



NOVEMBER 2015

THE DISCIPLE

*Monthly Newsletter of Holy Cross
Lutheran Church*

Mark Your Calendar

11.1

All Saints' Day

Food Pantry Sunday

Daylight Savings Time Ends

11.3

Food Pantry

11.9

Council Meeting

11.11

Veterans Day

11.12

Stewardship Meeting

11.14

LWML Fall Rally

11.25

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

11.26

THANKSGIVING DAY

11.29

FAITH OR PROOF?

Is your belief in Jesus Christ based on proof or is the proof of your belief based on faith? You might have to re-read that question a few times to wrap your head around it. We Christians call our belief in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, "faith." Our faith is that which we trust in and believe to be true. "Proof" is some objective "fact" that corroborates our hunch. So, how does "proof" fit in with "faith"?

Have you ever asked yourself how many times you act in faith every day? The truth is, we live by faith all the time, and without faith it would be impossible to live. Let me explain.

For example, right now you are probably sitting in a chair as you read this newsletter. But did you inspect the chair before you sat down, or did you first send it away to a laboratory to be tested? No, of course not. You believed it would hold you, probably because it's done so many times before ("proof"), and you've seen it hold other people also. And yet you acted by faith when you sat in the chair. At the same time, it wasn't unreasonable for you to do so. The "proof" of your choice to sit in the chair was your past history with that chair and the

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(article cont.)

Faith in God is something like this. Faith in God isn't blind or unreasonable, because God has left His "footprints" all around us. As the Bible says, *"Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made"* (Romans 1:20)- here is proof. It's far more reasonable to believe in God than to believe this incredibly intricate universe just happened.

But the most compelling evidence for God is this: He became a man! That man was Jesus, who was God in human flesh. Do you want to know what God is like? Look at Jesus Christ ("proof") as He is presented in the pages of the New Testament. I promise that if you do this with an open heart and mind, your life will never be the same. God's Holy Spirit will show you that the "proof" of your belief is based on "faith" in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Chris Ongstad

Disciple Newsletter

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Pastor Chris D. Ongstad

CRANBERRY SAUCE AND PUMPKIN PIE



Turkeys and cornucopias and pilgrim hats. Seasoned stuffing hot from the oven. Creamed onions, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. Uncles and aunts and cousins to play with. Grandmothers and grandfathers with family gathered round. Children

waiting for the Great Pumpkin rise over Charlie Brown's pumpkin patch and dads watching college football. A day to relax and maybe rake leaves in the afternoon.

But Thanksgiving? How much will our celebrations tomorrow have to do with giving thanks?

A glance at the first Thanksgiving brings it all back. On December 21, 1620 the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth rock. Through the dead of winter the colony struggled with poor and meager food, strenuous labor, a biting wind that chilled to the bone, and the ravages of disease. Nearly half the 102 Mayflower passengers did not live to see Spring refresh Cape Cod Bay.

But God sent Indians--Samoset, Squanto, and Massasoit--to help the English settlers plant and hunt and fish. The bountiful harvest that autumn led Governor Bradford to invite the Indians to celebrate God's goodness. Ninety tall braves accepted the invitation to join the Pilgrims in a feast of Thanksgiving to God for His blessings.

The Pilgrims lived close enough to the soil to know how dependent they were on God's Providence. They had learned to thank God in the midst of the bitterness of winter past. And they were quick to thank Him during abundant blessing, too.

We teach our children to say "please" and "thank you" as the rudiments of courtesy, yet it is so easy to be rude and unthinking toward God. How often we forget to gratefully acknowledge His goodness towards us.

This Thanksgiving let your prayers and expressions of love rise toward your Heavenly Father.

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord." (Psalm 116:12-13)

BLENDED FAMILIES

by Lutheran Child and Family Services

Anyone who is part of a blended family knows they face challenges as they try to make it all work. The understandings and relationships that can be taken for granted in other families need to be crafted and developed in blended families.

In general, a “blended family” includes families where at least one child is not the biological child of one or both parents. Both blended families and traditional biological families require certain elements to function effectively. Four key elements of healthy families are love, respect, open communication and structure. Love and respect are important for blended families, but paying special attention to communication and structure is key to success. One major reason for this importance is that one or more members enter the family with already established perceptions of how a family should function.

Communication is needed to bring out and combat false perceptions and fears. Structure is important because it makes concrete the roles and expectations of each family member. Children especially need to clearly know their roles and the roles of the parent(s), especially the role of a non-biological parent. Most important to remember is that the potential for problems is heightened in blended families because the family members tend to feel more sensitive and vulnerable, especially in the early stages.

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/



“Are You A Technology Evangelist?”

by Joe Handley

<http://www.gospel-life.net/>

I’ve been reading some fascinating posts lately about Technology Evangelists. If you don’t know what that means, or if you think it’s some strange way to describe what Jesus followers do, check out these two posts:

How to Become a Technology Evangelist- <http://timoelliott.com/blog/2013/07/how-to-become-a-technology-evangelist.html>

Technology Evangelist – Wikipedia- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technology_evangelist

Some might call me a technology evangelist, but in a completely different manner. I love technology and I love Jesus, and I share about both. Most real techies would see me as a poser since my depth is about “a mile wide and an inch thick” when it comes to the tech world.

One of the challenges we face as Christ-followers is a fear of sharing our faith. It’s tough, because we’re making ourselves vulnerable with no idea how people might respond. Will I create a barrier? Will they dislike me? Will I lose their friendship?

I’ve found that a great fear buster in reaching out is sharing my faith virtually. As I share various posts, comment on others, or offer to pray, my friends get a sense of who I am. They often become more curious. As I pray for folks and keep the conversations active, the barriers seem to wash away.

So while I’m not a Technology Evangelist, I am a person who shares their faith through technology—simply sharing life via social media and other platforms.

What about you? Have you considered sharing your faith via social media or other technology? Give it a try—it might break down some of your fears!

Joe-Handley2Joe Handley (@jwhandley) is president of Asian Access. Previously, he was founding director of Azusa Pacific University’s Office of World Mission and lead mission pastor at Rolling Hills Covenant Church. He also co-led one of the first multi-national high school mission congresses in Mexico City. Joe strives to develop leaders who multiply churches that transform nations.

LWML FALL RALLY

Join us for the LWML Fall Rally on Saturday, Nov.14. from 9am-1pm. Registration is \$7.00 with lunch included.

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Emma Claessens (14)
Edna Wendt (19)
Nancy Fehser (20)
Joyce Ongstad (26)

NOVEMBER BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Danielle Beukema (8)
Lindzay Istad (9)
Lily Bradley (25)
Haley Beukema (28)

NOVEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

DINNER CLUB

The Dinner Club will be going to Bella Mia Ristorante on Saturday, November 14 at 5:00 pm. This favorite Italian restaurant is located at 4648 W. 147th Street in Midlothian. The menu for this restaurant can be viewed on the bulletin board along with a sign-up sheet if you'd like to come. For more information see Faith Schulz.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS DECORATING

The Altar Guild will be decorating the church for Advent/Christmas on Saturday, November 28 at 9 am. Anyone interested in helping is welcome!

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY WITH HEALTH CONCERNS

Doris Kracht
Marylin Long
Joe Bradley
Kathy Ridder
Eleanor Thiele
Rita Joyce
Jeanne Simovic
Edna Wendt
Erna Sherman
Barb Piekosz



STEWARDSHIP ARTICLE

by: Patricia Minet

I. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE GOD'S STEWARDS. God's stewards are stewards by virtue of creation and their re-creation in Holy Baptism; therefore, they belong to the Lord.

II. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE MANAGERS, NOT OWNERS. God's stewards have been entrusted by God with life and life's resources and given the privilege of responsibly and joyfully managing them for Him.

III. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE SAINTS AND SINNERS. God's stewards rejoice in and live out what God has declared them to be through the cross. At the same time His stewards recognize they are sinners who fight sin and its consequences each day.

IV. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE UNIQUELY SINGULAR, YET PROFOUNDLY PLURAL. God's stewards recognize that their lives are not solo performances but are personal responses to God, lived out within the community of faith to benefit the whole world.

V. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE IN THE WORLD, BUT NOT OF THE WORLD. God's stewards recognize that the Lord sets them apart from the world and by the transforming power of the Gospel sends them into the world to live out the Gospel.

VI. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE LOVED AND LOVING. God's stewards recognize that their stewardship flows out of God's act of love for them in Christ which empowers them, in turn, to love others in acts of Christ-like love.

VII. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE SERVED AND SERVING. God's stewards recognize that their stewardship involves a Gospel-powered style of life which is demonstrated in servanthood within all the arenas of life.

VIII. GOD'S STEWARDS LIVE WITH AN AWARENESS OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE, OF TIME AND ETERNITY. God's stewards live intentionally in the light of God's eternal purpose while being firmly committed

CARSON'S COMMUNITY DAYS COUPON

Holy Cross will again be selling coupon booklets for the Carson's Community Days Sale to be held on 4 days, Wednesday, November 11 until Saturday, November 14. Each coupon booklet includes one **\$10 off coupon**, one 30% off early bird coupon, a 25% off shopping pass which can be used in addition to the bonus buy prices, and other merchandise offers. Each coupon booklet is \$5.00 and our church keeps all the money from the sale of each booklet. Booklets can be purchased from Martha Stevens, Liz Wilczynski or Dorothy





HILITES OF HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 14, 2015

- A motion was made and approved to accept the August minutes with the correction under Pastor's report that Eleonore Thiel's funeral was conducted by her daughter's Pastor.
- **PASTOR'S REPORT**– The Stewardship program has begun and Commitment Sunday is Sept. 27. An email of transfer was sent to Trinity Lutheran Church in Las Vegas for Johanne and Carol Kernahan.
- **TREASURER'S REPORT**– Envelope offerings are still under budget. \$550 was transferred from the VBS fund to the General Fund. A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report.
- **ELDERS REPORT**– A motion was made and approved to transfer the Kernahan's to Holy Trinity Church in Las Vegas.
- **EDUCATION REPORT**– Fund Raisers were discussed at their meeting. \$226.79 will be sent to the Bibles to Thailand VBS mission. Sunday School started Sept. 13 and Pam, Ivy, and Theresa are the teachers.
- **TRUSTEES REPORT**– Parking lot holes were repaired for \$250 (half price) because the company made a mistake. The entire lot needs to be redone. \$28,000 was quoted.
- **SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT**– Complete turkey dinners will be given to the Food Pantry families for Thanksgiving. Demon Dogs has been donating food for the Community Meals.
- **CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS REPORT**– Carsons' Community Days is coming up in November and coupons will be sold again.
- **NEW BUSINESS REPORT**– A motion was made and ap-

MORE HILITES OF HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 20, 2015

- **MEMBERSHIP CHANGES**– George Meyer was welcomed into the membership in June. Johanne and Carol Kernahan transferred to Trinity Lutheran Church in Las Vegas.

A motion was made and approved to hire a Director of Christian Outreach Intern for a year and to pay for this out of the New and Enhanced Ministry Fund.

A motion was made and approved to accept the Marriage Policy and make this a part of our Bylaws.

NEW BUSINESS NEWS:

- **CONCEAL AND CARRY**– There was much discussion on this, and displaying a sign on the door. It was suggested that Illinois statutes should be researched for more information so a decision could be made at another meeting.
- **The PARKING LOT**– is in bad shape. There was a \$28,000 quote for redoing the Entire lot. More quotes are needed and a



Plan to pay for this.

SERVANTS IN WORSHIP - November, 2015

DATE	TIME	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LECTOR	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTER	GREETER	PROJECTIONIST
1	8:00 am ----- 10:30 am	Martha Stevens ----- Tom Griffin	Jim Boltz -----	Donna Judd ----- Donna Meilahn	Barbara Piekosz ----- Jeanne Simovic	Pam Rutkowski Marye Meyer	Sue Boltz ----- Sue & Aimee Wilczynski	Mike Meilahn ----- Pam Rutkowski
8	8:00 am ----- 10:30 am	Martha Stevens ----- Jim Bahr	Tom Griffin	Faith Schulz	Barbara Piekosz ----- Jeanne Simovic	Dorothy Lux Doris Kracht	Sue Boltz ----- Sue & Aimee Wilczynski	Mike Meilahn ----- Pam Rutkowski
15	8:00 am ----- 10:30 am	Martha Stevens ----- Jim Bahr	Bob Long ----- -	Joy Maddox ----- Sue Wilczynski	Barbara Piekosz ----- Jeanne Simovic	Pauline Griffin Nancy Fehser	Sue Boltz ----- Sue & Aimee Wilczynski	Mike Meilahn ----- Pam Rutkowski
22	8:00 am ----- 10:30 am	Martha Stevens ----- Robert Hammond	-----	Aimee Wilczynski	Barbara Piekosz ----- Jeanne Simovic	Donna Meilahn Faith Schulz	Sue Boltz ----- Sue & Aimee Wilczynski	Mike Meilahn ----- Pam Rutkowski
25	7:30pm	Martha Stevens ----- Jim Boltz	Terry Vrshek			Terry & Carole Vrshek	TBA	Mike Meilahn
29	8:00 am ----- 10:30 am	Martha Stevens ----- Bob Schulz	Ron Wedster	Pam Rutkowski	Barbara Piekosz ----- Jeanne Simovic	Terry & Carole Vrshek	Sue Boltz ----- Sue & Aimee Wilczynski	Mike Meilahn ----- Pam Rutkowski

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

NOVEMBER 2015

Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm, 708.597.5209 hclc@hc-lc.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY ALL SAINTS' DAY DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS 8:00AM Foley & Sedam Baptisms 8:00AM Worship/Traditional (C) 9:15AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemporary 10:30AM Wedster Baptism	2 ALL SOULS' DAY 4:30PM Womens' Bible Study 7:30PM Southwest Chorus 7:30PM Elders' Meeting	3 10:00AM Adult Confirmation Instruction 4:30PM Food Pantry 7:30PM LifeLight Bible Study	4	5 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering	6 Pastor's Day Off	7 10:00AM Musicians 10:30AM Food Pantry
8 8:00AM Worship/Traditional 9:15AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemporary (C)	9 4:30PM Womens' Bible Study 7:30PM Southwest Chorus 7:30PM Council Meeting	10 10:00AM Adult Confirmation Instruction 4:30PM Community Meal 7:30PM LifeLight Bible Study	11 VETERANS DAY	12 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering 12:30PM Stewardship Meeting	13 Pastor's Day Off 10:00am Set-up for Rally	14 9:00AM LWML FALL RALLY 10:00AM Musicians 10:30AM Food Pantry
15 8:00AM Worship/Traditional (C) 9:15AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemporary	16 4:30PM Womens' Bible Study 7:30PM Southwest Chorus Practice	17 10:00AM Adult Confirmation Instruction 7:30PM LifeLight Bible Study	18	19 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering	20 Pastor's Day Off	21 10:00AM Musicians 10:30AM Food Pantry
22 8:00AM Worship/Traditional 9:15AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemporary	23 4:30PM Womens' Bible Study 7:30PM Southwest Chorus Practice	24 10:00AM Adult Confirmation Instruction 7:30PM LifeLight Bible Study	25 7:30PM Thanksgiving Eve Worship (C)	26 THANKSGIVING DAY 	27 Pastor's Day Off	28 10:00AM Musicians 10:00AM Bd. of Education 10:30AM Food Pantry
29 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT 8:00AM Worship/Traditional 9:15AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemporary (C)	30 4:30PM Womens' Bible Study 7:30PM Southwest Chorus Practice					

**GIVE THANKS
 TO THE LORD
 FOR HE IS GOOD**
His LOVE endures FOREVER!!!