



Cross Currents

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

June 2020

Volume 5 Issue 170

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The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

By Pastor Munding

By the time you read this we as a church will have celebrated one of the most important festivals of the church year, Pentecost. For a lot of people in the world this day will go by unnoticed. There are no secular attachments to this day like we see with Christmas or Easter. While we may not see any cultural reminders around us, such as Christmas trees, ornaments, presents, Easter eggs, jelly beans, or really any traditions at all; I am constantly reminded of this wonderful event every time I see the astonishing gifts that the Holy Spirit has poured out into the church.

Pentecost isn't just a one-day event. Every time we gather in the name of our Lord, we experience Pentecost all over again. Through the preaching of the Gospel of Christ and through Holy Baptism, the Holy Spirit calls and gathers believers to Christ and His Church. Church is a constant reminder that the Holy Spirit's activity continues today.

I am also reminded of the work of the Holy Spirit whenever I see all the wonderful gifts that he has given each and every one of you to serve His church and our neighbors. The Apostle Paul speaks of these gifts in his first letter to the church at Corinth when he writes, ***"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone."***



The Holy Spirit has given us all unique gifts for the betterment of His holy Church. Just like each member of our bodies has a different function, so too our gifts may be different but they are given to us by the same Spirit, that same Spirit which poured out His gifts on the Apostles that first Pentecost. Each unique gift helps build up the body, that is, it helps the church.

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These gifts have been very visible to me, and a good example would be the gift of love, kindness, and encouragement that you all have shown to me so far in my ministry. I especially want to thank all of you for the wonderful birthday surprise that you gave me, along with all the cards and gifts. I will always treasure that wonderful day! You have no idea just how special this encouragement was for me. Not being able to hold worship services has taken a toll on many of us, including myself, and this act of kindness shown to me in the middle of this pandemic was uplifting (which quite frankly is an understatement)! I thank the Lord every day that He has called me to this congregation where I can easily see the Holy Spirit at work through all of you. I will continue to pray for the continuing outpouring of the Spirit and for the fulfillment of His sanctifying work in this church and around the world. We know because of Pentecost, that the Holy Spirit will continue to point us to Christ, and He will continue to strengthen, encourage, and equip us to be members of the body of Christ!

June In-Person Activities



As Contra Costa County's SIP Order has relaxed some, we are now able to lead worship service in our parking lot while we stay in our cars.

Our first Sunday drive in service will be on May 31. This is an exciting first for our church, and one step closer to meeting in our Sanctuary!

Thank you to the Elders, Ushers, Council members, & all who have assisted Pastor in this new endeavor. We appreciate your patience as we establish & refine the process.

June On-Line Activities

(Virtual) Bible Study Continues! Thursdays, 7pm, via Zoom (mark your calendar)

We continue our study of the Augsburg Confession, found in the Book of Concord. This is a great study of what makes us Lutherans. It is also a very interactive, informal study, with serious discussions AND humor. ALL ARE WELCOME!

The Zoom link remains the same for each study. I will send a weekly email reminder with the link.



Coming Soon:
Adult Sunday School via ZOOM.

Eric is planning the details and we will share them and the Zoom link via email in the near future.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WE WILL HAVE A VOTERS ASSEMBLY MEETING ON SUNDAY, 6/14

At this time, it will most likely be held after the
drive in/parking lot worship service.

A main topic of this meeting will be Council elections.
Look for more details before the meeting.

Women of Holy Cross – Mites for Missions

With our lives turned upside down over the last few months, some of our normal tasks tend to get replaced by new ones, or even forgotten.

- Restaurants are closed, so Friday night dinner with friends is on hold.
- My favorite shops are closed, so I shop online.
- I am working from home, so I do not need gas twice a week.
- My grocery list changed to accommodate preparing three meals every day.
- Online shopping does not generate loose change for my Mite Box. Oh! We are not able to physically go to church every Sunday. I forgot about my Mite Box!



Is your Mite Box *starving from neglect*? OR Is your Mite box *bursting at the seams*?

I have a solution for you!

Dust off your Mite Box, fill as needed, count the change,
and write a check to Women of Holy Cross!

(You can even bump up your total a bit if you box looks a bit hungry!)

Mail your check to:

Cherylene Brueckner
4657 Bishop Court
Concord, CA 94521



Cherylene, who is acting WoHC Treasurer while Melarie is away, will deposit the checks to WoHC checking account, and mail the Mites total to the LWML CNH Financial Secretary, who will sent 25% to LWML for national Mites, retain 25% for LWML CNH for ongoing expenses, and accumulate 50% with Mites sent from all across our CNH District to fund the new 2020-2022 Mission Grants to be announced in early June following electronic voting in late May.

When we can return to bringing our Mites to church on the 1st Sunday of each month, mailing them to Cherylene (or Melarie when she returns) will no longer be necessary. In the meantime, keep those Mites working! No need for them to honor social distancing, face masks, or lay-offs. Mission work never stops!

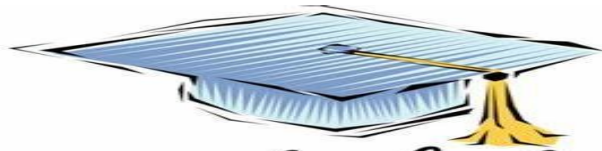
Serve the Lord with gladness!

Submitted by Cherylene Brueckner

Speaking of Birthdays.....

Oh my! What does a congregation do to celebrate their pastor's birthday these days?? Well, how about a surprise drive thru party car parade? That's what Marilyn Neumann suggested, & I said "ok, let's go for it". [A heartfelt thank you to all that participated.](#) Pastor was pleased at the birthday setup in the office that Marlene & Jean helped set up: with cards, gifts, pizza (bake it yourself), & dessert. Then when the horns started honking, he said "oh no". I asked, "are you ok with this?" and once he stepped outside, he said yes! He was touched, just seeing everyone. I'm sure this will be a birthday for ALL to remember.





Congratulations!

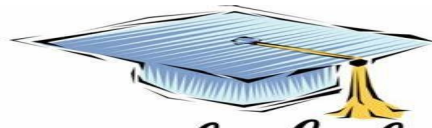
Don & Marlene's 2 youngest grandchildren are graduating from high school this year. On July 6, 2003 Pastor Chu baptized both Alyssa & Justin.

Justin is the son of Jon & Trish. He was involved in band where he played the saxophone that his great grandmother played in a band. Justin graduating from Freedom High School, Oakley. His ultimate goal is FBI - STEM FIELD. This is Science based Law Enforcement through the FBI. He is going to LMC get his degree then the police academy to become a police officer & then move to FBI.

Alyssa is the daughter of Bob & Lysa. She was involved in volleyball until an injury ended that sport. Alyssa is graduating from Freedom High School, in Oakley. She plans on attending LMC majoring in Criminal Investigation with a minor in some type of science for a job in Forensics.

We are so very proud of what they have accomplished & pray their future dreams are all fulfilled.





Congratulations!

Brandon is graduating from Northgate High School in Walnut Creek on June 3rd. He is very involved in the Instrumental Music program. Jazz, Wind Ensemble, Orchestra and Symphonic band are (were) part of his daily school schedule.

He started off the school year as Drum Major for the Marching band.

Brandon plans on attending Diablo Valley College pursuing Jazz Studies and exploring other interests.





Samantha graduated Magna Cum Laude from CSU East Bay with a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies and with an emphasis in California Studies.

She was admitted into the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential Program at CSU East Bay and will be starting classes on June 1st in hopes to become an elementary school teacher.

Given the current circumstances and uncertainty of how the 2020-2021 school year will be, she is still very optimistic and excited to start student teaching and getting into a classroom whether it's virtually or in person!



Congratulations!

Kaytlyn is celebrating her graduation from Saint Mary's College, having earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Throughout her time in college, she has academically qualified as a member of the Saint Mary's Honors Program. In addition to membership, she has served as a commissioner, and an executive, overseeing many of the functions of the program, and is pleased to be graduating with Highest Honors.

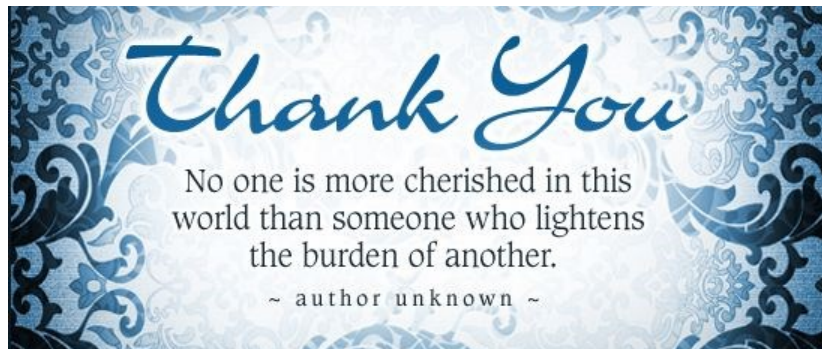
Highlights of her undergraduate years include a study abroad trip to Ireland, as well as a trip to the National Collegiate Honors Conference in New Orleans. Over the past four years, she has enjoyed playing flute with the Diablo Wind Symphony through the music program at Saint Mary's. She has worked in the Admissions Office for the past three years, and for the upcoming year has accepted the position of Grad Assistant to the Honors Program Director.



She plans to continue at Saint Mary's with graduate studies beginning this summer, culminating with a Masters of Arts in Teaching, and Multiple Subject Credential in May of 2021.



Congratulations!



From Britt Odemba, Missionary, for the donation we sent from the Ash Wednesday Dinner:

Dear Joyce,

Greetings from Nairobi, Kenya! I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank the women's group at Holy Cross for their support towards my ministry here in Kenya! Would you be able to pass this thank you along to them for me? (or maybe you are part of this group :)).

We are doing well, despite the present circumstances. Our family remains healthy and safe as we continue with the lockdown here in Nairobi Count. My husband and I go out for our basic needs and meet his family on occasion, but otherwise we are at home. I was supposed to travel to a couple different events for the Project 24 children but those were cancelled since all of the schools are closed now indefinitely. We are unsure of the future, but we pray that God's love is still shown during this time.

I am happy to report that the Project 24 managers have been able to visit the children in their respective homes and have distributed food to their families during this pandemic. We will continue to do that once a month, to ensure that the children are doing well. It is nice to see the local Lutheran church continue to give mercy aid to those who need it most.

Thank you again for supporting my work here. I hope that you are well and we continue to pray for everyone's health and for Holy Cross as the U.S. begins to re-open. Blessings to you all!

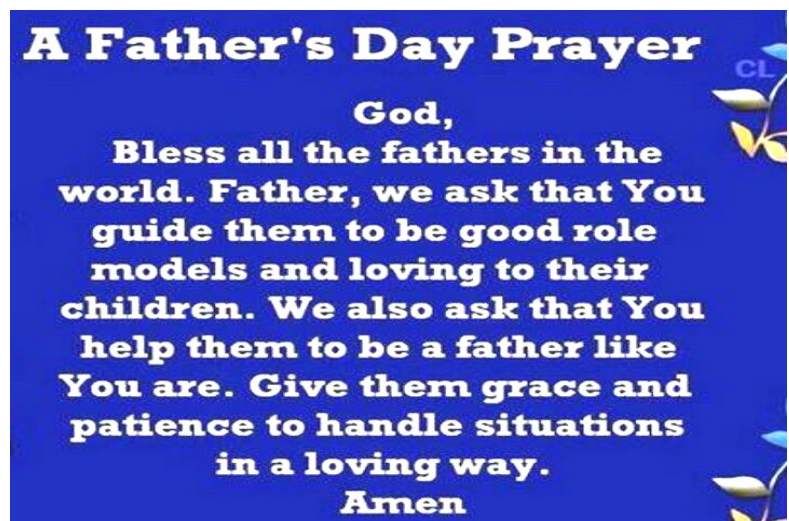
Your missionary serving in Kenya,

Britt Odemba
Education Consultant
LCMS International Mission
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

From Judy:

I want to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, and in general good wishes during my recent bout with breast cancer. The surgery went fine and I am currently undergoing radiation. It was caught very early so I have faith that I will recover fully. Knowing I had a strong support group behind (and with) me made it a lot easier to go through this frightening time. God's blessings to all of you.

Judy



June 2020

	1	2	3	4 7pm Bible Study, Zoom Call	5	6 9am Vision Mtg, Zoom Call
7 9:30a Worship Parking Lot	8	9	10	11 7pm Bible Study, Zoom Call	12	13
14 9:30a Worship Parking Lot I I am Voters Mtg	15	16 6:30p Elder's Meeting	17	18 7pm Bible Study, Zoom	19	20
21 9:30a Worship Parking Lot Father's Day	22	23	24	25 7pm Bible Study, Zoom Call	26	27
28 9:30a Worship Parking Lot	29	30				

cl=choir loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg., PH=Parish Hall, L=Library, ws=wing room

**Holy Cross Lutheran
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1092 Alberta Way
Concord, CA 94521

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1092 Alberta Way
Concord, CA 94521
(925) 686-2000
www.holycrossconcord.org
office@holycrossconcord.org
Like us on Facebook

Pastor: Andrew Munding

President: Mike Liebe
Vice President: Gregg Syrovatka
Council Secretary: Carrie Kroeger
Financial Secretary: Scott Stadler
Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka
Trustees: Allen Brueckner, Bill Luker
Elders: Bill Riechman, John Coyne,
Eric Roman, Herb Neumann

Secretarial Staff: Joyce Liebe
Newsletter Editor: vacant
editor@holycrossconcord.org

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm
(hours vary due to Shelter in Place)

Worship Schedule:

Sunday Service	9:30AM
Adult Bible Study	11AM
Youth Bible Study	11AM
Sunday School	11AM

Week Day Bible Study Schedule:

Monday (Ladies)	10AM Conference Room
Wednesday	7PM Parish Hall

Choir Rehearsal:

Tuesday	7: 15PM-8:45PM
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*****Above on hold until SIP is lifted*****
See Page 2 for details of our on-line activities.

**Bulletin & Cross Currents Publication
Deadline:**

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday
July/August 2020 Cross Currents: June 22, 2020