



# Cross Currents



Volume 4, Issue 105

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

April 2013

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## The Church's Relevancy: Proclaiming the Word of God



MESSAGE  
FROM  
PASTOR CHU

"Relevancy" is the holy grail for many churches as they look for ways to connect with the world today, whether we call our world "post-modern," "post-church" or by whatever other moniker. At the core of this quest to be "relevant" are the churches' desire to "get out the message" in a way that the world finds relevant and therefore acceptable. "Push the envelop," "think outside the box," "seeker-sensitive," "relevant sermons," "contemporary worship," are common buzz words or phrases one hears in conversations about the church being relevant.

Some churches explore different ways to reach people with the Gospel of Christ crucified and risen for the salvation of the world without any compromise of Law and Gospel. They lift high the cross. They greet people who the Spirit brings through their church doors with the Word of God front and center. They avoid the "bait-and-switch" tactic that veils God's Word so that "seekers" are not "turned off" but will come for the activities, programs, and music (bait) until they deem the people ready for a healthy dose of the truth of the Scriptures (switch).

Many, if not most churches, however, in attempting to repackage or rebrand Christianity to make it relevant (read "tolerable" or "palatable") to the world compromise and sacrifice God's Word at the altar of relevancy. Sin is redefined so that it is no longer what God, in His Word, says it is but what we think it is, which often translates to defining sin based on contemporary cultural values

and societal

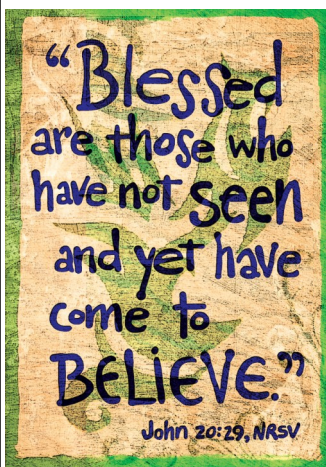
norms, whether these contradict God's Word or not. The Gospel of salvation by God's grace through faith in Jesus apart from works (Ephesians 2:8-9) is watered down and lost. The cross is stripped of its meaning in the context of Law and Gospel so that it is no longer a stumbling block or foolishness to the world (1Corinthians 1:23), and believers and unbelievers alike are 'misled' by what Paul calls "another gospel" in Galatians 1:6-9. The result? — Seeking to be "relevant," these churches become irrelevant with respect to God's Word.

One can find countless examples of how churches and pastors seeking to be relevant would rather offend God by teaching in His name but contrary to His Word than to be seen as "irrelevant" by unbelievers.

Rob Bell's recent endorsement of gay marriage is a prime example. Responding to a question while speaking at San Francisco's Grace Cathedral on March 17, 2013, the founder and former pastor of (megachurch) Mars Hill Bible Church in Grandville, Mich., Bell answered: *"I am for marriage. I am for fidelity. I am for love, whether it's a man and woman, a woman and a woman, a man and a man. I think the ship has sailed and I think the church needs — I think this is the world we are living in and we need to affirm people wherever they are."* ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/greg-carey/rob-bell-comes-gay-marriage\\_b\\_2898394.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/greg-carey/rob-bell-comes-gay-marriage_b_2898394.html))

To affirm people as they are, biblically,

(Continued on page 2, Relevancy)



## Relevancy *(Continued from page 1)*

is to affirm that without faith in the crucified and risen Christ, sinners will go to hell because there is salvation in no name other than the name of Jesus (Acts 4:11-12), who died on the cross to atone for the sins of the world, but that whoever believes in Jesus as Savior has eternal life (John 3:16). To “affirm” people in their sins as if God were okay with anything and everything is an affront to Jesus who died on the cross to save the world from sin.

To be sure, the church — Christians — should do what we can to make visitors, seekers, or however people categorize themselves, welcome in the name of Jesus but without compromising God’s Word. We should see, treat, and love each person as a sinner for whom Christ died and whom God so loved that He gave His Son for them just as He did for us. And the relevant way to love them is to tell them what God did for them in Christ and why.

No doubt we can be more friendly, more welcoming, more loving toward each other as fellow believers and toward those who do not yet know Christ. If we are not relevant as God’s people or church to unbelievers, and to each other, perhaps it’s because we are not faithfully and without apology teaching, preaching, and sharing His Word of Law and Gospel and living by His grace through faith in Jesus, but the Word of God is in and of itself relevant.

What can be more relevant to our world and to us than Jesus Christ and His Word? What “gospel” can save sinners from eternal death other than the Good News that Jesus died and was raised from the dead for our salvation?

The church doesn’t need to repackage Good Friday to be relevant; we need to lift high the cross. The church doesn’t need to rebrand Easter to be relevant; we need to proclaim that the tomb is empty, that Jesus is risen and ascended, and that when He returns we too will be raised physically from the dead. The church doesn’t need to redefine the Law or water down the Gospel to be relevant; we need to preach, teach, and live God’s Word faithfully, unabashedly, and unapologetically by His grace, because God’s Word doesn’t need to be made relevant by us; it is relevant because it is God’s Word and He will accomplish what He sends it to do. ✝

**OUR  
PASTOR**  
will be away  
from: March 31  
to: April 10 &  
from: April 16  
to: April 18



1. Pastor will be away from March 31 (after Easter worship) till Wednesday morning, April 10, and will be not reachable by phone or E-mail.

2. Pastor will be at a Pastors’ Conference in Santa Cruz from April 16-18

### Pastoral Care :

During his March 31-April 10 absence-

1. Pastor Peter Woodward (Faith Lutheran Church, Pleasant Hill, CA) will be on call for pastoral care. He can be contacted at: 925-998-7420 (Cell) / 925-685-7353 (Church Office)

2. Rev. Wayne Brockman will be leading the April 7 worship service and adult Bible class

During the pastors' conference April 16-18:

He can be reached on his cell phone in Santa Cruz.

Members can also contact their elders.

### Confirmation and Bible Class –

1. Confirmation class will not meet on April 7.

2. The Wednesday evening Bible study will resume on April 24.

## April Choir Schedule



Rehearsals  
at 7:15PM

## *Birthdays &*



## *Anniversaries*

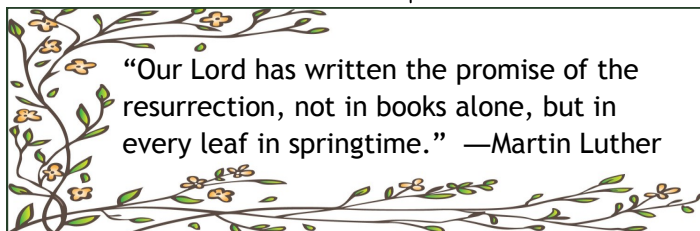
### April Birthdays

- 2 Richard Liedtke
- 5 Muriel Strieter
- 13 Dorothy Taylor
- 17 Ron Gamble
- 21 Barbra Humphrey
- 23 Kaytlyn Coyne
- 24 Trudy Huenninghaus
- 26 Herbert Neumann  
Diane Oatis
- 29 Timothy Hintz

### Anniversaries

- 4 Dave & Ann  
Caruso
- 16 Mike & Joyce  
Liebe
- 29 Ken & Sue Reiter

“Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.” —Martin Luther





Those who are in need  
of our prayers:

**Herb Neumann**  
(recovery from surgery)

**Sue Saalfeld, Muriel**

**Strieter, Ellen Stenson** (Glenn's grand-daughter), **Lloyce Logan** (Judy's sister-in-law), **Joy Parker** (Gayle's sister), **Wanda Schwartz, Dorothy Taylor** (Karen Gamble's mother), **Robert & David Grandt** (Liz's brothers), **Pauline Fudge** (Liz's Aunt-heart failure), **Inge Stone, Elizabeth Bothé** (Gayle's granddaughter Non-churched), **Abbi and Alex Roman, June Stewart** (Judy's friend), **Jan Tammiste** (Roman's friend), **Alice Mikolasek** (Violet's friend), **Herb Borchers, Stephanie Woolley** (Lauretta's daughter-migraines), **Brian Fawcett** (Diane Oatis' brother), **Blessed Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Betty Kallsen, Marjorie Keisling** (Pat Kroeger's sister), **Nora Encinas** (secretary-First Lutheran) **Audrey Augilar** (Nora's niece-remove paralysis), **Pastor Phil Scharnitzke** (Our Savior Lutheran-Livermore), **Bonnie Holmer** (Gayle's aunt), **Pastor Paul and Cathy Meyer** (retired Pastor-Trinity Lutheran W.C.), **Maria Delit** (Susan Stenson's mother), **Bill Godsey, Eric Stanley** (Amber Reiter's friend-recovery heart surgery), **JoEllen Roesti** (pregnancy), **Karen and Gary Cox** (Judy's friends-cancer), **Bill Kreitz** (Cheryl's brother-cancer treatments), **Lucas and Jessica** (Reiter's grandson and mother), **Joyce and Jon Dils** (Don Robert's Aunt and son-kidney transplant surgery), **Steven Liedtke** (healing).

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

**Jon and Mike Dawers** (Bill Koch's grandsons), **Matthew Seeger, Derek Patterson and Dustin Phillips, Taylor Bothe-Yates** (Gayle Bothe's grand-niece), **Navy Spec. David Aiman, Joel and Jordan Bennett, Capt. Richard Hill** (Violet Griffin's great nephews), **Cadet Megan Gemar, Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, Army Recruit Kevin Hayworth** (Glenda's grandson-Basic training), **P.O.W. and M.I.A.s.**

## Nifty Fifty Outings for April 2013

### Galindo House and Gardens

**April 11, 2013**



We again plan on two outings for April: the first is to the Galindo House and Gardens located at 1721 Amador Ave. Concord, 94520 on April 11 with lunch at the Spaghetti Factory located at 1955 Mt. Diablo Street, concord 94520. We have eaten there many times and have always been pleased with the portions and the food. We were last there on Nov. 8th 2012 when we were seated behind the Street Car with plenty of room. I had Spaghetti and meatballs as always; and the complete meal including drink was only \$11.50...hard to beat.

Erna Beutel recommended the Galindo House after it was written up in our Cross Currents. This house was built in 1856 for Don Francisco Galindo and his wife, Maria Dolores (Pacheco) Galindo. At that time it was one of the few Victorian ranch Houses in the country. In 1880, it was expanded from a six room house to ten rooms. It should be interesting to see how these people lived in those days. The docent led tour is planned for 11:00 AM and lunch at 1:00 PM. You are welcome to join us for the tour, lunch or both. Please sign up in the Social Hall so we know how many to plan on.

### Oakland Zoo ~ April 24, 2013



Our second outing is a 90 minutes docent led tour to the Oakland Zoo in a golf cart. We have reservations for 12 which is all one of the golf cart can carry. The docent will be a Park Ranger who will also drive the cart.

When I first made the reservation, I reserved three carts, enough room for as many participants as we wanted. However, the Ranger informed me recently that two of the carts would not be available due to lack of drivers. There is a \$35 fee for the cart and regular senior ticket is \$11.75. Senior over the age of 80 is free. The charge for parking is \$5, so we should plan on carpooling.

We plan to have lunch at the Zoo. The Oakland Zoo is nestled in the rolling hills of the 25 acre Knowland Park. The zoo is located at 9777 Golf Links Road, Oakland...right 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.

Meet at church at 9:45 AM and leave at 10:00. The tour is scheduled for 11:00AM. Sign up in the Social Hall so we know how many to plan on. It should be an interesting way to spend a day... Bring a friend!!!



## Black Bear Restaurant February 28<sup>th</sup> 2013

It was one of those really special days we have in the Bay Area, weather wise, as we set out for the Black Bear Restaurant located at 700 Bancroft Road in Walnut Creek. We had made reservations for eight and we had ten show up for lunch. What a blessing. Eberhard and Anke Weiss, old members of our church, were visiting and when they heard we were having a lunch they just couldn't miss it...The food was excellent I had the senior dinner (\$9.95) with Soup or Salad ,Entry Mashed potatoes gravy and veg. Etc What a deal..They put us in a separate room which made it easy for everyone to speak up and be heard. A great time was had by all.....



## Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup> 2013

It was a beautiful day as we arrived at the pickup point for tours to the Eugene O'Neill house at 205 Railroad Ave Danville Ca. The bus was there with a smiling accommodating driver to take us up to the house. As we drove up we were impressed with the beauty of the green hillside and were



amazed as we departed the bus to see the view of Mt Diablo across the way looking like it was just across the street. It's easy to see why Eugene O'Neill would want to make this his final home and harbor.



Our Docent met us at the bus and knew Tim Hintz (who is a Docent at the John Muir House) which meant we had the VIP tour. We visited all the floors and received a complete history lesson of Eugene O'Neill, his plays and final stages of his very interesting life.

After our tour we went to the Brass Door for a delicious lunch. Marv had his ground round steak senior lunch which included salad, mashed potatoes, vegetable and ice cream for dessert, but he couldn't talk anyone else into it. Most had sausages, red cabbage, boiled potatoes etc. which was a daily special...

a typical German lunch. It all looked great. Pat Kroger had told me the Police widows were meeting there for lunch at the same time and that we should say Hi. I could see a great looking group of gals meeting in the next room, but didn't take the time to say Hi. What a really great time we have at our outings. If you would like to come, just show up. It's a real low key friendly group.

## Women of Holy Cross

### APRIL ACTIVITIES

**Monday, April 1** ~ Board Meeting, 6:30p

**Sunday, April 7** ~ Hat/Mite Box

**Sunday, April 14** ~ In lieu of April General Meeting, we will meet after Sunday school for lunch and visits to shut-ins. Sue O'Malley is the hostess.

**April 26-28, 2013** ~ LWML CNH - Ferndale Event "Rooted and Grounded in Love" Eph. 3:17-19. Inspirational speaker, Pastor Tom Zelt, senior Pastor of Prince of Peace in Fremont. Registration by 4/20. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall for additional information, or contact a board member.

### Looking Ahead

**Saturday, May 11** ~ General Meeting: Mothers and Daughters Luncheon...Speaker-TBA

**Monday, June 24** ~ Dinner out with Friends & Family

## The Network of Care

A representative from The Network of Care was the speaker at the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Women of Holy Cross. The Network of Care is a registered non-profit that provides snack and meal bags for parents of hospitalized children. It was born in the midst of the founders' family tragedy - parents driving over an hour to a hospital where their two daughters were being cared for after a tragic automobile accident that took one daughter

from them and left the other daughter in serious condition. Having hastily left home with only the clothes on their backs, and not wanting to leave the bedside of their surviving daughter, Janet and Jim Frazier were befriended by a kind nurse who shared her sandwich with them when Janet nearly fainted. The cafeteria was closed, and the Frazier's did not know when they had last eaten.

The Network of Care now supplies their purple gift bags to 53 hospitals, mostly in California. Children's Hospital Oakland receives 150 bags every two weeks. Nurses distribute the bags to families as needed. Through February 2013, 125,000 families have been the recipients of these gifts of love. The Network of Care hosts an annual crab feed as their

primary fundraiser, and many donations. Shopping for the supplies and stuffing/distributing bags is all done by volunteers. The Women of Holy Cross helped stuff over 150 bags at our meeting. For more information on The Network of Care, you can contact Janet Frazier at 925-584-4086 or [www.thenetworkofcare.org](http://www.thenetworkofcare.org).

### The Network Of Care



Snacks to comfort Families  
[www.thenetworkofcare.org](http://www.thenetworkofcare.org)

Eyona Pargman and Gayle Bothe were hostesses for our meeting. They prepared a delicious green dessert

to match their St. Patrick's Day decorations. We had a short business meeting as we enjoyed our dessert. We voted to send \$100 to the network of Care. We also had election of officers. Joyce Liebe was re-elected as Vice President, and Melarie Seidel was re-elected as Treasurer. We have several appointed WoHC board positions that will be open in July: Christian Life, Human Care, Membership Development, and Servant Resources. These positions can be shared by two persons. If you are interested in working with the WoHC, or have questions about what these positions involve, please contact me.

Cherylene Brueckner, President  
WoHC



## Saturday, March 16th L.W.M.L. - Zone 7 Spring Rally

It was a beautiful morning with 40 bright, smiling faces, eager to learn. Holy Cross was well represented with nine women at Faith Lutheran in Pleasant Hill. We tied our attendance with First Lutheran so our president, Cherylene, graciously allowed them to have the plaque until the Fall Rally. You see, one person can make a difference. We are grateful for all the people who give of their time and talents to share Christ's love.

Our very own, Pastor Chu, zone counselor, started out the day right with a Bible study entitled "Who do you say that I am?" from the book of Matthew. A very timely study about the saving work of Christ in our daily lives. Christian mentoring seemed to be the theme for the day-many ideas for one on one sharing and caring for those whom God puts in our path.

There were 4 people who came that had not been to a rally before and they were honored with an angel necklace. Sue Reiter was our new person and she even got chosen to play a game, involving trivia about the L.W.M.L. With our help, she did very well and we are so glad to have her be a part of our society.

Our "mighty mites" have reached over a million dollars since it's start in 1943. Thanks to many people who give so generously each month. We are reminded that L.W.M.L. has a webpage-please take the time to check it out-www.lwml.org-well worth the time. Some of the board members did a skit called-HAVE NO FEAR, HOPE IS HERE-all about looking to God for direction and guidance. Serve the Lord with gladness. Remember volunteers are love made visible. Keep the next fall zone rally in mind to attend, you won't be sorry. ♥

## Palm Sunday Outreach to the Needy March 24, 2013

Sue & Kenny Reiter met me in the kitchen early Sunday morning; rolled up their sleeves & worked until all the food was ready & packed into Luker's truck, to take to the shelter. Sue made a dynamic (everything but the kitchen sink) mixed green salad! OUR SHELTER FRIENDS loved every bite. They always comment on how good our salads are. To God be the Glory!

What a generous congregation, THANK YOU Holy Cross to everyone that donated candy, & the beautifully decorated colored eggs, with attached bible verses! ALSO, MANY THANKS TO TERRY HAWKYARD FOR THE LOVELY HAND KNIT HATS SHE MADE ESPECIALLY FOR OUR FRIENDS.

They really perked up when the EASTER eggs were handed out & they were wished a Happy Easter. Most of them didn't know the following Sunday was Easter. It didn't take long & we saw a lot of smiling faces. Praise God.

Gail donated a large Easter basket full of different chocolates & candy! It was so much fun to watch them pick through the green Easter grass & hunt for their favorite pieces of candy. ( I bet that brought back some childhood memories!)

Bill Luker, Carol Lau, Pat Easby, Mindy & Kiley Wirtz served A meal of: BBQ pulled pork on fresh sandwich rolls, roasted red rosemary potatoes, candied carrots, & a huge mixed green & romaine salad, with ranch/pepper dressing..

We passed out new Portals of Prayer. It was encouraging to see that some of them were carrying old, tattered, Portals of Prayer in their pockets. WITH PERMISSION, PORTALS OF PRAYER WERE ALSO LEFT ON THEIR READING TABLE IN THE LOUNGE. Many commented on how much they liked reading the it. They also like "Guide Posts".

"Give praise to the Lord! He rescues the life of the needy" Jeremiah 20:13

HAPPY EASTER FROM OUTREACH —Pat Easby



Worshiping together, serving together...the body of Christ  
Thank you Altar Guild and helpers for cleaning the sanctuary!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12:30p Wm Bi- ble Study(C) 6:30p WoHC Brd Mtg (C) 7p Boy Scout (H)	2 9a CVWC	3	4 9:30a CVWC Craft (H)	5	6
Pastor's Out of Town						
7 <i>Mite Box - Hat Sunday</i> <b>9:30a Worship w/ Communion</b> 11a Sunday School/ Bible Study	8 12:30p Wm Bi- ble Study (C) 7p Boy Scout (H)	9 1p Senior Brd (L) 6:30p Elder's Meeting 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	10	11 9:30a CVWC Craft (H) 1030a NFS Out- ing Galindo House	12	13
Pastor's Out of Town						
14 <b>9:30a Worship</b> 11a Sunday School/ Bible Study Noon-WoHC Lunch & Visit Shut-ins	15 12:30p Wm Bi- ble Study (C) 1:30p Bridge (H) 7p Boy Scout 6:30p Church Council	16 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	17	18 9:30a CVWC Craft (H)	19	20
21 <b>9:30a Worship w/ Communion</b> 11a Sunday School/ Bible Study	22 12:30p Wm Bi- ble Study (C) 7p Boy Scout	23 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	24 9:45a NFS Out- ing - Oakland Zoo 7p Bible Study	25 9:30a CVWC Craft (H)	26	27
28 <b>9:30a Worship</b> 11a Sunday School/ Bible Study 11:30a OUTREACH	29	30				



**Holy Cross Lutheran  
Church, LCMS**

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Concord, CA 94521



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Concord, CA 94521  
(925) 686-2000  
Email: [holycrossconcord@sbcglobal.net](mailto:holycrossconcord@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [www.ctsmemberconnect.net](http://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

**Regular Worship Schedule:**

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

**Week Day Bible Study Schedule:**

Monday (Ladies)	12:30PM	Conference Room
Wednesday (all) resumes: 4/24	7:00PM	Parish Hall

**Choir Rehearsal:**

Tuesday	7:15PM—8:45PM
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**Outreach:**

Fourth Sunday of each month, 11:30AM

**Publication Deadline:**

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

April 2013 Cross Currents: **April 20**

**Office Hours:** M-F 9 AM-12:30 PM