



**Holy Cross
Lutheran
Church, LCMS**

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PALM SUNDAY

9:00 AM, April 17

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 PM April 21

GOOD FRIDAY

Noon &

7:00 PM

April 22



Cross Currents



Volume 4, Issue 83

April 2011

Death Is Damned!

by Pastor Chu

A man told of his father's last hours. The family had gathered to say "goodbye." After visiting with each of them one at a time, the father called them all to his bedside. He looked silently at his family for a few moments. Then he turned away slowly and said, "God damn death!"

Whether or not this is a true story, "God damn death!" is a good take on Easter and Christ's resurrection, because as St. Paul says in First Corinthians 15: ⁵⁴... "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1Corinthians 15)

Christ is risen; therefore we will be raised (1Cor.15:20-23). By His death, Christ atoned for our sins, the consequence of which is death; by His resurrection Christ overcame death. Jesus kept God's Law for us and offered His perfect life for our sins at the cross, paying the penalty we deserved with his suffering and death. Arising from the dead, Jesus destroyed death's power to keep us dead and hold us in the grave.

This is the Good News of Easter but it

is just for Easter. This Gospel is for every Sunday; indeed, it is for every day. And it is for everyone.

Jesus Himself says in John's Gospel: *For God so loved that world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life... A time is coming when all who are in their graves will*

hear His voice and come out, those who have done good [believe in Jesus] to the resurrection of life, and those who have

done evil [reject Jesus] to the resurrection of judgment. (John 3:16; 5:28-29)

God gives the victory that Jesus won at the cross and the empty tomb to all who trust Jesus for salvation as a gift of His undeserved love, and even the faith that trusts Jesus is God's gift to us.

Death has been damned. It was damned when Christ arose from the dead. And by God's grace, all who trust Jesus Christ as Savior can say with certainty: "Death is damned." ⁵⁵"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.



Lent Midweek Services:**April 6, 13**

Supper: 5:45 PM

Service: 7:00 PM

**Antique Car Show
at Holy Cross**

What do Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Antique Cars, Father's Day and a pancake breakfast have in common? Turns out they have a lot in common, because we're having an Antique Car Show at **Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Father's Day, June 19, 2011**, followed by a delicious pancake breakfast prepared by the Women of Holy Cross.

You won't want to miss this opportunity to see some beautiful cars, courtesy of the Diablo A's Model A Ford Club. Each car has a unique story to tell. We will be honoring all the dads in our lives with a special church service, the car show and pancake breakfast. Our own Bob Westbury may even bring one (or two?) of his beautifully restored cars to the show. So, mark your calendars and plan on this wonderful Father's Day event. ❖ —Marilyn Neumann

April Choir Rehearsals

April 5, April 12 and April 19th.

No rehearsal on April 26.

The April 19th rehearsal will be at 7:00 pm.

**Holy Cross Spring Cleaning
Saturday April 16**

WOHC will provide **FREE LUNCH** pitch in and help your fellow members, WoHC, the Alter Guild and Trustees for our *Holy Cross spring cleaning (inside and out). There will be something for everyone to do; as simple as sharpening pencils for the pews, wiping off pews, communion rail, etc. a list will be provided.*

Many hands make light work, and we can be done in a couple hours. + Plus you will enjoy fellowship and lunch with other members.

We could get to know someone better that we don't see often. Join us for 'working together'. *A great time for us to set an example on how to work together in the family of the Lord for His church. —Pat Easby*

Two are better than one, because together they can work more effectively.
Eccles. 4:9-10

May 29th, 2011**5th Sunday Fellowship and
Potluck**

A time to get to know our fellow members and have some wonderful food. This is also a great time to invite a friend or someone you know who needs a church. We always have plenty of food.

Scott Alan Buss who wrote the book "Fire Breathing Christians" will be a guest that day.

Please mark your calendars for May 29th. We hope to see you .

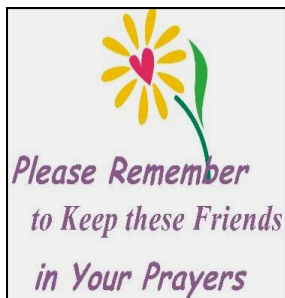
Pat K. and Marlene

April*Birthdays &**Anniversaries***Birthdays**

- 2 Ryan Johnson
Richard Liedtke
- 5 Muriel Strieter
- 13 Dorothy Taylor
- 17 Ron Gamble
- 21 Barbra Humphrey
- 23 Kaytlyn Coyne
- 24 Gertrude Huenninghaus
- 26 Herbert Neumann
Diane Oatis
- 29 Timothy Hintz

Anniversaries

- 4 Dave & Ann Caruso
- 6 Larry & Linda Sheppard
- 16 Mike & Joyce Liebe



Doris Mortenson, Wilma Burch, Eyona Pargman, Sue Saalfeld, Muriel Strieter, Bob Richards, Gary Cox, Lloyce Logan, AJ and Caylin Stanley, Charles and Chuck Johnson, Brennan and Devin Helmer, Christine Helmer, Joy Parker, Mr. and Mrs. McDavid, Wanda Schwartz, Dorothy Taylor, Laurence Grandt, Robert Grandt, Inge Stone, Luca Nishimori, Sienna Lee, Elizabeth Bothé, Kathy Kinser, Abbi and Alex Roman

Virginia Highsmith

moved to a care home in Benicia and continues to be under hospice care.

Cards may be sent to Virginia care of:

James Highsmith
233 Skyline Drive
Vallejo CA 94591

Wilma Burch

Wilma Burch has returned back home and thanks all of you that have visited and for your prayers. She would love to stay in touch with you by phone, or call to set up a visit.

NIFTY FIFTY SENIORS CORNER

Chabot Space and Science Center March 16th 2011 By Marv Kreitz

We thought at first we would have to cancel because only Trudy and I were signed up, but Trudy brought Carol, and Gale Bothe decided to go. We had just had rain and the air was sparkling clean, one of those days (if you like blustery weather) where you feel like you can conquer the world. The trail-laced acres of parkland and the view of the Bay were indeed gorgeous.

The Tine Mega Dome Theater was showing T-Solar Max at 11:00 so we went straight to the presentation. 93 million miles just got a whole lot closer. We traveled around the world to visit historical sites of sun worship, saw scientists studying the Sun and viewed the majesty of a total solar eclipse. The seats allowed you to lay back and view the 360 degree movie as if you were in the center of the universe.

Lunch was at the cafe there. The homemade celery soup was excellent. At 1:00 we went to the Planetarium and saw Tales of the Maya Skies also with reclining seats and 360 degree viewing. The movie allowed you to immerse yourself in the beauty of the "Seven wonders

of the modern world" and hear the story of the ancient Maya Civilization. Tales of the Maya Skies transported us the jungles of Mexico and the rich history and culture of the ancient Maya. It is truly an inspiring presentation.

With such an interesting outing it hard to understand why more members didn't attend. ❖

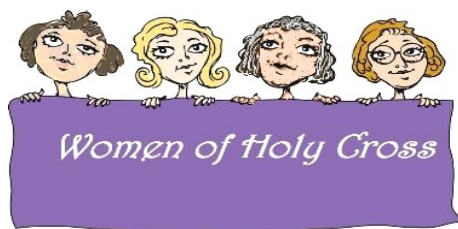


Nifty Fifty April Outing April 20, 2011

Relax and enjoy lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory at 1:00 P.M. On April 20th. The Brenden Theater is nearby so those so inclined can watch a movie after lunch. The restaurant is located at 1955 Mount Diablo, Concord. We decided to have a simple outing for April which seems to be what our Seniors want.

Please sign up in the Social Hall so we know how many to plan on... Meet at church at 12:15 leave at 12:30. It should be a delightful way to spend an otherwise dreary afternoon.

— Marv Kreitz



APRIL EVENTS

4/4 Monday Board Meeting, 2:15PM

4/9 Saturday Zone Spring Rally
At First Lutheran, Concord Blvd.

4/16 Saturday 9:00AM
Congregational Spring Cleaning
Everyone, including kids, are welcome.
WoHC provides lunch.

4/24 EASTER SUNDAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

5/9 Monday General Meeting, 6:30p
CRAFT Demo. and Sharing
All ladies welcome to join us.
Hostess: Marlene

6/19 Sunday Father's Day Event
Pancake Breakfast & Antique Car Show
Pancake Breakfast will be served by
WoHC after worship service.
A SPECIAL DAY FOR DAD!
SAVE THE DATE -
INVITE FAMILY and FRIENDS!

Meet Our Church Librarian



Trina Godsey has graciously volunteered to fill in the librarian position. The position was vacant since Wanda Schwartz became homebound a few years ago.

Trina brings her expertise in Christian education and enthusiasm to the job. Look out for library news regularly. She puts out recommendations for many interesting reads. Thanks Trina!
—GG

Petite Cherry Cheese Cake (Makes one dozen)

Cheese Cake Ingredients:

1 C Vanilla Wafer Crumbs
3 1/2 TBS Melted Butter or Margarine
1 Pkg Cream Cheese (8 oz.), Softened
1/3 C Sugar
1 Egg
2 tsp Lemon Juice
1/2 tsp Vanilla Extract
1/4 tsp Almond Extract
1/4 tsp Salt

Cherry Glaze Ingredients:

2 C Pitted Fresh Tart Cherries
3/4 C Water
1/3 C Sugar
1 TBS Cornstarch
1 TBS Lemon Juice
2-4 Drops Food Coloring (optional)

Directions:

1. Mix crumbs and butter in small bowl. Line 12 muffin cups with paper liners. Press about 1 tablespoon of the crumb mixture into each cup. Beat cream cheese in large mixer bowl until light and fluffy; beat in 1/3 cup sugar, the egg, 2 teaspoons lemon juice, the vanilla, almond extract and salt until smooth. Spoon about 1 tablespoon of the cheese mixture into each cup. Bake until set, about 15 minutes. Let stand 20 minutes; remove from tin. Cool completely on wire rack.
2. Heat cherries, 3/4 cup of water, 1/3 cup sugar and the food color in medium size saucepan over high heat, stirring constantly, to boiling; reduce heat to medium-high. Cook uncovered, stirring occasionally, until slightly thickened, about 15 minutes. Dissolve cornstarch in 1 tablespoon lemon juice; stir into cherry mixture. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until thickened, about 1 minute. Transfer to small bowl. Cool completely.
3. Just before serving, remove cheesecakes from paper cups. Top each cheesecake with 1 tablespoon of the cherry glaze.

Tip: One can (16oz.) pie cherries, undrained, can be substituted for the 2 cups fresh cherries and 3/4 cup water.

(Courtesy of Terry Hawkyard)

How 5 Women of Holy Cross spent Saturday, March 5

by Joyce Liebe

Cherylene Brueckner, Gayle Bothe, Nancy Hoffman, Marilyn Neumann, and Joyce Liebe met at Grace Lutheran Church in Stockton for the LWML Women's Conference. It was a bright, sunny morning as we joined women from all over California, as well as Nevada and Hawaii.

The Conference theme was "Be Joyful in Hope". We spent most of the day inside the spacious, beautiful church. We sang with music played on the grand organ as well as with their contemporary music group – what a joyful sound our combined voices made! We listened to a thought provoking Devotion, and watched a skit reminding us of the LWML National Convention this June in Peoria, IL.

And of course, since we're Lutherans, the day included food - a delicious lunch and dessert that was served at our tables while we sat and visited with old and new friends.

For me, the best part of the day was the inspirational speaker, Ruth Koch. She spoke for 90 minutes before lunch, then another 90 minutes after lunch. Her energy, enthusiasm, and hope were contagious. She spoke on many thought provoking topics, getting us involved in small groups to discuss how they related to our life. As many times you do when talking with others, we realized how much we all have in common – our worries and hopes. Here are some highlights:

* She said that worry is not a sin. She acknowledged that there are many things in our world that we are or can be concerned with; that life is not always fair. However she also said "It's not about me or you. It's about God. I don't fully know or understand it all, but I have faith in God's plan." This was comforting.

Also of comfort were the Bible verses she referenced:

John 16:33

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

Ecclesiastes 3

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

* Another quote I noted, that paraphrases Ecclesiastes 7:14:

On a good day, enjoy yourself.

On a bad day, examine your conscious.

God arranges for both kinds of days so that we won't take anything for granted.

* Lastly, Ruth's 5 steps to lay hold of hope

1. Become a Sabbath keeper (ideas: take time to reflect; turn off the TV and computers).
2. Get close to your sisters in Christ.
3. You can get out of bed and into the world because God is at work.
4. You can have hope because you'll never have to visit the cave of Trophonius (look it up).
5. Peek at the end of the story – we win.

Thanks for letting me share part of our special day with you. If you get a chance to go to a future LWML event, or hear Ruth Koch speak, please take time to do so.

"Every day is a terrible day for a miserable person, a cheerful heart has a continual feast." Proverb 15:15

OUTREACH

Sunday, March 27, 2011

By Pat Easby

We said grace and the Lord's Prayer. We again dished out 100 servings at the shelter. Our friends were sweet and happy. To God Be the Glory! We are blessed! They loved the food--they told us that we were "angles from God." First we made up 25 plates for the hospital section, and then 10 plates were made for the handicapped, Bill Luker served them. The rest of our friends got inline and Jan, Scott, Mindy, Pat, Kiley, Harsha, Kevin and B. Luker, served them plates of: Fresh fruit salad, 2 kinds of potatoes, carrots, breast of chicken in a gravy sauce, split pea and ham soup (one of their favorites), bread, and applesauce. At church we also made up salami, egg, tuna, and chicken salad sandwiches. Thank you to Terry for making All of the salami sandwiches and to Idalene for chopping up All the fruit for the salads. Many drinks were passed out, and Sue O'Mally's yummy, home-made cookies are always a big hit, also Gail Baker's lovingly colored eggs with an attached bible verse to each egg; it made them shine, seeing all the brightly colored eggs. It also lets them know that they are special to us! One man brought his egg up to me and said "look at this" (it was a Bible verse from Psalms about **trusting** in the Lord). He said that it was exactly what he'd just read for his Morning devotion. He had a big smile on his face, and I said, "do you think the Lord is trying to tell you something?" "It sure looks like it" he laughingly replied. We received many, many thanks - and they are so appreciative. They had quite an appetite, coming back for more food until it was gone. (This included the 4 1/2 gallons of pea soup!)

It was a wonderful day indeed! —P. Easby

Praise God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through Christ, God has blessed us with every Spiritual blessing that heaven has to offer.

Eph 1:3



There is a book that a number of members of Holy Cross and Trinity have read and enjoyed. FIRE BREATHING CHRISTIANS is now in our Library as well as Trinity's. In late May, Lord willing, at the time of our 5th Sunday potluck that Memorial Day weekend, the author, Scott Alan Buss, will be with us.

Now would be a great time to check out Scott's book if you haven't read it yet. He is open to answering any questions you might have, and is already responding to those who have contacted him on face book and his web site. He would be happy to hear from you. Feel free to look him up through www.FireBreathingChristians.com or email him directly at scott@firebreathingchristians.com.

Scott is one of the most enthusiastic young Christians with whom I have come in contact, and easily the most articulate. Those of us who have read his book look forward to meeting him in person at our potluck on May 29, that 5th Sunday.

—Trina Godsey

PLEASE SAVE Jiffy box-muffin containers. The Women of Holy Cross will be using them in May for a craft night. To be specific-May 9th-mark your calendars for a night of fun and learning. Thanks to Liz Aduan in advance for the teaching of how to make miniatures workshop. There will be a box to collect small Jiffy brand boxes in the parish hall. Great for those of us who like to recycle. See you there.



"SUPPORT OUR TROOPS" was very well received. We collected for three weeks in Feb. and then on Monday, March 14th, we had a speaker come and talk about her non-profit organization in Alamo. Thanks to Alicia Watson as we learned more about how she gathers and collects each month to

send to Iraq. She had awesome stories and scrapbooks of photos and e-mails of all the troops, who she has personally touched through this ministry. Thanks to Mrs. Oatis for her class who wrote personal notes. Thanks to the many donations of "gourmet junk food". Thanks to the love shared as we continue to collect small Bibles to send and also "Portals of Prayer" in the future. If you would like to know more-
www.deltanupsi.org. God's blessings. — Carol Lau



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Mite Box /Hat Sunday 9am Worship 10:30am Sunday School/Bible Study	4 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 2:15pm WoHC Brd Mtg (C) 7pm Boy Scout (PH, L)	5 4pm UB Tutoring (E) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	6 Midwk Lent 5:45pm Supper 7pm Service	7 4pm UB Tutoring (E)	8	9
10 9am Worship 10:30am Sunday School/Bible Study	11 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 6:30pm WoHC General Mtg	12 9am CVWC 4pm UB Tutoring (E) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	13 Midwk Lent 1pm Senior Brd (L) 5:45pm Supper 7pm Service	14 4pm UB Tutoring (E)	15	16 9am HC Spring Cleaning/ WoHC Lunch
17 Palm Sunday 9am Worship 10:30am Sunday School/Bible Study	18 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 6:30pm Church Council	19 4pm UB Tutoring (E) 6:30pm Elder' s Meeting 7pm Choir Rehearsal	20 12:15p NFS Outing Spa- ghetti Fac- tory	21 4pm UB Tutoring (E) 7pm Maundy Thursday Service	22 Good Friday 12pm Noon Service 7pm Evening Service	23
24 Easter 8:30am Breakfast 9am Worship	25 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C)	26 4pm UB Tutoring (E)	27	28 4pm UB Tutoring (E)	29	30

(cl= Choir Loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg, H=Parish Hall, L=Library, ws=wing room)

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

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Concord, CA 94521

We're on the Web!
www.holycrossconcord.org



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Pastor: Bill Chu

President: Mike Liebe
Vice President: Gregg Syrovatka
Council Secretary: Carrie Kroeger
Financial Secretary: Scott Stadler
Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka
Head Trustee: Allen Brueckner
Elders: Bill Riechman, George Oatis, John Coyne,
Eric Roman, Herb Neumann
Secretarial Staff: Rhonda Liedtke, Grace Gin
Newsletter Editor: Grace Gin

Worship Schedule:

Sunday Service 9:00AM
Adults Bible Studies 10:30AM
Sunday School 10:30AM
Communion 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

Midweek Lent Worship Schedule for April: **4/6, 4/13**

Supper 5:45PM
Service 7:00PM

Weekly Bible Study Schedule*:

Monday 12:30PM Conference Room, Ladies Only
Wednesday 7:00PM will resume after Easter

Choir Rehearsal:

Tuesday 7:15PM—8:45PM

Outreach:

Fourth Sunday of each month, 11:30AM
No Outreach in April.

Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday
May Cross Currents: April 20, 2011

Office Hour: M, W, F 12:30 - 4:30PM