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The Season of Advent and the Battle of Gettysburg

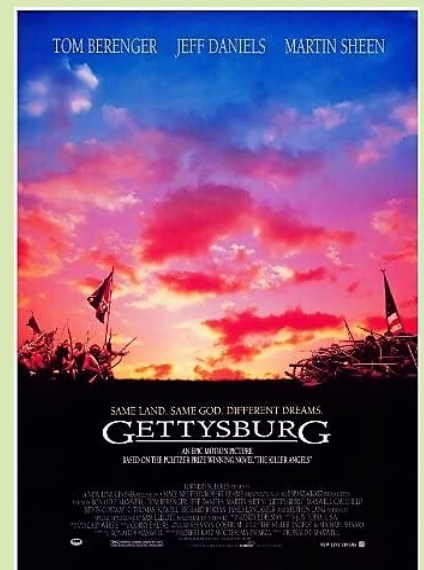
By Pastor Munding

One of my favorite movies growing up was the 1993 American war epic, *Gettysburg*. When my family and I visited that great historical site on a family vacation my one souvenir was a copy of this great historical film and I probably watch it at least once a year if not more. As far as war movies go there really are none like it. What makes this movie unique is that the National Park Service (for the first time ever) allowed the motion picture industry to recreate and film battle scenes directly on the Gettysburg Battlefield which added an authentic feel to the whole experience. As I pondered on this advent season, I was reminded of a scene from this movie which perfectly depicted what the season of advent was truly about.

On the morning of July 1, 1863, a small skirmish broke out on the outskirts of Gettysburg between dismounted union cavalry soldiers led by General Buford and Confederate soldiers led by General Heth. Buford and his men (around 2000 in total) had the daunting task of holding off the advancing Confederate army (at that point there were 7,000 fighting with several divisions making their way towards Gettysburg). Buford knew the importance of maintaining the high ground and delaying the Confederate advance until the Army of the Potomac could arrive to relieve him and his men.

The fighting was fierce but Burbord's men held strong as he waited for General Reynolds and the Iron Brigade to arrive and reinforce him. As the battle continued and the Union troops held off several confederate advancements it was apparent that they could not hold for much longer without reinforcements.

In the movie Gen. Burbord is played by Sam Elliot, who stands in the tower of the Lutheran Seminary observing the battle below. Frequently he turns behind him and looks through binoculars at the horizon hoping to see Gen. Reynolds and the Iron Brigade marching towards him. You can see the anxiety and fear on his face as the battle continues without reinforcement yet he is always hopeful that he and his men will be delivered. In the meantime he will do all that he can to hold his position.



Continued on page 2

Finally one of his fellow officers looks out into the distance and see's four officers riding on horses carrying the flag of the Iron Brigade (the main theme of the movie starts playing at this point). The officer cries out with excitement, "Sir, it's General Renyolds!". Buford quickly turns around, grabs the binoculars, and watches as Reynolds rides up in the distance. Buford then puts down the binoculars, smiles, and wipes tears from his eyes. The wait is over, help has finally arrived.

When I watch this scene I cannot help but think of the struggles that Christians face in the world we anxiously await that day when Christ returns to deliver His people. We are in our own battle against sin, death, and the world, and it doesn't seem like we can hold out for much longer. The battle is fierce and the warfare is long yet we keep on fighting. Like General Buford, we must always keep watch for our Savior who promises that He will come again for us. We cannot lose hope as the battle rages on besides us.

The season of Advent is that time in the church year where we stand on top of the tower and watch patiently for our Champion to ride forth to our aid. On that day we will experience a joy far greater than Gen. Buford did at Gettysburg. Until then we prepare ourselves (or rather Christ prepares us) with His Word and sacraments which strengthen us in the fight. Advent is not just a season where we look forward, it is a season where we look at what Christ has done in the past, what He is doing right now in the present, and what He will do when He comes again!

The author of Hebrews sums up what the reason of Advent is about perfectly when he writes, ***"O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."***

Let us shift our gaze towards Christ wherever he promises to be found. Let us look at all that He has done in the past for us which has been recorded by the patriarchs, kings and prophets, and the apostles. Let us look at what He does now for us as He comes to us through the preaching of His death and resurrection and the eating and drinking of His body and blood. And finally let us keep watch for that day when He will come in his full glory to deliver us and bring us with Him into His kingdom for all eternity.

Keep watch, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, for your champion will come to relieve you from this long and weary battle! In the meantime, look towards Him in the present to prepare yourselves for that day when He will come in full glory. He will not let you face the threats of this world alone! In fact, we know that He has overcome the world through His death and resurrection and for that very reason it will not overcome us. So let us fix our eyes on Jesus this Advent season!



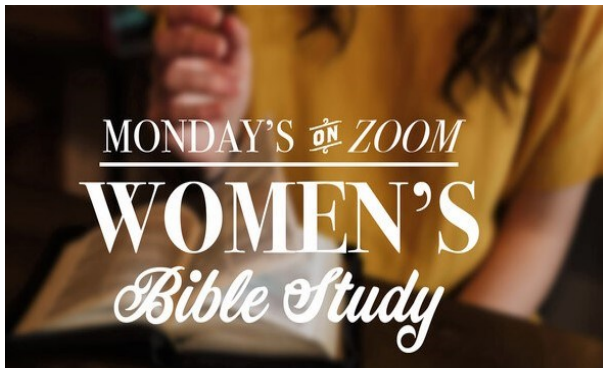
December Holy Cross Bible Studies

Adult Sunday School, 1pm, Zoom

Join us for Sunday School with Eric!

The link is the same & is in the
Friday Announcements.

Questions? Contact Eric Roman



Monday Women's Bible Study, Zoom

Annaliesa will lead our study on
Mondays, 10-11:30am.

The link is the same & is in the Friday Announcements.

Questions? Contact Annaliesa,
annalisedtke@gmail.com or 827-3385



Liz	12/1
Randy	12/2
Peter	12/6
Anke	12/8
Kevin	12/9
Emily	12/12
Alex	12/16
Susan	12/16
Bill	12/18
Allen	12/21
Christopher	12/30



Herb & Marilyn	12/10
Cary & Elsa	12/28

WoHC (Women of Holy Cross)



ANGEL TREE



**Lutheran
Social Services**
OF NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA

The LSS Angel Tree Holiday Gift Drive offers the opportunity to create a happy, joyful holiday season for children, families and former foster youth in our supportive housing programs.

A note from Melarie Seidel:

All the tags/envelopes are cared for! Thanksgiving dinner proceeds covered ones not taken by our congregation.

We need a few gift wrap helpers on Saturday, December 5, 9am, in the Parish Hall. We will spread out, 1 person per table. It should be a quick task.

Please bring your own tape & scissors.

Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

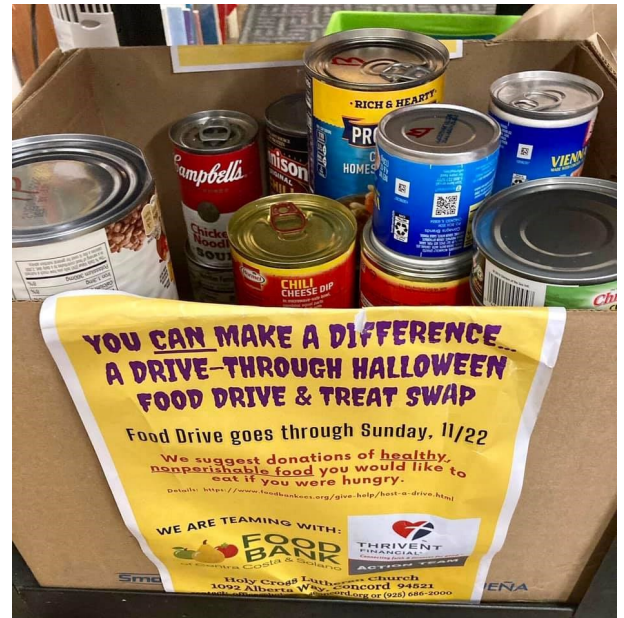
**Holy Cross Lutheran
Church presents:**

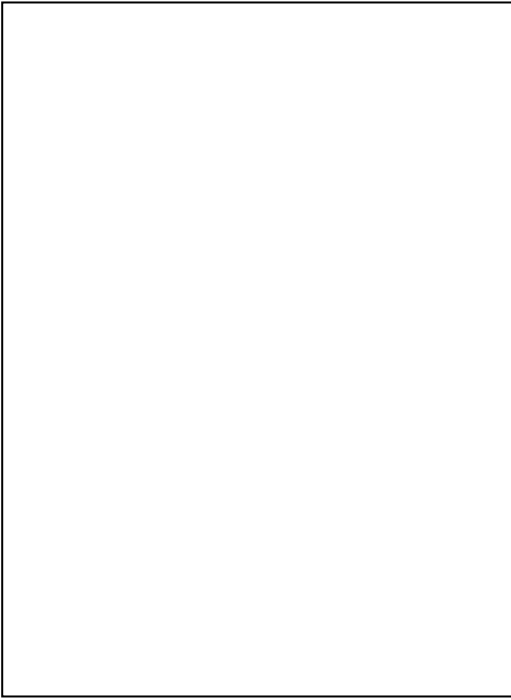


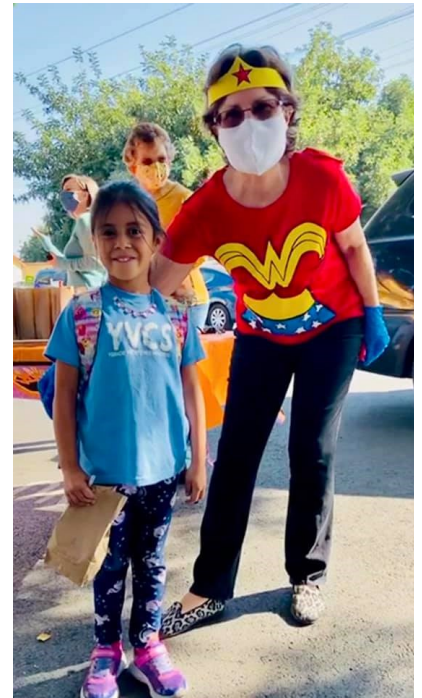
**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE...
A DRIVE-THROUGH HALLOWEEN
FOOD DRIVE & TREAT SWAP**











Our October – November **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE . . . A DRIVE-THROUGH HALLOWEEN FOOD DRIVE & TREAT SWAP** ended, Sunday, November 22, with all four of our food barrels filled to the brim! We want to thank everyone that helped make this event a success:

- ♦ Thrivent Financial for the Action Team \$250 seed money, and Pastor Mundinger for connecting with them.
- ♦ Mike and Joyce Liebe for organizing the Halloween Food Drive and Treat Swap that was the kick-off for the Food Drive.
- ♦ Joyce for promoting the Food Drive via social media, flyers, etc.
- ♦ The faithful donors that helped many cans, boxes, and bags of find their way to the collection barrels every Sunday . . . and many of the days in between.
- ♦ Joyce and Pastor for hauling one of the collection barrels outside the Parish Hall each day the office was open, giving good visibility opportunity for donations.
- ♦ At YVCS, Mrs. Kerr's 6-8 class did such a great job of organizing food collection at their school. The Friday before their Thanksgiving break they delivered nearly full food collection boxes from each classroom to top off barrels. WOW!
- ♦ The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano for providing the collection barrels, free advertising through their medias, collection of the brimming barrels at the end of the food drive, and being the network that gets the food to those most in need.
- ♦ Neil Zarchin, the Food Drive Administrator at the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano was a big help in getting us started with our Food Drive.



Most of all, we thank God for this giving opportunity. We are thankful for the food that graces our tables and for the bounty that we can share, especially during this pandemic when so many in our communities are struggling to feed their families. It was a blessing to work on this project. I think that the **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE . . . A DRIVE-THROUGH HALLOWEEN FOOD DRIVE & TREAT SWAP** should become an annual event at Holy Cross!

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye Heavenly Host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Submitted by: Cherylene Brueckner

A note from Visions Committee: Thank You Cherylene!

Holy Cross Thanksgiving Dinner

Saturday, November 14, 4:30pm







Constructing our Advent Wreath , Nov. 28







Holy Cross Lutheran Church

CONCORD, CA



December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 11a Prayer Group, Sanctuary	2 6:30p Advent Service	3	4	5 9a LSS Christmas Gift Wrapping (PH) 9am Vision Mtg
6 9a30am Worship Service/Parking Lot 1pm Adult Sunday School Zoom	7 OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee/Conversation Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom	8 11a Prayer Group, Sanctuary	9 6:30p Advent Service	10	11	12
13 9a30am Worship Service/Parking Lot 1pm Adult Sunday School Zoom	14 OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee/Conversation Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom	15 11a Prayer Group, Sanctuary	16 6:30p Advent Service	17	18	19
20 9a30am Worship Service/Parking Lot 1pm Adult Sunday School Zoom	21 9-9:45am Women's Coffee/Conversation Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom	22 11a Prayer Group, Sanctuary	23	24  CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 OFC CLOSED 9:30am Christmas Day Worship 	26
27 9a30am Worship Service/Parking Lot 1pm Adult Sunday School Zoom	28 OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee/Conversation Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom	29	30	31  GOODBYE 2020 HELLO 2021		

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

Holy Cross Lutheran

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pastor@holycrossconcord.org
(608) 797-9163

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Vice President: Gregg Syrovatka

Council Secretary: Carrie Kroeger

Financial Secretary: Scott Stadler

Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka

Trustees: Allen Brueckner, Bill Luker

Elders: Bill Riechmann, John Coyne,
Eric Roman, Herb Neumann

Secretarial Staff: Joyce Liebe

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm

Newsletter Editor: Joyce Liebe
editor@holycrossconcord.org

Sunday Worship Schedule:

Sunday Service **9:30AM**

Adult Sunday School 1PM Zoom

Youth Bible Study 11AM (on hold)

Sunday School 11AM (on hold)

Week Day Bible Study Schedule:

Monday (Ladies) 10AM

Wednesday (Adult) on break during Advent

*****Above subject to change due to COVID*****

Bulletin & Cross Currents Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

January 2021 Cross Currents: December 22, 2020