



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

Inside this issue:

Birthdays and Anniversaries	2
Prayer List	2
Special Events and Announcements	2-3
Oktoberfest Recap	3
Thank you note	3
NFS Corner	4
Women of Holy	5
Fall Zone Rally	6
Outreach	6
November 2013 Event Calendar	7
Church Sunday / Weekdays Schedule	8



Daylight-Saving Time Ends on November 3

Be sure to wind your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday!

Cross Currents



Volume 10, Issue 111

November 2013

Suggestions for Prayer Life

by Pastor Chu

I wrote briefly in the July/August newsletter and more extensively in the September newsletter on the topic of prayer, particularly on praying as a first resort and trusting that God, who is Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, has placed us in our world for such as time as ours (Esther 4:14) and armed and privileged us with the gift and power of prayer.

Our Lord promised that He always hears and answer prayers (even though it may not always be in the way we want). *Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.* (Isaiah 65:24) *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.* (Matthew 7:7-8; cf. Luke 11:9-10)

He assures us that when we can't find the words to speak in prayer, the Spirit prays for us: *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.* (Romans 8:26-27) We also have the wonderful promise that Jesus Himself intercedes for us: *Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died, more than that, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.* (Romans 8:34; see also Hebrews 7:25)

I hope that in addition to “praying on the run,” which most of us do and are good at, you have a sacred (i.e., “set-aside”) time dedicated to prayer. If not, I encourage you to do so. You decide how much time each day, but start with a goal that you know will be excuse-proof, even if it's one or two minutes a day, and build from there.

I offer a few additional encouragements / suggestions for your prayer life.

1. First, whatever else you pray, pray for the Lord's will to be done.
2. Second, incorporate the Scriptures in your daily set-aside prayer time. Read a psalm or another passage of Scripture before you pray. Allow the Lord to speak and reveal His will to you through His Word before you speak to Him.
3. Third, in addition to praying as the Spirit moves or just praying what is on your mind and in your heart at the moment, organize your prayers so that you include praise and thanksgiving in your prayers and include within your petitions prayers for those outside your family and circle of friends.

You may have heard of the A.C.T.S. acronym as a way to structure your prayers: **A**DORATION (Praise and adore God for who He is, His attributes); **C**ONFESSION (Confess our sins); **T**hanksgiving (Thank God for His goodness, gifts, especially Jesus!); **S**UPPLICATION (Prayers for ourselves and others)

You may also be familiar with the Five-Finger Prayer that uses the fingers on our hand to help us remember whom to pray for: Those closest to us (Thumb); Teachers and others who instruct us (Index finger); Leaders, authorities, including government officials (Middle finger); The weak, sick, and needy (Ring finger); Our-selves (Pinky).

Consider praying for one category of petitions or one group of people each day of the week. For example (obviously this is not inspired, definitive, or exhaustive, but merely one suggestion), in addition to family, friends, or others, for whom you pray daily, pray on:

Sunday for the Church, believers, and unbelievers — Christian Church on

(Continued on page 2, Prayer)



November Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

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



CHILI COOK-OFF COMING IN JANUARY, 2014

Do you play an instrument, sing, dance, tell jokes, recite poetry, or tell really good short stories? You are needed for a really fun talent show. More details in December and January.

Prayer (Continued from page 1)

earth; the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; Holy Cross, our ministry and members; other congregations; Christians who are persecuted for their faith; the faithful preaching of the Gospel; unbelievers, including specific unbelievers we know, that they hear the Gospel and be brought to faith in Jesus; etc.

Monday for those who teach and those who learn — Teachers and students in public, private, and Christian schools at every level; content of what is taught; the protection of our young people in body, mind, and spirit; for specific students, including those in our church family; the content in media that we and our young people consume; etc.

Tuesday for the nations — America, our people, all who make, administer, and judge our laws; the people and leaders of the nations of the world; countries where there is unrest; etc.

Wednesday for those who protect us — Our soldiers and military personnel; law enforcement officers and other first responders; their families; doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel; care givers; etc.

Thursday for those afflicted of body, mind, or spirit — The sick, poor, dying, depressed; those in need of basic necessities; unemployed and underemployed; those enslaved by addictions; for Christians and non-Christians to be moved to be a blessing to those in need with their time, talents, and material blessings; etc.

Friday for family, marriage, and sanctity of life — Preservation of the sanctity of marriage and family; wisdom and strength for parents, including foster parents; protection and preservation of life from conception on; those who desire children; children, including foster children, children in orphanages, children with special needs; adoption of children without families; etc.

Saturday for the Divine Service and participants — Pastors for the faithful preaching and teaching of God's Word; choir; altar guild; readers; ushers; elders; acolytes; organist; pianist; worshipers, including ourselves, that the Lord prepare our hearts to receive Him in Word and Sacrament; those wavering on whether to attend worship; those who are not worshipping faithfully; etc.

In your prayers, pray for people and yourself to repent where there is a need for repentance, and pray that the Gospel be heard in faith that forgiveness be received in Jesus' name.

May God bless you to be a blessing to others through your words, deeds, and prayers. †

Those who are in need our prayers:

Sue Saalfeld, Muriel Strieter, LLOYCE Logan (Judy West sister-in-law), **Joy Parker** (Gayle Bothe's sister), **Wanda Schwartz, Dorothy Taylor** (Karen Gamble's mother), **Robert & David Grandt** (Liz Aduan's brothers), **Pauline Fudge** (Liz A's Aunt—heart failure) **Inge Stone, Elizabeth Bothé** (Gayle Bothe's granddaughter-non-churched), **Abbi and Alex Roman, June Stewart** (Judy West's friend), **Jan Tammiste** (Roman's friend), **Betty Kallsen, Cal Kallsen** (fall-healing), **Bonnie Holmer** (Gayle Bothe's aunt), **Billy Godsey** (bone marrow transplant-healing), **Jeannine Godsey** (inner peace), **Karen and Gary Cox** (Judy West's friends-cancer), **Bill Kreitz** (Cheryl's brother-cancer treatments), **Steven Liedtke** (healing), **Esther Lacey and Bernice Aiman** (Violet Griffin's sisters-elder care), **Karen Traficante** (Gregg Syrovatka's co-worker's wife-cancer-healing/solace), **George Fraine** (Kimberly Chu's friend's father-cancer, treatments), **Matt Goodshaw** (Brueckner's family friend-melanoma, treatments-healing), **Revia Maurer** (recovery-knee surgery), **Philip Aduan** (hand-healing, surgery), **Debra Nourazar** (Eyona's daughter-stent surgery, recovery), **Will Voertman** (Sue's brother-diagnosis, strength, restoration), **Ken Horneck** (Ann Caruso's brother in-law- heart attack (proper treatment), **Kathy Horneck** (comfort, both turn to God), **Brian and Megan Baker and family** (Gail Baker's daughter-adoption of twins, safe travel Uganda), **Gayle Bothe** (healing from fall).

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

Cpl. Michael Dawers (Bill Koch's grandson), **Taylor Bothe-Yates** (Gayle Bothe's grand-niece), **Jordan Bennett and Capt. Richard Hill** (Violet Griffin's great nephews), **Cadet Megan Gemar, Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl** (P.O.W. in Afghanistan), **Warrant Officer Donna Cheek**, (Carrie Kroeger's cousin-4th tour -Afghanistan), **PFC Kevin Hayworth** (Glenda's grandson-Hawaii), **P.O.W. and M.I.A.'s.**



Choir Note

Rehearsals on November

5, 12 and 19

(No rehearsal November 26)

Holiday Hutch Boutique "Corner Cafe" Hours

Fri. - Nov. 8

9AM - 7PM

Sat. - Nov. 9

9AM - 4PM

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to the Come and eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner and support our parking lot fund. We appreciate any and all donations for this church project.

Also, help is needed to staff the kitchen and a sign up sheet for donations of beverages, LARGE cookies and brownies. The sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Melarie Seidel, 672-8660. The menu will consist of the following: home made cinnamon rolls, biscotti, home made chili, homemade chicken noodle soup, Chicken Salad on croissants, hot dogs and numerous beverages. Come support the Parking Lot Fund!!!

Join Us for the Annual Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday November 17 at Noon

The menu is as follows: Turkey, dressing, sweet potatoes, squash, mashed potatoes and gravy, Ambrosia, pie and ice cream for dessert. A suggested donation of \$10 with ALL proceeds going towards the Parking Lot Fund. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.



Wednesday Evening Bible Study

We are studying the book of "Ruth" on Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20 in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

Thank you,
thank you!!



for the gifts
and cards for my 90th
birthday. I appreciated
them so much!

—Violet Griffin

Seidels back for Oktoberfest



The Chefs

Every year, we look forward to the return of the Seidels in October. Why?! Because following their heels will be our annual "October Feast"! And so this year, it was on Saturday, Oct 26.

As in years past, the Seidels and the Stadlers spent hours pre-



Dressing up for Oktoberfest

paring sausages, sauerkraut (red and white), mash potatoes and gravy for the event. Yum...we all had our fills with two or more helpings, and topping it up with Costco apple pies and ice cream! Besides eating, we had a wonderful time chatting with each others. There were about 40+ attendants; some brought guests and neighbors. Bill Luker brought his wife, Kim, for the first time!

Many thanks to the Chefs: Mike, Scott, Melarie and Idalene, and to those who helped set up and clean up afterwards. Well Done!!

—Grace Gin

DID YOU KNOW that with the help of you, the congregation, almost \$1300 has been raised for the Parking lot fund with the Book Faire and Oktoberfest. Thanks for your continued support!

—Melarie Seidel

Nifty Fifties Seniors Corner

written by Marv Kreitz, President

Recycling Center

Seven went to the in Pittsburg, CA. Once there, we were greeted by Adriana Medina, our docent. She is a vivacious attractive knowledgeable docent who gave us an enjoyable tour. She first took us to the second floor to a room full of different recycling material of plastic and paper products, metals and glass. we all felt like we were being given a hands on tour. Using a slide projector she showed how the materials were handled from the receiving to the leaving for plants to convert each to reusable material. As the material comes in on the belts it is shaken and different materials move to different levels of sorting. Cardboard almost always moves to the top. and as such is easily sorted on a belt. The same is true of plastic, and glass is the heaviest and moves to the bottom. All along the Big Blue Monster (as it is called) people sort that which isn't sorted by weight and density. There were a number of questions from our group such as can you leave oil for pick up? How about left over medicines ,or sharp objects such as syringes, or batteries or other hazardous waste items such as paint etc. The way she answered we knew she had in depth experience in this field. We then put on a hard hat and went down on the floor and watched the trucks unload and the I was impressed with the organized handling of the sorted material. In one are, paper are being pressed into bails and loaded into a container using a fork lift to pack it in. I asked where it was going, and Adriana said China. I asked if they accepted it as is, or if they had any trouble with the quality of the material and she said that a representative from China kept close track. if it didn't meet their standards, it was rejected. It was great to visit a business that was well organized knowing that it will only grow. We all enjoyed the visit. The trip to the Olive Garden was just a short drive and most had the all you can eat soup and salad. They had three different soups all looked great. I had a bowl of clam chowder and a bowl of soup with hamburger in it. It was excellent. What a really interesting day we all had!

Upcoming Activities

Creekside Restaurant at Rossmoor

Thursday Nov 7 2013

The first is Lunch at the Creekside Restaurant in the heart of Rossmoor. Last time we were there we had 16 attend and the general consensus was that it was great ...The only thing was we were seated in back of the bar not in the dining room where I wanted to have our group sit....They often have specials on wine like for \$4.00 so most of us had a glass. I had the shaved beef on a roll with French fries along with a cup of minestrone soup and it was excellent. This is an up scale restaurant and will be a delight to have lunch there. Meet at church at 12:00 noon leave at 12:15. Lunch is at 1:00PM The Creekside Restaurant is located at 1010 Stanley Dollar Drive 94598 near the golf course. At the gate just tell them you are going to the Creekside Restaurant and they will let you in and tell you how to get there. Please sign up so we know how many to plan on.

Al the Wops

Thursday Nov.21 2013

Our second outing, back by popular demand, is a trip to Al the Wops. Dave Caruso says if you go back to Al the Wops to count me in. We hope you will join us as we wind our way through the scenic Delta to the old town of Lock and the renowned and extraordinary restaurant "Al the Wops" features New York Steak with a companion jar of jelly to be used either on the steak or on the piping hot French bread according to your preference. Lock was founded by a group of Chinese merchants from nearby Walnut Grove who reached an agreement with George Lock to build on his land. By 1920, Lock stood essentially as you see it today. This is really a great trip though the Delta back to a historic town If you haven't taken this trip I can guarantee you will enjoy it. Meet at church at 11:45 leave at 12:00 noon Lunch is at 1:00.



December 4th, Norseman's at DVC

22 people bought tickets to the Norseman's restaurant at DVC on the 4th of Dec. If it's anything like the buffet they put on in 2011, it will be FANTASTIC. Parking passes are needed so see me before you leave for the restaurant. I'm going to try and get permission to drive to the dining room the back way which requires a lot less walking. Meet at church at 10:00 leave at 10:15 or with a pass you can go direct. This is a prelude to the Holliday Season!

Coming Events

November

Monday, 11/4 - WoHC Board meeting, 2:15, conference Rm

Fri & Sat, 11/8 - 11/9

"Corner Cafe" Congregational fundraiser for a new parking lot! Both *Men & women are encouraged* to 'Come-on down' & join us for breakfast, lunch, or snack! Meet a group of your friends here for coffee and chats. After all, the money collected will go directly to the Parking lot Fund!

Holiday Hutch Christmas Boutique *money is kept separate from Holy Cross parking lot fund!*

Monday, 11/11..6:30 PM, General Meeting, Parish Hall
Speakers Mike & Tina Voss on **"Personal Security for Women"**, Dessert & WoHC General meeting will follow. All women are invited to join. We'll be discussing the non - progressive Christmas buffet. SEE YOU THERE

December

Sunday 12/1

Mite Box Sunday

Monday 12/2

WoHC Board meeting, 2:15, conference Rm

Monday 12/9

WoHC Christmas Non-Progressive Dinner

Sunday TBD CONGREGATIONAL Lunch/Caroling

WEDNESDAY 25th MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!

Women of Holy Cross

by Pat Easby

**2013 ZONE 7 FALL RALLY****"A Bountiful Harvest"**

A beautiful sunny morning as the ladies from Holy Cross motored up the freeway and across the bridge, chatting & enjoying the beautiful scenery on their way to Benicia Lutheran Church for the Rally.

After registration, we enjoyed a wonderful continental breakfast. Everything was decorated in beautiful fall colors, the breakfast items were placed in a huge wooden wagon. It truly looked like a **"Bountiful Harvest"**!

We began with music led by the Benicia team of four with their Pastor being one of the two guitarists, Shirley Bell on keyboard, and a lead singer, then the Pastor said an opening prayer. We had a short **LWML Zone 7** meeting to update us on past & future happenings, & elections of officers. Zone 7 *comprises of 11 churches; each has its own society & different names but we all are part of LWML, Lutheran Womens Missionary League* worldwide which started in 1943.

Our LWML Counselor, Pastor Chu, led us in a wonderful Bible Study, *"The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few,"* from the scripture passage of Matthew 9:37 & 38.

A speaker from "Genesis House", a residential Drug & Alcohol treatment program, gave us a very informative talk on their program. She brought along a young lady (resident in treatment for 9 months) to share her story of how she wound up in the program. It started out with her parents being drug addicts and abusive. She ran away from home, did some horrible things and tragic things happened. She is now doing well in the program.

After lunch, ladies from different societies presented skits pertaining to "A Bountiful Harvest. Seven Holy Cross ladies and Alex Roman did a reading.

Seven ladies from Holy Cross attended the rally. We lost the attendance plaque by one person. You see, **one** person can make a difference!

Thank you Benicia Lutheran Church for hosting this rally and for your musicians.

CHRISTMAS PARTY, DEC 9

We are contemplating something different this year; by having our Annual Non-progressive WoHC Dinner a catered event on December 9th, Monday, save the date for our Christmas party...

Another different idea for our Christmas Party! A couple days before the party we'll set up 4 or 5 (seating for 40+ people) round tables in the parish hall. Five different ladies decorate a table in a theme of their choice. They'll ask their friends for help or do it themselves. (You could also invite enough guests to fill your table. YES!)

The table **decorators** will provide all items for their own table seating for 8 guests. They'll need decorations, plates, silverware, centerpieces, napkins, favors, or whatever you want to put on your table. WoHC will provide the table cloths if you wish. You may use paper, plastic, glass or whatever your choice.

We plan on having "White Elephant" game again.

We want your opinions/suggestions/questions on these ideas!! Please contact any WoHC Board member with your positive or negative feelings; give us a yes or a no vote (or contact President Cherylene at 685-6033).

What is a 'White Elephant Gift'?

It is a gift you have but haven't used/or don't know what to do with -???

Remember: the "ladies-leg" lamp? The small sewing machine? Cookie jar? Huge funny Disney hats? Big slippers? Pieces of jewelry, Max value \$10! **The funnier the better!** Don't buy a new gift;

Exchanging white elephant gifts has been a **WoHC** tradition to play this at our Christmas dinner parties. It is optional. Even if you choose not to participate, it is still a watch!

OUTREACH-CONCORD SHELTER

Oct. 27th, Reformation Sunday

Thanks to those who served the awesome hot food, again donated from England's Catering. Through our own Pat Easby and many others, we were able to serve around 80 people. A special thanks to Bill Luker who is an excellent packer and supervisor of hauling many containers. Mike Liebe deserves a medal for his leading the plates down the line of goodies and making sure it's all together. Trudy was in charge of sandwiches, lemonade and passing out



Meals for the Hungry

"Portals of Prayer". As you can see, there are many tasks and many hands. Terry Hawkyard and Jennifer were pros at making ham sandwiches. We always appreciate even little bits of time and help-this is a much-needed ministry in our Concord area. Our next date for serving is Nov. 24th-we do carpool so we try to save on gas. Even if you can help in one area-slicing fruit, sandwiches, packing, clean-up, passing out info or talking with people-WE NEED YOUR HELP. Please keep this ministry in your prayers. So many of us have been blessed.

Submitted by Carol Lau



Madison Jean Mourelatos was baptized at Holy Cross on June 9, 2013. She and her parents, Mike and Amy, reside in Southern California.

Her mom brought her up to visit grandma Andrea and great-grandma Jean recently. See how proud they were!

LWML SUNDAY

Holy Cross celebrated LWML Sunday on October 13 under the national LWML Sunday theme of "**You Are My Witnesses**", Luke 24:44-53. The congregation was adorned with purple attire, LWML's official color! Women served as greeters, ushers, and lector for this special service. Pastor Chu is a wonderful advocate for LWML. The sermon prayers, and hymns all spoke to the mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Did you know that Pastor Chu serves as our Zone 7 LWML Counselor?

We are all called to be missionaries and witnesses for Christ. We all have different talents, and can serve in many different ways. The LWML Mite Box gives us all the opportunity to pool our resources and serve in the mission field to the far corners of the earth as we support the Mission Grants of the **LWML CNH District and the National LWML**. At Holy Cross, we collect Mites on the first Sunday of each month. For the last several years we have hosted a bake sale after church on LWML Sunday to raise money for Mites. LWML Sunday this year we again hosted "Bites for Mites". We thank you for your generous support of this project! Our bake sale table was full of brownies, snicker doodles, sugar cookies, pumpkin bread, biscotti, and plum jam (to name a few). You, the **bakers**, the **buyers**, and the **eaters**, rose to the challenge and together we raised \$287 for LWML CNH Mission Grants. Thank you!

You can see postings of the mission projects, both national and district, that we support on the bulletin boards in the church narthex and in the parish hall. If you have questions about the mission of LWML or how you can be involved, I would love to tell you.

Serving the Lord with gladness,
Cherylne Brueckner, WoHC President





NOVEMBER

2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> Mite Box /Hat Sunday 9:30a Worship w/ Comm Baptism: <i>Dane Grant Heinitz</i> 11:00a Sunday School / Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H) <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i>	4 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 2:15p WoHC Board Mtg 7p Boy Scout (L)	5 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	6 7p Bible Study (H)	7 9:30a Craft (H) 12p NFS Lunch out	8 9a-7p Holiday Boutique/ Corner Cafe	9 9a-4p Holiday Boutique/ Corner Café
10 9:30a Worship/ Baptism: <i>Wai Han Chu, Howard S. K. Wan</i> 11:00a Sunday School / Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i> 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 6:30p WoHC General Meeting 7p Boy Scout (L)	12 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	13 1p Senior Brd (L) 7p Bible Study (H)	14 9:30a Craft (H)	15	16
17 9:30a Worship w/ Comm 11:00a Sunday School / Bible Study 12p Thanksgiving Dinner 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	18 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 1p Bridge 7p Boy Scout (L)	19 6:30p Elders Mtg 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	20 7p Bible Study (H)	21 11:45a NFS to Al the Wops	22	23
24 9:30a Worship 11:00a Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30a OUTREACH 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	25 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Boy Scout (L)	26	27	28 9:30a Thanksgiving Day Service	29	30

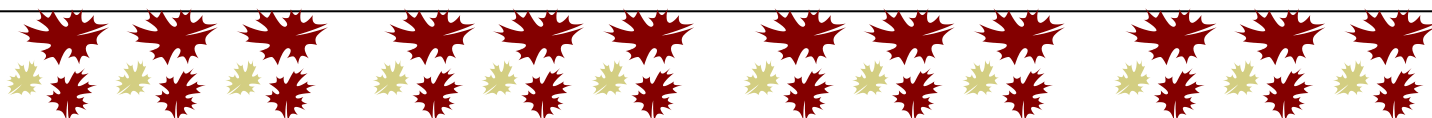
(cl= Choir Loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg, H=Parish Hall, L=Library, ws=wing room)

NOVEMBER



**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 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, 11:30AM

Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

December Cross Currents: **November 22**

Office Hours: M-F 9:30aM-12:30PM