



Cross Currents

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

November 2018

Volume 10 Issue 164

Inside this issue:

Pastor's message	1-2
Birthdays and Anniversaries, Choir, Church Workday	3
LSS Angel Tree Gift Drive	4
Fellowship Activities	5
WoHC	6
Getting to Know You, YVCS	7
Calendar	8
Holy Cross Weekly Schedule	9



"To me it would not seem that a steward who faithfully surrenders his charge is diminished in love or in honour..."

No, this is not a Scripture passage, as you may already have gathered. It's a quote from *The Return of the King*, the 3rd volume of J.R.R. Tolkien's trilogy, *The Lord of the Rings*.

In this scene, Denethor, Steward in a long line of stewards of Gondor, loathes relinquishing the kingdom to the true king who has finally come in fulfillment of prophecy. Denethor's desire? – *"To be Lord of the city in peace and leave my chair to a son after me... who would be his own master... but if doom denies me this, then I will have naught; neither life diminished, nor halved, nor honour abated."* To this Gandalf replies, *"To me it would not seem that a steward who faithfully surrenders his charge is diminished in love or in honour..."*

When we, as stewards of God's gifts, faithfully surrender to God what God has entrusted to us, we are not diminished in love, or honor, or blessings...

As we prepare for Thanksgiving and the Church seasons of Advent and Christmas and enjoy not only the spiritual but also material blessings that God gives in special ways during this time of the year, I encourage you to think of your life of stewardship.

We usually think of stewardship in terms of money, but God sees stewardship as encompassing everything we are as well as everything we have. It involves our money, time, energy, effort, devotion, commitment, love, etc. In fact, stewardship encompasses our very life. What God wants first and foremost, above all else, is our heart, our mind, our body... in other words, He wants us. We belong to Him. He made us. He redeemed us with no less than the precious blood of His own Son, Jesus Christ (1Peter 1:18-19). He adopted us as His sons and daughters by His grace through faith in His Son, Jesus, incorporating us into Christ in Baptism (Galatians 3:26-29; Romans 8:15b-17a).

Stewardship is not just one aspect of the Christian life; it is the Christian life. It is knowing and realizing that everything we are and everything we have are gifts from God (except that which is sinful, of course) and that we have been given the privilege and honor of taking care of, and using, these gifts in a God-pleasing and God-honoring way (Luke 19:12-13ff; cf. Matthew 25:14ff). When we return to the Lord what rightfully belongs to Him to begin with (Psalm 24:1; Deuteronomy 32:6b) and use His gifts, including our financial resources, time, mind, body, heart, etc., to serve Him, we are merely being faithful stewards (1Corinthians 4:1-2) and that does not diminish our honor

Continued on page 2

or life in any way but rather, God bestows His honor on us and blesses us even more. (Luke 6:38; Malachi 3:10).

I pray that by the power of Gospel, you will be faithful stewards of the riches God has given you and return to Him what He has given you charge over (Malachi 3:7b) by serving Him with all that you are and all that you have. Faithfully surrender yourself to God who gave His Son for you, and He assures you, you will not be diminished in love, honor or blessings.

1Peter 1:18-19

¹⁸Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Galatians 3:26-29

²⁶For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Romans 8:15b-17a

¹⁵But you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.

Luke 19:12-13ff

¹²[Jesus] said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. ¹³Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.'

Psalms 24:1

¹The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.

Deuteronomy 32:6b

Is not [the LORD] your father, who created you, who made you and established you?

1Corinthians 4:1-2

¹This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. (Paul is speaking of the Gospel of salvation by grace through faith, but we are also stewards of all that God has given us and He calls us to be faithful.)

Luke 6:38

³⁸Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

Malachi 3:6-10

⁶"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?' ⁸Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. ⁹You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you.

¹⁰Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. -Pastor

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

11/1 Clara H.
 11/4 Joe O.
 11/7 Suzanne S.
 11/8 Judy S.
 11/10 Liz A.
 Andrea B.
 11/15 Lauretta O.



11/9 Dwight & Claudia G.
 11/20 Gerhard N. & Shinta S.

**CHOIR REHEARSALS will be
 on November 6, 13, & 20.
 No rehearsal on November 27.**

-Diana



Make a Joyful noise unto the Lord
Psalms 96:1

Holy Cross & YVCS Work Day, Sat, 11/10, 9am

Holy Cross & YVCS are teaming up for a work day to prepare our facilities for Thanksgiving, Advent, & Christmas (as well as the upcoming winter weather). **Please join:**

- ♦ **The Altar Guild is having their Fall Sanctuary cleaning** (bring a bucket & some rags). Contact Andrea Beutel for more information 925 672-9605
- ♦ **YVCS staff/families and our Facility & Maintenance committee for various indoor & outdoor projects.** We will have a task list, there's something for everyone!

**We NEED you.
 Can you HELP?**



**CHURCH
 WORKDAY**

Holy Cross will once again support LSS' Angel Tree Holiday Gift Drive



LSS of Northern California heeds Martin Luther's call to help others through our good works. We are guided by a commitment to justice, human rights, and caring compassion towards those who are suffering.

We work with formerly homeless individuals of all ages to rebuild their lives and become self-sufficient. Our compassionate and caring staff provides supportive housing services that address the underlying causes of homelessness, including mental illness, addiction, trauma, poverty and surviving disasters such as the recent wildfires.

Make A Difference in Someone's Life this Christmas

The 3,600 former foster youth, adults, seniors and families with children that LSS serves every day cannot afford gifts for Christmas or a special holiday meal. It doesn't take much! For example a gift card can help buy:

- An essential household item (e.g., towels, sheets, cooking utensils)
- Personal hygiene items
- Basic clothing (e.g., t-shirts, socks, underwear, sweater)
- Holiday meal fixings

Holy Cross will host Life Line Screening on Tues. Nov. 27.

Life Line a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Holy Cross.

5 screenings will be offered. They scan for potential health problems related to:

- ◇ **blocked arteries** which is a leading cause of stroke;
- ◇ **abdominal aortic aneurysms** which can lead to a ruptured aorta;
- ◇ **hardening of the arteries** in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease;
- ◇ **atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat** which is closely tied to stroke risk;
- ◇ **bone density screening**, for men & women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis.

In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 member discount, you must call 1-877-380-1743 or register at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle.

NOTE: I have 5 discount passes, good for 1 of the 5 tests for free, or a \$55 discount off the package of all 5 screenings. See me, Joyce



Mrs. Sturbaum, YVCS 2nd grade teacher, took her class on a fieldtrip to the pumpkin farm. Some of the pumpkins they brought back, they cooked & then made chocolate chip pumpkin bread in our kitchen. As a thank you, Mrs. Sturbaum and her students brought me a loaf of the bread. They each also gave me a thank you note. They were so heartfelt that I put them on a poster board in the parish hall. Please take a moment to read them. P.s. The bread was delicious!

Upcoming Fellowship Activities

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, Sunday, Nov. 18, 11:45am

Join us for our dinner with all the fixings!

Look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Suggested donation is \$10.

Thanksgiving Day Worship with Holy Communion:

Thursday, Nov. 22, 9:30 am



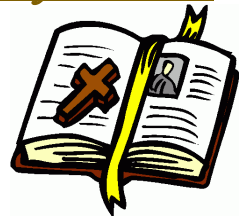
November Sunday School and Bible Study Schedules

Sunday Bible Class 11:00AM

Sunday School 11:00AM

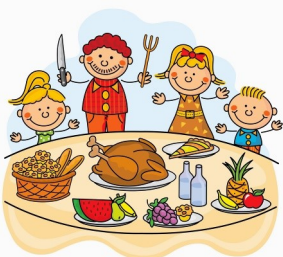
Monday Ladies Bible Study 10-11:30AM

Wednesday evening Bible study 7:00PM 11/7, 11/14



Nifty Fifty

We plan on only one activity for the month of November, mostly because we have Thanksgiving on the 22nd, and that is to a really fun restaurant: the Red Lobster, located at 4095 Century Blvd., Pittsburg, CA. This was one of Trudy's favorites and I certainly enjoyed the delightful assortment of good food offered whenever I've dined there. They are having a promotion on endless shrimp as well as lunch deals starting at \$7.99 served with unlimited Cheddar Bay Biscuits, add a salad for additional cost. The Jambalaya tender shrimp: sweet roasted peppers, onions, celery, andouille sausage, and spicy creole seasonings over wild rice; shrimp and wood-grilled chicken; farm raised catfish; shrimp linguine alfredo; maple-glazed chicken; on and on... There must be over 30 combinations, all sounding delicious. The restaurant is located in the shopping center just off Somersville Road (it may be Auto Road now) in Antioch. Lunch will be on November 8th at 1:00PM, as usual, so plan on meeting at church at noon and leaving about 12:15PM, or meet at the restaurant, but please sign up!



~Marv

November 2018 – WoHC Happenings by Joyce Liebe, President

There's a lot going on, below is a recap. Mark your calendar & join us.

- ◇ 11/2-11/3 (Fri.-Sat.) Corner Café & Holiday Hutch
- ◇ 11/11 (Sun.) Worship Service & Celebrate our Veteran's
- ◇ 11/18 (Sun.) Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner, 11:45am
LSS Angel Tree Holiday Gift drive begins
- ◇ 11/26 (Mon.) WoHC Board Mtg, 2:15pm, Conference Room
- ◇ 12/3 (Mon.) WoHC Christmas Dinner, 5:30pm, La Veranda
- ◇ 12/8 (Sat.) LSS Angel Tree Holiday Gift Wrapping, Parish Hall

I am also working on 2 Holy Cross/YVCS Christmas Events

- ◇ 12/4 (Tues.) YVCS Band & Choir Music Program, evening, Parish Hall
Holy Cross is invited to attend.
- ◇ 12/12 (Wed.) Nifty Fifty Christmas Lunch, 11:30am, Parish Hall
YVCS Choir will give short performance after lunch

Lastly, our Fall Zone Rally held here at Holy Cross on 10/13 was well attended & Pastor gave a wonderful combined Bible Study/Worship Service.

Thanks to all who donated to our ingathering for LSS.



The following was read by Marilyn at Wilma's memorial service. We wanted to share it again with you.

Getting to know all about Wilma Burch, Conversations with Ann Caruso & Marilyn Neumann, February 11, 2014

We had a wonderful conversation with Wilma Burch. It was a blessing to visit with this elegant, gracious lady. We learned that she has a wonderful sense of humor and infectious laugh. During the course of our conversation Wilma told us that her favorite hymn is "Abide with Me", one of the most beautiful hymns ever written. Here are some of the highlights from our conversation with Wilma:

She was born in Battle Creek, Nebraska, located approx. 100 miles west of Sioux City, Iowa. There were 6 children in her family – 3 boys and 3 girls. Her maiden name was Klein. Wilma's parents were Missouri Synod Lutherans and she and her brothers and sisters were baptized as infants in the church.

At age 16 she went to work on her grandparents' farm. Wilma loved the summers working on the farm, helping her uncle with the haying. She learned to drive the horse drawn rakes which were used in the haying. After she graduated from High School, Wilma taught school in a one room school in Rock County, Nebraska. She had four students her first year and by the third year there were 13 students. Five of those 13 students were from the same family and the five of them rode together on one horse to school. She still hears from several of the students she taught. One of those students told her he never forgot learning the Palmer Method of Cursive Writing. (Remember the beautiful letters in cursive that used to line the walls of your classrooms in grammar school? That was the Palmer Method of Cursive Writing. Kids growing up today are taught how to print and have a difficult time reading cursive writing.)

Wilma and one of her girlfriends decided to come out to California to work. They lived in Rollingwood, a small suburb of Richmond. Wilma worked for Standard Oil as a Pumper. It was during the wartime and women were needed in the workforce while the men went off to serve in the armed forces. In the meantime, a certain young man back home named Lealand Burch had joined the Army and was stationed in California at Camp Roberts. He was sent to Alaska for two years. Wilma and Lealand fell in love, having been friends for so many years and went back to Nebraska for their wedding in 1944. They were married in the Pastor's Parsonage. Lealand worked for Standard Oil and later was hired by PG&E in the Construction Department. PG&E moved them around a lot to Walnut Creek, Monterey, Eureka, Santa Rosa, and then finally Concord. They started their family in Concord. They adopted a baby girl whom they named Leann, and then two years later, the Lord blessed them with a son, Bradley. She was active in the PTA, on Local and State Board level. She was elected to the Contra Costa County Board of Education and served 9 years on the Board.

Leann and her family live in Oregon near Salem, and Bradley lives in Walnut Creek. Wilma and her family were members of First Lutheran for many years and then came to Holy Cross about 15 years ago.

Lealand retired after 35 years with PG&E. Wilma and Lealand had a good life together. The Lord took Lealand home in 1993, and she misses him still. Wilma has enjoyed some wonderful trips, including Lutherland with Pastor Dale Meyer. She traveled on the Queen Elizabeth 2 around the coast of Great Britain. She saw the Passion Play in Germany, visited Italy, Spain, Portugal, the Canary Islands, Morocco, and Alaska. Before Christmas, she and her son Bradley boarded a cruise ship in Long Beach and sailed down the coast stopping at Catalina Island and Ensenada, Mexico.

We had such a blessing getting to know more about Wilma. We hope you received a blessing reading about our conversation.

YGNACIO VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

On Friday, November 2nd, we will be having our **Grandparent/VIP Day**, which will also be a half day of school. It will begin with our Friday Chapel at and will include choir performances by our K-6th grade choir. This is a way to honor our Grandparents and people who are important in our students' lives.

On Friday, November 9th, we will be having a special **Veteran's Day** chapel.

On Friday, November 16th, we will be having a special **Thanksgiving** chapel.

All of our chapels start at 8:30am, until 9:15am.

We would be delighted to have HCLC members join us for any or all of our morning chapels! :)

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
YVCS School Hours: 8:30am-3pm YVCS Parish Hall use during week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir: Mon. & Wed. 12:30-3pm Band: Tues. & Thurs. 12-3pm Chapel: Friday 8:30-9:15am (family & friends welcome) 				<i>1</i> OFC CLOSED Corner Café & Holiday Hutch Set-Up (PH) Voting Equip drop-off	<i>2</i> 8:30am-8pm Corner Café & Holiday Hutch (PH)	<i>3</i> 9am-4pm Corner Café & Holiday Hutch (PH)
<i>4</i> DST ENDS Mite Box Sunday 9:30a Worship w/ Communion 11a Sunday School/ Bible Class 2-6p Myanmar Christian	<i>5</i> 10-11:30a Women's Bible Study (C) 7-9:30p Scouts (PH)	<i>6</i> ELECTION DAY (PH) 11a Prayer Group 7:15p Choir (cl)	<i>7</i> 7p Bible Study (PH)	<i>8</i> OFC CLOSED 1p Nifty Fifty Lunch: Red Lobster Voting Equip pick-up	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 9a Church Clean Up & Work Party
<i>11</i> 9:30a Worship 11a Sunday School/ Bible Class 11a F & M Mtg. 2-6p Myanmar Christian	<i>12</i> Veteran's Day OFC CLOSED 10-11:30a Women's Bible Study (C) 7-9:30p Scouts (PH)	<i>13</i> 11a Prayer Group 7:15p Choir (cl)	<i>14</i> 1p Nifty Fifty Board Mtg 7p Bible Study (PH)	<i>15</i> OFC CLOSED 8:30a Men's Kaffeeklatsch	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> 9:30a Worship w/ Communion 11a Sunday School/ Bible Class 11:45 Thanksgiving Dinner (PH) 2-6p Myanmar Christian	<i>19</i> 10-11:30a Women's Bible Study © 11am YVCS Fire Drill 7-9:30p Scouts (PH)	<i>20</i> 11a Prayer Group 7:15p Choir (cl)	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> OFC CLOSED 9:30a Worship w/ Communion 	<i>23</i> OFC CLOSED	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> 9:30a Worship 11a Sunday School/ Bible Class OUTREACH 2-6p Myanmar Christian	<i>26</i> 10-11:30a Women's Bible Study © 2:15p WoHC Board mtg (c) 7-9:30p Scouts (PH)	<i>27</i> LIFELINE SCREENING (PH) 11a Prayer Group	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> OFC CLOSED	<i>30</i>	

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

Holy Cross Lutheran

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Eric Roman, Herb Neumann

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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)	10:30PM Conference Room
Wednesday	7:00PM Parish Hall

Choir Rehearsal:

Tuesday	7: 15PM-8:45PM
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Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday
December 2018 Cross Currents: November 22, 2018