



## HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

# Cross Currents



Volume 9 Issue 110

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

## SCRATCH ITCHING EARS OR PROCLAIM CHRIST?



MESSAGE  
FROM  
PASTOR

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*<sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. (2Timothy 4:3-4)*

No doubt Pope Francis scratched many "itching ears" with his response to the founder of Italian newspaper, La Repubblica. Tucked in his letter was the offer of salvation to sinners apart from faith in Jesus Christ:

*...You ask if the God of the Christians forgives those who do not believe and do not seek faith. Given that - and this is fundamental - God's mercy has no limits if he who asks for mercy does so in contrition and with a sincere heart, the issue for those who do not believe in God is in obeying their own conscience. In fact, listening and obeying it, means deciding about what is perceived to be good or to be evil. The goodness or the wickedness of our behavior depends on this decision. (Translated from Italian by Sara Cecere.) ([http://www.repubblica.it/cultura/2013/09/11/news/the\\_pope\\_s\\_letter-66336961/](http://www.repubblica.it/cultura/2013/09/11/news/the_pope_s_letter-66336961/))*

This affirms what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: <sup>847</sup> *...Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his Church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart, and, moved by grace, try in their actions to do his will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience - those too may achieve eternal salvation. ([http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/\\_P29.HTM#-14G](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_P29.HTM#-14G))*

God is merciful (Titus 3:5).

He is gracious (Exodus 34:6-7). He desires all people be saved through faith in Jesus Christ (1Timothy 2:3-6). He gives salvation in Jesus Christ who is the way, the truth, and the life, without Whom no one can come to the Father (John 14:6). So we can and should boldly proclaim God's mercy: <sup>16</sup> *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3)*

However, we dare not separate God's mercy or our salvation from Jesus Christ, whose death alone atones for sin. To do so is to teach false doctrine and give false hope: *"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God." (John 3:17-18)*

St. Paul writes in Galatians: *"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed." (Galatians*

*(Continued on page 2, itching ears)*

## Itching Ears

(Continued from page 1)

1:6-8) Because “the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing” [and have “itching ears”], he writes in 1Corinthians 1:18, “but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

A “gospel” that scratches “itching ears” by catering to those who want “salvation” in anything or anyone other than Christ crucified is no good news at all; it might help us keep us peace with those who hold divergent views on “salvation, but it will not offer peace and reconciliation with God which comes only through Christ’s saving work... it will not save.

The Pope’s words are a reminder that the “Solas” of the Reformation — *sola gratia* (grace alone), *sola fide* (faith alone), *sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone) — are no less relevant today than it was in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and that the need is as great as ever for us and all Christians to stand on the Word of God and proclaim that sinners are saved by God’s grace (undeserved love) through faith in Jesus Christ and this know from the Word of God, which creates and sustains saving faith that trusts Jesus as Savior... because there is no other Gospel. ☩



## OCTOBER SCHEDULE

**TUESDAY the 8th, 15th, and 22nd** (no rehearsal on the 1st) **at 7:15PM**

We are in need of more members in our music ministry. Even if you're only able to help out occasionally that would be a great help! Please prayerfully consider and contact the choir director Diana Meux (510-526-3294, dianamcm02@yahoo.com).

“Sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless His name; Proclaim His salvation from day to day.” (Psalm 96:1-2)

**JOIN US FOR THE  
HOLY CROSS ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL OKTOBERFEST  
SATURDAY-OCTOBER 26, 4:00 PM**



**OKTOBERFEST**

Come one come all to the Annual Oktoberfest! Great food!! Great beverages!!! Great Dessert!!!!

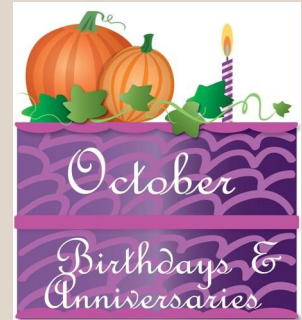
A suggested donation of \$10, but we encourage people to add a few extra dollars to go toward the **PARKING LOT FUND!** Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Looking forward to seeing you and your friends on Saturday, October 26, 4 PM!



**THANKS** to everyone for a very successful Used Book Sale. With your support (donating books, buying books, buying balloons for advertising, setting up, cleaning up, etc.) WE raised over \$800 for our Parking Lot Fund!

We have many books left. Before we donate them to a good cause or take away to sell, we will leave them out in the Parish Hall for a couple weeks. So, if you missed the original sale, or want to take another look, stop on by the tables. Donation container should also be out, or see one of the WoHC Board members or Sue in the office.

Blessings to all! Joyce Liebe



## Birthdays

- 1 Shelby Oatis
- 3 Erna Beutel  
Glenn Stenson
- 6 Claudia Gemar
- 13 Mike Liebe
- 14 Walter Hoffman
- 18 Kimberly Chu
- 24 Annaliesa Liedtke
- 28 Betty Kallsen
- 29 Sandy Coyne
- 30 Cheryl Syrovatka
- 31 Gregg Syrovatka

## Anniversaries

- 12 Gregg & Cheryl Syrovatka
- 19 Joe & Peggy Odrzywolski
- 20 Ken & Liz Ballard
- 30 Tom & Sue O'Malley



### *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 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), **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), **Eyona Pargman** (healing-surgery), **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, complications—diabetes).

### *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—4<sup>th</sup> tour—Afghanistan), **PFC Kevin Hayworth** (Glenda's grandson—Hawaii), **P.O.W. and M.I.A.'s.**



Join us for:

### **LWML Sunday (Oct. 13) and Bites for Mites Bake Sale**

**To all who enjoy home baked goods - plan to purchase some delicious goodies after the service on LWML Sunday. All proceeds will go to Mites & fund our 2012-2014 Mission Grants.**

**To our Holy Cross bakers** - please see sign up sheet on Women of Holy Cross board in Parish Hall. You can help by baking and:

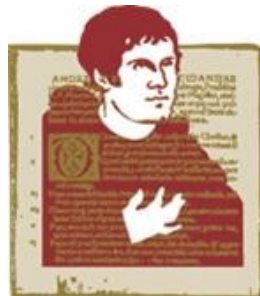
- 1-2 servings each (4-6 cookies/bars, 2-3 cupcakes/muffins)
- package in/on disposable containers/plates
- label (especially if product contains nuts)
- drop off in kitchen before church on Oct. 13th

NOTE: commercial baked goods are welcome too ; please just package as noted above.

See Joyce Liebe for additional information.



### **God's gracious gifts**



God receives none but those who are forsaken, restores health to none but those who are sick, gives sight to none but the blind, and life to none but the dead. ... He has mercy on none but the wretched and gives grace to none but those who are in disgrace.

—Martin Luther

### **+ Christian Symbol +**



"Verbum Domini  
Manet in Aeternum"

Latin for "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever," this motto of the Lutheran arm of the Protestant Reformation comes from 1 Peter 1:25. Frederick the Wise, ruler of Saxony and one of Martin Luther's earliest and most powerful defenders, had the VDMA symbol sewn into the right sleeve of the official garments of his court. The symbol also appeared on banners, flags, swords and uniforms, representing the unity of the Lutheran laity in defending their beliefs.



## NIFTY FIFTY SENIORS' CORNER

BY MARV KREITZ

### TWO OCTOBER OUTINGS

#### ① OKTOBERFEST SATURDAY OCT. 5TH, 2013

Nifty Fifty Seniors will visit the Oktoberfest in Clayton on October 5th at 11:45AM. There is a real Carnival atmosphere with vendors of various apparel and home items with booths set up throughout downtown Clayton. Various tempting cuisines are offered at the food booths where you can make your selection of German or America foods. You can tote your aromatic treasure to the huge dining room tent full of tables where you can sit and be entertained by German bands and professional dance groups doing various folk dances while you eat. In past years we have dined on Viener Snitzel and Spatzel from D J Bistro Restaurant in Concord which is always excellent. They generally have a food booth at the Oktoberfest. Meet at church at 11:00, leave at 11:15 or meet there at 11: 45. This is a really fun outing and a great way to celebrate the arrival of autumn .Many who visit on Saturday come back for the fun and food on Sunday. Signup in the Social Hall so we know how many are coming...It helps when you are trying to hold a table for our group...Should be fun

#### ② VISIT FARMER'S MARKET IN CONCORD LUNCH AT THE SPAGHETTI FACTORY TUESDAY OCT. 22ND, 2013

Our 2nd outing is a visit to the Farmer's Market at Todos Santos Park in downtown Concord and lunch at the Spaghetti Factory bordering on the Park.. A former visitor to the Park writes. "I like to come to the Farmer's Market because it has a great selection of vegetables and fruits, Kale, Bok Choy and a bunch of veggies I never heard of before. Plus standard fruits to stock up on for healthy snacks before lunch. Oh and the fresh Bread Stands. Pretty amazing bread compared to your processed junk at the grocery store". I'm sure they have all the standard vegetables such as corn, tomatoes etc..The Market is open from 10:00 AM until 2:00 and we plan on eating at 1:00 PM The Spaghetti Factory is located at 1955 Mt Diablo Street Concord. Their Classics Factory Platters, Chef Specials etc. all come with minestrone soup or a crisp green salad fresh baked bread, coffee, hot tea or milk and spumoni or vanilla ice cream for dessert.- a complete meal. Meatballs and Spaghetti one of my favorites cost \$10.15. They have an extensive menu and very competitive rates. The Motif includes a street car and old fashion decorations It's a really fun place to have lunch. We should meet at Church at 11:15 AM and leave at 11:30. It should take about a half an hour to get there leaving 45 minutes to shop. Those wanting more or less time can leave earlier or if they wish go direct according to their wishes.

### ACTIVITY RECAPS

#### LUNCH AT D J BISTRO

Everyone went direct to the restaurant...When I arrived there was one seat left and the place was crowded. Herb said they had a special Reserved sign at the table for six that



we were to have otherwise we would to have waited. We have been there so many times that we got special treatment. It was great to see a restaurant crowded when so many are having problems. When I arrived the waitress was Monika and she knew what brand of beer I wanted, which impressed me..Monika had mentioned that she may attend our church but I waited when she said she would attend and she failed to show. I had the small Yager Snitzel which contains red cabbage and Spratzel others had the Wiener which is served with potato salad both of course comes with a huge breaded pork patty. Bill Reichmann had the Bavarian meat Loaf the regular size which was two large slabs of meat loaf. When I saw it, I didn't think he could ever eat it all, but he did...Several had 1/2 liter of beer others soft drinks or just plain water. I'm sure we will be back as the portions and food was outstanding...•





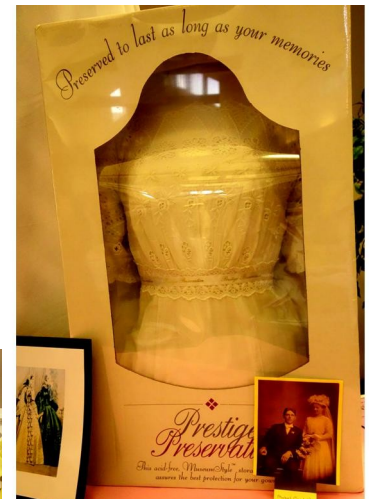
Photos ©ggm 2013

## WoHC WELCOME BACK BRUNCH-Vintage clothing, Sat., Sept. 21st.



Thanks to all who shared their outfits and told about where they came from, the history and good times. We had clothing from the early 1900's, Nancy Hoffmann's grandma's wedding gown, Katy's mother's maternity gown(?) to the late 1970's. It was very fun to see all the memories.

Even in the down pour of rain, we had almost 40 women, lots of guests, and plenty of food. Doris won the most guest prize with 4 guests. We had a fun devotion entitled "What not to wear" taken from Scripture passages. Lots of laughter and fellowship! Thanks to everyone, from the beautiful decorations, to the good food, to the cleanup crew. Hope you read the booklets and get involved with our Women of Holy Cross events. —Carol Lau





## HOSTESSES NEEDED FOR WoHC

### GENERAL MEETINGS

Women of Holy Cross need hostesses for November, February, March, and April's general meetings. Would you consider volunteering to host at one of these meetings? They are held on the 2nd Monday of the month. All ladies are encouraged to volunteer ... it's actually fun to do & a way to meet people...

### **WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO HOST A MEETING?**

1. come a little *early* that night (meetings start at 6:30pm)
2. Ask a friend to help you *set up* for coffee/drink & a dessert
3. Provide the dessert for 12-15 ladies
4. set on the kitchen counter; you may wish to have a theme (fall, winter, Christmas, birthday) if you so choose.
5. Have fun doing this!



WANT TO SIGN UP? LOOK FOR THE **BRIGHT PINK** SIGN UP SHEET in the parish hall. Thank You! *We'll see you at our Nov. 11th General meeting* (possibly we'll have a speaker) in the Parish Hall@ 6:30pm.

## CALIFORNIA, NEVADA, HAWAII NOW ON FACEBOOK!

*\*Become a fan of our Facebook page to stay up-to-date on LWML (WoHC) events:*

*\*Learn about our mission grants, **Our Mites at work**---(we are working on our #10 **Mission Grant** --21,495\$ --for MOBA WOMEN'S LITERACY in Turlock, Ca.)*

*\*Connect with other LWML CNH members and so much more! GO TO **facebook.com/cnhLWML***

### Who is the face of LWML/WoHC?

Mission minded women of all ages, cultures, & backgrounds come together for a common goal **of service to Christ** through the *Lutheran Women's Missionary League*.

Whether collecting mite donations to fund LOCAL mission work, Or around the world **gathering together for time in God's Word & in prayer.**

*Each, woman is the face of LWML/WoHC uniquely blessed by God to use her gifts to serve Him in ministry to the people of the world.*

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LWML SUNDAY, OCT. 13

**We need 4 female volunteers for Greeters and 4 female volunteers for Ushers.**

\*Watch for the sign up sheets in the Parish Hall.



I want to thank all my Christian Friends for the prayers, get-well cards, and phone calls while I was so sick. God heard them and healed me. I also want to thank Bill for the taped services. It made me feel like I was there.

God bless all of you.

Eyona Pargman

## BREAKFAST CASSEROLE RECIPE FROM BRUNCH

20 oz. bag of frozen hash browns, thawed

8 T. melted butter

2 C. Monterey Jack cheese, grated

1 C. Cheddar cheese, grated

12 eggs

3/4 C. milk

1 & 1/2 C. cubed ham or 1 package sausage, cooked

Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

Press hash browns into an 13"x 9" baking dish, brush with melted butter and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Bake 25 minutes at 425 degrees.

Mix eggs, cheese, milk and meat.

Pour over hash browns. Bake 15 minutes covered and 20 minutes uncovered at 350 degrees.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7p Bible Study (H)	3 9:30a CVWC Craft (H)	4	5 11AM NFS to Clayton Oktoberfest
6 <i>Mite Box / Hat Sunday</i> 9a Worship w/ Communion 10:30a SundaySchool / Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian	7 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 7p Boy Scout (L)	8	9 1p Senior Brd (L) 7p Bible Study (H)	10 9:30a CVWC Craft (H)	11	12
13 <i>LWML Sunday</i> 9a Worship 10a Bake Sale 10:30a Sunday School / Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	14 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 7p Boy Scout (L)	15 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	16 7p Bible Study (H)	17 9:30a CVWC Craft (H)	18	19 9a LWML Fall Zone Rally @ Benicia
20 9a Worship w/ Communion 10:30a Sunday School / Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	21 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 1:30p Bridge 6:30p Church Council 7p Boy Scout (L)	22 11:30a NFS to Farmer's Market 6:30p Elders Mtg 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	23 7p Bible Study (H)	24 9:30a CVWC Craft (H)	25	26 4p Oktoberfest
27 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> 9a Worship 10:30a Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30a OUTREACH 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	28 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 7p Boy Scout (L)	29 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	30 7p Bible Study (H)	31		

(cl= 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



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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

**Worship Schedule:**

Sunday Service	9:30AM
Communion	1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays
Adults Bible Studies	11:00AM
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
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**Outreach:**

Fourth Sunday of each month

**Publication Deadline:**

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

November Cross Currents: October 24, 2013