keep the climber(s) with item(s) listed. Return your climber(s) with the item(s) and place in the fellowship hall after June 13.

**Please Label with your name any item that you would like returned to you after VBS.**

## ITEMS NEEDED

### **Pam Rutkowski, Bible Expedition Leader needs:**

- Artificial greenery (Any kind of plants, vines, et.)
- 7 medium to large sized cardboard boxes or plastic bins
- 5 blue plastic table clothes
- 50 small paper cups
- 10 paper lunch sacks
- 1 box crackers
- 20 Paper grocery bags (Preferably plain)
- 1 brick
- 5 newspapers
- 3 dark sheets or blankets
- Electric campfire
- 4 white plastic table clothes
- Thick white ribbon
- Empty spray bottle
- 6 pieces of newsprint (6 pieces)

### **Pastor Chris Ongstad, Base Camp & Summit Celebration Leader needs:**

- Costume for Trek (funny pajamas & boots)
- Alarm Clock - old fashioned
- Small tent that's able to be set up.
- Sleeping bag
- Camp pot and spoon
- Yak Bell or another attention getter.
- Himalayan headgear
- Large duffle bag
- Swim fins, snorkel and mask
- Silly string
- Plastic sled
- Rubber chicken
- Sports balls
- Gloves
- Inflatable pool toy
- Rope
- Warm coat
- Roll of paper
- Large handkerchief
- Back pack
- Box of tissues

Worn-looking baby "blankie"  
 Three pounds of dry ice  
 Gloves & tongs  
 1 gallon clear plastic container  
 Cooler  
 X-acto knife  
 2 tablecloths  
 Large tray  
 Plastic bucket  
 Dishwashing liquid  
 Food coloring (1 package)  
 Small container for each crew leader  
 Paper towels  
 20" X 30" piece of white foam core  
 Craft knife  
 2 rolls of white plastic table covering  
 Red duct tape  
 2 scissors  
 Artificial pine tree  
 Robe  
 2 large coolers filled with ice  
 Blocks of ice  
 Ice cubes (12 per crew)  
 5 resealable sandwich size plastic bags  
 5 gallon bucket  
 Small hammer  
 Sledge hammer  
 Safety goggles  
 Bright colored table cloth  
 2' X 3' piece of plywood  
 Cinder block  
 Heavy backpack  
 Heavy coat  
 Goggles  
 Scarf  
 Ski mask  
 Hula hoop  
 Remote control car with batteries  
 12" beach ball  
 Box fan  
 Colored table cloth  
 Packets of Pop Rocks (1 per crew)  
 Envelopes (1 per crew)



### **Martha Stevens, Mountain Top Treats Leader needs:**

4 bags of BBQ Spiral Corn Chips  
 5 large aerosol cans of whipped cream (**no** Cool Whip)  
 3 boxes of regular Captain Crunch Cereal  
 6 - 16 ounce packages of mozzarella cheese  
 1 large carton of Multi-Colored Goldfish  
 3 large bags of plain M&Ms  
 2 bags of twisted pretzels  
 100 paper dinner plates  
 5 large jars of strawberry jam  
 100 small paper dessert plates  
 100 resealable zipper sandwich bags  
 50- 3 ounce see through plastic cups

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES HILITES

April 13, 2015

- A motion was approved to accept the March minutes.
- Pastor's Report – Pastor gave a full report on the District Convention that he and Tom Griffin attended April 9 to 12 in Clark NJ. Pastor Andrew Dzurovcik is the new District President, our Pastor Chris is the 3rd Vice President. Our church will host the Board of Directors & Western Circuit Pastors meetings October 5-7.
- Treasurer's Report – This month is slightly better than last month, there were 5 Sundays in March and the midweek services. The New & Enhanced Ministry money is still not being used. A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report.
- Education Report – The Easter Egg Hunt on March 21 had an attendance of 22 children (48 people total).
- Trustees Report – Terry Vrshek cleaned the Fellowship Hall floor before Easter, He and George Minet did a lot of work around the church. There are holes in the driveway that need to be fixed.
- Stewardship/Finance Report – The partition board in the narthex is almost done with photos of services, and activities provided at church. The new Stewardship program starts in September.
- Social Ministry – Food Pantry with new hours (10:30am to 12 noon). There will be no Saturday food pantry May 9, June 6, and June 13.
- Christian Organizations – The LWML Spring Tea is May 9 at 2pm.
- A motion was made and approved to have the LWML Spring Tea May 9 at 2pm.



**Family Matters**  
**June 2015**  
**LCFS Clinical Services**

Maintaining a healthy balance in our lives

“I feel like my job is consuming my life,” said Karen. “I put in extra hours, worry about work when I’m away from the office and find it hard to take a vacation without feeling guilty.” Karen is not alone in her situation. Many people feel that a certain aspect of their lives is overpowering the other facets of their lives.

Throughout nature, you see that things have a certain symmetry to them. We see that balance in flowers, trees and even people’s faces. When we write, we like to center our words on the paper. We place a bouquet of flowers in the middle of a table. It is pleasing to the eye to have things equal on each side of that imaginary dividing line.

When we speak about the balance of nature, we refer to the fact that too much or too little of something throws everything off. Too much rain means floods, soil erosion and plants that decay from all the moisture. Too little rain results in droughts and plants that wither and die. Fortunately, nature is forgiving and allows a little bit of leeway.

Our lives are also about balance. Too much or too little of any one thing can throw our lives out of kilter. Working long hours without a break, such as a vacation, a day off or even an hour off is not healthy physically, mentally or emotionally. As in nature, it can throw off that delicate ecosystem known as our bodies.

Keeping things in balance isn’t just about work. We can overdo or minimize things in just about every aspect of our lives. Having fun, watching TV, exercising, spending money and keeping relationships are all things which we can have too much of or too little of.

Our bodies cannot operate on continuous overload. We can’t drive a car at 100 miles per hour, day in and day out, without necessary maintenance. We can’t expect everything to function at age 40 the way it did at 20.

Pace yourself and be attuned to those little warning bells and whistles that signal it is time for a break/time for maintenance and put balance back into your life.

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 [lcfsinfo@lcfs.org](mailto:lcfsinfo@lcfs.org) or 800-363-LCFS (5237).

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

LCFS offers counseling at the following locations:

- Southern Illinois
- LCFS office, Belleville
- LCFS office, Mt. Vernon
- LCFS office, Sparta

To schedule a first-time appointment, call 800-363-LCFS (5237) or visit [www.lcfs.org](http://www.lcfs.org) for additional information.



## SERVANTS IN WORSHIP - June, 2015

| DATE | TIME                         | USHER                             | COMMUNION ASSISTANT   | LECTOR                                | ACOLYTE                  | ALTAR GUILD                        | COUNTER                         | GREETER                               | PROJECTIONIST                            |
|------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 7    | 8:00 am<br>-----<br>10:30 am | Jim Boltz<br>-----<br>Ron Wedster | Bob Long<br>-----     | Donna Judd<br>-----<br>Donna Meilahn  | Kaitlyn Shelton<br>----- | Joy Maddox<br>-----<br>Dorothy Lux | Terry Vrshek<br>Carole Vrshek   | Donna Judd<br>-----<br>Liz Wilczynski | Martha Stevens<br>-----<br>Theresa Boltz |
| 14   | 8:00 am<br>-----<br>10:30 am | Jim Boltz<br>-----<br>Ron Wedster | Bob Schulz<br>-----   | Liz Wilczynski<br>-----               |                          | Joy Maddox<br>-----<br>Dorothy Lux | Pauline Griffin<br>Nancy Fehser | Donna Judd<br>-----<br>Liz Wilczynski | Martha Stevens<br>-----<br>Theresa Boltz |
| 21   | 8:00 am<br>-----<br>10:30 am | Jim Boltz<br>-----<br>Ron Wedster | Scott Vrshek<br>----- | Joy Maddox<br>-----<br>Sue Wilczynski | Kaitlyn Shelton<br>----- | Joy Maddox<br>-----<br>Dorothy Lux | Pam Rutkowski<br>Marye Potts    | Donna Judd<br>-----<br>Liz Wilczynski | Martha Stevens<br>-----<br>Theresa Boltz |
| 28   | 8:00 am<br>-----<br>10:30 am | Jim Boltz<br>-----<br>Ron Wedster | Jim Bahr<br>-----     | Almee Wilczynski<br>-----             |                          | Joy Maddox<br>-----<br>Dorothy Lux | Dorothy Lux<br>Doris Kracht     | Donna Judd<br>-----<br>Liz Wilczynski | Martha Stevens<br>-----<br>Theresa Boltz |

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

## JUNE 2015

*Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm, 708.597.5209 [hclcl@hc-lc.org](mailto:hclcl@hc-lc.org)*

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY                             | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY                 | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY   |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|--|--|
|  | <b>1</b>                           | <b>2</b><br>4:30PM Food Pantry                         | <b>3</b>                  | <b>4</b><br>9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering<br>4:30PM NEM Meeting<br>Ivy Bradley (b) | <b>5</b><br>Pastor's Day Off   | <b>6</b><br>10:00AM Musicians<br>4:30PM Elders Meeting   |
| <b>7 FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY</b><br>8:00AM Worship/Traditional/Comm.<br>9:15AM Bible Class<br>10:30AM Worship/Contemp.<br>Charlie Bradley (b) | <b>8</b><br>7:00PM Council Meeting | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b>                 | <b>11</b><br>9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering   | <b>12</b><br>Pastor's Day Off<br>Joan Opyd (b)                         | <b>13</b><br><b>YARD SALE</b><br>9:00AM<br>10:00AM Musicians   |
| <b>14</b>  | <b>15</b>                          | <b>16</b><br>4:30PM Community Meal<br>Mona Dempsey (b) | <b>17</b><br>Bob Long (b) | <b>18</b><br>9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering<br>1:00PM Stewardship Meeting           | <b>19</b><br>Pastor's Day Off<br>Liz Wilczynski (b)<br>Carly Potts (b) | <b>20</b><br>10:00AM Musicians<br>10:30AM Food Pantry<br>1:00PM VBS All Staff Meeting                                      |
| <b>21 FATHERS DAY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b><br>8:00AM Worship/Traditional/Comm<br>9:15AM Bible Class<br>10:30AM Worship/Contemp.       | <b>22</b>                          | <b>23</b><br>Kenneth Pollack (b)                       | <b>24</b>                 | <b>25</b><br>9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering   | <b>26</b><br>Pastor's Day Off  | <b>27</b><br>8:30AM Bd. Of Education<br>10:00AM Musicians<br>10:30AM Food Pantry<br>Jeanne Simovic (b)<br>Scott Vrshak (b) |
| <b>28</b>  | <b>29</b>                          | <b>30</b>  |                           |  |  |  |

# HAVE A BLESSED FATHERS DAY!

