



Cross Currents

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

May 2018

Volume 5 Issue 159

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GIFTS FOR THE COMMON GOOD

PASTOR CHU

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

This passage from 1Peter 4:10 is printed in each week's worship service bulletin to remind us that God has given us gifts and the reason He gave those gifts and to encourage us to use them in a God-pleasing manner.

After telling us how God's people, as "good stewards," use their God-given gifts to serve one another, meaning the gifts belong to God and are "given" to us to be used according to His purpose, Peter reminds us in verse 11 of that same chapter that the ultimate goal is to glorify God in the use of those gifts to serve one another: *Whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Can you think of ways in which we can serve the Lord without somehow serving people? Unless we count such things as spending "alone time" with God and reading Scripture, what service can we render to God that does not in some way touch the lives of others whether they be believers or unbelievers?

Paul, in Romans 12 and 1Corinthians 12, adds to the two gifts that St. Peter lists.

Romans 12:6-8

⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

1Corinthians 12:8-10

⁸For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

Like Peter, Paul also tells the purpose for which God gives gifts to His people; they are given for the purpose of serving the good of the Church and the calling of the Church. As believers in Christ, we build up and encourage one another in the faith and share the Gospel with those who not yet know Jesus as Savior:

⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
(1Corinthians 12:7).

(Continued on page 1)

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Like Peter, who reminds us that we are stewards of God's gifts, Paul reminds us of the attitude with which we use our God-given gifts:

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (Romans 12:3-5)

Peter and Paul speak of God's gifts to His people in relationship to their use in service to others.

The gifts are not an end in themselves; they are a means to an end, the goal being to serve God by serving others within the Church and outside the Church.

God has given each of you gifts, skills, talents. To be sure, using them in the manner God intended will bring blessings to you. However, they are given to you so that you could be a blessing to one another and to those who do not yet know Jesus.

Use God's for the purpose God intended. Recognize that the gifts themselves or merely being in possession of those don't glorify God (they're from God anyway); using them as good, faithful, and humble stewards to serve God by serving others glorifies God.

So by the grace of God, *as each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.*

May Birthdays

- 2 Janet O.
- 7 Brycen S.
- 8 Cherylene B.
- 9 Frances M.
- 12 Revia M.
- 15 Bud W.
- 17 Nick S.
- 21 Joyce L.
Amy M.
- 24 Finnley R.
- 26 Josh B.



To the Members of Holy Cross

Thank you so much for all of you who sent birthday cards to my Mom. She received 109 cards in all from Coast to Coast and even received flowers from my cousin in New Zealand.

She sure felt the love from all of you at Holy Cross. She misses seeing all of you and she always felt so welcome here. Thanks again.

Sue O'Malley

"For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

"O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:53-57

In loving memory of Dorothy



May Anniversaries

- 19 Jack & Pat E.
- 22 Howard & Judy S.
- 26 Eric & Chris R.
- 30 Mike & Amy M.



Long Range Planning and Call Committee Update Mike Liebe

Our Long Range Planning and Call Committee continues to meet each Sunday morning, although we changed our start time to 8:30 to avoid schedule conflicts with bible study and other meetings. The core Committee includes Cherylene B., Pat K., Eric R., John C., Mike V., and Mike L., and we have room for other interested persons to participate.

Since our last update the committee has reached out to sister congregations and District resources as we continue with our planning and call process. Mike L. spoke with Jeff McKenzie of First Lutheran who leads their Call Committee. Jeff shared cost of housing, cost of living, traffic, and perceptions of California are factors that present challenges to call candidates from out of state. First has been working with the District to receive a seminary candidate, and expected to hear the outcome April 24.

The Committee completed a tool that involves priority ranking of attributes for our new pastor based on our perceived needs of Holy Cross. More to follow on that below...

A group of twenty members were able to meet with Pastor Ted Hartman, a District representative who works with congregations that are in transition, on the evening of April 16 to discuss the state of church participation both nationally and specific to California, and how churches are making changes to better serve current church families and their communities.

The averaged results of the attribute rankings were shared with the attendees. While all of the attributes were considered important and the difference between some rankings and order was very small, the top 11 include:

- Gospel oriented and scripturally sound.
- People skills/people person.
- Counseling skills.
- Visitation skills with compassion.
- Equip and motivate the lay ministry.
- Good experience and performance in previous congregation (as applicable).
- Strong Evangelism and mission orientation.
- Nurture growth with Outreach and emphasis on local community.
- Nurture the needs of senior membership.
- Team builder.
- Good track record with youth.

In discussing with Pastor Ted, six of the above attributes fit with churches that are evolving to better serve current membership and their communities, so it appears we are taking a balanced approach. Let the Committee know what you think.

Next steps for the Committee include preparing a vision to share with you for review and input by mid May, and completing a draft of the call package by April 30 to continue preparation for the call process. Our Committee has been considering the hurdles we will likely face with housing in Concord for our called candidate. And we are discussing creative and mutually beneficial stewardship methods to solve the problem. You are welcome to share your ideas as we continue in the planning and call process. Please continue to pray that we receive and follow the Holy Spirit's guidance in all matters of our planning, calling and welcoming our new pastor.

ATTENTION ***CVCHS AP Testing This Month*******

Clayton Valley Charter High School is renting our facilities again this year. They will use the **Parish Hall & Library** most days. The **Conference Room** may be used, I will know as details are finalized.

They will be here **Monday - Friday, May 7 - May 11 and Monday - Friday, May 14 - May 18.**
Make up testing will be **Thursday, May 24.**

There could be someone here each of those days as early as **7am** to prep.
Testing can go to 3pm. They should be cleaned up & out by **4pm.**

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT ACTIVITIES AT HOLY CROSS?

On evenings & weekends we should be able to use these areas as normal. NOTE: on the 2 weekends between testing, they will push extra tables/chairs in Parish Hall off to the side. **HOWEVER, If you or your group had plans to use any of the rooms on the dates & times mentioned above, you will need to make other plans.**

Fellowship Activities

May Bible Study and Sunday School Schedules:

Sunday Bible Class (11:00 a.m.): May 6, 13, 20, 27

Sunday School (11:00 a.m.): May 6, 13, 20, 27

Monday Ladies Bible Study (12:30 p.m.)

Wednesday Bible Study (7:00 p.m.): May 9, 16, 23, 30



Ladies Bunco – Thursday, 5/17,

6:30pm

Join us for lots of fun & laughter!

Dessert provided,
bring your own beverage.

Friends & family welcome - sign up!



DINNER NIGHT OUT, MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018 AT 6PM

Can you believe it's only a matter of weeks before our annual Dinner Night Out will be here! We have finalized arrangements with the Buttercup Grill in Concord as the location again this year.

This year we will be indoors which is going to be much nicer! We can have the use of their private room, unless a larger group requests that room before June 11. If that happens, we can then have as much room as we need in the central area of the restaurant. The restaurant was renovated about two years ago and its renovation lends itself to ideal seating for groups of all sizes.



Everyone will be able to order anything on the menu with separate checks per table.

We will give the Manager a headcount as we get closer to the date so he will have adequate staff working that night to accommodate our group. They have a huge menu to select from including their Baked Potato Soup (everyday) and a Soup of the Day. They have Stir Fry Chicken, Roast Turkey, Prime Rib, Calf Liver (yes, Calf Liver anyone?), lots of chicken entrees including my favorite - Chicken with Garlic & Artichokes, Steaks, Seafood and Ribs, Sandwiches, Salads, Burgers, House-made Pies and Cakes, full bar, iced tea, hot tea, coffee and much more.

We will have a sign-up sheet available the beginning of May with menus for you to review to get you thinking about what you might like to order that night.

So mark your calendars and stay tuned. Wouldn't it be great if we can make this year's event the biggest turnout yet!

Marilyn Neumann

Nifty Fifty May Activities

Again we plan on two activities for May.

The first is to Al the Wops located in Locke near the Town of Walnut Grove in the Delta on Thursday, May 10th....We have been there several times and have always enjoyed the drive through the Delta along the Sacramento River. Al the Wops is noted for their New York Steak with a jar of Peanut Butter and it's companion jar of jelly to be used on the stack of piping hot French



Fellowship Meal

bread that's part of the meal....You also receive a really great tossed salad. There is of course a menu with a host of offerings, but I have always gone for the Steak. The place is unique with a bar that runs the length of the entrance, which is loaded with business cards stuck to the ceiling, as well as a host of locals having a good time at the bar...Al the Wop's was opened in 1934 by an Italian from San Francisco and was the only non Chinese owned business in Locke at that time. Al died in 1961 but Al the Wop's stands, popular with bikers and known for serving the peanut butter with their steaks. It takes almost an hour to drive if we take time and enjoy the ride....Sign up in the social hall and lets plan on ride pooling as the ride is part of the out- ing.....Bring a friend....

The second outing is to Mountain Mike's Pizza at 5358 Clayton Road right near the Bowling alley on Clayton Road on Thursday, May 25th...I called and they have an all-you-can-eat pizza special that includes a salad bar and an assortment of pizzas for \$8.69 Monday through Friday between 11:00 and 2:00. Drink of course is extra. Sounds like a really good deal....Again sign up so we know how many to plan on....Everyone is on their own as far as getting there...As always we plan on eating at 1:00.



Marv Kreitz

24 Things to Always Remember. . .
and One Thing to Never Forget

your presence is a present to the world.
You're unique and one of a kind.
Your life can be what you want it to be.
Take the days just one at a time.

Count your blessings, not your troubles.
You'll make it through whatever comes along.
Within you are so many answers.
Understand, have courage, be strong.

Don't put limits on yourself.
So many dreams are waiting to be realized.
Decisions are too important to leave to chance.
Reach for your peak, your goal, and your prize.

Nothing wastes more energy than worrying.
The longer one carries a problem, the heavier it gets.
Don't take things too seriously.
Live a life of serenity, not a life of regrets.

Remember that a little love goes a long way.
Remember that a lot . . . goes forever.
Remember that friendship is a wise investment.
Life's treasures are people . . . together.

Realize that it's never too late.
Do ordinary things in an extraordinary way.
Have heath and hope and happiness.
Take the time to wish upon a star.



CHOIR REHEARSALS

for May will be on May 1,
8, and 22 (no rehearsal
on May 15 or May 29).

Diana Meux

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

We did not have a General Meeting/gathering in April as several of us are going to the LWML CNH (CA, NV, HI) District Convention in Newark on 4/27-4/29. Gayle Bothe was our delegate. What a wonderful opportunity to meet with our Sisters in Christ for fellowship, worship, & celebration.

Look for a write up next month.



Please join us at the **2018 Spring Zone Rally on Saturday, 5/19.** It is hosted by the women of **First Lutheran in Concord.** Each host church goes to a lot of work & is proud to share this special event with all the women in the Zone. See separate article in the Cross Current for details; flyer & sign-up sheet are posted on our bulletin board. It's so close this year, please consider setting aside a few hours to participate in this special event.

Ingathering will go to **Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center,** Orinda, CA. Their students, ages 2-18, come to Xenophon to receive help with many types of disabilities. Students are encouraged to "go to the mailbox" during their lesson. Depending on their abilities, they open the mailbox & reach in to pull out their mail. They choose one item: small toy or stickers. This is part of their therapy; it helps work on balance, grasping small items, choosing among the items, as well as improving verbal skills. **Please Donate: Small Stickers, Small toys (3+ yrs), Note paper & pens (for older students to write to pen pals), small neon washcloths for wiping faces & hands.**

Donation Box in Parish Hall.

Monday, 6/11, Dinner Out with Family & Friends, 6pm.

This annual event is always popular. We are going back to The Buttercup Grill & Bar again this year (corner of Treat Blvd. & Clayton Rd.). So we don't have to deal with changeable weather/sun, this year we will sit inside.

⇒ mark your calendar now

⇒ plan to take a night off from cooking

⇒ enjoy a dinner out with us

Family & friends are welcome, extend the invitation!



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.

Easter Service and Activities



May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:15p Choir (cl)	2	3 OFC CLOSED	4	5 10a-12p LWML Zone Mtg (H)
6 Mite Box /Hat Sunday 9:30a Worship w/ Communion 11a Sunday School/ Bible Class 2-6p Myanmar Christian 6p CVCHS set up	7 CVCHS AP Testing 12:30p Women's Bible Study © 2:15p WoHC Board Mtg.	8 CVCHS AP Testing 7:15p Choir (cl)	9 CVCHS AP Testing 7p Bible Study (H)	10 CVCHS AP Testing OFC CLOSED 1p Nifty Fifty Lunch At the Wops	11 CVCHS AP Testing	12
13 MOM's DAY 9:30a Worship 11a Sunday School/ Bible Class 11a Fac & Maint Mtg 2-6p Myanmar Christian	14 CVCHS AP Testing 12:30p Women's Bible Study (C)	15 CVCHS AP Testing	16 CVCHS AP Testing 7p Bible Study (H)	17 CVCHS AP Testing OFC CLOSED 8:30a Men's Kaffeeklatsch 6:30p Ladies Bunco Night	18 CVCHS AP Testing	19 8:30a LWML Zone 7 Spring Rally, First Lutheran
20 9:30a Worship w/ Communion 11a Sunday School/ Bible Class 2-6p Myanmar Christian	21 OFC CLOSED 12:30p Women's Bible Study (C)	22 OFC CLOSED 6:30p Elders 7:15p Choir (cl)	23 7p Bible Study (H)	24 CVCHS AP Testing 1p Nifty Fifty Lunch Mountain Mike's Pizza	25	26
27 9:30a Worship 11a Sunday School/ Bible Class 2-6p Myanmar Christian	28 HOLIDAY OFC CLOSED 12:30p Women's Bible Study (C)	29	30 7p Bible Study (H)	31		

cl=choir loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg, H=Parish Hall, L=Library, ws=wing room

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Office Hours: Mon.-Wed., Friday 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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Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday
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