

January 2018 - In This Issue:

Church Staff
Welcome Visitors
Anniversaries

Worship Services

Sunday Worship

- 8:00 am Traditional
- 10:30 am Contemporary
- 9:15 am Adult Education
- 9:30 am Children's Sunday School

Holy Communion

Communion is served at both services every Sunday.

Lutheran Church of the Cross

28253 Meadow Drive
Evergreen, CO 80439
PO Box 2800
Evergreen, CO 80437-2800

P - 303-674-4130
F - 303-670-7987

Church Office Hours

Tues thru Fri - 10:00am - 2:00pm

Church e-mail

info@L-C-C.org

Church Website

www.L-C-C.org

Church Staff

- Pastor - Philip Reimers
- Ministers - All of our People
- Youth Director - Youth Council
- Music Director - Patrick Stone
- Choir Director - Elinore Quander
- Office Manager - Stephanie Park

Council Members

Pastor's Message

Developing a Vision

The council has just authorized the creation of a short-term Ministry Team called the "Strategic Visioning Ministry Team. This team will be looking at our congregation and considering what we might do to be stronger, healthier, and more vibrant in our ministry. Those on the team are Pastor Philip Reimers, Mike Lofing, Tom Willis, Marcee Martin, Vicki Thompson, and Rebecca Giles. Feel free to share your thoughts or ideas with any on this Ministry Team. With this thought I am including an article which I found very helpful in thinking about what is our vision for Church of the Cross. Thank you for your partnership in living our lives in Christ!

Blessings,

Pastor Philip

Pastor Philip

Email: pastorphilip@l-c-c.org



Developing a Vision

What kind of church would we like to be?

by: Aubrey Malphurs

Vision is essential to a church. However, unlike the values, mission, and purpose, the vision is more subject to change. It is dynamic, not static. Over time, the vision must be renewed, adapted, and adjusted to the cultural context in which the

congregation lives. The change takes place only at the margins of the vision, not at its core. The core-the Great Commission-does not change. The details of the vision and the words used to convey them will change. The vision provides us with a picture of what the mission will look like as it is realized in the community.

The vision concept is not new to the Scriptures. You will find visions sprinkled

Nonie Willis - President
Mark Selman - Vice-President
Mike Lofing - Treasurer
Sara Esau - Secretary
Open - Business Manager
Claire O'Brien - Education
Gloria Owens - Evangelism
Open - Activities
Eunice Bollinger-Outreach/Missions
Paul Mohrmann - Prop & Grounds
Open - Stewardship
Vicki Thompson - Worship & Music
Open - Youth & Family

Welcome Visitors

We want to welcome last month's visitors. Thank you for worshipping with us!



Sign up to sponsor flowers on the chart posted in the Fellowship Hall or talk to Stephanie in the church office. The cost is \$30 for two bouquets and you get to take them home following the last service! Thank you for helping make the

throughout the Old and New Testaments. For example, God caught Abraham's attention with his vision for him in Genesis 12:1-3 (the Abrahamic covenant). God used Moses to communicate his vision for his people, Israel, in Exodus 3:7-8 and Deuteronomy 8:7-10. It is possible that the "joy" that Jesus looked forward to while enduring the cross was the vision of his return to the presence of his Father in heaven (Heb. 12:2).

The Importance of a Vision

The limited information that is available indicates that pastors and congregations are struggling with the vision concept. For example, in commenting on pastors and their visions, George Barna writes, "But when we asked these pastors, 'Can you articulate God's vision for the ministry of your church?' we found that roughly 90 percent of them could articulate a basic definition of ministry. But only 2 percent could articulate the vision for their church." David Goetz writes, "In *Leadership's* study, however, pastors indicated that conflicting visions for the church was their greatest source of tension and the top reason they were terminated or forced to resign." Clearly, vision is of utmost importance to leaders and their ministry. Here are seven reasons why.

A Vision Encourages Unity

In a ministry a shared vision changes people's relationship to one another. When a leader casts a vision in a church, it is no longer "their church," it becomes "our church." The ministry's vision encourages and allows people to come together and work together. It creates a common identity in two ways. First, it signals to all where the ministry is going. It says that if you want to go where we are going, then climb on board-let us go together. Second, it fosters the retention of congregants and staff. A common vision says that we are working together toward the same goals. We need each other if anything significant is going to happen for Christ. This, in effect, mirrors such passages as 1 Corinthians 12:20-22 and Ephesians 4:15-16.

A Vision Creates Energy

Not much happens without an inspiring, compelling vision. Not much was happening in Nehemiah's day. The people had no vision. Jerusalem lay in ruins, and no one was motivated to do anything about it (Neh. 1: 3). Then along came Nehemiah with a vision from God to rebuild the gates and walls of the city. Visions are exciting, and they energize people. They strike a spark-the excitement that lifts a ministry organization out of the mundane. They supply the fuel that lights the fire under a congregation-leaders are able to stop putting out fires and start igniting a few. A vision from God has the potential to turn a maintenance mentality into a ministry mentality. And when your vision resonates with your values and mission, it generates the energy that fuels the accomplishment of the ministry task.

A Vision Provides Purpose

The right vision creates meaning in people's lives. It gives them a sense of divine purpose in life. They are a part of something great that God is accomplishing at this time and place in history. With a shared vision, people see themselves not just as

sanctuary beautiful during our Sunday services.

Love Offerings

Each month we will highlight an outreach or special ministry. Loose cash offerings and designated offerings will be given directly to those ministry opportunities.

In December we collected **\$350.50 each** for Mount Evans Hospice and Life's Options Pregnancy Center.

January Love Offering

Strong Cross Ministries is a ministry that helps the very poor tribes in northern South Africa. Their vision is to assist those who provide spiritual reconciliation and humanitarian relief to the poorest in our world.

<http://www.strongcrossministries.org>

Saints Alive!

"We have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all our saints..." Col. 1:4

We give thanks for all people who have helped support our life together as a community of faith!

Prayer Warriors



Every **Wednesday** at **2:00 pm** we are inviting members to join Cheryl Touryan and Gloria Owens in the War Room to pray for our church, our community and world issues. All are welcome.

time and place in history. With a shared vision, people see themselves not just as another congregant or a "pew warmer," but as a vital part of a church that is having a powerful impact on a lost and dying world. They are not simply in a church; they are on a mission. They are part of a revolution that has the potential to change this world, to have a wonderful impact for Christ. For example, a wide gap exists in terms of commitment and dedication to God and a sense of personal significance between one member who, when asked what he or she does, replies, "I am a teacher" and another, who may have the same ministry, but answers, "I am changing the life course of a class of adolescents who will someday accomplish great things for Christ."

A Vision Fosters Risk Taking

A shared vision fosters risk-taking by a congregation. This is especially true in church-planting situations. When the point person or lead pastor casts the vision, everyone knows what needs to be done. That is not the question. The question is, How will we do it? Sometimes we know the answer, but most often we do not. Consequently, ministry for Christ becomes an exciting adventure into the world of the unknown. We attempt something for Christ and it does not work. We attempt something else and it does work. Though much of what we are doing is experimental, it is not ambiguous. It is perfectly clear to all why we are doing it. It is for God and the Savior. People are not asking for guarantees. They all know that no guarantees exist, yet people are committed anyway. The risks are great, but so is the God they serve, and the vision he has given them. How else can we explain the early church and what God accomplished through them or those believers that make up the faith hall of fame in Hebrews 11?

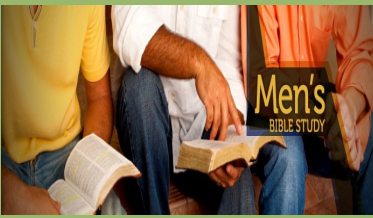
A Vision Enhances Leadership

Developing a vision and then living it vigorously are essential elements of leadership. I define a leader as a godly servant who knows where he or she is going and has followers. That describes not only the Savior, but his disciples and those who ministered in the early church as recorded in Acts. Godly servants are people who display Christ-like character throughout the ministry organization. They exhibit the fruit of the Spirit, given in Galatians 5:22-23. They know where they are going and where they are leading their ministry. They have a dynamic mission and, most important, a clear, energizing vision that paints a picture of the future. The consequence of character and vision is followers. When a congregation has a leader, who owns a vision and lives that vision in a Christ-like manner, they will follow that leader to the ends of the earth.

A Vision Promotes Excellence

God desires that his church minister and serve well on his behalf. This calls for ministry excellence. Whatever we do for Christ must be done well, not sloppily or haphazardly. In the Old Testament God required that people give their best when they brought animals for sacrifice (Lev. 22:20-22). This was excellence in worship. In the New Testament Paul explains that God expects us to put forth our best efforts in our work. He says to perform as if we are working for him (Eph. 6:5-8; Col. 3:23-24). This is excellence in the marketplace.

Men's Bible Study



Our Men's Bible Study is scheduled for the *first* and *third* Thursday of the month.

Contact Mike Lofing with any questions - mllofing@gmail.com

Thursday, January 4 -
6:30 am

Thursday, January 18 -
6:30 am

Please join us in the church fellowship hall.

Women's Bible Study

Join the weekly Women's Bible Study on Tuesday morning at 9:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall for a

discussion and DVD from the Beth Moore study "Entrusted" based on 2 Timothy. All are welcome.



Contact Eunice Bollinger for more information -
eunice.b@comcast.net

Prayer Requests

Please remember to check the Prayer Request page on the back of the Sunday bulletin and contact the church office to update any prayer requests!

A shared organizational vision promotes a standard of excellence. Deep down, people want to do a good job, to have a sense that they are effectively and powerfully advancing God's program through their ministry in the church. The vision casts a picture of what that looks like. It provides a visual, mental measure by which staff and congregation can evaluate how well they and the ministry are doing.

A Vision Sustains Ministry

Ministry can be very difficult, even painful. Discouragement and disappointment often lurk in the ministry hallways and boardrooms of the typical church. It is not beyond the enemy to incite persecution against Christ's church (Acts 8:1). Spiritual warfare comes with the ministry territory (Eph. 6:10-18). Many have risked or given their lives for the Savior and the furtherance of the gospel. The list of martyrs for the cause of Christ is extensive. Why? What has sustained Christians from the beginning of the church in the Book of Acts up to today? One answer is a biblical, compelling vision. It encourages people to look beyond the mundane and the pain of ministry. It keeps a picture in front of them that distracts from what is and announces what could be. All the trouble and grief that we experience in this world while serving the Savior are trivial compared to the importance of what we are attempting for him. That picture, carried in our mental billfolds, is one-way God sustains us in the worst of times.

Aubrey Malphurs. "Advanced Strategic Planning"

AA, University of Florida, 1964; BA, Florida Atlantic University, 1966; ThM, Dallas Theological Seminary, 1978; PhD, 1981.

Aubrey M. Malphurs is Senior Professor of Educational Ministries and Leadership and Pastoral Ministry

Dr. Malphurs is a visionary with a deep desire to influence a new generation of leaders through his classroom, pulpit, consulting, and writing ministries. He is involved in a number of ministries ranging from church planting and growth to leadership development. He has pastored three churches and is the author of numerous books and articles on leadership and church ministry. Currently he is the president of the Malphurs Group and is a trainer and consultant to churches, denominations, and ministry organizations throughout North America and Europe. His research and teaching interests include church planting, church growth, and leadership development.

Prayer Warriors

Cheryl Touryan

"The prayer of a righteous man/woman is powerful and effective." James 5:16. The LCC Prayer Team will resume its weekly prayer time on January 10, Wednesday, at 2:30 pm. Anyone is welcome to join us - even for a short time. Let's remember that the battle is not our own, but we have incredible resources at our disposal through the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Join us in the **War Room** on **Wednesday afternoons at 2:30**

pm when we bring our requests before our Heavenly Father.

Matters of the Heart

Gloria Owens

"Matters of the Heart"

Scripture: *"For it is your heart that you believe and you are justified And, it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."*
Romans 10:10

Date: Saturday, February 10, 2018

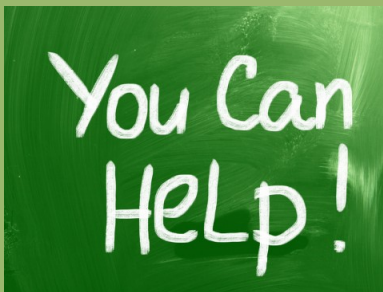
Time: 8:30am - 3:30pm

Cost: \$25 (each family will receive a prayer book)

There will be a special closing worship service *AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS*

based on Romans 8

Registrations will begin January 14, 2018. Invite a friend



Service Helpers Needed

We are always looking for helpers for Altar Guild, Sacrament Assistants, Ushers, Coffee Hour, Sunday School and Children's Church. If you'd like to share your gifts in any of these categories please speak to [Suzanne Pecoraro](#).

Lenten Renewal Food Sign-Up

Please stop by the Food Sign-Up board located outside the Sanctuary and select a food item you would be willing to supply for

January Service Helpers

Jan 2018		Usher	Serve Communion	Read	Coffee	Altar Set/Clean	Sunday Bible Fun	Children's Church	Flower Pick Up
7	8:00am	Hassells	Roger Hassell	Janet Miller	Hassells	Linda Mohrmann	Jackie	Jackie & Claire	Linda Mohrmann
	10:30am	Theisens	Sue Chyno & Claire O'Brien	Jackie Mohr	Sue Chyno & Jackie M	Greta Downs			
14	8:00am	Strains	Sondra Inman	Hope Bergren	Inmans	Linda Mohrmann	Art Martin	Mike & Carole	Linda Mohrann
	10:30am	Nevilles	Von Thuns	Jeff Hansen	George Faust & Karen Soper	Sue Chynoweth			
21	8:00am	Tulbergs	Rose	Rose	Tulbergs	Deanna W	Chari Pashman	Art & Marcee	Deanna W
	10:30am	Sara & Andy Esau	Gloria Owens & C O'Brien	Claire O'Brien	Warren & Pat Roske	Jane Von Thun			
28	8:00 AM	Rich & Karen Miller	Rose Strain	Rose Strain	Strains	Shelly Houston	Jackie Mohr	Larry & Brad	Shelly Houston
	10:30 AM	Hansens	Bollingers	Sherm B	Bollingers	Marlene Selman			

Yellow highlighted names REPRESENT personal choice. Please review all dates.

If you cannot serve on your assigned date, please find a replacement and let Stephanie know (info@www.l-c-c.org). Thanks in advance for your service to the Lord, Suzanne Pecoraro. suzpecrd@comcast.net

Choir Practice

Join us for choir practice at 6:30 on



the Lenten Renewal scheduled for
February 10th.

Happy Birthday!

1/01 John Harms
1/03 John Bergren
1/08 Kasey Knight
1/08 Jim Neville
1/15 George Faust
1/24 Taralynn Walters
1/25 Kyle Stults
1/28 Brittany Tullberg
1/30 Robbin Sellers



Happy Anniversary!

1/31 Mark & Marlene Selman



Join us for choir practice at 8:30 on
Wednesdays and after the second
service on Sundays. Contact [Elinore](#) for
more information!



LCC Library

Linda Mohrmann

Alphabetized lists according to authors and titles are now completed for the books in the War Room section of the library. They are in the binder where the sign out sheets are kept. Work on lists for the books housed in the office, continues.

In the coming year, Adult Sunday School will focus on going "deeper" into our spiritual growth and maturity. There will also be various small group, men's group, and women's group Bible studies going on within our church body. The library has a selection of books to compliment your studies. The Bible dictionaries, Bible handbooks, and reference books sections are in the far-left bookcase in the office. They range from general Bible knowledge to specific books of the Bible. Each week in the month of January, a different reference book will be featured.

Wishing you all a blessed 2018.

Helping Hands

Want to go on an event but have a tight budget? No worries! Our Helping Hands program is back in place. If a student wants to go on an event but needs help with the cost, we supply them with a service project (either in the church or with an appropriate chaperone through the church). Every hour a student works on the project, they receive credit to cover the cost of the event fee from our Helping Hands Fund. It's a win-win for everyone!

Would you like to donate to Helping Hands? Simply mark your donation to "Helping Hands" and leave it in the church office or in the offering plate. Your donations make a big difference in the lives of students and the people they help.

Mission Statement:

As people of Church of the Cross, we proclaim the Love of Jesus Christ in



As people of Church of the Cross, we proclaim the Love of Jesus Christ in all we do for the Glory of God.

