

# The *Disciple*

Monthly Newsletter of  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

*September*  
*2015*

## Mark Your Calendar

**9.1**

Food Pantry

**9.6**

Food Pantry Sunday

**9.7**

Labor Day

(office closed)

**9.8**

Community Meal

**9.9**

Thrivent Meeting

**9.10**

Stewardship Meeting

**9.14**

Council Meeting

**9.16**

Blake & Lamb Presentation

**9.20**

Voters Meeting

## Empowered by Grace for Faithful Stewardship

A young boy walks into a small drug store and asks the druggist, "May I use the telephone?" The druggist replies, "You certainly may," and shows him where the telephone is. The boy calls a grocery store and asks the man who answers the phone, "Is your grocery store looking for someone to stock the shelves?" The man replies, "No, we already have a stock boy." The boy suggests, "If he isn't doing a good job, maybe you need to get someone who will do a better job." The man replies, "No, we are pleased with the work the boy is doing," so the boy hung up the telephone.

The druggist over-hears the conversation and says to the boy, "I'm sorry you didn't get the job." The boy says, "I don't need a job, because I am the stock boy. I was checking to see what they thought of my work."

What if you could call God to ask Him how He saw your effort in fulfilling the purpose for which He created you? What kind of marks would He give you for being His witness, or how you were doing in your service to others, or how you were doing in your giving? What kind of response would you expect to hear? Would God see you as a person relying on the Holy Spirit to do His will or working in your own strength and giving yourself credit for your successes? When God looks at you, does He see that you acknowledge Him as the source of all that is good? Does He see you seeking to use His strength and wisdom? Would God tell you that He is pleased with the ways you are using the time, talents, and money He has entrusted to you?

*Continued on page 2...*

Article Continued ...

Unfortunately, we all fall well short of God's standards, but, because of what Christ did for us on the Cross, we are forgiven for all the times we have failed to honor God with our behavior and efforts to please Him. By His grace He molds and transforms us into God-pleasing people who seek to please Him. In Christ, we can do God's work well.

Starting on Sunday, September 6, we are offering a stewardship emphasis titled "Empowered by Grace for Faithful Stewardship." We hope and pray that you will participate in both worship services and Bible studies. Bible Studies will meet on Sunday mornings- 9:15 a.m., Monday afternoons (4:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 14) and Tuesday evenings (7:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 7).

In Christ!

Pastor Chris Ongstad and the Stewardship Committee

## 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: [hc-lc@hc-lc.org](mailto:hc-lc@hc-lc.org)

Pastor Chris D. Ongstad

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

Bible Class

Sundays 9:15AAM

Mondays 4:30PM

Tuesdays 7:30PM

# Family Matters

September 2015

## The Balancing Act

Wherever you look in life you see things that have a certain symmetry. Among living things, we can look at flowers, trees and even faces and see that balance. When we write, we like to center our words on the paper. It is pleasing to the eye to have things equal on each side of that imaginary dividing line.

We speak about the balance of nature referring 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 off kilter. Working long hours without a break, a vacation, a day 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 underdo things in just about every aspect of our lives. Having fun, eating, sleeping, watching TV, exercising, spending money and keeping relationships are all places where we can have or do too much or too little. Our bodies do not operate on continuous overload. We cannot drive a car at 100 miles an hour day after day without the necessary maintenance and expect the car to last any length of time. We cannot drive ourselves and expect everything to function the same as we get older.

Pace yourself and be attuned to those little warning bells and whistles that signal it's time for a break (time for maintenance) and time to 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 [lcfs\\_info@lcfs.org](mailto:lcfs_info@lcfs.org) or 800-363-LCFS (5237).

Discover LCFS  
*LCFS Clinical Services*



Lutheran Child and  
Family Services of Illinois



*LCFS Clinical Services*

## THIS AND THAT

### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

WE COMMEND TO GOD Eleanor Thiele who entered the church victorious, July 25. Her body was laid to rest July 31 at Chapel Hill Gardens South. Eleanor was 101 years old. "Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them." Revelation 14:13 (NIV).

JOHANNE AND CAROL KERNAHAN have asked and received transfer from Holy Cross to Trinity Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV.

PLEASE don't volunteer to those outside the church the phone numbers of members without their permission. This is a privacy issue.

### A BLESSED THANK YOU

Dear brothers and sisters: We want to thank our Holy Cross family for the many expressions of love and hope you showed us after the passing of our son Michael. Your support during our time of sorrow will always be remembered.

God Bless,

Tom and Pauline Griffin

**There is nothing – not even death – that can separate us from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)**

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES HILITES

June 8, 2015

- A motion was made and approved to accept the May minutes.
- PASTOR'S REPORT– the church office hours have changed this month, open Monday through Friday, 8am to noon.
- TREASURER'S REPORT– there was a small gain to the General Fund. The cleaner donations are low. A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report.
- ELDER'S REPORT– this Sunday, in addition to the Communion Wine, diluted wine be offered. The New & Enhanced Ministry recommended to the Elders that we apply for a Director of Christian Outreach intern.
- EVEANGELISM REPORT– Terry & Nancy Fehser are the only members of this board so they will meet with New & Enhanced Ministry.
- EDUCATION REPORT– THE Yard Sale is June 13. There will be a VBS meeting on June 20 at 1pm. The live dwarf evergreen tree being purchased will be planted by one of our members.
- TRUSTEES REPORT– the landscaping lights need replacing which may cost approximately \$200. Still looking into parking lot repair.
- SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT– there are more people at the Tuesday Food Pantry. Pat & Joan will start a ministry for homeless by supplying backpacks with non-perishables, water, wipes, other essentials, a New Testament Bible ([myfreebible.org](http://myfreebible.org) 1 free per person). The bibles can be purchased for one dollar each if ordering a quantity.
- NEW BUSINESS REPORT– The following motions were made and approved:
  1. To bring **George Meyers into membership June 28.**
  2. To recommend to the Voters to **apply for a Director of Christian Outreach intern** (to be paid from the NEM Fund). Note: Not many are available per year.
  3. To recommend to the Voters a **Marriage Policy** to be Included in our bylaws.
- The next Council meeting is August 17 at 7:30pm, the next Voters' meeting is September 20.

## **Board of Christian Education**

By Pauline Griffin

There are a lot of people searching for “human wisdom.” Whether it is through the education system or human philosophy—whatever it may be, it’s all foolishness in God’s eyes, as 1 Corinthians 3:18-20 says. That’s *not* to say we don’t bother with education, but just to recognize that Godly wisdom is more desirable. What should we be running after, and desiring above all else? Proverbs 8:10-11 speaks of God’s Wisdom being better than rubies or pearls, and there is nothing to be compared. You cannot learn Godly wisdom in a University and get a degree in it. It can only come to a heart in right relationship with God, and by seeking it. The Holy Spirit that dwells within us leads us into all truth. *“For the [Holy] Spirit searches diligently, exploring and examining everything, even sounding the profound and bottomless things of God.”* (v.10) (excerpts from a devotion ©By M.S. Lowndes)

The Holy Spirit leads us into all truth of God’s Wisdom through hearing, reading and studying God’s Holy Word. This September/October we will begin Sunday School, Youth Bible Study, and Adult Bible Studies. I pray you will prayerfully consider bringing your children, grandchildren, etc. to Sunday School and Youth Bible Study AND sign yourself up for one of the Bible Studies that are being offered.

## **Biblical Stewardship**


By Pat Minet

The vision for stewardship in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is that the stewardship culture in every congregation would be one where every professional church worker, every man, women, and child would know that they are God’s steward by His grace, live as His disciples, and manage the gifts He entrusts to them with joy and generosity—all so that His purposes would be accomplished and His mission enhanced.

Christian stewardship is defined as the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.

What is Your Gift?

We need to consider if we are using the gifts God has given us in a way that pleases and honors him. This is a hard question to ask if you don’t know what God has gifted you to do. If you are uncertain about what the Lord has called you to do., . First, ask him to show you! In James 1:5 we’re told that if we lack wisdom, we should ask God, and it will be given to us. So that’s the first step!




And the second is  
like unto it, Thou  
shalt love thy  
neighbor as thyself.

– Romans 8:30

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

Doris Kracht  
Marylin Long  
Joe Bradley  
Kathy Ridder  
Rita Joyce  
Jeanne Simovic  
Edna Wendt  
Erna Sherman  
Bob Long  
Faith Schulz  
John Knoska



## **‘We are for life, no matter the cost’**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We logged on to the Internet and Facebook yesterday only to be hit with a sickening story: undercover video footage seemingly implicating Planned Parenthood in the sale of the body parts of aborted children.

In the video, Planned Parenthood Federation of America’s Senior Director of Medical Services, Dr. Deborah Nucatola, discusses how she adjusts abortion procedures to procure certain parts of a child’s body, even as she notes that “we’ve been very good at getting heart, lung, liver.”

Listen long enough, if you can handle it, and you’ll hear her suggest that such items could eventually be listed on a Planned Parenthood “menu” for affiliate organizations to purchase for a price.

Later in the day, Planned Parenthood released a “nothing to see here” kind of statement, asserting that the discussion was merely one revolving around a patient’s right to donate tissue, as with any medical procedure. But why does Nucatola then mention the costs of body parts (“Thirty to one hundred dollars,” she says)?

Lord, have mercy.

If what Nucatola says is, in fact, the truth, we as Christians cannot allow this story to go untold or be buried by the media. We simply cannot remain silent while the reprehensible act of killing a child in the womb is made even worse by selling portions of that child’s dismembered body simply because there is a market for them.

Speaking up about the shameful act of killing children — as well as harvesting their body parts — may be uncomfortable. We may lose friends and create awkward tension at work. Our professors may mock us, and our family may roll their eyes at us. If that is the case, so be it. Because as Lutherans, as Christians, we are for life, no matter the cost.

As Lutherans, we confess that every life has value, that it has worth, that it matters ... from the moment of conception until natural death occurs. We confess that what Nucatola calls “17-weekers” are actually children — with beating hearts and little moving fingers and toes.

We confess that even the tiniest of humans are just that — regardless of what scientific term the culture uses to make them seem like something less. We confess that they are created in the image and likeness of our Lord Himself. And we confess that because of Him, their hearts and lungs and livers matter, no matter how small they might be.

We also admit our own failings in this regard. Where we have failed to speak and act for life, we repent. Where we have not cared for mothers in crisis-pregnancy situations, we ask for forgiveness. Where we have thought more of ourselves than giving to an organization that can assist those moms and babies, we are sorry. Where we have been apathetic to this pandemic of death, we grieve.

But we are not without hope, because our Lord is for life too.

He is so pro-life, in fact, that He has given His own life for us, even as He has laid it down for these tiniest of children. Where their short lives are taken, He offers up His willingly. Where their little bodies are sold, He gives His freely to us at His holy table for the forgiveness of our sins.

Today let us confess life with renewed vigor — to our friends over supper, through letters to the editor of our local paper, by writing our congressmen, in tweets and emails to Planned Parenthood, on our Facebook pages.

Let us pray that our Lord would bring an end to abortion altogether and that He would stop the horrible sale of infant bodies.

And let us pray that He would forgive us, renew us and bolster us to make a good confession in season and out of season: one that is always, no matter what, for life.

Rev. Bart Day, executive director

Life and Health Ministries

LCMS Office of National Mission

## **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Nick Habrelewicz (1)  
Johanne Kernahan (2)  
Jennifer Love (2)  
Lindzay Istad (3)  
Aimee Wilczynski (3)  
Mike Habreleziex (11)  
Kathy Ridder (13)  
Marilyn Long (15)  
Lily Bradley (16)  
Faith Schulz (20)  
Donna Meilahn (28)  
Bonnie Wedster (29)  
Haley Beukema (30)

## **SEPTEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

James & Susan Boltz (4)  
Pam & Mark Rutkowski (7)  
Donna & John Judd (15)  
Liz & Stan Wilczynski (20)

## **SEPTEMBER BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES**

Ryan Rummery (3)  
Billie Salzman (6)  
James M. Bahr (17)  
Nick Habrelewicz (29)  
Robert Hammond (29)

## **A HEARTFELT THANK YOU**

I would like to thank everyone for their kind and caring prayers and concerns for my mother after her accident, your prayers and expressions of sympathy at the time of her passing. Holy Cross is truly a loving family and I am honored to be part of it.

Thank you

Jim Boltz

## **DINNER CLUB**

The next Dinner Club will be going to Capri Ristorante Italiano on Saturday, September 26 at 5:00 p.m. The restaurant is located at 12307 S. Harlem in Palos Heights. The menu can be viewed on the bulletin board along with a sign-up sheet. Please see Faith Schulz for more information.

## **WORSHIP FOR SHUTINS**

Watch "Worship for Shut-Ins" nationwide on TCT (Directv Channel 377 at 10:30 am. For the complete broadcast schedule and to watch "Worship for Shut-Ins" programs on demand any time visit LMMinc.org. As a personal note- when vacationing and there was no Lutheran church available within miles, Joyce and I watched "Worship for Shut-Ins" via the internet and were blessed by the worship service.

## **SWLC**

The Southwest Lutheran Chorus welcomes you to join them on Mondays at 7:30pm, beginning September 14. If you have any questions call Jeanne Simovic (708) 422-0721. or Ruth Sievers (708) 952-9902. No auditions or previous experience required.

## **EVANGELISM WORD**

Mark 7: 1-13: Too many people, like the Pharisees, worship God in vain because they follow human rules and regulations before God's Word. Only those who believe in and worship Jesus as the Son of God and the one who can save them from sin, death and the power of the devil will be saved. How can we who have been saved by the miraculous working of the Holy Spirit keep silent while others are pursuing false, man-made beliefs or religions? At times, even our lengthiest conversations can seem to get nowhere. The same objections and questions continue to be raised. One way to determine the root of the issue is to simply ask: "Is there anything you're afraid you'd have to change or give up if you were to become a Christian?" See how God uses this question to give you an opportunity to respond to the real issue that keeps them from believing in Jesus - and then offer to pray about it.

## SEPTEMBER 2015

*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 Food Pantry 7:30PM Elders Meeting  Nick Habrelewicz (b)	<b>2</b>  Johanne Kernahan (b) Jennifer Love (b)	<b>3</b> 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering  Lindzay Istad (b) Aimee Wilczynski (b)	<b>4</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>5</b> 10:00AM Musicians 10:30AM Food Pantry
<b>6 FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY</b> 8:00AM Worship/Traditional/Comm. 9:15AM Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemp.	<b>7 LABOR DAY</b> (Church office Closed)	<b>8</b> 4:30PM Community Meal	<b>9</b> 7:00PM Thrivent Meeting	<b>10</b> 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering 12:30PM Stewardship Meeting	<b>11</b> Pastor's Day Off  Mike Habrelewicz (b)	<b>12</b> 10:00AM Musicians 10:30AM Food Pantry
<b>13</b> 8:00AM Worship/Traditional 9:15AM Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemp./Comm.  Kathy Ridder (b)	<b>14</b> 7:30PM Council Meeting 7:30PM Southwest Chorus	<b>15</b>  Marilyn Long (b)	<b>16</b> 7:00PM Funeral Info Blake & Lamb Presentation  Lily Bradley (b)	<b>17</b> 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering	<b>18</b> Pastor's Day Off  12:00PM Sock Hop	<b>19</b> 10:00AM Musicians 10:30AM Food Pantry
<b>20 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b> 8:00AM Worship/Traditional/Comm 9:15AM Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemp. 11:45AM Voters Meeting  Faith Schulz (b)	<b>21</b> 7:30PM Southwest Chorus	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering	<b>25</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>26</b> 8:30AM Bd. Of Education 10:00AM Musicians 10:30AM Food Pantry
<b>27 COMMITMENT SUNDAY</b> 8:00AM Worship/Traditional 9:15AM Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemp./Comm.	<b>28</b> 7:30PM Southwest Chorus  Donna Meilahn (b)	<b>29</b>  Bonnie Wedster (b)	<b>30</b>  Haley Beukema (b)			

**RELAX AND HAVE A BLESSED LABOR DAY WEEKEND!!!**

## SERVANTS IN WORSHIP - September, 2015

DATE	TIME	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LECTOR	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTER	GREETER	PROJECTIONIST
6	8:00 am	Jim Boltz	Terry Vrshek	Donna Judd	Joy Maddox	Terry & Carole Vrshek	Joy Maddox	Mike Meilahn
	10:30 am	Bob Schulz		Donna Meilahn	Dorothy Lux		Liz Wilczynski	Pam Rutkowski
13	8:00 am	Martha Stevens			Joy Maddox	Dorothy Lux Doris Kracht	Joy Maddox	Mike Meilahn
	10:30 am	Bob Schulz	Tom Griffin	Liz Wilczynski	Dorothy Lux		Liz Wilczynski	Pam Rutkowski
20	8:00 am	Martha Stevens	Jim Boltz	Joy Maddox	Joy Maddox	Pauline Griffin Nancy Fehser	Joy Maddox	Mike Meilahn
	10:30 am	Bob Schulz		Sue Wilczynski	Dorothy Lux		Liz Wilczynski	Pam Rutkowski
27	8:00 am	Martha Stevens			Joy Maddox	Donna Meilahn Faith Schulz	Joy Maddox	Mike Meilahn
	10:30 am	Bob Schulz	Jim Bahr	Aimee Wilczynski	Dorothy Lux		Liz Wilczynski	Pam Rutkowski

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

