

## Module 2: Luther's Learning Centers – The Body of Christ

The Body of Christ activity is designed to be one of six learning centers. It will help children, youth and adults discover their role and identity in the "Body of Christ." Participants will make picture frames and position photos on a congregational collage.

A musical component has been designed to create a sense of continuity between the theme and individual program offerings. A variety of rhythmic raps have been composed to highlight the key learnings at each Learning Center. A Musical Revue sheet is provided to display the rhythm raps and celebrate the fact that Martin Luther "rocked" the church with his own rhythms and beliefs. In fact, Luther loved music and often wrote songs based on rhythms and melodies that were familiar to the people to help make worship and education more relevant.

Church House Rock "For Here/To Go" packs are provided to transport crafts and other learning materials. The Wittenberg Door Openers or Gathering Activities introduce and distribute these resources for participants to use as they move through the Luther's Learning Centers.

The Leader's Notes for this activity, along with any needed preparations and supplies, are outlined below. A Program Planning Grid (PDF file) is available to assist you in coordinating the many details and tasks involved. Scan through the activity and adapt it to enrich your own schedule and intent. You might also consider using it to enrich other intergenerational or age specific events throughout the year.

Note: You may wish to display signs to distinguish Luther's Learning Centers from the Wittenberg Door Openers

**Approximate time:** 5-7 minutes

### Equipment and Supplies:

- 35mm camera and film, an instant-print camera or a digital camera
- A copy of the [Frame for the Body of Christ Collage](#) (PDF file)
- Copies of the [Body of Christ Picture Frame](#) (PDF file)
- Thin cardstock or paper
- Scissors
- 3 sheets of white poster board
- Wide masking tape or duct tape
- Copies of [Rhythm Rap sheet B](#) (PDF file)
- Extra copies of the [Church House Rock Rhythmic Revue sheet](#) (PDF file)
- Sheets of adhesive 11/3" x 4" labels

### Leaders Notes

You may wish to recruit a few people to partner with you in completing some of the initial steps involved.

Use adhesive 11/3" x 4" address labels to make copies of the "Hands and Feet and Voice to Speak" rhythm sheet. Encourage participants to attach a label to their Rhythmic Revue sheet to celebrate faith as integral to following Jesus. Be sure to have a few extra revue sheets available for participants who may not have received one.

Practice, tapping or clapping, the rhythm identified on the rhythm sheet. Participants who were involved in the Wittenberg Door Opener Activity: The Church House Rock Rhythmic Revue may already be familiar with the rhythm. Plan to use this exercise to highlight the primary point of this activity.

As you consider ways to coordinate this learning center, you have the option of facilitating two activities: one for display in your congregation and one for each family or individual to make and take home. Both designs are intended to visualize the significance of Ephesians 4:15-16. The congregational display will frame a photo collage of individuals and families in your congregation and the take-home picture frame will feature a single photograph.

You also have the option of planning a quick photo session during to this activity or inviting participants to bring in 4x6" photos. Keep in mind that digital cameras and instant-print cameras will create an immediate print, individual contributions will provide diverse presentations and the development of 35mm camera film may delay the completion of the project. You may also decide to take instant prints to place in the collage and encourage participants to choose one of their own photos to place in the picture frame at a later date. Either way, you will need one photo to complete each activity.

Use the following guidelines to create a wall display.

- (Optional) Include a request for photos in your event promotions.
- (Optional) Provide a brief photo session to generate photos to include in the collage.
- Tape the three sheets of poster board together.
- Copy the frame for the Body of Christ Collage onto an overhead transparency and use an overhead projector to trace the enlarged design onto the poster boards.
- Invite families and individuals to glue or tape their photo inside the outline of the figure.

Use the following guidelines to make a sample picture frame.

- (Optional) Include a request for photos in your event promotions or invite participants to place a photo in the frame at a later date.
- (Optional) Provide a brief photo session to generate photos to include in the collage.
- Note: The frame is designed to highlight a 4x6" portrait (in contrast to a typical "landscape" photo.) So, be sure to turn your camera to accommodate the design or adapt the design to accommodate a variety of photos.
- Make photocopies of the pattern for the Body of Christ picture frame, using cardstock or heavyweight paper.
- Cut out the outlined figure from the center of the picture frame.
- Tape a photo to the back of the paper so the photo shows through the outline of the figure. These may be taken home as a reminder of the event.

### **Activity:**

Begin this activity by asking participants to identify the figure on the frame (Jesus). Point out that it is God's desire that members of God's family put on the image of Christ. Romans 8:28-29 describes the need for those who have been called according to God's purpose to be conformed to the image of God's Son. Refer to the words of Mother Theresa, a Catholic nun who devoted her entire life to serving the needs of others. She said we need to be "God's hands and feet and voice to speak" until Jesus comes again.

(Depending on the age and attention span of your group, you may go on to refer to Ephesians 5:15-16 as a "snapshot" of how God intends for people to live, grow, and serve in a community of faith. Point out that it is vital that we do, whatever we do, with God in mind and heart. You might even include 1 Corinthians 12:27 as an example of some of the specific roles individuals can play, e.g., Leaders, healers, helpers and teachers.)

Invite participants to engage in one or both activities, according to your plan for this time.

Distribute copies of the rhythm rap as you highlight the key learning for this activity center. Invite participants to attach the labels to their Church House Rock Rhythmic Revue sheets. Then, encourage them to tap out the rhythm with you before adding the words to perform the rap.