



# Cross Currents



Volume 7 Issue 118

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

August 2014

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## EQUIP OUR CHILDREN TO FACE CHALLENGES

Looking through some old files not too long ago, I came across an article I wrote for the September 2003 Cross Currents. I am submitting an edited version of the article for your reading because we and our young people face the same, and in some cases greater, cultural, social, moral, and spiritual challenges today.

For example:

- \* California Assembly Bill 1266, passed and signed into law in 2013, "*require[s] that a pupil be permitted to participate in sex-segregated school programs and activities, including athletic teams and competitions, and use facilities consistent with his or her gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on the pupil's records,*" (1) meaning e.g., that a male student is allowed to use a woman's restroom based on his gender self-identification as "female."
- \* Sex and health education curricula present and promote as healthy, normal behaviors what Scripture calls sin and/or usurp parental responsibility and authority to decide when and what their children should learn about sex. (2)
- \* Students are being taught to respect, accept, and embrace all religions as valid though Christianity is not always shown the same deference.
- \* Accessibility to internet via smart phones or tablets

(1) [http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201320140AB1266](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB1266)

(2) <http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/07/14/california.lgbt.education/>  
<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/24/public-school-sex-ed-class-could-teach-on-oral-sex-and-bestiality\\_n\\_1028670.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/24/public-school-sex-ed-class-could-teach-on-oral-sex-and-bestiality_n_1028670.html)

[http://www.hawaiireporter.com/hawaii-lawmaker-](http://www.hawaiireporter.com/hawaii-lawmaker-renews-fight-to-end-or-revise-controversial-sex-ed-program/123)

renews-fight-to-end-or-revise-controversial-sex-ed-program/123



MESSAGE  
FROM  
PASTOR CHU

From September, 2003:

As a new school year begins, our children return to an arena that is for the most part decidedly non-Christian and, in some cases, openly hostile to the teachings of Scripture. They will be pressured to conform to attitudes and engage in activities and behaviors that will test their resolve to be Christ-like and endanger them physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Even those who attend Christian schools are not completely safe from such influences. Non-Christian influences on our children might be mitigated by a Christian staff and environment at Christian schools, but not every child attending such schools are Christian or come from Christian homes and they will, wittingly or not, bring their non-Christian influences to bear on those around them.

I am not suggesting that we teach our children to shun those who are not Christians. However, as parents, we need to be aware of the non-Christian influences in the environment in which our children spend 6-8 hours per day (more if you add sports... and add to that television!), and teach our children to discern what is and is not God-pleasing. Just teaching our kids right from wrong or encouraging them not to get in with the wrong crowd is not enough, nor is telling them to ask "WWJD?" (What would Jesus do?) as was the hype [some] years back.

(Continued on page 2, Equip)

*Equip* (Continued from page 1)

We must pray for them even as Jesus prayed for His disciples and for us (John 17). We must nurture their faith in Christ through God's Word and the use of the Sacraments, teaching them what Christ did for them at the cross and the empty tomb. We must teach them God's Word, read it to/with them, and encourage them to spend time in prayer and personal devotion. We must remind them of their baptism in which God sealed them as His own and gave them the Holy Spirit and through which baptism He now gives them power daily to live their faith in Christ. Then and only then will they be fully equipped, as St. Paul says, *"with the full armor of God: with the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the Gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God"* (Paraphrased, Ephesians 6:13-17). Then and only then will they be able to *[not] conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of [their] mind. Then [they] will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will* (Romans 12:2).

Our children will face many non-Christian influences, but strengthened by the power of the Spirit working through God's Word, they will be equipped to resist and overcome such influences and be a positive, Christian influence and witness to those around in their thoughts, words and deeds. ✠

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### July Birthdays

- 2 Gerda Koch
- 3 Peggy Odrzywolski
- 5 Carol Chu  
Eric Roman
- 10 Aimee Syrovatka
- 20 Pat Easby  
Dwight Gemar
- 25 Michael Gemar
- 29 Philip Aduan
- 31 Megan Gemar

### July Anniversaries

- 10 Michael & Carla Neer
- 18 George & Diane Oatis
- 23 Peter & Annaliesa Liedtke
- 26 Mike & Tina Voss
- 30 Allen & Cherylene Brueckner

### August Birthdays

- 3 Kayleigh Coyne
- 6 Dave Caruso
- 7 Kayla Neer  
Scott Stadler
- 8 Abby Humphrey
- 10 Marilyn Neumann
- 14 Ann Caruso  
Carrie Kroeger
- 16 Eyona Pargman
- 20 Michael Liedtke
- 21 Chris Roman
- 22 Carla Johnson-Neer
- 23 Jan Walker
- 24 Gail Baker
- 31 Darrell Humphrey

### August Anniversaries

- 26 Scott & Idalene Stadler
- 27 Michael & Rhonda Liedtke
- 28 John & Andrea Beutel

## CONDOLENCES TO THE BORCHER FAMILY

Herb Borchers was called home unto the Lord on Monday July 7, 2014. Memorial Service was held on July 12, 2014 at Holy Cross.



### THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS:

**Sue Saalfeld, Muriel Strieter, Lloyce Logan** (Judy West sister-in-law), **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 Tam-miste** (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), **Philip Aduan** (healing, hand surgery in fall), **Maddie Conklin** (Judy West's friend-lung, pancreatic cancer), **Bob Oliver** (healing), **Herbert and Clara Huppert** (healing, guidance), **Don Roman** (physical and spiritual healing), **Bill Bothe** (successful radiation treatments), **Lee Rankin** (Jennifer's mom-healing), **Eyona Pargman** (healing), **Mark Paulson** (Tina Voss' father-nursing facility), **Nick Engle** (healing-shoulder surgery), **Julie Oback** (Diana Meux sister-cancer, healing), **Carol Jakel** (Ron's sister in-law-cancer medications, healing), **Andrew Gamble** (Gamble's 10yr. old grandson-juvenile arthritis), **Don Roberts** (recovery), **Ron Gamble** (recovery), **Jack Mortenson, Bob Hartman, Dee Jakel** (healing), **Pat Easby** (arm-healing), **Diana** (Andrea Beutel's friend, mothers passing).

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

**Sgt. Michael Dawers** (Bill Koch's grandson-Pendleton), **Taylor Bothe-Yates** (Gayle Bothe's grand-niece, 2nd tour Afghanistan), **Capt. Richard Hill** (Violet Griffin's great nephew), **Cadet Megan Gemar, Warrant Officer Donna Cheek**, (Carrie Kroeger's cousin-Afghanistan), **PFC Kevin Hayworth** (Glenda's grandson-Hawaii), **P.O.W. and M.I.A.'s**



## UPDATED USE AGREEMENTS AND FEES

Our Holy Cross Council has completed review and updating of the written agreements and fees associated with reserved use of our facilities at Holy Cross. We have a tradition of making our Sanctuary and Parish Hall available for Council-approved uses. These can include use by members for private events, use by our long term tenants, requests from third parties and other uses that benefit our community. The requirements, agreements and fees have been updated and include varying fee schedules for

- Sanctuary use by our members, and those of Trinity and East Bay Myanmar Christian Fellowship.

- Parish Hall use by our members, those of Trinity and East Bay Myanmar, Clayton Valley Women's Club and third parties.

Note: Sanctuary use is restricted to our members, and those of Trinity and East Bay Myanmar. Mike Liebe

## PARKING LOT UPDATE - JULY 2014

The committee has been meeting regularly discussing issues related to the parking lot project. Trees have been a major consideration. You no doubt noticed one tree by the entrance has been removed and it has been replaced in the area outside the fence and away from the parking lot. PG & E and the city of Concord have to reach an agreement before PG & E will proceed with removing the trees in their right of way. Trees by the Church offices have done a considerable amount of damage to the existing parking lot and will probably cause damage to new pavement so we are considering a solution to that problem. The concrete curbs in the parking lot will probably be removed by a volunteer work party.

The Church Council has requested that we present a possible design plan to a special meeting of the voters so we will be working on that. The next step is to reduce our list of potential contractors and finalize the "scope of work" to be done – possibly in two steps.

As of June 30 the restricted parking lot fund totaled \$27,684.69. In addition the Memorial Funds recommended for parking lot improvement total \$24,901.53. Jean Eissner

## RITE OF CONFIRMATION



**The West brothers, Galvin and Noah** received the Rite of Confirmation at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Sunday, June 8, 2014. Congratulations!!

Photos (l-r): left: Gavin, Pastor, Noah; right: The West Family, Clark, Aaron, Gavin & Noah

## CONGRATULATIONS 2014 COLLEGE GRADUATES!



Rachael with Mom Claudia and Dad Dwight



**Rachel Gemar** graduated from Las Lomas High School on June 13, 2014. She will be attending a Biola University, a Christian college in the Los Angeles area, where she plans to study sociology.

**Christopher Chu** graduated from University of California, San Diego on June 14, 2014. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Bio-engineering. Chris will continue to stay on at UCSD to pursue his master's degree.



**Shelby Ann Oatis** graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego on May 10, 2014, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Managerial and Organizational Communication and minors in Business and Psychology. She has been accepted into Point Loma's graduate school where she will be pursuing a Masters degree in Business Administration.

## TWO OUTINGS FOR AUGUST

**August 8th 2014**

### **The new Mecca Mexican Restaurant**

This is the 2nd time we are having lunch at the New Mecca Mexican Restaurant located at 324 Railroad Ave. Pittsburg CA 94565 actually it will be the third time for me all because the food is sooooo Good...The first time I ordered the Chili Verde Burrito (Pork) and a Beef Enchilada and it came with only the Beef or Pork inside not with rice and beans...I had their special for \$9.50 a which came with refried beans rice on the side along with their famous bean dip and a regular dip. Beer was \$4.00 a bottle served in a frosted mug..Everything was excellent Meet at church at 12:15 leave at 12:30 lunch is at 1:00 Sign up in the social hall.

**August 22 2014**  
**Peter' Steak House**

Peter's Steak house is in the city of Isleton in the heart of the delta...During the gold rush period of 1849 Isleton was a sea of swaying tules and peat bogs. Chinese immigrants lured to California for gold stayed on to begin a hand labor task of dredging and constructing levees. When the water was pumped out, these islands were formed creating what Isleton residents now call home. The Chinese settled in the town and were joined by Japanese immigrants . After several fires in the town destroyed the buildings they decided to constructed them with metal exteriors siding as afire precaution .The unique community continues today to be a town of metal covered buildings ' .....Peter's Steakhouse has a 6,800 square foot dining area featuring a full bar and luxurious seating area. Peter is the former cook at the Del Rio Hotel and features his famous prime rib at his restaurant here in Isleton. I will post the menu near the sign up sheet in the social hall...we should plan on eating at 1:00 so we should meet at church at 11:45 and leave at 12:00 we should be able make it in an hour..Sound like a real fun outing. Bring a friend....

## June 27-Tarantino Outing Recap

We had eight that met at the ferry dock at Jack London Square to go to Tarantino's in San Francisco. Trudy, Bill Luker , Christl Rose, Carol Reynolds carpooled with Me, which made 5.What a great group. You could just feel the togetherness when we piled in the car at church and even though I like to talk I couldn't get a word in edgewise. Cheryl and Gregg drove separately as did Tim Hintz. I sat on the up-



per deck (for the view). It was crowded. I was disappointed as there was little activity at the Port Of Oakland; it seems that one of the large freight lines had moved to Los Angeles. But, it was still enjoyable travel down the estuary

and under the Bay Bridge and view the San Francisco Landscape with its towering skyscrapers. We were disappointed with the lack of sea lions at pier 39, but Fisherman's wharf was humming with activity. Street Mimes were doing their acts for donations. We went directly to Tarantino's and were warmly greeted and seated next to a window. The experienced waitress



explained all the specials. We had plenty of time to have a really relaxed enjoyable delicious lunch while looking down on the fishing boats as they came in and unloaded...

soon we were back on the busy wharf. Several went to the Marina where old ships were stored which you could board as well as view sea artifacts from years gone by. I made my way back to where we could catch the Ferry back to Oakland, but not until I had a double dip waffle cone filled with Tom & Jerry's Ice cream. (which I shared with Trudy). I always seem to find room for dessert. It was an all day outing, but very enjoyable...☆





# 2014 LWML CNH CONVENTION REPORT

BY KIMBERLY CHU



I had the privilege of attending the 2014 LWML CNH Convention as LWML-CNH Zone 7's Young Woman Representative. At the convention I caught a glimpse of what the LWML does on a greater scale and was amazed by the amount of business the ladies of the LWML could address in three days. However, the convention wasn't all work; we also had many opportunities for fellowship. We had worship services, a three part Bible study, and a banquet at the Air Museum with the Vibrance Quartet providing our evening entertainment.

The convention theme verses were Ephesians 6:10-18 in which Paul tells Christians to put on the armor of God and goes on to describe each piece and its purpose. When Christians put on the armor of God it isn't a fashion statement, to put on and take off or change as we see fit; we are putting on God's strength, as He has given it, in order to defend against Satan's attacks.

Our Bible study, led by Donna Pyle-founder of Artesian Ministries and author of 23 Bible studies, also focused on Ephesians 6:10-18 and how each piece of armor should be used in our daily lives. We must daily put on the FULL armor of God to protect us from Satan's attacks. Jesus is the Truth and like a belt holds all the armor together, the Truth holds us together. The breastplate of righteousness protects our hearts from Satan and his lies. The shoes of peace provide Christians with stability. If we are centered on Christ, Satan cannot overpower us. God gives us the shield of faith as our primary defense. Satan will attempt to strip us of this faith because he knows that without our faith we are vulnerable. Our helmet of salvation protects our minds. Satan's first attack begins in our minds when we begin to believe his lies and partial truths, which causes fear. Fear in turn causes us to react irrationally and lose our focus on Jesus. The final part of our armor is the sword of the Spirit, our weapon of choice, which judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Lastly, Donna spoke about prayer and how we are instructed to remain engaged in the spiritual fight through prayer. Prayer, like a military drill, is performed regularly to keep us alert and prepared for any attack Satan launches our way. Satan is constantly trying to rip away our faith. The stronger our faith, the harder Satan will attack. As a result we must continually pray for ourselves and our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ that we may stand firm in the Lord. †

WoHC President  
Joyce Liebe's →

## SUMMER GREETINGS TO ALL THE WOMEN OF HOLY CROSS

As your new President, I wanted to provide an update on what is happening with the WoHC over the summer. This is a little long, so perhaps get a beverage, sit down and relax for a while.

First, let me introduce our current Board Members:

† President	Joyce Liebe
† Vice President	Cherylene Brueckner (Appointed)
† Secretary	VACANT
† Treasurer	Melarie Seidel
† Birthday Gifts	Idalene Stadler
† Christian Life	Marilyn Neumann & Grace Gin
† Gospel Outreach	Gayle Bothe
† Human Care	Sue Reiter
† Membership Dev.	Carol Lau
† Servant Resources	Pat Easby
† Sunshine/Cards (B'day)	Idalene Stadler

(Get Well/Anniv/Sympathy) Chris Roman

The Board met in July for our first program planning meeting. NOTE: the WoHC Year is from Sept. - August. So we are planning our activities for Sept. 2014 - August 2015. A special thanks to those that offered help and suggestions on future activities! We always appreciate hearing what you would like to do and what you are able to help with. We will meet again in August to finalize our program and we will have our annual "Welcome Back" event in October to formally introduce the program and kick off the new year. We hope to see all WoHC there!

As you can see we have a couple Board vacancies. Since I've been a part of the WoHC we have always had enough women to help and participate in our service projects and activities - even when there have been vacancies on the Board. I understand if you feel you don't have time or don't want to over commit yourself (I feel the same way most days). However if you have enjoyed our activities, want to find out more about what we do, or want to get to know your sisters in Christ better - please join us! I can assure you that you can do as much or little as your time allows. We really are a flexible and supportive group of women that would love to have more women join us.

Also, I revised our bulletin board in the Parish Hall. My goal is to have this be a place where you can quickly see what is happening - with the WoHC, as well as the Zone, District, and National groups. We are all part of the LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League). Many of you may not get involved in any activities except WoHC, however in donating mites, participating in our Bites for Mites bake sale and some of our other activities, you are indirectly supporting the CNH (California, Nevada, Hawaii) District Mission Grants and the National Mission Grants. I can share how uplifting and inspiring it is to go to some of the Zone and District events!

Whew - That's all for now. I look forward to working for and with you all the coming year. Please let me or another Board member know if you have any questions or if you would like to get more involved (hint!). Many Blessings! †



### HC Choir Sang at Grace

On Sunday, June 8, Holy Cross choir members took their annual field trip to sing at Grace Lutheran Church in El Cerrito. The ladies prepared a potluck for a party afterwards. The congregation was invited to participate. A basket full of knickknacks and surprises was presented to Diana. As you can see in the picture, she was really having fun! Choir resumes in Sept. New members wanted!!! 🎵



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY PASTOR & MRS. CHU!

On June 29, 2014, the congregation celebrated Pastor and Carol's 28th wedding anniversary with a cake during coffee fellowship.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STENSONS

Susan and Glenn Stenson welcomed a new grandson, Colton, on July 1, 2014. His parents are Marjorie Albano and Mark Szykowski. Sister, Madi Szykowski is thrilled to have a baby brother!



**VIOLET GRIFFIN** has moved. Her phone remains the same. Her new address is:

**1890 Farm Bureau Rd. #13  
Concord, CA 94519**

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU CONVERSATIONS

By now you have received Issue #5 of the Getting To Know You Conversations. We have received such a blessing with each conversation and pray that you are enjoying reading them and learning more about the people we worship and serve with at Holy Cross. We look forward to many more conversations in the coming months. We do want you to know that you are not under any obligation to say yes when we call you; but we don't want to leave anyone out because it's been such a joy.

God's Blessings,  
Ann Caruso and Marilyn Neumann

### AVOCADO SALSA

by Cheryl Syrovatka

1 package (16 oz) frozen white corn, thawed  
1 can (6 oz) black olives, drained and sliced  
1 medium to large sweet red pepper, chopped  
1 medium onion, chopped  
6 garlic cloves, minced  
1/3 cup olive oil  
1/4 cup lemon juice  
3 tablespoons cider vinegar  
1 teaspoon dried oregano  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon pepper  
4 ripe avocados  
Tortilla chips

In a large bowl, combine corn, olives, red pepper and onion. In a small bowl, combine garlic, oil, lemon juice, vinegar, oregano, salt and pepper; mix well.

Pour over corn mixture and toss to coat.

Cover and refrigerate overnight. Just before serving, chop avocados and stir into salsa. Serve with tortilla Chips. Yield: about 7 cups. Enjoy



# AUGUST

## 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Mite Box /Hat Sunday <b>9:30a Worship w/ Comm</b> 10:30a Sunday School/ Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	4 6p WbHC Plan- ning Mtg & Pot- luck @ Chery- lene's 7p Boy Scout (H)	5	6 7p Bible Study	7 9:30a CWWC Craft	8 12:15 NFS Lunch Out- ing, New Mecca	9
10 <b>9:30a Worship</b> 10:30a Sunday School/ Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	11 7p Boy Scout (L)	12	13 1p Senior Brd (L) 7p Bible Study	14 9:30a CWWC Craft	15	16
17 <b>9:30a Worship w/ Comm</b> 10:30a Sunday School/ Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	18 1:30p Bridge (H) 6:30p Church Council 7p Scout (L)	19 6:30p Elders	20 7p Bible Study	21 9:30a CWWC Craft	22 11:45a NFS Lunch Out- ing, Peter's Steak House	23
24 <b>9:30a Worship</b> 10:30a Sunday School/ Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	25 7p Boy Scout (L)	26	27 7p Bible Study	28 9:30a CWWC Craft	29	30
31 <b>9:30a Worship w/ Comm</b> 10:30a Sunday School/ Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)						

(d= Choir Loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg, H=Parish Hall, L=Library, ws=wing room)





**Holy Cross Lutheran  
Church, LCMS**

1092 Alberta Way  
Concord, CA 94521



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, *LCMS*  
1092 Alberta Way  
Concord, CA 94521  
(925) 686-2000

**Email:**

holycrossconcord@sbcglobal.net

**Website:**

Www.ctsmemberconnect.net

**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:**

Sunday Service 9:30AM

Communion 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sun

Adults Bible Studies 10:30AM

Sunday School 10:30AM

**Week Day Bible Study Schedule:**

Monday (Ladies) 12:30PM CR

Wednesday 7:00PM PH

**Choir Rehearsal:**

Tuesday 7:15PM—8:45PM

Summer Break, Resumes in Sept.

**Outreach:**

Fourth Sunday of each month

**Publication Deadline:**

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

September Cross Currents:

August 20, 2014

**Office Hours:** M-F 9AM-1PM

**Lift High the Cross!  
A Mission Festival**

- Sponsored by LWML CNH Zone 12
- Redeemer Lutheran Church
- 750 Moss Avenue, Chico
- Saturday, August 16, 2014
- 9:30 a.m. Registration & Fellowship
- 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- *Featured speaker:*
- *LWML CNH President Lynnette Campbell*

Join us to hear inspirational stories of mission work in Zone 12 and beyond!

Cost - \$7.00 includes lunch? A free-will offering will be received for 2014 - 2016 LWML CNH Mission Grants

Please RSVP by August 10th to Linda Allen, [530-891-0489](tel:530-891-0489), or email [lindajallen53@yahoo.com](mailto:lindajallen53@yahoo.com)