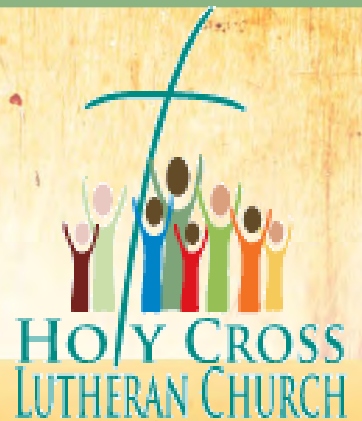


The DISCIPLE



October 2015

GOD'S JUSTICE FOR US IS JESUS

Dear Friends of Holy Cross, this month of October we do a lot of remembering with some of the biggest American celebrations right around the corner. Secular and sacred celebrations like Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas soon will overwhelm our thoughts and empty our pocket books. But in contrast, not nearly the hype is reserved for Reformation Day, October 31. Reformation Day is kind of forgotten. Who sends a text or email message, much less mail a card to their friends and relatives with the words, "Happy Reformation Day"? Who buys gifts to exchange and puts them under a model of the Wittenberg Castle door complete with 95 theses written in German? Who invites others over for a Reformation dinner? Is Reformation day even printed on your calendar? Clearly, the world doesn't exult in this day.

Does the world have it right by ignoring this festival day? Are all we are doing here then just acting out an old tradition... remembering a dead reformer named Martin Luther ... and on Reformation Sunday participating in a yearly ritual devoid of any present meaning? If so, then let's stop it right here and now. We have more important things to do then relive a time of the middle-ages. We have more pressing needs- like bringing justice to our land. After all, many people feel that justice is not happening in America. Violence and shootings predominate on Twitter's breaking news with notifications, if we let them, popping up daily to remind us that evil has its sway and often the evil doer gets away with it. What can the Reformation begun in 1517 have to do with any of this?

People today are crying out for justice. But all many see is a wrathful God. They hear of highway snipers, feel the pain of losing loved ones to cancer and hear of yet other terrorist murders. They see thousands of war refugees. The world watches and wonders- where is God, where is justice? What possibly, could the Lutheran Reformation have to do with this?

Continued page 2

Mark Your Calendar

10.3

LWML Meeting

10.4

FOOD PANTRY
SUNDAY

10.5-7

SELC Board of Directors

10.6

Food Pantry

10.6-7

Western Circuit Conference

10.8

Elders Meeting

10.13

Community Meal

10.15

Stewardship Meeting

10.19

Church Council Meeting

10.31

HALLOWEEN
Trunk or Treat

Continued from pg.1

Here's part of the connection. Luther himself felt the pressure of somehow connecting a merciful God with a just God. Luther wrote, *"But I felt that before God I was a sinner with an extremely troubled conscience. I couldn't be sure that God was appeased by my satisfaction. I did not love, no, rather I hated the just God who punishes sinners. In silence, if I did not blaspheme, then certainly I grumbled vehemently and got angry at God. I said, 'Isn't it enough that we miserable sinners, lost for all eternity because of original sin, are oppressed by every kind of calamity through the Ten commandments? Why does God heap sorrow upon sorrow through the Gospel and through the Gospel threaten us with His justice and His wrath?'"* Luther hated these words from the Bible, *"There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"* (Romans 3:23). So, even if it is to be admitted that God is just- then that leaves us all facing the same wrath of God and we are no better off for we are all sinners.

But God sent to us a heavenly Reformer- one who would reform the sin broken connection we have with God. He would at once be the victim and the priest. The injustice of God's wrath would be meted out upon His body and soul. He could have complained that it's not fair that He- the pure, innocent, holy Son of the most high God should have to suffer and be crucified for condemned mankind. But Jesus Christ didn't, because He and the Father's will was the same- to make God's pardon of sinful man just. As our text states, *"all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."* (Romans 3:24)

Justified by grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ has to be the very best words we have ever heard. We rejoice in St. Paul's text, *"But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe."* These words mean no more attempting to get right by our feeble actions - no more frustration in meeting God's perfect requirements, that we can attain to the glory of God through faith and faith alone in Jesus Christ. We have forgiveness and victory over Satan and sin through faith alone. We are certain inheritors of the heavenly kingdom through belief in Jesus Christ alone. Later, Luther would write how much this understanding of God's justice meant to him. He said, "I exalted this sweetest word of mine, "the jus-

tice of God," with as much love as before I had hated it with hate. This phrase of Paul was for me the very gate of paradise."

I join with you in this month of October thanking God that he truly is for you and for me, a just God. I join with you in trumpeting to the ends of heaven our praise to the Lord for this great truth. But I also challenge you, as well as myself, to a renewed determination to spread as far and wide as possible the knowledge of this God, and the salvation that is ours through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Spread that Word until, like Martin Luther, and like thousands of other believers who have gone before, we too finally join the great throng of believers gathered before the throne of the Lamb who say, "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive . . . honor and glory and praise" (Rev 5: 12).

Worthy is the Lamb!
Pastor Chris Ongstad



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

Email: hcld@hc-lc.org

Pastor Chris D. Ongstad

Worship-8:00am & 10:30am Sundays
Sunday School/Bible Class 9:15am

WORTH TOWNSHIP YOUTH COMMISSION'S
FALL PROGRAMS
11601 SOUTH PULASKI ALSIP IL

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Danielle Beukema (2)
 Joy Maddox (6)
 Kaitlyn Shelton (20)
 Theresa Boltz (23)
 Ken Rheinwald (25)
 Amanda Hammond (28)
 Susan Wilczynski (29)

OCTOBER BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Kathy Ridder (7) Chris Fuller (26)
 Faith Schulz (7) Bonnie Wedster (27)
 Alisa Bahr (9) Amanda Hammond (28)
 Susan Boltz (12) Bruce McGlin (30)
 Joy Maddox (20)
 Mike Hablewicz (23)

OCTOBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Ken & Mona Dempsey (2)
 Tom & Rita Joyce (4)
 Mike & Dorota Hablewicz (20)

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY WITH HEALTH CONCERNS

Mary Tumas Rita Joyce
 Doris Kracht Jeanne Simovic
 Marilyn Long Edna Wendt
 Joe Bradley Erna Sherman
 Kathy Ridder Bob Long
 Faith Schulz John Knoska
 George Minet Barbara Piekosz

American Red Cross Babysitting

Ages 11 & Up
 Tuesday & Thursdays
 August 18 - November 1
 4:00pm - 6:00pm
 \$75.00 Fee

"Game Nights"

Ages 6 - 12
 Wednesdays
 September 30 - November 4
 6:00pm - 7:30pm
 \$30.00 Fee

Dodgeball

Ages 11-15
 Tuesdays
 September 29 - November 3
 6:30pm - 7:30pm
 \$30.00 Fee

Play Time

Ages 3 - 5
 Wednesdays
 September 30 - November 4
 1:00pm - 2:30pm
 \$30.00 Fee

Open Gym

Ages 1-5 from 1:00pm - 2:30pm Mondays
 Ages 6-10 from 3:30pm - 5:30pm Mondays
 Ages 11-15 from 3:30pm - 5:30pm Wednesdays
 September 28 - November 9
 \$3.00 Drop in Fee

Finger Painting/Play Dough

Ages 3 - 6
 Tuesdays
 September 29 - November 3
 1:00pm - 2:30pm
 \$30.00 Fee

Lego Mania

Ages 6 - 12
 Wednesdays
 September 30 - November 4
 6:00pm - 7:30pm
 \$30.00 Fee

Jr. Arts & Crafts

Ages 6 - 11
 Thursdays
 October 1 - November 5
 6:30pm - 7:30pm
 \$40.00 Fee

P.E. Time

Ages 3- 5
 Thursdays
 October 1 - November 1
 1:00pm - 2:30pm
 \$30.00 Fee

**For further information or any questions please contact them at:
youthcommission@wothtownship.com or 708-371-2900.**



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES HILITES

- A motion was made and approved to accept the June minutes.
- PASTOR'S REPORT - A graveside memorial for Mary Tumas was officiated by Pastor Bergman, and Eleanor Thiel's funeral was conducted by her daughter's Pastor. George Meyer was welcomed into membership on June 28.
- TREASURER'S REPORT- Tom had to borrow \$2,000 from the Working Cash Fund and the same amount from the NEM Fund. The Food Pantry Fund is doing well. So far \$550 of the VBS fund will be transferred to the General Fund for the next month (VBS expenses). A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report.
- ELDER'S REPORT - A motion was made and approved to hold a Funeral Education session by Blake & Lamb on Wednesday September 16 at 7pm.
- EDUCATION REPORT- The 2015 VBS had more children than last year, a total of 67. Daily attendance was 47 (37 families). 28 members volunteered and Barb is thankful to them. 70 people attended the picnic (staff & families). This year \$700 was donated by members (last year \$563). The Yard Sale fund raiser total was \$828.01. The Stewardship classes start Sept. 8.
- TRUSTEE'S REPORT- A motion was made approved to pay no higher than \$750 for the parking lot work.
- SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT- For a thank you to all the food pantry volunteers Pat wants to hold a Sock Hop in September. Five new families came on Saturday (total 25 families). A motion was made and approved to hold a Sock Hop on a Friday starting at 11 or 12 noon in September.
- NEW BUSINESS REPORT- Conceal & Carry was discussed. The Southwest Lutheran Chorus will be starting up again and a list of instructions will be given to them.
- The next Council Meeting is September 14 at 7:30pm, the next Voters' Meeting is September 20.

STEWARDSHIP MYTHS AND TRUTHS

Literal definition of Stewardship:
"Holding in trust and managing the estate of another"

Myth: a tithe (10%) is God's.

Truth: all 100% belongs to God.

Myth: Giving to the Church is giving to God.

Truth: Using all our resources faithfully is giving to God.

Myth: Stewardship is our responsibility to the Church.

Truth: Stewardship is our responsibility AS the Church.

Myth: Stewardship is about money.

Truth: Stewardship is about life.

Myth: Financial stewardship encourages equal gifts.

Truth: Financial stewardship encourages equal sacrifice.

Myth: Give until it hurts!

Truth: Give until it feels good!

Myth: We give as we are informed.

Truth: We give as we believe.

Myth: We give as we prosper.

Truth: We give as we believe.

Myth: We give according to need.

Truth: We give as we believe.

Myth: We give as we are able.

Truth: We give as we believe.

LWML MEETING

LWML meeting will be held Saturday October 3. All women are invited to attend and help plan for the upcoming LWML Rally.

REFORMATION WORSHIP

2015 SELC CHICAGOLAND REFORMATION WORSHIP SERVICE will be held Oct. 26 at 3 p.m. The location will be announced. It's always good to worship and fellowship with our sister churches in the area. Plan on coming!

SELC LWML WESTERN ZONE RALLY will be held at Holy Cross on Saturday, November 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. Cost per person is \$7. Theme for the rally is "God's Bountiful Grace" 2 Cor. 9:8.



Board of Christian Education

By Pauline Griffin

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

The greatest gift a parent(s) can give to their children is the gift of the knowledge of God. It is never too early in their life to sing and read to them about Jesus and to bring them to church. And when they are old enough bring them to Sunday School. After the Sunday School age years your finished right? By no means is your gift to them finished. By example have you been attending church and Bible Studies as they have been going to Sunday School and if so the gift continues as you encourage them now to attend Bible Studies with you.

As a parent(s) your children are your children no matter what their age. Continue encouraging them to be in God's Word no matter where life has taken them.

Let's take this a little farther and further, are you a grandparent, aunt, uncle, neighbor, etc., you too can give this gift by encouraging the children in your life to grow in God's Word. Even further, do you know of an adult who you can encourage to be in the knowledge of God by inviting them to church and Bible Studies.

No one is too young or too old to grow to be in God's Word.

Although Sunday School and Youth Bible Study have already begun we want to thank our Sunday School and Youth Bible teachers, **Ivy Bradley, Theresa Boltz and Pam Rutkowski** for their labor of love to our children. Keep them and the children in your daily prayers.

Adult Lifelight Bible Studies will begin again; The women's Bible Study will begin on Oct. 5th

at the Griffin's house where we will delve into **Ephesians/1st & 2nd Thessalonians** and Oct. 6th

at church where they will be studying the last 3 books of the old testament **Haggai/Zechariah/Malachi**. On Sunday Mornings Pastor will lead a study on **Martin Luther, the man named Luther**. We encourage you to attend any or all of these Bible Studies.

Overreach

on August 17, 2015 in

LUTHERAN WITNESS, WEB-EXCLUSIVE
STORIES!

by **Scott Murray**

Satan rebelled against his Creator in the first and worst overreach in history. According to Martin Luther, Satan attacked God's plan to save the world through the weakness of the incarnation, suffering and death of His Son.



After all, Lucifer reasoned, who better than he, who was the light bearer, to bring the light into the world? God didn't see it that way. To us, it seems the height of madness to rebel against the Almighty God, to attack the unassailable and to hurl yourself against a mighty fortress. Yet, this has been the M.O. of Satan and his minions since the fall of our first parents in paradise.

Blinded by their rage and spite, the enemies of God continue to launch attacks on His ways and kingdom. The Planned Parenthood videos, made public over the last few weeks, expose an organization so filled with hatred for life that it has overreached, perhaps fatally. To haggle like a street vendor over the sale of the organs of infants whose heads have been crushed to kill them displays a callous disregard for God's law. To exclaim over those pitiable remains, "Oh, another little boy!" is to indict yourself as a child killer; they know it's more than random cells. There is a carelessness that reminds of the minutes of the Wannsee Conference at which the Nazis planned the "Final Solution" over an elegant lunch. An excellent white wine lubricates plans for mass murder like nothing else. The American people may have heard enough, more than enough.

If these enemies of life had not been so callously careless in their haggling over body parts and graphic descriptions of what they are doing when they dismember innocent children, they might still be running their profitable chanel houses with tax payer funding and still no one would have noticed. I, for one, believe that they may be the architects of their own downfall in yet another frightening overreach of wickedness. Despite our revulsion at these horrifying revelations, there is much to be confident about. God is still our mighty fortress. Christ is the Light of the world. And Satan is still overreaching. But don't worry. God always wins.

The Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray is pastor of Memorial Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas, and fourth vice president of the LCMS.

Join Us For
**Trunk
or
Treat**
October 31st



Holy Cross will be hosting Trunk or Treat for our neighborhood again this year. We **NEED** you to help us greet and treat the families around Holy Cross with goodies. All you need is a vehicle with a trunk, candy and any appropriate costume. It's always great fun. Since it will be held on Saturday this year from 3 to 6p.m. it will be even easier for you. **PLEASE** sign up on the Trunk or Treat signup sheet on the bulletin board. Please be at the church by 2:30 p.m. on Oct. 31 to line up your vehicle. **IF YOU CAN'T COME** and still want to help, you can always donate candy and those present will pass it out.

EASING CHILDREN'S FEARS— October 2015

(From "Family Matters", Lutheran Child and Family Services)

Kids today live in an age when fear is prevalent, including things like fear of strangers, drugs, terrorism, abuse, drive-by shootings or in-school shootings.

Do you know how to recognize if your child is fearful? Do you notice upset stomachs, changes in sleeping habits, increased/decreased appetite, inability to socialize outside the home or perhaps acting out?

How might you have unconsciously conveyed your own fears or communicated the message that the world is a scary place?

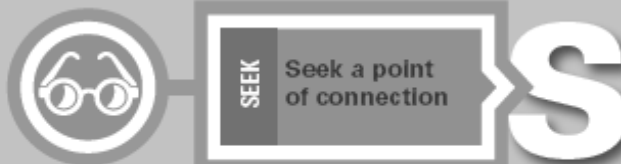
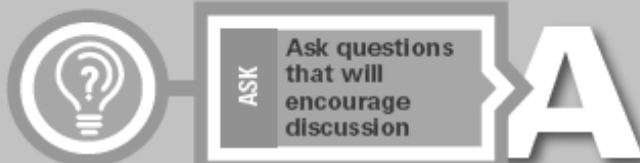
Reassure your children by letting them know that they will be safe and protected. Here are some ways you can help them cope with their fears and convey reassuring messages:

- Acknowledge their fears are valid. Put down the smartphone, turn off the TV and listen to their concerns.
- Reassure them on a regular basis.
- Encourage a regular bedtime.
- Encourage a healthy, balanced diet and commit to some physical activity every day.
- Limit violent/scary television and video games.
- Do something fun together.

In a time of chaos and confusion, share the joy of life and find peace amid the fear. 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 or 800-363-LCFS (5237). Discover LCFS and the services we offer at www.lcfs.org and www.facebook.com/LCFSIL

Relational, Contextual Witnessing



"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

(1 Peter 2:9 ESV)



SERVANTS IN WORSHIP - October, 2015

DATE	TIME	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LECTOR	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTER	GREETER	PROJECTIONIST
4	8:00 am ----- 10:30 am	Jim Boltz ----- Tom Griffin	Jim Boltz -----	Donna Judd ----- Sue Wilczynski	Martha Stevens ----- Carole Vrshek	Terry & Carole Vrshek	Donna Judd ----- Jeanne Simovic	Martha Stevens ----- Theresa Boltz
6 Pastors' Conference	5:00PM				Martha Stevens ----- Carole Vrshek			
11	8:00 am ----- ---10:30 am	Jim Boltz ----- Tom Griffin	----- Tom Griffin	----- Pam Rutkowski	Martha Stevens ----- Carole Vrshek	Pam Rutkowski Marye Meyer	Donna Judd ----- Jeanne Simovic	Martha Stevens ----- Theresa Boltz
18	8:00 am ----- ---10:30 am	Jim Boltz ----- Tom Griffin	Bob Long -----	Joy Maddox ----- Donna Meilahn	Martha Stevens ----- Carole Vrshek	Pauline Griffin Nancy Fehser	Donna Judd ----- Jeanne Simovic	Martha Stevens ----- Theresa Boltz
25	8:00 am ----- ---10:30 am	Jim Boltz ----- Tom Griffin	----- Bob Schulz	----- Aimee Wilczynski	Martha Stevens ----- Carole Vrshek	Donna Meilahn Faith Schulz	Donna Judd ----- Jeanne Simovic	Martha Stevens ----- Theresa Boltz

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



OCTOBER 2015

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 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering	2 Pastor's Day Off Danielle Beukema (b)	3 10:00AM LWML Meeting 10:00AM Musicians 10:30AM Food Pantry
4 FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY 8:00AM Worship/Traditional/Comm. 9:15AM Sunday School/ Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemp.	5 7:30PM Southwest Chorus	6 4:30pm Food Pantry Joy Maddox (b)	7 Western Circuit Conference	8 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering 7:30PM Elders Meeting	9 Pastor's Day Off	10 10:00AM Musicians 10:30AM Food Pantry
11 8:00AM Worship/Traditional 9:15AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemp./Comm.	12 COLUMBUS DAY 7:30PM Southwest Chorus	13 4:30PM Community Meal	14	15 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering 12:30PM Stewardship Meeting	16 Pastor's Day Off	17 10:00AM Musicians 10:30AM Food Pantry
18 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 8:00AM Worship/Traditional/Comm 9:15AM Sunday School/ Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemp.	19 7:30PM Southwest Chorus 7:30PM Church Council Meeting	20 Kaitlyn Shelton (b)	21	22 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering	23 Pastor's Day Off Theresa Boltz (b)	24 8:30AM Bd. Of Education 10:00AM Musicians 10:30AM Food Pantry
25 REFORMATION SUNDAY 8:00AM Worship/Traditional 9:15AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemp./Comm. 2:00PM Reformation Service (DML) Ken Rheinwald (b)	26 7:30PM Southwest Chorus	27	28 Amanda Hammond (b)	29 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering Sue Wilczynski (b)	30 Pastor's Day Off	31 REFORMATION DAY 10:00AM Musicians 10:30AM Food Pantry 3:00PM Trunk or Treat

HAPPY REFORMATION DAY!