



"WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED..."

~ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:23

LUTHER MEMORIAL
CHURCH & SCHOOL K-8

134 21st Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

An Affiliate of the Church of the Lutheran Confession ♦ www.clclutheran.org

IN GOD WE TRUST

MANAGING ALL YOU HAVE FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

9:00am Divine Worship Service (Summer Schedule)

Visit us at: www.FDLlutheran.com ♦ Church/Office (920) 922-7421

Pastor Neal Radichel ♦ Principal David Bernthal ♦ Teacher Jennifer Wiese

Alter cloths are white; symbolizing for us the glory of God revealed in the humanity of Jesus.
Welcome to all! This week's focus:

"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Luke 16:13

Today's Divine Service Liturgy (how God serves us): **Tan Supplement pg. 22**

447 ♦ 425 ♦ VBS CHILDREN ♦ 442 ♦ 430:4,8

Pre-service Psalm 15 (Red Hymnal pg. 124) ~ Opening Bells / Prayer

Our worship service centers and glorifies our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please turn off your cell phones to avoid distraction.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

I. WE PREPARE TO MEET OUR LORD

THE INVOCATION *We invoke ("call upon") the name of our Triune God.*

LEADER: We begin our Savior's divine service today in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen!

II. WE PRAISE OUR LORD

OPENING HYMN: #447 [Tan Supplement]

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

L: God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

ALL: If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

ALL: Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting.

L: Jesus Christ is the satisfactory payment for our sins, and not for our only, but also for the sins of the whole world. You are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of Jesus Christ's forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

ALL: Amen!

III. OUR LORD SPEAKS TO US

1ST SCRIPTURE LESSON ~ AMOS 8:4-7

The prophet Amos warns of greed and cheating others for gain. Those who treasure this world's treasures and pleasures MORE than the LORD will stand before Him on the Last Day to give account. Are you ready?

4 Hear this, you who trample the needy and do away with the poor of the land, **5** saying, "When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?"-- skimping the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales, **6** buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, selling even the sweepings with

the wheat. **7** The LORD has sworn by the Pride of Jacob: "I will never forget anything they have done."

HYMN OF THE DAY: #425 [Red Hymnal]

2ND SCRIPTURE LESSON ~ 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-8

The New Testament Epistle (or letter) from the divinely inspired hand of the Apostle Paul gives the humble, God-fearing attitude of a Christian. Notice how this attitude is to imitate Christ in the serving of others just like He served you and me. Instead of focusing and being worried about earthly materials, for what is God's greatest desire?

1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- **2** for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. **3** This is good, and pleases God our Savior, **4** who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. **5** For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, **6** who gave himself as a ransom for all men-- the testimony given in its proper time. **7** And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle-- I am telling the truth, I am not lying-- and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles. **8** I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH ~ THE THIRD ARTICLE (SANCTIFICATION)

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified, and kept me in true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead and give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life.

This is most certainly true.

CHILDREN'S VBS HYMN: "The Solid Rock"

**ALL: 1. My hope is built on nothing less,
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name...**

**ALL: On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand**

**ALL: 2. When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.**

**ALL: *On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand***

**KIDS: 3. His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my Hope and Stay.**

**KIDS: *On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand***

**ALL: 4. When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in Him be found,
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne!**

**ALL: *On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand***

**ALL: *On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand!***

CHILDREN'S SERMON

But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.' ~Matthew 19:14

AUDIO/VIDEO IN CRYROOM FOR PARENTS WITH CHILDREN WHO NEED A BRIEF REMINDER

SERMON MEDITATION read/watch sermons and services online at www.fdllutheran.org

Jesus said, "...Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" ~Luke 11:28

Luke 16:1-13

1 Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. **2** So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.' **3** "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg-- **4** I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.' **5** "So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first,

'How much do you owe my master?' **6** "'Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. "The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.' **7** "Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' "'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied. "He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.' **8** "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. **9**



I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. **10** "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. **11** So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? **12** And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? **13** "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Money is your servant -- God is your Master!

We thank our servants of the Word: Liturgy: Mr. David Bernthal, Sermon: Mr. Eric Williams

SERMON HYMN: #442 [Tan Supplement]

IV. WE OFFER OURSELVES TO OUR LORD

AN OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS TO THE LORD

"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." ~ 2 Corinthians 9:7

FOLLOWED BY THE OFFERING HYMN: WS #788:2

***We are Yours--Your mercy sought us, Found us in death's dreadful way,
To the fold in safety brought us, Nevermore from You to stray.
Your own life was freely given, As an offering on the cross
For each sinner, now forgiven, From eternal shame and loss!***

SPECIAL PRAYERS ~ GENERAL PRAYER ~ SAY LORD'S PRAYER

V. OUR LORD BLESSES US

THE BENEDICTION - *The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

L: The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD smile upon you and give you His peace.

ALL: Amen!

CLOSING HYMN: #430:4,8 [Red Hymnal]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to all! Guests, please sign our guest book in entryway and we hope you will come and join us again! Questions? (920) 922-7421

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE: *"If the LORD wills, we will do this or that." James 4:15*

**Online calendar at FDLlutheran.com or go to facebook.com/FDL.lutheran*

- Aug 6 Sun** Usher Team #1: Lowell B, Reuel D, Rodney K, Tyler K, Alex S, John S
Organist: Mr. Hay / Counters: Alan K, Bill J
9a Divine Service (Council postponed Communion till next Sunday)
10a Move church pews into fellowship hall for church floor update
- Aug 7-11 M-F** Church floors are being done
- Aug 9 Wed** **9,10,11a** Woodlands Worship Service **1:30p** St. Peters Place Service
- Aug 12 Sat** **8a** Move back/reposition church pews, work on job lists
- Aug 13 Sun** Usher Team #2: Don S, Pete A, Mark R, Don G, Gene M, Stuart P
Organist: Mrs. Fillmore / Counters: Eric W, Wayne W
9a Divine Service **with Holy Communion**
10a Move church pews into fellowship hall for church floor update

UPCOMING DATES:

- Aug 28 Mon** **8a** LM School begins – opening service
- Sep 9 Sat** **8-3p** LM Booth at Fondue Fest
- Sep 16 Sat** **LM Building Remodel Dedication Service**
- Oct 14 Sat** **LM Reformation Seminar**

GET LMNEWS TEXTED TO YOUR PHONE = Just Text " LMNEWS " to 84483

THANK YOU VBS PARENTS for bringing your children this week for their faith to continue to be "Built on Jesus!" We had such a great time and hope you will plan to join us in the future! You are always welcome here at Luther Memorial! If you have any further questions just ask!

THANK YOU VBS STAFF AND HELPERS for your tireless efforts the past few weeks as we prepared and presented the Gospel of Jesus our Savior to our 40 enrolled VBS Students! The week we had could not have been possible without you, your energy, gifts, talents, and daily encouragement to all!! Thank you to all those who donated food and snacks and materials!

"I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers, hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints, that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you..." Philemon 1:4-7

MAN UP WEEKEND is intended to offer strength and encouragement for men 18 and older for



their personal faith, family, and fellowship at church. The weekend will include Bible Study, Fellowship, Leadership Training, Team and Relationship Building and Worship, as well as many awesome outdoor activities. The retreat will be held Sept. 22-24, 2017 at beautiful Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI, about an hour south of LaCrosse. The cost is only \$75 for the weekend and includes lodging, meals, and activities. Registration deadline has been extended to September 1, 2017. Talk to pastor!

CLC CALL NEWS St. Luke's Lutheran, Lemmon SD, has called the Rev. Richard Kanzenbach, pastor of Morning Star Lutheran, Fairchild; Peace with God Lutheran, Onalaska; and Trinity Lutheran, Millston, all in WI. <> Redeemer Lutheran, Cheyenne WY, will be postponing the opening of its school, due to the inability to acquire a teacher. <> Mrs. Katie Naumann has returned the call to teach grades 3-4 at Messiah Lutheran school, Eau Claire WI. <> The Rev. Mark Tiefel, pastor of Redemption Lutheran, Lynnwood WA, has returned the call to Mankato.

This Sunday, August 6th, St. Matthew will begin hosting Worship Services a couple times a month in Waco, Texas at the La Quinta Inn & Suites conference room. The address is 6003 Woodway Drive, Waco TX 76712. The schedule for August/September Waco Worship Service and Bible Class are set for August 6th and 20th and September 10th and 24th. If you know of anyone living in the Waco, Texas area who would be interested in joining us for worship please contact Pastor Hanel. Email address hanel95@hotmail.com and phone number [972-733-4535](tel:972-733-4535).

LM WISH LIST (GIFT's Committee)

As we settle back into the remodel, there are a list of items that you may be able to help with.

- Conference room chairs (10-14)
- Stainless steel stove, stainless steel microwave
- South entry planters to conceal outside future overhang columns
- Monetary gifts towards landscaping
- Long towel racks for wall
- Bible passage artwork for various walls

If interested in helping towards any of these items, please let pastor or the president know!

Next Sunday, August 13th –In Preparation for the Lord's Supper

But how can the body of Christ and His true blood be present at the same time in those countless places where the Lord's Supper is celebrated, and be received by us with the mouth? If in matters of faith only the things are to be received and believed that we can either conceive with our mind or perceive with the senses, our whole faith would immediately collapse on all points. But faith is of the things that are revealed and taught by the clear Word of God, though they seem impossible to us (Lk 1:34,37), though they seem foolish in the eyes of the world and our reason (1 Cor.1:18, 23; 2:14), and though they are not seen (Heb. 11:1), things, in fact, in which our mind is to be brought into captivity (2 Cor.10:4-5). Since, then, the Lord's Supper is a great mystery, and is not to be judged on the basis of our reason, but is rather to be received by faith in the fear of the Lord according to His Word (whence the ancients call this Sacrament a great and tremendous mystery), we should simply accept in faith what Christ, the mouth of Truth, unable to lie or deceive, says and declares. But how it can be, we commit to Him who instituted the Supper, to whom is given all power in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18).

Taken from Ministry, Word and Sacraments by Martin Chemnitz

Closed (close) Communion: The Lord's Supper is like a prescription item. Jesus shows us that a great deal of care is required in receiving this healing medicine, lest a person eat to his judgment (1 Cor. 11). According to Bible teaching, the body and blood of our Lord is not to be just dispensed "over the counter." If you are a worship guest among us this morning we invite you to study these matters with the pastor. In this connection, please understand that we are not judging your faith, but we are confessing our own.

IN OUR PRAYERS *If you are hospitalized, please let pastor know if you would like a visit!*

Hospitalized: Eileen G and Leah W both were in the hospital this past week and are recovering back at the Lutheran Home now. Ron L continues to be recovering very well at Mayo in Rochester. He will have another surgery this coming week. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. He and Barb express their continued thankfulness for your calls, cards, care, Christian love and support.

Shut-ins: Evelyn Chase (Lutheran Home), Eileen Gantner (Woodlands), Dan Immel (Woodlands), Ed Jacobs (868 W Scott St), Gloria Jacobs (Woodlands), Doris Kaiser (Woodlands), Jeanette Keipe (675 S. Main St.), John Lenburg (769 Mustang Ln), Marion Mach (Lutheran Home), Lois "Jean" Martin (Lutheran Home), Jim Steffen (N8652 Linden Beach Rd), Leah Wirkus (Lutheran Home).

FRUITS OF FAITH—LAST SUNDAY / FOR THE YEAR *Bible Class N/A/Worship 107*

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

Budgetary (\$3596 budgeted per week)

\$2435 LM General Budget

Non-Budgetary

\$19 LM School

\$ LM Student Aid Fund

\$ LM Debt Retirement

\$415 LM Maintenance & Improvements

\$24 LM Local Missions/Outreach

\$155 LM Other: RRF (Building Fund)

Memorial (Designated): Spokesman \$12

CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

Budgetary (\$635 needed per week)

\$394 CLC General Budget

Non-Budgetary

\$ ILC Student Aid Fund

\$ ILC Building Fund

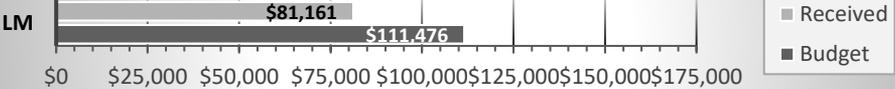
\$ ILC Improvement Fund

\$20 Mission Development-(MDF)

\$10/0 Project Kinship/Orphanage

\$45 CLC Other: Foreign

LM Budgetary \$187,000 (YTD Jan-Dec 31/52 wks)

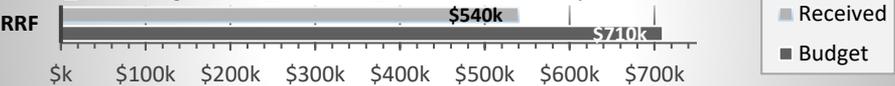


CLC Budgetary \$33,000 (YTD July-June 5/52 wks)



GET UPDATES FROM OUR CLC MISSIONS SITE! LutheranMissions.org

Remodeling for our Redeemer Fund - Estimated Project Total: \$710,000



CLC Financial Report - June

| CLC Financial Report Operating Funds | Balance 7/1/2016 | YTD Revenue | YTD Disbursed | Budget 12 Months | Balance 6/30/2017 |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| General Fund | 0 | 968,050 | 895,703 | \$900,000 | 72,347 |
| ILC Operations | 0 | 1,277,287 | 1,267,994 | 688,200 | 9,293 |
| Total | \$0 | \$2,245,337 | \$2,163,697 | \$1,588,200 | \$81,640 |
| Auxiliary Funds | | | | | |
| ILC Improvement Fund (IIF) | 15,928 | 24,842 | 13,496 | | 27,274 |
| ILC Building Projects (AC/Dorm) | 12,682 | 169,495 | 231,391 | | - 49,214 |
| Mission Development Fund (MDF) | 46,243 | 236,377 | 221,383 | | 61,237 |
| Kinship | 56,625 | 95,340 | 108,925 | | 43,040 |
| Church Extension Fund (CEF) | 1,291,661 | 972,640 | 1,233,458 | | 1,030,843 |
| Student Aid Fund (SAF) | 10,103 | 227,832 | 169,017 | | 68,918 |
| Reserve Fund <small>Adjustments on 9/1/16 & 4/1/17</small> | 119,696 | 114,994 | 9,500 | Year End Bal ----> | 225,190 |
| Total | \$1,552,938 | \$1,841,520 | \$1,987,170 | | \$1,407,288 |

| ILC Academic Center Mortgage (& North Hall Renovation) | |
|---|------------------|
| Beginning Balance January 1, 2010 | \$1,751,804 |
| Current Balance June 30, 2017 | \$1,222,927 |
| (* North Hall not in AC Bal) Principal paid to date | \$528,877 |
| North Hall Reno Budget \$300,000. YTD Spent: | * \$118,523 |

Notes:

- * **General Fund** offerings in June totaled \$99,074 vs disbursements of \$72,629, ending the fiscal year with a balance of \$72,347. Congregational offerings exceeded congregational CBP estimates by \$68,000. The General Fund & Boards zero out their budgets at the end of each fiscal year and return unused CLC subsidy to the CLC Reserve Fund. General Fund & ILC Operations will return the \$81,640 to Reserve.
- * **ILC Building Projects** offerings in June totaled \$8,544 vs disbursements of \$65,917 which was mostly for renovation expenses for the **North Hall** boys dorm project. The project is now drawing on a CEF \$300,000 loan into August. The Building Projects balance will be restored to a \$24,000 balance to maintain a 3-month buffer to assure loan payments on the Academic Center. Upon completion of the renovation, the actual CEF loan used will be rolled into the Academic Center monthly payment.
- * **MDF:** offerings in June totaled \$11,342 vs disbursements of \$21,008.
- * **SAF:** received \$6,484 in June from offerings (\$3,059) and student loans repaid (\$3,425) vs disbursements of \$3,533, which was mostly from family discounts allocated to student accounts for the 2nd semester. The SAF balance of \$68,918 is a good running start toward the SAF budget for the next school year of \$160,000, to provide student loans, multi-student discounts, grants, & academic scholarships for an expected enrollment of 127 students in our high school, college, & seminary.
- * **Reserve Fund:** The return of unused subsidy by the Boards has resulted in a Reserve balance of \$225,190. This Reserve is used to make up for any budget shortfalls in any given year. Thanksgivings to the Lord for the generous offerings of His people and the due diligence of our Boards & Staff!

*James E. Sandeen, CLC Treasurer
Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees*



IMITATING THE GREAT COMMISSION

Every Christian congregation wrestles with concerns about church growth, keeping members, and a viable mission presence in their community. You can be sure that you will

see plenty of so-called solutions to these issues across different churches. Some approach the work of the church like a business. As long as you meet your goals and keep your commitments, growth will eventually happen. Some are so afraid of these concerns that they discard any approach that doesn't lead to numerical growth. Still, some make the elements of the worship experience, namely music, architecture, and atmosphere the chief priority.

All of these thoughts beg the question, what is the best model for a church? To answer, we look to the Bible, which is very straightforward. The Gospel of John is a good example. Near the end of both that book and Christ's ministry, Jesus gave instructions to His disciples about this very thing. He said,

"Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)

A church's responsibility is to preach the law and gospel. The law at times when sin needs to be revealed and repented of, and the gospel at times when the law has generated this effect. Forgiving or retaining sins - that's what it all comes down to. It's very easy for a church to stray from this mission and focus on the lesser alternatives like those previously mentioned. A truly mission-minded congregation will bear the marks of the law and the gospel. So, what does that look like today? Our image comes directly from Christ's Great Commission -

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen." (Matthew 28:19-20)

The Gospel in Word and Sacrament, also called the Means of Grace, is the vehicle upon which the ministry of the Church grows. Jesus commands His followers to baptize and preach all which He has commanded. We could also add in His command to practice the Lord's Supper often, in

remembrance of what He did. The Gospel's effect cannot be measured solely in numerical growth or societal popularity. The Church does not rise or fall on fads and customs. It stands firm on Christ, the Cornerstone, and His Word is the unchanging foundation for growth and strength.

Many churches may tout a highly functioning mission program but leave the word of God out of the picture. It is true that the churches have opportunity to provide many outreach services that care for bodily needs. However, without the gospel in Word and Sacrament at work, a church can never fulfill its purpose or generate lasting spiritual growth. Be a mission-minded congregation that stands, defends, and promotes the law and gospel ministry by continuing to imitate the Great Commission.

Mission minded examples - How is your congregation celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation? It was 500 years ago when the Lord Jesus used men like Martin Luther to uncover God's Word of truth about His Word and Sacraments and how they are to be properly used. What a great opportunity to show your community that your congregation *still* stands for the proper use of the Means of Grace in the Sacraments.

1. **Hold a joint Reformation Service!** If possible, contact area CLC churches to celebrate the truth about the Word alone, Faith alone, and Scripture alone. Invite the public to the service through social medias - Facebook, email chains, church yard signs, newspapers and radio stations, and even better, personal invitations from you!.
2. **Hold a seminar!** Advertise and invite the community to a presentation/discussion about what the Reformation was *really* all about. Emphasize not just the history, but more importantly the defense of the Gospel as Peter writes, **"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."** (1 Peter 3:15)

7 Habits of a Mission-Minded Congregation

Love for the Lost

Imitating the Great Commission

Reliance Upon the Word

Desire to Achieve Unity

Encouraging one another

Strengthening the Individual

Thinking of Ideas
(Being Creative)



The **Committee of Domestic Fields** is a subcommittee of the CLC Mission Board. "The purpose of the Committee on Domestic Fields (CDF) is to make outreach ideas and material available to CLC congregations and to encourage them in carrying out the Great Commission of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

Mon Jeremiah 23:21-32 God doesn't take a back seat to charlatans who camouflage themselves as His spokesman but are hyenas (21-22); they don't pull the wool over God's eyes (23-24). He nails them for signing His name to their forgeries (25-27). We learn to distinguish between forgery and authenticity (28-29) lest we stumble into the target zone of God's big guns (30-32). Woe to the false prophet!

Tues John 7:14-24 Religious people are rightly concerned about a man's seminary training (14-15) and the signature on his diploma. Who signed Jesus' diploma (16) and authorized His ministry (17-18)? Further, it was flummery for ignoramuses to set themselves up as judges over matters way beyond them (19-24).

Wed 1 John 4:1-6 How can the average Christian stay on track? By being a perceptive listener, by evaluating what he hears, and by sifting the chaff from the wheat (1). Most "Christian" denominations admit the historical fact that Christ has come in the flesh, but they renege on the cause, purpose, and result of His life, death, and resurrection (2-3). John's world was more direct than ours; we face increasingly subtle deceptions against the Spirit of truth. God, help us!

Thurs Amos 8:11-14 and 9:8 God granted a religious drought and famine so that His people would hunger and thirst after Him (11). In His grace God promised to *not utterly destroy the house of Jacob* (9:8), which was good news for those hearts/souls who were fainting away under God's strategy. Lord, have mercy on our generation!

Fri Matthew 13:53-58 When Jesus visited His home town, folks were nonplussed about His theology and hands-on skills (54). They couldn't figure out how He could have risen so far above His family (55-56), so they turned Him off. What benefit did they get by turning Jesus away and being left in their unbelief (58)? Woe for those who disdain Jesus!

Sat 1 Corinthians 14:26-33 Multi-lingual members of the congregation were so eager to speak up that their church services turned into competitions; they needed these guidelines (27-31) to restore order. Note: **a**) those who were waiting their turn were obliged to judge what was being spoken by others (29), and **b**) all those who were "given the floor" were under scrutiny of the other speakers and preachers on both the content and *spirit* of their message (32). [That's how it works in the congregations of our fellow saints (33) and in our pastoral and synodical meetings, too. We respect *Robert's Rules of Order*, but loving consideration of one another is the higher rule.]