



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

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Shamrock

St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead.

Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?" Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity

Cross Currents



Volume 3, Issue 93

March 2012

"Does Church Need Change?"¹

by Pastor Chu

In an August, 2009 interview with Mike Matthews, editor of Answers magazine, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary president Dr. Albert Mohler addressed the question, *With so many children leaving the church by their twenties, what are we doing wrong, and what solutions can the church and parents implement?*

What do you think? What would your solutions be?

Matthews notes in his article, "Does Church Need Change?"¹ that *statistics indicate that six out of ten children who grew up in conservative churches are now leaving by the time they reach their twenties.*

Dr. Mohler points out the even more troubling trend that while in the recent generations, young people temporarily left the church, it now appears that for millions of young people raised in the church, their leaving is a *permanent alienation from the church and from the truth claims of Christianity.*

Dr. Mohler continues: *The reality is that many of them are simply opting out, which tells us that they never really understood or were committed to what it would be to be a faithful disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. In terms of what we understand about the importance of worldview, their worldview was evidently not shaped adequately by biblical truths such that they were able to withstand the tide of the secular culture and the allure of the other worldviews around them. We're in a world of competing lifestyles, worldviews, and even expectations and pictures of what the good life would be. The reality is that many of our young people are simply following into a peer culture — and then disappearing into a larger secular culture.*

Dr. Mohler puts much responsibility on churches and church leaders (I would say, beginning with pastors): *Churches in many ways have actually... added to the problem by doing too much for young people. The idea of the church is as a full-service entertainment and activity center, where you take children away from their parents and you just put them in a different peer culture. Now it's a church peer culture, and you are very concerned to give them all the right entertainment and activities. What happens when all of that gets old?*

Dr. Mohler notes that a majority of our churches' teenagers and young twenty-something hold to a faith that sociologist Christian Smith in a 2005 study identified as "moralistic, therapeutic deism" — which "faith" is being taught in our churches. *Kids are spending a very small amount of time actually even in the church activities, he says, and many of those activities have very little theological, biblical, spiritual content.*

Dr. Mohler also places responsibility on parents. *Parents are failing to convey the gospel and ground [their children] in the Scriptures, he says, and they have bought into a secular understanding of parenthood.*

Dr. Mohler offers a number of solutions involving both churches (especially pastors) and parents:

1. *The church needs to focus on expository preaching and teach how to think biblically.*
2. *The church needs to show the seriousness of church, including personal accountability.*
3. *The church needs to give answers about current issues.*

(Continued on page 2, Change)

Change

(Continued from page 1)

4. *The church needs to explain how the gospel is unfolding through real history.*
5. *Parents need to teach God's Word all the time, in everyday life*
6. *Parents need to help adolescents think through the big questions.*

What do you think? Do you agree with Dr. Mohler's assessment of the problem and/or his solutions to the problem? What would your solutions be? Does the Bible agree with you?

Paul writes in 2Timothy 3: ¹⁴*But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it* ¹⁵*and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.* ¹⁶*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,* ¹⁷*that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

We read in the New Testament epistle, Jude: *Beloved... contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain people have crept in unnoticed... who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.* (Jude 3-4)

For Church leaders, Paul gives the following criteria, to which all Christians should adhere: ⁹*He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.* (Titus 1:9)

Whether we are parents with youth children/teenagers, whether we are adolescents or elderly, what keeps us grounded in the faith — not “my” faith or “your” faith or someone else's faith but *the* faith handed down by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as Holy Scripture — is the

means of grace, namely the Word of God, Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

As the Church of Jesus Christ entrusted with the ministry of the Gospel of Christ crucified for the salvation of the world, which salvation the Holy Spirit freely gives by grace through faith (which the Spirit also freely gives) in Christ, we — pastors and laity — preach, teach, and learn the Scriptures and centered our lives as Church and individual Christians in and around Word and Sacrament.

Paul's “worldview” that informed, influenced, and motivated his preaching and living was the Gospel of Christ crucified (Romans 1:16; ²1Corinthians 2:1-3; ³Philippians 1:20-21⁴).

We get Paul's “worldview” when we learn *the* faith by learning the Scriptures and we teach *this* faith to our kids and young people, trusting that faith comes by hearing the Word of God,⁵ and *convinced that he* [our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ] *is able to guard until that Day* [the Day of Judgment] *what has been entrusted to [us].* (2Timothy 1:12)

¹ <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v4/n4/church-change-expande>.

See <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v4/n4/church-change> for short version.

² *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.* (Romans 1:16)

³ *And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling.* (1Corinthians 2:1-3)

⁴ *As it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.* (Philippians 1:20-21)

⁵ *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.* (Romans 10:17)



Voters Assembly
Sunday, March 4
after worship service

Mid-week Lenten Schedule

Wednesdays:

3/7, 3/14,

3/21 and 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.!



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, Bob Richards, Gary Cox,
Lloyce Logan, Robert and David Grandt, Inge Stone,
Elizabeth Bothé, Joyce Parker, Debbie Hardesty, June Stewart, Vivian Hock, Clint Lau, Leslie (Ann Caruso's friend), Will Voertman

Women of Holy Cross' 2nd Annual Valentine's Luncheon Sunday, February 12, 2012

by Marilyn Neumann

Cherylene Brueckner, our President, welcomed everyone and turned the microphone over to our own Mike Liebe, who led us in a fun ice breaker, where we all came up with the words to write a Valentine. The result was hilarious.

Pastor Chu gave us some words of inspiration from **1 John 3:18, and 4:7-11** to think about concerning "LOVE". We sang the Common Table Prayer to the tune of Jesus Loves Me, and ate lunch while listening to the music provided by Musician Jim Cordice.

Thanks to the Decorations Committee, the Parish Hall was transformed into a romantic, beautiful setting for a nice luncheon. Sixty people enjoyed a delicious meal consisting of two kinds of Quiche, two different kinds of salad, maple pecan scones, and dessert choices which included a Cherry Dessert, cups of Chocolate Mousse, and homemade Chocolate Chip Cookies.

We'd like to thank everyone who attended. It was so special to watch people enjoying the meal, listening to the beautiful music and visiting with each other.

We've included the recipe for the Oriental Salad on page 6, and if you would like to have a copy of any of the other recipes, please talk to Marilyn Neumann.



Nifty Fifty Seniors

Marv Kreitz, President

Speiskammier German Restaurant

March 8th 2012

The first outing for the Nifty Fifty Seniors for March is lunch at Speiskammier a German Restaurant located at 2424 Lincoln Ave Alameda California 94501. We went there a couple of years ago and it was excellent. Some of their Dinner Entrees are Sauerbraten, Cost \$19.50 Half \$11.50 (Braised Beef Tri Tip aged and marinated in Red Wine and Secret Spices served with Red Cabbage and Spatzel).-- Wiener Schnitzel vom Schwein, Cost \$17.75 Half \$ 10.75 (2 Pork Cutlets, breaded and pan-fried served with roasted potatoes,--- Bratwurst Gegrillt Cost \$14.75 Half \$9.00 (2 Grilled Lean Bratwurst with Cracked Spices served over Sauerkraut and Mashed Potatoes ETC. They also have a Lunch Menu mostly Sandwiches on a toasted Baguette for around \$9.50. It might be better to order half a dinner rather than a sandwich as the portions may be like D J Bistro in Concord. I will post the Menu near the sign up sheet in the social hall. They of course have Beer on tap (6 different kinds) available in ½ liter or bottles. Inga Stone highly recommends this restaurant and will be attending the luncheon. We should plan on car pooling as it's quite a distances to Alameda and there is a real problem finding a place to park. Reservations have been made for 1:00PM Meet at church at 12:00 and leave at 12:15 This should be a fun outing so bring a friend.

The Hays Antique Truck Museum

Our main outing for Feb was to the Hays Antique Truck Museum, located at 1962 Hays Lane, near Interstate 5 and Road 102 in Woodland, Ca. It contains one of the largest collections of antique trucks in the United 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 .



Chabot Space and Science Center

Thursday March 22nd, 2012

Chabot Space and Science Center is located in the beautiful Oakland Hills just off Highway 13 in Oakland. A Smithsonian affiliate , Chabot is an educational science center whose mission is to educate students of all ages about Planet Earth and the Universe. This 86,000 square foot center offers interactive space and science exhibitions, immersive digital-dome planetarium shows and giant screen Mega Dome shows. Chabot is also home to largest research-quality telescopes open to the public west of the Mississippi. Chabot is a hands-on celebration of sights, sounds and sensations. We plan on visiting the Ask Jeeves Planetarium a "full dome digital projection system" with various shows running daily. Also the Tine Mega Dome Theater, a 70-foot dome screen auditorium with various IMAX shows running. There is an area called The Challenger Learning Center where there is a hands-on simulated space mission environment The center is open Thursday from 10:00AM to 5:00PM Cost of admission (which includes two shows) is \$11.95 and parking is free. Meet at church at 8:45 leave at 9:00 Lunch will be at the café in the Space Center... Sign up so we know how many to plan on...Bring a friend.

Lunch at Mimi's Feb.2nd, 2012

The last time we had lunch at Mimi's we were seated in the back room all to ourselves so we asked for this and they accommodated us. Most of us had the special of the day for \$10.99 which included an entry soup or salad and added a beverage for \$1.00 extra. We had 6 sign up but ended up with 10 which is always great. When we went to the Hays Museum we started with 9 and ended up with 6 that's why we are including a lunch out as well as an outing away from the area each month. As always it was very special just to enjoy being with Christian Friends.

Women of Holy Cross

March Events

by Pat Easby

Sunday 3/4

Mite Box/Hat Sunday

Monday 3/5 WoHC Board

Meeting 2:15 pm (Conf. Room)

Monday 3/12 WoHC 6:30pm -

Election of officers -

Hostesses: Sue and Annah Reider, Glenda Borman

Join us for our "Spring Craft Extravaganza" we'll be making favors for the "Zone 7 Spring Rally" (that will be held here at Holy Cross on Saturday, May 19- mark your calendars for fun, food, music, etc.)

What are Mites?

The word "mite" means a very small amount of money, referenced in Mark 12:42: But a *poor widow* came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.

Calling his disciples to him Jesus said, *"I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything - all she had to live on."*

The LWML has found that when collected together, these mites, or small amounts of money, add up to do amazing things like fund large mission grants *here at home* and abroad.



The LWML CNH Convention

Doubletree Hotel in Santa Rosa
April 20-22, 2012

The LWML CNH Convention is coming to Rohnert Park. Don't miss it! On April 20-22, 2012, women in the LWML CNH Region 1 (Zones 12, 13, 14) will host the biennial convention. We'll welcome hundreds of women and men as they arrive at the Double Tree in Rohnert Park. A weekend of fellowship, music, Bible study, inspirational speakers, servant events and convention business is planned.

For more information and registration forms go to the LWMLCA-NV-HI website: www.cnhlwml.org. or contact Cherylene Brueckner, WoHC President.

Thank You Letters

by Marlene Roberts

I received two thank you letters. The first is from Eugene Moore National Stamp Program: They wrote, We are now supporting 156 VA facilities with the cancelled stamps for rehabilitation. IT IS ONLY WITH THE SUPPORT OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU THAT WE ARE ABLE TO CONTINUE THIS PROGRAM.

The second letter is from Ronald McDonald House thanking us for the pull tabs. They wrote, Collecting pull tabs is a cornerstone of the Ronald McDonald House. Thanks to your donation, families are provided a comforting place during a difficult time. It makes a difference in the lives of the 900 families that call our House their "home away from home" each year. Keep saving those tabs, they really help.

Attention All Secret Pals

Pat Easby

Have you remembered to drop your "SECRET PAL" a note by mail or put it in their mail slot in the church narthex? Let them know that you are thinking and praying for them, this could turn out to be a new friend for you!

Start a conversation, or greet them with a smile and it doesn't cost a thing! Create your own "thinking of you" card or purchase a card. You will be blessed and so will they! Did you get a chance to sit by your Secret Pal at the "**Be My Valentine Brunch**"?

Please remember to read the **REFRESHER GUIDE** on the back of your Secret Pal Form. Most of all "enjoy the journey!"

Surely your goodness and love will be with me all my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalm 23:6)

Oriental Salad

by Marilyn Neumann

2 bunches fresh spinach
2 cans water chestnuts, drained and sliced
4 hard-cooked eggs, chopped
1 can bean sprouts, chilled and drained
½ pound bacon, fried crisp and crumbled
Wash and de-stem spinach. Chill in refrigerator to keep crisp. Break large leaves in smaller pieces. In a large salad bowl, combine spinach, water chestnuts, eggs and bean sprouts and toss. Pour on dressing and sprinkle crumbled bacon on top.
Serves 12.

Dressing:

1 cup salad oil
¼ cup red cider vinegar
1 medium size onion, minced
½ cup sugar
1 tspn. worcestershire sauce
2 tsp. salt
1/3 cup catsup

Combine all ingredients, shake thoroughly or beat (or put in blender).



From Women of Holy Cross

Special Thanks to the Committee for the Valentine's Luncheon:

Ice Breaker:

Mike Liebe

Program:

Cherylène Brueckner

Decorations:

Idalene, Susan, and Scott Stadler, Pat Easby, Cherylène and Allen Brueckner, Dave and Ann Caruso, Mike and Joyce Liebe, Marilyn and Herb Neumann, Sue Reiter

Food Preparation:

Joyce Liebe, Marilyn and Herb Neumann, Dave and Ann Caruso

Cleanup:

Trina Godsey, Gayle Bothé, Pastor and Carol Chu, Judy West, Laurretta Oliver, Grace Gin, Pat Easby, Scott and Idalene Stadler, Mike and Joyce Liebe, Dave and Ann Caruso, Marilyn and Herb Neumann

Advertising:

Pat Easby, Carol Lau

Photography:

Grace Gin

From Marilyn Neumann

Thank You to everyone who prayed for my daughter-in-law, Debbie Hardesty, last year when she underwent surgery to remove a benign brain tumor. There were a few setbacks which required several additional surgeries, but I am so happy to say that she is healing very well and has now gone back into her classroom where she teaches 2nd grade at Chico Country Day School in Chico. She is working half days and doing very well. Thank you so much. May God bless each of you.

Thank You FROM THE OUTREACH CONCORD SHELTER CLIENTS TO:

Sinta for the many lovely new heavy plastic rain gear you donated to the less fortunate. A real blessing to those out in the cold, damp, weather.

Reiter family for the really BIG bag of assorted chocolate and wrapped candies. We handed all of them out on Super Bowl Sunday for their game snacks. They appreciate having afternoon goodies. Each person received 3-4+ candies!

Bob Westbury for the Large cardboard box filled with many, many big bags of different kinds of candy bars. We had enough to give out for our Feb. Valentine treats and some for March Outreach. They are always delighted to get sweets.

Sue O'Malley for baking cookies every month (for many years) and wrapping them individually. So yummy to have fresh baked goods.

A brother or sister in Christ might need clothes or food. If you say to that person "God Be With You! I hope you stay warm and get plenty to eat," but you do not give what that person needs, your words are worth nothing. James 2:15-16

Thank you to everyone that gives to the **Outreach fund** through out the year. It is so appreciated. We must not forget the **Volunteers** who give of their time during the month and on Outreach Sundays---shopping, helping in the kitchen making sandwiches, salads, stirring, cutting veggies, slicing meats, wrapping hot pots and pans for transport, washing dishes, straightening cupboards, loading and unloading cars, taking out garbage, making punch, etc. and for the many anonymously donated toiletries and items left on the Outreach table. We truly have a loving, giving congregation... God Bless You.

Lift up our eyes, Father, that we might see our world as you see it. Help us respond as you respond to the hurts around us.

In His love, Pat

March

Birthdays &



Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1 Terry Maurer
- Idalene Stadler
- 6 Cal Kallsen
- 11 Kamryn Coyne
- Sue Reiter
- 12 Pastor Chu
- Linda Sheppard
- 18 Rachel Gemar
- 23 Jean Eissner
- 24 Jack Mortenson
- 25 Nathan Pass
- 30 Doris Mortenson

Anniversaries

- 7 Rev. Bob and Gerda Koch
- 19 Glen and Susan Stenson
- 23 Gary and Denise J. Brown
- 26 Jack and Doris Mortenson



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 4p UB Tutoring(E)	2	3
4 Mite Box /Hat Sunday 9a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Voters Assembly 10:30a Sunday- School / Bible Study	5 12:30p Wm Bi- ble Study(C) 2:30p WoHC Brd Mtg (C) 7p Boy Scout (PH, L)	6 9a CVWC 4p UB Tutoring(E) 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	7 1p Senior Brd (L) Lent Mid-week Service 5:45p Supper 7:00p Service	8 12p NFS Lunch Out 4p UB Tutoring(E)	9	10
11 9a Worship 10:30a Sunday- School / Bible Study	12 12:30p Wm Bi- ble Study (C) 7p Boy Scout	13 4p UB Tutoring(E) 6:30p Elder's Meeting 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	14 Lent Mid-week Service 5:45p Supper 7:00p Service	15 4p UB Tutoring(E)	16	17 
18 9a Worship w/ Communion 10:30a Sunday- School / Bible Study	19 1:30p Bridge 12:30p Wm Bi- ble Study (C) 7p Boy Scout	20 4p UB Tutoring(E) 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	21 Lent Mid-week Service 5:45p Supper 7:00p Service	22 8:45a NFS to Chabot SS Center 4p UB Tutoring(E)	23	24
25 9a Worship 10:30a Sunday- School / Bible Study 11:30a OUTREACH	26 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Boy Scout	27	28 Lent Mid-week Service 5:45p Supper 7:00p Service	29	30	31

**Holy Cross Lutheran
Church, LCMS**

1092 Alberta Way
Concord, CA 94521

We're on the Web!
www.holycrossconcord.org



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1092 Alberta Way
Concord, CA 94521
(925) 686-2000
(925) 686-6894 FAX
info@holycrossconcord.org
www.holycrossconcord.org
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

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 and Conf. Rm)
Sunday School 10:30AM

Lenten Mid-week Schedule:

Wednesdays: 3/7, 3/14, 3/21 and 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 (Resumes after Easter)

Choir Rehearsal:

Tuesday 7:15PM—8:45PM

Outreach:

Fourth Sunday of each month, 11:30AM

Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday
April Cross Currents: **March 21**