



## **THE VALUE OF GATHERING TO WORSHIP**

**By John Kester, Pastor**

An important thing is taking place in our culture. It has been gaining more and more momentum over the past few years. People have begun to believe that going to church is not a very important thing to do anymore. They have reached this conclusion for a number of reasons. Some have decided that following Jesus does not make sense. Recent polls show an alarming number of people do not believe in Jesus as the Son of God or their Savior. Of course, these people do not go to church. Another group of people has had bad experiences in a church. Maybe someone has been judgmental or selfish or unkind. These folks have not given up on Jesus, but they may have decided that their time is better spent in private devotion and worship than it is spent with other Christians. A third group of people love Jesus and even love the church, but they find that life is so terribly busy that regular worship fails to become a priority in their lives. Whatever the reason, fewer and fewer people are making worship a top priority in their lives.

This saddens me because I believe there are important reasons for Christians to gather to worship. I read an article recently that suggests 3 reasons why it is valuable for us to be in worship each week.

**1. When we skip Sunday worship we miss uninterrupted time to listen to God's wisdom.** I know it is possible to "go to church" on the computer or the TV. But when we are at home there are always distractions. There are chores to do. The kids need our attention. The phone rings. There are all sorts of things that divide our attention in ways that do not happen when we come to church and spend uninterrupted time with God. When we come to church we can focus on God and what He wants us to do.

**2. When we skip church we miss the value of worshipping God through music with others.** There is something intangible that happens when we worship God – out loud – with other people who share faith in Jesus. Sundays are an irreplaceable opportunity to take a step back from the busy day-to-day and directly praise the God that loves us and is incredibly worthy of our worship. Music roots our hearts and minds in the truth of who God is. It remembers and celebrates powerful scripture. It leads us to humble ourselves before God's majesty in a way that doesn't always happen when music is playing in the car or in the background while we go about our day-to-day lives. Worshipping God through music on Sundays – with lots of other people – grounds and fuels our faith.

**3. When I miss going to church I miss out on seeing the power and movement of the church.** The Church has a mission and purpose. And every believer is part of it. We get to spread the amazing news that Jesus Christ loves you, died to forgive you, and He is alive, bringing new life to all who believe in Him. What an *incredible* message to experience. We can be a Christian and not actively participate in the local church. Our salvation is not dependent on doing that. It depends on Jesus. But there's more at stake than that. When we miss Sunday mornings, we miss how God is moving our church community to action. When we miss the host's welcome, connecting opportunities and the stories of God at work, we miss getting to be part of it because we don't know how to be part of it. I don't want to miss being part of the power and movement of God's Church. Plus, if *I'm* not there, then how can I bring anyone with me? So – I do everything I can to attend a Sunday morning service, because when I miss a Sunday, I miss way more than I ever thought I would.



## EVENTS CALENDAR MAY 2017

All events are at the church building unless otherwise noted. \* Indicates an article is elsewhere in this newsletter.

- May 1 – PHCA camp Early Bird registration rates for youth campers end today
- May 3 – Ladies Bible Study at 6:30pm
- May 4 – National Day of Prayer for America
- May 6 – Saturday Worship Service at 5:00pm \*
- May 7 – Hour of Prayer at 4:00pm
- May 9 – Dorcas Fellowship at 1:30pm
- May 9 – Church Board meeting at 7:30pm
- May 10 – Ladies Bible Study at 6:30pm
- May 11-13 – PHCA Work Weekend at PHCA \*
- May 14 – Mother's Day
- May 14 – Recognition of High School Graduates \*
- May 14 – Special Offering for Camp Scholarships \*
- May 14 – Monthly Building Offering
- May 17 – Ladies Bible Study at 6:00pm
- May 18 – June newsletter articles due
- May 24 – CHS Baccalaureate Service at CHS at 7pm\*
- May 26-29 – PHCA Fishing Camp at PHCA \*
- May 29 – Memorial Day (USA)

### LONG RANGE PLANNING



- Jun 2 – CHS Commencement at CHS at 7pm \*
- Jun 3 – Saturday Worship Service at 5:00pm
- Jun 4 – Hour of Prayer at 4:00pm
- Jun 7 – Fun Night & Bonfire  
at Iris & Wally Krenik home/yard \*
- Jun 9-11 – PHCA Ladies Retreat at PHCA \*
- Jun 11 – Monthly Building Offering
- Jun 11 – Dedication of new church sign
- Jun 13 – Dorcas Fellowship at 1:30pm
- Jun 13 – Church Board Meeting at 7:30pm
- Jun 16-17 – Cleveland Cherry Creek Days
- Jun 18 – Father's Day
- Jun 18-24 – PHCA 11th-12th Camp at PHCA \*
- Jun 22 – July newsletters articles due



### BIRTHDAYS:

May 2- Nell Vossmeier; 3- Will Vossmeier; 9- Kim Miller; 13- Lana Filter; 22- Mark Nyamutora (son of missionary to Zimbabwe)

### ANNIVERSARIES:

May 5- Jeff & Vanessa Jaster; 23- Dave & Merilee Burch; 28- Will & Nell Vossmeier; 31- Larry & Lana Filter

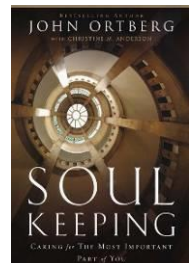
Church of Christ  
900 State Hwy 99  
Cleveland, MN

**“SATURDAY NIGHT ALIVE”**  
WORSHIP SERVICE  
Saturday, May 6 at 5:00pm

Join us for our monthly Saturday worship service!  
[www.clevelandchurch.net](http://www.clevelandchurch.net)

### Sunday Adult Classes

Starting on Sunday, May 14, the adult Bible class using DVD lessons will begin the study “*Soul Keeping: Caring for the Most Important Part of You*” by John Ortberg. This study is designed to help Christians rediscover their soul—the best connection to God there is—and why neglecting it has set so many so far back spiritually. It will show that caring for your soul is necessary for your Christian life. When you nurture your soul your life in this world will make sense. This class meets at 9:00am each week in the church library.



A second adult class meets to study the Bible by reading through various books in the Bible and discussing the passage content. This class meets at 9:00am each week in Room 5. All adults are welcome to either class, your choice. The learning and fellowship has proven to be good for the soul!



### 2017 Cleveland Church High School Graduates

We want to congratulate members of our congregation who are graduating from High School this year. Olivia Kester, daughter of John and Cheryl Kester from CHS and Joey Zalusky, son of Pat and Heidi Zalusky will be completing a home school curriculum. We will be honoring our high school graduates on Sunday, May 14.



## Cleveland High School Baccalaureate & Commencement Services

The Cleveland Baccalaureate Service will be held on Wednesday, May 24 at 7:00pm and CHS Commencement Service will be held on Friday, June 2 at 7:00pm. Both events will be held in the Cleveland School Auditorium.

## Pine Haven Christian Assembly

[www.pinehavencamp.org](http://www.pinehavencamp.org)

Based on grades  
going into Fall 2017

Cleveland is in Zone A



### PINE HAVEN CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

#### 2017 Camp Schedule

Work Weekend	May 11-13
Fishing Camp	May 26 - 29
Ladies Retreat	June 9 - 11
7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Zone B	June 11-17
11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	June 18 - 24
Family Week	July 2 - 7
9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> Camp	July 9 - 15
5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Zone A	July 16 - 21
Servant Leadership	July 16 - 29
Adult Wknd	July 21 - 23
7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Zone A	July 23 - 29
World View Camp	Aug 2 - 6
Greenhorns	Aug 6-9
Family Wknd	Aug 10 - 13
5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Zone B	Aug 13 - 18
Man Camp	Aug 18-20
Ministry Leadership	Aug 20 - 22
Scrapbook/Craft Wknd	Sept 14-16

Information from [www.pinehavencamp.org](http://www.pinehavencamp.org) on 12-17-2016

### Camp Scholarship Offering on May 14

One of the things we share in common at the Cleveland Church of Christ is the conviction that church camp can have a significant impact on the lives of the youth in our church. Because we believe this, it has been our practice, for a number of years, to pay half the camp tuition for any young person from our church who wants to go to camp. In recent years, we have not had a lot of kids going to camp so we extended our support so that any child from our church could invite a friend to camp and we would pay half of that tuition as well. We have had sufficient money in our camp fund so that we have not had to ask for any additional funds to send kids to camp the last couple of years. As camp season approaches we do need to replenish our camp fund. A special offering will be received on Sunday, May 14 (Mother's Day - what better gift could a mother give than to encourage a child in their faith) to provide funds for this summer. Camp funds also make it possible for the church to supply transportation for all of our campers.

## Vacation Bible School News

We are looking forward to another great VBS in 2017. Plans are for a Sunday-Thursday evening event looking at the weeks of July 23, 30 or Aug 6 to have VBS. Betty Lloyd and Janice Fahning are VBS leaders for this year and Annette Swedberg is selecting the curriculum to use. These ladies are counting on others to come alongside them to make VBS 2017 a reality. If you wish to help and have a known conflict with any of the above weeks, let Betty know ASAP. There will be pre-VBS things to do also. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be on a foyer table at church soon.



### SUMMER FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

We would like to hold some fellowship events this summer to provide an opportunity for people in the church to spend time together. Possible events might be bonfires, hayrides, bike ride, game night, movie night, fishing event, craft/scrapbooking night etc. Iris Krenik volunteered to host bonfires at her home on June 7, July 5 and August 2. If you would like to host an event at your home or at the church, please talk to John Kester and we will get something scheduled.



## Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Philippians 4:4



On Easter, the children presented an impromptu song for our worship service.

### Easter Flowers

Thank you to the following families who purchased Easter flowers in memory of loved ones. Sue Braam in memory of Grandma Bair; Megan & Jake Edel in memory of Clara Bell Phillips; Dave & Claudia Essman in memory of family members; Janice Fahning in memory of father Larry Thompson; Marilyn & Wayne Fahning in memory of Elmo & Beulah Perkins and Henry & Julia Fahning; Karen & Kevin Gibbs in memory of family members; Mary Lou Guentzel in memory of Bob Guentzel; Cheryl & John Kester in memory of David Kester and Darrel Potter; Iris & Wally Krenik in memory of family members; Judy & Russ Lloyd in memory of family and friends; Jo & Sherm Rupe in memory of parents and sister; Annette & Doug Swedberg in memory of Bill & Alice Carlson and Bud & Alma Swedberg.

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

900 State Highway 99  
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Cleveland, MN 56017

507-931-5924  
clchurch@live.com  
clevelandchurch.net

**OUR HEAD:** Jesus Christ

**PASTOR:** John Kester

**CHURCH SECRETARY:** Lisa Koppelman

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE every Sunday

9:00 am – Bible Classes (4 Years – Adults)

10:00 am – Fellowship Time

10:30 am – Worship Service

### SATURDAY WORSHIP meets on the first

Saturday of each month at 5:00pm

Link to prior monthly newsletters

[www.clevelandchurch.net/newsletters-2/](http://www.clevelandchurch.net/newsletters-2/)

