



Cross Currents



Volume 7, Issue 75

July/August 2010

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

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These lyrics from the early 1900s remind us that the proper focus of the Christian life is Jesus: when we focus on Jesus, the earthly things that we hold so dear — even those things

that are gifts from God — fade into their proper place in light of Jesus' incomparable glory and grace. When Jesus Christ is where He should be in our lives, we can enjoy God's gifts the way He intended for us to enjoy them.

So "turn your eyes upon Jesus" are words to live by. Problem is, the song does not tell us where to find Jesus so that we can look into His wonderful face. What often comes to mind when we think of Jesus' face is one of those Sunday school pictures of Jesus we grew up with. Those pictures are, of course, just artists' rendition of what they thought Jesus looked like and may or may not bear much semblance to Jesus' physical appearance at all. We might look for Jesus in other places.

Where we find Jesus, and see Jesus, and look into

His wonderful face that shines with the light of His glory and grace is in the Scriptures, the Word of God. In God's Word, we see Jesus, and not just His face, but also His nail-

wealth and luxuries, but even those can become "worthless" when we give into the temptation to let them usurp Jesus' priority in our lives, when we turn our eyes, minds, and



Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Look full in His wonderful face.

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

pierced hands and feet, spear-riven side, and all that He did to save us from sin, rescue us from the just punishment for sin which is hell, and give us eternal life as a gift through faith in Him as Savior. We see Jesus also in a most special way in the Sacrament of Holy Sacrament, where He comes to us in His true body and blood given for the forgiveness of sins.

The psalmist prays in Psalm 119: "Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways." "Worthless things" could be things that are inherently good but are worthless compared to the "surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:8).

We have been so blessed by God with material

hearts away from Jesus and turned them upon the gifts while neglecting the Giver of those gifts. This happens in the summer, when our vacations from work turn out to be vacations also from God and from worshiping God and hearing His Word. It also happens the rest of the year whenever we let God's Word grow strangely dim in our lives in light of the things of this world.

Let the psalmist's prayer be your prayer. Be turned to Jesus in His Word and the Sacrament, so that as you enjoy the blessings God has given you, your eyes, mind, and heart are ever on Jesus who gave you, for your salvation, the most precious gift of all: Himself. ✠

— Pastor Chu

Busy June at Holy Cross

by Mike Liebe

While June usually marks the start of vacationing, we were anything but on vacation here at Holy Cross with the exception of a lively week of *Vacation Bible School*. We had a month full of special events, fellowship and changes. In addition to our continuing Nifty Fifties, Women of Holy Cross, Holy Cross Youth and Men of the Cross activities, we had our Voter's Assembly Meeting and Bon Voyage fellowship on June 13, a fun appreciation and going-away Hawaiian "trip" for Jason on June 20, Vacation Bible School the week of June 21 and our annual Family & Friends Dinner out on June 28. Not to mention hosting the CSUEB reading program, serving as a polling place June 8 and hosting a special health screening event. *Whew*. I may have left something out while thinking about that hula dance at Jason's going-away.

I would like to take a minute to focus on our June 13 events, the Voter's Assembly and the Bon Voyage.

Voter's Assembly

The primary reason for our June Voter's Assembly is to elect Council members. In addition, we provide updates for committees and other information of interest. Some highlights from the meeting include:

♦ Financial Status as compared to budget for the year to date. We are a little behind on both income and expenses which has caused a



negative variance year to date. The main reason for being over budget on expenses was an unexpected major sewer line expense of approximately \$10,000. Mike Liebe shared the Council discussion that we publish in our weekly bulletin and Cross Currents our financial progress through the year because we have been sharing this information with the voters and general congregation only during Assembly meetings and it is appropriate that it is available more frequently. The Assembly supported this idea so you should start seeing the updates.

♦ Update on Tenant, Trinity United Reform Church by Scot: Things are

time of the lease. The result is Trinity needs a space at Holy Cross that can accommodate more persons for their morning service. Mike and Scott are working with Trinity representatives to identify a solution using the Education Building space differently. They will report back to the Council the proposed solution and lease impacts.

♦ Church Secretary transition: We now have two persons who are familiar with the duties and tasks for the position; Grace Gin, and Rhonda Liedtke. It is our expectation Rhonda will fulfill the primary responsibilities of the position. Grace has certainly earned a break and an opportunity to visit Kathryn more frequently.

♦ Men of the Cross group will continue to meet every other week. Mike suggested the group may shift to Monday evenings in the Fall (by coincidence, the start of the NFL season).

♦ By direction of our Bylaws the responsibilities of the Council President succeeded to Mike Liebe, as Vice President, due to vacancy of the President position with Al Swan's move to the Seattle area. Mike acknowledged our blessing to have many years of service, friendship and fellowship with the Swan Family.

Note: The terms for the elected positions are two years with the exception of Vice President which will be re-elected in one year to coincide with the bi-annual election of President next June.

See highlighted box for current and newly elected council members.

Congratulations!

Newly Elected Council Members

Vice President - Gregg Syrovatka
Council Secretary - Carrie Kroeger
Elder - Terry Maurer, George Oatis and Herb Neumann
Trustee - Bill Luker

Current Council Members

Acting President - Mike Liebe
Financial Secretary - Scott Stadler
Elders - John Coyne, Bill Riechmann and Eric Roman
Trustees - Alan Brueckner (Head Trustee) and Jaan Kaigas
Treasurer - Cheryl Syrovatka

going great and they have been paying rents consistently on time; the relationship appears to be a blessing for all of us. Mike discussed a situation with the space used by Trinity caused by fire code restrictions that were not apparent at the

President's Comments

"Want" and "Can"

First, I would like to thank you for your confidence in me as I assume the responsibilities of Council President. And I thank all of the newly elected Council members, our continuing Councils members, our many committee leaders and members, and persons who serve our ministry at Holy Cross in many different ways. During the Assembly meeting I talked about the idea of "want versus can". I probably didn't explain the idea well but I think there are many examples of persons in the Bible who were put in situations by God to illustrate and put to good use their-given

gifts and capabilities. In many cases the individuals were not looking for the opportunity and it was not something they particularly "wanted" or even felt confident in doing. I believe these are examples where God has exhibited his omnipotence by showing us we can, and should, follow his will and not be occupied by "wants". That's not to say we will perform perfectly but we already know that isn't expected of us.

As I serve as Council President, I will use the blessings and gifts and capabilities I have received to perform to the best of my ability to

the benefit of our ministry, our congregation family, our community and persons needing our ministry, the glory of God. I also mentioned I will need your help, whether as elected Council members, appointed positions, volunteers or helpers, to use your blessings, gifts and capabilities. I ask you to prayerfully consider "want and can", and how you can serve our ministry to the glory of God. There are many opportunities to do this without being elected or asked, even starting as a greeter, usher or reader. Share your blessing and talents...all things are possible.
— Mike Liebe

Service with a Scream

By Jason E. Gullidge, DCE Intern

Mother Theresa commented about serving by stating, "We can do no great things, only small things with great love." On the evening of May 28th a group of eleven youth and two adult leaders came together for a service night and overnighter. After a dinner of hot dogs, salads, and chips we broke up into two teams to accomplish our tasks. Group #1 was in charge of painting the east wall in the old youth room; meanwhile group #2 was in charge of clipping rose bushes, disassembling broken tables,

and removing whiteboards from the parish hall and returning them to the education building. This busy night concluded with a devotional about being a servant leader like Christ and then a game.

The next morning started early. After cleaning up our sleeping area we headed off to huge breakfast at Hometown Buffet. Following the buffet we headed to a day at Great America. The youth and the adult leaders spent the next seven hours bumping each other in bumper cars,

screaming on the roller coasters, and getting wet in the water park. After a long day at the park we headed back to church, which was an adventure in itself involving a flat tire and a tow-truck. It was an action packed weekend from beginning to end.

Thank you for all the youth, adult leaders, and Al Bruekner who spent the evening doing service around church. It has made it a better place. May God bless those who gave a hand to help.



Before



Priming



Completion!

NFS' Trip to Chabot Space and Science Center

by Marv Kreitz

We were disappointed when they said the Ask Jives Planetarium center was closed for repairs; instead they substituted two showings at the Tine Mega Dome Theater, a 70-foot dome screen auditorium with three IMAX shows running. We choose a Larger than life

film that took us on a helicopter flight over Egypt and a trip starting in Venice Italy and expanding in space and returning to the a microscopic drop of water and all the creatures it contained.

an inspirational feeling laying back and viewing a movie on an overhead

dome IMAX screen it felt like you were falling when the helicopter passed over valleys, waterfalls and forests. This was a trip everyone enjoyed. Every one clapped and marveled at the showing. I strongly recommend you take any visitors to this area to see it.



Cherylene and Allen Brueckner, Doris and Jack Mortenson, Marv Kreitz,, Trudy Huenninghaus, Christl Rose, Erna Beutel (l-r)



We had a good turnout at the Potluck Brunch on Sunday, July 18. There were lots of great dishes and great fellowship to share. We swapped stories of our first job experiences and discovered who had the longest or the shortest attendance record at Holy Cross. Mike introduced council members that were in attendance. Thank you for participating. We will be having another one soon. Many thanks to Pat Kroeger and Marlene Roberts for organizing it!

Bon Voyage

by Mike Liebe

Immediately following our Voter's Assembly, the vaguely familiar music and theme songs kicked off our Bon Voyage celebration and going away for Al and Melinda Swan, along with Andrew and Amelia. We had a big showing of members and guests, and as always lots of great food, fellowship and laughter. Idalene Stadler and the Coyne family made the occasion special by providing a very nautical back-drop, decorating early for "High Seas Adventure" VBS. We had a sailing ship, assorted sea creatures, life rings and a special banner. And no bon voyage would be complete without streamers, ribbon confetti, party poppers, and umbrellas. Umbrellas? Yes. A

herd of them, all nicely wrapped. You see, it rains a bit more up there in Seattle. And we wanted the Swans to be prepared. But most of the umbrellas were hand-me-downs and well used, and probably won't stop much rain. But it's the thought that counts - right. The winner umbrella has to have been from Terry Hawkyard. She took the care to glue seeds to the umbrella fabric. The Swans can stay dry and start a garden at the same time! Al declined our offer to "re-re-gift" the umbrellas back to us so they could save on moving expenses. We may be seeing some of those umbrellas again at odd times...

The congregation also presented Al and Melinda with a couple of real going away gifts; a nice copper rain meter (we couldn't resist) and a jumbo Starbucks gift card. We suspect Al may have stopped by the Starbucks drive-through on their way home that afternoon. While it is bittersweet for our church family members to move such a distance and we will miss their regular fellowship with us, it is certainly a blessing the Swan family is reunited for this new phase of their Christian journey.



Women of Holy Cross

What: August WoHC Board Meeting
 Date: **Monday, August 2, 6pm** NEW DATE
 Place: Joyce's Home
 Topics: Finalize WoHC 2010-2011 Program & Salad Buffet
 (last names M-Z bring salads)

What: September WoHC Board Meeting
 Date: **Monday, August 30, 2:15pm** NEW TIME
 Place: Holy Cross Conference Room
 Topics: Monthly President, Treasurer, & Chair persons status, Unfinished & New Business discussion

OAKLAND ZOO --AUG. 18TH

The activity in August for the seniors is a 90-minute Docent led tour, in [Golf Carts](#), of the Oakland Zoo. Cost of admission for a senior is \$5.50 and the tour in the golf carts is Free. We will meet at church at 9:45 AM and leave at 10:00 AM the tour is scheduled for 11:00 AM. We plan on eating at the zoo. The Oakland Zoo is nestled in the rolling hills of the 525-acre Knowland Park; the Zoo is located at 9777 Golf Links Rd, [Oakland](#) just off highway 580 and is home to more than 660 native and exotic animals. Visitors are encouraged to explore the zoo's many biomes (Geographically defined areas) and learn about animals that live in particular regions. Sign up on sheet in the social hall, so we know how many to plan on. Should be an interesting way to spend a day. Bring a friend!

Muchas Gracias from señora Joyce Liebe

I want to thank everyone who helped make our Dinner Out with Family & Friends a delicious success. 28 of us met at El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant on Monday, June 28 for a tasty Mexican dinner & fun fellowship. While we enjoyed our enchiladas, tacos, tamales, & chile rellenos, we also celebrated Gayle Bothe's June birthday, as well as wishing Jason a Blessed farewell. Please keep your eyes open for more fellowship events in the near future!



Chicken Chili Lasagna By Cheryl Syrovatka

Ingredients:

2 pkgs (3oz each) cream cheese, softened
 1 medium onion, chopped
 8 green onions, chopped
 2 cups (8 oz) shredded Mexican-cheese blend, divided
 2 garlic cloves, minced
 3/4 teaspoon ground cumin, divided
 1/2 teaspoon minced fresh cilantro or parsley
 3 cups cubed cooked chicken
 1/4 cup butter or margarine
 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
 1-1/2 cups chicken broth
 1 cup (4oz) shredded Monterey Jack cheese

1 cup (8 oz) sour cream
 1 can (4 oz) chopped green chilies, drained
 1/8 teaspoon dried thyme
 1/8 teaspoon salt
 1/8 teaspoon pepper

Directions:

12 flour tortillas (6 inches), halved
 In a mixing bowl, combine cream cheese, onions, 1-1/2 cups Mexican-cheese blend, garlic, 1/4 teaspoon cumin and cilantro. Stir in chicken; set aside. In a saucepan, melt butter. Stir in flour until smooth; gradually add broth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened.

Remove from the heat. Stir in Monterey Jack cheese, sour cream, chilies, thyme, salt, pepper and remaining cumin. Spread 1/2 cup of the cheese sauce in a greased 13-in. x 9-in. x 2-in baking dish. Top with six tortilla halves, a third of the chicken mixture and a fourth of the cheese sauce. Repeat tortilla, chicken and cheese sauce layers twice. Top with remaining tortillas, cheese sauce and Mexican cheese. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Uncover; bake 10 minutes longer or until heated through. Let stand 5 minutes before cutting. YIELD:12 servings.

THANK YOU all who served the Lord with your time, talents, and efforts at this year's V.B.S.!!

By Pastor Chu

Although we only had 22 children participate in our V.B.S. this year, the effort involved in coordinating and staffing the ministry was no less than in previous years. You, the Holy Cross volunteers — your number equaled or exceeded the number of participants — planted the Gospel of Jesus Christ into

the hearts of the children (and their families) in many and various ways as you led them in Bible lessons, Christian songs, crafts, snacks, and games and as you welcomed and engaged them with Christian love during closing dinner and program. The Lord kept

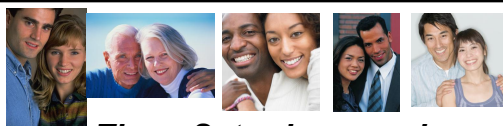
His promise that where two or three are gathered in His name, there He is in the midst of them. The Lord was with you and was glorified through you and your service of love in His name. And He promises that His Word will accomplish the purpose for which He sends it. Again, Thank you!

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Please RSVP to Pastor Phillip Kohlmeyer

at (925) 586-2575 or

Email: phillip333@gmail.com



July Birthdays

- 2 Gerda Koch
- 3 Peggy Odrzywolski
- 5 Carol Chu
- 18 Hannah Johnson
- Eric roman
- 20 Pat Easby
- Dwight Gemar
- 24 Wyatt Ingle
- 25 Michael Gemar
- 20 Philip Aduan
- 31 Megan Gemar

Anniversaries

- 10 Michael & Carl neer
- 18 George & Diane Oatis
- 23 Peter & Annaliesa Liedtke
- 26 Mike & Tina Voss
- 29 Don & Darlene Nash
- 30 Allen & Cherylene Brueckner

August Birthdays

- 3 Kayleigh Coyne
- 6 Dave Caruso
- 7 Kayla Neer
- Scott Stadler
- 8 Abby Humphrey
- 14 Ann Caruso
- Carrie Kroeger
- 16 Eyona Pargman
- 21 Christine Roman
- 22 Carla Johnson-Neer
- 24 Gail baker

Anniversaries

- 30 Phyllis O'Leary
- 31 John Ballard
- Kathryn Gin
- Darrel Humphrey
- Anniversaries**
- 25 Dale & Debbie Boettcher
- 26 Scott & Idalene Stadler
- 28 John & Andrea Beutel

July 2010

Sunday†	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18*	19 6:30p Church Council 7p Boy Scout (L)	20 4p UB Tutoring (E)	21	22 9:30a Craft (H) 4p UB Tutoring (E)	23	24
25	26 8:30a RDP (wr) 7p Boy Scout (L)	27 4p UB Tutoring (E)	28	29 9:30a Craft (H) 4p UB Tutoring (E)	30	31

August 2010

Sunday†	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1* Mite Box / Hat Sunday	2 8:30a RDP (wr) 6:30p WoHC Brd 7p Boy Scout (H, L)	3 4p UB Tutoring (E)	4	5 9:30a Craft (H) 4p UB Tutoring (E) 7p Men's Group	6	7
8	9 8:30a RDP (wr) 6:30p WoHC General Mtg 7p Boy Scout (L)	10 4p UB Tutoring (E) 6:30p Elders	11 1p Senior Brd (L)	12 9:30a Craft (H) 4p UB Tutoring (E)	13	14
15*	16 8:30a RDP (wr) 6:30p Church Council 7p Boy Scout (L)	17 4p UB Tutoring (E)	18 9:45a NFS to Oak'd Zoo	19 9:30a Craft (H) 4p UB Tutoring (E) 7p Men's Group	20	21 9a Thrivent (H)
22	23 8:30a RDP (wr) 7p Boy Scout (L)	24 4p UB Tutoring (E)	25	26 9:30a Craft (H) 4p UB Tutoring (E)	27	28
29*	30 7p Boy Scout (L)	31 4p UB Tutoring (E)	(cl= Choir Loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg, H=Parish Hall, L=Library, ws=wing room)			

Notes: Sunday Schedule†

* = Holy Communion Sunday

Service: 9:00AM

Sunday School and Bible Studies: 10:30AM



*Please Remember
to Keep these Friends
in Your Prayers*

Paul Daule, Sue Saalfeld, Muriel Strieter, Trudy Huenninghaus, Ellen Stenson, Bob Richards, Steven Liedtke, AJ and Caylin Stanley, Phyllis O'Leary, Charles and Chuck Johnson, Brennan and Devin Helmer, Christine

Helmer, Joy Parker, Mr. and Mrs. McDavid, Wanda Schwartz, Dorothy Taylor, Burma Grandt, Laurence Grandt, Robert Grandt, Inge Stone, Luca Nishimori, Glorine Brown, Sienna Lee, Elizabeth Bothé, Kathy Kinser, Linda Martino, Abbi and Alexandria Roman.

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Farewell Letter from Jason, DCE Intern

Dear Brothers and Sisters
of Holy Cross,

I wanted to write a small thank you note for your prayers, support, and encouragement over this past year here at Holy Cross. This year came with challenges along with great rewards. As I look back to this year, I will cherish many fond memories. Here are some particular ones that stand out in my mind...

* Joining with fellow church leaders (the elders and the former church president Al Swan) to sing a hymn for the Rally Day's Talent Show. I believe we sounded pretty good and need volunteers to fill the open positions for the next performance. Please send your song request to the elders.

* Retreats, lock-ins, overnights

and other youth events. Also playing sardines and hide & seek, where I would spend minutes on end underneath the sink in the Conference Room.

* Going to Men of the Cross' Bible Studies twice a month; especially the time Greg Syrovatka brought a cooler of beer to share with the men of the group.

These are just a few of many memories I am going to take from this place. I wish I was able to thank all of you individually, but I know some of you are heading on vacations and others are away. May God bless this church and those who are in it. Feel free to give me a phone call, send me an email, or text. Have a great summer!

God's Servant, *Jason E. Gullidge Rm. 8*

Worship Schedule:

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

Weekly Bible Study Schedule*:

Ladies Bible Study
Monday 12:30PM Conference Room
(will resume in the fall, dta)

Men's Group
1st & 3rd Thursday 7:00PM
Conference Room

Choir Rehearsal:

Tuesday 7:15PM—8:45PM
(resume in September, dta)

Outreach:

Fourth Sunday of each month,
11:30AM (resume in the fall, dta)

Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday
September Cross Currents: August 20

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

Newsletter Editor: Grace Gin