



Holy Cross
Lutheran Church,
LCMS

Cross Currents



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October 2011

Celebrate the Reformation with Personal Reformation

By Pastor Chu

Every October 31 (or on the last Sunday before October 31), we Lutherans remember and celebrate the Reformation.

We celebrate the Holy Spirit's reformation — reforming — of the church through the efforts of Martin Luther and the other reformers of the 16th century. While these reformers failed to purge the establishment church of abuses and doctrinal errors that undermined the Gospel, they were led by the Spirit to restore the Gospel and the entire Scriptures to the people. We are the heirs and legacy of the Church that grew out of the Reformation, a church founded on and rooted in the Reformation principles of “grace alone, faith alone, Christ alone, Scripture alone” — that we are justified — declared righteous — by God's grace through faith for Christ's sake alone, and this we know from Scripture that is the infallible, inerrant Word of God.

We remember the Reformation not so that we can relive the past or live in the past, but so that we can live in the present and future with the certainty and comfort that our salvation is secure in the grace of God, paid for by the blood of Christ, and delivered to us in the objective means of baptism and the Gospel through which the Holy Spirit gave us faith to trust in Jesus for salvation.

Reformation Day is an occasion for a personal reformation of faith — an occasion for us to be assured and reassured of the certainty of our salvation that is rooted in what God did for us in Christ, that as St. Paul writes: ²¹...*The righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—* ²²*the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:* ²³*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of*

God, ²⁴*and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,* ²⁵*whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.* ¹ ⁸*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.* ²

Reformation Day is an occasion for a personal reformation of theology — an occasion for us to return to our doctrinal and Scriptural roots, that Scripture is the Word of God and *profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.* ³

But perhaps our problem is not that we don't know the doctrine or that we have played fast and loose with the Scriptures. And I hope and pray that the issue is not that we don't have the certainty that we are justified by faith.

Perhaps our problem is that, weighted down by the burdens of life, distracted by the joys and blessings of life, tempted and led astray by the devil, the world, and our own sinful desires, we waver and fail in our faithfulness to the Lord. Then Reformation Day is an occasion for a personal reformation of faithfulness to the Lord — an occasion for us to be restored, reformed, and empowered by the Holy Spirit through the means of grace (Word and Sacrament) for faithfully living our faith in Jesus Christ as a justified, redeemed, child of God.

The best way for us to celebrate the Reformation is to return to the means of grace — faithfully use/read/study/learn/hear the Word of God and regularly receive the Sacrament -- the means by which God gives us faith to trust in Jesus Christ and strengthens that faith for faithful, Reformation living.

1. Romans 3:21-25a
2. Ephesians 2:8-9
3. 2Timothy 3:16



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JOIN US FOR THE

Holy Cross Annual Congregational

Oktoberfest

Saturday

October 22

4:00 PM

The annual Oktoberfest will be held in the Parish hall on Saturday, October 22 beginning at 4 PM. The German food will be outstanding. Suggestion donation is \$10....beverages included! Feel free to bring your family, friends and other guests.

Sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board by the office.



*Please Remember
to Keep these Friends
in Your Prayers*

Sue Saalfeld,
Muriel Strieter,
Trudy Huenninghaus, AJ and Caylin Stanley,
Charles and Chuck Johnson, Brennan
and Devin Helmer, Christine Helmer,
Joy Parker, Mr. and Mrs. McDavid,
Wanda Schwartz, Dorothy Taylor,
Burma Grandt, Laurence Grandt,
Robert Grandt, Inge Stone, Luca Nishimori, Sienna Lee, Elizabeth Bothé,
Kathy Kinser, Abbi and Alex Roman.



Altar Guild Meeting: Please join the altar guild as we prepare for the upcoming holiday season. We will be meeting on Oct 15th at 9 am in the conference room. We will be planning for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas worship activities. We would love to have some new members, all are welcome. Contact Andrea Beutel with questions at andbeutel@gmail.com or 672-9605.

All women & girls

are invited to

WoHC

Welcome Back Lunch

on

LWML Sunday, Oct. 9

11:45am - 1:15pm

Theme:

*"Get on the Bus -
Back to The Book"*

- Share Your School Photos & Stories
- Devotion
- Special Brown Bag Lunch
- Door Prizes
- Distribute 2011-12 WoHC Program Folders
- Recognize Oct Birthdays
- Recess and More!!!

"School" starts at 11:45 am

**Don't miss the Bus -
Sign Up NOW!!!**

*****remember to bring a
grammar school photo*****

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1 Shelby Oatis
- 3 Erna Beutel
Glenn Stenson
- 6 Claudia Gemar
- 13 Mike Liebe
- 14 Walter Hoffman
- 18 Kimberly Chu
- 24 Annaliesa Liedtke
- 26 Erin Boettcher
- 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

NIFTY FIFTY SENIORS CORNER



NFS LUNCH

OUTING

Lunch at D. J. Bistros Restaurant Oct. 19th 2011

The Nifty Fifty outing for Oct. is lunch at the German Restaurant D.J. Bistro's located at 1825 Sutter Street Concord Ca. 94521 It's very difficult to find as their sign is nonexistent and you literally have to be on top of it to find it. In fact when I first tried to find it I had to get out of the car and look. It's located near the Park & Shopping Center in concord. I will post a map above the signup sheet in the Social Hall. This is a German Restaurant with emphases on entrees such as Wiener Snitzel, Bratwurst and Sauerbraten with Red Cabbage and Spratzel. A variety of German Beer is offered to quench your thirst. The food is outstanding. (Beer is served in ½ liter) which is 1.05 pints a little more than 16oz. Meet at Church at 12:15 leave at 12:30 or meet us at the restaurant lunch is at 1:00. Signup sheet will be in the Social Hall as we need to know how many are going.

Al the Wops-Trip through the Delta

By Marv Kreitz

The day was sunny and promised to be in the high 90's as we left church for our sojourn to Al the Wops. It was warm outside but just right in the air conditioned cars. When we crossed over the Antioch Bridge I couldn't help thinking about Bill Godsey, who was a Geologist, that worked for Standard oil out of Rio Vista and had ridden with us in Feb. 2010, when he pointed out that the land at the end of the Antioch Bridge was 10 feet below sea level and that several of the islands were 20ft or more below sea level. He also said that the Rio Vista area was and may still be the largest producer of Natural Gas this side of the Rocky Mountains Trina ,Bill's wife was riding in Dave's car today, probably was a fountain of information. We went on 160 across highway 12 straight to Lock. It was as always, beautiful traveling along the Sacramento River and we marveled at how much water was flowing and understood why Southern Ca. would want to try to tap more into this source. On 160,



just before came to Ryde. 160 crossed over the river which was the way regular people go, but when we arrived at Lock I noticed a car that looked like Dave's parked in front of Al the Wops. He couldn't have arrived before us as I was well ahead of him..But he did!! Turns out he went straight when I crossed over the bridge. Most of us had the Steak along with the Salad and a pile of sour dough bread. A few had never had peanut butter and jam on their bread along with the steak. Just one of the new experiences with the Nifty Fifty's. Lock (the town that time had forgotten) the buildings had little space between them and being old bulged and hung out over the street with wires and pipes on the out-sides very interesting. There was something new they had cage with kittens in it asking for donations (which I did) for the care of the kittens. The trip back, with a view of Mt Diablo in the distance, was again a reminder of what a wonderful area we live in and what a blessing to be able to travel with Christian Friends.



Women of Holy Cross

"Women of the Word, Women in the Word, Women Walking with Jesus."

By: Cherylene Brueckner, WoHC President

We will be celebrating LWML Sunday this year on October 9. The theme for this year, set by the National LWML is "Being with Jesus – Living on the Edge". The Women of Holy Cross will be helping in the worship service as greeters, lector, and ushers. Worship, prayer, Bible study, service and fellowship are key to "being with Jesus". Our noon luncheon for all of the women and girls of Holy Cross we will be encouraged to "Get on the Bus – Back to the Word". Be sure to sign up for this special event.

WoHC and LWML are two acronyms that you see a lot. What do they really mean? WoHC, Women of Holy Cross, is the name of the LWML society here at Holy Cross. If you are female and are a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, you are a member of WoHC. It is up to you how active a member you are. LWML, Lutheran Women's Missionary League (and also known as Women in Mission), is the official women's auxiliary of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

We observe Mite Box Sunday here at Holy Cross on the first Sunday of each month. Here is a Mite Box history "tid bit" taken from www.lwml.org:

Over the years, many Lutheran Ladies Aid societies used a box to gather funds in support of local and synod ministries. Under the

original 1928 Lutheran Women's Missionary Endeavor organizational plan, each woman in every congregation would receive a Mite Box if she participated in the Ladies Aid. Receipts from the 92 Ladies Aid societies totaled \$6,651.31 in 1930.

In 2011 LWML is still collecting "Mites". That idea really caught on! The Mites we collect at Holy Cross are sent to the CNH District LWML. The District LWML then forwards 25% of those Mites to the National LWML, who met in convention this June in Peoria, IL and adopted a 2011-2013 Mission Goal of \$1,825,000. The CNH District LWML is currently working on a 2010-2012 Mission Goal of \$124,960.

Thank you for your loyal support of LWML Mites and the Women of Holy Cross!

Be sure to remember your Secret Pal. A card in her Holy Cross mailbox is a simple way to let her know that you keep her in your prayers.

Upcoming Events

1st Sunday of every month: Mite Box/Hat Sunday – wear a hat, and bring your mites to support the mission projects of the CNH District and National LWML! Our CNH District projects (and their "paid" status) are posted in the narthex and on the WoHC bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Monday, 10/3: WoHC Board meeting at 5:00 p.m. in the conference room (visitors welcome!)

Sunday, 10/9: LWML Sunday and WoHC welcome back lunch – "Get on the Bus – Back to the Book"

Cradle to grave —
How shall my life flow?
Always the same,
Never daring to grow? Since
GOD is the same, always faithful and near,
I'm free to move forward in spite of my fear. So...
Naming the Lord as my Power through strife, I
Go forth braving newness — in faith and in life!

—Heidi Mann

LWML/WOMEN OF HOLY CROSS OCT. 2011

YOU GO, GIRLS!

Acts 16:13-15 gives us an account of Lydia, a businesswoman on the "go" who reached out with the Gospel.

The Holy spirit working in Lydia opened her heart to Paul's Gospel message and she became a believer in Christ.

She then set an example for her family and servants. Since she and her household were baptized, Lydia either spoke with them or invited Paul to speak with them prior to that event about the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our Gospel outreach starts with our families; however, Lydia was not content to let others bear the responsibility of spreading the Gospel out of her home. She persuaded Paul and the others to accept her hospitality and stay at her home.

Various Bible commentaries state that it appears that the beginnings of the church in Phillppi emerged from her home.

We can be missionaries in our own homes, communities, and, yes, even in our CHURCHES. How? By filling our MITE BOXES, praying for the mission grant recipients, and, of course, telling others about the wonderful assurance we have of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.

Let's get "GO"ing!

CNH District LWML Retreat

by Gayle Bothe'

"Extreme Makeover, God Edition" was the theme of the recent CNH LWML District Retreat in Chico. This was a spiritual spa weekend! I haven't been to a retreat in quite a few years and I was very much looking forward to attending this one. My friend (and a former member of Holy Cross), Charlotte Lorello, went with me.

Friday dinner was part of the package. Yumm! After dinner, Barbara Carr, District VP Christian Life, introduced our Bible study leader, Carolyn Schoenborn from Life Journey Ministries. This was the 1st of the 5 Bible study sessions planned for the weekend. Our singing throughout the retreat was led by "Sounds of Grace", a group from Benicia Lutheran Church.

Saturday, we had Bible study sessions 2 and 3 after breakfast. Session 4 was after lunch. We had free time Saturday afternoon. A guest speaker from Jesus Center of Chico spoke after dinner. Our ingathering was for Jesus Center. Saturday finished with a Vespers Service led by our district counselor, Rev. Phil.

Sunday, we had our 5th and final Bible study session after breakfast. A break followed the session, giving us time to check out of our rooms. We then went to the Holy Communion worship service. Lunch followed with saying goodbye to old and new friends.

We had fun and laughter throughout the weekend. At one of the mixers, a biblical name was taped to each person's back. You had to find out "who you are" by asking other ladies questions "about yourself" that they could only answer with "Yes." or "No." Let me tell you, it is very hard for women to just say yes or no!!!

Carolyn's enthusiasm for our study of Romans was very infectious. She engaged us in learning with her style, having us break into small groups to dig deeper and then draw pictures showing what God was saying. We studied Romans 1 - 12. The identifying verse for the weekend was Romans 12:2.

The CNH LWML District Retreat is always held the second weekend (Friday-Sunday) in September. Mark your calendar now to attend the 2012 Retreat!

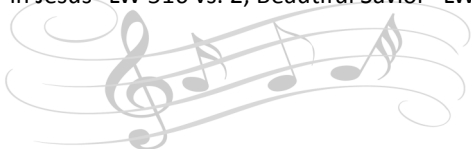
ATTENTION SINGERS!

Choir rehearsals resume Tuesdays at 7:15 pm starting **September 6**. (Typically 3 rehearsals, 2 services per month.) Not a current member but thinking about it? Concerned about time, etc? *"We should never be discouraged --Take it to the Lord in prayer!"* For *"He makes our sorrowing spirit sing."* If you're prayerfully considering joining this music ministry, contact the choir director Diana Meux at

dianamcm02@yahoo.com or 510-526-3294. We would love to have you join us!

"Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:19)

(In above quotes: What a Friend We Have in Jesus--LW 516 vs. 2; Beautiful Savior--LW



Do you remember Scott Alan Buss? Very soon his new book, "Apathetic Christianity" will be available online at Amazon or through his new website. An e version of both books will available sometime in October as will those great T-shirts. Please let me know if you would like to have his new web address. It will be fully operational on October 1.

If you have any Library questions, please feel free to call 925 408 4542, or email csgodsey@att.net.

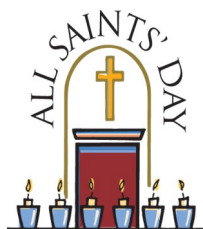
—Trina Godsey, HC Librarian



Women's Bible Study

MONDAY MID-DAY BREAK-Our ladies finished the Bible study-congratulations!!!! We start a new book-"Building Community", a six-chapter study on Monday, Sept. 26th. We meet in the conference room from 12:30-2:00 p.m. most Mondays. Please feel free to drop by anytime and learn together about how to apply God's Word to everyday life.

—Carol Lau



This year, All Saints' Day is being observed on Sunday, November 6. If you would like to have a special remembrance of your loved ones who have passed away since the previous All Saints' Day, please give their names to the church secretary by November 1st.



**Outreach will resume
on Oct. 23
the 4th Sunday**



Thank you for all of the cards and good wishes sent to me for my 100th Birthday. Your thoughts and prayers mean so much to me.

Blessings,
Hannah Johnson

"Faith, like light, should always be simple and unbending; while love, like warmth, should beam forth on every side and bend to every necessity of our brethren."

—Martin Luther

* * *

"No man ever got very high by pulling other people down.... Don't knock your friends. Don't knock your enemies. Don't knock yourself."

—Alfred, Lord Tennyson

* * *

"God is in the business of taking old pieces of our lives, refinishing them and, at just the right time, surprising us with new-found beauty."

—Susan Duke



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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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

Worship Schedule:

Sunday Service 9:00AM

Communion 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

Adults Bible Studies 10:30AM (Library & Conf. Rm)

Sunday School 10:30AM

Week Day Bible Study Schedule*:

Monday 12:30PM Conference Room, Ladies Only

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

November Cross Currents: **October 20**

Office Hours: M-F 9AM-1PM

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9a LWML Zone Rally @ Grace Lutheran Church
2 Mite Box / Hat Sunday 9a Worship w/ Communion 10:30a Sunday-School / Bible Study	3 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 2:15p WoHC Brd Mtg (C) 7p Boy Scout (H)	4 4p UB Tutoring(E) 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	5 7p Bible Study (H)	6 9:30a Craft (H) 4p UB Tutoring(E)	7	8
9 LWML Sunday 9a Worship 10:30a Sunday-School / Bible Study 11:45a WoHC Welcome Back Lunch	10 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 7p Boy Scout (L)	11 9a CVWV (H) 4p UB Tutoring(E) 6:30p Elders	12 1p Senior Brd (L) 7p Bible Study (H)	13 9:30a Craft (H) 4p UB Tutoring(E)	14	15 9a Altar Guo;d Meeting
16 9a Worship w/ Communion 10:30a Sunday School / Bible Study	17 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 6:30p Church Council 7p Boy Scout (L)	18 4p UB Tutoring(E) 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	19 12:15p Senior Lunch Outing 7p Bible Study (H)	20 9:30a Craft (H) 4p UB Tutoring(E)	21	22 4p Ocktober-fest
23 9a Worship 10:30a Sunday-School / Bible Study 11:30a OUTREACH	24 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 7p Boy Scout (L)	25 9a CVWC (H) 4p UB Tutoring(E)	26 7p Bible Study (H)	27 9:30a Craft (H) 4p UB Tutoring(E)	28	29 Parish Hall setup
30 9a Worship w/ Communion 10:30a Sunday-School / Bible Study 11:30a Hall Reserved for Gin	31 					

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