

CROSS CURRENTS

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

PASTOR CHU

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Have A Blessed Christmas!

Two years ago, many people, including Christians, criticized Starbucks' annual Christmas season cups that had the Starbucks logo but left out all traditional images that many consider integral to Christmas, for example, snowflakes, trees, ornaments, candy canes, etc.

There's the perennial battle over the use of "Happy Holidays" rather "Merry Christmas." The pro-"Happy Holidays" folk argue that "Merry Christmas" could be offensive to non-Christians and that "Happy Holidays" is inclusive. The pro-"Merry Christmas" folk argue that "Happy Holidays" ignores the "reason for the season," which is the Christ in "Christmas," for the sake of political correctness.

The battle cries over Christmas seem somewhat muted this year; perhaps it's just still early or because there have been so much bad news lately — mass murders, natural disasters, sexual assault allegations and admission of such assaults from Hollywood to Congress, etc. — that fighting over Starbucks' cup design and how to greet each other seems petty.

For Christians, Christmas is not defined by what others call it or by how Starbucks decorates its seasonal cups. It is defined by what Scripture says about what Christians celebrate on this day and season we call "Christmas." Specifically, we celebrate the coming of the Son of God in the flesh — the incarnation and birth of the Christ to be "Emmanuel," "God with us" for the salvation of the world — Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:6, Luke 2:10-12, Matthew 1:20-23, John 1:14, Acts:4:12. (1)

As Christians, we celebrate the coming of the Savior regardless of what other people do with Christmas. The greater danger than what Starbucks does with its cups or people saying "Happy Holidays" is if Christians were to be engrossed in the "trappings" of Christmas and we lose focus of the Christ of Christmas and what His birth means and fail to share Christ when the Holy Spirit opportunity.

Whatever our opinion on Starbucks' cups or how people should greet each other, we can be bearers of the Good News of Christmas by sharing with people the story of the birth of Christ in Matthew 1 or Luke 2 and what Jesus did at the cross for our salvation. And we can wish people "Blessed Christmas" sincerely and with a smile, no matter how they greet us.

The Lord's continued blessings as you celebrate the Incarnation of the Christ, who came to be "God with us."

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

Isaiah 9:6

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Luke 2:11-12

¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Matthew 1:20-23

²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

John 1:14

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Acts 4:12

¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.



December Birthdays

1	Liz B.
2	Randy S. Marla K.
5	Rayna K.
6	Peter L.
8	Anke W.
9	Kevin L.
12	Emily S.
16	Alex R. Susan S.
18	Bill L.
21	Allen B.
22	Mindy W.
25	Marv K.
30	Christopher C.
December Anniversaries	
10	Herb & Marilyn N.

Roman Family Graduates with a New Service Dog

We want to thank our Holy Cross family for your prayers and support during our recent training in Santa Rosa. We are thrilled to introduce you to Tennele, Abbi's new service dog. Tennele is a two-year-old female Labrador/Golden Retriever mix from Canine Companions For Independence (the same organization that provided our last service dog, Palua). Palua, now 10, is enjoying retirement and is teaching the new dog some of her old tricks. Chris Roman (another picture on Page 11)



HOLY CROSS DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

- ♦ *December 4* Women of Holy Cross Christmas Dinner
- ♦ *December 9* Wrapping gifts for LSS
- ♦ *December 14* Nifty Fifty Seniors Christmas Celebration



WORSHIP

- ♦ *December 24* Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m.
- ♦ *December 25* Christmas Day Service with Communion at 9:30 a.m.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

- ♦ Wednesday Night Bible Study on December 6 and 13 at 7:00 p.m.
- ♦ Sunday Morning Bible Class —will not be meeting in December. Plan on informal discussions during the coffee hour
- ♦ Women's Bible Study—will not meet during December and will resume on Jan. 9.

It is hoped that all who attended our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner enjoyed the fellowship and the food which consisted of turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberries, squash, sweet potatoes, ambrosia, apple pie, pumpkin pie and ice cream. A huge thank you to all who helped cook, serve, set up and clean up. Without you, this event could not have happened.

Melarie



Members enjoying an early morning HOMEMADE sweet roll at the Holy Cross Corner Cafe." 2017

CHOIR REHEARSALS for December will be on Dec. 5, 12, and 19. **Dec. 19** will begin at **7:00 pm.** No rehearsals on Dec. 26 & Jan. 2.



December 2017- WoHC Happenings by Joyce Liebe, President

Once again, our Corner Café had a successful run. With Melarie's leadership, we served some tasty food & beverages and earned over \$1400 in the process! The money will be used toward refurbishing our parking lot entrance church sign. Thank you to all who volunteered by baking, decorating, setting up, working a café shift, cleaning up, etc.

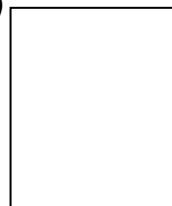
As another year is ending and we move into the Christmas season, please make time to join us in two WoHC Christmas traditions listed below.

Upcoming WoHC activities - MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Monday, 12/4, Annual Christmas Dinner at La Veranda, Clayton, 5:30pm. Put on your festive holiday outfit & enjoy fellowship and fun! Don't forget your white elephant gift! Nov. 26 was the last day to sign up for this wonderful Christmas tradition. We are looking forward to spending another evening with our sisters in Christ.



LSS Christmas Giving Tree: Gifts & Gift Wrapping. This year we will support foster children & young adults through Lutheran Social Services that are moving into transitional housing. Gift tags are on our giving tree NOW. Bring unwrapped gifts (with tag attached) to the Parish Hall no later than Sat., Dec. 9. THEN..... Join us in **wrapping the gifts on Sat., Dec. 9, 10am.** Coffee & treats will be served. LSS Staff will be available that morning to take the gifts to disburse to their clients. We appreciate your support of this very worthwhile cause. If you have questions, contact Melarie Seidel or Sue O'Malley.



★
JOY
NOEL
ANGEL
JESUS
PEACE HOPE
WISEMEN
CHRISTMAS
BELIEVE FAITH
PRINCE OF PEACE
THANK YOU

Monday, 1/22, General Meeting & Network of Care packages, 6:30pm, Parish Hall. Plan to join us for this hands-on mission project - packaging items for Network of Care. They are a non-profit that relies on volunteers to put together bags of non-perishable foods & distribute them to community hospitals with pediatric wards. We will put together "large" meal bags. The bag has enough food to sustain a small family through one meal. Sign-up sheet going up later.

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.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

This year our Christmas Giving Tree will support foster children and young adults through Lutheran Social Services that are moving into transitional housing. The tags will be available on our giving tree on Sunday, November 19th at our Thanksgiving Dinner. Please bring the unwrapped gifts to the parish hall by Saturday, December 9th and attach the tag to the gift.

We will be wrapping the gifts in the parish hall on Saturday, December 9th beginning at 10 a.m. Coffee and treats will be served. Staff from Lutheran Social Services will be available that morning to take the gifts back to their offices to disburse to their clients. You are welcome to join us to wrap the gifts.

We appreciate your support of this very worthwhile cause. If you have any questions please contact Melarie Seidel or Sue O'Malley.



Oct. 24, 2017

Gifted To Serve

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied graces ... in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 4:10, 11b).

October is a month of remembrance. We have celebrated LWML Sunday. We have celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Lutheran Women in Mission, in its mission statement, in its vision statement, and in one of its primary focuses for the biennium, encourages women to use their God-given gifts in God's service.

Let us always remember that each one of us have gifts given by God to use to glorify Him. As you use your gifts to serve the Lord, remind and encourage others to do the same.

Marie Chow

LWML Washington-Alaska District President

Submitted by Pat Easby

YOUTH BAKE SALE

The youth of Holy Cross would like to thank the congregation for their generous support of the recent bake sale. As previously mentioned, all funds collected will be donated in support of California fire victims. We have chosen to support members of Saint Mark's Lutheran Church in Santa Rosa. Twenty-nine of their families lost their homes, including eight families with children. When asked how we could best support them, Saint Mark's requested that our donation to them be in the form of gift cards, which can be used to purchase Christmas gifts for the children who have lost their homes. Since every penny they have is being spent on necessities, the youth of Holy Cross will provide each family with a Toys R Us gift card for the parents to use to buy Christmas gifts. Well over six hundred dollars was raised and we are happy to be able to make this contribution on behalf of Holy Cross. Sandy Coyne and Chris Roman (Pictures on the following page)



THANK YOU

Nifty Fifty Senior December Activity

On Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017, The Nifty Fifty Seniors invite you to attend their Christmas Celebration in the Social Hall at 11:30 am for a delicious lunch prepared by Melarie Seidel. We will sing Christmas Songs and listen to interesting presentations presented by our Seniors. The presentation on Paul's contact with the intellectuals of his time bringing them the good news of Jesus birth and resurrection will be read by Annaliesa Liedtke, however much of the thrust of the meeting will be again on miracles that we have experienced and those of others. Last year I told of a cardiologist that experienced a man having a heart attack and actually died and was brought back to life. I have purchased his book, "Touching Heaven" and will cover his change of life and of his new prospectus from a scientist, point of view and the many miracles performed by Jesus and others, none of which have been disproven. The death of Christ and his resurrection is included in his book that I will read. I found it very interesting and I guarantee you will too. Gathering with Christian friends for an afternoon together in itself is rewarding. I'm not sure if we will have the German Contingency sing (Silent Night and I Wish You a Merry Christmas) in German, but I hope they will. This is a really great time to bring a neighbor or friend. Sign up in the Social Hall so we know how many to plan on. Marv Kreitz



Speiskammier, Nov. 9

We made reservations for six but ended up with five. Bill Riechmann, Erna Beutel, Pastor, Herb Neumann and Marv Kreitz.

Trudy was signed up but couldn't go at the last minute. Erna and I rode with Bill and he used his voice iPad in his car and it led us right



to the Restaurant. Generally we have trouble finding a place to park, but there was parking next to the Restaurant. I ordered (and I had to get this from Erna) Lberkaese which is a spam like portion of pork that you could cut with your fork. That along with potatoes that had been fried real crisp and loaded with bacon and plenty of sourdough bread. I can really say it was a delightful lunch and I surely would have it again. Marv Kreitz

Riverview, Nov. 20

The lunch at the Riverview was at best average. I had called to be sure they would have their lunch special available for our group at 1:00 and they did. They had calamari and a French dip sandwich for \$9.99. Only the calamari was not the steak but strips. Actually, I think it was the tentacles and it had so much batter on it and was so crunchy it was hard to eat. They had great French fries and plenty of good sourdough bread and butter. Bill Luker had the French dip and the rest of us had the calamari. They of course had a regular menu with regular priced items. In retrospect, I should have ordered a cup of clam chowder and fish & chips which would have come to close to \$18.00. Looking back I guess it was a pretty good meal for what we paid. It was great sitting at a window looking out at the river flowing by. There was a lot of Hyesan in bunches in the water evidently, the tide was coming in as it was flowing upstream. I can truly say I enjoyed going to lunch or on an excursion with our senior group. Every outing is an experience and enjoyable. If you have never been with us on an outing, you have missed an enjoyable part of life especially when you get older. Marv Kreitz



REFORMATION CELEBRATION, OCT. 28





REFORMATION 2017
500TH CELEBRATION

**Visits to Doris M.
and Violet G.
Continue to pray for
our members.**



**Palua and Tennele, Abbi's new service dog.
Hum, which one is retired and which one is
working??? Picture taken at our Annual
Thanksgiving Meal on November 19, 2017.**



**Brandon V. helping with Outreach.
"Doing this was really fun. Everybody in
the homeless shelter was really nice to
me and I want to do it again sometime."**

Dear God,
I think about
you sometimes even
when I'm not praying
Elliot

Dear God,
Instead of Letting people die
and haveing to Make new ones
Why don't you just
Keep the ones you got now?
Jane

Dear God -
Please put a -
nother Holiday
between Christmas
and Easter.
There is nothing good
in there now.
Ginny

Dear God
In bible times
did they really
talk that fancy?
Jennifer

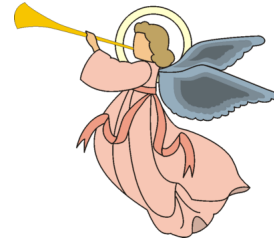
Dear God,
If you watch in
Church on Sunday
I will show you
my new shoes
Mickey D.

We read Thos. Edison
made light.
But in SUN. School they said
you did it.
So I bet he stoled
you r Idea.
sincerely,
Do N Na

Dear God
Maybe Cain and Abel
would not kill each so much
if they had their own rooms.
It works with my brother
Larry



DECEMBER 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Mite Box/Hat Sunday 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	4 5:30p WoHC Christmas Dinner, La Veranda 7p Scouts	5 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	6 7p Bible Study	7 OFC CLOSED	8	9 8:30am Tree Set Up 9am Decorate Tree 10a LSS Wrapping gifts
10 9:30am Worship/ Sing Along 11a Sunday School 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	11 7p Scouts	12 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	13 1p Senior Brd 7p Bible Study	14 OFC CLOSED 11:30a NFS Christmas Celebration	15	16
17 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	18 12:30p Bridge 6:30p Church Council 7p Scouts	19 6:30p Elders 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	20	21 OFC CLOSED 8:30a HCMKK, Mel's Diner	22	23
24 CHRISTMAS EVE 9:30a Worship 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H) 7:00p Christmas Eve worship	25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFC CLOSED 9:30am Worship/ Communion	26	27	28 OFC CLOSED	29	30
31 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)						

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Elders: Bill Riechman, John Coyne,
Eric Roman, Herb Neumann

Secretarial Staff: Joyce Liebe
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Newsletter email address:
editor@holycrossconcord.org

Office Hours: Mon.-Wed. & Fri. 9am-1pm

Worship Schedule:

Sunday Service	9:30 AM
Communion	1 st , 3 rd , and 5 th 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
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Outreach:

Fourth Sunday of each month after service

Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday
Jan. 2017 Cross Currents: Dec. 22, 2016