

Cross Currents

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

June 2018 Volume 6 Issue 160

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Tell the Old, Old, Story of Jesus

Pastor Chu

The refrain to the hymn, "I Love to Tell the Story," reminds us of what we do in evangelism; in evangelism, we tell the story of Jesus and His love for us and all people: "I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love."

Of course, in our cultural and spiritual milieu that shuns Scriptural truth and glorifies personal quest to discover one's own spiritual path, we need to specify and describe that Jesus' love for us is the sacrificial, unconditional, and undeserved love supremely demonstrated at the cross where Jesus, the eternal Son of God Incarnate, bore the guilt and sins of the world and suffered God's holy and just wrath, taking on Himself the punishment that all people deserve in order to save us and deliver us from spiritual and eternal death.

Dr. Albert Mohler, president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, describes the "post-Christian" age we live in and the challenge of evangelizing in such a cultural, social, moral, and spiritual environment. (1) Especially in America, our values of individualism and personal autonomy collide with Jesus' claim to be "the Way, the Truth, and the Life" and that no one goes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). People frown upon and resist any claims of absolutes and authority, including Scripture's teaching that salvation is possible only by God's undeserved love and mercy (grace) through faith (given by God through Gospel and baptism) in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for us and our salvation.

Evangelism will be met with one of three responses in a post-Christian age, Dr. Mohler writes: hostility, often in the form cultural marginalization; befuddlement, because people do not and cannot understand truths so different from theirs; indifference, that is, they "will not even care enough about our message to spend their energies either in hostility or befuddlement."

Often, people point out the problem but offer no solution. Dr. Mohler doesn't just describe the problem/challenge of evangelism in our world/age, he offer the solution: hold firmly to the authority of Scripture that is the inspired Word of God and tell the story of Jesus' death on the cross for the sins of the world. Without the message of Christ taking our place under God's judgement in order to buy our forgiveness with His atoning sacrifice, "we lose the evangel of evangelism," he says.

Dr. Mohler concludes his article with the following words: "As we evangelize we must keep the gospel and the person of Christ central and we must unashamedly and winsomely... talk about God's holiness and righteousness, we must talk about sin, and we must talk about our need of a Savior. The core of the good news is the person and work of Jesus Christ. He is the one we must talk about most of all — and without fail."

Share the old, old story of Jesus — His incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection — because it is still the power for God for salvation to all who, by His grace, trust in Him as Savior.

(1) See "Keeping the Evangel in Evangelism: Why Evangelicalism Can't Abandon the Old, Old Story." (https://albertmohler.com/2018/04/19/keeping-evangel-evangelism-evangelicalism-cant-abandon-old-old-story/)

June Birthdays

- 2 Jordan B.
- 7 Aroon W.
- 10 Tom O.
- 11 Nancy H.
- 13 Abigail R.
 - Kartini P
- 15 Jack E.
- 16 Shinta S.
- 17 JoEllen R.
- 20 Jessica A.
- 22 Kiley W.
 - Noah W.
- 25 Gayle B.
- 27 Kenneth C.



June Anniversaries

- 5 Randy & Aimee S.
- 17 John & Sandy C.
- 24 Walter & Nancy H.
 Don & Marlene R.
- 27 Ken & Carole C.
- 29 Pastor Bill & Carol C.



A BIG NOTE OF THANKS TO ALL THE CHOIR MEMBERS OF HOLY CROSS FOR ANOTHER SEASON OF PRAISING THE LORD WITH MUSIC. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE GIVING YOUR TIME AND TALENTS TO ENRICHING THE WORSHIP SERVICES. YOUR CONTINUED DEDICATION IS A BLESSING AND GREATLY APPRECIATED! HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!

- DIANA MEUX

Sunday School Learner submitted by Pat

LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back & turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "And she turned into a telephone pole!"

GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the



l roadside, all wounded & bleeding, what would you do?"

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "l think I'd throw up."

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday School teacher asked, "Johnny, do you
 think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the
 Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could he? He only had two (2) worms."

HIGHER POWER

A Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings & queens were in Bible times. But, there is a Higher Power.
 Can anybody tell me what it is?"
 One child blurted out, "Aces!"

MOSES & THE RED SEA

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge & all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed HQ for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge & all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his Mother asked.

"Well, no, Mom, but, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

- THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible ... Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a

Continued on page 9

Upcoming Fellowship Activities

POTLUCK AND BOWLING 6/10/18



Set aside time for our congregation potluck after church. Then bowlers & cheerleaders/observers will meet

at Clayton Valley Bowl for a fun game or two of bowling. Join Us & Sign Up!



June Bible Study and Sunday School Schedules:

Sunday Bible Class (11:00 a.m.): June 3, 17, 24 Sunday School (11:00 a.m.): June 3, 17, 24

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

Wednesday Bible Study (7:00 p.m.) "Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up": June 6, 13, 20, 27



Nifty Fifty Activities by Marv Kreitz

Again we plan on two activities. The first is Thursday, June 7th, and is to a favorite restaurant of mine that reopened May 20 after a fire and a surprise to everyone (who thought it would never reopen). The Black Angus Restaurant is located at 2355 Sand Creek Rd, Brentwood. They generally have lunch for \$9.50 with



the purchase of a beverage. Try the flame grilled top sirloin steak with 2 classic sidekicks or any of the lunch items on the Menu. Fish and Chips is

generally \$13.95. I usually have the salmon included in their Camp Fire Meal along with a wedge salad (great) and mashed potatoes for \$9.50. They also include their special sweet molasses bread, which is great. I have to assume their specials will still be available as they have been their specials for some months. Again, we can meet at church at 12:20 or you can go directly...but please sign up as I do make reservations here.

The second is on June 28th to Agave Grill located at 1935 Galindo in downtown Concord. I brought it up on the computer and it has a menu that won't stop... If you can't find what you want, it doesn't exist. The Agave Burrito is their house specialty and comes with your choice of marinated flank steak, chicken breast, or shrimp, is grilled with fresh red and green bell peppers and yellow onions and wrapped in a grande flour tortilla: it also includes refried beans, rice, sour cream, quacamole, cheese, and is available wet (covered in traditional red sauce) or dry for \$9.95. Their Agave Ensalada Fresh has lettuce, black beans, avocado, tomatoes, grilled nopales (cactus), and mild salsa for \$7; choose from grilled steak or chicken for \$8.95, salmon for \$9.95, prawns for \$10.95. This is another lunch where you can go directly or hitch a ride from church...Lunch is at 1:00, we'll leave church at 12:20. Sign up is in the social hall.

DINNER NIGHT OUT, MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018 AT 6PM by Marilyn Neumann

Our annual Family & Friends Dinner Night Out is just around the corner! We will dine at 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, Housemade Pies and Cakes, full bar, iced tea, hot tea, coffee and much more.

Please sign up by June 4 (this is a congregation event, family & friends are welcome to join us).

Wouldn't it be great if we can make this year's event the biggest turnout yet!



Congratulations 2018 Graduates!

Junior High School

Adam O.

<u> High School</u>

Josh C.

Isabelle O.

Jacob O.

Samuel O.

Bachelor of Science in

<u>Nursing</u>

McKenna Christine P.

Doctor of Physical

Therapy

Mare 4

Josh C. will graduate from Clayton Valley Charter High School on June 2nd with recognition from National Honor Society, Clayton Valley Instrumental Music, and Clayton Valley Engineering Academy. He has been a Cross Country and Track team participant all four years of high school. Fun Fact: Josh has long



held a goal to run a sub 5 mile, and was pleased to conclude his Senior year track season with a personal record 4.46 finish for 1600m. In the fall, he plans to attend the University of California Irvine, where he has been accepted to the Honors Program with an Aerospace Engineering Major.



McKenna Christine P., granddaughter of Dee J., participated in the School of Nursing Pinning Ceremony at Point Loma Nazarene University on May 4th. On May 5th McKenna received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Magna Cum Laude. Her family is very proud of her and she is currently spending 3 weeks traveling through Europe. When she returns she will start her first job as a nurse at Rady Chil-

dren's Hospital in San Diego.

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

- ★ Several WoHC went to the <u>LWML CNH (CA, NV, HI) District Convention</u> in Newark last month. I wrote a short recap. Gayle Bothe was our delegate; she also has a write up! Look for both here in the Cross Currents.
- * As I write this, some of us are also planning to go to the 2018 Spring Zone Rally on 5/19.





Monday, 6/11, Dinner Out with Family & Friends, The Buttercup Grill & Bar, 6pm.

Sign up and join us for this annual_event. We are going to The Buttercup Grill & Bar (corner of Treat Blvd. & Clayton Rd.).

This is NOT a women only event!

Family & friends are welcome.

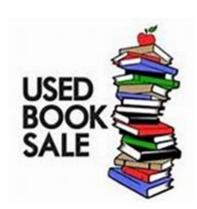
Sign up by 6/6.



Saturday, August 11

Donations accepted, PLEASE no textbooks, encyclopedia, dictionaries...

We will be asking for help setting up & cleaning up after.



NOTES from the LWML CNH Convention

Joyce Liebe

There are too many memorable moments for me to share here, however I would like to make note of a couple items.

- First, Don Wharton, Christian singer, songwriter, author, & humorist was AMAZING! Please make a point to attend any event he is a part of! 2 key items I noted from his talks:
 - → Listen to the Lord; do what He says.
 - → Read the Bible; don't let your Pastor have all the fun!
- The music was outstanding, such a variety of tradition & contemporary hymns/songs were heard & sung. One was a favorite of mine, "In Christ Alone", written in 2001. I'm including the lyrics here. There are many audio & video versions of this song. Check out a very moving music video by Travis Cottrel, which includes a portion of "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less".

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

NOTES ABOUT THE 2018 LWML-CNH DISTRICT CONVENTION

Philippians 4:4-7, "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice...Be anxious for nothing but in everything by Prayer...and the Peace of God which passes all understanding will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." These verses were the theme of the convention and the subject of the songs, the Bible study, the sermons at two worship services, and prayers heard throughout the whole convention. The whole of it flowed so smoothly from one person to the next that we never lost track of where we were supposed to focus our hearts and minds.

Before the Opening Ceremonies started Friday night, there was a SWAP session, Study, Worship, and Praise. Pastor Crown led the Bible study. Dave Anderson led the music/singing. Pastor Chu led the prayer service, taken from a LWML prayer service. Cherylene told me over 65 women and men attended the SWAP session. More came than signed up and they had to move to a larger room! At the Opening Ceremonies we were told the good news that all of the Mission Grants from 2016-2018 for the District were funded and



paid. We all rejoiced with clapping and cheering (and some women can whistle). Among all the people of importance introduced to us were Cherylene B. and Sherry B. who were co-chairwomen of the Convention. They did a wonderful job, everything was very well organized! Prior to the start of the Worship and Communion Service it was awesome to see 9 pastors process up to the front. The music/songs Dave Anderson chose, scripture readings, and Pastor Zelt's sermon all carried out the theme of Rejoice, Prayer and Be at Peace. It was very uplifting. The offering received during the service went to the Steinbeck Memorial Scholarship Fund. \$1972.00 was given to the glory of

God. The evening closed with a hospitality reception where we could meet new people or find old friends and catch up.

Saturday was a full day, starting for about 25 people at 7am, walking the Pledge Walk. The Young Women's Reps. were there to cheer them on. The last information I received on May 5th was that \$1,237.00 has come in and it all goes toward the new 2018-2020 Mission Grants.

We got really busy Saturday. There were three items the delegates were voting on. The balloting was spread throughout the day, so the delegates sat at designated tables to make it easier to pass out and pick up ballots by the tellers.

The Bible study was given by Don Wharton. Don also helped with the singing throughout the convention and gave the Keynote Address. His Bible study was different than usual in that he talked about how he was one of seven people who miraculously survived a twin engine private plane crash into the Bering Sea off the coast of Alaska, August 13, 1993. The team was returning from a missionary/humanitarian trip to the Russian Far East. He shared how the principles of rejoice, prayer, and be in peace were very active as one engine after the other ran out of fuel and they knew they would crash. They prayed out loud for each other and the situation in the plane and after they got out into the water. They took turns quoting scripture they had memorized out loud for each other till rescue came. God saved their lives in a miraculous way for they were in the freezing water that ordinarily would have taken their lives by the time rescue arrived. In fact, the rescue helicopter brought body bags not expecting anyone to have survived. Don's greatest joy is to encourage people to greater service to Jesus Christ. He goes to churches, schools, and conventions with his uplifting style.

The first ballot measure was the proposed bylaw changes. All the changes were approved as presented.

The Rev Dr. Robert Newton, CHN LCMS President, issued a Mite Challenge and the mite boxes on the tables began filling up. We had a break during which the room was set up for lunch and we had time to visit the room with the displays and exhibits from different Lutheran organizations and our LWML District Executive Committee. There was also a room set up as a Prayer Chapel open all weekend for individual meditation. Pastor Chu and Pastor Crown were available if someone needed individual prayer and counseling.

After lunch delegates received ballots and voted for the new Officer Candidates while the rest of the peo-

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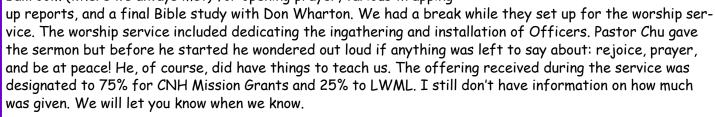
ple sang. The new officers elected are: President - Martha Dubke, Red Bluff, zone 12; Vice-President of Convention Planning - Roxan Schwab, Lockford, zone 3; Vice-President of Servant Resources - Elaine McFarlane, Santa Rosa, zone 14; Recording Secretary - Jeanne O'Connell, Stockton, zone 3; Financial Secretary - Christa Hamilton, Atascadero, zone 9; and Pastoral Counselor - Rev. Alan Toenjes, Bakersfield, zone 5 were elected. Pastor Chu having served his 4 years is the outgoing Pastoral Counselor. Thank you for serving with us and for us Pastor. We had a couple of speakers then the board recommended a financial Mission Goal that would cover all the Proposed Grants. The Proposed Mission Grants were presented and after a prayer ballots were passed out for Mission Grants. Since all proposed grants were accepted, the balloting will establish the order in which they are to be funded. When a poster is produced, we will post it on the bulletin board in the Parish hallway. Just a note, delegates voted for five grants. The top five grants the ladies from Holy Cross chose ended up in the top eight. Good job, ladies! While delegates voted the others sang. We prayed again and an offering for the Rubin Memorial Fund was received. \$1237.00 was given to the glory of God

At this time, Don Wharton gave his Keynote address. He finished telling us about his experience and frame of mind (scared) during the plane crash and being in the freezing water, not knowing what was going to happen before their rescue. He couldn't stress enough how important it is for us to be reading the Bible every

day; to memorize scripture because the Holy Spirit will bring God's word back to you in times of trouble, like it did for him and the others. In the midst of it all they could "be at peace" as they waited to see what God's will was going to be. Were they eminently going to be with Him in heaven or were they going to be here with Him?

Saturday night was BANQUET time. Prayer, great food, great entertainment by Don Wharton and Dave Anderson, and a closing prayer and blessing from our outgoing District Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Bill Chu.

Sunday morning was busy packing up to check out and getting to the ballroom (where we always met) for opening prayer, various wrapping



We came home hopefully to rejoice always, pray, and be at peace with God. Also, to encourage others to do the same. You never know when you might need to recall a memorized Bible verse for comfort in time of need for yourself or for others.

FYI

We had several speakers throughout the convention. I haven't mentioned any specifically (A lot of you may not even get this far because the article is already long - don't worry I understand!). They were all interesting and worthy of our time. Oh, I forgot to mention that during the break before the Banquet there was lots of time to rest, see the displays/exhibits, put in a prayer request (box provided), hang out with old or new friends, and last but not least join the choir for practice. The prayer requests and choir practice are important because during the Sunday Worship Service the choir sang. It was beautiful. God has blessed these women with beautiful voices which they used to enrich our service. I can't remember which Pastor prayed the submitted prayer requests but he prayed for each one which made for a long prayer but I appreciated how personal it was, reminding me and others that God cares about each one of us and what is on our hearts and minds.

Respectfully, Gayle Bothe, delegate month to learn the chapter.

Little Rick was excited about the task, but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the 1st line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous.

When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone & said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, & that's all I need to know."

UNANSWERED PRAYER

The preacher's 5-year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused & bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why.

Well, Honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon."

"How come He doesn't answer it?" she asked.

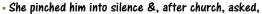
BEING THANKFUL

A Rabbi said to a precocious 6-year-old boy, "So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?"

The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"

UNTIMELY ANSWERED PRAYER

During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified.



Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?"

Tommy answered soberly, "I asked God to teach me to whistle, & He did!"

TIME TO PRAY

A pastor asked a little boy if he said his prayers every night.

Yes, sir." the boy replied.

- "And, do you always say them in the morning, too?" the pastor asked.

"No, sir," the boy replied. "I ain't scared in the daytime."

ALL MEN / ALL GIRLS

When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend & every animal (current & past). For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, "And all girls."

 This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curioslity got the best of me & I asked her, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?"

Her response, "Because everybody always finish their prayers by saying 'All Men'!"

SAY A PRAYER

Little Johnny & his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served.
 When Little Johnny rec'd his plate, he started eating right away. "Johnny!

vivien Little Johnny rec a his plate, he started eating right away. Johnny Please wait until we say our prayer." said his mother.

"I don't need to," the boy replied.

"Of course, you do." his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house."

• "That's at our house." Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house ... & she knows how to cook!"

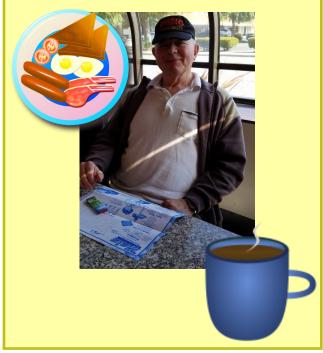
Youths making Mother's Day cards





Men's Kaffeeklatsch





June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Mite Box/Hat Sunday 9:30a Worship w/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Class 2-6p Myanmar Christian	4 12:30p Women's Bible Study (C) 7-9:30p Scouts	5 ELECTION DAY	6 7p Bible Study (H)	7 OFC CLOSED 1p Nifty Fifty Lunch Black Angus	8 Voting Equipment picked up	9 Parish Hall Reserved/ Private Event
10 9:30a Worship 11a Potluck, Bowling after 2-6p Myanmar Christian	11 12:30p Women's Bible Study (C) 6p Dinner Out, Buttercup 7-9:30p Scouts	12	13 7p Bible Study (H)	14 OFC CLOSED	15	16
17Father's Day 9:30a Worship w/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Class 2-6p Myanmar Christian	18 12:30p Women's Bible Study (C) 6:30p Council Mtg	19	207p Bible Study (H)	21 OFC CLOSED 8:30a Men's Kaffeeklatsch 6:30p Ladies Bunco	22	23
9:30a Worship 11a VOTER'S MTG 11a Sunday School/Bible Class 2-6p Myanmar	25 12:30p Women's Bible Study (C) 7-9:30p Scouts	26	277p Bible Study (H)	28 OFC CLOSED 1p Nifty Fifty Lunch Agave Grill	29	30

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: Kimberly Chu editor@holycrossconcord.org

Office Hours: Mon.-Wed., Friday 9am-1pm

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

Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

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