

CROSS CURRENTS

Volume 11 Issue 68

December 2009

*Message from
the Pastor*



Prepare For Jesus' Advent

"Preparation" and "Advent" go hand in hand for the Church and Christians.

Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas. While we, and the rest of the world, prepare for Christmas with the blessings of shopping, gift-wrapping (and giving), decorating, baking, and planning get-togethers with family, etc., Christians have the added blessing of preparing to celebrate Christ's first advent or coming with Divine Service ("worship") that focuses on God's promises come true in the Christ.

In His first Advent, our Lord came as a "helpless" infant subject to the needs, frailty, and experiences of humanity yet was without sin. Divinity cloaked in humanity — He was King of kings and Lord of lords whose birth filled heaven and earth with the angelic hymn of praise to God who was fulfilling His promise and the hope of His people by sending the Messiah, the

Savior, His Son, Jesus, for the salvation of the world.

The appropriate preparation for Christmas? Cling to Jesus in faith by faithfully using the means of grace. Gather faithfully with God's people around Word and Sacrament to confess, worship, and praise God for the greatest and most needed gift: the Savior. Read the Scriptures, particularly the Gospels, and let God tell you the "what" and "why" of Christmas, that He so loved the world — and that includes you! — that He gave His only Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). Let the means of grace lead to repentance and the strengthening of your faith in Christ.

Advent is also a time that focuses on our preparation for Christ's promised second coming (Acts 1:11). Christ's first advent was in humility and people could, and still can, ignore Him, mock Him, dismiss Him. But His second advent will be quite different: He will come in power and glory to judge the living and the dead:

Matthew 16:27 — For the Son of Man is going to come

(Continued on page 2, Advent)



ADVENT SCHEDULE

Midweek Services: 7:00PM

Wednesdays: Dec 2, 9, 16
(light supper served at 5:45PM)

Sunday Services: 9:00AM

Advent Sundays
Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, 20

Candlelight Service: 7:00PM
Dec 24 Thursday

Christmas Day Service: 9:00AM
Dec 25 Friday

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December at a Glance

December 2, 9, 16
Midweek Advent Service,
7:00PM
Supper 5:45PM

December 3, 14
 Men's Group, 7 PM
 Conference Rm

December 5
 Koch Memorial Service, 1 PM

December 6
 Mite Box / Hat Sunday
 Turn in Christmas Tree gifts

December 7
 WoHC Progressive Dinner,
 6:00PM

December 8
 Elders Meeting, 6:30PM

December 9
 Senior Board, 1:00PM

December 13
 S. S. Christmas Program, 9 AM

December 16
 Senior Christmas Celebration,
 11:30 AM

December 20
 Christmas Caroling, 11:30 AM

December 21
 Council Meeting, 6:30 PM

December 24
Candlelight Service, 7 AM

December 25,
Christmas Day Service, 9AM

December 31
 Youth Lock-in

Advent

(Continued from page 1)

with his angels in the glory of his Father and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.

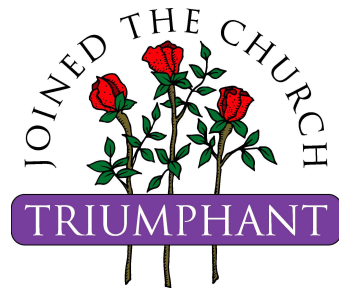
Matthew 24:30c — *And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

1Thessalonians 4:16 — *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*

(See Matthew 25:31-46. See also the Creeds: Apostles', Nicene, Athanasian).

Our Lord could return any day. The appropriate preparation for the Lord's second advent? Same as for the first: Cling to Jesus in faith by faithfully using the means of grace. Worship faithfully. Read and study the Scriptures and receive the Sacrament regularly. In addition? Share the Good News that the Christ born in Bethlehem came to die to atone for the sins of the world on Good Friday, arise from the dead on Easter, and ascend to heaven for our salvation. Share this Gospel that alone can bring sinners to faith in Jesus with all people, but especially with unbelievers, to prepare them for the Lord's coming with faith in Jesus as Savior.

A blessed Advent and Christmas to you! And the peace of the Lord be with you!



Our condolences to Bill Koch and his family for the passing of his wife **Betty**, a long time member of the Holy Cross family, on the evening of November 11, 2009.

Please remember Bill and his family in your prayer.

Betty Koch's Memorial Service is on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 1:00 PM at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Liz Ballard
- 5 Rayna Kamerzell
- 6 Diana Butterfield
- 7 Denise Brown
- 16 Alex Roman
Susan Stenson
- 27 Terry Hawkyard
Darlene Nash

Choir Note:

No Rehearsal Tuesday, December 1 & 29.

MEN of the CROSS



Come join us
every 1st & 3rd
Thursday of each
month at 7-8pm.

We are looking at topics that 21st century males face and seeing what the Bible says about those topics. Next meeting is going to be December 3rd. Hope to see you there!



Advent Supper

YOUTH- Looking for youth to help serve and set up Advent Dinner on December 2nd at 4:30pm. All who are interested please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the way to the Parish Hall or contact Jason. Thank you!

DINERS: Please sign up on the table next to Christmas in the Pall Hall.

CARE CORNER



*Remember
those who are in
need of our prayers...*

Benjamin Oback, Steven Liedtke, Mike Meintzer, AJ and Caylin Stanley, Phyllis O'Leary, Chuck Johnson, 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

Letter from DCE Intern

November 16, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My favorite Christmas movie of all time is *White Christmas* starring Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye. The movie is about a very successful song and dance team who fall in love with two sisters. They end up working together to save their former general. During one of the scenes one of the sisters known as Betty, played by Rosemary Clooney, can't sleep because her mind is thinking of Bob Wallace (Bing Crosby). Betty's sister in the movie, Julie played by Vera Ellen, encourages Betty to go get a snack in order that she might sleep. When Betty arrives she bumps into Bob and she tells him she can't sleep. He sings the song titled *Count Your Blessings (Instead of Sheep)* to her. The song chorus goes like this...

*When I'm worried and I can't
sleep
I count my blessings instead
of sheep
And I fall asleep counting
my blessings...*

During this season I encourage you to count all your blessings in your life, whether it is making it through another year, having food to eat, or even having

your family home for the holidays. Just remember that the greatest blessing that we have been given during this season... "For God so the world, that he sent His begotten Son, so whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16)." Jesus' life, death, and resurrection took the place of our greatest worry and replaced it with our greatest blessing.

May you have a grand Christmas season this year. Please come and join us for midweek service and dinner. On December 2, Holy Cross' youths are preparing the dinner. As you go through December remember that Jesus is not the only reason for this season, but for every season of your life.

God bless,
Jason
Romans 8

Family photo

An 8-year-old girl was showing her 4-year-old sister some pictures from her Bible. The younger sister was fascinated by a picture of Mary and baby Jesus. After examining it intently, she asked, "But where's Joseph?"

The older sister thought for a moment and replied, "He's taking the picture."

Nifty Fifties Seniors Christmas Celebration

By Marv Kreitz

On Wednesday December 16th the Nifty Fifty Seniors invite you to attend an (ADULT) Holiday Christmas Celebration in the Social Hall at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Concord. At this time of year we attend many Christmas activities sponsored by children and for children. This Celebration is designed for seniors and adults with the true meaning of Christmas in mind. Jack Mortenson, a true scholar of the Bible as you all know, will make a presentation. This will be a fun celebration with the singing of Christmas Carols (Melarie Seidel at the piano) and a Pot Luck Lunch. Tune up your High C's page through your cookbooks and prepare your favorite culinary recipe then join us for a prelude to the approaching holiday season. Sign up sheet in the social hall to bring Casseroles, Salad or Dessert Meeting time is 11:30 This is the time to BRING A FRIEND !

"Whatever the surprises of the future, Jesus will never be surpassed." —Ernest Renan

"The mystery of the humanity of Christ, that he sunk himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding." —Martin Luther

"Through Christ we understand God as far as our human nature could bear and our human vision endure. Looking at him, we do see God. Through him we understand God as far as the finite can understand the infinite. He is the one Word that makes God intelligible



"Adoption" Christmas Tree

This year **Women of Holy Cross** again have adopted low income & needy families from the Salvation Army. Be sure to choose an *individual person or several persons* that you wish to "adopt" this Christmas. The tree is set up in the Parish Hall. REMEMBER TO LEAVE THE BOTTOM PORTION BEHIND (of the person you have adopted) so Melarie can keep track of the adopted people.

Save your receipts and return them with the unwrapped gifts you have purchased. Thrivent will match the money spent; thus needing the receipts for reimbursement!

*The reimbursement money will be used to purchase added gifts (if needed), food, household items, and also to purchase groceries for a complete Christmas Dinner for the families. THANK YOU for your participation.

In the same way let your light shine in front of people. Then they will see the good that you do and praise your Father in heaven. Matt 5:16 God's blessings

Please bring in all gifts by Sunday, December 6.

The meaning of adoption

When a class of young children began discussing the subject of adoption, the teacher first asked for a definition. An 8-year-old girl answered by saying, "I'm adopted. If you're adopted, it means you grew up in a mother's heart instead of her tummy."

St. Paul said we Christians are all adopted. To the church at Ephesus he wrote, "[God] destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Ephesians 1:5, NRSV). We have been in God's heart all along.

Evergreen Tree

These trees, which keep their green leaves year-round, are symbolic of Christmas, eternal life and God's everlasting love. In the Bible, evergreen trees are called the "cedars of Lebanon," suggesting growth (Psalm 92:12), height (Amos 2:9), fragrance (Hosea 14:6) and steadfast faith.

The Women of Holy Cross

*Invite all women to take an evening off from cooking &
join us for our annual...*

Holiday Progressive Dinner

Monday, December 7, 2009

6:00pm Dinner at Sue O'Malley's
(Denise Joy Brown dinner co-hostess)

8:00pm at Joyce Liebe's
Dessert, Singing, & Gift Exchange

Menu

Pork Loin with Roasted Pears & Shallots
Twice Baked Potatoes
Green Vegetable
Strawberry Surprise Salad

Assorted Homemade Christmas Cookies
Bacardi Rum Cake
Cherry Crumb Dessert
Coffee & Spiced Tea

We hope you can join us for an opportunity to dress festive, relax,
& socialize with the Women of Holy Cross

Details

RSVP: Please RSVP & pay \$7.00 donation by Thurs. Dec. 3.

✚ Call Sue O'Malley 682-6453 or Joyce Liebe 686-1037, or

✚ Signup on **Green Sheet** on WoHC Board in Parish Hall

ADDRESS: Sue: **4495 Barberry Ct.**, Concord /Crossings

Joyce: **4408 Sugar Maple Ct.**, Concord/Crossings

RIDES: Let Sue or Joyce know if you need a ride & we'll arrange one for you.

GIFT: Gift Exchange is voluntary. To participate, bring a "**white elephant**" gift
(Something you have at home & haven't used or don't know what to do with-no need
to buy a new gift. The funnier, the better.) Max. value \$10.

HC Facilities Users and their Monthly Schedules:

Clayton Valley Women:

2nd and 4th Tuesday 9a-Noon, Hall

Clayton Valley Women Craft:

Thursday 9:30a-1p, Hall

Boy Scout:

Monday 7p-9p, Hall (1st of month) and Library.

Clayton Valley Little League:

3rd Thursdays 7-9p, Hall

Upward Bound Tutoring:

Tuesday and Thursday 4-6p, Ed Bldg Room 2C

TORCH (Choir Group):

Wednesday noon – 2p, Ed Bldg Corner Room and Play yard

Classical Conversation:

Thursday 9a-3p, Ed Bldg 1st floor (Except Conference Room)

East Bay Reading Program:

Sunday (Nov. 8 through Dec. 13) 10a – 7p, Ed Bldg-1st Floor Wing Rooms



Dear Holy Cross Family,

This September, I was able to visit my sister, Joy Parker. Her and her husband and I thank you for your faithful prayers that it would be God's will to return her to full health. She has not improved past where she has been for at least a year now. There are many consequences she deals with daily from this horrible head injury. Thank you for your continued prayers. If you have questions, please ask me.

Your Sister in Christ, Gayle Bothé



I had a wonderful conversation with Inga Stone today. She sends her regards and love to everyone. She misses us very much. She said she wouldn't mind it at all if people wanted to call and say hello!! She does have a church she goes to and is very happy with her "dynamic" pastor.

Thanks for calling her to say "Hi".
Gayle Bothé



Log on to:

holycrossconcord.ctsmemberconnect.net

Our church home page will pop up. You will be able to access church announcements, calendar, newsletter, etc by clicking the drop down menu on your left. You may also sign in to update your information or access Holy Cross directory.

Instruction for Signing In

Username: first name.last name.hclc

Example: john.brown.hclc

Password: 9999

Once you sign in for the first time you can change your password.

Any questions? Contact Grace or Dwight .

DECEMBER 2009

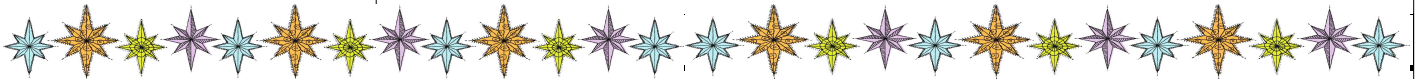
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9a Worship w/ Communion <i>10a EB Reading Prog(E)</i> 10:30a Sunday-School / Bible Study 11:30a Confirmation	30 12:30p Wm Bible Study 7p Boy Scout (L)	1 4p <i>UB Tutoring(E)</i>	2 12p <i>TORCH (E)</i> 5:45p Supper 7p Midweek Advent Service	3 9a <i>CC(E)</i> 9:30a <i>Craft (H)</i> 4p <i>UB Tutoring(E)</i> 7p Men's Group	4	5 9a <i>Diablo Wmn Club Brkft</i> 1p Koch Memorial Service
6 Mite Box /Hat Sunday 9a Worship w/ Communion <i>10a EB Reading Prog(E)</i> 10:30a Sunday-School / Bible Study 11:30a Confirmation	7 12:30p Wm Bible Study 6p WoHC Prog Dinner 7p Boy Scout (PH, L)	8 9:30a <i>CVWC (H)</i> 4p <i>UB Tutoring (E)</i> 6:30p Elders 7:15p Choir	9 12p <i>TORCH (E)</i> 1p Senior Brd (L) 5:45p Supper 7p Midweek Advent Service	10 9a <i>CC(E)</i> 9:30a <i>Craft (H)</i> 4p <i>UB Tutoring(E)</i>	11	12
13 9a Christmas Program 9a Worship <i>10a EB Reading Prog(E)</i> 10:30a Sunday-School / Bible Study	14 12:30p Wm Bible Study 7p Boy Scout (L)	15 4p <i>UB Tutoring(E)</i> 7:15p Choir	16 11:30a NFS Christmas Celebration 12p <i>TORCH (E)</i> 5:45p Supper 6p <i>CVLL (L)</i> 7p Midweek Advent Service	17 9a <i>CC(E)</i> 9:30a <i>Craft (H)</i> 4p <i>UB Tutoring(E)</i> 7p <i>CVLL</i> 7p Men's Group	18	19 9a <i>CVLL</i>
20 9a Worship w/ Communion 10:30a Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30a Christmas Caroling	21 6:30p Church Council 7p Boy Scout (L)	22 10a <i>CVWC (H)</i> 4p <i>UB Tutoring(E)</i> 7:15p Choir	23 12p <i>TORCH (E)</i>	24 7p Candle-light Service	25 9a Christmas Service	26
27 9a Worship w/ Communion 10:30a Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30a OUTREACH	28	29	30	31 12p Youth Lock-in <i>New Year's Eve</i>		

(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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1092 Alberta Way
Concord, CA 94521
(925)686-2000
(925)686-6894 FAX
Email: info@holycrossconcord.org
Website:
Holycrossconcord.ctsmemberconnect.net

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
January Cross Currents: December 21