

September 2014

Monthly Newsletter of Holy Cross Lutheran Church

The *Disciple*

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
4041 W. 120th St., Alsip, IL
Phone 708.597.5209
Web WWW.HC-LC.ORG

Mark Your Calendar

9.1

Labor Day (Church
Office closed).

9.7

Sunday School &
Bible Classes begin.
CHURCH PICNIC

9.14—9.28

Living Each Day as a
Steward

Is A Christian Education Important?

For believers in Jesus Christ, the question of whether or not a Christian education is important seems obvious. The answer would be an emphatic "Yes!" So why ask the question? It's because the question comes from a myriad of perspectives within the Christian faith. Maybe the question should be "who is responsible for introducing my child to Christianity?" or "should my child's education be done in a public, private or home-based system?" There is no shortage of opinions on this topic, some very strongly held and endlessly and emotionally debated.

As we begin to search for a biblical perspective, we come to the definitive Old Testament passage on educating children found in Deuteronomy 6:5-8: "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads." Hebrew history reveals that the father was to be diligent in instructing his children in the ways and

Continued on page 2...

Article Continued ...

words of the Lord for their own spiritual development and well-being. The message in this passage is repeated in the New Testament where Paul exhorts parents to raise children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). Proverbs 22:6 also tells us to "train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Training includes not only formal education, but also the first instructions parents give to a child, i.e., his early education. This training is designed to plant the child firmly on the foundation upon which his life is based....

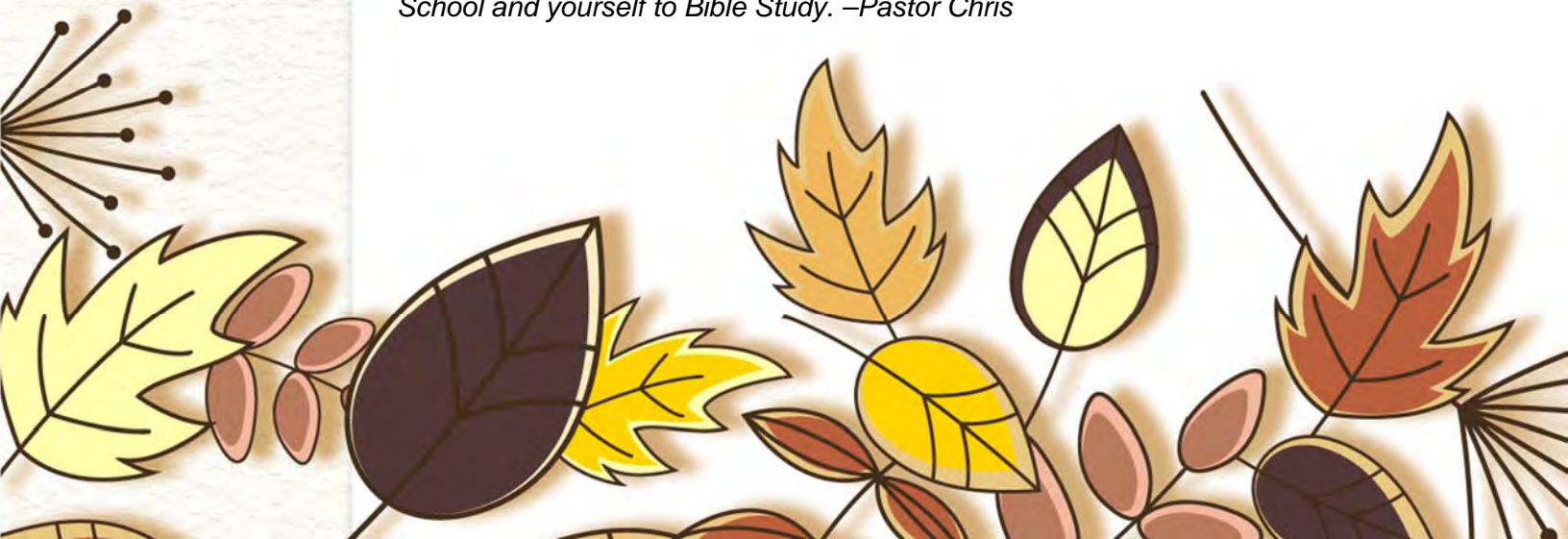
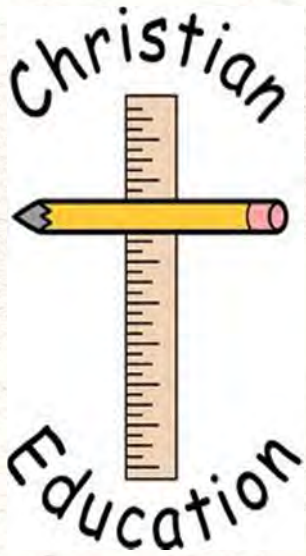
The issue in Scripture is not what type of general education our children receive, but through what paradigm that information is to be filtered. For example, a homeschooler can be given a "Christian" education but fail in life because he or she does not truly know the God of Scripture and does not truly understand scriptural principles. Likewise, a child educated publicly can grow to understand the fallacies of the world's wisdom by seeing its failure through God's Word which has been diligently taught to him at home. Information is being sifted through a biblical lens in both cases, but true spiritual understanding only exists in the latter. Similarly, a student can attend a Christian school but never grow to understand God in an intimate, personal relationship. Ultimately, it is the parents who are responsible for shaping and molding the child in a way that will succeed in accomplishing true spiritual education.

In Hebrews 10:25, God gives Christians the command, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." The body of Christ is an integral part of the education of children, assisting parents in nurturing and educating children in spiritual matters. Exposure to something outside of the family structure, in this case sound biblical teaching from church and Sunday school, is good and necessary.

So, no matter what type of institution of learning we choose, parents are ultimately responsible for their children's spiritual education. A Christian school teacher can be wrong, a pastor and Sunday school teacher can be wrong, and parents can be wrong on any particular viewpoint theologically. So, as we teach our children spiritual things, they need to understand that the only source of absolute truth is the Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16). Therefore, perhaps the most important lesson we can teach our children is to follow the example of the Bereans who "examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true" (Acts 17:11), and to test all things they are taught—from whatever source—against the Word of God (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

From: <http://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-education.html#ixzz3BbqOLgpf>

Please take seriously the injunctions of our Lord and bring your child to Sunday School and yourself to Bible Study. –Pastor Chris



Living Every Day As The Lord's Day

By Billie Salzman (Evangelism Chairperson)

In an interesting booklet from Lutheran Hour Ministries, Pastor Dion Garrett challenges Christians to "LIVE THE SIX": Learning to live as an everyday missionary.

Pastor Garrett suggests that there is more to being a Christian than enjoying one sacred hour each Sunday, praying before meals and at bedtime. Perhaps we try to "watch our language" and treat people with respect, and abide by a stringent moral code. What did Jesus mean when He said, "You will be My Witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"?

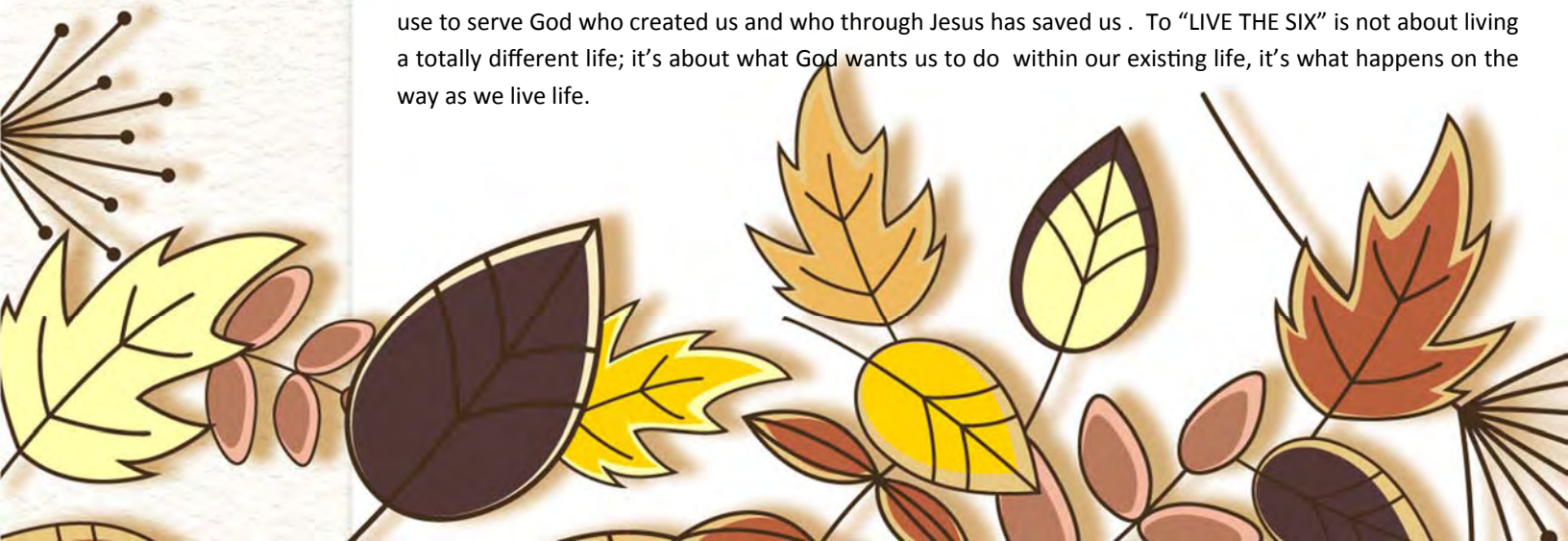
Acts 1:8 Jesus Christ wants us to go beyond one day of the week to do the real job that He has entrusted to us. Ephesians 2:4-9 explains: "But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." If we open our hearts and minds to the people around us in our daily walk through life, we will become aware of opportunities to serve God by showing our love and concern for them. We preach a sermon everyday through our actions. Do our actions match our words?

Here are a few ideas to get us started :

1. Learn the names of service workers you encounter often, clerks at stores, custodial staff that cleans your buildings, garbage collector, express interest in them as people.
2. Get in the habit of asking people if they have a need for prayer, if so, write it down so to remember to follow through with the prayers.
3. Prepare a meal for someone experiencing a hardship.
4. Visit a resident in a nursing home, even someone you don't know.
5. Pick up trash in a local park or playground.
6. Work in a food bank or soup kitchen with a group of friends
7. Offer to give free child sitting to a couple so that they can go on a "date" Express the desire to see them have a strong marriage. Offer to bring the children to Sunday School and church.
8. People love receiving written notes, send encouraging and friendly notes now and then.
9. Invite an acquaintance to lunch, tea or coffee time and look for a natural way to introduce your faith.
10. Invite people to attend church with you, and offer to drive them.

There are many other things that each one of us can offer. We each have been given a special talent to use to serve God who created us and who through Jesus has saved us. To "LIVE THE SIX" is not about living a totally different life; it's about what God wants us to do within our existing life, it's what happens on the way as we live life.

*Jesus said,
"In the
same way,
let your
light shine
before
men, that
they may
see your
good
deeds and
praise your
Father in
heaven."
Matthew 5:16*



Educating Our Children



LCMS School Ministry assists, equips and uplifts school educators, district staff, and especially education executives and congregational leaders, so that through them children may be equipped as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Why Send Your Child to a Lutheran School?

Here is a summary of reasons why you should send your child to a Lutheran elementary school. Lutheran schools:

are **driven by a commitment to the Gospel**

and focused on a mission of bringing hope and healing to students and their families.

are **governed by board members who clearly understand their roles**

and focus on the vision and board policies that effectively govern the operation of the school.

meet or exceed state and national academic standards

at all grade levels.

help to **develop a minimum of 30 developmental assets in children.**

have **educators who model visionary leadership.**

They practice stewardship of resources, build up others and empathize with others.

have **educators who model servant leadership.**

Do those served grow as persons; do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants? (Robert Greenleaf)

have **educators who model spiritual leadership.**

They study God's Word, share their personal faith story, apply Law and Gospel appropriately, exhibit a passion for ministry, act courageously, equip God's people for service, care for others, demonstrate integrity, and pray.



Lutheran
Church
Missouri
Synod



CONGRATULATIONS!!

Amanda Marousek and Kristian Hammond were united in the holy estate of marriage August 9 by Pastor Chris.

May God bless their union as husband and wife and their life together grow in Christian love.



**“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain”
– 1 Corinthians 15:58**

Living Each Day As A Steward

On Sundays, Sept. 14 (The Steward's Identity), 21 (The Steward's Purpose) & 28 (The Steward's Lifestyle) the overall theme of our worship services and our Bible studies will be **LIVING EACH DAY AS A STEWARD**. We will learn how the Holy Spirit, working through Word and Sacrament, transforms us to be more like our Chief Steward, Jesus, Who willingly poured out His life in giving and serving, ultimately sacrificing His very life for our eternal lives. Just as Jesus faithfully served His Father by serving us, we are to use our lives and gifts in faithful service to Him by serving others. “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace” (1 Peter 4:10).

As your pastor, I pray that each of you will take advantage of these opportunities to grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord that you might be strengthened in faith both for eternity and for a fruitful life here on earth.

May God grant us strength and wisdom to be the faithful stewards that He has called us to be.

-Pastor Chris Ongstad

STEWARDSHIP

By Patricia Minet (Chairperson)

What is Christian Stewardship? A steward is someone who takes care of what belongs to someone else. Christian stewards recognize that everything really belongs to God - everything we are and everything we have - and that God will hold us accountable for how we use the many gifts He entrusted to our care. If we truly believe this and experience a conversion of heart, we can't help but respond with profound gratitude. This gratitude is expressed in our celebration of the Eucharist (the very word means thanks) and in the way we live our everyday lives.

What does it mean to live the Stewardship way of life? Living each day as a good steward means answering our own personal call from Jesus Christ to be his disciple and following his example of loving service to others.

A Christian steward is described as "One who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord."

Gifts from God are not meant to be hoarded or kept only for our own use, but to be shared with others so everyone has a share in God's abundant graces.

The concept of stewardship dates from the beginning of time, when God entrusted the earth to Adam and Eve and their offspring (cf. Gen. 1:26-28).

All men are stewards of the earth's resources. In a new way, all Christians are stewards of the earth and of the spiritual graces given through Christ's death and Resurrection. We have received not only the earth, but also many spiritual riches to be used to advance the kingdom of God (cf. Lk. 19:11-27). Our Lord expects that we will use all for His glory and the salvation of souls.

Stewardship prayer:

Dear Holy Spirit, be with me as I choose each day to put you first in my life. Let me be a model of Christian Stewardship so others will come to know you through my actions. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SHARE YOUR GIFTS FROM GOD



Stewardship... Live It!



EDUCATION

By Barbara Piekosz (Chairperson)

Thank you all for your generous donations of TIME, TALENTS and TREASURES for "Weird Animals" 2014 Vacation Bible School. Thank you for the donations of items that were sold at the yard sale and also, thank you to all the people who gave of their time to organize, price, set-up and take down the yard sale. WE had a very successful yard sale because of the support of everyone. With your support and encouragement VBS was well attended. We had a total of 50(fifty) unique children attend VBS. 22 (twenty-two) of those children had perfect attendance. There were 30 (thirty) families represented and 10(ten) of those families were families of Congregation Members. We averaged 38 children /evening. Once again, thank you for the support needed to run a successful VBS!

Mark your Calendars for Sunday, September 7th, Christian Education resumes at 9:15 a.m. Welcome to Theresa Boltz who will be teaching Sunday School along with Ivy Bradley and Pamela Rutkowski. Thank you to Ivy Bradley for taking on the responsibility of also being Sunday School Superintendent.

Adult Bible Study will also begin that morning in the Conference room, also at 9:15. There will be a Stewardship Study, the first 3 weeks in September. The women's Bible Study will begin on September

8th (at the Griffin Home) at 4:30. The Tuesday evening Bible study will begin on September 9th at 7:30 p.m. at the church. All three Adult Bible Study groups will be using the Stewardship Study.

Beginning Monday, September 29th, the Women's Bible Study group will begin a study on Angels. Beginning Tuesday, September 30th, the Life Light class will begin the study of the books, Esther and Ruth.

Calling out to all of the Chime Choir Members, and new members. I would like to resume practice on Thursdays from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. beginning Thursday, September 4th. If you are interested in joining please contact, Barb Piekosz (708-389-1759) The nice thing about Chime Choir is that you do not need to know anything about music. All you need is to be willing to learn the fundamentals to play hand chimes. You do not have to read music either, it will be highlighted for you. We need more members! We will play at 8:00 service once a month and at 10:30 service once a month alternating months. Hopefully we will actively participate in the Anniversary Service (Nov. 9th, 3:00p.m.). Please consider coming and giving it a try. Looking forward to seeing previous members as well as new members. Thank you, and looking forward to seeing 11 members on September 4th at 7:30 p.m.

New  **Choir
Members**
Welcome!



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

June 30, 2014

Motion made and approved to accept the May minutes.

Pastor reported that Christopher Caban was baptized June 22, Kaitlyn Shelton was confirmed June 29 and Glen Joseph Love will be baptized July 27.

Treasurer's Report— General Fund is doing well. \$1,300 was taken out of the Memorial Fund for the down payment on the new carpeting. There is approximately \$1100 in the 75th Anniversary Fund. The Trustee's Fund is getting better. A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's report.

Education reported that over \$1,100 was brought in from the Yard Sale for VBS. Sunday School will start Sept. 7. There will be a 3 week stewardship program for all the adult bible classes.

Trustees reported that Nancy Fehser's son donated a Weber gas grill to the church and the Trustees thank him.

Social Ministries reported that a number of local businesses are donating toward the Food Pantry and Community Meal.

Christian Organizations reported that the reception for Kaitlyn Shelton went well.

75th Anniversary Banquet tickets will be sold for \$20 each.

A motion was made and approved to accept Kaitlyn Shelton as a communicant member.

The next Council meeting is Monday, August 11.

THANKS!

Holy Cross thanks the following businesses for supporting our Holy Cross Food Pantry and Community Meal:

"Demon Dawgs"

"Labriola Bread Co."

"Trader Joe's"

"George's Restaurant"

"G & L Auto"

"Walt's Food"

Please patronize these businesses that help Holy Cross help others.

DINNER CLUB

The next Dinner Club will be going to the The Bavarian Lodge located at 1800 Ogden Avenue in Lisle. This is 1/4 mile west of Route 53. The date is Saturday, September 13 at 5:00 p.m. This popular restaurant is known for its many German specialties. A menu is on the bulletin board. If you would like to go, please sign up on the bulletin board. When you sign-up, please note the parking suggestions given on the bottom of the sheet. See Faith Schulz for more information.



This and That ...

Legal issues for Those Caring for Someone with Dementia. Caroline Manley, Staff Attorney at Center for Disability and Elder Law is presenting Sept. 10, 1 PM at PLOWS Council on Aging, 7808 College Dr., Palos Heights 60463. Call PLOWS to register at 708.361.0219. If you are caring for someone with dementia you are invited to attend this legal presentation covering the topics of Power of Attorney for healthcare, Power of Attorney for Property, guardianship, and future planning. There is no charge to attend but seating is limited.

Early Stage Memory Loss Education and Support Program. If you or a loved one is experiencing early stage memory loss, you are invited to join this supportive, informative group. Date and location to be determined. Please contact PLOWS Council on Aging at 708.361.0219 to register or for more information.

Fall Rummage Sale at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 869 S. Sayre Ave., Burbank, IL (2 blocks east of Harlem Ave. on 87th St.) Friday, Oct. 3 9 am to 3 pm and Saturday, Oct.4 9am to Noon.

The Southwest Lutheran Chorus is always looking for singers to join in singing God's praises! A new season is beginning in the month of September under the direction of Ruth Sievers. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings from 7:30—9:00 pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 4041 W. 120th St., Alsip, IL 60803. The first rehearsal will be on Monday, Sept. 8th. For more information, please call the director, Ruth Sievers, 708.952.9902.

Worship for Shut-Ins is a worldwide television ministry. It is sustained by gifts received from individuals, families, churches and other church groups. Since 1980, Lutheran Ministries Media has been producing and distributing its program into hundreds of thousands of homes worldwide, on a weekly basis. Each program is a shortened version (30 minutes) of classic Christian worship.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, On behalf of Group Cares a 501 c3 organization, I would like to thank you for your \$500 to Operation Kid to Kid. Thank you for partnering with us, your donation will not only help children stay healthy, but will allow team members to share the life-changing message of God's love with people who desperately need it. -Tim Gilmour, President.
(*This was Holy Cross's VBS mission for this year.*)



SELC District
of the Lutheran
Church—
Missouri Synod



SERVANTS IN WORSHIP - SEPTEMBER, 2014

DATE	TIME	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTER	GREETER	PROJECTIONIST
07	8:00 am 10:30 am	Bob Long Ron Wedster	James Boltz Tom Griffin	Donna Judd Pam Rutkowski Faith Schulz	Geno Caban Carly Potts Orion Simonson Kaitlyn Shelton	Dorothy Lux Joy Maddox Dorothy Lux Joy Maddox	Nancy Febeer Pauline Griffin Pam Rutkowski Marye Meyer	Sue Boltz Liz & Sue Wilczynski Sue Boltz Liz & Sue Wilczynski	Martha Stevens Theresa Boltz Martha Stevens Theresa Boltz
14	8:00 am 10:30 am	Bob Long Ron Wedster	..... Tom Griffin	..... Faith Schulz	..... Kaitlyn Shelton	..... Joy Maddox	..... Marye Meyer	..... Liz & Sue Wilczynski	..... Theresa Boltz
21	8:00 am 10:30 am	Bob Long Ron Wedster	Jim Boltz Bob Schulz	Joy Maddox Sue Wilczynski Aimee Wilczynski	Chris Caban Carly Potts Geno Caban Kaitlyn Shelton	Dorothy Lux Joy Maddox Dorothy Lux Joy Maddox	Nancy Febeer Pauline Griffin Faith Schulz Donna Mellahn	Sue Boltz Liz & Sue Wilczynski Sue Boltz Liz & Sue Wilczynski	Martha Stevens Theresa Boltz Martha Stevens Theresa Boltz
28	8:00 am 10:30 am	Bob Long Ron Wedster	..... Bob Schulz	..... Aimee Wilczynski	..... Kaitlyn Shelton	..... Joy Maddox	..... Donna Mellahn	Sue Boltz Liz & Sue Wilczynski Sue Boltz Liz & Sue Wilczynski	Martha Stevens Theresa Boltz Martha Stevens Theresa Boltz

*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do,
do it all FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.*
 1 Cor. 10:31

SEPTEMBER 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 Labor Day Church Office Closed Nick Habrelewicz (b)	2 4:30 pm Food Pantry Jennifer Love (b) Johanne Kernahan (b) 4:30pm Food Pantry 7 pm Confirmation	3 Aimee Wilczynski (b) Lindsay Istad (b) 6 pm Search Committee	4 10:00am Srs. Group	5 Pastor's Day Off	6 10:00am Musicians
7 Food Pantry Sunday 8:00am Worship (C) (Traditional) 9:15am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am Worship (Contemporary) Noon CHURCH PICNIC	8 4:30 PM Ladies Bible Class 7:30 PM Church Council	9 5:00 PM Comm. Meal 7:30 PM Lifelight Bible Class	10	11 10:00am Srs. Group Mike Habrelewicz (b)	12 Pastor's Day Off	13 10:00am Musicians Kathy Ridder (b)
14 8:00am Worship (Traditional) 9:15am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am Worship (C)(Contemporary) STEWARDSHIP WEEK 1	15 4:30 PM Ladies Bible Class Marilyn Long (b)	16 7:30 PM Lifelight Bible Class Lily Bradley (b)	17	18 10:00am Srs. Group	19 Pastor's Day Off	20 10:00am Musicians Faith Schulz (b)
21 Disciple Items Due 8:00am Worship (C)(Traditional) 9:15am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am Worship (Contemporary) STEWARDSHIP WEEK 2	22 4:30 PM Ladies Bible Class	23 10 AM Thrivent 7:30 PM Lifelight Bible Class	24	25 10:00am Srs. Group	26 Pastor's Day Off	27 9:30 AM Bd. Of Education 10:00AM Musicians 4:30PM Elders
28 8:00am Worship (Traditional) 9:15am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am Worship (C) (Contemporary) STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT SUNDAY Donna Meilahn (b)	29 4:30 PM Ladies Bible Class Bonnie Wedster (b)	30 7:30 PM Lifelight Bible Class Haley Beukema (b)				

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 soon.**