

**“Now Concerning  
Spiritual Gifts ...**

*I do not want you to be  
uninformed.”*

(1 Cor. 12:1 – RSV)

The Mission of RLCS is to:

**LOVE and OBEY the Savior,  
EQUIP believers for ministry,  
SHARE the Good News about  
Jesus**

**A. Please be relaxed -- you are  
among Christian brothers  
and sisters – fellow members  
of the Body of Christ – all  
part of God’s family and  
congregation**

**B. I WELCOME QUESTIONS**  
*(“The only dumb question is the  
one not asked ...”)*

**I WELCOME YOU INSIGHTS –  
YOUR OPINIONS!  
YOUR THOUGHTS ...**

C. You will have **HOMework**  
 – so please do any “homework”  
 reading assignments, surveys,  
 etc. – it will help in your growth  
 process!

D. *Don't take my word for  
 anything!* If I cannot say,  
*“Thus says the Lord,” then what I  
 am saying is only my opinion!*  
**God's Word is only reliable the  
 guide!** “Everybody is a theologian  
 ... everybody has an religious  
 opinion!”

E. One “textbook”: **The Bible,  
 the Holy Scriptures** - and I  
 encourage you to bring your  
own Bible, and be prepared  
 to write in it!)

**SO MANY QUESTIONS ...  
 What are Spiritual Gifts? Do  
 I have one, or more? What  
 does the Scripture say  
 concerning the gifts? How  
 many Spiritual Gifts are  
 there? Who gives the gifts?  
 Who receives the gifts?**

What role should Spiritual Gifts play in my life as a Christian?  
... in the life of the Church?  
How important are the spiritual gifts? If the gifts are important, why are they not listed in Martin Luther's Small Catechism?

The person who buries a talent is making a grave mistake.

God wants us to be involved with His work – and if God gives a free gift(s) He not only wants us to use it but expects us to use it!

Spiritual gifts are special gifts:

- ❖ given by the Holy Spirit
- ❖ given by the grace of God
- ❖ received by all members of the Church (i.e., all believers in Jesus as Lord and Savior receive one or more of the gifts)

- ❖ given to be used within the Church (but many times to touch people outside of the Christian Faith)
- ❖ given to build up the Church as we glorify God by using the gifts

**AGREE or DISAGREE:**

- +Most people in the Church today do not even know what their spiritual gift is
- +Ministry in the Church is primarily the task of pastors and teachers.
- +Every congregation has within its ranks the gifts necessary to carry on the Lord's work successfully

Our GOAL with the Spiritual Gifts should be to establish, build, and up-lift the Church with the use of our God-given gifts.

See *1 Corinthians 14:12* and *Ephesians 4:11-13*

What is the primary purpose of the Gifts of the Spirit?

See *Acts 1:8* and *Matthew 28:19-20*

The New Testament teems with expressions of thanksgiving and joy. Early Christians celebrated being Christ's Church and that God had gifted them.

The basic verb for "giving" ("*didomi*" in Greek) occurs in the NT over 100 times, with God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit as the "giver." The Church saw itself as the gifted people of God!

**Read 2 Corinthians 8:9.**  
According to Paul, to what do Christians owe their giftedness?  
What is the paradox that Paul strikes here?

**Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9.**  
For what is Paul grateful?  
What is the result of God's blessing?  
Whose faithfulness can we count on at all times?

**Examine *Romans 12:6a*,  
*Ephesians 4:7-8*, and  
*1 Peter 4:10*.**

**What do these passages tell us  
about the grace of God?**

**What does God's grace do for  
the Church?**

**The Early Church received  
grace upon grace from God.  
Joy and thanksgiving were  
fitting, natural responses!  
Still, some Christians missed  
how gifted they were.**

**Their mood soured, and then  
prodding and reminding were  
needed to move them to thanks  
and joy. Sound familiar?  
What attitudes or practices  
work against a celebrative  
mood in churches?**

**What could cause an  
abundantly gifted  
congregation to grow stale  
and cold?  
See *Revelation 2:1-5* and  
*3:14-18*.**

**Paul often had to exhort his congregations to a celebration of their gifts.**

**Read *Colossians 3:15*, *1 Thessalonians 5:16-22*, and *1 Timothy 4:4-5***

**In each of these passages, what reason does Paul give for thanksgiving and joy? What do these “imperative” passages tell you about the Church then and the Church now?**

**Read *1 Peter 2:4-10*.**

**Peter creates a montage of the Church. What pictures comprise his montage, especially in vv 5 and 9. What does God ask of every Christian in *Romans 12:1*? Share about the times you have seen this happen at RLCS.**

**The image of the Body of Christ helps us to a richer understanding of the Church as God’s gifted people. Read *1 Corinthians 12:12-27*. In a chapter devoted to Spiritual Gifts, Paul talks about body parts, functions, unity, and diversity.**

**After examining these verses, list some “truisms” (self-evident truths) concerning the Church and its gifts.**

*Dear Pastor,*

*With this letter I resign from all my offices and duties in our congregation. You personally, Pastor, have done nothing to bring this about. I continue to love and respect you. Specifically, I no longer wish to serve as Sunday School superintendent,*

*congregational secretary, Fellowship Board member, Outreach & Social Ministry Board member, women’s guild treasurer, and altar guild member. Pastor, I guess that I’m just tired – bummed out, maybe. I don’t feel I’m doing a good job. It seems as though I do nothing but go to meetings.*

*I’m sure that another person can bring more to these positions than I can. I’m concerned, too, about how much time I spend away from my family. I’m asking for some time and some distance to rest and get renewed.*

*I'll continue to worship and attend Bible class regularly. I may join the Sanctuary Choir. Maybe some day I'll be ready for more active church work again. Right now, I need to step aside. I hope you understand.*

*In Christ,*

*Linda*

## **HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT**