



LUTHERAN  
**CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
MINISTRIES

# Our Family In Christ

*A Christian community for all generations*

June/July 2011

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

By Pastor Leland Lantz

## Luther's Catechism Summer Bible Study

Paul wrote to Timothy... I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory. 1 Timothy 3:14-16.

Paul affirms that Jesus Christ was both human and divine. This is the heart of the gospel. The "mystery of godliness" means the "revealed secret of true piety." His saving work accomplished through His shed blood revealed through His Spirit is the source of all genuine piety.

On a blustery, winter evening in 1529, Father Christopher of Hermannsburg was preparing for the next day's service. Suddenly someone was pounding at his door calling, "Father Christopher!" When he opened the door, a young man was standing there. The priest invited him in, and the stranger introduced himself as William Hauser. He explained that he was an apprentice on his way to Hanover, where he had been promised work in a carpenter's shop.

Having heard of the kindness and hospitality of Father Christopher, Hauser had come at this late hour asking for a little food and shelter. After he had eaten, Hauser sat down by the fire, pulled out a little book, and began reading it. The priest was surprised. "You are able to read? And what is it you are reading, if I may ask?" The young man handed the booklet to his host. It was Luther's Small Catechism. "What kind of book is this?" the priest asked. "Where did you get it? Who has written it?" "Dr. Martinus of Wittenburg," was the reply. And then the young man proceeded to tell the priest that he had obtained it from a friend, who had transcribed it because the printers could not keep up with the demand. The priest asked permission to read it.

After breakfast the following morning, Father Christopher said, "My good Hauser, this little catechism has strangely affected me. I had considered that strange monk Luther to be a rank heretic. But heretic or no heretic, blessed are the hands which have written this book, and blessed are they who believe its teachings. You must accept my poor hospitality until I have completed transcribing it."

The priest listened to the young man's accounts of the Reformer's work and teaching and began studying Luther's catechism. Later he wrote for a copy of the Large Catechism and was also fortunate to be able to obtain a copy of Luther's

translation of the New Testament. Through his studies of these books Christopher became convinced that he had been an unfaithful shepherd of Christ's flock. He began to preach the Reformation doctrine of justification by faith alone and to instruct young and old alike in the truths of God's Word as Luther had summarized them in his catechism. Although his newly-found teachings led to persecution and even to imprisonment, Father Christopher became Pastor Christopher, and after his release from prison he resumed the shepherding of his flock through the preaching of the Gospel and the teaching of the catechism.

We have no way of knowing the profound effect that this little volume of Christian doctrine has had on the lives of people for the 450 years it has been in existence. But we do know that there are many lay people who still treasure this gem of the Reformation.

I invite you to attend this summer's Bible Study based on Luther's Small Catechism. You will have a greater understanding of our rich heritage and belief in the Word of God that is the foundation of our faith. Please join us on Sunday mornings starting on July 10<sup>th</sup> at 9am at LW and 10:30am at AV and Wednesdays starting July 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am and 6:15pm at LW. I hope you will be blessed by the knowledge you will gain as we study and grow in our faith together. See you in Bible Study!

In Christ, and as Martin Luther exclaimed... This is most certainly true!

Pastor Leland Lantz <><



## Our Vision Statement

Our vision is for God, through the Holy Spirit, to shape us into a vibrant church that transforms our community and the world with the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS  
& ALISO VIEJO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

1 ORION, ALISO VIEJO, CALIFORNIA 92656  
(949) 389-0300 FAX (949) 389-0383

WWW.LCOTC.ORG

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS  
& CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

24231 EL TORO ROAD, LAGUNA WOODS, CALIFORNIA 92637  
(949) 837-4673 FAX (949) 829-0215



**Chris Vecera**

*I grew up in the Napa Valley, which is in Northern California. I just graduated from Concordia University with a degree in Theological Studies. In the fall I am starting a masters in theology at Concordia. I am engaged to Beth James (you will probably see her around, she is pretty cool). I also love playing basketball and guitar.*

*I love serving the church through youth and children's ministry, worship band, and bible study. I am excited to get to know you all!*

**Welcome to our new Children's Ministry Assistants**



**Bekah Bay**

*I am excited to be back with the kids and families of LCC. I have a Home Daycare during the week, but you can find me @ the LW campus on Wednesday evenings, Sunday mornings, VBS this summer and Date Nites the 3rd Saturday of each month. I love to share the Good News of Jesus with kids and families. I cannot wait to be blessed by each and everyone of you! Praise the Lord! Jesus loves you and I do too.*

*If you have any questions regarding Children and Youth Ministries please contact Pastor Jamin Goggin: jamin@lccotc.org or Children's Ministry assistants Chris Vecera: chris-vecera@gmail.com or Bekah Bay: bbay30@hotmail.com*

*The last few months I have seen such growth in our youth group. I have watched students share their hearts in small group time and participate in worship that have not in the past. I have watched students get more involved in leadership and service opportunities, particularly on Sunday mornings. The months leading up to the summer have been rich.*

*The summer is always such a fun time in the youth group because all of the students who are transitioning into middle school join our group. It is a great time for them to get connected. So many of our students are middle school age or early high school age, which makes for such an amazing journey the next 4-6 years as these students develop a sense of community and grow in Christ together.*

*With the summer comes a lot of fun and events for the youth group. July 24-25 the middle school students will be going to San Onofre State Beach to spend time with Jesus, with one another and enjoy the surf. In August, the high school group will be taking their big summer trip to the South Fork American River from the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> for some time away with the Lord and river rafting. Both events should be a blast. If you have a child interested in attending please contact Jamin for more information.*

*I look forward to being a part of what God does in the lives of the students this summer. I pray that it would be a time of transformation in their lives.*

*In Christ,  
Jamin Goggin, Youth Pastor*

**Upcoming Youth Events**

*Confirmation Sunday-Pentecost Sunday, June 12th at the 10:30am service at LW (If you cannot attend schedule another time with Pastor Jamin or Pastor Leland). For students completing 9th grade ONLY!*

*The Great Race-Friday, June 24th from 6:30pm-9:45pm for middle school only. We will meet @ LW campus @ 6:30pm and head to K1 Speedway. The cost is \$45.*

*Graduation Sunday-Sunday, June 26th @ all services. We will be honoring graduating seniors.*

*Middle School Retreat-July 22nd-24th, San Onofre State Beach. The cost is \$100.*

*High School Retreat-August 12th-15th. San Onofre State Beach. The cost is \$100.*

*High School Guys Only-Saturday, August 27th from 8am-4pm. Paintball & Beach. Cost is \$50.*

**Vacation Bible School - Summer 2011 @ LCC**

*Register by June 13 for "Pandamania- Where God Is Wild About You!"*

*Forms and Money Due by Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>*

*Look for the Green Double-Sided Registration Forms @ both campuses or call the church office @ (949) 837-4673*



**Men's Ministry** by Ken Whitney

*If you have any questions regarding any Men's Ministry event please contact  
kwhitney98@aol.com  
or (949) 292-1645*

**Promise Keepers**

*Saturdays at 7:00am at Laguna Woods. Men's devotional, prayer, fellowship time.*

**Men's Prayer Breakfast**

*Third Saturday of every month in the LW Social Hall.*

## **The righteous will rejoice in the LORD and take REFUGE in Him; the entire upright in heart will glory in Him! Psalm 64:10**

A Refuge is a safe harbor from the storms of life . . . a dwelling place of help, relief and comfort in times of trouble. And now you can experience the peace of Christ in an inviting and invigorating new way at **Refuge**.

**Refuge** at Lutheran Church of the Cross . . . contemporary, contemplative worship for young adults **led by** young adults.

Encountering God in a community of faith dedicated to active ministry. **Refuge** . . . Sundays at 7PM beginning June 12<sup>th</sup> at Lutheran Church of the Cross Aliso Viejo. For more information: (949) 389-0300 or refugeav@cox.net.

### **Hope 4 Kids International (H4KI) Appalachia Mission Trip – June 2011**

LCC members Marcia Lantz and Leigh Ann Lentz thank you for all the pillowcase dresses and donations for H4KI's inaugural mission trip to Appalachia (Kentucky & Virginia). Marcia and Leigh Ann will be traveling June 20–27. Please pray for a safe trip. We will continue the pillowcase dress project throughout the year to continue to put smiles on the faces of girls around the world!

## **Preschool Corner**

by Kitty Ziegler; Preschool Director

### **Message from Kitty**

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) After much prayer, I have decided that this will be my last school year as preschool director, and that this summer I will help transition in the new director. I have loved my 18 years at the preschool but want to free my schedule to be able to travel with my husband as his job takes him to projects out of our area. I am blessed to know that the preschool, with our wonderful staff, will continue just as it always has with Jesus as the center. The Lord is faithful and He will provide all that is needed for the preschool, offering a place for children to grow in all ways to become all He has planned for them!

All of us here at Lutheran Church of the Cross would like to thank Kitty for all her years of service and wish her well in her new adventures! We will miss you!

### **New Preschool Director**



I am happy to announce that Tonya Theveny has accepted the position of Preschool Director. Tonya taught at our preschool for six years and most recently has taught first grade at Aliso Viejo Christian School. Tonya has also experienced our preschool as a parent since her two daughters attended before they began attending AVCS. A great deal of prayer went into this decision and the Lord has blessed

the preschool with a gifted and loving new director. I hope you all help in making Tonya feel welcome!

### **Poor...Persecuted...and Blessed?**

Beatitude is a blessing – "a short cry of joy." It is used to describe a person who has experienced good fortune. So why does Jesus say that we are **blessed** when we are poor, mournful and persecuted?

Beginning the weekend of July 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, find new wisdom from a beloved old passage of Scripture . . . as we consider the beauty of these eight treasured promises recorded in Matthew's Gospel . . . in a brand new series called "Blessed to be a Blessing: The Benefits of the Beatitudes in Your Life Today"

Discover how this key portion of The Sermon on the Mount is still shaping hearts and lives in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Join us for this exciting new look at The Beatitudes every weekend this summer at both campuses of Lutheran Church of the Cross!

### **Prison Ministry**

If you are interested in bringing the message of the Gospel to those in prison, please contact Marcia Lantz @ (949) 525-0738



## **AVCS Happenings/School Ministries**

by Kathy Hutchins, Principal

**ACSI Speech Meet on April 15<sup>th</sup>** – Congratulations to our fantastic Speech Meet participants! They are: 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Kayla Eisler, Luke McChesney, Keven Peterson, and Kira Stefanides; 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Nicholas Antrasian, Dylan Crane, Connor Grace, Michael Petilli, Matthew Barnett, and Katie Spaulding; 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Christian Anderson, Tate Beteta, Nathan Hatz, Connor McIntosh, Natalie Murphy, and Taylor Werschke; 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Carina Barad, Brennan Liu, Dima Major, Alex Ogar, Madison Schmidt, and Max Weber; and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Hailey Andrews, Nicholas Gomez, Justin Kern, Jacqueline Lari, Sarah LeGrande, and Tristan Saltonstall. Go Conquerors!

**Field Trips** –2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Butterfly House; 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Key Ranch; 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Riley's Farm; 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Medieval Times; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Dodgers Baseball Game; Washington DC, Jamestown, Williamsburg, Gettysburg, and more. **Other events include** –National Day of Prayer Chapel (May 5); Moms and Munchies, Mother and Daughter Tea and Fashion Show (our first!); Inside the Outdoors; Coffee with the Administrators and Middle School Social; and our annual Open House on May 26 from 6:30 – 8:00!

Thank you for your prayers and support for this ministry!

# Council Meeting Minder by Mary Ann Schlesinger

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
In His great mercy, He has given us new born into a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3*

May 9, 2011, committees and council met to discuss events to glorify our Lord:

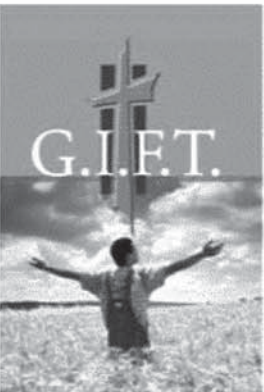
- ◆ **Staffing news:**
  - Please welcome Bekah Bay (at LW) & Chris Vecera (at AV), our new Children's Ministry Assistants!
  - Ms. Kitty Ziegler is retiring and Ms. Tonya Theveny will be our new Preschool Director. Thank you, Ms. Kitty, for eighteen wonderful years! We will miss you very much! Welcome (back) Ms. Tonya Theveny!
  - Pastor Jamin Goggin now has a temporary office at the LW campus
- ◆ College/Young Adult worship service, "Refuge", begins June 12<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at AV
- ◆ Registration is in full swing at both schools; church is doing well financially
- ◆ June is a busy month in the church; LW Music Sunday, Confirmation and Graduation recognition, Father's Day, and new summer bible studies to look forward to.
- ◆ Our LCC Constitution is being reworked since we left the ELCA; committee is meeting regularly and hopes to be finished by end of summer. Congregation will need to approve when finished.
- ◆ Altar Guild committee has new members, and would love more; call Louise Hoft 586-8250
- ◆ AV worship room improvements have increased attendance, Praise God! Thank you to all involved!

Upcoming events:

- ◆ Marriage Date Nights are back! Third Saturday of the month, 6-10pm – look for flyers
- ◆ 8 week Adult Catechism class starts July 13<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ VBS – register NOW!

## New Member Class

Our next New Member Class will be held Sunday, July 17, from 3:00-4:30 pm at Laguna Woods. New members will be received on Sunday, July 31. Please let the church office know if you can attend, and if childcare is needed. Thank you! "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27



## G.I.F.T. Gala 2011

Planning for the Fourth Annual G.I.F.T. Gala has begun. We need all kinds of volunteers to make this a success. If you would like to help or have any resources to offer, please email Sherri Putney: [sherri@lctoc.org](mailto:sherri@lctoc.org).

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. *Philippians 2:4*

## Financial Report *as of 3-31-2011*

### Income

#### Budget:

\$311,956

#### Actual:

\$345,800

### Expense

#### Budget:

\$331,956

#### Actual:

\$292,088

All requests for facilities usage need to be sent to the following:

Laguna Woods Campus 837-4673  
[MaryAnn@lctoc.org](mailto:MaryAnn@lctoc.org)

Aliso Viejo Campus 389-0300  
[khutchins@avchristianschool.org](mailto:khutchins@avchristianschool.org)

## Our Missionaries:

Please keep our missionary families in your prayers. Use their e-mail address if you would like to contact them.

✝ **Rei + Ramona Abrudan**, in Romania.

Email: [Rei.Abrudan@gmail.com](mailto:Rei.Abrudan@gmail.com)

✝ **Brian + Jill Dagen**, in the Czech Republic.

E-mail: [bj.dagen@mac.com](mailto:bj.dagen@mac.com)

✝ **Roger + Cherie Hanggi**, in Texas.

E-mail: [Roger\\_Hanggi@sil.org](mailto:Roger_Hanggi@sil.org)

✝ **Darwin + MaryAnn Jackson**, in Mexico.

E-mail: [darwinwj@yahoo.com](mailto:darwinwj@yahoo.com)

✝ **Nick + Shannon Kraft**, in Peru.

E-mail: [kraftsgomissions@gmail.com](mailto:kraftsgomissions@gmail.com)

✝ **Steve + Robin Ose**, in Minnesota.

Email: [ose@softhome.net](mailto:ose@softhome.net)

✝ **Cesar + Cheryl Uribe**, in Mexico.

E-mail: [curibemayen@gmail.com](mailto:curibemayen@gmail.com)

✝ **Lee + Fai Furney**, in England & Africa.

E-mail: [faifurney@gmail.com](mailto:faifurney@gmail.com)

✝ **Tomaz + Miriam Chmiel**, in Ukraine.

E-mail: [chmiel@eemn.org](mailto:chmiel@eemn.org)

✝ **David + Babs Veneman**, in Liberia.

E-mail: [daveandbabs@gmail.com](mailto:daveandbabs@gmail.com)

# Lutheran Church of the Cross Aliso Viejo by Pastor John Foss

**"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." (Psalm 107:1)**

At LCC/AVCS, God is at work, through our worship, education and fellowship opportunities. In the month of June we are looking forward to confirmation, commencement and Father's Day celebrations at our church and school. One highlight, celebrated recently, was the championship victory of our AVCS "A" soccer team in the school "Friendship League" of local Christian schools. It was a wonderful team accomplishment, and our students played very well and displayed great sportsmanship. Congratulations to the team and to the coaches, LCC members Jeff Koski and Marco Mohajer.

As we look forward to the summer and fall, we are anticipating a wonderful new Sunday night worship service for the college/young adult crowd, beginning on Sunday, June 12, at 7:00 pm. Also, this summer we plan to hold our monthly Sunday BBQ/potluck/beach worship services at Salt Creek beach. See the calendar for times and specific details. In the fall, we are looking forward to the start of a new mid-week program, with Bible study opportunities for all ages on Wednesday nights at the Aliso Viejo campus. Sign up in June to be a part of this special renewed fall ministry emphasis!

Love others with the love of our Lord Jesus Christ! Give 'em heaven!

In Christ,

Pastor John Foss



AVCS "A" Soccer Team  
with Coach Jeff Koski and Coach Marco Mohajer

## Lutheran Church of the Cross Women's Retreat Save the Date!

Friday, September 30, and Saturday, October 1, 2011  
Lutheran Church of the Cross Social Hall



"Dessert Social"

Friday, September 30, 2011 7pm-9pm

"Speaker and Workshop"

Saturday, October 1, 2011 9am-4pm

**If you would like to be part of the "Planning Committee",  
please contact Julie Haines: (949) 855-1698**

Give her the reward she has earned,  
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate. Proverbs 31:31

## Cursillo

Information packets for the October Cursillo week-ends can be found in the Narthex. If you have any questions, contact Holly Barrier (949) 813-6746 or Linda Anderson (714) 321-1510

## Passing

Those who have gone home to the Lord since our last newsletter:



- ☞ Bernice Brenner      ☞ Olga Shoup
- ☞ Gary Cook            ☞ Bessie Vogel
- ☞ Bob Johnson         ☞ Madison Washam
- ☞ Mary Meyer          ☞ Renate Zajackowski
- ☞ Henry Rath

**Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of His saints.**

— Psalm 116:15



# IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS

Please call Mavis Wegner, at 830-7028, with prayer concerns.

**IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS - Local Church Family:** Ginger Anderson, Valerie Anderson, Elfie Bangerter, Janice Barsun, Sally Baxter, Johnson Bhukya, Dzidra Bititis, Ed Brockett, Mariane Brower, Frank & Lola Burnett, Terry Dazey, Marion DeFoy, Hilda Farrell, Jackie Geith, Kathi Glasshagel, Bill Graham, Sally Hallinan, Christy Hindorff, Bill Kline, Alma Kolstad, Diane Leyerly, Ronile MacDonald, Brigitte Meltvedt, Marcine Moen, Leonard Olson, Helen Reisenweber, Jim Robbins, Bill Ross, Dorothy Swanson, Kimberly Tirado, Harvey Wolf, Harry Yamauchi **Mothers of:** Tracey Awwad, Darlene Donovan, Patty Fimreite, Melissa Murphy, Janice Simpson, Kimberly Tirado, Jeff Vieira **Fathers of:** Carol Charlton, Kathy Evingham, Sara Martinez, Karin Nielson, Deb Richards, Mandy Jacobs, Kerrie Vieira, Dave & Twila Woolworth **Sisters of:** Marie Connor, Doc Pellettieri **Daughters of:** Janice Barsun, Jackie Geith, Louise Hoft, Wynn LaLonde **Sons of:** Marion DeFoy, Kristen Harleman, Audrey McCall, Nancy Riester, Bob+Mary Stasik **Brothers of:** Joe Ash, Vivian Grochow, Norm Gustafson, Mary Ann Schlesinger, Kimberly Tirado **Other relatives:** Lynn Allen (RStrelow), Frieda Barley (JHein), Warren Bennett (LCC), Robert Cannon (BShuck), Rob Cannon, Jr. (BShuck), Ann (RGarbutt), Julie Gonzales (ESchurb), Olive Gray (GPeldo), Terry & Janet Grote (LGrote), Sue Harrington, Ben Helfer (M&EDoka), Ashley Kjos (KDeichman), Tyler Lomax (MLomax), Alan Means (BHolbein), Jane Mueller (BMueller), Cole Ransom (JBarsun), Norma Rydell (NRydell), Jody Sherwood (Jlles) **Friends:** Melva Christensen (MBlanchard), Carolyn Deiss (JKruger), Roger Grago (TGrago), Esther Hamilton (ECollins), George Heidler (DWoolworth), Mark Highleyman (LCC), Tracer James (JBarsun), Barbara McGrath & family (KDeichmann), Paula Michelson (LCC), Noel Nepomuceno (CCheek), Lynn Onley (RPerrett), Michelle Paulhus (MStasik), Quinard Family (CGonzalez), Ken Regnier (DLeyerly), Collin Salisbury (ECollins), Joke Schubert (ABrowne), Wayne Sewell (LCC), Mr. Shaler (JSimpson), Mary Smith (VJacobs), Joy Trent (EPellettieri), Van Riley (GBush), Alane Webber (JBarsun), Adam Chambers, Cort Kelley & Kevin Palucha (MAS), Deborah Hurry & Allyson Underwood (DRichards). **Comfort to the friends and family of:** Bernice Brenner, Gary Cook, Bob Johnson, Mary Meyer, Henry Rath, Olga Shoup, Bessie Vogel, Madison Washam, Renate Zajackowski on their passing. Comfort to friends and family of Rich and Bonnie Smith on the passing of her father and Bob and Mary Stasik on the passing of her mother. **Peace in the Middle East & military family+friends deployed:** Bradley Bollhagen, David Cummings (SCarlson), Matthew Lee (CCarlson), Michael Bochenek, Grant (CPeterson), Graham Hilson, David Mitchell (RGale), David Ramsey (BRamsey), Hadon Rath (TARath), Devon Staten, Larry White, Rob White, Ryan Wilkinson (SMiller), Josh Mareel (JNShroeder), Matthew Healey (TRBallew). Prayers for imprisoned associates of the Jesus Film in South Asia, Aliso Viejo Christian School, Crean Lutheran High School.

We will keep names on the prayer list for 30 days.  
If you would like to remain on the prayer list please let us know by calling the church office at 949-837-4673.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE DELIVER BY June 1, 2011



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S.  
POSTAGE PAID  
El Toro, CA  
92630  
Permit # 429

LAGUNA WOODS, CA 92637  
24231 EL TORO ROAD  
MINISTRIES  
**CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
LUTHERAN

