



# Cross Currents



Volume 11 Issue 122

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

December 2014



MESSAGE  
FROM  
PASTOR CHU

## Don't Obscure the Christ of Christmas

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Chances are, you don't have an Upside Down Christmas Tree. If you have not heard of the upside down Christmas tree, you can see them in major stores or look online. Upside down Christmas trees are mounted onto a base on the floor or hung from the ceiling; either method frees up floor space, which is one of the benefits of the upside down Christmas tree.



There is no definitive history on the origin of the upside down Christmas tree, though it is generally traced to the Middle Ages. In the 7<sup>th</sup> century, the English

Monk, Boniface, traveled to Germany where he used the triangular shape of a fir tree to symbolize the Trinity. His followers began to revere the fir tree as God's Tree. By the 12<sup>th</sup> century, it was common practice to hang the tree upside down from the ceiling as a symbol for Christianity.

Some suggest that traditional Christian trees (right-side up) point to heaven and that an upside tree is sacrilegious. Others note that the upside down tree can resemble the shape of Christ on the cross. At the least, an upside down Christmas tree would be a conversation starter, and it has been a slow trend over the past ten years or so.

Upside down or right-side up, the Christmas tree is a tradition. Which ever tree you prefer, what's important is that we don't allow the Christmas tree or any of the other traditions that have become integral to our celebration of Christmas to obscure the Christ of Christmas and the Gospel of why God came in the flesh in Immanuel, God with us:

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)*



&

**Activities**

### **Sunday, December 7**

Sunday School Bake Sale – Funds go to Heifer International

Confirmation Class meets at 11 a.m.

### **Sunday, December 14**

Worship Service: Christmas Carols and Gospel at 9:30 a.m.; Potluck after service

### **Wednesday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.**

### **Thursday, December 25**

**Christmas Day Worship Service with Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.**

*Merry Christmas*

**Bible Studies**

Sunday Bible class will be on break during December, will reconvene in January

Wednesday Evening Bible Study Meet on December 3, 10 & 17 at 7:00 p.m.

**December****Birthdays**

- 1 Liz Ballard
- 2 Marla Kuefner
- 5 Rayna Kamerzell
- 6 Peter Liedtke
- 12 Emily Scouten
- 16 Alexandra Roman  
Susan Stenson
- 18 Bill Luker
- 21 Allen Brueckner
- 22 Mindy Wirtz
- 25 Marv Kreitz
- 27 Terry Hawkyard
- 30 Christopher Chu
- 31 Jennifer Rankin

**Anniversary**

- 10 Herb & Marilyn  
Neumann

**ATTN: MUSICIANS**

If you would like to participate in the Christmas Eve service to enrich the celebration of our Savior's birth, please contact Diana Meux at (dianamcm02@yahoo.com or 510-526-3294). Also, if you are able to join the choir even temporarily, that would be a great help - we especially need more sopranos.

Thank you! *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**Dec. Rehearsals**

<b>2</b>	<b>no rehearsal</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>

**Women of Holy Cross Christmas Party**  
**Monday, December 8 at 5:30PM**


The WoHC board cordially invites all ladies of Holy Cross to attend our annual Christmas Party. We'll have a sumptuous dinner prepared by chefs Mike and Scott, singing carols, White Elephant gift exchange (*Optional, must bring gift to participate*) and yummy desserts. Bring a friend! Come celebrate our Savior's birth with us!

Details and sign-up sheets are posted on the WoHC bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

**Those who are in need of our prayers:**

**Sue Saalfeld, Muriel Strieter, Joy Parker** (Gayle Bothe's sister-healing), **Wanda Schwartz, Dorothy Taylor** (Karen Gamble's mother), **Robert & David Grandt** (Liz Aduan's brothers), **Pauline Fudge** (Liz Aduan's Aunt-heart failure) **Inge Stone, Elizabeth Bothé** (Gayle Bothe's granddaughter, non-churched), **Abbi and Alex Roman, June Stewart** (Judy West's friend-fainting), **Jan Tammiste** (Roman's nephew-brain injury, healing), **Betty and Cal Kallsen, Billy Godsey** (healing), **Jeannine Godsey** (inner peace), **Steven Liedtke** (healing), **Esther Lacey and Bernice Aiman** (Violet Griffin's sisters-elder care), **Matt Goodshaw** (Brueckner's family friend-continued multiple myeloma), **Maddie Conklin** (Judy West's friend-lung, pancreatic cancer), **Bob Oliver** (healing), **Herbert and Clara Huppert** (healing, guidance), **Bill Bothe** (successful radiation treatments), **Lee Rankin** (Jennifer's mom-healing), **Julie Oback** (Diana Meux sister-cancer, healing), **Andrew Gamble** (Gamble's grandson-juvenile arthritis), **Ron Gamble** (recovery), **Bob Hartman, Kristie Barton** (healing), **Drew Oatis** (healing), **Blake Frances** (Bill Luker's grand nephew-chemo, brain cancer), **Helen Wehmeyer** (Kroeger's family friend-stroke/heart attack, healing), **Don Roberts** (stroke, healing), **Adrienne Marchand Brown** (Carrie Kroeger's friend-successful chemo treatments), **Betty Kuss** (Pat Easby's cousin-leukemia, comfort for her and family), **Wilma Burch** (healing-fall), **Idalene and Suzanne Stadler** (surgeries-healing), **Donna Spiegel** (Katty's daughter in-law-fall, brain surgery, healing), **Jaime Spiegel** (Katty's granddaughter-ulcer surgery, healing).

**Chaplains among the armed forces and those serving in the military:**

**Taylor Bothe-Yates** (Gayle Bothe's grand-niece, Texas), **Capt. Richard Hill** (Violet Griffin's great nephew), **Cadet Megan Gemar, PFC Kevin Hayworth** (Glenda's grandson-Hawaii), **P.O.W. and M.I.A.'s.**

## **Christmas 1941**

### **A view in the mirror of time.**

In 1847 twelve pastors representing fourteen congregations met in Chicago Ill. at St Paul Lutheran Church and founded the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states. It's westward movement brought it to Freeman SD establishing St Paul Lutheran Church in 1882.

My story begins on

Sun Dec 21, 1941 at which time the church service began with a German and English sermon. That evening a Christmas musical was rendered featuring a choir, solos and ensembles.

Wed Dec 24, Christmas eve. A Children's program from the Lutheran parochial school was presented with songs and biblical quotations from Luke's story of the birth of Jesus.

Thur. Dec 25 Christmas day.

Fri. Dec 26 Second Christmas day.

Sat. Dec 27 Third Christmas day.

Sun. Dec 28 The new week begins.

In each of these last 4 days there was a German and an English service with sermons. The town was closed for 4 consecutive days without available food, gas or other conveniences. The second and third Christmas days are now only distant memories that are no longer observed.

—bill morfeld

### **Dec. 3rd Norseman's at DVC**

For those of you who bought tickets to the lunch at Norseman, meet at church at 10:00 a.m. and leave promptly at 10:15, lunch starts at 11:00. Parking passes are needed and will be passed out at church ahead of time. If you car pool or go directly, don't go without a parking pass.



### **Nifty Fifty Seniors Christmas Celebration**

**Thursday, December 18**

On Dec 18th the Nifty Fifty Seniors invite you to attend their Christmas Celebration in the Social Hall where they will have a delicious lunch, sing Christmas carols and have seniors tell of their past Christmas happenings as well as how they celebrate their Christmas. today...Trudy was telling me of how they celebrated their Christmas in Germany. I hope she will talk because it was really interesting I received an E mail about horses and Christmas that I will read which is wonderful but Sad...Doc Morfield also has a story about Christmas that I hope he will tell.

and Cherylene and Allen Brueckner who has been stationed in several locations for Christmas . certainly must have some interesting experiences....If you have a story (not too long) that you think others would like to hear talk to me. With our presidents emphasis on the Muslim religion we more than ever need to pray , Worship and mediate to the profound and extraordinary truth of what god has done through the life of Jesus. We know the reason for the Season. We start our celebration with lunch at 11:30 again we have our wonderful talented beautiful Melarie Seidel and her helpers that have agreed to make our lunch. After lunch we will sing Christmas Carols accompanied by Sally Miller on the Piano and Marv leading the signing. Last year and again (I Hope) this year our German contingency will sign "Silent Night and We Wish you a Merry Christmas " in German. We are certainly are blessed to have such group of Christians at our Church and what a wonderful way to Herald in the Christmas Season..What a great time to bring a friend..... —Marv Kreitz

### **CALLING ALL THOSE WITH A SWEET TOOTH!**

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> during coffee hour, the youth will be peddling their homemade baked goods. Come build a plate to go or grab a bite while you visit. Your donation will support the youth in their endeavors of raising funds for Heifer International. Through Heifer International, the gift of an animal can help eradicate poverty and hunger. —Chris Roman







## Elephant Bar Re-cap by Marv Kreitz

Our first lunch out on Nov. 7th was to the Elephant Bar Restaurant located just off Willow Pass Road and Diamond Blvd. We had 5 attend Marv Kreitz, Bill Luker, Tim Hintz Trudy Huenninghaus and Howard Scouter. They seated us in the middle of the restaurant and we immediately felt the delightful ambiance of the African setting with the Elephant Head and spears etc, like we were in a different setting than a restaurant in Concord. I had the Kun Pao Shrimp stir-fried in a fiery Kun Pao sauce with fresh vegetables, roasted cashews water chestnuts and hot chili peppers; it was delightful. I don't remember what everyone had but How-

ard said he was impressed with the meal and would like to come back...I used my 20% discount senior card and they said this will be the last time I could use it because new owners will not honor it anymore. Such is life....Everyone seemed to have a good time...

## Al the Wops by Marv Kreitz

It was kind of an overcast day and I was a little worried about the possibility of fog in the Delta so I brought Sacramento, Stockton and Walnut Grove, which is next to Lock up on my computer to check on the weather. Visibility for Walnut Grove was 10 miles...so our trip was on. We had had rain and the weather was crisp and fresh just the kind of weather I like to walk in and smell the earth. We had 5 people sign up and I was planning on taking my car as it can hold 5, but only Bill Luker and Kristie Barton (a really neat gal) showed up at church. So the three of us piled in my car, I can really say it was great getting to know each other. Those of you who miss going on our outing just don't know the pleasure of just being together. The trip which meanders along the Sacramento River was delightful but I noticed there was a lot of Hyacinth plants floating in the water which is a real problem as it clogs the inlets. In fact several of the canals are clogged across. Part of driving through the Delta is enjoying the farms and seeing their fruit trees and of course the vineyards.

We arrived at Al the Wops a little after 1:00 and had to park on the end of the block which was odd as we didn't see anyone on the street. I took a picture of Kristie and Bill in front of the restaurant and we opened the door and went in. Just as I thought, it was loaded with local customers having their beers and covering all the problems they had during the week. We went directly to the dining room which was empty so we sat where we wanted. Bill and I had the 13oz New York Strip steak along with a pile of sourdough bread and a nice salad. The Steak was excellent and the bread was warm and covered with butter. I had three slices and couldn't eat anymore. Kristie had a bowl of soup (looked great) and a sandwich. Soon a couple came in and would you believe they lived in Bonner Ferry Idaho where Kristy is from. They enjoyed talking about their town and sharing memories. When we were leaving Bill started talking with a man outside the local school house and he was retired army too, so they too had much in common. The trip back was as enjoyable as the trip there....Those of you who



## **Dec. 2014 – What's Happening with the WoHC?** by Joyce Liebe

The WoHC (Women of Holy Cross) continue to be busy with various activities.

### **A recap of November:**

- **At our Nov. General Meeting**, Pastor Chu led a Bible Study on Advent, Christmas, & the Gospel. Pastor packs a lot of meaningful knowledge and thought provoking information into 30 minutes! The handouts will surely help us in remembering the true meaning of Advent & Christmas. A couple of notes I took were "The hope of the Christian Church is that Christ is coming back..." and that "we are to share the Gospel and God will do the work". After a delicious dessert provided by Grace Gin and Jan Walker (& short Business Meeting), we worked on our craft/fabric project for the "Days for Girls" organization. I am happy to report we successfully completed the task and there were no injuries. Special thanks to Cherylene Brueckner & Chris Roman for making sure our fabric pieces get to the next group to complete the kits.
- **Our Corner Cafe** was open for business on Fri.-Sat., 11/7-11/8. This CONGREGATION event was headed by Melarie Seidel. We raised \$1232 for our Parking Lot fund! Special thanks to Idalene Stadler, Suzanne Stadler, and Cherylene Brueckner for the special Christmas candy/cookie theme dining area! Also thanks to all the volunteers and diners who helped make this another successful event.

### **Now, for our upcoming activities:**

- **Monday, 12/8. WoHC Christmas dinner - 5:30pm appetizers & social time, 6pm dinner. Held at Holy Cross Parish Hall.** You must make plans to attend our most attended event of the year! We are fortunate to have Mike Seidel & Scott Stadler as our co-chefs this year! After appetizers & dinner, we will sing, have a White Elephant gift "exchange", & dessert. This is a perfect time to invite your friends &/or relatives to Holy Cross to celebrate the birth of Christ.!
- **Monday, 1/12. General Meeting & Baby Shower - 6:30pm at Sue O'Malley's home.** We will have a speaker from Contra Costa County WIC program & our gifts will be donated to recipients of the WIC program. Plan to join us for a fun evening with games & refreshments – as we help some women & children in our community.
- **Monday, 1/19. Council Thank You Dinner, 6pm. Held at Holy Cross Parish Hall.** To say THANKS, the WoHC Board will prepare & share dinner with the council members (& others who help keep Holy Cross running smoothly). This dinner will be held before the monthly Council Meeting (meeting may start a little later than normal). Invitations will be out by the end of the year.

Remember to check the WoHC bulletin board & Sunday bulletins for more details on these & all activities. Sign up & join us. As always, please feel free to contact me or any of the Board if you have questions, comments, or suggestions. Blessings, Joyce

**NOTE:** I saw this prayer and it just hit home. I wanted to share it with my Sisters in Christ:

Lord, thank You for another day. Thank You for the strength that You give. Lord, I ask You to help us to get the rest we need tonight. Help us to prepare for another day tomorrow. I thank You Lord for all that You are doing for each and every one of us. Father, I pray for each of my sisters tonight, I pray for their hearts and what they have going in their lives.... what they may be struggling with. I pray that we can all seek You for the help that only You, Lord can give. Our struggles are what bring us closer to You. Father open our hearts and our eyes to see what You want us to see. I pray that we look at ourselves first before looking at others in their wrong. Father, help us to see what You want to fix in our lives. Help us to do whatever we must to do this. I pray this in Jesus holy name. Amen and Amen.



### **2014 Café Corner at the Holiday Hutch Boutique**

What a blessing we received working in the Café Corner this year! Idalene and her helpers (elves) transformed the area designated for the Café into a beautiful Holiday Wonderland. Melarie and her helpers (elves) made everything hum in the kitchen like clockwork. Herb and I reported to Melarie on Friday morning and were given our assigned duties in the kitchen. Everything was so organized and there were just the right number of helpers (elves), which made for lots of fun. In fact, we had so much fun that we gladly came back again on Saturday morning to serve as helpers in the kitchen. The menu selections were wonderful, and we had no problem selling out of everything each day, from the warm homemade cinnamon rolls, the homemade chicken salad on croissants, the homemade chili served with homemade corn muffins, the homemade chicken noodle soup and hot dogs with all the trimmings. There was even homemade Lemonade as one of the beverage choices. All of the homemade selections were made by our own Melarie Seidel who it must be said really "Rocked the Corner Café" this year!

We had a wonderful time and are looking forward to next year's Café Corner!

— Herb and Marilyn Neumann

### **OUTREACH/CONCORD SHELTER Sunday, Nov. 23**

We were greeted with 60 hungry people, with more coming in and out of the dining room. The garlic bread smelled awesome as we unpacked all the hot, homemade food-hamburger patties with onion gravy, green salad with fruit, pumpkin pie, rice dish with veggies, and homemade cookies too. It was an awesome feast as the people gathered in line and we said the Lord's Prayer. Out of the corner of my eye was a gentlemen moved to tears and when asked, said, "I didn't know all these people knew the Lord's Prayer". A gentle reminder of God's goodness. We passed out devotional books and all was happy. Thanks for all the prayers and help with hands and donations of candy and food items. It takes many hours and love of Christ shared with the needy in our community. Pastor Chu's sermon reminds us of being a servant for Christ. This is His love in action. — carol Lau

### **Tidbits on WoHC General Meeting on 11/10**

There were about ten ladies attended. The meeting began with Pastor Chu giving us an overview of Advent, Christmas, and the Gospel. Here are some highlights:

Advent, "adventus", begins of a new liturgical church year in the Western church and has 4 Sundays. The Christmas Gospel is *Christ has come*.

The advent Gospel is *Christ is coming*. The focus/emphasis of Advent is on Hope, Anticipation/Expectation — Christ's 1st and 2nd coming and what comes after and receive Him through Word and Sacrament. Finally, Preparation/Repentance — celebrate His 1st coming—*He is here*, receive Him in Word and Sacrament—*He is with us*, and welcome Him when He comes again in glory—*He will come again*. We are to share the Gospel that Jesus is the reason for the season, the hope of His 2nd coming and Emmanuel...He is with us!

After Bible study, President Joyce Liebe conducted a short business meeting and the ladies had their desserts of Pumpkin bars with vanilla ice cream prepared by Grace Gin and Jan Walker, the hostesses of the evening.

Finishing up the evening, The ladies worked on the "Days for Girls craft" prepared by Chris Roman and Cherylene Brueckner. They traced octagonal shaped patterns on flannel fabrics while others cut. Due to their efficiency, the job was done in no time, resulting in piles of cut-outs ready to be shipped to the next destination. — Grace Gin

### **Save the Date: the Woman of Holy Cross Baby Shower At the January General Meeting Monday, January 12th at 6:30 at Sue O'Malley's home 4495 Barberry Court, Concord, CA 94521**

We will have a short business meeting, play a game and Sue will provide refreshments. Sue's neighbor, Marina Rowoldt from the Contra Costa County WIC (Women, Infants and Children Program) will be our speaker.

The WIC program is a nutrition program that helps pregnant women, women who have just had a baby, infants and young children eat well, be active and stay healthy. Marina will give us an overview of the program and she will be happy to take our donated items to help those enrolled in the WIC program. Since they promote breastfeeding they prefer not to have any items with bottles or formula.

Some baby shower ideas are:

Baby Wipes	Diapers	Baby Clothes
Baby toys and books	Safety kits	Nursing covers
Blankets	Bath items	Gift certificates

If you are unable to make it to the shower, there will be a box in the Parish Hall after Christmas for those who would like to donate items to this worthy organization.



# December 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 2:15p WoHC Board Mtg 7p Boy Scout (L)	2 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	3 10a NFS lunch outing at DVC 7p Bible Study (H)	4	5	6
7 Mite Box /Hat Sunday <b>9:30a</b> Worship w/ Communion 10:30a Bake Sale 11:00a Sunday School 11:00a Confirmation 2-6p Myanmar Chris- tian (H)	8 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 5:30p WoHC Christmas Din- ner Party 7p Boy Scout (L)	9 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	10 1p Senior Brd (L) 7p Bible Study (H)	11	12	13
14 <b>9:30a</b> Worship- Christmas Caroling and Gospel 11:00a Potluck 2-6p Myanmar Chris- tian (H)	15 1p Bridge 6:00p Church Council 7p Boy Scout (L)	16 6:30p Elders Mtg <b>4:00p</b> <b>Choir</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	17	18 11:30a NFS Christmas Celebration	19	20
21 <b>9:30a</b> Worship w/ Communion 11:00a Sunday School 2-6p Myanmar Chris- tian (H)	22 7p Boy Scout (L)	23	24 6:00PM Choir <b>7:00PM</b> Christmas Eve Service	25 <b>9:30AM</b> Christmas Day Service w/ Communion	26	27
<b>9:30a</b> Worship 11:00a Sunday School 11:30a OUTREACH 2-6p Myanmar Chris- tian (H)						



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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**

**Newsletter Editor: Grace Gin**

**Worship Schedule:**

<b>Sunday Service</b>	<b>9:30AM</b>
<b>Communion</b>	<b>1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays</b>
<b>Adults Bible Studies</b>	<b>11:00AM (Library and Conf. Rm)</b>
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>

**Week Day Bible Study Schedule:**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>12:30PM</b>	<b>Conference Room, Ladies</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>7:00PM</b>	<b>Parish Hall</b>

**Choir Rehearsal:**

**Tuesday 7:15PM—8:45PM**

**Outreach:**

**Fourth Sunday of each month after service**

**Publication Deadline:**

**Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday**

**December Cross Currents: November 20**