VOLUME 4 ISSUE 147

APRIL 2017

CROSS CURRENTS

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

Pastor Chu

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He's Risen! ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." — Matthew 28:5-8

He has Risen! — This proclamation of the resurrection of our Lord resounds throughout Christian churches on Easter morning (though it is an appropriate proclamation every divine service) as Christians greet each other with the joy of the Lord's triumph over the "unholy trinity," namely sin, death, and devil.

"He has risen" is the proclamation of faith by those brought to saving faith in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel that Christ, crucified to atone for the sin of the world, is risen from the dead, the firstfruits of those who will be raised to resurrection life at His return (1Corinthians 15:20-23). Faith in Jesus' resurrection means spiritual life now, eternal life that has already begun for us in this life, and life in the resurrection to come.

"He has risen!" is also the proclamation of historical truth. Our faith in Christ is rooted in historical events. Jesus arose from the dead. The angel's message to the women at the empty tomb assert the Lord's crucifixion and resurrection as actual, historical events (Matthew 28:5-8). St. Paul goes so far as to say, "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain." (1Corinthians 15:14)

Believers and unbelievers alike witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. A Roman centurion, witnessing the events of that day, including the earthquakes and the darkening of the skies, and hearing the words of Jesus from the cross, testified of Jesus: "Truly this was the Son of God." (Matthew 17:54: cf. Mark 15:39: Matthew 27:45)

As for the resurrection, the Bible leaves no doubt either: Jesus arose from the dead, just as we confess in the Creed. **The Old Testament prophesied the resurrection** (Psalm 16:10; cf. Acts 2:25-31; 13:33-37). **Jesus predicted His resurrection** (Matt 16:21; Mark 9:9-10; John 2:18-22).

The evidence of Jesus' resurrection is overwhelming. Angels witnessed that miracle of miracles and proclaimed it. The women saw the empty tomb and heard the Good News from the angels proclaimed it (Matthew 28:5-8). But there were countless other witnesses and evidence.

Jesus' tomb was empty on the third day (His burial cloths left behind).

(Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-10)

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Roman soldiers guarding Jesus' tomb witnessed the resurrection.

(Matthew 28:4, 11-15)

The Risen Lord appeared to many and they saw Him, talked with Him, touched Him, ate with Him. He appeared to:

The women Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-9

Mary Magdalene Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18
Two disciples Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-35

Peter and the twelve Luke 24:34; 1Corinthians 15:5

Ten disciples Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25

Eleven, including Thomas John 20:26-31; 1Corinthians 15:5

Seven disciples (5 named) John 21:1-25

Eleven disciples Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-18

More than 500 at one time 1Corinthians 15:6

James and all the Apostles 1Corinthians 15:7

Some disciples Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:2-3

Any testimony of the Lord's resurrection by any of these witnesses could have been refuted easily and summarily; all anyone had to do to disprove Jesus' resurrection was produce Jesus' corpse that they had sealed inside a tomb guarded by Roman soldiers whose lives would have been forfeit if they were to fail in safeguarding the corpse against theft and subsequent fraudulent claims of resurrection. The authorities did not and could present any corpse because Christ had arisen, so they colluded with the soldiers to perpetrate the lie that Jesus' disciples had stolen His body (Matthew 28:11-15).

Nothing but His resurrection could have transformed Jesus' disciples from trepid followers who deserted their Lord at the hour of His greatest need to fearless believers who not only preached the Gospel of their Crucified but Risen Savior and Lord but willingly suffered and died as martyrs for that Good News (Acts 5:41-42).

The Scriptural evidence is overwhelming: Jesus is risen! The life of His first followers testified of that wonderful news. And you and I and all who trust in Jesus alone for salvation by God's grace are called to be living witnesses to the world that He has risen indeed.

Bible Class Schedule for April

Wednesday evening Bible Study April 19 and 26

Sunday Bible Class April 2, 9, 23, 30. "Eating God's Sacrifice: The Lord's Supper Portrayed in Old Testament Sacrifice" DVD series by Dr. Daniel Brege

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 13—Maundy/Holy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion—7:00 p.m.

April 14—Good Friday Noon Service at 12:00 p.m.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7:00 p.m.

April 16—Easter Sunday

Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.

Children's Egg Hunt at 9:30 a.m.

Easter Service with Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

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CONDOLENCES

The Lord called Jack M. to Himself in March. Please keep Doris and family in your prayers.



	APRIL BIRTHDAYS			
2	Richard L.			
13	Dorothy T.			
17	Ron G.			
23	Kaytlyn C.			
24	Trudy H.			
26	Diane O.			
	Herb N.			
29	Timothy H.			
	APRIL ANNIVERSARIES			
4	Dave & Ann C.			
12	Eberhard & Anke W.			
16	Mike & Joyce L.			
29	Ken & Sue R.			

CHOIR REHEARSALS for April will be on April 4 and 11. (No rehearsals on April 18 or 25.) The choir could use some additional voices for Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday); if you're able to help out, please contact Diana Meux (dianamcm02@yahoo.com or 510-526-3294). Thank you!



April 2017 - What's Happening with the WoHC? by Joyce Liebe, President

March was a busy, busy, month. We started off with our annual Ash Wednesday Pizza dinner & then Worship Service. There was a good turnout & it was nice to start off Lent with our church family. Thanks to those that helped clean up!

Then we had our Bunco, hosted my Sue O'Malley & her mom Lilly. We had at least 16 attend! What a special time to see some old friends & new ones too. Plus, Lilly had us laughing much of the night. With her positive attitude, grateful spirit, & sense of humor - she is an inspiration to many. Bunco was fun as usual & the dessert delicious! Thanks Sue!

A couple days later, 6 WoHC headed to Benicia for our Spring Zone Rally. They have just restarted a women's group at Benicia & they were great hosts. Since we rotate the churches that host the Zone Rallies, we can check out their church & get a feeling for how they personalize their activites. Benicia is known for having some good musicians & singers - so of course we sang numerous songs. Some were familiar, some not - most very upbeat. Then Cindy Steinbeck spoke, which I always am encouraged by. We also raised money for mites! Good times!

Lastly, we had our General Meeting, where we had elections & then craft time. Vice President & Treasurer were the 2 voted positions up for election (the chair positions are open to anyone who wants to join in!). So, after discussions & voting, here is our Board, starting Sept. 2017:

Board as Elect	<u>ed:</u>	Chairpersons:		
President Joyce Liebe		Birthday Gifts	Idalene Stadler	
	Annaliesa Liedtke	Christian Life	Pat Easby & Annaliesa Liedtke	
Secretary	Grace Gin	Gospel Outreach	Gayle Bothe	
Treasurer	Melarie Seidel	Human Care	Sue O'Malley	
		Membership Dev.	Pat Kroeger & Idalene Stadler	
		Servant Resources	Cherylene Brueckner	
		Sunshine/Cards (B'day)	Idalene Stadler	
		(Get Well/Anniv/Sympathy)	Chris Roman	

Thanks to each women for serving!

Andrea Beutel & Jean Eissner provided all the tools and instructions for repairing our Christmas ornaments. It was a learning process - craft glue? pins? hot glue? We mended quite a few & had some laughs in the process. The highlight (even more so than the elections) was the tres leches cake Ina Dekker brought. Thanks to all that joined us!

Upcoming WoHC activities:

Mon., 4/10, General Mtg. & Network or Care Packaging, 6:30pm, Parish Hall.

Our speaker is Janet Frazer, who founded Network of Care. It's a non-profit that helps people at hospitals with nutrition & care in emergency rooms. Janet will lead us as we put together bags of goodies. The WoHC have helped twice before & we have a great time with this local, hands-on mission project. Dessert will be served! Sign up & join us!

Sun., 5/7, All Congregation Potluck & Birthday Party, 11am, Parish Hall

Happy Birthday to All! Come, Everyone Come, to an All Church Birthday Party & Potluck! Who from Holy Cross was born the same month as you? Come to this fun event & find out! Come & sit at your birthday month table, have lunch & cake - get to know others. Bring a main dish or hearty salad that you would serve for a Special Celebration in your own home. Please identify the dish with its name, origin & your name! Come & celebrate our lives! Sign Up Sheet is up now.

Activity details are also on our Bulletin Board & Sunday Bulletins. As always, please feel free to contact me or any of the Board if you have questions, comments, or suggestions.

<u>Dennis & Carol Lau</u> are moving east (Iowa) & south (Belize)!. They've been a big part of Holy Cross, long before Mike & I became members. Carol had a part in every WoHC activity, and we will miss her tremendously.

Instead of only missing her, I want to focus on the great example Carol was & to encourage myself & others to follow in her footsteps. Here are some things we can do:

Talk to others

See the positive

Lend a hand

Say a prayer

Encourage others

Send a card

Make a phone call

Bake something sweet

AND Share your favorite things

I read this at Dennis & Carol's Sunday farewell. I knew Carol would appreciate it as we both share a love for dogs. I hope it brings a smile to you too. By Joyce Liebe (picture on next page)



Easter Sunday Brunch

Come one, come all to the Easter Sunday Brunch which will begin at 9:00 am.

There is a sign-up sheet to let us know who will be coming as well as a sign-up sheet for what you can bring....fruit plate, sweet rolls, coffee cakes, etc.

The kids Easter egg hunt will be at 9:30. We look forward to seeing you there! Easter eggs will be provided!!!

If a Dog Was the Teacher you would learn things like:

- When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
- Allow the experience of fresh air & the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
- When it's in your best interest practice obedience.
- Let others know when they've invaded your territory.
- ♦ Take naps.
- Stretch before rising.
- ♦ Run, romp, & play daily.
- Thrive on attention & let people touch you.
- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
- On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.
- On hot days, drink lots of water & lie under a shady tree.
- ♦ When you're happy, dance around & wag your entire body.
- Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
- ♦ Be loyal.
- Never pretend to be something you're not.
- If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
- When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, & nuzzle them gently.
- ENJOY EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY!

Work "Party" April 8, 9am

While the Altar Guild is cleaning the

sanctuary, we could use some help with outside maintenance. Our property is large & our volunteer staff is small. The Scouts are invited; however we can use a couple hours of your help too. There is variety of tasks, so put on your work clothes & come on over to help.







Lau's Farewell. You will be missed.

Thank you, Holy Cross,

It is so good to be home! I came home from Stonebrook on March 16 after spending over three weeks there following my back surgery on February 13 and hospital stay. It is difficult putting into words my gratitude for the love and care shown to me by all of you, my Holy Cross family. Your prayers, visits, phone calls, texts, cards, and flowers while I was in the hospital and at Stonebrook certainly lifted my spirits and my faith. Difficult days were made less difficult by you. I have read the cards several times, and each time they bring comfort. Please keep my recovery in your prayers. The doctor says two more months for the bone to heal, and then physical therapy. I am doing well, and I know the Lord is at my side.

Blessings,

Cherylene Brueckner



Cherylene and Yoyo. Two leg warmers, one organic and one inorganic.



"Disability Awareness" presentation by Rev. Geta Dirasse, Ministry Consultant

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Altar Guild News:

• Many thanks to the Women of Holy Cross who helped to repair our damaged Chrismons. We will be able to use them in the upcoming Christmas season.

- Would you like to contribute to Easter flowers in memory or honor of a loved one? Pick up a flyer from Jean Eissner or Andrea Beutel.
- April 8th We will be doing spring cleaning in the sanctuary starting at 9 am to prepare for the Easter season and summer worship. Please join us! Bring a bucket and rag. Many hands make light work!
- April 15th We will be decorating the sanctuary for Easter starting at 9 am
- Did you ever wonder about the Liturgical Colors? Glad you asked! You'll see the following colors in the upcoming weeks. These colors will be on the Altar, Pulpit, Chancel banner and Pastor wears a stole of the same color.
- o Purple Color of royalty, but also symbolizes sorrow and repentance. You'll see purple in the chancel area during the Lenten season through Maundy Thursday
- o Black Color of mourning, humilty and death. The cross and pulpit will be draped in black on Good Friday. The altar will be bare.
- o White Color of purity and eternity. Symbolizes perfection, celebration and joy. The chancel area will be white for the Easter season, starting on Easter Sunday and on Holy Trinity Sunday
- o Red Color of zeal and martyrdom. You will see red paraments on Pentecost.
- o Green Color of life, refreshment, and regeneration. The chancel area (and Pastor) will wear green throughout the Pentecost season.

We are in need of additional Altar Guild members. Please consider joining our group. Contact Andrea Beutel for more information. Thank you!

The first Holy Cross Men's Coffee Klatch (kaffeeklatsch: an informal social gathering for coffee & conversation) was a success - with 16 men attending! So, don't stay home drinking your coffee. Join us for the next gathering:

WHEN: Wed., April 19

TIME: 8:30am

WHERE: Mel's Diner on Treat Blvd. CONTACT PERSON: Luker, 899-0605 (cell)





How Can I Help? By Mike Liebe

In our February Voter's Assembly meeting we approved our Holy Cross operating budget for this year. We have been blessed these past few years with faithful contributions and volunteers that have allowed us to operate fiscally positive. Our volunteers serve a very important role in our positive operations; both official positions that oversee our expenditures and adherence to our budget, and persons who perform tasks that would otherwise incur expenses to Holy Cross.

In our Christian faith we commonly describe our Stewardship as three elements – Time, Talent and Treasure. We need all three for our successful Stewardship of our ministry here at Holy Cross. And I would like to briefly discuss our opportunities for the first two elements of Time and Talent.

Holy Cross has a long tradition of many volunteers who have shared their individual skills and efforts in many wondrous ways such as greeting worshippers, overseeing projects like our parking lot refurbishing, mowing and trimming, cleaning, calling members and visitors, teaching Sunday school, to mention just a few.

How Can I Help? There are many ways you can share your talents, whether in Council positions or part of the Trustee team, or something as helping hands but needed just as much, and many that can be done on your schedule and within limitations you may have. Some fun examples -

- Be a smiling and friendly greeter at our worship services or other events.
- Apply your tinkering skills to a project or two like changing bulbs or switches, adjusting timers, or troubleshooting audio systems.
- Weed and trim to your hearts delight; maybe you can surprise us with new blooms.
- Dry mop the Parish Hall after coffee hour to keep the floor clean and shiny.
- Collect litter outside our fence along Ygnacio Valley Road; a never-ending supply of exercise.
- Apply your culinary skills to our Outreach food prep.
- Create articles, or share fun finds, for Cross Currents and our website.
- Call our members and friends or visit them.
- Take the leap and find out what the Altar Guild does.
- And there is painting for you Picasso-types.

Many opportunities to fit just what you love to do! And your church family needs you – a perfect match of time and talent, and Christian stewardship.

How Can I Help? Reach out to me, Pastor, Joyce in the office or any Council member or chairperson for some choices to select or maybe share your own ideas for something you want to do.

You Can Help!

February Outreach

It's morning on the 4th Sunday of the month, today is Outreach at the Concord shelter. We did a lot of prep work on Sat so we wouldn't be so rushed on Sunday.

This morning, Mike L. was busy preparing a large batch of rice pilaf (a recipe from Joyce).

After church service we had helpers in the kitchen; Grace & Peter & Annaliesa. Grace gracefully accepted the job of getting the lumps out of the gravy, she is quite a (whisk) pro! Our menu for the day was: rice and a sauerkraut dish with a variety of cut up pieces of sausages. We also served turkey casserole, topped with turkey dressing and gravy.

The yummy rice pilaf was a hit as well. We also served a huge bowl of salad, (had to make extra). They love salad with all the fresh cut up vegetables, etc. that we add. They ate all the food we had prepared. Mike L. was today's kitchen chef, Luker was the food transporter, and his son Kevin met us at the shelter, along with Jan & Scott. They also helped serve & clean up at the shelter before we left there. Thank you Sue O. for the cookies.

Our friends/clients started off with the appetizers © donated from Trudy. We served around 50 shelter people. It was a small group being the rest of the clients had walked to downtown Concord taking advantage of the sunny day.

The lesson was how God cares for us, just like the shepherd who went off to find His one lost sheep. God wants us all to be saved, He loves all of us. John 10:28 God goes to great effort to seek lost sinners. He

greatly rejoices when they come to repentance. "I give eternal life to them, they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand."

It was a good day, a very good day indeed.

All thanks, praise and glory to God!†2

Submitted by Pat E.

Nifty Fifty Senior April Activities

Thursday, April 6

The first is to the Nantucket Restaurant located at 601 Port Street, Crocket, CA 94525. This is a seafood restaurant hidden under the Carquinez Bridge and is a little difficult to find but well worth the effort. They serve delicious seafood in a friendly atmosphere. They have Italian style soup prepared daily with fresh crab, prawns, clams, scallops in a stew with tomatoes garlic and herbs. They also have clam chowder and a host of other seafood, all reasonably priced. I understand the fish and chips are the best in the Bay Area. A review states "Outdoor seating" by the water is very relaxing. Pleasant place to eat. Nice salads and good soups. Many fish selections including appetizers and main dishes, great place to eat. The last time I was there I had the clam chowder and fish and chips and it was great! Meet at church at 12:00 leave at 12:15 or go direct to the Restaurant. Lunch is as always at 1:00. Please sign up so we know how many to plan on. BRING A FRIEND!!!

Thursday, April 20

The second place is a repeat, because of the turnout we had last time and it is The Point Restaurant locate in Rio Vista just off highway 160 on highway 12 in the Delta. This is an upgrade from the Nantucket with white linen tablecloths and a more extensive menu and is overlooking the Sacramento River. Bill Luker has again taken on the task of handling the reservations and like last time and we should be seated in the dining area on the end which are the best in the house. It's a beautiful drive along the Sacramento River in the Delta which with all the rain we have had should be a real sight to see. They have steak, BBQ chicken as well as fish. A review states "the calamari and cod had a very light breading and was not greasy. Great food, good presentation, nice portions –not too much and not too little. You won't go away hungry. Plenty of parking. Most of the ratings were 5. It should take about an hour to get there so we should meet at church at 11:45 and leave at 12:00. Again please sign up so we know how many to plan on. You can go directly but you should let us know if you are. Because of the distance we should carpool, so several of us will need rides. Bring a Friend. Mary Kreitz

Outreach at the Concord Shelter. March 26, 2017

We prayed The Lord's Prayer and a table Prayer. All the clients were lined up and we were ready to serve lunch. What a wonderful group of people.

First the green fresh fruit salad, served by Scott Selby, next was the yummy chicken chowmein served by Mindy Wirtz. The buttered buns, & hot sandwiches served by Allyza Luker. Mike Liebe dished up the sausage soup (he made from scratch) and so delicious! Kevin Luker was the juice man. Bill Luker and Jan Selby helped carry the lunches & drinks for the clients to their places at the tables. They were kept very busy and we pitched in getting seconds for the clients, bussing tables, etc. What a joyful and thankful group.

We had a large group of people serving today and we needed everyone that was there. Thank you volunteers, you are the best. I can't forget another very important volunteer, Kimberly Chu who is ready to work before 8:30 a.m. on Outreach Sundays (along with Mike L.). Kimberly Chu heated and put all 69 sandwiches in the ice chest to keep them warm. Plus she buttered dinner buns on both sides of the fresh rolls. What a great worker and self-starter. What super volunteer workers you all are, Outreach could not function without you. Gods Blessings to you always for volunteering to feed the less fortunate.

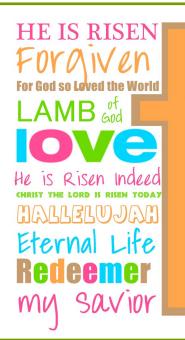
Holy Cross is truly blessed, and by having Pastor Chu and his family who are also very supportive to Outreach. Thank you. submitted by Pat Easby

March NFS Recap

We had 10 sign up and had 11 at the Brass Door in San Ramon including a Special Forces friend of Bill Luker who was a small person with a grip that nearly crushed my hand. Evidently you don't have to be huge to be in the Special Forces...anyway he was a special friend that Bill knew when he was in the service and I felt honored to have him at our luncheon. The Brass Door has been there around 70 years. I can remember coming there in 1958 when I was transferred to California. The food was elegant then and is a real class act now specializing in Prime Rib. I always feel special when I enter even though it's old, it has an elegant quality about it with linen tablecloths and goblets and cloth napkins. Back to basics, several, including me, had the senior ground round (9 ounces) along with a salad, mashed potatoes with mushroom gravy. (I mentioned that I didn't see any mushrooms in my gravy and the waitress brought me a small cup of mushrooms when she heard me). Asparagus for a vegetable and an ice cream sundae for dessert still at \$13.50. Separate checks no problem. I'm sure we will return as it is one of my favorite places to eat. If you have never eaten there you have missed a really great experience at a really great price. Marv Kreitz







$April\ 2017$

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Mite Box/Hat Sun. 9:30am Worship/ Communion I Ia Sunday School/Bible Class 2-6p Myanmar Christian	3 2:30p WoHC Brd Mtg. 7p Scouts	4 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	5	6 12p NFS Nantucket	7	8 9a Sanctuary Cleaning & Work Party 11:00-2:00p Fire- cracker Forum
9 Palm Sunday 9:30am Worship 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian	10 Holy Week 6:30p WoHC General Mtg. 7p Scouts	11 Holy Week 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	12 Holy Week	13 Maundy Thursday 7p Worship	14 Good Friday 12p Worship 7p Tenebrae	9a Decorating Sanctuary 11:00-2:00p Fire- cracker Forum
16 Easter Sunday 9a Breakfast 9:30a Egg Hunt 10:00a Worship/ Communion 2-6p Myanmar Christian	17 12:30p Bridge 6:30p Church Council 7p Scouts	18 6:30p Elders	19 8:30a Men's Coffe Klatch 7p Bible Study	20 11:45a NFS The Point	21	22 I I:00-2:00p Fire- cracker Forum
9:30am Worship Ha Sunday School/Bible Study Outreach 10:30a 2-6p Myanmar Christian	24 7p Scouts	25	26 7p Bible Study	27	28	29 I I:00-2:00p Fire- cracker Forum
9:30am Worship/ Communion I Ia Sunday School/ Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Chris-						

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS 1092 Alberta Way Concord, CA 94521

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS 1092 Alberta Way Concord, CA 94521 (925) 686-2000 www.holycrossconcord.org office@holycrossconcord.org

Pastor: Bill Chu

President: Mike Liebe

Vice President: Gregg Syrovatka Council Secretary: Carrie Kroeger Financial Secretary: Scott Stadler Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka

Trustees: Allen Brueckner, Bill Luker Elders: Bill Riechman, John Coyne,

Eric Roman, Herb Neumann

Secretarial Staff: Joyce Liebe Newsletter Editor: M. Kuefner editor@holycrossconcord.org

Office Hours: M-F 9 AM-1:00 PM

Worship Schedule:

Sunday Service 9:30 AM

Communion 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

Adults Bible Studies 11AM Sunday School 11 AM

Week Day Bible Study Schedule:

Monday (Ladies) 12:30PM Conference Room

Wednesday 7:00PM Parish Hall

Choir Rehearsal:

Tuesday 7: 15PM-8:45PM

Outreach:

Fourth Sunday of each month after service

Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

May 2017 Cross Currents: April 22, 2017