



What do you think?

1. What do you think the Christian Church should look like and do in our 21st Century world?
2. When I think of our church (Resurrection & Life Lutheran), I expect that we...

If you could use assistance filling out the next two sections on "The Holy Christian Church" and "a Christian congregation," please view the accompanying video or contact Pastor Meyer.

I. What is the Holy Christian Church?

Definition: "Church" means those people who have been _____ by God. (1 Peter 2:9)

Read I Peter 1:22-2:12

1. Because God has caused us to be "born again," what is our status before Him? (1 Peter 1:22)
2. What was it that caused our spiritual rebirth? (1 Peter 1:23)
3. In 1 Peter 2:1 a number of characteristics are listed. Why would we want to rid ourselves of those things?
4. In order to do so, what does God urge us to do? (1 Peter 2:2-3)
5. In 1 Peter 2:4 God begins describing the Church as a unit, picturing it as a building. Jesus is the cornerstone; what are we?

6. In I Peter 2:9 we receive a definition of both our status before God and our purpose in this life. Can you identify each?

Our status =

Our purpose =

7. When the Christian lives his/her life in a God-pleasing way, who will notice? (I Peter 2:12) Why is that important?

Definition: The Holy Christian Church (the communion of saints): _____

Called "Holy" because _____

Called "Christian" because _____

Called "Church" because _____

II. What Is a Christian Congregation? (a church - small "c")

Definition: A congregation is a _____ or _____ of people.

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1. The early Christian Church concentrated their time and attention on a few things. What were they focused on doing?

I Corinthians 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

2. As congregations devote themselves to those activities, God brings _____ .

Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another -- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

3. Regular attendance at worship and studies are important for several reasons:

Read Matthew 13:47-50

1. When the net was let down, all kinds of fish were caught, good and bad, which had to be separated at the end of the day. How does Jesus apply this? (Matthew 13:49-50)
2. What important truth does that teach us about the difference between the Holy Christian Church and a Christian congregation (church)?

I Samuel 16:7

“The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

3. Who alone knows which church members are believers and which hypocrites?

The Church, our church, and you

- ⇒ Based on the above study and your own personal storehouse of Biblical knowledge, what work and goals does Jesus aim to accomplish through HIS Holy Christian Church?
- ⇒ In what ways will local churches (congregations) always disappoint our and others' earthly expectations? In what ways might churches exceed expectations?
- ⇒ As a member of the Holy Christian Church and a local congregation, what should YOU:

DO?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

PRAY?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Prayer

Dear God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – thank you for your powerful work in our world, in our church, and in my heart. Continue to grow my understanding of and participation in your Kingdom. Holy Spirit, work through your Word – in my heart, life, church, and world. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.