



Cross Currents



Volume 10 Issue 121

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

November 2014



MESSAGE
FROM
PASTOR CHU

Vote as if your vote really matters...

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**Thanksgiving Day
Service with
Holy Communion
November 27
at 9:30AM**

Every election is consequential and this year's midterm election on November 4 is no exception.

As in every midterm election, all 435 seats of the House of Representatives and one third of the Senate seats are up for grabs. A number of gubernatorial and mayoral races, other state and local offices, and seats in state legislatures and town councils will be decided.

Local and state elections impact the lives of those within those respective jurisdictions, but the House and Senate races impact the lives of all Americans. Congress has the Constitutional authority to make law and declare war. Federal spending bills originate in the House. The House also has the authority to impeach while the Senate is responsible for convicting or acquitting. The Senate ratifies treaties and confirms or rejects the President's nominations/appointments to the Executive and Judicial branches (lifetime appointments for district and circuit court judges and Supreme Court justices). Laws passed by Congress and signed by the President and decisions of the federal courts have far reaching and often unforeseen ramifications for the entire country in the present and for generations to come.

All U.S. citizens have the right and responsibility to vote. To be sure, after every election, many are elated over the outcome while the rest lament another lost opportunity to make changes one way or another. Still, our vote is a means by which our voices are heard, a privilege that billions around the world wish they had but which we often take for granted.

Vote as if your vote really matters, be-

cause it does, though perhaps not to the extent you would like, but entrust the results and your future to God because He is God. For all the shortcomings of our system of government, Paul reminds us in Romans 13 that *"there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."* (Rom.13:1)

No matter what the outcome of this or future elections, God is in control.

He is the only true God. *But Yahweh is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King.* (Jeremiah 10:10) ^{3b}*A tree from the forest is cut down and worked with an axe by the hands of a craftsman. ⁴They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so that it cannot move. ⁵Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good."* (Jeremiah 10:3b-5)

He is the creator and ruler over all the earth. ⁵*For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but Yahweh made the heavens. ¹⁰Say among the nations, "Yahweh reigns!"* (Psalm 33:5,10; cf. 1Chronicles 16:26; Genesis 1-2; Psalm 115:15 — *May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth!* Jeremiah 10:12 — *It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.*)

He is lord over all nations. *For kingship belongs to Yahweh Lord, and He rules over the nations.* (Psalm 22:28) *God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.* (Psalm 47:8) ¹⁰*"Yahweh brings*

(Continued on page 2, Vote)



Welcome the Ellsworth Family

Tim and Christina Ellsworth and their eleven months old baby Lorenzo have been attending Holy Cross for a few months. Lorenzo was baptized here on Sept. 14, 2014.

We welcome you warmly into our midst.

Please be sure to introduce yourself to them at coffee hour!

Vote (Continued from page 1)

the counsel of the nations to nothing; the psalmist says, He frustrates the plans of the peoples. ¹¹The counsel of Yahweh stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations.” (Psalm 33:10-11) ⁷Who would not fear you, O King of the nations? For this is your due; for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like you. (Jeremiah 10:7) God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. (1Chronicles 16:31)

Vote... with the assurance that the results and our future is in God's hands. ²⁰Our soul waits for Yahweh; He is our help and our shield. ²¹For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in His holy name. ²²Let your steadfast love, O Yahweh, be upon us, even as we hope in you. (Psalm 33:20-22) †



Altar Guild Fall Cleaning

The Altar Guild is having a Fall Cleaning on Sat., 11/15, at 9:00 a.m. We will be cleaning the sanctuary in preparation for the advent season and Christmas. Please come and join us, Bring a bucket and wash rags. Contact Andrea Beutel with questions at andbeutel@gmail.com or 672-9605.

Choir Note

Rehearsals on
November 4, 18 and 25
(No rehearsal November 11)

Wednesday Night

Bible Study

Nov. 5, 12, 19

Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 16, Noon

We look forward to another opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow Christians by enjoying another fine meal.

Suggested donation, \$10. Please sign up in the Parish Hall.



COAT DRIVE!



Girl Scout Troop 32386 is collecting coats for “One Warm Coat,” an organization that gives coats to the needy and the homeless. Please donate your coats, new or gently used. I will be collecting coats until Sunday November, 23. There is a collection box in the Parish Hall for your convenience. Thank you for your assistance!

—Kaytlyn Coyne



**Sunday, November 9
after service**

Holiday Hutch Boutique "Corner Cafe"

Fri. Nov. 7, 9AM - 7PM

Sat. Nov. 8, 9AM - 4PM

WoHC General Meeting

Monday, Nov. 10 - 6:30 PM

Bible Study, Craft and Business Meeting

Bible Study Topic: “Advent, Christmas, and the Gospel” by Pastor

Birthdays

- 1 Clara Huppert
- George Oatis
- 4 Joe Odrzywolski
- 7 Annah Reiter
- 10 Liz Aduan
- Andrea Beutel
- 15 Laretta Oliver
- 21 Sue Saalfeld

Anniversaries

- 2 Mike and Gail Baker
- 5 Terry and Revia Maurer
- 9 Dwight and Claudia Gemar

Those who are in need 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).

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

Taylor Bothe-Yates (Gayle Bothe's grand-niece, 2nd tour Afghanistan), **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.**

**NIFTY FIFTIES ACTIVITIES FOR NOV 2014****The Elephant Bar Restaurant****Friday Nov 7th 2014**

The Elephant Bar Restaurant is located at 1225 Willow Pass Road Concord CA 94522 and is noted for its Asian Fusion and American food. The décor is from Africa with an Elephant Head over one entrance (inside) with spears, warrior shields, grass etc. kind of a relaxing ambience and a giant step away from the traffic and noise just outside. They have a variety of food from burgers, steaks, seafood, all tasty and well prepared.

I like to start with is the Wok-fried Chicken Lettuce Wraps. The chopped chicken has such a delicious flavor I'm salivating for it as I type. The Philly Cheesesteak sandwich is also a favorite of mine. It usually comes packed with grilled steak, mushrooms, onions and peppers under a blanket of melted provolone cheese (I was in cheesesteak heaven...), so big that you couldn't close it properly. I have always been satisfied.

They have a senior 20% discount (I have a card). Meet at church at 12:15 leave at 12:30. Lunch is at 1:00. Sign up so we will know how many to plan on....If you have never been with us on one of our outing, just sign up and show up. Bring a friend!

Al the Wops**Friday Nov 21st 2014**

This too is one of our old favorites not so much for the food but for the travel through the Delta...There is always something happening along the way as we not only travel along the Sacramento River but through some of our best farming area reclaimed from the waterways with dams. Much

of what we pass through is several feet below the river and has been formed with silt from the river and the soil is very rich. I always enjoy seeing the fruit trees and what stage they are in especially when they are ready to harvest. The weather is usually beautiful which makes the trip so enjoyable. Also, being with other Christians for an afternoon of fun and camaraderie is what the Nifty Fifty's is about.

Lock , where Al the Wops is located, is indeed a sleepy ghost town that time has forgotten . The buildings are old and bulge and hang out over the main street...You generally don't see anyone walking the streets but when you open the door to Al the Wops the bar area is crowded and the interior is covered with old pictures with dollar bills hanging from the ceiling and animal heads mounted on the walls...very interesting. It is famous for their strip steaks and peanut butter & Jelly that goes on sourdough bread. The meal doesn't come with potatoes...but has a nice salad...You get by by eating lots of bread. There is a small park just across the street and a host of interesting stores. It's just an old town. Sign up in the Social Hall so we know how many to plan on...This is a very enjoyable outing and doesn't require a lot of walking...We may even stop for Ice cream on the way back...Lunch is scheduled for 1:00 and it takes about an hour and fifteen minutes to drive there so we should meet at 11:30 and leave at 11:45. Plan on car pooling as it's quite a distance...Sign up in the Social hall...

Nifty Fifties Seniors Corner

written by Marv Kreitz, President

Upcoming Activities

Dec. 3rd Norseman's at DVC

Diablo Valley College's Christmas Lunch this year is on Wed Dec 3rd. At this point, I am not sure of the cost yet; but, it was \$20.00 (including tax and tip) for the last two years. I committed to 12 tickets regardless of the price. The DVC cashier, Julie, will let me know as soon as she found out. We are putting this info in the Nov. Cross Currents because if we waited to put it in the Dec Cross Current it would be published just two days ahead of the luncheon.

The luncheon is put on by the culinary students at DVC and is like a final test before graduation which brings out the very best in everyone. Tables are elegantly set with goblets, fine silverware, linen tablecloths giving the dining room a festive setting. Students, decked out in their chef's uniform, standing behind their food specialty on the loaded buffet tables. Among the goodies offered last year were Pomegranate salad (mixed greens tossed in a champagne vinaigrette with candied walnuts) deep fried turkey breast served with caramelized onions, Prime Rib carved to order and decadent array of desserts.

We will have all the information by mid Nov. Sign up in the social hall and pay Marv when you pick up your ticket if you are one of the first 12 to sign up. Depending on the number signing up we could, like last year, order more tickets for a second group. Meet at church at 10:00 AM 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. This is a prelude to the Holiday Season and a great chance to bring a friend to enjoy the festivities.

Clayton Oktoberfest Recap

I drove directly to the Oktoberfest in Clayton all by myself...I didn't have a sign up sheet and didn't try to have us go as a group. When I got there (around 12:30) I found a place to park on a side street about a third of a block from main street and all the ac-



tion....Pure luck...There indeed was a carnival atmosphere and crowds of people just having a good time..Most everyone had something in their hands beer, hot dog, ribs and turkey leg; they were eating and talking up a storm. I went directly to the big tent where I found Trudy, Peter and Annaliesa Liedtke, Grace Gin and several others from church...As soon as I was seated, Trudy went to get me a beer and Grace went to get me a Viener Snitzel from D J Bistros. How's that for service! The main opening ceremonies with the St Bernard dog pulling the cart with a keg of beer had all ready taken place and the

Germen band was playing polkas and lively music. Of course, it was easy to start tapping my foot and soon (believe it or not) I was up dancing with Grace and enjoying it...next Analiesa and of course



Trudy....It's easy to see why people enjoy their Oktoberfest so much...The band was great and their leader knew just how to get everyone in the tent jumping and hosting a beer. There was even a gal going around offering different kinds of schnapps. If you like to eat and drink beer, you will have fun at Oktoberfest...



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



The WoHC (Women of Holy Cross) had an eventful month of October.

First we celebrated LWML Sunday on 10/12. Several women, including Jennifer & her daughter Jessica, Carol C., Carol L., Kaytlyn, Chris & her daughter Alex, Terry, Gayle, & Sue R. participated in the worship service, from greeting to ushering, acolyte, alter guild, offering counting, & lector. Plus we had our talented musical team of Marla on the organ & Diana leading our choir! Lastly, thanks to Pastor Chu for leading our LWML Worship Service – did you notice he was wearing his special, colorful, stole?

After the Service, the WoHC gathered in the Parish Hall for our annual Welcome Back event. This year's theme was "Mugs & Muffins". Apparently this was a popular theme as we had 4 tables filled with women (or maybe they came for the muffins?). Grace & Marilyn presented a devotion about



coffee & cups. The message was:

"Life is the coffee & jobs, money, & position in society are merely cups. They are just tools to shape & contain life. The type of cup we have does not truly define nor change the quality of the life we live. Often, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee that God has provided for us. You see, God brews the coffee, but He does not supply the cups. Those choices are up to us. Enjoy your coffee!"

What made this gathering extra special for me were the stories that went along with the Mugs sitting at our tables. Grace, Dee, Annalisa, Eyona, Marilyn, Cherylene & others shared why they brought the mug that they did. What a blessing to have something as simple as a mug to remind us of special times & people in our lives! Lastly, we handed out our 2014-15 Program. If you didn't get one, please let me know.



Then, on Sat., 10/18, 11 WoHC met at Grace Lutheran in Pittsburg for our Fall Zone Rally. Yes, we did get the attendance plaque, however as much as we joke about that, what really makes this time special is the ability to take time to dig deeper into the Word, as well as meet, catch up, & encourage our Sisters in Christ.

The Rally In-gathering was Fabric Kits that would go to LWR (Lutheran World Relief). These kits are used in vocational training programs to teach young men & women useful and marketable sewing skills. It was a bigger and more detailed In-gathering than normal, so to make it easier for us, Grace said she would put together the kits, purchasing the material & thread from money donated to our General Fund. We asked for a donation at our Mugs & Muffins event – we had enough money donated to make up 10 Kits (each kit was about \$20)!!!! Plus 3 women donated a kit of their own. So the WoHC donated a total of 13 Fabric Kits at the Rally. Praise the Lord! I want to personally thank everyone who helped with this outreach effort.

We usually have a speaker at the Rally. This year we had 3 from Teen Challenge. One speaker, Kim, worked for the organization. Her son, Michael, also told us about his time going through the program. The third was a young gal, Gloria, who after spending most of her teen years homeless & on drugs, went through the program. Through the structure, accountability, & camaraderie set in a Christian environment, Michael & Gloria learned to appreciate life & gain back their health & well-being. Kim said her unique "bucket list" was to have a group of folks who would tell of the way she touched their life. Everyone has ups & downs. It is comforting to know there are people & organizations available to offer support. When someone shares their hurts with you, often times the best thing we can do is to listen. ☺

Mugs and Muffins *by Eyona Pargman*

It was such a pleasure to attend the Welcome Back Women of Holy Cross event on October 12th after service. Many women attended. The program was interesting as many of us brought our own mugs and shared special stories behind

them. We also enjoyed the coffee, beverages with muffins, bagels and cream cheese.

New president, Joyce Liebe, briefly went over future WoHC activities. They can all be found in the 2014-2015 program folder.

A free will offering was taken for Lutheran World Relief's Fabric Kits Drive. Each kit costs about \$20 to put together and we raised enough to put together 10 kits! They were then taken to the Zone Fall Rally at Grace in Pittsburg from there to World Relief. ☺

WoHC Upcoming Activities

- **Monday, 11/10.** General Meeting with Pastor Chu leading a Bible Study followed by a simple craft/fabric project for "Days for Girls" organization. Chris Roman brought the organization to our attention & is helping coordinate this project. Per their website *"Days for Girls kits allow girls around the world who would otherwise be isolated, who would otherwise miss school, & have Days of shame & Days of lost income, to have a quality, practical, & sustainable solution to feminine hygiene"*. So, come & learn more about God's Word! Plus, bring your fabric/sewing scissors to help with this worthwhile project.
- **Fri.-Sat., 11/7-11/8.** Corner Cafe This CONGREGATION event is the biggest Parking Lot fundraiser of the year! While the Holiday Hutch Boutique is going on, we provide tasty food & beverages in a festive setting. Idalene Stadler & her small team will do the decorating. Melarie Seidel is coordinating the Cafe kitchen & will be letting us know how we can help. Plus, plan to come, browse the creative items (gifts?) at the Holiday Hutch & have a meal or snack at the Corner Cafe!
- **Monday, 12/8.** WoHC Christmas dinner. We will meet in the Holy Cross Parish Hall again this year. Mike Seidel & Scott Stadler will be the co-chefs & will coordinate the preparation of our dinner! I predict a delicious meal along wonderful fellowship during the evening – ending with our White Elephant gift "exchange". Look for your invitation & sign up. This is a perfect time to invite your friends or relatives to Holy Cross! Also please consider being a table hostess.

Well, that's all. Remember to check the WoHC bulletin board & Sunday bulletins for more details on these & all activities. Sign up & join us. Please feel free to contact me or any of the Board if you have questions, comments, or suggestions.

Oktoberfest at Holy Cross

DID YOU KNOW that with the help of you, the congregation, \$400 has been raised for the Parking lot fund with this year's Oktoberfest. Thanks for your continued support!
—Melarie Seidel



OUTREACH

Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014

Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power. Psalm 110:3



Meals for the Hungry

Every month on the 4th Sunday we cook a meal at Holy Cross kitchen & prepare enough food for 100 servings then car-pool to the North Concord Shelter, where we serve lunch to a group of homeless residences that are in a program for the "clean & sober". They are on a waiting to move into their own apartment & remain in the program until they have an opening for them.

Upon arriving at the shelter: a WELCOME announce, grace & the Lords Prayer. We handed out "Portals of Prayer", "Daily Bread" & "Guideposts", snack candies & conversation. They were very appreciative for all.

We prepared/served: five turkey-vegetable-rice casseroles, mixed Salad with champagne dressing, freshly baked, buttered French Bread, Tortillas & Bean dip, Dessert; Sauce - & passed out homemade Cookies from Sue O'Mally (always puts a smile on their faces)

Our faithful Volunteers, Sue & chef Kenny Reiter, Bill Luker, & Pat, the shelter; & Mindy Wirtz & Tyler helped serve. **Many Thanks** to you who volunteer after church service on Outreach Sundays, & to those who donate food, snacks, drinks, etc. All are very much appreciated. God always provides what we need!

Is your heart so filled with love for God that you are watching for the first opportunity to say, "Here am I. Send me"? ☸



My Christian Family,

Sorry, I'm so late in thanking all of you for your phone calls, food, beautiful get well cards, visits and especially prayers after my surgery and recovery.

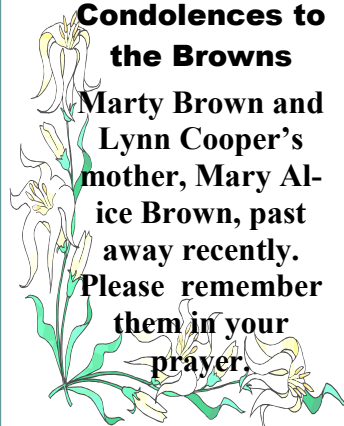
God is always available to answer our prayers — and he does. He is such a faithful God.

Eyona Pargman

Condolences to the Browns

Marty Brown and Lynn Cooper's mother, Mary Alice Brown, past away recently.

Please remember them in your prayer.





NOVEMBER

2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 All Saints Sunday Mite Box /Hat Sunday 9:30a Worship w/ Comm 11:00a Sunday School / Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H) <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i>	3 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 2:30p WoHC Board Mtg 7p Boy Scout (L)	4 Election Day 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	5 7p Bible Study (H)	6 9:30a Craft (H)	7 9a-7p Holiday Boutique/ Corner Café 12:15p NFS Lunch out	8 9a-4p Holiday Boutique/ Corner Café
9 9:30a Worship 10:30a Voters Assembly 11:00a Sunday School / Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	10 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 6:30p WoHC General Meeting 7p Boy Scout (L)	11 Veteran's Day	12 1p Senior Brd (L) 7p Bible Study (H)	13 9:30a Craft (H)	14	15
16 9:30a Worship w/ Comm 11:00a Sunday School / Bible Study 12p Thanksgiving Dinner 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	17 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 1p Bridge 7p Boy Scout (L)	18 6:30p Elders Mtg 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	19 7p Bible Study (H)	20	21 11:30a NFS to Al the Wops	22
23 9:30a Worship 11:00a Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30a OUTREACH 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	24 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Boy Scout (L)	25	26	27 9:00a Thanksgiving Day Service	28	29
30 Mite Box /Hat Sunday 9:30a Worship w/ Comm 11:00a Sunday School / Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)						

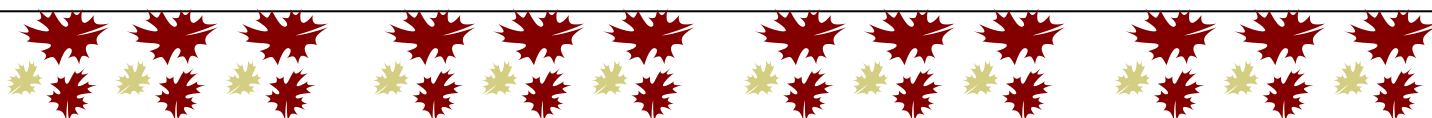
(cl= Choir Loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg, H=Parish Hall, L=Library, ws=wing room)

NOVEMBER



**Holy Cross Lutheran
Church, LCMS**

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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:

Sunday Service 9:30AM

Communion 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

Adults Bible Studies 11:00AM (Library and Conf. Rm)

Sunday School 11:00AM

Week Day Bible Study Schedule:

Monday 12:30PM Conference Room, Ladies

Wednesday 7:00PM Parish Hall

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