



## Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

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# Cross Currents



Volume 2, Issue 92

February 2012

## Only One Way to Heaven

by Pastor Chu

One of the trends in 2011 was that many Americans believe all religions teach the same basic doctrines. According to George Barna, "43% of Americans said it doesn't matter what religious faith you follow because they all teach the same lessons" and "half of Americans (50%) believe that all people are eventually saved or accepted by God no matter what they do, [and only] 40% disagreed." (<http://www.barna.org/faith-spirituality/543-top-trends-of-2011-changing-role-of-christianity>)

I suspect that this trend will not reverse any time soon and that not a small number of those who subscribe to this universalism and religious pluralism describe themselves as "Christian." But whether "Christian" or not, they are sadly mistaken as to how one is saved and will be rudely awakened when they stand alone before God in judgment, with no Savior. Faith in Christ and His saving work on the cross saves; no one else can and nothing will.

Many try to reduce Christianity and God to what they can live with: "love." "Christianity is about love," they say, or "God is love," as if they could reduce God to nothing but "love" and strip the Bible of all its teachings but "love." Contrary to popular belief, Christianity is not primarily about love as in the "Golden Rule." It is not even

about loving God above all else. And the Bible isn't primarily a "How-to" book for living a good life.

St. John reveals the purpose of the Bible: <sup>30</sup>*Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.* (John 20). Christianity and the Bible are about Jesus Christ and His incarnation, life, death, and resurrection for the purpose of saving humanity from sin and eternal death.

God is love but He is not just love. He is also holy, righteous, and just (among other attributes). God's love cannot be understood apart from His actions in Christ. Jesus affirms this in John 3: <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..."* <sup>18</sup>*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.* St. Peter, speaking of the Crucified and Risen Christ, puts to rest any notion "Christians" and non-Christians may have that all spiritual/religious roads lead to heaven: *"...There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name*

(Continued on page 2, Heaven)

## Heaven

(Continued from page 1)

*under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)*

As much as some may want, salvation is neither by majority vote nor by politically correctly convention. It is by God’s grace through faith in Jesus who gave His life to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. All have sinned. The wages of sin is death. The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:23; 6:23)

Lent is that time of the church year that sharply focuses us on these facts. The ashes of Ash Wednesday remind us of our sinfulness and our need for repentance for forgiveness, repentance brought about by the power of the Spirit working His Word. Holy Week directs us to Christ and His suffering, death and resurrection for our forgiveness and salvation.

Jesus conquered sin, death, and the devil. His victory is ours through faith in Him and Him alone. Heaven is ours by faith in Christ, the only Way. ☩

## Council President's Note

I’m please to announce Pat Kroeger has graciously accepted our invitation and nomination to serve as the Holy Cross Lay Delegate for the district convention in April and as our designated voting representative for the elections following.

Pat has attended previous conventions, and has been an active member of Holy Cross for many years, and will be a fitting representative for us.

Thank you to Pat.

Mike L.

## Sunday, February 12th

### "Be My Valentine"

#### **Congregational Sandwiches &**

#### **Dessert Buffet**

#### **At Noon in the Parish Hall**

The Women of Holy Cross invite the congregation to a Valentine’s Day luncheon on Sunday, 2/12.

Look for the sign-up sheet hanging next to the office . Be sure to sign up!

Take your *special* loved ones out for: a **Valentine Lunch**, fun and music entertainment. The price is right! You won't want to miss this one! All ages are welcome, bring the whole family!

## February Choir Schedule

Choir Rehearsals will be on February 7, 14 and 21, no Rehearsal on Feb 28.



### Birthdays

- 3 Jim Martino
- 4 John Coyne
- 5 Don Roberts
- 8 Lance Boettcher  
Kay Garrett
- 11 Rhonda Liedtke  
Sue O'Malley
- 12 Mike Seidel
- 13 Bill Koch
- 18 Nathan Maurer
- 19 Maxine Albino
- 20 John Beutel  
Mike Voss
- 22 Trina Godsey  
Tina Voss
- 27 Justin Beutel



*Remember these  
Members & Friends  
in Your Prayer*

Terry Hawkyard, Diana Butterfield, Eyona Pargman, Sue Saalfeld, Muriel Strieter, Trudy Huenninghaus, AJ and Caylin Stanley, Wanda Schwartz, Dorothy Taylor, Abbi and Alex Roman

Wanda Armstrong, Ellen Stenson (Glenn Stenson’s granddaughter) , Bob Richards, Gary Cox, Lloyce Logan, Robert & David Grandt (Liz Aduan’s brothers), Inge Stone, Elizabeth Bothé (Gayle Bothe’s granddaughter), Kathy Kinser, Joyce Parker (Gayle Bothe’s sister), Debbie Hardesty (Marilyn’s daughter-in-law), June Stewart Judy West’s friend), Vivian Hock (Trudy Huenninghaus’s friend), Clint Lau (Dennis’ father), Leslie (Ann Caruso’s friend), Will Voertman (Sue Reiter’s brother)



## Ash Wednesday February 22

**Ash Wednesday** begins a forty day period during which Christians remember their sinfulness, repent, ask God's forgiveness, and recognize that God's forgiveness comes at an infinite price -- the death of Christ on the cross on our behalf. It is not meant as a time of false humility or prideful self-sacrifice. It reminds us that our sin separates us from God, who "demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

We observe the beginning of this period with a special

**Ash Wednesday Service**  
**7:00 pm on February 22**

### Lenten Schedule

**Wednesdays:**  
**2/29, 3/7, 3/14,**  
**3/21 & 3/28**  
**6 pm - Supper**  
**7 pm - Service**

Skip the cooking on those Wednesdays....come join us for a light meal and fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ as well as nourishment for the soul. Everyone is welcome.!



## C P R Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation

by Rayna Kamerzell  
Chiropractor/ EMS certified CPR instructor

Cardio = HEART  
Pulmonary = LUNGS  
Resuscitate = REVIVE  
CPR = Reviving the Heart and Lungs

In February, we think of Valentine's day where the decoration of choice is the heart. What better month to think about CPR! Here is a refresher of the main points of CPR. Note, that a few things have changed in the past few years.

Note: The Main goal of CPR is to get the heart to circulate the blood in the body. The main goal of someone performing CPR is to keep the blood moving in the body until advanced care arrives.

1. When you come to an environment where you feel someone is in need of assistance - check to make sure the area is safe, do not make yourself another victim
2. If there is an unresponsive person - Call 911 - advanced care as soon as possible is the key for serious conditions (for children perform 2 minutes CPR before calling)
3. IF an AED machine is available it should be used for cardiac victims - these machines are found in various public places like the mall and museums.
4. Perform CPR on unresponsive persons who are not breathing - Push HARD and FAST while doing chest compressions (breaths are now optional if you do not feel comfortable)

Adult victims - 30 chest compressions with two hands with 2 breaths) compressions are at 100 compressions per minute (Head Tilt Chin lift for breaths)  
Child victim - one hand chest compressions 30 compressions 2 breaths 100 compressions per minute (Head tilt Chin lift)  
infant victim - two finger chest compression 30 compressions 2 breaths 100 compressions per minute (slight head tilt - cover nose and mouth of infant with mouth for breaths)  
5. there is no need to stop compressions to check for a pulse  
6. If there is another rescuer, rotate every 5 CPR cycles  
7. Stop CPR if the scene becomes unsafe, you are too tired to continue, or Help arrives and Help takes over. ♥



**Thank You** all for your thoughts and prayers, Jacob Wesley Ingle

was born on December 8th. Our new little boy is doing great, and Wyatt is excited to be a big brother! —Rayna, Eric & Wyatt



**Thank You** all for the beautiful Christmas cards I received and for the special gifts.—Violet Griffin

**Thank You** for the birthday cards and well wishes on my birthday. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated. — Grace Gin

## The Hays Antique Truck Museum Wed. Feb 15th 2012

Our main outing for Feb will be to the Hays Antique Truck Museum, located at 1962 Hays Lane, near Interstate 5 and Road 102 in Woodland, Ca and is open 10:00 to 5:00 Monday – Friday. It contains one of the largest collections of antique trucks in the United States. Herb has been there and states it has many display settings showing the trucks and farm machinery in natural settings. The museum is part of the new 100,000 square foot Heidrick Ag History Center which is air conditioned and wheelchair accessible,

so those of you who have trouble getting around can come. We plan on eating either at the museum or at a nearby restaurant. We should carpool so meet at Church at 9:00 leave at 9:15. Again those riding should handle the Bridge Tolls. Sign up sheet is in the Social Hall. Please sign up early so we will know how many are going. If we have over 10 we should be able to have a docent, other wise they have a self guided tour. This should be a very enjoyable outing and a great way to spend time with Christian Friends.

## Spaghetti Factory - Thursday Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>

by Marv Kreitz

Our main outing for the Nifty Fifties in Jan was to have been a visit to the Exploratorium located in San Francisco which involved driving some 68 miles. Only Trudy Violet and I signed up, so we decided to go to lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Con-

cord instead .... We immediately had six sign up and ended up with 12... The Old Spaghetti Factory has really great dinners, which includes soup or salad fresh baked bread, entree, drink (tea Ice or hot coffee milk etc) and dessert (vanilla or spumoni

ice cream) I had spaghetti with meat balls for around \$12.00. As could be expected when you get a great group of Christians together a great time was had by all...



## Attention All Secret Pals

WE HAVE CHOSEN OUR NEW "SECRET PALS" FOR THE YEAR 2012-2013.

Please drop them a note by snail mail or put it in their mail slot in the narthex and wish them a **Happy New Year!**

One OBJECT OF A SECRET PAL is to let them know that someone is praying and thinking of them, plus this could turn out to be a new friend of yours. Don't be afraid to start a conversations to get to know them or say "hi" with a big smile and it doesn't cost a thing! Don't forget **Valentines Day**, create or purchase a card for your pal. Consider a special effort to sit at their table at the **Valentine Brunch**, another thing that doesn't cost. You will be blessed and so will they!

Please check the back of your Secret Pal Form often and read the **REFRESHER GUIDE FOR SECRET PALS**.

Most of all "enjoy the journey!"

**"To love another person is to see the face of God."**

—Lyrics from *Les Misérables*,  
Claude-Michel Schönberg

**"Faith is a knowledge within the heart, beyond the reach of proof."**

—Kahlil Gibran

## WoHC March Election

Attention: all women of Holy Cross are encouraged to be involved. In March, we will be nominating women to be on the board for planning our upcoming events and mission projects. The positions of president and secretary will be coming up, as well as other areas on the board, where you may serve. We learn as we go, so don't feel that you don't know enough, training is available. Please contact Pat Easby (672-6388) or Carol Lau (658-4102) for any questions. Come and be a part of the Lord's work at Holy Cross. God's blessings.

## February Events

**Sunday 2/5**

**Mite Box/Hat Sunday**

**Monday 2/6**

**Board Meeting, 5 pm**

*Put together college student gift cards mailings.*

**Sunday 2/12**

**"Be My Valentine"-**

*Sandwiches & Dessert Buffet  
Noon, Parish Hall;  
Sign-up sheet is posted on  
bulletin board next to the  
office. Be sure you sign up!*

**Wednesday 2/22**

**Ash Wednesday**

Supper 5:45 pm; Service 7 pm

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday 3/5**

**Board Meeting, 5 pm**

**Monday 3/12**

**General Meeting, 6:30PM**

*Election of Officers*

## Holy Cross Bites for Mites Results!!

Thanks to our bakers & customers, we raised \$288 at our Bites for Mites Bake Sale on 1/22!!! This money is added to the CNH (CA, NV, & HI) District Bites for Mites campaign, which at this point is over \$15,000 – what a gracious offering to our Lord.

The 2010-12 CNH District Mission Grants are listed in page 5 of the WoHC Program & on our bulletin board. As of 12/31/11 we funded Project #9 (Sierra Lutheran High School) & were within \$500 of funding Project #10 (Lutheran Bible Translators computers for Missionaries). We have until the end of March to fund the remaining 5 projects (\$26,000+).

Holy Cross is blessed to have a congregation that is very generous in giving to Mites. Remember, these mites (small amounts of money) add up to do amazing things like fund large mission grants here at home & abroad.

THANKS (Joyce & Cherylene)



**Where the funds raised from our Jan.22,2012 Bake Sale are going:**

- Chico State/Butte College Student Outreach
- Concordia Seminary St. Louis Food Bank
- Good Shepherd Developing Religious Life, Capitola,
- Seminary Student Tuition Assistance Fund, St. Louis, Mo.
- Light of Life Radio Program, Merced
- Food Pantry Renovation, Kaneohe, HI.
- HMong Ministry, Stockton
- Mt. Cross Adult Ministry Expansion, Felton
- Worship Equipment, Sierra Lutheran High School, Carson City
- Lutheran Bible Translators Missionaries, Aurora, IL.
- Chinese Sem Field Worker, Fremont
- Deaf Outreach Leader Training, St. Louis
- Holy Cross Preschool Media Outreach, Rocklin
- Walk Through Bethlehem, Santa Rosa
- Deaconess Carol Halter Support World Mission, St. Louis

**TOATL MISSION GRANT GOAL FOR 2010-2012: \$124,960**

**THANKS TO EVERYONE THAT SUPPORTED US**

*Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him*

— Pat Easby

**Jack's Bible study on December 12, 2011**

1. The Christmas celebration is an opportunity for believers to express JOY as grateful recipients of God's grace in sending his son as Jesus into the world to be our savior.
  - a. We express our joy in love as taught by Jesus – love for God and love for each other – AND we turn down our love for the world.
    - i. We worship, singing love songs to God.
    - ii. We express love of friends, family and those in need by personal contacts and giving gifts.
2. The world tries to divide our attention from the "Reason for the season" so we must pray, worship and meditate on the profound and extraordinary truth of what God has done through the life of Jesus.
  - a. To find the truth that "sets us free" we must open our eyes and seek the Lord. We search the scriptures for words God has spoken to mankind over thousands of years. We must respond to the truth which has instructions as to how we are to live.
- 3 Let us now review facts which, with the Holy Spirit's power, can strengthen our faith in the Lord Jesus.
  - a. The Holy Scriptures tell us that the triune "God created the heavens and the earth". (Gen 1 & John 1)
  - b. As mankind turned away from God to appease trivial personal desires, God persisted in loving education to restore man's spiritual integrity.
  - c. God spoke his words of spiritual wisdom through prophets he chose, instructed, and empowered. Through the prophets, he prescribed punishment for violations of his laws and told mankind he would provide a savior who would take our punishment and save those who believed.
  - d. The prophets included Moses, of whom Jesus said "he wrote about me"-and the Lord said to Moses, "I will raise up a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth and he will tell them everything I command him." (this was 1500 years before Jesus was born) We recall the power given to Moses by God as he confronted Egyptian pharaohs – and parted the Red Sea.

I'll mention only one other prophet Isaiah to whom God spoke in detail regarding the savior.

I'm sure you remember many of Isaiah's revelations. For example: 53:5 "We all like sheep have gone astray each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah also records the Lord's words: The Lord says to Israel (49:6) "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will make you a light for the gentiles that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

So, Jesus, a son of Israel, fulfills the Lord's promise. Paul quotes these words in his ministry to Antioch in Acts 13:47.

We are called, as Jesus' followers to put our faith in him alone; he is our hope of salvation. How do we realize that hope? Isaiah 55:6-11 says "Seek the Lord while he may be found, call on him while he is near – turn to the Lord and he will have mercy on [him] us – for he will freely pardon."

In our time there are many sources in the world which cultivate an attitude of arrogance in us and give us the illusion that we are God. To this worldly attitude, God says in Isaiah 55:9 "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts"

God sent us Jesus in fulfillment of (O. T.) his prophecies and promises. He identified him at birth by providing the forecast sign "born of a virgin". Jesus was attended by angels before birth and at birth, identified by "wise men" who were led to the scene by supernatural signs in the heavens. And when the ruler of Jerusalem heard of his significance from the wise men, he killed many children to eliminate potential loss of his power to the newborn but was frustrated by another angelic intervention sending Joseph, Mary and Jesus out of his realm.

We remember that Jesus grew up as an ordinary man, Joe the carpenter's son. His behavior was perfect and he manifested extraordinary talents at a young age teaching in the temple . He had no worldly status.

We are well aware of Jesus 'miracles and teaching in his adult life – and of his crucifixion and resurrection. He was sacrificed to provide his faithful with the means of grace – taking upon himself the punishment we all deserve.

Indeed we have much to celebrate at Christmas. And we are now reminded of the power of the Christian faith by recently reported statistics: Christianity numbers 2.2 billion people worldwide.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7p Bible Study	2 4p UB Tutoring(E)	3	4
5 Mite Box /Hat Sunday <b>9a Worship w/ Communion</b> 10:30a Sunday- School / Bible Study	6 12:30p Wm Bi- ble Study(C) 5p WoHC Brd Mtg (C) 7p Boy Scout (PH, L)	7 9a CVWC 4p UB Tutoring(E) 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	8 1p Senior Brd (L) 7p Bible Study	9 4p UB Tutoring(E)	10	11
12 <b>9a Worship</b> 10:30a Sunday- School / Bible Study 12p Be My Valen- tine Luncheon	13 12:30p Wm Bi- ble Study (C) 7p Boy Scout	14 4p UB Tutoring(E) 6:30p Elder's Meeting 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	15 9a NFS Museum Outing, carpool 7p Bible Study	16 4p UB Tutoring(E)	17	18
19 <b>9a Worship w/ Communion</b> 10:30a Sunday- School / Bible Study	20 12:30p Wm Bi- ble Study (C) 6:30p Church Council 7p Boy Scout <i>President's Day</i>	21 4p UB Tutoring(E) 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	22 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>5:45p Supper</b> <b>7:00p Service</b>	23 4p UB Tutoring(E)	24	25
26 <b>9a Worship</b> 10:30a Sunday- School / Bible Study 11:30a OUTREACH	27 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Boy Scout	28	29 <b>Lent Mid-week Service</b> <b>5:45p Supper</b> <b>7:00p Service</b>			

(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

We're on the Web!  
[www.holycrossconcord.org](http://www.holycrossconcord.org)



### 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

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

#### **Worship Schedule:**

Sunday Service 9:00AM  
Communion Class 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays  
Adults Bible Studies 10:30AM (Library & Conf. Rm)  
Sunday School 10:30AM

#### **Ash Wednesday Day, February 22**

6 pm - Supper 7 pm - Service

#### **Lenten Mid-week Schedule:**

**Wednesdays: 2/29, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21 & 3/28**

6 pm - Supper 7 pm - Service

#### **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

March Cross Currents: **February 20**