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## A Lenten Season Message from Pastor Mundinger

Once again we prepare to enter into the Lenten season as we journey through the Church Year. Lent, however, is its own kind of journey. Lent is the journey we make as we travel with Christ from the Mount of Transfiguration to Jerusalem where He will face the cross and the grave for our sakes. It is a very sobering trip, a journey that often struggles to find joy. But there is Easter!



This year our theme for our Lenten worship will focus upon the journey, but perhaps not in the way we usually walk it. Our overall theme will be "Return from Exile: A Lenten Journey." All journeys must have a starting point; and in the preaching and teaching this Lenten season, we will consider our starting point a land of exile.

The land of exile from which we begin our journey is the wilderness of sin and death. Sin came into the world when our first parents were unfaithful and disobedient, eating fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve sinned, and we have inherited from them not only the sin itself, but also the result of that sin—separation from our Lord and God. From the first sin in the first garden, we have been exiled into the wilderness where we have wandered without any ability to find our way out.

This is the beginning of our journey: exile. But every journey also has a destination, an ending point. Our return from exile brings us into the promised land. Our relationship with our God is restored by Christ's sacrifice. Our destination, then, is the perfect place, the new garden, the courts of heaven—the ultimate destination which was established for us by His death and resurrection. There is great joy in the journey as we see where our returning brings us; but there is also a somber attitude when we consider what Christ faced on account of our sin.

All journeys consist of many events that take place between the journey's beginning and its end. Our Lenten journey is no different. Each leg of our Lenten journey begins in the Old



Testament and then continues into the New Testament, pointing us to the joy that is ours in Christ Jesus. Do not be surprised to discover that from the very beginning, even outside the gates of the Garden of Eden, it is Christ who travels with us. He has always been our guide, from the very beginning, and He will journey with us to the very end. Indeed, He has even gone before us to prepare a heavenly dwelling place.

Life is full of journeys. Life itself is a journey. We enter this Lenten season contemplating the reality of our earthly journey but with eyes fixed on its destination—the empty tomb and the open gates of everlasting life. What joy there is in knowing that we do not walk this way alone!



Eberhard	3/1
Idalene	3/1
Kamryn	3/11
Pastor	3/12
Rachael	3/18
Jean	3/23
Chery	3/24
Nathan	3/25
Maddison	3/31



Gary & Denise	3/23
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Gregg & Cheryl announce the birth of their new grandbaby Linden & give thanks to God for His continued blessings.

Nick & Cassey Syrovatka had their baby boy on February 15: Linden Alan weighed 8 lbs and 5 oz. & was 20 in long.



**Return  
from  
Exile**

**Mid-Week Lenten Services**

Join us for worship in our sanctuary each Wednesday at 6:30pm:  
2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, & 3/24 as we journey through this season together.



***Holy Week Services***

**March 28, 9:30am ~ Palm Sunday worship with Holy Communion**

**April 1, 6:30pm ~ Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion**

**April 2, 12pm ~ Good Friday noon worship**

**April 2, 6:30pm ~ Good Friday Tenebrae service**

**April 4, 9:30am ~ Easter Sunday worship with Holy Communion**

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

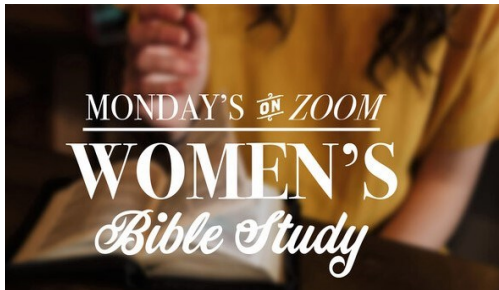


# March Bible Studies

## Adult Sunday School, 1pm, Zoom

Join us for Sunday School with Eric!

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



## Monday Women's Bible Study, 10am, Zoom

Join us as Annaliesa leads us!

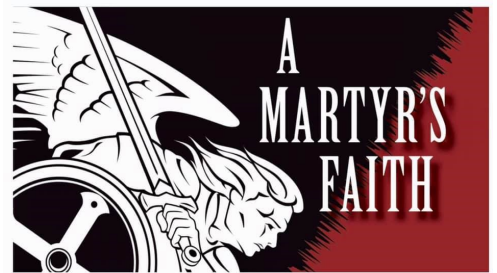
The link is the same & is in the Friday Announcements.

Pastor Mundinger has started our

## Holy Cross Book Club, Mondays\*\*, 7pm, Zoom

We are wrapping up Rev. Bryan Wolfmuehler's book, A Martyr's Faith in a Faithless World. Pastor will announce our next book soon!

\*\* we meet every 1st, 2nd, & 4th Monday of the month as well as the 3rd Tuesday of the month because there is a council meeting



Holy Cross Book Club  
Online Event



We had our BEST turnout at our 2/15 Women's "coffee and conversation" Zoom call! Look at all of these lovely ladies!

**JOIN US ANY MONDAY AT 9AM!**

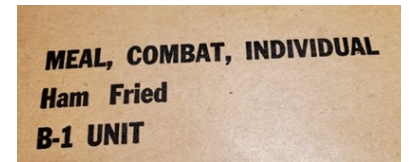


## **HOLY CROSS MEN'S KAFFEKLATCH PLATOON (HCMKKP) MANDATORY ZOOM FORMATION 18 FEB 21**

NOT GOOD! Prior to the formation on the 18<sup>th</sup>, the women held a ZOOM meeting and it was attended by 11 of our dear ladies. The men were challenged to meet or exceed this number. WELL! Comes meeting morning and the men found themselves the victim of a vicious disinformation campaign when an erroneous link to the meeting was provided by a female who shall remain nameless. Fortunately, calm minds prevailed and with the help of the perpetrator, emails were sent out with the correct ZOOM link. Eleven (11) stubborn men stuck with the program long enough to notice corrected disinformation and to join formation after all. Maybe some of them were concerned about having to do push-ups if they missed the formation. One of them was our Brother Scott from Texas where everything is bigger. Bigger, longer, more widespread power outages, and water outages. I hear tell they (not Scott) will be enjoying big plumbing bills and a big jump in the cost of utilities.

NOT GOOD! The men are getting impatient and want their steak and egg breakfasts back. Since MEL'S Concord is closed for good, we are looking for alternate rally points for breakfast. Howard Scouten suggested we could all enjoy eating Meals, Ready to Eat (MRE) and he furnished pictures (shown to the right). You can tell he is Air Force and used to 5-star restaurants. He hasn't been exposed to "combat" rations enough to realize that the pictures he sent were of a Meal, Combat, Individual which were better known as "C Rations" and NOT MREs. Marv would have eaten C rations during WWII (never mind...Marv was Navy and they had good chow at sea) and Vietnam vets know what they are. On seeing the pictures, I politely declined the suggestion in the interest of avoiding a frivolous lawsuit for abuse of the troops. Were we able to have MREs, we could consume them in the parking lot at church. We'd be able to avoid tips and taxes. There are other benefits to MREs. If you suffer from irregularity, MREs will solve that because you'll never go again without the aid of EX-LAX. That said, we are still looking for suggestions and the Commander will perform site recons when indoor dining opens back up. Just to get the digestive juices going, a link to the Black Bear Diner Menu is here - <https://blackbeardiner.com/menus/?store=27>

GOOD! In an effort to protect the integrity of our online ZOOM chat platform and to prevent future disinformation campaigns from being as successful as the recent one was, the Commander will setup the formation as a "recurring meeting" so the wives (our independent internet support contractors) can get the men in their chairs, in front of the computer, and online ON TIME easily, **EVERY 3rd Thursday**. **Commander**





## What is the Vision Committee and What Does it Do?

You have heard mention of the Holy Cross Vision Committee and you may be aware they meet each first Saturday morning of the month (by Zoom for now). But what are they doing?

Let us go back a way. The Committee formed back in 2018 as the Long-Range Planning and Call Committee soon after Pastor Chu announced his plans to retire and was charged by the Council and Elders to lead us through the call process. The original core of the Committee included Cherylene Brueckner, Pat Kroeger, Eric Roman, John Coyne, and Mike Liebe, and we are blessed that all these persons continue to serve on the Committee, now with the addition of Joyce Liebe and Pastor Mundinger.

One of the first tasks of the Committee was to review and update our Holy Cross Vision in preparation for our call. We confirmed our Vision is embodied in our Mission and Statement of Purpose:

*Our mission is contained in the Great Commission, "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28: 19-20)*

*To fulfill Christ's command the members and staff at Holy Cross will create:*

- Meaningful worship opportunities for members and guests
- Christian growth and unity through Bible study
- The sharing of Christ with family, community, and the world
- Service to our community, including those less fortunate
- Internal and external fellowship opportunity

*Adopted June 15, 1992*

With the call, ordination, and installation of Pastor Mundinger, the Committee agreed to continue our efforts rather than disband, with a new focus on what Cherylene characterizes as "VIA", Vision in Action. A name change was needed (Pastor may have been uncomfortable if a call committee continued to meet...).

The Vision Committee emerged, with a **new charge of, "How to serve our members and our community to grow the kingdom of God."** We have found our planning and activities to be a mixture of outreach, service, evangelism, fellowship, witness, and in many cases, we act as a catalyst with other Holy Cross leaders and groups including the Council, Elders, and Women of Holy Cross, and with the help of many volunteers.

If you are curious about the Vision Committee, have ideas to share or are inspired by Vision In Action, please join us for a meeting or two, or talk with a Committee member, and consider joining the Committee. We have lots of fishing to do out there.



(Joyce found this clip art & it seemed appropriate)





# RAGIN' CAJUN VALENTINE OCCASION



**Free Will offerings totaled \$384, which were sent to The Food Bank of Contra Costa/Solano.**







**We ended the Occasion with a short service  
& buried the Alleluias.**





# Gumbo Recipe from RCVO

(from pastor Mundinger's good friend, *Joyce's comments*)

Add whatever meats you like. I prefer chicken and sausage at least. Crawfish tails or shrimp are great too.

I usually get like 3-5 chicken breasts (**2 pounds**), ANDOUILLE (must be that) sausage – 1 or 2 links depending on size (*I used 1 link: 1 pound*). And then whatever package crawfish tails/shrimp (*none this time*).

Cube and cook all your meats in a pan on medium-low heat. Cook low and slow. Cook chicken first, then sausage, adding your seafood last and just before going into big pot because seafood cooks faster. But let all those flavors marry a bit.

For spices, I use (**1/4 tsp**) chili powder, (**1 tsp**) paprika, (**1 tsp**) cayenne pepper, (*I didn't use*) whatever hot sauce, (**3/4 tsp**) black pepper, (**3/4 tsp**) salt. (I also use a bit of whatever generic Cajun spice. Ex: (**1 tsp**) Tony Chachere's Creole Seasoning).

Get a big pot. Put on medium heat to begin.

In bottom of pot, pour 1 cup oil (*vegetable, not olive oil*). Once it gets hot and bubbles when you sprinkle water, add 1 cup flour slowly. Stir the Roux until to cook. Look for medium to dark brown color. (*Takes about 15-20 minutes*).

Once the color looks good, add your beer. I usually start with 4 cans of beer. At this point, I'll also add a couple chicken bouillon cubes too (*I used 2 tsp Better Than Bouillon Premium Roasted Chicken Base*) to help stifle some of the beer flavors and really marry it all. Once you get to this point, add meat.

Using the same pan you used for the meat, pan fry veggies a bit. Veggies include:

1 Bell pepper of each (green, yellow, red)

1 (*I used 2*) Onion (*chopped*)

3 (*I used 5*) cloves garlic (*chopped*)

If you add 2 Jalapenos (*I used 2 very large, seeded*), that will be a bit of spice. 4 jalapenos will be hot. 4 jalapenos with a habanero will be on fire. (*finely chopped*)

About a cup of chopped okra (*I used less as not everyone likes [I do like it]. Should use though as it helps thicken & flavor*)

A few stalks of celery (*chopped*)

Put on medium high heat and put same spices (*I didn't add more spices here but may next time*) you did on meats onto the veggies and quick fry for like 5 minutes. Then put into the pot and bring that pot up to a boil.

If it looks like it needs more liquid, I'll add a beer (*I didn't add more*). But it is supposed to be like a stew.

Let simmer for 30 minutes to an hour. (*the longer the better; this will taste as good or better if it sits overnight & you re-heat it*). You can make rice during this time.

Let it cool and serve with rice! *At home I sprinkled with sliced green onions.*







# eNews

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

eNews Issue #321 SPECIAL EDITION — February 15, 2021

## LWML Reaches 2019-2021 Mission Goal!

**Sing the Doxology, “Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!” The LWML, by God’s grace, has reached the mission goal of \$2.1 million set for the 2019-2021 biennium.**

This means that all mission grants selected for this biennium can be funded! God has great plans for spreading His Gospel story through those ministries. He has great plans for the 2021-2023 mission grants as well. Of the 65 completed mission grant submissions, 34 were selected for the 2021 LWML Convention ballot and approved by the LWML Board of Directors (BOD) and Presidents Assembly in January.

The LWML BOD and Presidents Assembly will meet in March to approve the 2021-2023 mission goal – and after the end of the biennium (March 31, 2021) – any surplus mite offerings not given to mission grant recipients in this biennium will be added on top of the allocation for the 2021-2023 mission grants. What a joy and privilege it will be to pray, consider, discuss, and vote for those recipients!

LWML Treasurer Karla Koehler wrote, “We thank God for the many women and men who have generously shared their material blessings so that the LWML can share the love and forgiveness of Christ!” Let the trumpets sound and the cymbals crash, in praise to the Lord!





## The Colors of the Liturgical Seasons

**Black** is seen very seldom during the year. The calendar calls for its use only twice; on Good Friday and Ash Wednesday. There's no mistaking the message that this sober color gives. Black is the absence of light.

Good Friday, or Black Friday in combination with Ash Wednesday, calls for sober reflection on the cost of our redemption.

Without Christ's sacrifice on the day the sky turned dark and hid the light of the sun, there would be no bright Light of Christ to live in, nor new life in Christ to enjoy.



**Purple**, like black, is a penitential color, in contrast to a festive one. It is appropriately used during Lent and, still in many parishes, during the season of Advent. The forty days of Lent, including the six Sundays that fall during this season, use this deep, rich color which has come to represent somberness and solemnity, penitence, and prayer.

Violet or purple was a very cherished and expensive color in the world Jesus lived. The dye used to make the color was painstakingly acquired by massaging the neck of a Mediterranean shell fish that secreted a special fluid. It was therefore afforded only by the rich and worn most exclusively by the royalty.

Jesus, the king of the Jews, wore a purple robe only once. As the soldiers mocked and tormented him, the Scriptures record they placed on him a "purple garment" in order to ridicule him and belittle the claim that he was a monarch.

Therefore, purple is used during this penitential season of Lent as a vivid reminder of the contempt and scorn he endured, and the subsequent sacrifice he made for our eternal salvation. Ecclesiastical purple should remind all Christians of their daily need to humbly give attention to leading a life of repentance.



# March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom 7pm Book Club Zoom	<b>2</b> 11a Prayer Group, Sanctuary	<b>3</b> 6:30pm Mid-Week Lent Service	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9am Vision Mtg, Zoom
<b>7</b> 9:30am Worship Service/Sanctuary 1pm Adult Sunday School Zoom	<b>8</b> OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom 7pm Book Club Zoom	<b>9</b> 11a Prayer Group, Sanctuary	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Mid-Week Lent Service	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30am Worship Service/Sanctuary 1pm Adult Sunday School Zoom	<b>15</b> OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom 6:30pm Council Mtg	<b>16</b> 11a Prayer Group, Sanctuary 7pm Book Club Zoom	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Mid-Week Lent Service	<b>18</b> 8:30am HC Men's Kaffeeklatsch Zoom	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:30am Worship Service/Sanctuary 1pm Adult Sunday School Zoom	<b>22</b> OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom 7pm Book Club Zoom	<b>23</b> 11a Prayer Group, Sanctuary	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Mid-Week Lent Service	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30am Palm Sunday Worship Service/Sanctuary 1pm Adult Sunday School Zoom	<b>29</b> OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom 7pm Book Club Zoom	<b>30</b> 11a Prayer Group, Sanctuary	<b>31</b>			

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

## Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

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Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka

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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](mailto: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

### **Week Day Book Club Schedule:**

Monday (Adult) 7pm

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

### **Bulletin & Cross Currents Publication Deadline:**

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

April 2021 Cross Currents: March 22, 2021