



Why Does the Church Exist?

Dr. John Ellas, director of Center for Church Growth, recently took a survey asking one simple question. The question was this: *Why does the church exist?* He asked this question to the same number of church members and full-time ministers. The results were rather intriguing. While surveying church members, Ellas found that 89% believed that the church existed "to meet the needs of my family." Out of the responses from the full-time ministers 90% said the church existed "to reach the lost." The results seem to reveal a rather large divide between understandings of the church's mission and purpose.

While I do believe that we, who are the church, should take care of each other, to suggest that the church exists primarily "to meet the needs of my family" reveals a rather unhealthy definition of church. At some point in my life the church existed for me and my family, but once I became a Christian I became the church. Once I became the church I took on the mission and purpose of the church. If I am the church, and yet I say that the church exists for me, then I am essentially saying that the church exists for the sake of the church.

I'm not quite sure that is what God had in mind for the church. Israel did not exist to bless itself, but rather to be a blessing to others (Genesis 12:2). In the same way, I do not believe that the church exists for itself. We, who are the church, are called to take care of each other. But to say that the church exists to take care of me is much different than saying that I exist to take care of others. As one of Max Lucado's book titles suggests, it's not about me.

The truth is that the church exists for *others*. Who are these *others*? They are the lost, and they are our brothers and sisters in Christ. Most importantly, they are not me. I used to be a part of the *others*, but now I am part of the church. The church's mission and my mission should now be the same - we exist for others.

If you were asked to state the purpose of the church what would your answer be?
~Gilbert

God's Creative Work

It is good to know that we worship the creator God. Our God is the one who with unimaginable power created the earth with all the things in it. It is good to read Genesis as it provides us a theological introduction to who God is. Genesis tells us more than history or prehistory, it tells us what some of God's character traits are, and how God works in this world. It is our first glimpse at the God whom we worship. And the very first thing that we learn about God is that "In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth." Our first introduction to God is that he creates.

This is an important concept for us to understand; that God is a creator- *the* creator. If there is one thing we know from reading about God at this point in the text - it is that God creates! This is essential to understand if we are to be a people that deny ourselves for others. If we are to be a people that die to ourselves each day, it is important to remember that each day God creates in us the strength to serve. In our willing service to others "we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day" (2 Cor. 4:16).

It is good to know that we worship the creator God. ~Phil

Hattie Coffel remains at St. Elizabeth Hospital, room 3102, following gall bladder surgery on Friday. She is not doing very well...**Irene Fox**, who has been in George Davis Manor nursing center for 11 years, is now on hospice care....**Willie Batts** is to receive an injection on Thursday to relieve pain caused by her sciatic nerve. She also is caring for her husband, Calvin, who has Alzheimer's....Continue praying for **Steve Cable, Mike Sutherlin, Irene Miller, Melissa Jones, Leon Johnson, Bernie Ciota, Alberta Cagle, Randi Verett, Jean Stockberger, Lance & Lane Pepper, Valley Stockton, Mandy Anderson, Eileen Richardson, Kaden Koebecke, Amanda Powlen, Julie Lichty, Pat Johnson, Marge Campbell, Irene Sims, Henrietta Frampton, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, Eagle Bailey, & Minnie Scott.**

Serving in our military: **Philip Devine, Mark Wilson, Shawn Wilson, and Ti Draughon.**



Congratulations!

Perry Achor has retired from Purdue University after 33 years as a professor in the Building Construction Management Department. He has been awarded Professor Emeritus in recognition of the many years of distinguished service given to Purdue. Congratulations, Perry!



Elmwood family:
The love and support you have shown us has been wonderful. We are so blessed to have found such a welcoming congregation. We are excited to spend more time getting to know you and learning from your example. Thank you for all the gifts! They will come in handy with our new house. You each have an open invitation to visit. Love, Katy & Phil

Lafayette Christian School Needs YOU!

It's **Dutch Apple Pie** time at Lafayette Christian School. With your willing hands, 390 bushels of apples are turned into 7,000 pies in two days! Volunteers are needed to fold boxes, peel apples, assemble pies, or work in the freezer trucks on **Monday, October 13 and Tuesday, October 14.** If you are able to come, you will be welcomed! If you need additional information, contact Jayne King at 742-3462 or the school at 447-3052.

20 Something's Fall Retreat



When: October 17-19
Starts at 6:00 on the 17th
Ends at noon on the 19th

Where: Rainbow Christian Camp, Converse, Indiana
Speaker: Gilbert Kerrigan

Cost: \$25 per person (includes place to stay and meals provided)
If cost is a problem, contact Jason Cochran at 409-4522



Phyllis Kirby, sister of Betty Lucas, died last week. She suffered a stroke several years ago and had been in a nursing home since then. Our sincere sympathies to Betty and her family.

Jesse Crowder, brother-in-law of Annie Crowder, passed away Friday in Florida. His funeral will be Saturday in Artemas, Pennsylvania. Our sympathies to Annie and Elaine.

Attention Prayer Partners:

I thank God for your willingness to pray daily for your partner. If you have not yet done so, please notify your partner that you are their prayer partner. You might ask them to let you know of any specific prayer requests that they have. Also, on their birthday and at Christmas you may want to send a card and a special wish to them.

-Christi Branstetter

October 5, 2008

Class: 186 Worship: 306

Contribution: \$10,136



LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR CHRIST - LTC

Elmwood has participated in LTC for 10 years now, but I am aware there are some of you who are not aware of this wonderful ministry. If you are new to Elmwood or LTC, I encourage you to check out the website: www.mwltc.org, it is full of information including the event rules, etc. The following is a snippet of what LTC is about and one "event" (T-shirt Design) you may begin working on right now. We plan to have a preliminary meeting to get LTC going in November and would like for our students to finish pre-convention events by the first of the year. If you have questions, let me know! – Lee

What is LTC?

Leadership Training for Christ is an organization designed to stimulate and encourage spiritual, mental, and social growth among young men and women in grades **three through twelve**. Its mission is to achieve this growth by developing skills in leadership, Bible knowledge, and Christian service. Skill development in each of these areas will be accomplished through participation in a variety of individual and group events. These events will take place within the context of a wholesome and supportive environment designed for the purpose of fostering enthusiasm and high achievement among the participants.

T-shirt Design Contest

Every year, MWLTC has a T-shirt design contest that features a "design concept" created by students. The winning design concept is printed on T-shirts and given to each participating student that has paid a registration fee. We may use your design as it is or we may submit it to a T-shirt designer and ask them to come up with the T-shirt to be distributed at the 2009 MWLTC convention. The artwork you submit does not need to be camera-ready, but if you present it that way — great. We will accept pencil sketches, crayon drawings, computer generated, you name it. Please be careful about borrowing any ideas that might be copyrighted; we will not knowingly use anything of that nature.

Your artwork needs to represent this year's LTC theme:

Light - Life - Word

Please submit all entries **postmarked by January 19, 2009** to:

Sharon Porter - Elmwood Church of Christ - 2501 Elmwood Ave. -Lafayette, IN 47904

If you like, you may also send an electronic version of the design concept via email. The file should be in a standard format that can be easily opened, such as PDF, JPG, PNG, GIF, etc. We recommend that you ask for confirmation that the message was indeed received. Send your file(s) to shirts@mwltc.orgThis e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it .

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Seth Mullen's Boy Scouts Eagle Project

Seth Mullen will be doing his Boy Scouts Eagle Project at the Indiana Veteran's Home on Saturday, October 11. A requirement of all Eagle Projects, Seth has to schedule the work. He is asking for volunteers to help sand and seal the picnic benches on the property of Indiana Veteran's Home in West Lafayette. Please consider volunteering some of your time and energy on **Saturday, October 11**, beginning at 8 AM until the project is done. Lunch will be provided. Any amount of time--even 1 or 2 hours--is greatly appreciated. Also, if you have a belt sander, please bring it to do the sanding. **RSVP to cmmul4@aol.com or by phone 463-5681.**

Wonder-Full LIFE Christmas Program

It's a Wonder-Full LIFE rehearsals will start on Wednesday, October 15, at 6:45 PM for those in 1st grade through High School. (There are a few short **parent** parts and I'll need a stage crew this year.) Rehearsals will start on Wednesday nights, and in November going to Sunday afternoon rehearsals as well. -Lynae Stafford



October 8, 5:50 PM....Good \$ense Class with Janet Boston

October 8, 7 PM....Bible classes

October 11, 8 AM....Seth Mullen's Eagle project

October 12, 6 PM....LIFE Groups meet

October 17-19....20 Something's Fall Retreat

Dates & Deadlines

These are the key dates & deadlines for MWLTC 2009.

Jan 19 T-shirt concept due for contest & Scholarship applications due (Student form & reference form)

Feb 9 Pre-Convention Event Projects Due & Student registrations due (guarantees free t-shirt)

Mar 16 Online registration stops accepting new students

Mar 22 Alternative Art Banner projects must be on display at home congregation.

Mar 23 Registration deadline (no student changes accepted after this date)

Mar 27 All "Challenge" event submission forms due

Apr 10-12 MWLTC Convention

Read:
Jeremiah 33-52;
John 3:1-6:24

2008 Spiritual Adventure

Week 43: October 20-26

Reflection on John 3:16

It is probably the most popular verse in the world. You hear it in movies, on TV and even on the street corner from the homeless man preacher. When you hear John 3:16, it says so much with so little, not that surprising given the inspiration for it. It embodies the fundamental purpose and meaning of the Christian religion. The ultimate Mission statement - letting you know exactly what belief in God has meant since the coming of Christ. Writing about this around the same time as having a child of my own has revived its meaning and brought it home for me again. Giving your child for others, it is almost unimaginable. But that is the love that our God has for us. He has given us the perfect example of selflessness. I am going to try and specifically live this attribute out in my life this weekhow about you?
 -Chad Pitt

 <i>Weekly Schedule</i>	 <i>Elders</i>	 <i>World Missions</i>
Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Bill Bell 463-1139 Joe Mathews 474-8369 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653  Staff Ministers Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Lee Porter 463-6993 Phil Travis 447-2874 Office Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874 Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874	Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99536 Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000 E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774
 Our Vision: Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.		

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