

CROSS CURRENTS

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

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EPIPHANY
JANUARY 6

God, who is faithful, will be with you

Pastor Chu

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day often cause us to pause, even if only for a moment, to reflect on the past and to wonder about and maybe make plans for the new year.

Perhaps you had a wonderful 2017, with reason to give special thanks to God for His goodness above and beyond His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ: you and your family celebrated anniversaries, marriages, graduations, births, special accomplishments, good health...

Or perhaps you experienced loss in 2017: loss of family members or other loved ones to death, loss of a sense of direction, purpose, or security, loss of relationships, loss of financial stability, loss of hope. We lost members of our "church family" — people with whom we had worshiped, heard the preaching of God's Word, sung hymns of praise, offered prayers, and received the Lord's Supper — and their pews remain empty.

We can reinterpret the past. We can decide how we handle past events and their consequences. To the extent that it is in our control, we can mitigate the impact of the past on our present and future. But the past is the past; we cannot change it.

Whatever the past, we don't know the future. We may hope and dream. We may anticipate certain events based on present circumstances, but we cannot know with certainty whether those future events will be as we expect or hope.

What we can know with certainty is that God loved us yesterday, loves us today, and will love us tomorrow.[1] We can be sure that as God was with us in our past (even if we didn't feel or think that He was), He is with us in the present and will be with us in the future. Jesus Himself promised His disciples in Matthew 28:20b, "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." The Lord's promise is for us as well.[2]

God is faithful.[3] He will keep His Word. *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away*, Jesus says (Matthew 24:35). Isaiah writes, *The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever*. (Isaiah 40:8) God promises that His Word will accomplish His will.[4] He is not fickle like you and I might be; He does not change.[5]

The words of the psalmist will be no less true today or tomorrow than they were 3000 years ago: ¹*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.* ²*Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling...* ¹⁰*"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"* ¹¹*The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.* (Psalm 46:1-3, 10-11)

Good or bad, more reason to rejoice than to worry or vice versa, prayers answered or still on hold, God was with us in 2017 and He will be with us in 2018. Though we don't know

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

what the new year will hold, we know Who will hold us in the new year. May the Lord fill your days with His peace that surpasses understanding [6] and transcends circumstances through Christ who is Immanuel – God with us.

[1] Psalm 100:5

For the LORD is good, the psalmist says, His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

Lamentations 3:22-23

²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; ²³they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

[2] Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

Joshua 1:5

No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.

Hebrews 13:5c-6

⁵... "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

[3] 1Thessalonians 5:24

He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

[4] Isaiah 55:10-11

¹⁰"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

[5] Malachi 3:6

"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

[6] Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS	
7	Brittany O.
14	Dennis L.
15	Josh C.
16	Christl R.
17	Ricky L.
22	Pat K.
24	Wilma B. Addison O. Bill R.
26	Grace G.
27	Britney L.
28	Marc A.
31	Bob O.
JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES	
10	Peter and Liz A.





January

Choir by
Diana Meux

The choir will
rehearse on
Jan. 16 and 23.

There are **NO**
rehearsals on
Jan. 2, 9, 30.



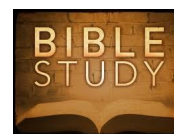
January Bible Study

Opportunities

Sunday morning
on the **January**
7, 14, 21, 28

Wednesday night
at 7 pm on **Janu-**
ary 10, 17, 24,
31

Women's Bible
Study on **Monday**
at 12:30 on **Jan-**
uary 8, 15, 22
and 29.



Ladies Bunco – Join Us

by Sue O'Malley & Marlene Roberts

We will resume our monthly bunco evenings on the
3rd Thursday of each month. The next one is **Jan. 18,**
6:30pm, Parish Hall. Sign Up Now!

Ladies'
Bunco
Night  for fun &
friendship!

January 2018 - What's Happening with the WoHC? by Joyce Liebe, President

Happy NEW Year!

The Women of Holy Cross were busy in December! We had two special events.

The first was our Christmas Dinner at La Veranda on 12/4. This year we had 25 signed up and we were all seated together at one L O N G table. We were able to visit with each other, easily move around, and enjoy a special evening with this group of special women. After having fresh bread and antipasti, salad, our main entrée, and dessert - we continued our White Elephant gift exchange tradition. There were a couple popular gifts that reached the "limit" and thus were hands off, which the final recipient was happy about! We had many laughs seeing the variety of gifts (long fork, Harry Potter plates, birthday candle candelabra, huge elf slippers...). The mystery snow globe that Idalene opened was captured in a few great pictures, make sure you check them out! We also sang a few Christmas carols - which we earned some applause from other guests that were dining there! Nick, the owner, told us we were welcome to stay and continue singing (maybe next year a few of us will take him up on that). Look at the pictures in the Cross Currents and in the Parish Hall. A special THANK YOU to all the women who made this Christmas tradition a joyful one!

On 12/9, we gathered in the Parish hall to wrap our LSS Giving Tree gifts. Sue O'Malley & Melarie Seidel worked with the 2 ladies from LSS to get everything set up for the wrappers! All we had to do is grab a gift and take it to a table to wrap, tie bow, & attach gift tag. We had an amazing variety & sizes of gifts - look for the pictures! Sandy Coyne, along with Kaytlyn, Kamryn, & Kayleigh teamed up to produce several works of art! Judy West, Carol & Kimberly Chu focused on wrapping several gifts, many that were either odd shaped or huge. I had fun choosing just the right paper for the gifts I wrapped. During and after we enjoyed a warm beverage & Sue's tasty coffee-cake.

Thanks to everyone who donated gifts for this great cause!



Upcoming WoHC activities:

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. Look for sign-up sheet.



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.

NEWS FROM THE MEN'S KOFFE KLATCH

Rest Easy Men

Now hear this! The Men's' Koffe Klatch Platoon has conducted its final, mandatory formation for 2017, as of 0830 hours, 21 December. So rest easy men until next year. Monthly, mandatory formations will resume on/about (o/a) 18 January.

This last formation was special in that we got to wish yet another Happy Birthday to Allen Brueckner and to present him an appropriate gift wrapped in Dinosaur design paper. We note that birthdays cause aging, but wish that AI will continue to put candles on his cake. Being a highly professional organization we spared giving restaurant patrons hearing loss by NOT singing Happy Birthday; however, men who were absent without leave (AWOL) will sing him Happy Birthday during the next coffee hour after church. These men include, but are not limited to; John Beutel, Dave Caruso (being Air Force...should be comfortable flying back for formations), Jaan Kaigas, Ray Krause, Mike Liebe, Howard Scouten and (he should know better) Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Eberhard Weiss. For those that missed because of sniffles, the platoon medic prescribes 2 Motrin, 1 quart of water, 20 push-ups, and a 12 mile rucksack march after which you move out smartly for the mandatory formation.

Seriously now...the formations have been very enjoyable and well attended. We always have at least 12 and as many as 18 in attendance. Your commander thanks you for your faithful and loyal service. May God grant you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year? Now prepare yourselves for another year of mandatory formations. You will enjoy them!

It's good to be the commander,

Luker



Christmas "Un" Decorating

by Andrea Beutel



Please join the Altar Guild to take down the Christmas Tree and other sanctuary

decorations on **Sat., Jan 6th at 9am**. Contact Andrea Beutel for more information 672-9605 or andbeutel@gmail.com.

January WoHC Activity

Joyce Liebe

Join us! **Mon., Jan. 22, General Meeting, Network of Care packages, & Dessert,**

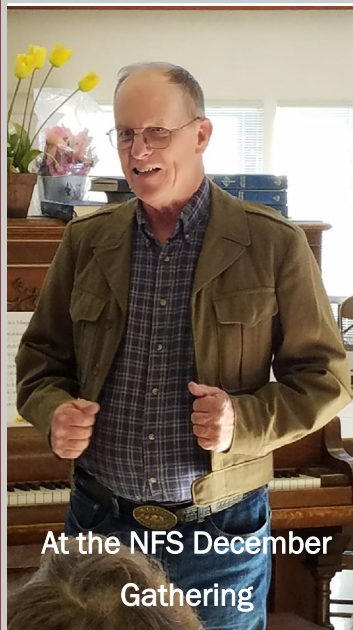
6:30pm, Parish Hall. More info to follow.

the
**NETWORK
of CARE**



FROM PAT KROEGER

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your get well cards, phone calls and taking me to appointments when I could not drive. Also, helping me off the floor when I fell. You were always there when I needed someone. All those prayers do work. God always knows what is best for us and the prayers helped me heal and gave Carrie the strength to take care of me and keep her office open. It is a joy belonging to Holy Cross and having so many good people to call on. Thank you again and God Bless you.



At the NFS December Gathering

This jacket is an Eisenhower (IKE) jacket popular during WWII. The specific jacket I am wearing was originally worn by a member of the 1st Special Service Force (FSSF). This was the first Special Forces Unit and the father unit of units serving today. The unit included American and Canadian soldiers. I was in SF already when I happened to spot this coat at the Presidio of San Francisco Thrift Shop and was able to recognize it for what it was. Unfortunately, I had to remove the patches in order to be able to wear it, but was honored to wear it because the guy that wore it first was more special than I will ever be. About 1400 men served in this unit and only about 79 are alive today. There is a laundry mark in the jacket that consists of the first letter of the last name

and last 4 digits of his service number. I'm trying to find out who it belonged to and have a roster of all the men, but haven't been able to find service numbers.

I wore it off and on for around 20 years. Interestingly enough, that jacket still fit me perfectly when I first started coming to Holy Cross in 2006 or 2007. What a difference age makes!

A good read...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Special_Service_Force

Luker



12/9 wrapping LSS Giving Tree gifts. 2 gals from LSS helped wrap and took all the gifts back to their office to prepare to distribute.

NIFTY FIFTY SENIORS JANUARY OUTING

We are only planning one outing for the month of January that is to

Mac's Old House on **January 17th**, located at [3100 18 St., Antioch CA](#). This is a real historic house made into a restaurant. Most of you have been there but to those who haven't the food is great and the portions are huge and the prices are even better. Bar drinks are \$2.50, \$3.00 for a double and \$3.50 for (and they say really big triple). Lunch menus are a part of the place mats and list Prime Rib for \$11.95, Rib Eye steaks \$11.95, Calamari \$10.95, and one of my favorites is Ground Round still only \$6.95. Lunches are served with outstanding Minestrone soup (a big bowl) or salad, pasta and a vegetable that along with a basket of bread makes it hard to beat. CASH ONLY. In order to eat in the front room we should be there when it opens at 11:30. Even then we may have to eat at separate tables. Gratuity is 20%. Sign up in the Social Hall and meet at Church at 10:30 leave at 10:45, even then there may be people waiting. This is a great outing to bring a friend. Marv Kreitz

On **Thursday, Dec 14th 2017** the **Nifty Fifty Seniors** had their annual Sing A Long. When you entered the social hall you were immediately impress with the decorations on the tables thanks to Erna Beutel, Christl Rose, Trudy Huenninghaus, and Bill Riechmann they were excellent. In fact we had to move them back so that people could eat at the place settings. Marv called the group to gather and started with one of Marv's favorite songs "Because He Lives" followed by two Christmas Carols. Devotions by Bill Riechmann and then lunch that Melarie and Mike had prepared. A delicious ham dinner with special potatoes baked, green beans, a tossed salad and brownies and ice cream for dessert. Wow, Melarie also provided a loaf of her famous bread for every family there.

Annaliesa Liedtke started the program by reading excerpts from Jack Mortenson 2012 presentation backed by references from the Bible about the miracle of Jesus Birth that was only relevant to the season when we are expressing love to one another and love for God. As always, her sincerity came through as she read. Where is God Today? was Bill Morfeld topic. God is EVERYWHERE! Bill talked extemporarily it seemed without notes and from the heart. He told of an accident he was in where his car ended up facing the wrong way on a highway completely demolished as was two other cars and no one was hurt. A true Miracle. This is where he believed God intervened.

Marv then read from Dr. Crandall's book "Touching Heaven" written by a cardiologist' where he was in a room with a man that had died from a heart attack more than a half hour before and he felt the Lord telling me to turn around and pray for that man. I questioned "Lord what do I pray for? He's dead!" I knew I was hearing a voice of heaven. I thought can I somehow do it without the nurse seeing and without looking like a fool? Anyway I was discreet about it. I leaned over him and I know now God helped me. I prayed Father God if this man doesn't know you as his Lord and Savior I ask that you raise him from the dead now, in Jesus name. The ER doctor that had shocked him before reentered the room. "Shock him one more time," he told his colleague who said we've already shocked him a dozen times. Do it for me I pleaded please just this once more. When the defibrillator paddles sent their electrical currents into his chest, suddenly the solid line on the electrocardiogram spiked. We had a heartbeat. The attending nurse wailed not just for a moment she let loose and she stared at me eyes bulging. Doctor what have you done? This really changed Dr. Crandall's life. He was a Christian before but after this experienced he became involved in spreading the word....He had other healings and others heard of his praying and wanted him to pray for their loved ones.

In his book he writes, "Eternal life is a fact and this is every Christians destiny." He writes about Christ's death and resurrection. Did He really die? When I as a surgeon read the gospel records about the bodily flu-

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ids Jesus lost the nature of His wounds and the injuries He sustained both before and during His crucifixion including the soldier's spear that clearly perforated both His lungs and His heart. He states Jesus truly did die. His executioners who were experts in death by crucifixion didn't break His legs as they usually did for one simple reason because they could see He was already dead. The stone closing the grave weighed over 2,000 pounds and could only be put in place by gravity. It was guarded by likely 16 of more soldiers yet He rose from His grave. His enemies would have gone to any length to expose a deception. He spoke, appeared and even taught in a resurrected body in different settings. I invite any of you that would like to read more of his book to see me.

The Sing A Long then had Grace Gin sing in a beautiful voice Silent Night in Mandarin. I had her sing it twice it was so beautiful. Our German contingency did indeed sing Silent Night, We Wish You a Merry Christmas, and O Christmas Tree. We sang God Be With You Till We Meet Again. Merry Christmas AND MAY GOD BESS US AND THIS GREAT NATION OF OURS. Marv Kreitz



Bill and Marv, two of the presenters.



Grace singing Silent Night in Mandarin



Annaliesa, another presenter for the program



Our German singers



SCENES AROUND HOLY CROSS IN DECEMBER





JOY TO
THE
WORLD





JANUARY 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 NEW YEARS DAY/HOLIDAY Ofc. Closed 7p Scouts	2	3	4 Ofc. Closed	5	6 Epiphany 9am Un-decorate Sanctuary
7 Mite Box/Hat Sunday 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	8 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 2:15p WoHC Brd Mtg. 7p Scouts	9	10 1p Senior Brd 7p Bible Study	11 Ofc. Closed	12	13
14 9:30am Worship 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 11am Fac & Maint mtg 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	15 MLK HOLIDAY Ofc. Closed 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 12:30p Bridge 6:30p Church Council 7p Scouts	16 6:30p Elders 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	17 11:30am NFS Mac's Old House 7p Bible Study	18 Ofc. Closed 8:30a Mens Koffee Klatch 6:30pm Ladies Bunco, (H)	19	20
21 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	22 Ofc. Closed 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 6:30p WoHC General Meeting 7p Scouts	23 Ofc. Closed 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	24 7p Bible Study	25	26	27
28 9:30am Worship 8:30a Outreach Sunday 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	29 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Scouts	30	31 7p Bible Study			

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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: 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
Feb. 2018 Cross Currents: Jan. 22, 2018