

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
LAC DU FLAMBEAU
AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER
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Our Mission Statement:

As people of God and servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, we believe our Mission to be the building of a strong fellowship, ministering to the Spiritual and physical needs of the church, the community, and the world fulfilling our Lord's command to "Love our neighbors."



WHAT CHILDREN MODEL

Terry C. Muck

Frances and I have learned a lot from raising six children when they were real children (under 10 year of age). We learned especially that there are certain things that all children must grow into. That is, it does not come naturally for them to learn to know and think, or to tell right from wrong, or to respect and mostly obey older persons in authority, especially parents. So it is with our help they acquire knowledge and wisdom, learn the values that make up a system of morality, and learn that obedience to loves and laws are what in the long run bring happiness.

Knowledge and Wisdom. 1 Corinthians 14:20 tells us: "Brothers and sisters, do not be children in your thinking; rather, be infants in evil, but in thinking be adults. In the law it is written, 'By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners

I will speak to this people; yet even then they will not listen to me.'"

Perhaps the most prominent of the biblical examples of the learning process a child goes through is the story of Jesus in the Temple. On one of their trips to Jerusalem when Jesus was a child, Mary and Joseph suddenly discovered that Jesus was nowhere to be found. Eventually they did find him—he was in the Jewish temple discussing matters of theological importance with the rabbis. It was not a one-sided conversation with the rabbis teaching and Jesus learning. Jesus was doing teaching also. It was an exchange of ideas, and everyone who observed it, Jesus's parents included, were amazed.

System of Morality. Children have to learn the bottom line of right and wrong just like everyone else. Good behavior—following the law—will lead to the rewards of salvation, while bad behavior—ignoring the law and the prophets—leads to condemnation. As children we get some help from our Creator God, who made us with an instinct to want to know right from wrong. Romans 1:18ff tells us that "ever since the creation of the world God's eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So we are without excuse, for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him." We do have the capacity to know God's law, but we must actualize it.

Obedience to loves and laws. I suppose the lessons of obedience that children must learn begin with the Ten Commandments, particular the commandment that we find in Exodus 20:12: "Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." We see similar lessons repeated in Matthew 13:12ff; Ephesians 6:1, and 1 Timothy 3:4.

But Frances and I also learned, with the help of our parenting experiences and a few key passages of Scripture, that children have special gifts that come not through learning but are instinctive. That is, certain gifts, call them "Kingdom of God Gifts," are more a matter of who children are from the beginning than they are nurtured and learned. Consider for a moment three of these Kingdom of God gifts: an innocent devotion to truth, an instinct toward faith-filled companionship, and committed membership in the Kingdom of God.

Innocent devotion to truth. Psalm 8 tells us that it is through the lips of children, the mouths of babes, that we best learn about the glory of God. And it is not only the Bible that teaches that this is a

special gift of children. A fairy tale that you may have heard as a child, "The Emperor's New Clothes," teaches it also. You remember the story. An Emperor who loves fine clothes hears about two weavers who sew the very best clothes. Unfortunately, the weavers are con men and pretend to make clothes that only the righteous can see. Since no one wants to be seen as dumb and immoral, everyone claims to see the "clothes" the Emperor is wearing. The Emperor parades around naked, in so-called invisible clothes, and in the end it is a child who blurts out, "but the Emperor has no clothes on." A light hearted lesson about a much more serious topic, the need we all have to recognize and worship the infinite glory of God. A lesson that children model best. We can learn it from them.

Faith-filled Relationships. Children model much more, however. In the eighteenth chapter of Matthew, verses one to six, Jesus's disciples argue among themselves as to who is the greatest person in the Kingdom of heaven. Jesus answers them. The answer is not a heroic person, an emperor or a genius or a war hero. And for these purposes the answer is not even Jesus himself. The answer is a generic, human classification: children. "Jesus called a child to come and stand in front of them, and said, 'I assure you that unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven. The greatest in the Kingdom of heaven is the one who humbles himself and becomes like this child. And whosoever welcomes in my name one such child as this, welcomes me.' It is children who model 'the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.' It is Jesus who 'humbles himself' and becomes like a child to all his followers. It is children who model the 'greatest of these.' Kingdom of God membership. Finally, children model membership in the kingdom of God. That's what Jesus taught us in Mark 10:13-16. "People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them."

We honor children not because of what they do, nor because of what they give us, but because they model these Kingdom of God Gifts, so that even though in becoming adults we may have lost some of the power of being truth-tellers, faith-sharers, and kingdom-members, we can look at our children, see them modeling what we have lost, and recommit to them.

Pastor Terry had a sermon about symbols that are in the Bible which inspired me to look up some of the symbols and their meaning. The following are a few of the symbols I found on the website: learnreligions.com



Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and Omega is the last. Together these two letters form a monogram or symbol for one of the names of Jesus Christ, meaning "the Beginning and the End." The term is found in Revelation 1:8: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (NIV) Two more times in the book of Revelation we see this name for Jesus:

He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. (Revelation 21:6, NIV)

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." (Revelation 22:13, NIV)

This statement by Jesus is critical to Christianity because it clearly means that Jesus existed before creation and will continue to exist for all eternity. He was with God before anything was created, and therefore, took part in creation. Jesus, like God, was not created. He is eternal. Thus, Alpha and Omega as a Christian symbol signifies the eternal nature of Jesus Christ and God.



Sue Chastain

Bread and wine (or grapes) represent the Lord's Supper or Communion.

Bread symbolizes life. It is the nourishment that sustains life. In the wilderness, God provided a daily, saving provision of manna, or "bread from heaven," for the children of Israel. And Jesus said in John 6:35, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry." NIV)

Bread also represents the physical body of Christ. At the Last Supper Jesus broke bread, gave it to his disciples and said, "This is my body given for you..." (Luke 22:19 NIV).

Wine represents God's covenant in blood, poured out in payment for mankind's sin. Jesus said in Luke 22:20, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (NIV)

Believers partake of communion on a regular basis to remember Christ's sacrifice and all that he has done for us in his life, death, and resurrection. The Lord's Supper is a time of



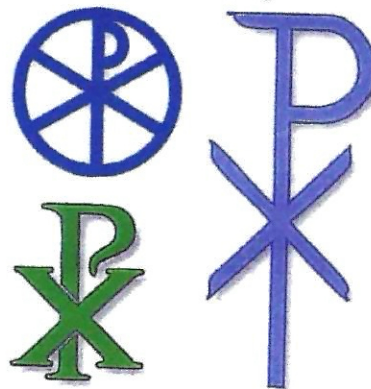
The Latin cross is the most familiar and widely recognized symbol of Christianity today. In all likelihood, it was the shape of the structure upon which Jesus Christ was crucified. Though various forms of the cross existed, the Latin cross was made of two pieces of wood crossed to create four right angles. The cross today represents Christ's victory over sin and death through the sacrifice of his own body on the cross.

Roman Catholic depictions of the cross often reveal the body of Christ still on the cross. This form is known as the crucifix and brings emphasis to the sacrifice and suffering of Christ.

Protestant churches tend to portray the empty cross, emphasizing the resurrected, risen Christ. Followers of Christianity identify with the cross through these words of Jesus (also in Matthew 10:38; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23):

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me." (Matthew 16:24, NIV)

Chi-Rho (Monogram of Christ)



Sue Chastain

Chi-Rho is the oldest known monogram (or letter symbol) for Christ. Some call this symbol the "Christogram," and it dates back to the Roman Emperor Constantine (A.D. 306-337).

Although the truth of this story is questionable, it is said that Constantine saw this symbol in the sky before a decisive battle,

and he heard the message, "By this sign, conquer." Thus, he adopted the symbol for his army. Chi (x = ch) and Rho (p = r) are the first three letters of "Christ" or "Christos" in the Greek language. Though there are many variations of the Chi-Rho, most commonly it consists of the overlaying of the two letters and often is surrounded by a circle.

Christian Dove



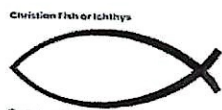
San Cristobal

The dove represents the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost in Christianity. The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus like a dove when he was baptized in the Jordan River:

... and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from

heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:22, NIV)

The dove is also a symbol of peace. In Genesis 8 after the flood, a dove returned to Noah with an olive branch in its beak, revealing the end of God's judgment and the beginning of a new covenant with man.



Christian Fish or Ichthys

The Christian Fish, also called the Jesus Fish or Ichthys, was a secret symbol of early Christianity.

The Ichthys or fish symbol was used by early Christians to identify themselves as followers of Jesus Christ and to express their affinity to Christianity. Ichthys is the Ancient Greek word for "fish." The "Christian fish," or "Jesus fish" symbol consists of two intersecting arcs tracing the outline of a fish (most commonly with the fish "swimming" to the left). It is said to have been used by early persecuted Christians as a secret symbol of identification because it could be quickly sketched in the dirt with the toe of your sandal and just as quickly scraped out again. The Greek word for fish (Ichthus) also forms the acronym "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior."

Followers of Christianity also identify with the fish as a symbol because fish frequently appeared in the ministry of Christ. They were a staple of the biblical times diet and fish were often

Cross and Crown



San Cristobal

The Cross and Crown is a familiar symbol in Christian churches. It represents the reward awaiting in heaven (the crown) that believers will receive after the suffering and trials of life on earth (the cross).

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12, NIV)

Light of the World



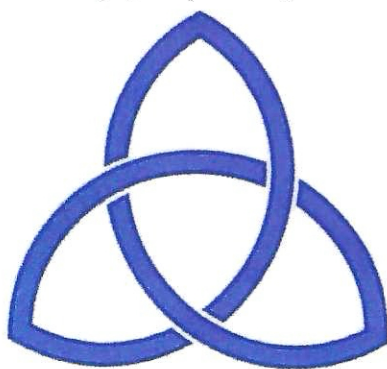
With so many references to God being "light" in Scripture, representations of light such as candles, flames, and lamps have become common symbols of Christianity:

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5, NIV)

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12, NIV)
The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? (Psalm 27:1, NIV)

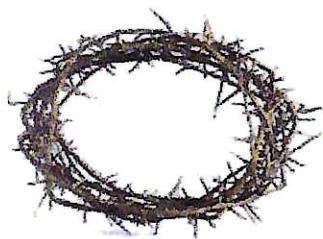
Light represents the presence of God. God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and the Israelites in the pillar of flame. The eternal flame of God's presence was to be lit in the Temple in Jerusalem at all times. In fact, in the Jewish Feast of Dedication or "Festival of Lights," we remember the victory of the Maccabees and the rededication of the Temple after being desecrated under Greco-Syrian captivity. Even though they only had enough sacred oil for one day, God miraculously causes the eternal flame of his presence to burn for eight days, until more purified oil could be processed.

Trinity (Triquetra)



The Triquetra is an ancient pagan symbol found on Celtic period grave markers and stele that is used to represent a three-part interlocking fish symbol for the Christian trinity.

Crown of Thorns

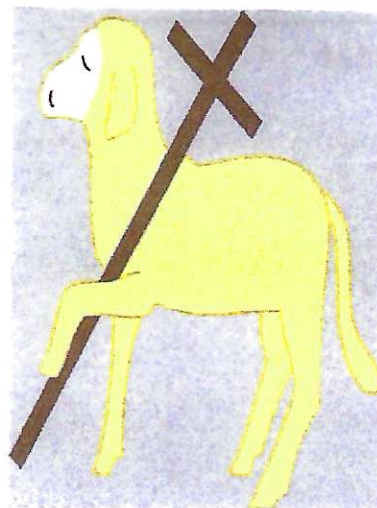


One of the most vivid symbols of Christianity is the crown of thorns, which Jesus wore before his crucifixion.

... and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. (Matthew 27:29, NIV)

In the Bible thorns often represent sin, and therefore, the crown of thorns is fitting—because Jesus would bear the sins of the world. But a crown is also fitting because it represents the suffering King of Christianity—Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)



Sue Chastain

The Lamb of God represents Jesus Christ, the perfect, sinless sacrifice offered by God to atone for the sins of man.

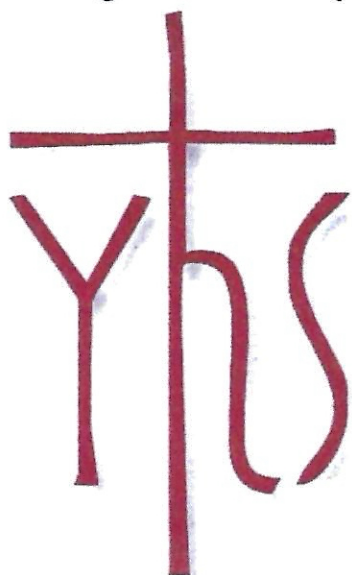
He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter ... (Isaiah 53:7, NIV)

The next day John saw

Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29, NIV)

And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." (Revelation 7:10, NIV)

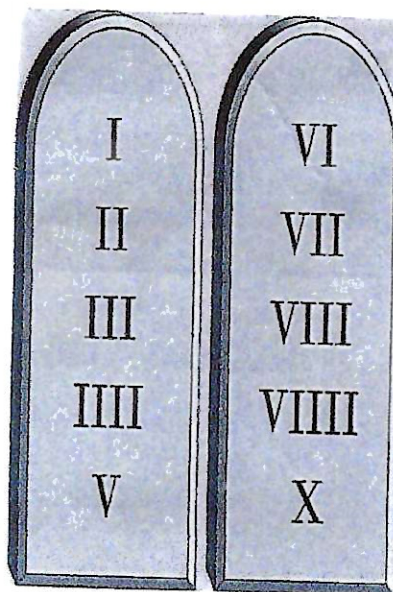
Monogram of Jesus (Ihs)



Sue Chastain

Ihs is an ancient monogram (or letter symbol) for Jesus that dates back to the first century. It is an abbreviation derived from the first three letters (iota = i + eta = h + sigma = s) of the Greek word "Jesus." Scribes wrote a line or a bar over the letters to indicate an abbreviation.

Ten Commandments



Sue Chastain

The Ten Commandments or the Tablets of the Law are the laws that God gave to the people of Israel through Moses after leading them out of Egypt. In essence, they are a summary of the hundreds of laws found in the Old Testament Law. They offer basic rules of behavior for spiritual and moral living. The story of the Ten

Commandments is recorded in Exodus 20:1-17 and

Deuteronomy 5:6-21



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17, NIV)

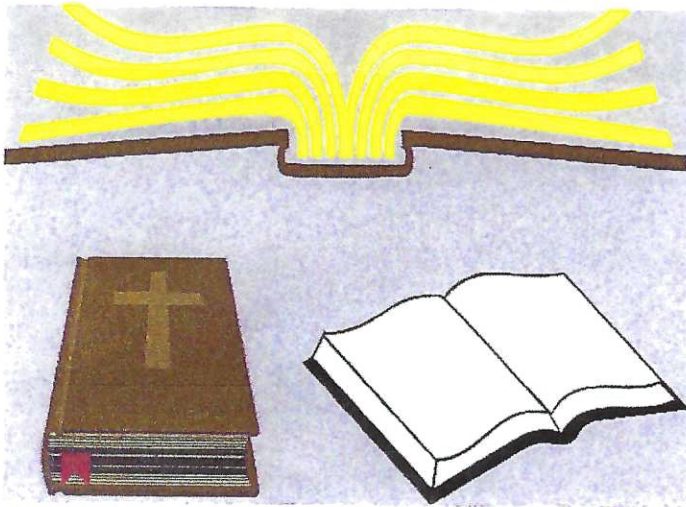
Writers of the Bible used rainbows to describe the glory of God:

Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking. (Ezekiel 1:28, ESV)

In the book of Revelation, the Apostle John saw a rainbow around the throne of God in heaven:

At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne. (Revelation 4:2-3, NIV)

When believers see a rainbow, they are reminded of God's faithfulness, his all-encompassing grace, his glorious beauty, and his holy and eternal presence on the throne of our lives.

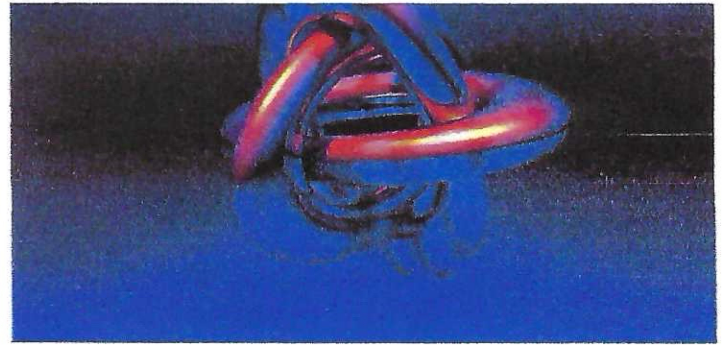


Sue Chastain

The Holy Bible is the Word of God. It is the Christian's handbook for life. God's message to mankind — his love letter — is contained in the pages of the Bible.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness... (2 Timothy 3:16, NIV)

I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. (Matthew 5:18, NLT)

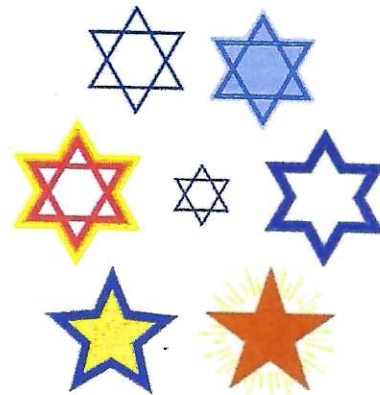


☐ Borromean rings, three interlocking circles symbolize the Trinity.

CAROL & MIKE WERNER/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY / Getty Images

There are many symbols of the Trinity in Christianity. The Borromean Rings—a concept taken from mathematics—are three interlocking circles that signify the divine trinity. A Borromean Ring falls apart if any one of the rings is removed.

The word "trinity" comes from the Latin noun "trinitas" meaning "three are one." The trinity represents the belief that God is one Being made up of three distinct Persons who exist in co-equal, co-eternal communion as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The following verses express the concept of the Trinity: Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19; John 14:16-17; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Acts 2:32-33; John 10:30; John 17:11&21.



☐ Christian Symbols Illustrated Glossary Star. Images © Sue Chastain

The Star of David is a six-pointed star formed by two interlocking triangles: one pointing up, one pointing down. It is named after King David and appears on the flag of Israel. While predominately recognized as a symbol of Judaism and Israel, many Christians identify with the Star of David as well.

The five-pointed star is also a symbol of Christianity associated with the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ. In Matthew 2 the Magi (or wise men) followed a star toward Jerusalem in search of the newborn King. From there the star led them to Bethlehem, to the very location where Jesus was born. When they found the child with his mother, they bowed and worshiped him, presenting him with gifts.

In the book of Revelation, Jesus is called the Morning Star (Revelation 2:28; Revelation 22:16).

SPECIAL DAYS FOR AUGUST 2024

There are no special national dates for August



Birthdays

Jack Miller	Aug. 3
Carol Gelwicks	Aug. 17
Diane Bridgeforth	Aug. 19

Anniversaries

Tom and Carol Gelwicks	Aug. 1
Mark and Jo Mayeau	Aug. 6
Dr. Bill and Fran Raduege	Aug. 24



Scripture readings for August

August 4 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Semicontinuous: 2 Sam. 11:26-12:13a and Ps. 51:1-12;

Complementary: Ex. 16:2-4, 9-15 and Ps. 78:23-29; Eph. 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

August 11 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Semicontinuous: 2 Sam. 18:5-9, 15, 31-13, and Ps. 130;

Complementary: 1 Kings 19:4-8 and Ps. 34:1-8; Eph. 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

August 18 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Semicontinuous: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 and Ps. 111;

Complementary: Prov. 9:1-6 and Ps. 34:9-14; Eph. 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

August 25 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Semicontinuous: 1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43 and Ps. 84;

Complementary: Josh. 24:1-2a, 14-18 and Ps. 34:15-22; Eph. 6:10-20; John 6:59-69



WE ARE IN NEED OF PEOPLE TO SIGN UP FOR:

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Articles are to be submitted by the last Sunday of the month.

If you are online, the following web addresses will provide you with news and information about the General Assembly, Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and the Presbytery of Northern Waters www.pcusa.org/crisis; outreach/evangelism; www.stopinfindout.org; northernwaters.net. We also have the Newsletter on our website: www.lfchurch.com.

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