



Cross Currents

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

March 2019

Volume 3 Issue 168

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Add to Your Life in Christ During Lent

By Pastor Chu

With Ash Wednesday we begin the penitential season of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, many churches retain the custom of the imposition of ashes, that is, putting ashes in the sign of the cross on one's forehead as both a reminder of our frailty due to sin and a sign of penitence and mourning over our sinfulness and sins (Genesis 18:27, 2Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1, Ecclesiastes 3:10, Daniel 9:3, Jonah 3:5-9, Matthew 11:21, Revelation 18:19).

Many Christians also engage in the Lenten practice of giving up something they enjoy, e.g., a chocolate, soda, coffee, wine, a favorite food, a favorite television show, some hobby, etc., as a reminder of the solemnity of the season and Christ's suffering for us.

Like the imposition of ashes, the practice of denying oneself certain pleasures during Lent falls within the realm of Christian freedom: It is good to do, if done for the right reason and with the right attitude, but such practices are not mandated by Scripture. Engaging in such customs does not ingratiate us to God; abstaining from such practices does not incur God's displeasure.

What is God-pleasing and commanded in Scripture is repentance — turning from, and giving up, sins and whatever else impedes our faith in, and devotion to, Christ, and turning to Christ in faith, trusting Him for forgiveness, restoration, and renewal, as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord.

Whether you engage in the Imposition of Ashes and/or the discipline of self-denial during this season of Lent, I encourage you to take up, by the grace of God — if you don't do so already — the practice of attending a Bible study, going to worship on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, receiving the means of grace regularly by attending Sunday worship every week, and dusting off, if you would, your Bible and reading it daily, even if it's only for a few minutes each day.

Giving up something for Lent is a worthwhile practice. Adding time with and increasing attention to the means of grace will strengthen our faith in Christ, heighten our understanding and awareness of our need for the Lord and the blessings He give in Word and Sacrament, and enable us better to serve Him by serving others.



3/1 Eberhard W.
 3/1 Idalene S.
 3/11 Kamryn C.
 3/12 Pastor Chu
 3/18 Rachael G.
 3/23 Jean E.
 3/24 Chery C.
 3/25 Nathan P.
 3/30 Doris M.
 3/30 Maddison M.



CHOIR REHEARSALS for March will be on
 March 5th, 12th, and 19th. (No rehearsal on March 26th.)

Thank you!
 Diana

A Mission to Paradise

Reported by Cherylene B.

In mid-January, Sandy Coyne and Chris Roman asked if Allen and I were interested in taking a day trip to Chico. The December Youth Bake Sale had generated \$800 for victims of the recent Camp Fire in Butte County. Chris got in touch with Pastor Donald Jordan at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Chico. At Pastor Jordan's recommendation, the girls decided to purchase gift cards for use by the fire victims. Sandy took them shopping and they purchased Target and Walmart \$25 and \$50 gift cards. They did not want to mail the gift cards, so personal delivery was the best option. Thursday, January 31, Allen and I headed for Chico.

It was a chilly, but beautiful, day as we headed north. The rice fields were flooded, a new crop is progress. Water birds were plentiful! On I-5 a huge flock of white birds swarmed across the freeway right over us. It was beautiful! Had the birds been black I would have thought we were re-living Alfred Hitchcock's film, "The Birds"! Our three-hour trip was otherwise uneventful. We were to be at the church to meet Pastor Jordan at 12 noon, and we arrived right on time.

We introduced ourselves, and Pastor Jordan gave us a tour of the church. He explained that they had just closed their distribution center (the parish hall) last week as donations of food and supplies have tapered off. Redeemer was one of several locations in Chico where fire victims came to receive food, clothing, etc. Pastor Jordan said that churches were the largest contributors. Donations still arrive, and they will be used.

Pastor Brandon Merrick from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Paradise was at Redeemer printing church bulletins for his Sunday worship service. Redeemer has given him space for a temporary office, and about 45 people from the Paradise congregation gather for their own worship service at Redeemer. Our Savior lost their church buildings, the parsonage, the pre-school, and one member to the fire. Many in the congregation lost their homes. Pastor Merrick, his wife Wendy, their three young children, and Wendy's mother all lost their homes and belongings. Pastor Merrick told us that when they got the word to evacuate, he locked the doors to the pre-school, and they left.

We all gathered in Pastor Jordan's office for a visit. We prayed together, and then gave the bag of gift cards to Pastor Merrick. Even had a photo op! The pastors were very appreciative of the gift. They both encouraged us to drive up to Paradise. We had not planned to do that, feeling that it was a private place. They said that there is lots of work going on up there, and we really should go. They gave us the church address for our GPS, directions, and their blessing!



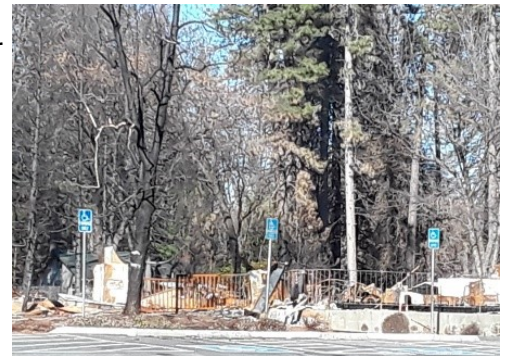
(L-R) Pastor Merrick, Cherylene, Pastor Jordan, Allen – giving the gift cards to Pastor Merrick.

Continued from page 2

We found a homey café in Chico for lunch, then drove the 12 or so miles to Paradise. We began to see fire damage on the outskirts of Chico. The closer we got to Paradise, the more devastation we saw. It was a humbling experience. I wish we had visited Paradise before the fire, such a pretty mountain town with so many pines. Now many of the trees are blackened. PG&E workers were busy cutting up fallen trees and cutting down those in danger of falling. Complete blocks in town were leveled. Burger King has an untouched sign, but no building. Churches, businesses, schools, and homes are no more. But then there was an unharmed church, a medical clinic open for business, and a gas station. Where there was green grass, the home it surrounded was saved. Driving out to Our Savior, driveways and mailboxes spoke of families that were once there. The shells of many burned out cars and trucks were scattered about. The bright red and yellow of a child's toy escaped the fire, but nothing else.

Our Savior Lutheran Church is a flattened parcel of land, but the parking lot looks good, and the blue disabled parking signs in front of the church still stand. The wooden cross surrounded by a small flowerbed at the entrance to the parking lot is unscathed. God's grace and mercy are its testimony. The rains that followed the fire bring life from the soil as witnessed by the sprigs of green among the fallen black trees.

We are thankful that we made this journey to Paradise. Our mission was important. We were blessed. Sandy, Chris, Kaytlyn, Kamryn, Kayleigh and Alex, thank you for sending us to Paradise (by way of Chico)!



The disabled parking signs in front of where the church stood.



The cross, church sign and mailbox at the entrance to the parking lot of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Paradise, CA.



Remains of a home next door to the church property.



Grassy area on church property. Notice one pine still green on top 1/3.



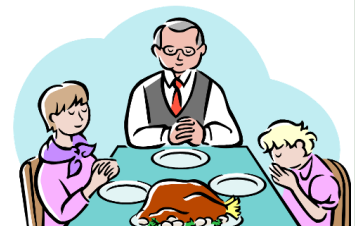
Property next to the church property. Notice kid toys untouched, and rubber tires completely burned on the yellow truck, several burned trucks and a basketball hoop ready to play.



SAVE THE DATE

As many of you know the appliances and general appearance in the kitchen are now about 30 years old and things are wearing out. The Kitchen Club is having a Palm Sunday dinner to have funds to do some of the work. It will be held @11:45 on Sunday, April 14. There will be a sign up sheet forthcoming.

Thank you,
Melarie



CALL TO ACTION

Holy Cross Family,

After several months of preparation, with your agreement and support, our call package for a seminary graduate has been reviewed by NCH District President Lange and submitted to our two LCMS seminary placement officers for consideration. The next milestone is word in late April from a seminary that we have been blessed with the seminary graduate God has selected for us to replace Pastor Chu as he retires. Now is the time for all of us to act in preparation for the blessed news and our transition here at Holy Cross.

PRAY PLAN PARTICIPATE

PRAY: Continue to keep your Holy Cross family in your daily prayers using our prayer list as a guide, and adding your own additional petitions. Pray for God's will through the seminary placement officers.

Join in our prayer group each Tuesday morning at 11:00, whether in person or joining us in prayer wherever you are.

Pray for Pastor Chu, Carol, and family; for our new pastor God will be sending us; and the changes that are happening at Holy Cross.

PLAN: Prepare and plan for how you will use your gifts of time, talent, and treasure to support God's ministry here at Holy Cross and further the Great Commission in our community. We have been blessed by the actions of many saints before us, and we all have gifts to contribute. Speak up with your ideas and actions you will take.

PARTICIPATE: Be active in your church family now. Worship weekly and bring family members. Greet friends and visitors, and check in on each other at coffee fellowship. Visit missing members in person or by phone, offering an ear and encouragement.

- * Join in on bible studies – Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays. Be the spark for a new bible study or subject. Exercise your fellowship at our events – coffee hour, Nifty 50s luncheons (all ages are welcome), monthly men's luncheon (shake things up ladies), pot lucks and holiday meals, and WOHC events.
- * Lighten the load for your church family by volunteering for work and cleaning parties, or your own ideas like gardening and beautifying. Greet, read and welcome – no special skills needed. Share in your own special way.
- * Accept invitations, extend invitations, but do not wait for invitations. All are welcome. Now is the time to act.

Blessings to you and our Holy Cross church family from your Call Committee.



CHURCH
WORKDAY

We rescheduled our **Work Party to Sat., March 9.**
Update your calendar & plan to help. **Thank you!**



Can't prune, dig...? Come help
set up coffee, water, or bring a

snack. Encourage your children, grandchildren to help us.

Upcoming Fellowship Activities

March Sunday School and Bible Study Schedules

- ♦ Sunday Bible Class 11:00AM: 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31
- ♦ Sunday School 11:00AM: 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31
- ♦ Monday Ladies Bible Study 10-11:30AM
- ♦ Wednesday evening Bible study 7:00PM: 3/13, 3/20, 3/27



**Join us
for dinner!**

**Wednesday, March 6, 2019
Dinner at 5:45 pm
Worship Service 7:00 pm**



Pizza...Salad...and Dessert – don't cook!



Hosted by
Women of Holy
Cross



Your voluntary
donation will
support
LWML Mites



Men's Kaffeeklatsch at Mel's Diner



**Ladies:
Join us March 18th
at 12:30 for Bridge**

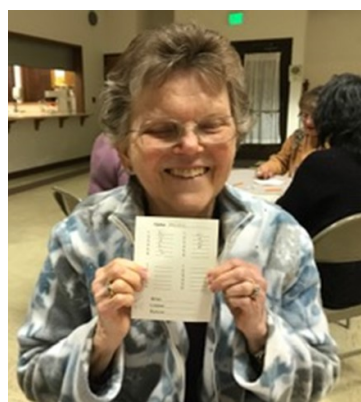


2/24/19 Voter's Meeting



Ladies, our next Game Night is:

Thursday, 3/21
6:30pm, Parish Hall
Dessert will be served
Bring your own beverage



*Invite your
 friends to join us
 for a fun night
 of fellowship.*

Bites for Mites Bake Sale (& More) Thank YOU!

Thank you to all who participated!!! Whether you baked, canned, crafted, decorated, purchased, set up, or





Women of Holy Cross
 Monday, March 25, 2019
 6:30 pm – In the Parish Hall
 Help us assemble care bags for



Network of Care



We need 15 people
 to fill the bags that go
 to several local hospitals,
 providing nourishment
 for families with
 hospitalized children.



All supplies are provided.

Fellowship and refreshments when the work is done!

To God Be The Glory

A most heartfelt "Thank You" to one and all for the outpouring of love and support shown to Suzanne and our family during her four year journey with cancer.

We can't even begin to put into words the peace we felt knowing that so many wonderful fellow Christians were standing beside us lifting Suzanne up in prayer.

We are ever so grateful and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your prayers, hugs, cards, texts, emails, flowers, visits and concern.

God Bless You All, Scott and Idalene and Family

Nifty Fifty

We plan on two activities for March 2019. The first is to the Lone Tree Golf & Event Center located at 4800 Golf Course Rd. in Antioch on March 10th. It is actually in the Club House, which has been elegantly remodeled, and is much the same as the Oakhurst County Club here in Walnut Creek. They have a champagne brunch on Sundays, that is delicious, from 10:00 till 1:30. Last time we left right after church at 10:30 and had plenty of time for the brunch. There was a question of the food being stale and we found they replenish it continuously so it was great. Last time when we were seated they were right there with Mimosas and champagne, this went on through the meal. Regular price is \$29.95 and \$26.95 for seniors. There was prime rib, ham, waffles, French toast, and of course omelets. There was a large display of Seafood on Ice; 8 or 10 covered food containers with every type of eggs, bacon, potatoes, etc.; and a decadent array of desserts. Signup in the Social Hall. This is one outing we should try and carpool.

Our second outing is to the Brass Door Restaurant located at 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd. in San Ramon on Thursday, March 15th at 1:00. The Brass Door is one of my favorite restaurants that has been around for some 70 years and is as good today as when I first went there for dinner some 40 years ago. I don't remember what I had back then, but now I like the ground round 9oz senior portion, which was still on the lunch menu in the dinner section for \$13.95 and includes salad or soup, mashed potatoes with mushroom gravy, a vegetable, and a chocolate Sunday for dessert. Most of you have eaten there and know it's an upscale restaurant. Sign up in the social hall so we know how many to plan on.

March 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 8:30a Zone Rally
3 Mite Boxes 9:30a Worship w/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6 Myanmar Christian	4 10-11:30a Women's Bible Study (C)	5 11a Prayer Group 7:15pm Choir	6 5:45p Ash Wednesday Dinner 7p Ash Wednesday Worship w/ Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion	7 OFC CLOSED	8	9 9a Facility Work Party
10 9:30a Worship with choir 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 Nifty Fifty brunch 2-6 Myanmar Christian	11 10-11:30a Women's Bible Study (C)	12 11a Prayer Group 7:15pm Choir	13 7p Bible Study (PH)	14 OFC CLOSED	15 1p Nifty Fifty lunch	16 Violet Griffen's Memorial Service
17 9:30a Worship w/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6 Myanmar Christian	18 10-11:30a Women's Bible Study (C) 12:30p Ladies bridge (PH)	19 11a Prayer Group 6:30p Elder's meeting 7:15pm Choir	20 7p Bible Study (PH)	21 OFC CLOSED 6:30pm Ladies Game Night (PH)	22	23
24 9:30a Worship with choir 11a Sunday School/Bible Study Outreach Sunday	25 10-11:30a Women's Bible Study (C) 6:30p WoHC Network of Care (PH)	26 11a Prayer Group	27 7p Bible Study (PH)	28 OFC CLOSED	29	30
31 9:30a Worship w/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Study			YVCS School Hours: 8:30am-9pm YVCS Parish Hall use during week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir: Mon. & Wed. 12:30-3pm Band: Tues. & Thurs. 12-3pm Chapel: Fri 8:30-9:15am (family & friends welcome) 			

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	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
April 2019 Cross Currents: March 22, 2019