

# CROSS CURRENTS

Volume 10 Issue 67

November 2009

## Note from the Pastor



### Thank God!

- <sup>1</sup>Make a joyful noise to the  
LORD, all the earth!
- <sup>2</sup>Serve the LORD with gladness!  
Come into his presence with  
singing!
- <sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD, he is God!  
It is he who made us, and we  
are his;  
we are his people,  
and the sheep of his pasture.
- <sup>4</sup>Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his  
name!
- <sup>5</sup>For the LORD is good;  
his steadfast love endures for-  
ever,  
and his faithfulness to all gen-  
erations. (Psalm 116)

One of the dangers of having so much, as we Americans do, is that it's easy to take what we have for granted and forget that ultimately every good gift comes from above... understandable for those who are not Christians since they don't know any better, but Christians do know better.

We know that God is the source of all the blessings we enjoy. He has so blessed us with material gifts that what we depend on as necessities we can't live without, e.g., houses, cars, cell phones, etc. are luxuries beyond the imagination of many people in other parts of the world who count themselves blessed if they could get a few scraps of food a day.

This is not meant as a guilt-trip but as a context to encourage all of us to count our blessings and receive them for what they are, gifts from God, give thanks to Him from whom all blessings flow, and use those blessings to be a blessing to others.

We don't purposely ignore God's hand in blessing us; we're just so busy and the blessings have become such an integral part of our lives that thanking God sometimes slips our minds. And we do care about the plight of those for whom food and water are not even a certainty of every day; it's just that they seem a world away and we don't see them and hardly hear about them.

This Thanksgiving, may the words of the psalmist encourage us to give special attention to thanking God for all His bless-

(Continued on page 2, Blessings)

Come join the  
congregation for the Annual



### Thanksgiving DINNER

Sunday, November 15  
Noon  
(Sign up in the Parish Hall.)



**Thanksgiving Day Worship**  
Thursday, November 26  
9:00 AM

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## November at a Glance

### November 1

Mite Box / Hat Sunday

### November 2

WoHC Board,  
6:30 PM, Conference Room

### November 3

Election Day

### November 5 and 19

Men's Group, 7 PM Conference Rm

### November 8

Card Games Fellowship  
5:00 PM, Parish Hall

### November 10

Elders Meeting, 6:30PM

### November 11

*Veteran's Day*  
Senior Board, 1:00PM

### November 14

Workday, 9AM-Noon

### November 15

Voters' Assembly, 10:15AM  
Thanksgiving Luncheon, Noon

### November 19,

NF Senior Holiday Dinning at  
Norsemen's  
10AM, Parking lot, Carpool

### November 22

Outreach, 11:30AM

### November 26,

**9:00AM Thanksgiving Service**



**CHURCH  
WORKDAY**

### Saturday, 9AM

### November 14

Able bodies  
needed...no skills  
or talent re-  
quired... just a  
willing heart and  
helping hands.  
Come join us.

## **Financial Report for October 2009**

By Scott Stadler  
*Financial Secretary*

Total Expenses	\$19,982.51
Total Offering	\$15,234
Budgeted	\$18,060
Deficit	(\$4,748.51)

## ***Blessings***

*(Continued from page 1)*

ings, beginning with the spiritual and eternal blessings through His most precious gift, His Son, Jesus, for our salvation, and for all the material blessings and luxuries we enjoy. And may the Spirit move us to be generous in using those blessings to bless those who are in need.

I thank God for you and thank you (I will refrain from naming names because I'm sure to offend someone by inadvertently neglecting to mention them) for your faithfulness in supporting the Kingdom of the God and specifically the ministry of Holy Cross with your God-given time, energy, talents, and wealth. I thank you for your prayers!

And may I encourage you to thank God for each other as fellow redeemed and brothers and sisters in Christ; you are a blessing to me and to each other.

*<sup>18</sup>...Be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:18b-20)*



## **this Month**

### **BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Clara Huppert
- George Oatis
- 4 Joe Odrzywolski
- 5 Glorine Brown
- 8 Emily Humphrey
- 10 Liz Aduan
- Andrea Beutel
- 15 Laurretta Oliver
- 21 Suzanne Saafeld
- 23 Katharie Jondle
- 24 Sandy Johnson

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2 Mike and Gail Baker
- 5 Terry and Revia Maurer
- 9 Dwight and Claudia Gemar
- 14 Jim and Sandy Johnson
- 20 Gerhard Neumann and Shinta Susanty
- 26 Bill and Betty Koch

## Letter from DCE Intern

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Did you know that nearly 99% of all pumpkins sold are made into Jack-O-Lanterns? There is a fascinating prayer that goes along with the Jack-O-Lantern that I would like to share with you. I originally read it in college because one of the members of my church back home sent it to me with a care package.

### **"Pumpkin Prayer"**

By: Liz Curtis Higgs

*{cut off the top of the pumpkin}* Lord, open my mind so I can learn new things about you.

*{remove innards}* Remove the things in my life that don't please you. Forgive the wrong things I do and help me to forgive others.

*{cut open the eyes}* Open my eyes to see the beauty you've made in the world around me.

*{cut out the nose}* I'm sorry for the times I've turned my nose at the good food you provide.

*{cut out the mouth}* Let everything I say please You.

*{light the candle}* Lord, help me show your light to others through the things I do.  
Amen

We are all like pump-

kins carved and created by God the Father and the Creator of the universe. We are all wonderfully made by Him. In youth group last Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, we were taught and instructed on how to make homemade meatballs, applesauce, and snickerdoodles by Mrs. Lau and Mrs. Liebe. In the middle school group, we addressed the idea that God should be our number one priority in our lives like flour is the main ingredient in snickerdoodles and apples in applesauce. We also reminded the youth that God created everything in creation. We should be reminded at all times that we are individually handcrafted by God with our special gifts and talents that make us unique. May God bless your month ahead and safe travels as we begin this holiday season.

God's Servant, Jason

Romans 8

### Three Kinds of Giving

"There are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving and thanksgiving. Grudge giving says, 'I have to'; duty giving says, 'I ought to'; and thanksgiving says, 'I want to.' The latter comes from a full heart. Thanksgiving is an open gate into the love of God."

—Robert N. Rodenmayer

## Diablo Valley College Drama



The Nifty Fifty Seniors are planning on attending five live theatre presentations at Diablo Valley College from November 1<sup>st</sup> through May of 2010. Cost for Season Senior tickets is \$50.00. Tickets can also be purchased individually at \$16.00 for musicals and \$14.00 for all others. We plan on attending the matinees on Sunday at 2:30.

- The first musical is "URNINE TOWN" music and lyrics by Mark Hollmann and Greg KOTIS. We plan on attending this performance on Sunday Nov 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The second is "A View from the Bridge" by Arthur Miller and is on Sunday Dec 6<sup>th</sup>.
- The third is "on the RAZZLE" by Tom Stoppard on Sunday Feb 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The forth is "OTHELLO" by William Shakespeare on Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The fifth is "Betty's SUMMER VACATION" by Christopher Durang.

There is a copy of the pamphlet attached to the sign up sheet for more information. To make reservations, call 925 687 4445 and charge to a credit card. We have three going now, Marv Kreitz, Wilma Burch and Trudy Huenninghaus. Depending on the number going, we can work towards ride pooling and possible lunch before the plays. If you plan on going, please sign up so we know how to plan the outing.

*Everybody is invited to join us...you do not have to be a senior.*



## Day on the Bay Trip

*By Marv Kreitz*



The Nifty Fifty Seniors enjoyed a beautiful sunny and warm Day on the Bay. The trip to San Francisco via Ferry from Jack London Square in Oakland was exciting and the aquatic scenery complete with views of the huge cranes and container shipping was fascinating to view. Some adventurous souls braved the cool ocean spray while seated on the open upper deck and others enjoyed the passing landscape from the comfy confines of the downstairs lounge. As they neared San Francisco they were treated to a spectacular view of the San Francisco landscape with its towering skyscrapers and of course, the antics of the lazy sea lions on the wharves off Pier 39. Upon arrival, we were early, because the Ferry didn't stop in Alameda, so we watched the Mines performing on the square. We walked leisurely to the Rain Forest Restaurant located next to the Wax

Museum in the Fisherman's Wharf area viewing the goodies offered in the many stores on the way. We were escorted to the main room in the restaurant complete with waterfall, thunder and lightning and a big ape beating his chest as well as an elephant trumpeting next to our table. What excitement!!! After enjoying a tasteful lunch we wandered back to Pier 39 to wait for the Ferry back to Oakland. Sometimes it is fun to "play the tourist" and visit the familiar sights. It's never boring.

"I have so much to do (today) that I should spend the first three hours in prayer."

—Martin Luther

"Thanksgiving was never meant to be shut up in a single day."

—Robert Caspar Lintner

• "When I give, I give myself."

—Walt Whitman

"A coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous."

—Unknown

## Holiday Dinning Norsemen's Restaurant

On **November 19**, the Nifty Fifty Seniors of Holy Cross will attend the Holiday Buffet presented by the Hotel and Restaurant Management culinary program at Diablo Valley College. Those of you who attended in past years know what a truly great feast it is.../among the goodies offered were pomegranate salad (Mixed greens tossed in a champagne vinaigrette with candied walnuts, bleu cheese and pomegranate seeds) Deep fried turkey breast served with caramelized onions, New York Strip Loin Steak served with demi-glace, Chicken Breast stuffed with goat cheese and thyme plus a decadent array of desserts. Reservations will be made by Wilma Burch and have to be paid for when made, so when you sign up see that Wilma is paid. **The Buffet is from 11:00 to 1:00 and the cost is \$30.00 Meet at church at 10:00 leave at 10:15.** Parking passes are needed and will be passed out at church either when we leave, or if you are going direct prior to the 19<sup>th</sup>. We would like to have those going sign up by the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nov or before. We simply don't know when they will sell out... so sign up soon. They have 100 tickets and when there gone there gone.... This is well worth the money.

**L.W.M.L. ZONE 7 FALL RALLY**-St. Philip's, Dublin

By Carol Lau-Servant Resources

A group of six women travelled on a Sat. morning, to attend a day of worship, and to gather information about upcoming events, plus the study of God's Word. It was fantastic. Thanks to Jason Gullidge and Pastor Chu for leading us in Bible study. We sang the theme for the day which was "Here I am, send me". Laretta Oliver was the only first timer so she received an angel necklace. Our Scripture passage was Isaiah 6:1-13. There was good discussion and reading and sharing and a great way to start the day. We graciously welcomed the plaque back and it is posted on the bulletin board. Our assignment was to write a letter of intention and in 6 months this letter will be sent to us, listing our goals and commitments. Our worship service was led by Pastor Travis and we had Holy Communion-more singing and Bible readings. Lynette Campbell did an awesome presentation of her missionary

trips and the lunch was a taco bar which went with her theme. She filled us with awe and inspiration of all that she learned and experienced in three short trips. Special thanks to St. Philip's for hosting this event and making us feel welcome. Plan on going to our next zone event-the weekend of April 30th-more info to follow. Thanks for your support and prayers.



The Women of Holy Cross is having their ever popular Christmas Progressive Dinner on **Monday, December 12.**

The Hostesses are Joyce Liebe and Sue O'Malley. Be sure to mark your calendars and check Sunday bulletins for coming information.

### **WOMEN OF HOLY CROSS** **NOVEMBER 2009 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE**

Sunday, 11/1	Mite Box Sunday
Monday, 11/2	<b>Board Meeting, 6:30 pm</b> , Conf. Room (start coordinating Christmas Adopt-a-Family)
Saturday, 11/7	District Woman's Conference, Sacramento 10 am - 3 pm Speaker, Bible, Music, Lunch, Fun and more! (Sign up sheet and poster in the Parish Hall)
Sunday, 11/15	<b>Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner</b>
Thursday, 11/26	Thanksgiving Day
Monday, 11/30	<b>DECEMBER Board Meeting, 6:30 pm</b> , Conf. Room

**DON'T FORGET TO MARK THESE ON YOUR CALENDARS  
WE DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS ANYTHING!**

**Reminder:**

Have you remembered to contact your secret pal? You will find out who your secret pal is in February and you may find out that you have a new friend too!

If you haven't left your secret pal a card or a small gift yet, it isn't too late to do so. Pray for her—*When you allow God to work in you, He can also work through you. It's never too late to give yourself to others.* We have had very positive comments about Secret Pals. (The progressive dinner would be a good time to bring a small gift/card for your secret pal; keep her guessing about which person it came from.) Keep up the good work ladies!

**Attention all Scandinavians!**

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 399 Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek, will be the site of a Lutefisk Dinner from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday, November 15, 2009. We are seeking able-bodied people to help prepare, set up, serve and clean up for the dinner. All proceeds go to Lutheran Social Services. Matching funds will be requested from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Come one and all and bring your friends, too!

For more information contact Cheryl Cunningham at 99250 787-6459 or

## **OUTREACH TO THE NEEDY**

By Pat Easy

We are very blessed---God surely works through our friends to help provide food for the needy. The items donated were mashed potatoes with Brown gravy, dinner rolls, sauerkraut, 35 pounds of chicken breasts with white gravy, baby red potatoes, mixed veggies, a huge mixed salad with poppy seed dressing, BBQ chicken wings and thighs, tri-tip Chili, drinks--lemon aid and a gal of milk. We had enough food for 85+ servings and they ate every bit of it. *THANK YOU to Stadlers, Octoberfest, Derry Englund and Sue O'Malley and to you who also donated.* We received many "thank you's" from the shelter residents. Homemade cookies and individual bags of Halloween candies were handed out to all the shelter people. We received many, many, thank you's from them, they were very appreciative (and full)!

We rarely see the same shelter people from month to month; they eat, the quickly go back to their rooms So---that makes it difficult (or they are placed in another shelter) for them to open their hearts to us because they don't know or trust us. When we fed at Baldwin Park a good majority of our homeless friends would stay to chat with us after they finished their meal. We built a lot of relationships with the homeless and were able to help them by providing what they needed. If they had difficulties in their lives we were able to follow up with them or their friends, etc. So far Loaves and Fishes have not found a building to feed the homeless in Concord. *Scripture was read and we closed with the Lords Prayer.*

Our valuable volunteers were: Kevin and Luker, Mindy and Kiley Wirtz, Gail Baker and Pat Easyby

## **Church Extension Fund**

By Gerda Koch

The Christmas Season will soon be upon us, and people will be thinking of gifts for their friends and family. Have you thought of a gift for God? An investment in Church Extension Fund is the perfect gift.

CEF uses the investors money to loan to congregations to build churches, remodel, make additions and also build schools. You would receive interest on your invested money (buy more Christmas gifts). God would really be pleased with such a gift!

For more information, contact Gerda Koch, your volunteer representation at 679-1026.

### **CEF Rates for November 2009**

Term Rates:	Rate	APY
1 yr. \$1000 min	1.375%	1.38%
3 yr. \$1000 min	1.75%	1.76%
5 yr. \$1000 min	3.00%	3.03%
5 yr. \$25,000min	3.25%	3.29%

For further info, contact Gerda Koch 679-1026.



### **Choir Note:**

*Please note:*

*There will be no rehearsal on November 10.*

Praise God!

Choir has three new members: Pat Easyby, Ann Caruso and Judy West. The choir is now twelve women strong, but there is room for more. Men are encourage to join since this is not a women only choir. ☺

Please remember these members and friends in your prayers

### **Care Corner**

Those who are in need our prayers:

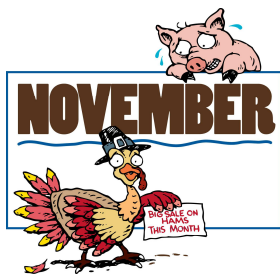
Benjamin Oback, Steven Liedtke, Mike Meintzer, AJ and Caylin Stanley, Phyllis O'Leary, Chuck Johnson, Brennan and Devin Helmer, Margarette Dahle, Marv Kreitz, Christine Helmer, Joy Parker, Mr. and Mrs. McDavid, Wanda Schwartz, Georgia Eissner, Dorothy Taylor, Burma Grandt, Laurence Grandt, Robert Grandt, Inge Stone, Luca Nishimori, Glorine Brown, Sienna Lee, Elizabeth Bothé, Kathy Kinser, Linda Martino, Herb Burroughs, Abbi and Alexandria Roman, Virginia Highsmith, Herb and Clara Huppert, Hannah Johnson, Red Lundgren, Phyllis O'Leary, Suzanne Saafeld, Inge Stone, Wanda Schwartz, Dorothy Taylor

# NOVEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Mite Box /Hat Sunday <b>9a Worship/ Communion</b> 10:30a Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30a Confirmation	2 8a Election Set up 9:30a Bridge 12:30p Wm Bible Study 6p WoHC Brd 7p Boy Scout (P, L)	3 4p UB (E) 7:15p Choir <i>Election Day [USA]</i>	4 8a Election take down 12p TORCH (E)	5 9a CC (E) 9:30a Craft (H) 4p UB (E) 7p Men's Group	6	7 LWML Wm's Conf.
8 <b>9a Worship</b> 10a EB Reading Prog (E) 10:30a Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30a Confirmation 5p Card Games	9 12:30p Wm Bible Study 7p Boy Scout (L)	10 9:30a CVWC (H) 4p UB (E) 6:30p Elders	11 12p TORCH (E) 1p Senior Brd (L) <i>Veteran's Day [USA]</i>	12 9a CC (E) 9:30a Craft (H) 4p UB (E)	13	14 9a-noon Workday • Hall set up
15 <b>9a Worship/ Communion</b> 10a EB Reading Prog (E) 10:30a Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30a Confirmation 12p Thanksgiving Dinner	16 9:30a Bridge 12:30p Wm Bible Study 6:30p Church Council 7p Boy Scout (L)	17 4p UB (E) 7:15p Choir	18 12p TORCH (E) 4p Aduan dinner	19 9a CC (E) 9:30a Craft(H) 10a NFS Outing 4p UB (E) 7p Men's Group 7p CVLL	20	21
22 <b>9a Worship</b> 10a EB Reading Prog (E) 10:30a Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30a OUTREACH	23 12:30p Wm Bible Study 7p Boy Scout (L)	24 10a CVWC (H) 4p UB (E) 7:15p Choir	25 12p TORCH (E)	26 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> <b>9a Worship/ Communion</b>	27	28
29 <b>9a Worship/ Communion</b> 10a EB Reading Prog (E) 10:30a Sunday School / Bible Study	30 12:30p Wm Bible Study 7p Boy Scout (L)					

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





Holy Cross Lutheran  
Church, LCMS  
1092 Alberta Way  
Concord, CA 94521

Mailing  
Address  
Goes  
Here



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Pastor: Bill Chu  
Pres: Al Swan  
Vice Pres.: Mike Liebe  
Financial Sec: Scott Stadler  
Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka

Elders:  
Art Kroeger (A-E)  
Bill Riechmann (F-J)  
Eric Roman (K-M)  
John Coyne (N-R)  
Terry Maurer (S-Z)

Secretary/Newsletter:  
Grace Gin

**Office Hour:** Mon - Thu  
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
DCE Intern Office Hours:  
M, W 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
F 8:30AM - 12:30PM

### **Sunday Worship Schedule**

9:00 AM 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday,  
Worship with Communion  
2nd and 4th Sunday,  
Worship with Choir, No Communion

10:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Studies

### **Weekly Bible Study**

*Sunday* 10:30 AM Conference Rm  
(*The Book of Ephesians*)  
10:30 AM Library  
(*The Book of Timothy*)

*Monday* 12:30 PM Ladies' Bible Study  
*1st and 3rd Thursdays*  
7:00PM Men's Group

**Choir Rehearsal** Tuesday, 7:15PM (No Rehearsal on Nov 10)

**Outreach** Fourth Sunday at 11:30 AM

### **Publication Deadlines:**

Weekly Bulletin Announcements - Noon, Tuesday  
December Cross Currents: November 18, 2009