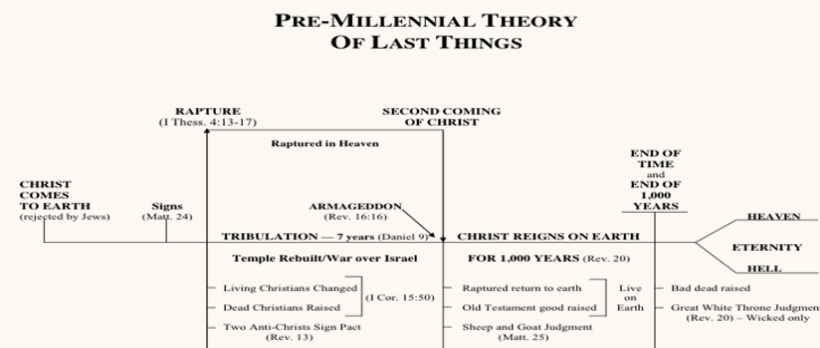


Revelation part 3 - Understanding what happens when Jesus returns?

I have always been intrigued and fearful at the same time, about how things are going to unfold in the last days. For fear of not being able to wade thru all the different ideas and philosophies, not correctly understanding prophecy, and being taught that it really isn't all that important, I shied away from studying these things. For the last couple of months we've been exploring the first 3 chapters of Revelation and discovering what Jesus said to the churches of that day and the relevance it has to the modern church. In this segment, I want to switch gears and begin digging into a subject that for some will be completely new and to others it may be quite familiar. No matter where you find yourself on the spectrum, it's always good to look at things from different points of view. I will quickly explain the predominant views about what happens when Christ returns, then seek to expand a little on the view that I find to be most accurate (scripturally speaking) and then delve into what we often refer to as the rapture and tribulation periods.

There are three primary viewpoints held in modern Christianity about what happens after Jesus returns...they are a-millennialism, post-millennialism, and pre-millennialism. A-millennialism is the name given to the belief that there will not be a literal 1000-year reign of Christ. The prefix "a-" in a-millennialism means "no" or "not." This differs from the most widely accepted view called pre-millennialism (the view that Christ's second coming will occur prior to His millennial kingdom and that the millennial kingdom is a literal 1000-year reign) and from the less-widely accepted view called post-millennialism (the belief that Christ will return after Christians to establish the kingdom on this earth).

The chart below is the simplest example I could find explaining the pre-millennial viewpoint. I like to see things as complicated as this drawn out on timelines. I think if you look at it and read thru it carefully, referring to scripture as you go, you will find that it really begins to make sense and gives a complete picture as to what will happen in the last days. It is a hopeful diagram because if it is indeed the way things will unfold, we who are in Christ will not have to undergo the tremendous persecution and judgment God will bring on the world as outlined in Revelation.



In the coming months we'll explore a little more in detail what each of the events on this timeline represent, but for the remainder of this article, I'd like to hone in on what transpires between the rapture and the second coming of Christ.

For so many years I honestly thought the rapture was something that disillusioned Christians had made up...I didn't understand what it was, when/if it would happen, and most importantly the hope it gives us in these uncertain last days. The rapture is clearly defined in 1 Corinthians 15:51-55, Matthew 24:38-41, and 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17. If you read those passages of scripture, you will find the following:

- We who are still on earth will not die (sleep) but be changed in an instant to our immortal state
- We will hear the last trumpet sound and the dead in Christ will rise and be changed to their immortal state as well
- No one knows the hour when Jesus will return
- Some will be taken (those in Christ) and those outside Christ will be left behind
- The dead in Christ will rise first then we will meet them in the air
- Jesus will come down with a loud voice only audible to the saved at the last trumpet

Although the rapture isn't specifically mentioned in Revelation, it is clearly alluded to in the transition from chapter three to chapter four. By the time you reach Revelation 4:1, the first two segments of the book as outlined in Revelation 1:19 "The things which you have seen" (the view of the glorified Christ; 1:1-18) and "the things which are" (the condition of the seven churches; 1:19-3:22). This time frame extends from the resurrection of Christ to His for the church. So it is only reasonable to assume "the things which take place after this" will occur after the age of the Church on earth. Revelation Chapters 4-19 talks about one thing in its entirety—tribulation on earth. The church isn't mentioned at all in any of these chapters, so if it's not on earth, it must be in heaven. Furthermore, John now uses the phrase "if anyone has an ear, let him hear" rather than saying "he who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches"...so this invitation is to "anyone" left after the rapture that would internalize the message and obey. Another convincing proof that that church has been taken to heaven is God's Spirit is in heaven before the throne of God (Rev. 4:5) instead of on earth empowering the saints.

After the church is taken from the earth to heaven, a horrific span of seven years, referred to as the Tribulation period, will take place. There is a lot of speculation and theory about what happens during this time period, but I tend to take John's vision and the prophecies in Daniel 7 referring to this time period very literally. This is a very quick overview of what will happen during the first three and a half years of the Tribulation (I'll save the rest for the next article...):

- The first four of seven seals will be opened by Christ from heaven initiating a downward spiral of cataclysmic events on earth
- The first seal is the coming of the Anti-Christ, the second is war, the third seal represents death and starvation brought on by the Anti-Christ who will rule the economy thru totalitarian power, and the fourth represents the death that the Anti-Christ will bring to all who don't worship him.
- The Anti-Christ will also control a false religion that overtakes the world establishing his reign in Jerusalem
- Those that do come to faith during this time will be persecuted and killed, but later avenged by God

I realize this is a lot to digest and consider and believe me there is much more that could be said about each of these topics, however, my encouragement for you is to read and study for yourself...ask God to reveal Himself to you...take these words and warnings to heart and start preparing yourself to meet Jesus and share your faith so that others can take part in the rapture and avoid the tribulation.

Grace be with you, Joshua



LAKE SUPERIOR LIGHT

LAKE SUPERIOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

August 2014 / Issue 8

Missions Committee Report

The missions committee met on 8 July 2014 with nine members present and one visitor. We opened the meeting in the usual way with prayer by all in attendance. There were 17 newsletters and 7 thank you letters to peruse. Following that, we spent time listening to the visitor, discussing the immediate needs.

Pam shared with the committee the trip to Mountain Mission School. It was a very successful time and the team was kept busy with various projects. We will hear more about this trip by a member of the team in November's mission moment.

We had several requests for financial help, but were only able to respond to one this month. Because you still continue to support missions, we were able to help a member go into the mission field on a full-time basis.

There are several good magazines on the mission bulletin board. Take advantage of these and see how the funds you give serve many different organizations. Much work is being done to help the persecuted church around the world. And remember, you are welcome to attend any mission meeting. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in room 9.

The Missions Committee

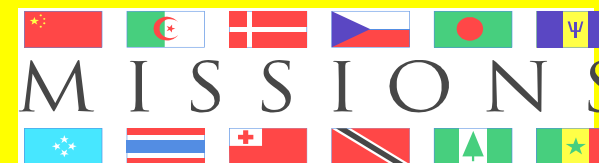
Missions - Compassion International

Our children's ministry is currently collecting money for mosquito nets to "bite back" and fight against malaria in Africa and India. We are also donating to Compassion International's campaign for water filters that turn contaminated water into clean, drinking water in developing countries. We will continue to collect for this mission through August. Adults are welcome to contribute as well.

Vacation Bible School Update

Thank you to everyone who made this year's VBS a tremendous success! It was a great week of teaching and faith building all wrapped up in loads of fun.

We had over 100 children attend, and we were able to raise over \$1,000 for Nikki Barr, missionary to the Dominican Republic.



August sermons

- August 3** Dave Celeskey
- August 10** Danai Chowwiwat
- August 17** Ray Thornton
- August 24** Brandon Morey
- August 31** Mike Bohl

Serving God

by **bringing** people into His church, **building** people up in His Son, and **sending** people out to serve in His harvest.

Executive Minister-Don Withrow
 Worship Minister-Josh Dickey
 Youth Minister-Brandon Morey
 Media Minister-Dave Celeskey
 Services times:
 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
 Visit LSCC.tv

Lake Superior Christian Church
 393 N. M553, Mqt, MI 49855
 906.249.1431
office@lsc.tv



ministry news

children's ministries

kids@lscs.tv



PARENT AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MEETING

Calling All Parents, Teachers and Children's Ministry volunteers! Is your child's character, safety and spiritual development important to you? It is to LSCC too! We want you and your kids to have the absolute best Children's Ministry experience possible. But we need YOUR help. On Sundays, **August 3 and 10 (you only need to come to one meeting)** we need your thoughts, concerns and feedback regarding our Children's Ministry. We will talk with you about improving the ministry after receiving your recommendations. The meeting time is **right after 2nd service at 12:30**. Pizza and drinks are provided for lunch! Your ideas are important to us, so help us work with you to shape our kids to be more like Jesus. Call Don at the office at (906) 249-1431 for more information.

Worship & Picnic in the Park

Sunday, August 24

Join us for ONE family-friendly service at **11:00 a.m. across from the Presque Isle Park Pavilion** and then for a picnic afterwards! Please note there will be no classes or childcare.

Everyone is invited!
Please bring a dessert or side dish.

You're sure to enjoy great music, communion and an encouraging message.

LSCC will provide hotdogs, hamburgers, and drinks.



Visit our website at

LSCC.tv

In case of inclement weather the service and picnic will be held at the church. No morning classes or childcare.

Women Connected

women's ministry

women@lscs.tv

August Event - Join us August 20th for a geocaching adventure with Gloria Price. Meet at the church at 6pm or at Mattson Harbor at 6:30pm. There is no childcare for this event.

Tuesday morning Bible study - An informal study on First John, from 10-11:30 a.m. in Connection Central. Leaders: LaDonna Slack, Georgie Baij.

Moms' Meeting at the Park - An informal play group on Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-noon at Harlow Park. In case of rain, we'll meet in the children's area of the Peter White Library. Leaders: Sarah Schober, Jenny Oosterhouse.

Chickadees Hiking/Outdoor Recreation Group. Leaders: Heidi Bray, Kit Rhodes.

Book Club: The book for August is "Redeeming Love" by Francine Rivers, and the discussion will be at Evie Schuster's home at 9:30am on Thurs., Sept. 4th. Leader: Kathy Barr.

Stay up to date on all the activities by checking the Women Connected binder in Connection Central or join the **Women Connected Facebook page**.

ignition student ministries

ignition@lscs.tv



Grades 6th-12th

WEDNESDAY nights 6-8:00 p.m.

Contact Brandon at 249-1431 for more info.

WORSHIP-THE WORD-FUN-FRIENDS

A Note from Jerry and Natalie

Dear family and friends at Lake Superior Christian Church;

Greetings from Spokane. Natalie and I have arrived safely in the inland northwest. It was a long, hard trip and so far a hard transition. The trip over was filled with so many difficulties. It is safe to say that I will never be allowed to drive truck for a living. We got stuck in Ironwood, Mi in a driving rainstorm. I managed to hit a breezeway in Anaconda, MT. The breezeway was probably 10' 8" and I was 12' 7". It was quite a bump. But we arrived safely and we are in our apartment. Our address is 5326 Rifle Club Ct. Apartment A Spokane, WA 99208. You are always welcome. And yes there is a rifle club about a half mile from the house. It was noisy on Saturday.

This note is to express our gratitude to you. It is impossible for us to thank everyone who helped us. We owe a deep debt to so many of you. Your kindness and help over the last several weeks was amazing. We will not forget some of the amazing conversations and moments. Thank you for all of the gifts. The money has been needed. It is expensive out on the road. Thank you so much for your generosity. Thank you for the help with getting the house ready. Thank you for the loading crew. We believe there was over forty people helping to load. Even with all of our downsizing it was a tight squeeze in that truck. Where does all of the stuff come from?

We still get goose bumps with the final prayer time just before leaving the house. It was a great moment. We also are so thankful for the years we spent together in ministry. It was good. We were blessed by you and all of the memories. Thank you!

Please keep praying for our house to sell. We are praying for you and are waiting to hear all of the good and amazing things God will do through you all.

May the Upper Peninsula become a Christian Peninsula.

So one more will know JESUS,
Jerry and Natalie

July Statistics	6-July	13-July	20-July	27-July
Baptisms	0	0	0	0
New Members	0	0	0	0
Worship Attendance	390	435	383	351
Bible School Attendance	41	40	40	Unavailable
Operating Fund Budget	\$15,150	\$15,150	\$15,150	\$15,150
Operating Fund Offering	\$	\$15,999.91	\$13,945.11	\$14,586.11