

# CROSS CURRENTS

Volume 5, Issue 73

May 2010



*"... Not to be entered into inadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God" —*

These words from the wedding liturgy in the *Lutheran Worship Agenda* are not part of the Rite of Confirmation but perhaps they should be. Although Confirmation is not a rite instituted by God, it *should not be* entered into inadvisedly, but often it is. Many have entered into it deliberately yet inadvisedly, which perhaps is one reason for the high attrition rate in our Lutheran churches of post-confirmed youths from the life of the church.

Our stated goal for confirmation instruction for the confirmands is not the Rite of Confirmation; the rite is but a "milestone" in their lifelong faith walk with the Savior that began by God's grace at their baptism and will continue, by God's grace, to the day they die. Our goal is for them to *grow in faith through God's Word of Law and Gospel*

*and daily live God's Word, and develop an understanding, appreciation, and love of Scripture and its message, especially as embodied in Lutheran doctrine, and how they apply to their Christian life.*

Being confirmed for the sake of being confirmed is the wrong reason to be confirmed. Being confirmed as a public profession of our baptismal faith and as our public declaration and promise to God to continue in faith and faithfulness to the Crucified and Risen Christ — that is the reason to be confirmed.

At times we might feel as if we were helpless to do anything about our young people's drop in church attendance once they're confirmed. But we are not helpless! God has given us the authority and responsibility as parents to do what is God-pleasing (and therefore good) for our kids. To let our kids choose whether to keep their confirmation vows to God is to abdicate our God-given responsibility and authority. If we don't think it's a good idea to let our kids decide whether to continue onto high school once they've completed middle school — and I assume we don't — why would we think it might

be a good idea to let them choose whether to attend worship and take the Sacrament regularly?

At their Rite of Confirmation, our young people affirm the Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the Lutheran doctrine as learned from Luther's Catechism to be faithful and true to the Scriptures, and they state their *desire to be to be a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation*. They also state that they intend  
1) *To continue steadfast in this confession and Church... 2)*

*(Continued on page 2, Confirmation)*

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## May at a Glance

### **May 2**

Hat & Mite Box Sunday

### **May 3**

WoHC Board Meeting  
6:30PM, Conference Room

### **May 6, 20**

Men's Group, 7 PM  
Conference Room

### **May 9, Mother's Day**

Youth Group  
HS 11:30 AM  
MS 12:30 PM

### **May 10**

WoHC General Meeting  
6:30 PM, Hall

### **May 11**

Elders Meeting, 6:30 PM

### **May 12**

Senior Board, 1:00 PM

### **May 13**

Ascension of the Lord

### **May 16**

WoHC Sponsored Luncheon  
Noon, Hall

### **May 18**

NFS Luncheon at BJ Bistro

### **May 17**

Church Council, 6:30 PM

### **May 23 Pentecost Sunday**

Rite of Confirmation, 9:00 AM  
Sunday School Opening in the  
Sanctuary, 10:30 AM  
Outreach, 11:30 AM

### **May 28-29**

Youth Lock-In, 6:00 PM

### **May 31, Memorial Day**

## **Confirmation**

*(Continued from page 1)*

*Faithfully to conform [their] life to the divine Word, to be faithful in the use of the God's Word and sacraments, which are his means of grace, and in faith, word, and action to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death*

If we don't help our young people take the Rite of Confirmation seriously by fulfilling their promises to the Lord, then we are confirming that it is advisable for them to be unfaithful to the Lord.

Though the primary responsibility belongs to the parents, all of us in the body of Christ have responsibility in the spiritual maturation of our youths. When our young people go through the Rite of Confirmation, they will make vows to the Lord Jesus Christ concerning their life in Christ as members of the redeemed brought together by the Holy Spirit in this place called Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

May God grant us the grace, will, and strength to support and pray for strength, wisdom, and guidance for their parents.

May God grant us that same grace, will, and strength to help our confirmands keep their vows to the Lord by praying for them, encouraging them in their faith and faithfulness with the Gospel, and setting for them a good example with our life of faith and faithfulness to the Lord in worship, stewardship, Bible study, evangelism, and service.

— Pastor



**May**

Birthdays &  
Anniversaries  
This Month!

### **BIRTHDAY**

- 2 Janet O'Leary
- 8 Cherylene Brueckner
- 9 Frances Maurer
- 12 Revia Maurer
- 17 Nicky Syrovatka
- 19 Melinda Swan
- 21 Amy Beutel  
Joyce Liebe
- 26 Josh Ballard

### **ANNIVERSARY**

- 18 Michael & Linda Pass
- 19 Jack & Pat Easby
- 25 Dennis & Carol Lau
- 26 Eric & Chris Roman

### **THE GIFT OF FRIENDS**

Earthly friends are God's gifts to me.  
I need them. I appreciate them.  
How often God loves me through them!

He uses their arms to hug me,  
their hands to help me.  
He encourages me with their  
strength and support,  
gives me advice and ideas  
through their minds and mouths.  
How blessed am I to have friends  
who faithfully serve the Lord  
in such practical, everyday ways?

*Thank you, Lord, for supplying me with friends.*

*Thank you for being my best Friend.*

LWML#20710

**Doris****Kaemper****August 26, 1927—April 3, 2010**

On March 11, Doris had a stroke followed by complications with pneumonia. She passed away on April 3, 2010.

She attended Holy Cross Lutheran Church since the 1960s. She took comfort in her faith and had inspirational sayings and scriptures in her house to view daily.

Doris was an active member of the Women of Holy Cross. She

## CARE CORNER

*Remember  
those who are in  
need of our prayers...*

Trudy Huenninghaus, Muriel Strieter, Ellen Stenson (Glenn Stenson's granddaughter, Beckie Jones (Ricky Liedtke's mom), Steven Liedtke, AJ and Caylin Stanley, Phyllis O'Leary, Charles and Chuck Johnson (Carla Johnson-Neer's brothers), Brennan and Devin Helmer (Linda Sheppard's grandchildren), Christine Helmer, Joy Parker (Gayle's sister), Mr. and Mrs. McDavid (Linda Sheppard's parents), Wanda Schwartz, Georgia Eissner (Jean's sister-in-law), Dorothy Taylor, Burma Grandt; Laurence Grandt; Robert Grandt; Luca Nishimori (Liz Aduan's relatives) Inge Stone, Sienna Lee, Elizabeth Bothé (Gayle's granddaughter), Kathy Kinser, Abbi and Alexandria Roman

## Youth's Spring Break Retreat: Santa Cruz

By Jason E. Gullidge

"If everybody had an ocean across the U.S.A. then everybody'd be surfin' like Californ-I-A!" This song lyric is from one of my personal favorite Beach Boys' hits titled "Surfin' USA". I love it because it reminds me of California beaches. I had this song going through my head throughout the recent Santa Cruz Boardwalk Youth's Spring Break Retreat.

On April 8<sup>th</sup> a group of eight youth and two adult leaders headed to Santa Cruz for two nights and three days. The purpose of this retreat was to create Christian fellowship between those who attended. Various activities helped make this goal a reality, including devotionals that centered on the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12) and individual uniqueness (Psalm 139) as well as nightly team

building activities. Youth also had fun spending a day at the Santa Cruz Boardwalk where they rode roller coasters, bashed each other in bumper cars, scaled a rock climbing wall and zapped each other at laser tag. This great retreat to allowed the Youth to have fun with their brothers and sisters in Christ and build stronger relationships with God and others.

The retreat would not have been possible if John Coyne had not volunteered as an additional adult leader. The Youth did their part in keeping up with chores and remembering the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12). The photo below shows those who attended at our lodgings. I do not know about the rest of you, but I wish I was still "Surfin' U.S.A.!"



Nathan, Ricky, Jason, John (top l to r)  
Amber, Britney, Kartini, Rachel, Kaytlyn, Kaytlin (bottom l to r)

## Welcome Trinity Luncheon

*By Jason E. Gullidge, DCE Intern*

On Sunday afternoon, April 25<sup>th</sup>, the Women of Holy Cross hosted a luncheon to welcome our new tenant, Trinity United Reform Church, to Holy Cross. There were over one-hundred people who attended this special event. This potluck and gathering was well received by both congregations.

This shared meal created opportunities for members of both churches to fellowship with one another and have great food. There were many different varieties of dishes beside the traditional Lutheran potluck of fried chicken, pasta and Jell-O. After dessert,

*(Continued on page 5, Trinity)*



## Trinity

(Continued from page 4)

speeches were given by our congregational president, Al Swan, and Trinity's Pastor Gangar. As Al Swan said, "we look forward to the 'dating' process between both churches", I was able to talk to Pastor Gangar about possible future events between both congregations and our youth. This meal gave us opportunities to build new relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

It seemed that both churches are looking forward to our next gathering. There have been some talks about having future air hockey, ping pong, and foosball tournaments between members of both churches. Pastor Chu and I are preparing for these contests. If you have any suggestions, or would like to get involved in organizing one of them, please let Pastor or me know. Thank you for all those who helped prepare the potluck and helped greet Trinity United Reform Church. May God bless both these churches as we do our calling to go and make disciples of all nations.

*Thank you Women of Holy Cross for organizing this event and everyone who brought food and helped setting up and cleaning up!*



Photos: ©Grace Gin 2010

# WOMEN OF HOLY CROSS

By Pat Easby

## Service Projects

We are **glasses** of all types;, women, & children's, all style frames and lenses. Please leave your old glasses on the table next to the Outreach table in the parish hall. There is a shoe box marked "**Glasses**"; we take them to *Lenscrafters*. The glasses will (at some time) be distributed of all ages and countries. People are helped that can't afford eye glasses on their own.

*Thank you for your participation.*

We are collecting canceled stamps! Remember to leave a paper margarine of one forth of an (1/4") around each stamp. **do not remove** the stamps from the; that is part of their therapy! Thanks for doing a great job in saving stamps!

**Judy West** will resign her position (Human Care) to **Marlene Roberts** in July. She will take on the job of sending the stamps and make sure they get to the right place.

*Thanks Judy for a job well done!*

## CNH District Convention

April 30-May 2, 2010 - San Jose, CA. President Cherylene, V.P. Joyce, Treasurer. Melarie and Chris Roman will be attending the convention. will bring the LWML news to us what we have to look forward to in 2010 -2011; I'm sure they will be very charged! The theme is "*Know The Hope*" in Jesus Christ.

*I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope which*

*He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints. Eph 1:8*

## "Missions and Mites"

PRAISE GOD! *All* the Mission Grants for the yrs. **2008-2010** have been paid.

Cross has given a total of **\$3,383.26** toward the 2008-2010 missions' funding.

*Blessings & thanks all the people in the congregation who donated their toward meeting the proposed mission goals. FANTASTIC!*

\*Update on the **new** mission projects (from convention) will be in the next newsletter.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for the up coming events. We don't want you to miss any of the good things happening at holy cross. \*PLEASE SUPPORT THE EVENTS.

\*You go to church, have a nice meal, interesting speaker, bring the family for a good time and then go home and take a nap!

\*If you have suggestions on what event you like to attend, the times and the days we have them, please let us know.

\*What other type of events you like to see or do?

We can only be as good as you inform us.

Thank you for supporting us.

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### Monday, May 3

**WoHC Board** will meet in the Conference Room at 6:30 PM

### Sunday, May 16

Congregational

**POTLUCK**

**SALAD BUFFET** after Sunday School. Watch for the sign up sheets!

**\*SPECIAL SPEAKER**

will be Susan Contreras from Livermore, She will talk about Lutheran World Relief, and the time they spent in Haiti and Chile.

*\*We will take an offering for earthquake relief in Haiti and Chile.*

### Monday, June 28

Women of Holy Cross' annual end of the year **dinner out** (Restaurant TBD). Everyone is invited; Husbands, Children and friends!

### Sunday, July 11

WoHC is hosting a special **Speaker, Lunch and Ice cream!**

*Betty Iverson will be our speaker, she has written a book about her adventures during WWII; another interesting topic and a good book!*

## Nifty Fifties Seniors

### Lunch at B.J Bistro Restaurant Tuesday, May 18

By Marv Kreitz

The Nifty Fifty Seniors were planning on a trip to Walt Disney Family Museum in the Presidio of San Francisco. When the question of how many seniors would go came up, the answer was very few, so we decided to go to a lunch instead.

As we have several Germans on our board, it was easy to select B.J Bistro which is a German restaurant with emphasis on entrees such as Wiener Snitzel, Bratwurst and Sauerbraten with Red Cabbage and Spatzel, etc. A variety of German Beer is offered to quench your thirst.

B.J Bistro is located near the Park & shopping center, in Concord. The address is 1825 Sutter Street, Concord, Ca 94520. It is very difficult to find as their sign is non existent. You literally have to be on top of it to find it. A map will be above the sign up sheet in the Social Hall.

Meet at Church at 12:15 PM, leave at 12:30. Lunch is planned for 1:00PM Put your cares behind you and relax and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow seniors at Holy Cross.

### Trip to Zoo Postponed

We had to cancel the senior's trip to the Zoo on April 21st because it was RAINING.

We will reschedule at a later date.... It may take a month or more, as it is a very popular outing.



### Have you had your picture taken?

Marilyn Neumann and Grace Gin will be putting together a new church photo directory. If you haven't had your picture taken, please do so after Sunday service. Grace will be taking photos by the church entry for the next few weeks. If you have any questions, please talk to Marilyn Neumann or Grace Gin.

### Graduates

If you have recently graduated or will be graduating this spring from high school or college, please send me a blurb of your accomplishments, future plans and a photo, etc... I plan to have a page for the graduates in the June newsletter.

Thank you!!

If you have any questions, please contact Grace at 686-2000 or send e-mail: ggin@holycrossconcord.org

### V.B.S. 2010: June 21– 25

Registration will be out soon.

### Church Extension Fund

Would you be interested in investing in something sure and safe? The Church Extension Fund offers you a great opportunity for just this — the Lords business and your profit.

For more information contact your volunteer representative - Gerda Koch. 679-1026

#### Term Notes:

Regular	Rate	APY
1 Yr \$1,000 min	1.375 %	1.38%
3 Yr \$1,000 min	1.75%	1.76%
5 Yr \$1000 min	3.00%	3.03%
5 Yr \$25,000 min	3.25%	3.29%



Many Christian denominations celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, which refers to a post-resurrection event that took place 40 days after Easter. This year it occurs on May 13.

According to Luke, Jesus led his friends to a Jerusalem suburb called Bethany. While on a small mountain, he blessed his friends and then rose into heaven while they watched.

The ascension was such a momentous occasion that after Jesus disappeared, his followers had a worship service at the spot. Then they "returned to Jerusalem with great joy" (Luke 24:52, NRSV).

Because Christ had promised to be with his followers always (Matthew 28:20), from then on they knew he would be with them as Spirit. Jesus' body was up and away, but spiritually he was still and always would be their companion.



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  
(925)686-6894 FAX  
Email: [info@holycrossconcord.org](mailto:info@holycrossconcord.org)  
Website: [www.holycrossconcord.org](http://www.holycrossconcord.org)  
[www.ctsmemberconnect.net](http://www.ctsmemberconnect.net)

Pastor: Bill Chu  
Pres: Al Swan  
Vice Pres.: Mike Liebe  
Financial Sec: Scott Stadler  
Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka

Elders:  
Bill Riechmann (F-J)  
Eric Roman (K-M)  
John Coyne (N-R)  
Terry Maurer (S-Z)

Staff: Grace Gin, Nancy Hoffman  
Newsletter Editor: Grace Gin

**Office Hour:**

Mon - Thu 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

DCE Intern Office Hours:

M, W 8:30AM - 4:30PM

F 8:30AM - 12:30PM

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

9:00 AM 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday,  
Worship with Communion  
2nd and 4th Sunday,  
Worship with Choir, No Communion

10:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Studies

**Weekly Bible Study**

*Sunday* 10:30 AM Conference Rm (Jack)  
Library (Pastor)

*Monday* 12:30 PM Ladies' Bible Study, *Conference Room*

*1st and 3rd Thursdays*  
7:00PM Men's Group

**Choir Rehearsal** Tuesday, 7:15 PM

**Outreach** Fourth Sunday at 11:30 AM

**Publication Deadlines:**

Weekly Bulletin Announcements - Noon, Tuesday

June Cross Currents: May 19th

# May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Mite Box /Hat Sunday <b>9a Worship w/ Communion</b> 10:30a Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30a Confirmation Class	3 9:30a Bridge 12:30p Wm Bible Study 6:30p WoHC Brd Mtg (C) 7p Boy Scout (H, L)	4 4p UB Tutoring (E) 7:15p Choir	5 12p TORCH (E) 6:30p CVLL (H)	6 9:30a Craft (H) 4p UB Tutoring(E) 7p Men's Group	7	8
9 <b>9a Worship</b> 10:30a Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30a Confirmation Class 11:30a HS Youth 12:30p MS Youth <i>Mother's Day [USA]</i>	10 12:30p Wm Bible Study 7p Boy Scout (L)	11 9:30a CVWC (H) 4p UB Tutoring (E) 6:30p Elders 7:15p Choir	12 12p TORCH (E) 1p Senior Brd (L)	13 9:30a Craft (H) 4p UB Tutoring(E)	14	15
16 <b>9a Worship w/ Communion</b> 10:30a Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30a Confirmation Class 12p Luncheon w/ Spkr (hosted by WoHC)	17 9:30a Bridge 12:30p Wm Bible Study 6:30p Church Council 7p Boy Scout (L)	18 12:15p NFS Luncheon @ BJ Bistro 4p UB Tutoring (E) 7:15p Choir	19 12p TORCH (E)	20 9:30a Craft (H) 4p UB Tutoring(E) 7p CVLL 7p Men's Group	21	22
23 Pentecost <b>9a Worship Rite of Confirmation</b> 10:30a Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30a OUTREACH	24 12:30p Wm Bible Study 7p Boy Scout (L)	25 4p UB Tutoring (E) 7:15p Choir	26 12p TORCH (E)	27 9:30a Craft (H) 4p UB Tutoring(E)	28	29 5p Wedding Rehearsal
30 10:30a Sunday School / Bible Study 4p Wedding	31 12:30p Wm Bible Study 7p Boy Scout (L) <i>Memorial Day [USA]</i>					

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