

October 2014



The Disciple

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A MODERN REFORMATION

Proclaiming the reformation Gospel axiom of Scripture alone, Faith alone and Grace alone is something we do with our lives as well as our words—in how we make decisions, in how we use our resources and in how we relate to others.

In the year 1517, on the evening before All Saints, the Castle Church in Wittenberg was prepared for the festival services to be held the next day. Inside the church, 19,000 relics were laid out to be adored by the arriving throng of worshipers.

Outside the church doors, however, a different preparation was under way. There Dr. Martin Luther was busy posting his 95 Theses. This was a courageous act, for he was calling the Church to repentance.

Within two weeks, he not only debated his position in Wittenberg but had his theses translated from Latin into German to be distributed throughout the land.

If Luther were alive today, the title of his theses would be different too. In 1517, they were entitled, "Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences." Luther was challenging the idea that one could buy his way into heaven. While the Church no longer resorts to raising money through the sale of an indulgence, perhaps Luther would take aim at the lack of vigilance our modern Church has in protecting and proclaiming the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Remembering the Reformation should make us a little bit uncomfortable because the Church in every generation is in need of self-reflection and correction. What needs reforming in our lives and in our congregations?

*From Rev. Steven Borst
The Lutheran Witness*

Church Events

- Oct. 5- Food Pantry Sunday
- Oct. 6– Church Carpeting installation
- Oct. 7– Food Pantry
- Oct. 13– Columbus Day
- Oct. 14– Community Meal
- Oct. 19– Voters' Meeting
- Oct. 26– Chicagoland Reformation Service, Merrillville, IN
- Oct. 31– Trunk or Treat
- October—buy 75th Anniversary banquet tickets.

DO I HAVE TO GO TO CHURCH?

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE IS DOWN

Christian stewardship involves prioritizing time for regular worship attendance. How often do Americans attend religious services other than weddings and funerals? Pew Research Center for the People and the Press reports the following statistics:

- * Once a week or more - 40%
- * Seldom never - 24%
- * Few times per year - 19%
- * Once or twice a month - 17%

In declining congregations the majority of regular attenders in the 40 percentile are 45 and over. It seems some younger members have adopted the stance: "I don't have to go to church to be a Christian." Many of them claim to be Christians. They pray. They claim the Christian traits of repentance, saving faith in Christ and the intention to amend their lives. Then why don't they round out their life-style by regularly attending worship services?

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE STUMBLING BLOCKS

Stumble-bum # 1 - "I'm very busy." There are those not opposed to attending worship services. However, a busy life-style robs their available time. It's work time/school time five days a week and Saturdays loaded with household/family responsibilities. Add to this the social/recreational activities and there seems to be little time for worship time.

SOLUTION

Prioritize! Manage time to make time! The Third Commandment (Exodus 20:8-11 & Deut.5:12-15) demands it. Skipping worship without a legitimate reason is a sin to be confessed and removed. Get rid of the bad business of too much "busy-ness" by removing some nonessentials. "Seek FIRST His kingdom and His righteousness!" (Matt. 6:33a) If you are too busy to go to Church you are too busy.

Stumble-you # 2 - "Church is boring." Some find the rote of ritual unappealing. Others complain

about "sleepy" sermons and that the choir, music and congregational singing have shortcomings.

SOLUTION

Don't go to worship expecting perfection! A negative attitude only begets more negativity. Go to church with a positive attitude believing you'll be blessed in some way, and you will be. A worship service is not mere entertainment. It involves not only "getting" but also "giving". During worship we not only receive God's Word, Sacraments and Absolution, we also give of ourselves by worshipping God, witnessing to others, reaching out in love, sharing each other in fellowship and presenting our tithes and offerings. Make worship exciting by going to church with a positive attitude to receive God's blessings and give of yourself.

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

God loves you in Christ & you love Him!

Our heavenly Father loves worship!

Jesus is present in Holy Communion!

The Holy Spirit empowers with His Word!

Pastor comforts with holy Absolution!

The power of prayer is present!

We audibly share our faith in word and song!

Christians surround us to love and be loved!

Opportunity is given to offer our time,
treasure and talents!

WORDS TO REMEMBER

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another." (Heb. 10:25)

"Where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them." (Matt. 18:20) "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." (Exodus 20:8)



Family Matters

Lutheran Child & Family Services

Are You Really Listening?

“Look at me when I’m talking to you.” The speaker (most often an exasperated parent speaking to a child) is also saying, “pay attention, this is important, be respectful of me and what I have to say.” When someone tells you that you are not listening to what is being said, he/she may be observing that while your body is there, your thoughts are somewhere else.

Most often you want others to pay attention and be respectful when you speak. How well do you return the favor? Are you listening as well as you could? Following are a few suggestions on how to be more attentive:

- **Turn off the phone.** Conversations are livelier and more meaningful when they are not competing with your phone, a TV or other distractions.
- **Look at the speaker.** Pausing from your activity and looking at the speaker conveys the message, “I am listening. I care enough to stop what I was doing and pay attention.” (If listening to a child, try getting down to his/her level.)
- **Focus on the speaker.** Stop thinking about what you are going to do when the conversation is over.
- **Hear the person out.** This situation can be especially difficult when the message is about you and it is something you don’t want to hear. Interrupting, ignoring or walking out are not helpful ways to deal with this uncomfortable moment.
- **Acknowledge that you are listening.** During the conversation give an occasional nod of the head or an “uh-huh” to convey you’re listening.
- **Comment on what the speaker said.** “Good idea.” “I’m glad you told me.”

Listening to others is one of the finest gifts you can give. It tells them they are important and that you care enough about them to hear what they have to say.

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 contact LCFS at lcfs_info@lcfs.org or 800-363-LCFS (5237).



REFLECTING God’s Love

By Billie Salzman

In the July-Sept. 2014 issue of the Portals of Prayer we read a prayer with the title, FOR RIGHT SERVICE OF GOD. This prayer refers to St. Paul’s letter to Titus in Chapter 3 where God reminds us “to be subject to rulers and authorities and to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.”

God our Savior, by His mercy and grace, saves us, and we are renewed by the Holy Spirit, and in Titus 3:8 we read, “This is a trustworthy saying, and I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. “ How does this apply to us?

The members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church welcome the community to join us in worship and educational activities in our Sunday School and Bible Classes. In addition, through the efforts of many, we continue to serve the area with the free community meals and the two food pantries. We encourage families to bring their children to our fun and safe activities such as Vacation Bible School, Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk or Treat, Christmas Craft/tree trimming party.

Let us here at Holy Cross Church continue to REFLECT GOD’S LOVE TO EVERYONE.

The Prayer:

Heavenly Spirit, I am grateful to you for bringing me to faith in Jesus Christ, my Savior.

The Apostle Paul admonished Christians that out of gratitude we should “be careful to devote ourselves to good works” (Titus 3:8). Grant this day that I reflect the love of God in all my dealings with those I meet by proclaiming Your Word and reflecting Christ’s love for all mankind. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen

Announcements

- **PUT YOUR BEST** (appropriate) **COSTUME ON FOR TRUNK OR TREAT** at Holy Cross Oct. 31 beginning at 3 p.m. Bring a trunk of candy for the little neighborhood children and let them see the love of Christ in you. This is always a fun time for our neighbors and us. So sign up!
- **CAN YOU LIFT A CHAIR???** If so, than can you help us Oct. 5 after late worship move out sanctuary chairs in preparation for the new carpeting that will be installed the following day? We could surely use your help for an hour or two (maybe less).
- **THE DINNER CLUB** will be going to the Warsaw Inn on Saturday, October 18 at 5:00. The restaurant is located at 2180 Glenwood Dyer Road in Lynwood. The menu can be seen on the bulletin board along with the sign-up sheet. Please see Faith Schulz for more information.
- **DID YOU HAND IN YOUR 2015 COMMITMENT FORM YET?** You say you didn't? Well, the good news is—YOU STILL CAN! Just drop off your filled out form at the church office as soon as possible. *Good Stewards look for ways they can serve God and others.*
- **FOOD PANTRY**—Need peanut butter, saltines, dried fruit and canned mixed vegetables. Beginning 9/28/14 there will no longer be food available for pickup on

Sundays. Instead, this left over food from Saturday's Food Pantry will be donated to Restoration Ministries Shelter.

- **CHICAGOLAND SELC JOINT REFORMATION WORSHIP** will be held Oct. 26, 3 p.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 8061 East Lincoln Highway, Crown Point, IN. Rev. Dr. Bergmann will preach. A luncheon will follow. Why not go?
- **VOTERS' MEETING** for all members 18 years and older will happen Oct. 19 after late worship service. We will be electing SELC District officials including president and Circuit Visitor (formerly Circuit Counselor) among others.

NEW MEMBERS JOIN HOLY CROSS

On September 21 six new members joined Holy Cross. All of them attended an intergenerational confirmation class. This means that there were those in Jr. High and older to adults that attended. This range in age gave an unusual opportunity for spirited dialogue from different age perspectives not found in either all youth or all adult classes. The new members include the Simonson family (Curtis, Michelle, Geno, Onon and Chris) and Robert Hammond. Curtis teaches and coaches football at Argo high school, Michelle works as a hair stylist and speaks at Women's Expos, Robert works in landscaping and is studying diesel mechanics. We pray that God will bless these families as they join the Holy Cross family with many years of service in Christ's name.



Front (L to R): Chris Caban, Onon Simonson, Geno Caban
Back (L to R): Michelle Simonson, Curtis Simonson



Robert Hammond

What Church Members are saying about:

Living Each Day As A Steward

WHAT DOES “LIVING EACH DAY AS A STEWARD” MEAN TO YOU?

“Worshipping and praising God as He should be glorified. Bringing people to faith that didn’t know Jesus as their Savior. Spreading God’s word by reading the Bible yourself or (with) others. Sharing (with) others the love you have for your Savior.” - *Chris Fuller*

“Living each day as a steward, means giving back to God each and every day, and when help is needed, be it time, talent or treasure, give to the best of your ability. Don’t wait to be asked, just jump in and do it. Leading by good example is also a good way to pass on to others “living each day as a steward.”” - *Pat Minet*

“Doing the best I can with what I know how to do and step in when help is needed.”—*George Minet*

WHAT ARE YOU PRESENTLY, PERSONALLY DOING FOR GOOD STEWARDSHIP?

“Contribute to the Lutheran Hour, Lutheran World Relief and other charities that help those in need.” - *Bob Long*

“Presently and personally helping those in need, be it through the food pantry or the community meal. Also stepping up whenever my help is needed. Giving of extra treasures using different ways of obtaining extra money.” - *Pat Minet*

“Presently I clean where I see cleaning needs to be done, pick up garbage outside and emptying garbage cans. I clean up after church functions, shop for the food pantry and help out at the community meals and food pantry.” - *George Minet*

“Over a period of many years I brought my cousin to faith in Jesus Christ (his whole family had been atheist). By leading worship with my music to glorify my lord Savior and bringing my friends to church.” - *Chris Fuller*

“I like to think of Holy Cross Lutheran church as one of God’s temples. It should be kept looking as good as we can make it. The outside is the first impression people have of our congregation. I have found that working with other members of our congregation has made my faith stronger and developed friendships within our church. God has provided many new members to serve, including the food pantry, the community meals, caring for the property and worshiping with us. We can do whatever it takes to help someone in need. It may be a ride, help with repairs, sharing cooking for the community meals, picking up something from the store or providing care...” - *Anonymous*

SERVANTS IN WORSHIP - OCTOBER, 2014

DATE	TIME	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTER	GREETER	PROJECTIONIST
05	8:00 am 10:30 am	Martha Stevens Bob Schulz	TBA	Donna Judd Donna Mellahn	Onon Simonson Carly Potts	Martha Stevens Carole Vrshek	Terry B Carole Vrshek	Donna Judd Aimee B Sue Wilczynski	Scott Vrshek Pam Rutkowski
12	8:00 am 10:30 am	Martha Stevens Bob Schulz	Faith Schulz	Chris Caban Kaitlyn Shelton	Martha Stevens Carole Vrshek	Dorothy Lux Doris Kracht	Donna Judd Aimee B Sue Wilczynski	Scott Vrshek Pam Rutkowski
19	8:00 am 10:30 am	Martha Stevens Bob Schulz	TBA TBA	Joy Maddox Sue Wilczynski	Gene Caban Carly Potts	Martha Stevens Carole Vrshek	Donna Mellahn Faith Schulz	Donna Judd Aimee B Sue Wilczynski	Scott Vrshek Pam Rutkowski
26	8:00 am 10:30 am	Martha Stevens Bob Schulz TBA	Aimee Wilczynski	Onon Simonson Kaitlyn Shelton	Martha Stevens Carole Vrshek	Nancy Faerber Pauline Griffin	Donna Judd Aimee B Sue Wilczynski	Scott Vrshek Pam Rutkowski

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

OCTOBER 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
5 Food Pantry Sunday 8:00am Worship (C) (Traditional) 9:15am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am Worship (Contemporary) Noon Prepare Church for carpeting.	6 7:30 PM Southwest Chorus Church Carpet Install Joy Maddox (b)	7 4:30 pm Food Pantry 7:30 PM Lifelight Bible Class	8	9 10:00am Srs. Group	10 Pastor's Day Off	11 10:00am Musicians
12 8:00am Worship (Traditional) 9:15am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am Worship (Contemporary)	13 4:30 PM Ladies Bible Class 7:30 PM Southwest Chorus Columbus Day	14 5:00 PM Comm. Meal 7:30 PM Lifelight Bible Class	15	16 10:00am Srs. Group	17 Pastor's Day Off	18 10:00am Musicians
19 Disciple Items Due 8:00am Worship (C)(Traditional) 9:15am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am Worship (C)(Contemporary) 11:45am VOTERS MEETING	20 4:30 PM Ladies Bible Class 7:30 PM Southwest Chorus 7:30PM Church Council Kaitlyn Shelton (20)	²¹ 7:30 PM Lifelight Bible Class	22 3 PM Evangelism 4:30 PM NEM	23 10:00am Srs. Group Theresa Boltz (b)	24 Pastor's Day Off	25 9:30 AM Bd. Of Education 10:00AM Musicians Ken Rheinwald (b)
26 Reformation Sunday 8:00am Worship (Traditional) 9:15am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am Worship (C) (Contemporary) 3PM Resurrection, Merrillville, IN Joint <u>ChicagoLand SELC Reformation Service</u>	27 4:30 PM Ladies Bible Class 7:30 PM Southwest Chorus	28 7:30 PM Lifelight Bible Class Amanda Marousek (b)	29 Susan Wilczynski (b)	30 9AM Stewardship	31 3PM Trunk or Treat Halloween	

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 for the banquet following the service are on sale now.** Please contact Barbara Plekosz, Pauline Griffin or Dorothy Lux for ticket purchase.