



Cross Currents

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

November 2019

Volume 10 Issue 175

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message	1-2
Choir, Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Upcoming Fellowship Activities	4-6
September 5th Sunday Potluck	7
Oktoberfest	8
Women of Holy Cross/LWML	9
Thank You Veterans	10
November Calendar	11
Holy Cross Weekly Schedule	12

Pastor's Message By Pastor Munding

"Vanity of Vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities, All is vanity!"

A Devotion from Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26

One of my favorite things to do with my old dog, Lady, was to blow air right into her face. Her reaction was priceless. She would try so hard to catch the air with her mouth even though it's impossible. It didn't matter how many times I would do it she would always make a futile attempt to catch the air.

It's impossible to catch the blowing air, especially the wind outside. You can't grab it, you can't tame it. You can try your hardest, but it will never work. In the book of Ecclesiastes, the writer equates the search for the meaning of life and joy apart from God to the chasing of the wind. The writer experimented with different ways to find joy in other places, but they always fell short, they all turned up empty.

"Vanity of Vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity!"

Other translations, like the NIV, translate Vanity as "meaningless". "All is meaningless." "All is vanity". It doesn't matter which way you translate it, they both get the point across. To try and find joy and meaning apart from God is vanity, it is meaningless. All is meaningless. All is vanity. A depressing thought to say the least. Everything that we do here on earth under the sun to keep us happy is meaningless. All that we chase like the wind is meaningless.

People chase many different winds in their lives hoping to find some sort of meaning that will give them satisfaction. People will go to great lengths to find joy in their lives. They will attempt to fill all their empty voids in life with earthly material goods in order to have peace of mind, but all this is meaningless. It is vanity.

In verses 22-23 the author, King Solomon, tries to find meaning in his works. He says, **"What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity."**

We try to find meaning in our lives by the work that we do, in fact we make it an obsession. Most workers in America work well over 40 hours during the week, some working over 50 hours and that number is going up! It has been drilled into us from when we were young that if we work really hard during our lifetimes, we will be happy when we retire, we will somehow find satisfaction in all our toils and labor and that will bring us some sort of deep meaning.

I will admit that I buy into this thought process at times. If I work hard I will somehow make an impact that will last far beyond my time here on earth. People will see all that I have done and that will give my life true meaning - but this thought process is completely wrong. Because we are sinners, our days will always be filled with sorrow no matter how hard we labor. Our hearts will always be at a state of unrest. Apart from God there is no peace of heart. Apart from God our toils our meaningless. To chase the wind of work is meaningless, it is vanity.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Solomon, the richest king Israel ever had, then talks about the futility of finding enjoyment in the things of this life. It was true in his day in ancient Israel. Some 600 years later another group of people, the Epicureans, devoted themselves to sensual enjoyment, especially enjoyment that derived from fine food and drink. You could say, "Eat, Drink and Be Merry" was their unofficial theme. This philosophy of enjoying the best that life has to offer is still popular to this very day. It's not new. Yet, there are many self-help books at Barnes and Noble that deal with that very subject, how to enjoy all the pleasures of life to their fullest. But do these books really work? Can we find any meaning in them?

We certainly try to find some sort of meaning though the things that cause us pleasure. If something in life gives you happiness, who is to stop you from pursuing that object? But this too is meaningless, it is vanity, for Solomon says, **"This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment?"** The pleasures of life fail to cause us any meaning whatsoever if it is not from the hand of God. To chase the winds of pleasure is meaningless, it is vanity.

If satisfaction cannot be found in one's toiling of the ground or pleasures in life, then you would think one should certainly find meaning in their riches. The more a person has, the better chance that they will find happiness in life. Or so the thinking goes.

We have a natural desire to want more in our lives, to want something better than what we already have. Covetousness and greed run rampant in our society. On Black Friday, shoppers wake up at 2 am to get the best deals, to get the newest toys. Ask any retail worker and they can tell you the horrors of greed and covetousness that they have seen on that day. It's sickening.

We can never have enough! We cannot be truly satisfied with our possessions; we will always want more. All those things that the world tries to convince us as meaningful, are in fact meaningless! There is no meaning in one's possessions. To chase the winds of riches is meaningless, it is vanity. There is no purpose in that kind of life.

No, it's not the life under the sun that gives us meaning, it is the life in the Son that gives us true meaning. We were once sinners who lived by the works, pleasures and riches of the world, hopelessly trying to find satisfaction apart from the one who created us, God the Father. Without Him, our lives had no meaning, no purpose. We lived like the fool from Jesus' parable, too worried about chasing the winds of life, and ignoring the One who gives us true meaning.

But God did not give up on us even though we decided to pursue happiness apart from Him. He loved us too much to just let us walk around aimlessly chasing all the different winds of life. He sent to us His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, who took on human flesh, who was both true God and true man.

On the cross of Calvary Christ did what no other person could. He knew that it was His Father's desire that all of us find our purpose and meaning in His cross. So He followed the will of His Father, silently facing the most gruesome of deaths. He took upon Himself the sins of the world. He became sin for every sinner, taking on the full wrath and abandonment of God for us, on account of us.

Through His death and resurrection, we now have a new life, a life with meaning, and we receive this new meaningful life through our baptism. The old Adam in us, which desires the joys of the sinful world, is washed away and drowned daily. Then a new person comes forth each and every day, a new person who has been clothed by the righteousness of Christ. A person who is an heir to the heavenly kingdom. A person who is a child of God. A new person who has true meaning in life.

We need not be obsessed over the riches of this world, for we are promised the riches of heaven because of our faith. We need not be preoccupied with the latest fashion trends, for we have been robed in the righteousness of Christ. We need not obsess over the pleasures of food and drink, for we have been given the body and blood of our Lord and Savior to eat which offers us the forgiveness of sins. Indeed we now have meaning in our lives because of Christ.

When we try to find meaning under the sun apart from God, we are only chasing the wind. All our efforts are futile, but when we live in the Son, that is Jesus Christ, we have true meaning. It is only through the grace of God that we can now live a new meaningful life in Christ.



11/1 Clara H.

11/4 Joe O.

11/8 Judy S.

11/10 Liz A.

11/10 Andrea B.

11/15 Laurretta O.



11/9 Dwight & Claudia G.

11/20 Gerhard N. & Shinta S.



CHOIR REHEARSALS for
November will be
on November 5th, 12th &
19th. (No rehearsal on No-
vember 26th.)

Upcoming Fellowship Activities

November Sunday School & Bible Study Schedules

- ♦ Sunday Bible Class 11AM: 11/3, 11/24
- ♦ Sunday School 11AM: 11/3, 11/10, 11/24
- ♦ Monday Ladies Bible Study 10AM
- ♦ Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7PM



Voters Assembly Meeting is scheduled for November 10th. There will be no Council meeting in November; Council will meet again on December 16th at 6:30pm in the Conference Room.

Come to the last Game Night (with Pizza) of 2019!
Thursday, 11/21, Parish Hall

NEW TIME: 5:30 pm



We will have pizza before the games start!
Bring your own beverage.

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

ATTENTION MEN!

Thursday, 11/21, 8:30am

**Holy Cross Men's
Kaffeeklatsch, Mel's
Diner**



It's that time of year! Corner Café 11/8 & 11/9

The Holiday Hutch Winter Boutique and the Holy Cross Corner Café are open on Friday, 11/8, and Saturday, 11/9. This year the Corner Café proceeds will be split between Mites and our kitchen upgrade fund. Here's how YOU can help:

- * Sign up to donate items
- * Sign up to work a kitchen café shift (it's fun!)
- * Stop by to have a snack or meal
- * Check out the Holiday Hutch handmade treasures
- * Invite your family and friends



*Thanksgiving is approaching
quicker than you think!*

Our annual Thanksgiving dinner

will be held on Sunday, Nov. 17 at 11:45.

Please sign up so a seat will be available for you.

There is a suggested donation of \$10.

See you there!

Melarie



November Food for Thought

How is a Christian Like a Pumpkin?

A lady had recently been baptized. One of her co-workers asked her what it was like to be a Christian. She was caught off guard and didn't know how to answer; but when she looked up, she saw a jack-o-lantern on the desk, and answered: "It's like being a pumpkin!"

The co-worker asked her to explain that one!

"Well, God picks you from the patch and bring you in and washes off all the dirt on the outside that you got from being around all the other pumpkins. Then he cuts off the top and takes all the yucky stuff out from inside. He removes all those seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then he carves you a new smiling face and puts his light inside of you to shine for all to see. It is our choice to either stay outside and rot on the vine or come inside and be something new and bright."

I'll never look at a pumpkin the same way again !!

Author Unknown – Submitted by Cherylene



Nifty Fifty November Activities

By Marv

Peter's Steak House is located in Isleton. We plan on going there on Thursday, 11/7, at our usual 1pm eating time. Isleton is an old town that was established during the gold rush period of 1849. The town was at first just a part of the delta when the Chinese immigrants, lured to California for the gold, stayed on to begin the task of dredging and constructing levees to hold back the water. When the water was pumped out islands were formed, one of which was what Isleton residents now call home. When you come off Highway 4, which follows the Sacramento River, you go down into Isleton and you are very much aware that you are going below the level of the river. I have always been fascinated by the delta, especially after visiting Al the Wops with Trina and Bill Godsey. Bill was a geologist and at one time they lived in Rio Vista and he stated that the end of the Antioch Bridge was 20 feet below sea level and that the delta area had more natural gas than any area west of the Rocky Mountains. The town of Isleton consists of old buildings with metal siding as a precaution against fire, same as Locke. Peter's Steak House serves Fish and Chips, Prime Rib, steak of course, and a host of sandwiches; all lunches come with a choice of green salad or steak fries. I'm looking forward to the drive through the delta. Sign up so we know how many to plan on. Meet at church at 11:45am, leave at 12pm. Bring a friend.

The New Mecca restaurant is located at 324 Railroad Avenue, Pittsburg. We plan on going there on Friday, 11/22, at 1pm. The Mecca has been a favorite place for Mexican food since the early 1960's and is a favorite for our president, Mike, as he was the one who suggested us going there to start with. Now The Meca is where I go when I want good Mexican food at a reasonable price. I like having the Chile Verde Burrito with just pork; the burritos you get at Mecca are not a lot of rice and beans. When you sit down they bring you a bowl of their famous bean dip and a bowl of salsa along with a big bowl of chips; it really sets the stage for a great meal. I usually have the Marcela Special for \$10.95, which is a beef enchilada and a pork burrito that comes with refried beans, cheese, and rice. I ask for double refried beans as I do not like rice that much. I do usually have a bottle of Bud Light for \$3.95 which brings my lunch before tip to \$14.90 - really hard to beat in this economy. Again, meet at church 12pm and we will leave at 12:15pm. Please sign up in the social hall, even if you go direct.



5th Sunday Potluck



Thank you to everyone who participated in our 5th Sunday potluck. Again the Lutherans came through and we had a lot of really great dishes. Nobody left hungry.

A very SPECIAL THANK YOU to Pastor Mundinger for allowing us to get to know some interesting facts, like where you were born: Bet nobody knew it was Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. Thanks Mike Liebe for being a great interviewer. You were both very gracious.

The next 5th Sunday potluck will be Dec 29th. ~Pat & Marlene

Oktoberfest 2019 was a success! So much good food & fun fellowship! Plus we helped Dee celebrate her 80th birthday! She had several family members join her - much happiness & well wishes were shared. Thank you to all that brought your yummy potluck dishes to share, as well as all who helped set up & clean up. We even had donut bread pudding, and Pastor was brave enough to try a bite.



Setting Up



Happy Birthday Dee



November 2019– WoHC Happenings by Joyce Liebe, President

We celebrated LWML Sunday on Oct. 13. The theme was "Faith like a Mustard Seed". Then we had our "Welcome Back" gathering after the worship service.

We shared home baked goodies (compliments of Jan & Cherylene), handed out our 2019-2020 program, plus shared information & inspirational stories.

This year I did something a little different & I told of a song that is very meaningful to me (Overcomer by Mandisa) - then I played the music video (thanks to Mike for the technical support). Here's part of Mandisa's message in the song:

The same man, the great I am
The one who overcame death
Is living inside of you
So just hold tight, fix your eyes
On the one who holds your life
There's nothing he can't do

Cherylene led us in prayer for our sisters in Christ who were not able to join us, including Annaliesa, Pat E, & Gayle. She also remembered Doris Mortenson, a longtime WoHC, who passed away. She then presented Pastor Mundinger with Pastor Appreciation gifts, mostly purple, as well as a framed certificate making him an honorary member of WoHC. See picture -> ->

Pastor then discussed our Mustard Seed theme. Saying that our faith may vary, from great, to tiny like a mustard seed. However, where there is a tiny bit of faith, it can grow, spreading its influence & benefiting us & those we come in contact with.

Lastly, Jan read an inspirational story about when you accept Jesus as your Lord & Savior & ask for forgiveness, God will tell you "Everything has already been paid for, now go on your way, all is forgiven!"

Faith, Overcoming, & the Grace of God! All valuable messages.



Here is what we have coming up:

- ♦ Friday & Saturday, 11/8-11/9, Corner Café while the Holiday Hutch Boutique is open.
- ♦ Thursday, 11/21, EARLIER Time 5:30pm, LAST Ladies Game Night of 2019, Parish Hall. We will have pizza before the games begin. Sign up.
- ♦ Monday, 12/9, 5:30pm social time, 6pm dinner, Christmas Dinner at La Veranda, Clayton
\$33 Holy Cross members, \$38 non members.
Sign up sheet will be up soon.



October Game Nite Fun & Silliness





IN HONOR OF OUR VETERANS

Veterans Day – November 11, 2019

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

We will honor you Sunday, November 10

Thank you !



November 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

YVCS School Hours: 8:30am-3pm

YVCS Parish Hall use during week:

- Choir: Mon. & Wed. 12-3pm Band: Mon. & Wed. 3:30-5pm
- Spanish: Tues. & Thurs. 12-3pm
- Chapel: Friday 8:30-9:15am (family & friends welcome)

1

2

9am-2pm YVCS 5k
Family Funfest, Holy
Cross booth

3

Mite Boxes
**9:30a Worship
w/ Communion**
11a Sunday
School/Bible
Study

3pm Doris Morten-
son's Memorial

4

10a Ladies Bible
Study (C)

7-9:30p Scouts (PH)

5

11a Prayer
Group

7:15p Choir (cl)

6

*Holiday Hutch set
up - all day*

7p Bible Study
(PH)

7

OFC CLOSED

*Holiday Hutch set
up
6-8pm preview*

8

8:30a-8p
Holiday Hutch
Winter Boutique
and Corner Café
(PH)

9

9a-4p
Holiday Hutch
Winter Boutique
and Corner Café
(PH)

10


**9:30a Worship
Recognize Veter-
an's**

11a Voter's As-
sembly Meeting /
Sunday School

2-6 Myanmar Christian

11

OFC CLOSED
10a Ladies Bible
Study (C)


7-9:30p Scouts (PH)

12

11a Prayer
Group

7:15p Choir (cl)

13

7p Bible Study
(PH)

14

15

16

17

**9:30a Worship
w/ Communion**

11:45 Thanksgiv-
ing Dinner

2-6 Myanmar Christian

18

10a Ladies Bible
Study (C)

7-9:30p Scouts (PH)

19

11a Prayer
Group

7:15p Choir (cl)

20

7p Bible Study
(PH)

21

OFC CLOSED

8:30a Men's Kaf-
feeklatsch, Mel's

5:30p Ladies
Game Nite (PH)

22

23

24

9:30a Worship
11a Sunday
School/Bible Study
**Outreach Sun-
day**

2-6 Myanmar Christian

25

10a Ladies Bible
Study (C)

7-9:30p Scouts (PH)

26

11a Prayer
Group

27

7p Bible Study
(PH)

28

**9:30a Worship
w/ Communion**
OFC CLOSED



29

OFC CLOSED

30

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

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: Andrew Munding
pastor@holycrossconcord.org

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
Adult Bible Study	11:00 AM
Sunday School	11:00 AM

Week Day Bible Study Schedule:

Monday (Ladies)	10:00 AM Conference Room
Wednesday	7:00 PM Parish Hall

Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

December 2019 Cross Currents: November 22, 2019