

*Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing*  
1 Corinthians – Chapter 1  
January 31, 2011

OPEN: In groups of three or four, share your name, what service you attend here at St. Andrew's, and tell who was one of your better friends when you were growing up (if you were a loner as a child, you may speak of a good friend from your adult life). What made or makes that person such a good friend?

STUDY: Review the Overview Sheet.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-3. What does Paul say about himself in verse 1?

Given what you know from the Introduction, why would he introduce himself this way?

What does he say about the church in Corinth?

Why?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9. What does Paul say about the Corinthians in these verses?

Could the same be written to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church today? Why or why not?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17. Now that Paul has finished the opening, what problem in the Corinthian community does Paul address?

Who is Apollos?

Who is Cephas?

What does Paul say about himself in this paragraph?

What's the point of this?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. What does Paul say about the word of the cross in verse 18?

Why would the world see the cross as foolish?

According to verse 22, what do Jews demand?

Why?

Who are the Greeks of verse 22?

What do Greeks demand?  
Why?

Do people in the world still seek signs or wisdom today as a prerequisite for believing in God? Why or why not?

What is the preaching of Christ crucified to those who seek signs and wisdom?

What is it to those who believe?  
How is the cross a demonstration of God's power and wisdom?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. How does the Corinthians own situation bolster Paul's argument, according to these verses?

Why?  
How does this counter the arguments of those who want to remain in factions and insist on having things their own way?

From where do we receive life, wisdom, sanctification, righteousness and redemption?

### REFLECT

If the word of the cross seems weak and foolish to others, what can we do in preaching the cross that will help others believe?

How, today, can going directly to the cross help us in our lives?