

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

Inside this issue:

Special Worship Schedule & Activities	2
Prayer list	2
Birthdays & Anniversary	2
Voters Assembly Minutes	3
Gospel Outreach Grants	3
Nifty Fifty Seniors	4
Women of Holy Cross:	5
Organist Marla Kuefner	6
Diana Meux's Website	6
December Event Calendar	7



As of December 2nd, 2012, our worship service time will be changed to 9:30a.m. every Sunday, with Sunday School and Bible Classes at 11:00a.m.

Cross Currents



Volume 11, Issue 101

December 2012

Who Doesn't Want Peace...

by Pastor Chu

¹⁴“Glory to God in the high-est, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” — a favorite pas-sage even for many who do not believe in Jesus as Savior. It has been immor-talized by Hallmark and captured in hymns that just about everyone, ex-cept the most hardcore atheists, enjoy. Who does-n't want peace? We may quibble about how best to attain it, but everyone wants peace.

For all our wishes and longing for peace on earth, peace is not always easy to come by. We're not always at peace with others, with ourselves, or with God; even Christians may not feel at peace with God. Nations war against nations. Family member against family member. Neighbor against neighbor. And in Chris-tians, our old sinful nature against our new nature in Christ. Many people long for peace.

A recent survey of 1,000 Americans found the holi-days (a.k.a., Advent and Christmas) to be a source of stress for many. Almost half the respondents said

their level of stress related to holiday expenses is high or extremely high. Forty-five percent said they do not expect to have enough money to cover holiday expenses; the same percentage say they would prefer to skip the holidays altogether. (cnbc.com/id/49880517)

How ironic that the tradi-tions, i.e., gift-giving, of the “holiday” or “holy day” that celebrates the birth of the Prince of Peace bring such stress and burden that so many, including Christians, miss out on the peace that He gives, a peace that sur-passes understanding (Philippians 4:7). ²⁷Peace I leave with you,” Jesus says. “My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (John 14:27).

Jesus gives us peace that cannot be bought at any price that anyone can ever afford; but He bought it with His blood shed on the cross and now freely gives us that peace through faith in Him who was born *Immanuel*, “God with us” (Isaiah 7:14; Mat-

thew 1:23). It is peace that comes from being recon-ciled to God through the forgiveness of sins Chris paid for with His atoning death (2Corinthians 5:19). It transcends time and cir-cumstances, and though it will may not take away the stressors that we all have, it will keep us calm in the face of such chal-lenges by recognizing, confessing, and trusting that God is God and that we are in His gracious hands.

So whatever your circum-stances, however bur-denened you may be...

May grace and peace be mul-tiplied to you in the knowl-edge of God and of Jesus our Lord. (2Peter 1:2) May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you. (2Thessalonians 3:16)





**Children's
Christmas Program**
Sunday
December 9 at
9:30a.m.

This is a great opportunity to invite the neighbors with kids, grandparents, and friends to a wonderful performance by our Holy Cross children of the Blessed Christmas Story.



Lunch & Caroling
Sunday December 16
at Noon

You are invited to join us for caroling after church on Sunday Dec 16 at noon.

Carolers will be served lunch, prepared by Melarie Seidel and her sister Pam, before departing for caroling.



**Learn
&
Grow
Join
a
Class**

**WEEKDAY
BIBLE STUDIES
WILL RESUME
AFTER THE NEW YEAR**

Women's Bible Study
January 7th 2013
Wednesday Night Bible Study
January 9th 2013

**JACK MORTENSON'S
SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Our class is now reading in Matthew.

We have read Exodus through chapter 20, where we found the "Ten Commandments". Now, we shifted to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5 for his interpretation of the Commandments.



Midweek Advent Bible Study

Wednesdays: Dec. 5, 12 at **7:00PM**
Topic: "Being the Church Today"

A light supper will be served at 5:45PM before each service.

Christmas Eve Service

Monday, Dec 24th at **7:00PM**

Christmas Day Service

Tuesday, Dec 25 at **9:30AM**

For the Infirm:

Elizabeth (Sue Reiter's granddaughter), Wanda Armstrong, Sue Saalfeld, Muriel Strieter, Ellen Stenson (Glenn Stenson's granddaughter), Betty Kallsen, 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-7yrs. Non-churched), Abbi and Alex Roman, June Stewart (Judy West's friend), Jan Tammiste (Roman's friend), Alice Mikolasek (Violet Griffin's friend), Herb Borchers (treatments), Tia (Coyne teen family member), Stephanie Woolley (Lauretta Oliver's daughter-migraines), Brian Fawcett (Diane Oatis' brother), Blessed Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 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 Bothe's aunt).

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 Philips, 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, P.O.W. and M.I.A.s.



Choir Rehearsals:

We will have rehearsals for the month of December as follows:



Dec. 4 – 7:15PM

Dec. 11- 7:15PM

Dec. 18- 7:15PM

Dec. 24 - 6PM

MUSICIANS: If you would like to participate in the Christmas Eve service, please contact:

Diana Meux at dianamcm02@yahoo.com. Thank you! "Oh come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"



December Birthdays

- 1 Liz Ballard
- 2 Marla Kuefner
- 5 Rayna Kamerzell
- 6 Diana Butterfield
- Peter Liedtke
- 7 Denise Brown
- 16 Alexandra Roman
- Susan Stenson
- 18 Bill Luker
- 21 Allen Brueckner
- 25 Marv Kreitz
- 27 Terry Hawkyard
- 30 Christopher Chu

Anniversary

- 10 Herb & Marilyn Neumann

Voters Assembly Meeting November 11, 2012

Elder Eric Roman opened the meeting with prayer. We accepted Bill Luker and Ken Reiter as new voting members. Welcome officially, Bill & Ken!

President Mike Liebe presented the Operating stats for the 3rd quarter. Expenditures year to date include a new fence around play area and the Library Hymn CD's.

Two distributions were made from our scholarship fund to Scott Jonas and Jason Gullidge (former DCE) (and we have received very nice thank you letters from both).

Marla Kuefner – has begun as our new organist – welcome, Marla! Joe Odrzywolski was acknowledged and thanked for his hard work in the interim between organists for playing and co-coordinating the CD's. (He says he prefers Marla.)

WORSHIP SERVICE TIME: Change to 9:30am effective DECEMBER 2ND, 2012.

FACILITY USE/WEDDING FEES

(3rd Party Fees)

- Refundable Deposit \$300
- Sanctuary Rental Fee \$200
- Organist (Rehearsal & Ceremony) \$250.
- Wedding Directress: \$150.00
- (Two required for large weddings of over 100 and/or more than 6 in the bridal party)
- Janitorial Service for church (Sanctuary) \$100.
- Pastor (Honorarium amount as determined by the Elders) \$200.

Not for members but one should prayerfully consider donating that amount.

Carol Lau reminded us of Holy Cross's long standing Outreach Program and asked that we prayerfully support it, not only as a means of outreach but also personally rewarding.

Pat Kroeger recommended reading the September LUTHERAN WITNESS MAGAZINE as that issue discusses many issues in the Synod – something that affects our church directly, that we tend to overlook. She will provide a brief overview in the next meeting.

Melarie Seidel reports that the WOHLC ADOPT A FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE up next Sunday - DO NOT WRAP GIFTS.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Kroeger, Secretary

Gospel Outreach - Article for Grants, 2013-2014

Praise God that we can announce that District Mission Grant #1: Zion Zone After School and Summer Program of \$22,650 has been funded.

Grant #2: \$6000 for Dream Catcher Youth Group North Cheyenne Reservation near Lame Deer, Montana, L.C.M.S. It is for Native American youth on the reservation who are desperately in need of positive activities, good adult role models, and the Good News of Jesus Christ to give them hope, guidance, and counsel as they grow up in a cultural setting that often does little to encourage their faith, self-esteem, and positive personal choices. These grants will provide food and materials from Jan. 2013 to August 2014. Mentors are not paid a salary. These young people struggle with being Native American and following Christ. This grant is about \$1500 short of being funded.

Our #3 grant will be for \$5000. It is for Production of Braille Magazines, Lutheran Blind Mission. Many publishers of resources for blind and visually impaired are going out of business due to economic conditions. Many L.W. M. L. women volunteer to help prepare the plates for the magazines. Lutheran Blind Mission, in the course of a year produces seven different magazines in Braille. These magazines are provided at no cost to the reader. Costs involved include Braille paper production plates and mailing envelopes. This grant will assist with Braille production of 'His Hands', 'Lutheran Digest', 'Lutheran Messenger', 'Lutheran Witness', 'L.W. M. L. Quarterly', 'My Devotions', 'Portals of Prayer' and 'Today's Light'. When you pick one of these magazines up, think about the involvement of our L.W.M.L.

May God Bless each Little coin you drop into these little mite boxes.

~Eyona Pargman, Gospel Outreach



Where Do Your
Mites Go?

Advent Colors

One of the season's symbolic colors is blue, representing hope. During Advent, we wait in hope to celebrate again God's coming in human form, and we look forward in hope to Christ's coming in glory at the end of the age. Purple symbolizes the royalty of Jesus, the coming Prince of Peace, and the penitence with which we receive him. Some congregations also use pink or white candles in Advent wreaths, with pink symbolizing joy and white symbolizing the Christ child.



Nifty Fifties Seniors

Page 4

Christmas Senior Luncheon Dec.19 2012

On Wednesday December 19th the Nifty Fifty Seniors invite you to attend their Christmas Celebration in the Social Hall where we will have a delicious lunch, sing Christmas carols and listen to Jack Mortenson our Historian Bible Scholar's presentation on the Bible. Last year Jack stated that: The Christmas celebration is and opportunity for believers to express joy as grateful recipients of God's grace in sending his son Jesus into the world to be our savior. The world tries to divert our attention from the "Reason for the Season" so we must pray, worship and meditate to the profound and extraordinary truth of what God has done through the life of Jesus... What a blessing to have such a scholar as a member of our church and the need, after the election, for this acknowledgement of beliefs. We start our celebration with lunch at 11:30. This is not a pot luck, but a Hot lunch provided by your Nifty Fifty Seniors Board Members. We may need a little help cleaning up as we will use our plates and utensil etc. for lunch... No paper plates. No basket for donations. After lunch we will sing carols accompanied by "Jan, the Trinity Church Organist", on the piano and Marv leading the singing. Just as last year the German contingency will sing "Silent Night" "and We Wish You a Merry Christmas" in German. What a blessing to have such a great group of Christians and what a wonderful way to herald in the Christmas Season Sign up in the Social Hall so we know how many to plan on. What a great time to bring a friend...

The Spaghetti Factory Thursday Nov 8th 2012

We had eight sign up and we had ten attend the luncheon at the Spaghetti Factory in down town Concord. Usually when I start out on one of our outings it beautiful, but on Thursday it was raining... Should have known that it would rain I just had the car washed and it rained just hard enough to splatter and make it look worse than before... I'm not complaining we live in such a beautiful area that you just expect it to be resplendent (gorgeous) all the time. When we arrived at the restaurant they immediately seated us behind the Street Car with plenty of room. They had a special that included Soup or Salad a smaller main dish and drink but no dessert. It was around \$8.50 and most had the special... I ordered the dinner which included spumoni ice cream and a larger portion of spaghetti and meat balls and I had enough for a second meal left over. It was \$11.50. As always the food was excellent



and the comradely with Christian Friends was what made our outing enjoyable. Those of you who have not attended one of our outings is missing out on a very low key enjoyable outing. Nothing is required just your company.

Photos from October 2012 Outings:

Speiskammier German Restaurant, Alameda, CA
-Oct. 11, 2012 →

Clayton Oktoberfest, Clayton, CA-Oct. 7, 2012 ↓



'Way to go Annaliesa and Marv!!

Women of Holy Cross

Page 5

December Activities

Sunday, Dec 2

Hat and Mite Box Sunday

Monday, Dec 3 6PM-8PM

Christmas Non-Progressive Dinner at Rhonda Liedtke's home. For more info, see WoHC bulletin board in Parish Hall.

Wednesday, Dec 5 5:45PM

WoHC is sponsoring the 1st Mid-week Advent Soup Supper. Everyone is invited. Sign up sheet is in the Parish Hall.

Sunday, Dec 16 11:30AM

Lunch and Christmas Caroling

Looking Ahead and Save the Date!

Monday, January 14th

Annual Bunco and Business Meeting

Sunday, February 11th

choose/reveal Secret Pals.

Saturday, May 11th

Daughters and Mothers Luncheon. Speaker: Deanna Maroon on "Service to the Lord"



Future members of WoHC: Alex Roman, Kayleigh and Kamryn Coyne (l-r), taken on Nov. 11, 2012 • HC Thanksgiving Dinner

Corner Café – November 2-3

The WoHC want to thank everyone that participated in this year's Corner Café. Because of you, we have sent \$981.10 (net proceeds from the Corner Café) to the Holy Cross Parking Lot Fund! Grace Gin and Marilyn Neumann directed the planning and purchasing of the food, the volunteer lists for donations and workers, and were there during the event to make sure things ran smoothly. Idalene Stadler, Cherylene Brueckner, Pat Easby, and Suzanne Stadler decorated our "corner". Joyce Liebe made her delicious homemade Biscotti, and Pat Easby "wowed" our customers with her homemade Tri-Tip Chili and Beef Barley Soup. Donations of water, sodas and cookies, willing workers, and hungry customers all contributed to the success of this event. Again, "Thank you!"

Bible Study with Pastor Chu November 12

Our November general meeting started with a Bible Study led by Pastor Chu. We gave him the topic "Prepare Your Heart for Advent". He opened the study by asking us why prepare for Advent when Advent is a time of preparation itself, preparing for Christmas. We discussed the challenges of the "world" at this time of the year, and Pastor led us forward with the "History of Advent", "What does the world do with "advent"?", "What is Advent?" (with Law and Gospel passages), and "Prepare Hearts for Advent." Ephesians 5:6, "Put on the whole armor of God...", sums up the preparation and readiness for the season. Keep Word and Sacrament in your life, especially during Advent when the world tugs at our time and treasures.

After the Bible Study we had a short business meeting with yummy desserts served by Carol Lau and Pat Easby. Then Cherylene Brueckner led us in a craft, making paper table favors from fall themed paper and ribbon. We had lots of opportunity to visit as we cut, folded, and taped our craft.

~

Our annual **Christmas Adopt-A-Family** event, supported by matching funds from Thrivent, is in full swing. We have two families with a total of 8 children, and are seeking a third family. Thank you for shopping for these children! We deliver the gifts along with gift vouchers for groceries and shoes for each family. **Rhonda Liedtke is hosting our annual Non-Progressive Christmas Dinner** on Monday, December 3. At last count, 30 women have signed up to attend this event!

~

Coming event for 2013 will be in the Sunday bulletins and future newsletters. We will **start the year with a Bunco Night in January** and a Potluck in February – two separate events this year to allow ample time for both! All women of Holy Cross are welcome. Your friends and neighbors are welcome too.

Serving the Lord with gladness,
Cherylene Brueckner,
WoHC President

Sponsorship for Jason Gullidge at St. Louis Seminary

WoHC will support Jason Gullidge and his wife with monetary gifts not to exceed \$500 over a calendar year, as treasury permits. We will send 5 payments of \$100 each starting with a Thanksgiving card as the first gift. ♦

Holy Cross' New Organist: Marla Otteman Kuefner



I was born and raised in Eastern Colorado in a small town called Flagler. I began piano lessons at the age of six and studied under Mrs. L. McBride and Mrs. Y. Herbert for the next 10 years. As a fifth grader I began playing for the Sunday School opening at my home con-

gregation of Zion Lutheran. After rudimentary organ instruction from my older sister, I then moved to playing for worship services at my home congregation and our neighboring sister congregation during my junior high and high school years.

While attending Concordia Teachers College in Seward, Nebraska, I was privileged to study organ under the late Dr. Paul Rosel and Professor David Schack. My first call as an educator was to Hayward Lutheran School in Hayward, CA. It included service as full time organist. During the years in Hayward, I served as the full time organist for one year at Grace Lutheran and the following eight years at Good Shepherd Lutheran while continuing to teach full time in the school. After accepting a call to Prince of Peace Lutheran as a teacher, I continued my playing the organ as a substitute in the East Bay and South Bay regions. While I was teaching at Redeemer Lutheran in Redwood City, I was once again a full time organist. Eight years ago, I moved to St. Luke Lutheran in Santa Rosa to serve as principal and served as a part time organist. The past ten months I served as the full time organist at St. John's Lutheran in Petaluma, CA.

After my initial work here at Holy Cross Lutheran, I do so appreciate the enthusiasm and graciousness of staff and members.

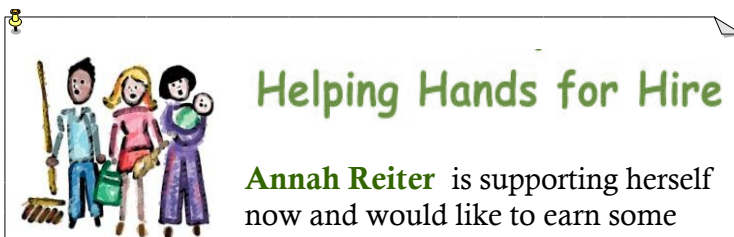
'Welcome, Marla!' — Ed

Choir Director's New Website



Diana Meux, our choir director recently launched her new website www.DownloadChurchMusic.com. It features both Diana's arranged and original sheet music for worship; many of the pieces have been sung at Holy Cross. If you know of other family's or friend's, or church choirs that may benefit, feel free to forward the website info to them. Thank you very much!

"O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Sing unto the Lord, bless His name, show forth His salvation from day to day."- Psalm 96:1-2 KJV



If you could use a little help with holiday preparations, cleaning up the yard or garage, running errands, or someone else to do your housework, just give Annah Reiter a call at **925-286-0289**. She is eager to help you out in anyway she can.

For your reference: Annah has worked with her mom, Sue, for Trudy Huenninghaus, Wilma Burch, Hannah Johnson and others.

Thank you!

December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Mite Box /Hat Sunday 9:30a Wor- ship/Comm 11a Sunday School/Bible Study	3 6p WoHC Non-Progressivce Dinner @ Rhonda Liedtke's 7pm Boy Scout (PH, L)	4 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	5 5:45p Advent Midweek Supper 7pm Advent Midweek Bible Study	6	7	8
9 9:30a Worship- Christmas Prog 11a Sunday School/Bible Study	10 7pm Boy Scout (L)	11 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	12 1p Senior Brd (L) 5:45p Advent Midweek Supper 7pm Advent Midweek Bible Study	13	14	15
16 9:30a Wor- ship/Comm 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 12noon Lunch & Caroling	17 6:30p Church Council 7pm Boy Scout (L)	18 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	19 11:30a NFS Christmas Holiday Celebra- tion	20	21	22
23 9:30a Worship 11a Sunday School/Bible Study	24 6p Choir Rehearsal 7pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day 9:30a Worship	26	27	28	29
30	31					

(cl= Choir Loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg, H=Parish Hall, L=Library, W=Wing Room)



**Holy Cross Lutheran
Church, LCMS**

1092 Alberta Way
Concord, CA 94521



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

holycrossconcord@sbcglobal.net

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	11AM (Library & Conf. Rm)
Sunday School	11AM
Advent Midweek Service:	7:00PM (12/5, 12/12)

Week Day Bible Study Schedule*:

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

Choir Rehearsal:

Tuesday 7:15PM—8:45PM

Outreach:

Fourth Sunday of each month, 11:30AM

Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

January 2013 Cross Currents: **December 28**

Office Hours: M-F 8:30AM-1PM

*Resumes in the week of Jan 6, 2013