



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

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Cross Currents



Volume 5, Issue 84

May 2011

Jesus is found in Word and Sacrament by Pastor Chu

In recent years, people have “found” Jesus just about everywhere they looked. They have found Jesus’ likeness on a bed sheet, a fish stick, a banana skin, a brick wall of a train station, a garage floor, and a shadow of a tree (and Jesus is wearing a crown in this apparition).¹

Most recently the face of Jesus was found on a three-cheese pizza, reported under the sub-heading, “ALL hail Lord Cheesus - the holy apparition that appeared in a pizza.”²

On one level, these Jesus sighting are somewhat humorous and “harmless fun,” as Australian Catholic University professor puts it. However, he goes on to say, “We Catholics can have a laugh at this, but if that image leads you to a deeper level of faith, or just a sense that Jesus is part of your life, than it can’t be a bad thing.”

But it can be a bad thing when people look and “find” Jesus everywhere but where He truly is found, in Word³ and Sacrament,⁴ which is what gives and strengthens saving faith⁵ in Jesus for salvation and where we should seek Jesus. Our faith in Christ has as its source God’s grace given through the Gospel⁶ in the oral word or in Bap-

tism.⁷ And our faith and life in Christ grow and produce fruit as we are tethered to Jesus through the means of grace.⁸

It was not by mistake or happenstance that the first post-crucifixion, post-resurrection, post-ascension, and post-Pentecost believers “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers... And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”⁹ In short, first and foremost, they gathered around Word and Sacrament.

People look for and “find” Jesus where they want Him to be found; Jesus is found in Word and Sacrament, which is the center and focus of the Divine Service.

1. <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/gallery/gallery-e6frewxi-1225973903979>

(Continued on page 2, Jesus)



Jesus

(Continued from page 1)

2. heraldsun.com.au/lifestyle/the-other-side/face-of-jesus-christ-appears-in-three-cheese-pizza/story-e6frfhk6-1226030824138

3. John 5:39 — *You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.*

4. Matthew 26:26-28 — ²⁶Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Cf. 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

5. John 20:31 — *But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

Romans 10:17 — *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

6. John 6:68 — *Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Cf. John 20:31*

7. Acts 2:38 — *And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

Titus 3:5-7 — ⁵He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

8. John 15:1-6 — ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch



Meet Sue Reiter New Church Secretary

Sue has taken on the position as the church secretary since March. She is in the church office most mornings between 9 AM– 1 PM.

Besides working at church, Sue also works as a home care provider for shut-ins. She is currently assisting Wilma Burch, Hannah Johnson and Sue Saalfeld.

Sue has three daughters—Annah, and twins, Amber and Kaytlin. Her husband is Ken Reiter. They are transferred members from Trinity Lutheran Church in Walnut Creek. ☼

in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

9. Acts 2:42, 46-47

May

Birthdays &



Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 2 Janet O'Leary
- 8 Cherylene Brueckner
- 9 Frances Maurer
- 12 Revia Maurer
- 17 Nick Syrovatka
- 21 Joyce Liebe

Anniversaries

- 18 Michael & Linda Pass
- 19 Jack & Pat Easby
- 25 Dennis & Carol Lau
- 26 Eric & Chris Roman



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

May Choir News

Rehearsals will be on May 3, May 10, & May 17

We will be singing on Sundays, May 8 and May 22 which will be our last Sunday before summer break.

Memorial Day Weekend Sunday May 29, 2011 at noon

Sunday May 29, 2011 at noon we are having another one of our 5th Sunday potluck lunches. This weekend, of course, is when we remember our soldiers, those serving now and those who have gone before us, preserving our freedom and keeping peace.

We have invited Trinity church to join us. Also joining us will be Scott Alan Buss, the author of *Fire Breathing Christians*. It will be interesting to see how our Lutheran beliefs compare and contrast with his message.

Our potluck will start after Sunday School. Please bring a dish to share. Those who don't cook, please just bring yourself! There's always lots to eat. After all, we are Lutherans.

Pat K & Marlene



from Scott Alan Buss

Grace and Peace to my brothers and sisters at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

I am humbled, thankful and excited all at once at the prospect of sharing with you the cause of reformation, revival and revolution as rooted in the whole, undiluted Gospel of our Savior and King,

Jesus Christ. I very much look forward to meeting each of you and hearing your thoughts, as well as answering any questions that you might have. It is my hope and prayer that in this we will grow closer together by growing closer to Him, and in doing so gain the strength to accomplish otherwise impossible changes at this critical point in our nation's and culture's history.

Soli Deo gloria...and let's roll!

The price of freedom

In "What Did He Die For?" Twila Paris reminds us why we observe Memorial Day — and why we worship Jesus as our Savior. The first verse tells of a 21-year-old soldier fighting for America's freedom during World War II. The second verse recalls another young man, many centuries prior, sent by his Father to win eternal freedom from sin for the entire world.

The chorus offers this challenge:

"What did he die for when he died for you and me,
Made the sacrifice so that we could all be free?
I believe we will answer each to heaven
For the way we spend a priceless liberty.

Look inside and ask the question, What did he die for?"

Memorial Day challenges us to live so as to honor the sacrifices made by members of the military. We value our freedom because of the heavy price people have paid for it. Likewise, every day we're challenged to live so as to honor Jesus' supreme sacrifice. He calls us to spend our "priceless liberty" using our blessings to bless others.

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NIFTY FIFTY SENIORS CORNER

**Day on the Bay
May 18th 2011**

The Nifty Fifty Seniors will Travel on the Bay via Ferry from Jack London Square to pier 41 on Wed May 18th. Relax and enjoy the aquatic scenery along the Estuary and on Bay. Expect to views huge cranes and container ships loading and processing containers. Lunch will be at the Rain Forest Restaurant located next to the Wax Museum in the Fisherman's wharf area. I'm sure we will see Mines performing their acts on the way to the restaurant. Among the dining companions will be ele-



phants, cheetahs and monkeys to name a few. Meet at church at 9:30 Leave promptly at 9:45. The Ferry leaves Oakland Jack London Square at 11:00 and arrives in San Francisco at 11:45 lunch will be at 12:30

We plan on returning on the Ferry that leaves at 3:45 and gets into Oak at 4:40. Cost of the Ferry for seniors round trip is \$7.50 Parking is free at the Ferry Terminal at Jack London Square. Be sure you get your parking ticket validated aboard the ferry, or on the pier. Sign up is in the Social Hall so we know how many to plan on.... Bring a FRIEND



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

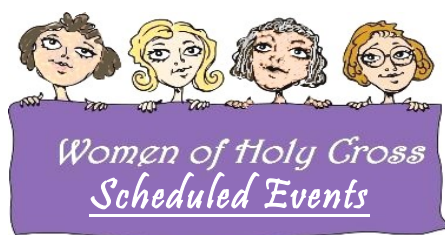
Church Extension Fund:

Church Extension Fund is a fund that loans money to our Lutheran Church Missouri congregations to build new churches, to build schools, make repairs and add additions. Where does the money come from? They get the money from investments made by you and me. When you invest in CEF, you receive interest on your investment, and also further God's kingdom. Also, please note the interest rates have gone up slightly, and are higher than banks at the moment. Please consider an Investment in CEF.

For further info, contact Gerda Koch at 679-1026.

Term Note Rates

		Rate	Apy
1 yr	\$1,000	1.25%	1.26%
3 yr	\$1,000	1.75%	1.76%
5 yr	\$1,000	3.125%	3.16%
5 yr	\$25,000	3.375%	3.24%

**MAY****Sunday, May 1**

Mite Box/ Hat Sunday.

Please take your **mites** to the front & deposit them on the table or leave them in the Nartex in the *little wooden church*, as you exit the service. **Thank You** for supporting local & foreign missions

Monday, May 2**WoHC Board Meeting, 2:15pm**

Conference rm following Bible Study

Monday, May 9

WoHC General meeting 6:30pm in the Parish Hall. *Crafts with Liz.

MARK YOUR "JUNE" CALENDARS

Plan to join in on the fun!

Sunday, June 19

Special **Fathers Day--**

10:30 breakfast &

Antique **Car Show** / Holy Cross Parking Lot.

Everyone, all ages are welcome.

Monday, June 27

Dinner out with friends & family 6pm

Watch for more details on these events!

**REMINDER:
CRAFT NIGHT**



MONDAY, MAY 9, 6:30 pm

All ladies & teens welcome

WoHC short general meeting---Craft time-- dessert & beverages---

Bring your EMPTY "jiffy" (small cake mix) boxes. Liz & her sister will show us how to make cute miniature houses, etc. Join us for another fun time in the Parish hall! You will get to meet some neat, fun, Holy Cross ladies. Bring a friend.

Please sign up on the sheet next to the office door. Welcome!

Hostess: Marlene Roberts



TO ALL WOMEN WHO ATTENDED THE SPRING RALLY at First Lutheran on April 9th. We brought home the attendance plaque

again. Yeh! Those who attended were edified-article to follow in next newsletter.

THANKS ALSO TO JOYCE LIEBE for lunch on April 16th-following the work party.

THANKS TO ALL who gave of their time and many hands it takes to keep things cleaned up.

THANKS ALSO TO MIKE LIEBE for promoting and encouraging those who came out for the day. God's blessings to all who give of themselves.

A mother's hope

Three years ago, contemporary Christian musician Steven Curtis Chapman and his wife Mary Beth faced the sudden death of their youngest daughter, Maria, in a driveway accident. In the book *Choosing to See: A Journey of Struggle and Hope*, Mary Beth Chapman describes how she wrestled with God when her "whole world" fell apart.

"What I've found is that it's in the most unlikely times and places of hurt and chaos that God gives us a profound sense of his presence and the real light of his hope in the dark places," she writes.

"None of my tears have been wasted," Chapman says, because she's "experienced the kindness, sweetness, faithfulness, and redemptive heard of God."

To honor their daughter, the Chapmans, longtime adoption advocates, established Maria's Big House of Hope. The center in Henan, one of China's poorest provinces, provides life-saving medical care to special-needs orphans.

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A Hero's Hero

So Many Soldiers
Living on the Street
Their Spirits Broken,
With Defeat.

What Must They Think
When They Look Around
Eyes Passing By, Staring
At the Ground?

Does Anger Fill Them
When We Turn Away,
From The Debts We Owe
That Should Be repaid?

What If At That Moment,
Just Once, Instead
We Saluted in Honor,
Right Hand to the Head?

To Let Them Know
They Are Not Ghosts,
Thanking Them for Being
Braver Than Most.

If Everyone Would
Show them Grace
We just Might Find
Their Pain Erased.

For All the Heroes
Still Fighting To Live

And for Heroes Like You,
Who Continue to Give.

So

If You See Someone
Who Is Really Lost
Please Stop
And Remember

What Our Freedom Cost!

**We hope this serves as a
reminder to display the flag
especially on...**

*Easter Sunday ♦ Mother's
Day ♦ Armed Force Day ♦
Memorial Day ♦ Flag
Day ♦ Father's Day ♦ In-
dependence Day ♦ Labor
Day ♦ Columbus Day ♦
Veterans Day ♦ Thanksgiving
♦ Christmas ♦ Election
Day ♦
State &
Local
Holidays*



—Courtesy of Pat Easby



Graduates

We would like to honor all Holy Cross students who are graduating from middle school, high school, or college in the July edition of the Cross Currents.

Parents of graduates, please submit a photo and a blurb of your child via email to Grace at: ggin@holycrossconcord.org by the middle of June.



We will have a few more copies of Fire Breathing Christians in the library soon. In the meantime you might be interested in a book by

John MacArthur which is waiting right near the door.

There are videos too, DVDs, CDs!!!

Check it out. —Trina Godsey, Librarian

BIBLE STUDIES

WOMEN'S MID-DAY:

Mondays @ 12:30-2:00p.m. will continue with chapter 7, pg. 75 on May 2nd with our Cynthia Heald study, "Becoming a Woman of Simplicity". Hope to see you there. (Conference Room)

WEDNESDAY EVENING:

7:00 PM, Parish Hall

We are studying the Book on Proverbs. Everyone is welcome!

Email Address Correction

Joe & Peggy Odrzywolski:

jmmsodrzywolki@aol.com

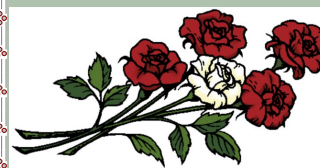


**Vacation Bible School
Coming in July**

Holy Cross is planning on having VBS sometime in the middle or end of July this year. More announcements will be forth coming in future bulletins and newsletters.



MAY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Mite Box /Hat Sunday 9am Worship w/ Comm 10:30am Sunday School/Bible Study 1pm Sarah Dawtery (H)	2 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 2:15pm WoHC Brd Mtg (C) 7pm Boy Scout (H)	3 4pm UB Tutoring (E) 7:15pm Choir Reheasal	4 7p Bible Study	5 4pm UB Tutor- ing (E)	6	7
8 Mother's Day 9am Worship 10:30am Sunday School/Bible Study	9 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 6:30pm WoHC General Mtg Craft Night 7pm Boy Scout (L)	10 9am CVWC 4pm UB Tutoring (E) 7:15pm Choir Reheasal	11 1pm Senior Brd (L) 7p Bible Study	12 4pm UB Tutor- ing (E)	13	14
15 9am Worship w/ Comm 10:30am Sunday School/Bible Study	16 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 6:30pm Church Council 7pm Boy Scout (L)	17 4pm UB Tutoring (E) 6:30pm Elder's Meeting 7:15pm Choir Reheasal	18 9:30a NFS Day on the Bay 7p Bible Study	19 4pm UB Tutor- ing (E)	20	21
22 9am Worship 10:30am Sunday School/Bible Study 11:30am OUTREACH	23 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 7pm Boy Scout (L)	24 4pm UB Tutoring (E)	25 7p Bible Study	26 4pm UB Tutor- ing (E)	27	28
29 9am Worship w/ Comm 10:30am Sunday School/Bible Study 12pm Potluck/Speaker	30 Memorial Day 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 7pm Boy Scout (L)	31 4pm UB Tutoring (E)				

(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: Sue Reiter, Grace Gin
Newsletter Editor: Grace Gin

Worship Schedule:

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

Week Day Bible Study Schedule*:

Monday 12:30PM Conference Room, Ladies Only
Wednesday 7:00PM Parish Hall

Choir Rehearsal:

Tuesday 7:15PM—8:45PM

Outreach:

Fourth Sunday of each month, 11:30AM

Publication Deadline:

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

Office Hours: M-F 9AM-1PM