



FROM THE



Pastor

This month I am sharing with you a recent article by columnist Cal Thomas, on the relationship between faith and science, and the bias against scientists who are Christian.

**Faith and Science:
Are They Compatible?**

By Cal Thomas

President Obama's nomination of Dr. Francis S. Collins to head the National Institutes of Health is an excellent choice, but it troubles some secularists who believe science should proceed unrestrained by any higher principles than what can be achieved in a laboratory.

The recent *New York Times* story announcing the president's selection of Dr. Collins ("who led the government's successful effort to sequence the human genome") reflects what would be considered bigotry or sexism if applied to someone because of his or her race or gender. Reporter Gardiner Harris writes that one of the objections to Dr. Collins (he names no objectors, which is the pattern of a smear) "is his very

public embrace of religion. He wrote a book called 'The Language of God' and he has given many talks and interviews in which he described his conversion to Christianity as a 27-year-old medical student."

Ignored in the story is the long list of scientists who hold religious views similar to Dr. Collins. Do the secularists demand an oath of atheism before people are deemed respectable scientists? Suppose Dr. Collins was a practicing Muslim, or Jew? Would the secularists raise similar objections? Not likely.

Dr. Collins was a confirmed atheist until he opened his mind to the possibility of God and the evidence for a Creator. He came to realize it took greater faith to be an atheist.

Dr. Collins sees no conflict between science and faith. In 2007, he said this at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington: ". . . in the scientific community there is often an unwritten taboo about discussing one's spiritual leanings, so many assume that scientists are generally godless materialists. That's not actually true—a recent survey found that 40 percent of working scientists believe in a God to whom one may pray in expectation of an answer. And that number has changed very little over the past century."

That appears to be a higher percentage than "godless" journalists who can't seem to find anyone who combines serious faith with an educated mind.

Like C.S. Lewis and many other great thinkers, Dr. Collins was a confirmed atheist until he opened his

mind to the possibility of God and the evidence for a Creator who made what science can only study. He came to realize it took greater faith and a considerable amount of hubris to be an atheist and to reject any evidence that might contravene that view. He said science and faith are different ways of finding truth and that "they are not only compatible, but . . . wondrously complimentary."

As leader of the Human Genome Project, Dr. Collins led a team of more than 2,000 scientists from six countries. "Together," he said, "we determined all three billion letters of the human genome, our own DNA instruction book, and made all those data freely available on the Internet every 24 hours. It is hard to get your mind around how much information this is. . . Suppose we decided to take a little time this morning to read the letters of the human genome together, just to express our awe at God's creation. If we took turns reading, and agreed to stick with it until we were all the way through, we would be here for 31 years! And you have all that information inside each of the 100 trillion cells of your body."

It takes a lot of faith (or denial) to believe random chance produced such order in the human body, much less order in the observable universe!

**Congregation
Approves Pipe Organ
Donation**

At the Quarterly Business Meeting on July 19 the Voters Assembly approved donation of a pipe organ to Holy Cross by the former Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux City, which recently closed.

The 12-rank organ was built in 1974 and is unique because it is "Dobson Opus 1," the first organ built by Lynn Dobson of Dobson Organ Builders, Lake City, Iowa, one of the premier organ builders in the world.

Some of Dobson's projects include Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, California, the Atlanta Symphony Center in Atlanta, Georgia, and Verizon Symphony Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. More information about the firm and the instruments they have crafted is at www.dobsonorgan.com.

The organ, with a replacement value of about \$300,000, was gifted to Holy Cross by Our Savior's because they desired that it remain in the Sioux City area and continue to be used for worship in a Lutheran congregation. Our thanks also to the members of Holy Cross who have committed to covering the entire cost of moving the organ and related expenses.

Dobson Organ Builders will disassemble the organ, transport it to their factory for a complete maintenance check, and then reassemble it in our sanctuary and "re-voice" it for our acoustics. It is hoped that this process will take about six months.



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Crossnotes

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We list members' birthdays and anniversaries in the newsletter each month and the bulletin each week. However, our records are not complete. If your information is missing or inaccurate, please accept our apologies and notify the church office at 232-9117 or email holycross@longlines.com.

Harold Mettenbrink, August 5
Terry Vogts, August 14
Scott Feese, August 15
Joe Van Ackeren, August 15
Rashell DeRocher, August 17
Joey Schroeder, August 18
Bob Barnum, August 20
Gary Amunson, August 21

Marleen Kuhn, August 23
Daniell Bargstadt, August 24
Anna Vogts, August 24
Evan Steemken, August 28

Mike & Daniell Bargstadt
August 10, 1996
Les & Dee Reifke
August 9, 1969
Anthony & Margaret Waybright
August 16, 1985
Gary & Betty Gunderson
August 25, 1956

BUDGET REPORT

As of July 19, 2009

Total Offerings Budgeted	
Year-to-Date	\$96,370
Total Offerings Received	
Year-to-Date	\$101,347
Total Budget Surplus	
Year-to-Date	\$4,977

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



Elders for August
Earl Biggers & Rob Finkral

Ushers for August
Gary Amunson, Jon Dorr & Scott Feese

Acolytes/Crucifers for August
August 2 Megan Winborn
August 9 Emily Steemken
August 16 Claire Johnson
August 23 Tiara Selby
August 30 Jace Waybright



Our congregation has designated a tithe of 10% of our general offerings to support the work of our District and Synod. Each month we remember in prayer in our worship services specific missionaries around the world who are supported in this way by our congregation.

August 2
Carlos and Lidia Winterle
Kenya

August 9
Rev. Jon and Julie Muhly
Russia

August 19
Lynne Hoyer
South Korea

August 23
Ted and Rebecca Krey
Dominican Republic

August 30
James Rush
Vietnam



Summer Sermon Series

Life Lessons from the Old Testament

During August we will conclude our Summer Sermon Series on Life Lessons from the Old Testament, looking at characters from the Old Testament and what lessons we can learn from their lives.

August 2
"Joshua: Dare to Be Different"
Joshua 24:15

August 16
*"David: Nip Temptation
in the Bud"*
2 Samuel 11:26-27

August 9
*"Ruth: He Will Give You
Your Heart's Desires"*
Ruth 4:13

August 23
*"Job: The Comforting
Hope of Everlasting Life"*
Job 19:23-27

August 30
*"Josiah: God's
Extreme Renovation"*
2 Kings 22-23



Hog Roast October 4

The Holy Cross Lutheran Women in Mission group is sponsoring our third annual Hog Roast Fundraiser on Sunday, October 4 from 4:00pm-7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds will be used to purchase such items as: additional tables and chairs for the Fellowship

Hall, chair cart, serving cart, and many items for the kitchen. The 10% Mission Monies from the proceeds will go to the LWML group of St. John Lutheran in Yankton, South Dakota, whose church suffered a fire in April of this year with extensive damage.

This year, there will be a Bake Sale with many homemade goodies to tempt your pallet. There will be sign-up sheets on the table in the Gathering Room in the next couple of weeks for both the Bake Sale and for the three selected desserts for the Hog Roast. (Recipes will be included for the selected desserts.)

As a new twist, we are going to do pre-ticket sales. Be watching the bulletin for more information.



Sunday School Teachers Needed— Classes Begin September 13

Additional Sunday School teachers are needed for the 2009-2010 school year. There will be four classrooms with ages ranging from preschool through high school. We would like two teachers per class. If you are interested in sharing your time and talent in this field, please contact Sunday School Superintendent, Pat Winborn at 605-761-0245, pwinborn@iw.net.

Sunday School will resume on Sunday School Rally Day, September 13. During the service our Sunday School teachers will be installed and children will be awarded Bibles and Catechisms.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).



Midweek School Begins September 2

Midweek School classes for 2009-2010 will begin on Wednesday, September 2 and continue each Wednesday beginning at 6:15pm. The first evening we will begin with a meeting for parents to go over the class schedule and requirements.

The Pre-Confirmation class for 5th-6th Grades focuses on key Bible

stories and memorization of the Catechism, to prepare for Confirmation class in 7th-8th Grades.

If you have questions about Confirmation class please contact Pastor Vogts for more information.



God's Grace in Galatians

During August we will finish our study in Adult Bible Class on "God's Grace in Galatians."

Martin Luther says, *"In Galatians, St. Paul shows that the law brings sin and a curse rather than righteousness. Righteousness is promised by God, fulfilled by Christ without the law, given to us—out of grace alone."*

Join in Sundays at 10:30am to learn more about "God's Grace in Galatians."



The Lutheran Difference

There will be no Adult Bible Class on September 6 due to Labor Day weekend. On September 13 we will begin a new study on "The Lutheran Difference."

Why did Martin Luther and his followers seek to reform, and eventually separated from, the Roman Catholic Church? Why did the other "Protestants" which followed separate themselves in turn from the Lutherans?

In this class we will look at how the Lutheran Church differs from other denominations on such fundamental topics as justification, Scripture, Baptism, Communion, etc.

Join in Sundays at 10:30am to learn more about "The Lutheran Difference" on these and other key teachings.



Midweek Study on "Speechless: Silencing the Christians" Begins September 2

On September 2 we will resume Midweek Bible Study with a very interesting study of a contemporary topic. Featuring real-life accounts of discrimination against Christians, "Speechless: Silencing the Christians" is a DVD series looking at current social and cultural changes from a Christian perspective.

You'll meet citizens who have been arrested for speaking at a public rally. You'll hear from students who have been required to learn verses from the Koran (while Bible reading is banned). You'll learn about activists pushing social tolerance to such an extreme that the Bible is being labeled "hate speech."

Another in Pennsylvania is told that reading a passage from the Bible to her son's kindergarten class is against the law. Instead, she is encouraged to read a book about witches. A Canadian pastor faces a hate crimes tribunal for writing a letter to the editor of his local newspaper: a chilling precursor to what Americans will face if similar laws are passed.

Each week we will begin with an episode from this series as a springboard for discussion, with a look at the Biblical principles for us to follow. Our thanks to Carroll and Janet Gustman for donating this series.

Join in Wednesdays from 7:30pm-8:30pm for Midweek Bible Study!

After Church Snacks



In the Gathering Room, there is a new sign up sheet to bring snacks for fellowship time after worship. Most dates for the remaining year are open and need volunteers.

You are welcome to bring whatever snacks you wish. Or, you may indicate when you sign up that you wish to use snacks provided by the congregation. Those serving snacks are also asked to please prepare the coffee and juice, which along with coffee, cups, napkins, plates, etc. are available in the Coffee Bar.

If you serve snacks please be sure to sign up on the list. Thank you to all those providing and serving snacks!

July 12 Vogts
 August 2 Winborn
 August 23 Vogts



The flower calendar is on the table in the Gathering Room. Occasions to remember include anniversaries, birthdays, in memory of loved ones, etc.

Flowers may be obtained anywhere and you may provide your own vase or use one of the assortment in the Coffee Bar. They may be delivered during Office Hours, Tuesday thru Friday from 9:00am-11:00am, and placed in the

flower cooler in the Sacristy west of the altar area. Or, you can simply bring them early on Sunday morning.

July 5

Bobby & Rashell DeRocher
 Taylor's 1st Birthday

Harold & Mary Mettenbrink
 Wedding Anniversary

July 12

Ginny Peterson
 In Memory of Bob Peterson

August 9

Les & Dee Reifke
 Wedding Anniversary

August 16

Tony & Margaret Waybright
 Wedding Anniversary

August 30

Rev. Kevin & Terry Vogts
 Terry's, Anna's and Sarah's Birthdays

September 27

Doug & Janet Martin
 Wedding Anniversary
 Kendall's & Kylie's Birthdays



Holy Cross Memorial Gift List

Several years ago Holy Cross adopted a Memorial Gift List, which is maintained by the Board of Elders. Items on this list have been identified as needed by the congregation. Those desiring to give gifts to Holy Cross are asked to consider these items. Also, any member, or another congregational board, can submit suggestions for possible addition to this list.

It was requested at the recent Quarterly Business Meeting that the Board of Elders should publish this list so that the members of Holy Cross are aware of these items. *Please note that*

they are listed alphabetically in each category, and not in any order of preference. An explanation of the category titles is below.

If you have questions about or suggestions for this list, or would like to consider donating one of these items, please contact Elders Chairman Tony Waybright (605-422-2403; tonyway@longlines.com).

Our thanks to all those who have given many special gifts to Holy Cross over the years, and the regular giving to support the work of our congregation.

Wyneken List

(Up to \$500)

Banners

Bibles

Books for Church Library

Choir Music

Communion Linens

Folding Chairs

Folding Machine

Hymnals

Music Racks

New Candlelighters (2)

Other Miscellaneous Artwork

Portable Projection Screen

Printed Oil Pictures from CPH

Tables

Wedding Kneeler

Loehe List

(\$500-\$1,000)

Chasubles

Plant Stands

Self-Contained Portable Sound System

Walther List

(\$1,000-\$10,000)

Additional Pews

Benches for Prayer Garden

Cabinets for Church Office

Conference Table and Chairs
 for Church Library

Custom Artwork for Niches in Atrium

Electrically Activated

Bell Ringing Mechanism

Electronic Piano

Finish Hearth Room

Flagon

Gazebo for Prayer Garden

Hearth Room Clerestory

Stained Glass Windows

Hearth Room Furnishings

Larger, Built-in Closet/Cabinet
for Vestments in Vestry

Light Blue Parament Set for Advent

Pew Screens

Projection System for Sanctuary

Tone Chimes

Luther List

(Above \$10,000)

Four East and West Sanctuary

Medium Stained Glass Windows

Gathering Room Stained Glass Window

Handbells

Two Large South Sanctuary

Stained Glass Windows

The fund categories are named after four famous forefathers of the Lutheran Church:

Friedrich Conrad Dietrich Wyneken

was a pioneer Lutheran pastor on the American frontier in the 1800's in Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan. In 1841 he wrote about the need for Lutheran missionary pastors in America in "The Distress of the German Lutherans in North America." This led to an influx of Lutheran pastors and laity from Germany to America, including the founders of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, of which he was elected the second President.

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Löhe is considered one of the founders of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, though he never was actually a member of it, nor ever even visited America. At a time of great liberalism, he was a conservative and extraordinarily successful German Lutheran pastor in the 1800's. In response to F.C.D. Wyneken's "The Distress of the German Lutherans in North America," Löhe established a seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana in 1846 to train Lutheran pastors. Upon the founding of the LC-MS the following year, he turned this institution over to the newly formed Synod and, after some years in Springfield, Illinois,



On June 20 our Prayer Garden was among those featured in the annual Quota Club Garden Tour, with the pre-tour gala held in our Gathering Room on June 18. Our thanks to Margaret Waybright, Betty Gunderson and Ginny Peterson for serving as hostesses for our congregation. We received this note of thanks: *"Thank you for allowing your beautiful waterfall to be a part of our 2009 Tour of Gardens. Our guests on the tour had many praises of your waterfall and the landscape around the waterfall as well. They also commented on your beautiful sanctuary and its stained-glass windows. This year's tour had the largest attendance to date. We had a total of 295 that came to our fundraising event. The proceeds of our fundraiser will help provide scholarships to young adults with hearing impairments; a free Goodwill Camp during the summer for deaf and hard of hearing grade school children; hearing supplies and support to the hearing impaired children in Sioux City and South Sioux City Schools; and supporting disadvantaged women and children in our community. Thank you again for your kindness and support of Quota International of Sioux City."*

it is now back in Ft. Wayne as one of the Synod's two seminaries, Concordia Theological Seminary. Liturgical life of Lutheranism in America was greatly influenced by Löhe's Agenda of 1844, prepared especially for Lutherans in North America, in which he retained and revived many venerable customs and orders of service.

Carl Ferdinand Wilhelm Walther

was the founder and first President of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, as well as the founder and first President of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He emigrated from Germany in 1839 with as one of several clergy with a group of Lutheran laity, settling in Perry County and St. Louis, Missouri. They were among those known as "old Lutherans," conservatives who clung to the doctrines in the Scriptures and the Book of Concord. They sought religious freedom in the United States, prompted by the Prussian Union, which forced Lutherans to compromise with the Reformed. When a pastoral leadership crisis arose shortly

after they settled in the United States, Walther was elected their Pastor. To this day, the LC-MS bears the stamp of his early leadership in innumerable ways.

Martin Luther originally intended to become a lawyer, but when nearly struck by lightning during a thunderstorm he committed himself to becoming a monk instead. Recognizing his intellectual gifts, the Augustinian order assigned him to academic study. He earned his doctorate in theology and became a professor. His own study of Scripture led him to reject the doctrine of salvation by works which had gained prominence in the medieval period. His bold proclamation of the Scriptural doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, led to the Reformation. Luther did not want to establish a new church, but only to reform the false doctrines. However, this was rejected, and those adhering to the Scriptural doctrine came to be called by their opponents "Lutherans" (originally intended as an insult), and their fellowship became known as the Lutheran Church.



You are invited to help sing praises to the Lord in the Holy Cross Choir! Choir practice this year will again be for a half-hour on Sunday mornings, from 11:30am-12:00pm, beginning September 20. On Sundays when we perform we warm-up before worship at 8:45am and do not have rehearsal.

Music has been purchased and we have some really beautiful selections this year! We plan to sing for worship about a ten times, and the dates can be adjusted depending on choir members' schedules. Once again we will distribute CD's with recordings of the selections for the choir members to become familiar with them.

We hope to have our former choir members back and need new members too! All are invited to participate. It is a real joy to sing in the choir loft of our new sanctuary, with its excellent acoustics.

For more information about the choir contact Pastor Vogts.



August Commemorations

You may have noticed on our church calendar that in addition to members' birthdays and anniversaries there are also listed historic commemorations of some of our forbearers in the faith.

The Augsburg Confession of the Lutheran Church states:

"We gladly keep the old traditions set up in the church . . . among them being certain holy days, festivals, and the like." (Article XV)

"It is also taught among us that saints should be kept in remembrance so that our faith may be strengthened when we see what grace they received and how they were sustained by faith. Moreover, their good works are to be an example for us, each of us in his own calling." (Article XXI)

A list of such festivals commonly observed in the Lutheran Church is included on pages xi-xiii in the front of *Lutheran Service Book*. The following brief descriptions of the significance of the commemorations in August are from the new *Treasury of Daily Prayer*. This excellent publication is available from Concordia Publishing House, 1-800-325-3040, www.cph.org, stock #12-4318.

St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord (August 15)

St. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is mentioned repeatedly in the Gospels and the Book of Acts, with nearly a dozen specific incidents in her life being recorded: her betrothal to Joseph; the annunciation by the angel Gabriel that she was to be the mother of the Messiah; her visitation to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptizer; the nativity of our Lord; the visits of the shepherds and the Wise Men; the presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple; the flight into Egypt; the Passover visit to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve; the wedding at Cana in Galilee; her presence at the crucifixion, when her Son commended her to the care of His disciple John; and her gathering with the apostles in the Upper Room after the ascension, waiting for the promised Holy Spirit. Thus she is present at most of the important events in her Son's life. She is especially remembered and honored for her unconditional obedience to the will of God ("Let it be to me according to Your word" [Luke 1:38]); for her loyalty to her Son even when she did not understand Him ("Do whatever He tells you" [John 2:1-11]); and above all for the highest honor that heaven bestowed on her of being the mother of our Lord ("Blessed

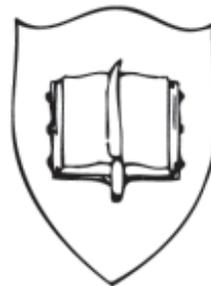
are you among women" [Luke 1:42]). According to tradition, Mary went with the Apostle John to Ephesus, where she died.

Johann Gerhard, Theologian (August 17)

Johann Gerhard (1582-1637) was a great Lutheran theologian in the tradition of Martin Luther (1483-1546) and Martin Chemnitz (1522-86) and the most influential of the seventeenth-century dogmaticians. His monumental *Loci Theologici* (23 large volumes) is still considered by many to be a definitive statement of Lutheran orthodoxy. Gerhard was born in Quedlinburg, Germany. At the age of fifteen he was stricken with a life-threatening illness. This experience, along with guidance from his pastor, Johann Arndt, marked a turning point in his life. He devoted the rest of his life to theology. He became a professor at the University of Jena and served many years as the superintendent of Heldburg. Gerhard was a man of deep evangelical piety and love for Jesus. He wrote numerous books on exegesis, theology, devotional literature, history, and polemics. His sermons continue to be widely published and read. (*Treasury of Daily Prayer*)

St. Bartholomew, Apostle (August 24)

St. Bartholomew (or Nathanael, as he is called in St. John's Gospel) was one of the first of Jesus' twelve disciples. His home was in the town of Cana, in Galilee (John 21:2), where Jesus' performed His first miracle. He was invited to become one of the Twelve by Philip, who told him that they had found the Messiah in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. (John 1:45). Bartholomew's initial hesitation to be-



The symbol for St. Bartholomew is a knife over a Bible because of his missionary preaching and tradition says he was martyred by being flayed alive.

lieve, because of Jesus' Nazareth background, was quickly replaced by a clear, unequivocal declaration of faith, "You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" (John 1:49). He was present with the other disciples (John 21:1-13) when they were privileged to see and converse and eat with their risen Lord and Savior. According to some Early Church Fathers, Bartholomew brought the Gospel to Armenia, where he was martyred by being flayed alive.

Augustine of Hippo, Bishop and Theologian (August 28)

Augustine was one of the greatest of the Latin Church Fathers and a significant influence in the formation of Western Christianity, including Lutheranism. Born in AD 354 in North Africa, Augustine's early life was distinguished by exceptional advancement as a teacher of rhetoric. In his book *Confessions* he describes his life before his conversion to Christianity, when he was drawn into the moral laxity of the day and fathered an illegitimate son. Through the devotion of his sainted mother, Monica, and the preaching of Ambrose, bishop of Milan (AD 339-97), Augustine was converted to the Christian faith. During the great Pelagian controversies of the fifth century, Augustine emphasized the unilateral grace of God in the salvation of mankind. Bishop and theologian at Hippo in North Africa from AD 395 until his death in AD 430, Augustine was a man of great intelligence, a fierce defender of the orthodox faith, and a prolific writer. In addition to *Confessions*, Augustine's book *City of God* had a great impact upon the Church throughout the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist (August 29)

In contrast to the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (observed on June 24), this festival commemorates his beheading by the tetrarch Herod Antipas (Mark 6:14-29). From the perspective of the world, it was an ignominious end to John the Baptist's life. Yet it was in fact a noble participation in the cross of Christ, which was John's greatest glory of all.



One symbol for St. John the Baptist is the baptismal shell with three drops of water to signify the three Persons of the Trinity.

and terrible Day of the Lord (Malachi 4:5; Matthew 17:10-13). By his preaching and Baptism of repentance, John turned "the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers" (Malachi 4:6). And in the footsteps of the prophets who had gone before him—in anticipation of the Christ whose way he prepared—this servant of the Lord manifested the cross by the witness of his death.

Christ Himself said that there had arisen none greater than John the Baptist (Matthew 11:11). He was the last of the Old Testament prophets and also the herald of the New Testament. As the forerunner of Christ, John fulfilled the prophecy that the great prophet Elijah would return before the great

For one thing, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, provided all the materials free of charge. For another, no one registered. Christ members had canvassed the neighborhood, distributing some 300 fliers with information about the free weeklong VBS. But they had no idea how many kids would show up.

Twenty-seven did—on bikes, skateboards, and on foot (even barefoot). And, illustrating the biggest difference between the first post-Katrina VBS and its predecessors, 21 of those children were not Christ members.

"It was a wonderful, glorious thing," said Wendling. "We had the community come, the community children. Many of them were unchurched, we didn't know them, so we got to know them."

The five-day event was, she added, "truly an outreach" because the majority of youngsters came from "families that had never been in our church before." Many are still receiving government housing assistance, according to Wendling, and are still "very much in transition" and "trying to get back into houses" almost three years after the storm.

"We have many thousands of people who are still like this," she said. "That's why it still feels like yesterday to a lot of us." Less than half of the 67,000 pre-storm population is back in St. Bernard Parish, the hard-hit New Orleans suburb where Christ Lutheran Church is located. Only about 45 of Christ's 300 members have returned to the area; most relocated after their homes were flooded.

Wendling said she doesn't know if the VBS students will return to worship at the church, but she is gratified that they have heard God's Word.

"I hope that some people form a relationship with Christ—I hope we planted that seed," she said. But the most important thing, she added, is that "we were really sharing God's Word." And, the children each received a CD of Christian songs from the VBS, so they "will carry that home and share it with their families."

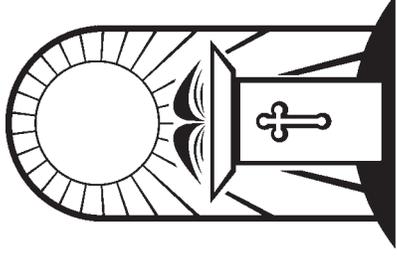


Reopened Church Holds First VBS Since Katrina

Christ Lutheran Church, Chalmette, Louisiana, member Kathy Wendling has helped out at more than a dozen Vacation Bible School programs at the church, which took on 10 feet of water as a result of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and just reopened April 13 after extensive cleanup and repairs. But this year's VBS, held June 9-13, was "completely different," said Wendling.



Summer Sermon Series



Life Lessons from the Old Testament

During August we will conclude our Summer Sermon Series on Life Lessons from the Old Testament, looking at characters from the Old Testament and what lessons we can learn from their lives.

August 2

“Joshua: Dare to Be Different”

Joshua 24:15

August 16

*“David: Nip Temptation
in the Bud”*

2 Samuel 11:26-27

August 9

*“Ruth: He Will Give You
Your Heart’s Desires”*

Ruth 4:13

August 23

*“Job: The Comforting
Hope of Everlasting Life”*

Job 19:23-27

August 30

*“Josiah: God’s
Extreme Renovation”*

2 Kings 22-23