



Cross Currents



Volume 1, Issue 123

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

January 2015

2015



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“Heart of Hearing”

Give your servant therefore an understanding mind (literally, “heart of hearing”) to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” (1Kings 3:9)

This was Solomon’s response when God invited Solomon to ask of Him what He shall give. Solomon could have asked for wealth, power, victories, or personal honor and prestige; what he asked for was understanding, or wisdom, that would enable him to govern wisely and in a God-pleasing manner.

As we start a new year, God invites us to ask of Him what He shall give. He invites and commands us to pray constantly (1Thessalonians 5:17; Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2; Luke 18:1), trusting in His goodness and mercy (Hebrew 11:1; Philippians 4:6; Mark 11:24) and giving thanks to Him from whom all blessings flow (Ephesians 5:20; James 1:17).

As for whom and what to pray for?

We pray for the church, believers, the unsaved, the proclamation of the Gospel, the weak and the helpless, the unborn, those in need; in fact, we are to pray for all people in all times and circumstances (1Thessalonians 5:16-18). Paul writes in 1Timothy 2: ¹“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.”

We pray also for ourselves. We ask of our Heavenly Father, our true Father, “with all boldness and confidence... as dear children ask their dear father,” Martin Luther says in explaining “Our Father who art in heaven” in the Lord’s Prayer.

Whatever the desires of your heart that you bring to your Heavenly Father in prayer, pray also for wisdom, for understanding, as Solomon did, so that your Christian witness will be clear and God-pleasing in all times and circumstances. This has never been more crucial,

because the line between what is true and what is false is increasing blurred by those for whom facts don’t matter so much as the narrative the facts generate, even when the “facts” that undergird their narrative are bogus.

For example, the fact that “Hands up, don’t shoot” does not appear to be supported by the facts revealed in the grand jury transcript in the Ferguson case has not deterred people, including many Christians, from using the phrase as the rallying cry in their protest against the supposed epidemic of shootings of blacks by police officers, particularly by white police officers. For them, the narrative is everything; the facts don’t really matter.

(For other examples of narrative over truth, search the Internet for 1. “Fake, but accurate” and the 2004 Presidential election, 2. Stephen Jimenez’s book, “The Book of Matt: Hidden Truths About the Murder of Matthew Shepard” vs. the popular narrative of the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming)

(Continued on page 2, heart)



MESSAGE
FROM
PASTOR CHU

BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Pastor's Sunday Bible Class will meet on Jan. 11, 18, 25 (Topic: Gospel Words and Phrases in the New Testament), Library

Sunday School Classes will meet Jan. 11, 18, 25

Wednesday night Bible study will meet on Jan. 14, 21, 29. 7PM, Parish Hall

Heart (Continued from page 1)

Many take the same approach to the Scriptures. They reject the historicity of certain Biblical events and maintain that what's important is what the Biblical narrative tries to convey. For example, some say that it doesn't matter whether Christ arose from the dead; they argue that what's important is the hope that the resurrection narrative inspires even though in their minds, the resurrection is fictitious. St. Paul, of course, begged to differ! (1Corinthians 15:12-20)

The need for a clear and Scriptural Christian witness has never been greater. Ask God for an understanding mind or, more specifically, a "heart of hearing," that is, a heart that hears the Word of God and obeys, so that whatever stand we take — on whatever issue — is founded on and guided and informed by the Word of God. ☩

THANK YOU



Adopt-a-family

The Women of Holy Cross wishes to thank all those who contributed to making Christmas a lot happier for these families, thanks to your donations of funds and gifts. A GREAT big thank you to Thrivent for matching funds. Fifteen people were recipients of your generosity. — Melarie Seidel



Those who are in need of our prayers:

Sue Saalfeld, Muriel Strieter, Joy Parker (Gayle Bothe's sister -healing), Wanda Schwartz, Dorothy Taylor (Karen Gamble's mother), David Grandt (Liz Aduan's brother), Pauline Fudge (Liz Aduan's Aunt—heart failure) Inge Stone, Elizabeth Bothé (Gayle Bothe's granddaughter, non -churched), Abbi and Alex Roman, June Stewart (Judy West's friend -fainting), Jan Tammiste (Roman's nephew -brain injury, healing), Betty and Cal Kallsen, Jeannine Godsey (inner peace), Steven Liedtke (healing), Esther Lacey and Bernice Aiman (Violet Griffin's sisters -elder care), Matt Goodshaw (Brueckner's family friend -continued multiple myeloma, Maddie Conklin (Judy West's friend -lung, pancreatic cancer), Bob Oliver (healing), Herbert and Clara Huppert (healing, guidance), Bill Bothe (successful radiation treatments), Lee Rankin (Jennifer's mom-healing), Julie Oback (Diana Meux sister-cancer, healing), Andrew Gamble (Gamble's grandson -juvenile arthritis), Ron Gamble (recovery), Bob Hartman, Drew Oatis (healing), Blake Frances (Bill Luker's grand nephew-chemo, brain cancer), Helen Wehmeyer (Kroeger's family friend -stroke/heart attack, healing), Don Roberts (stroke, healing), Adrienne Marchand Brown (Carrie Kroeger's friend -successful chemo treatments), Betty Kuss (Pat Easby's cousin -leukemia, comfort for her and family), Suzanne Stadler (surgery-healing), Donna Spiegel (Katty's daughter in -law-fall, brain surgery, healing), Jaime Spiegel (Katty's granddaughter-ulcer surgery, healing), Andrew Bell (Sue R.'s nephew-broken back, healing), Lorna Meintzer (Eyona's daughter-neck surgery, healing), Glenda Barner (heart attack, healing), Hannah Mc Shane (Judy West's granddaughter-surgery recovery and results).

Chaplains among the armed forces and those serving in the military:

Taylor Bothe-Yates (Gayle Bothe's grand-niece, Texas), Capt. Richard Hill (Violet Griffin's great nephew), Cadet Megan Gemar, PFC Kevin Hayworth (Glenda's grandson-Hawaii), P.O.W. and M.I.A.'s.



Birthdays

- 4 Wanda Schwartz
- 7 Jessica Holland
Eric Liebe
Brittany Olson
- 14 Dennis Lau
- 15 Josh Coyne
- 16 Drew Oatis
Christl Rose
- 17 Richard Liedtka
- 22 Pat Kroeger
- 24 Wilma Burch
Bill Riechmann
- 26 Grace Gin
- 27 Britney Liedtke
- 28 Marc Albano

Anniversary

- 10 Peter & Liz Aduan

CHOIR SCHEDULE

Rehearsals,
Tuesday at
7:15PM



January 6, 13, 20

Nifty Fifties Seniors January 2015 Activities

Two lunch outings for Jan 2015.

The Brass Door Restaurant Jan 9th 2015

The first outing for the Nifty Fifty is lunch at the Brass Door Restaurant located at 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd in San Ramon. The Brass Door Restaurant is an upscale restaurant, moderately expensive. You should plan on spending around \$20.00 for lunch. They have a complete lunch menu with specials but I usually order off the senior dinners section of the lunch menu which include soup or salad entrée and dessert. I generally have the ground round with mashed potatoes mushroom gravy and vegetables and of course salad and ice cream for dessert for \$13.50. The ground round is 9 oz...a large piece of meat for a senior lunch. To get to the restaurant drive south on 680 till you reach Crow Canyon Road then turn right on Crow Canyon Rd and the first road right (a very short distance) is San Ramon Blvd and go about 6 blocks north and its down a little embankment. Meet at church at 12:00 and leave at 12:15 lunch is at 1:00. Bring a friend ...

Fiore Restaurant ~ Jan 23rd 2015

Our 2nd outing is to Fiore Restaurant located at 5100 Clayton Rd Concord in the shopping center where Alberta way runs into Clayton Road. Fiore, an Italian Fusion Cuisine restaurant, is said to bring new life to the world of fine Italian cuisine. Opened in 2008 Fiore has risen to great success due to its savory cuisine and friendly service. They have an extensive menu. As I remember when we last had our group there most of us had the pulled pork. This time I am going to try some lamb. The chef originates from the vibrant city of Casablanca in Morocco. Growing up in such a diverse culinary city Chef Jacifi was exposed to French, Spanish and Mediterranean cuisine. I'm looking forward to trying something new. Meet at church at 12:30 and leave promptly at 12:45 Lunch is as usually at 1:00.

Norseman Lunch Recap by Marv Kreitz

Just as we expected the luncheon tickets at DVC were sold out almost the day they went on sale even though the price increased from \$20.00 TO \$ 30.00. We were fortunate enough to be able to buy 4 more in addition to the 12 we reserved. What a business... I had heard the dining area was moved into the new building next to the old café. To double check, I called and she said that they had just remodeled the dining area and that it was in the same place. Apparently she didn't know that it had been moved to the 3rd floor in the new building so we had quite a time finding it. They didn't make it easy, but it was certainly worth it.

The dining room was spacious displaying ice sculptures with a running clock in it and one with champagne. Buffet tables were set up along the walls with plenty of delicious food with students serving their specialty decked out in his / her chef's uniform. Tables were set with goblets, fine silver and linen tablecloths. Servers (students) dressed formally carrying a towel over their arm. Their presentation was elegant and luxurious, giving an impression of a fashionable upscale restaurant. Besides an array of appetizers of seafood, cheeses, fresh fruits, scrumptious entrées were offered such as pome-



granate salad (mixed greens tossed in a champagne vinaigrette with candied Walnuts), deep fried turkey breast served with caramelized onions, prime rib (which I had and it was great) roast

pork loin, salmon served with a special sauce and more. There were so

(Continued on page 4, Norseman's)

December 2014 Sing A Long by Marv Kreitz



On Thursday Dec 18th, the Nifty Fifties Seniors held their Sing A Long in the Parish Hall. We were truly blessed as we had over 30 members attended and several brought goodies that added to the delightful lunch which was paid for by the senior group and prepared by Melarie and Mike Seidel.

Bill Reichmann said grace before we start our delicious lunch. The delicious dessert was like ice cream or frozen cream with cherries in it. Then Marv called the group to order and we sang our first Christmas Carol "O

Come All Ye Faithfull" followed by "O Little Town Of Bethlehem" and "Away in the Manger". Then came our story telling. Marv started it out by reading a story about Horses titled "Because of Love" which is about two young people that had grown up on a horse farm with a huge pine tree high on a hill behind the farm...They had left for the city and the old folks had remained raising a few horses. One was named "The Old One" which was a mare that hadn't produce babies in years. The young couple kept saying they needed to reduce expenses and that they should get rid of "The Old One", but the old man with eyes filled with devotion stared at her and said we keep her Because of love. Only because of love. The young couple returned to the city. Later that night the barn caught fire and "The Old One" managed to open the door and led the entire herd of horses up the hill to rest under the Pine tree. The old couple thought all was lost until they climbed the hill and saw them under the pine tree. It was done because of love. Only because of love. This is a true story.



Norseman's (Continued from page 3)



many choices that if you took a very small serving of everything you couldn't get it all on a plate. Then of course there was a decadent array of desserts. I think Gregg went back three or four times to the desert section. Everything he had looked delicious which prompted others at our table to go back for more. What a really wonderful outing! Those who missed out sign up early next year to ensure a place at the table. ☆

Trudy told of Christmas in Germany where they put a shoe outside the door, Cherylene told of their Christmas in Yokohama Japan, Allen was deployed so they didn't celebrate till in March and of course all the needles



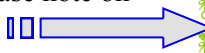
were off the tree, but they still celebrated the birth of Christ. Bill Luker told of the two lines of battle in World War 1 where the Germans on Christmas Eve started playing "Silent Night" and then the Americans started playing "Silent Night" then one soldier came out in front of his line then one from the other side then they all came out and celebrated Christmas. This was done for several years and after the war ended they build a monument there where it happened. Bill Morfeld talked about the history behind the birth of Christ. Our German contingency sang several songs followed by Dave Hawkyard singing Silent Night in Spanish. Sally Miller did an outstanding job on the piano even though we skipped around a lot. What an absolutely delightful eventful celebration of Christmas this sing along was. Looking forward to next year. ☆

Jan. 2015 - What's Happening with the WoHC?

by Joyce Liebe

Wow, a new year is here! 2014 was an active & fulfilling year for the Women of Holy Cross. Hopefully you will find time to participate in some of our activities this year.

Our **January activities** include:

Monday, 1/12. General Meeting & Baby Shower - 6:30pm at Sue O'Malley's home. If you need directions or a ride, please note on sign-up sheet. 

Monday, 1/19. Council Thank You Dinner - 6pm at the Holy Cross Parish Hall. To say THANKS, the WoHC Board will prepare & share dinner with the council members. This dinner will be held before the monthly Council Meeting (meeting may start a little later than normal). NOTE: we recognize that there are many volunteers who help keep Holy Cross running smoothly. Hopefully this dinner will show our appreciation AND remind others to take time to show your appreciation – even a sincere word of thanks can go a long way.

Remember to check the WoHC bulletin board & Sunday bulletins for more details on these & all activities. Sign up & join us. As always, please feel free to contact me or any of the Board if you have questions, comments, or suggestions. Blessings, Joyce

Words for Thought:

There is more hunger for love and appreciation in this world than for bread. ~Mother Teresa

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. ~Elizabeth Andrew

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. ~Leo Buscaglia

Even if it's a little thing, do something for those who have need of a man's help, something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it. For, remember, you don't live in a world all your own.

Your brothers are here too. ~Albert Schweitzer

General Meeting & Baby Shower Monday, January 12th 6:30 PM

**at Sue O'Malley's home
4495 Barberry Court,
Concord, CA 94521**

We will have a speaker from Contra Costa County WIC program & our gifts will be donated to recipients of the WIC program. Plan to join us for a fun evening with games & refreshments – as we help some women & children in our community. Gift suggestions:

Baby Wipes, Diapers,
Baby Clothes, Baby toys and book,
Safety kits, Nursing covers,
Blankets, Bath items,
Gift certificates

If you are unable to make it to the shower, there will be a box in the Parish Hall after Christmas for those who would like to donate items to this worthy organization.

NOTE: Bring your gift unwrapped – we will display all at the shower.

THANK YOU

Suzanne and I thank our wonderful Holy Cross family so very much for all the many beautiful acts of kindness and support you have shown us during our recent surgeries. It means so much to have so many people praying for us and we deeply appreciate it. Please continue praying for Suzanne as she moves forward.

God Bless you - Idalene and Suzanne

Christmas Dinner Party Recap

by Joyce Leibe



Chefs Mike Seidel & Scott Stadler
with Assistant Kevin Leibe

dinner, including salad. We also had our own wine host, Mike Liebe, who helped us choose



Hostess Judy West



Hostesses Marlene Roberts
& Sue O'Malley



Hostess Dee Jakel

December's main event was our **Christmas Dinner on Monday, 12/8**. As usual the food, from appetizers to dessert, was enjoyed by all. Our chefs, Mike Seidel & Scott Stadler, prepared a delicious



Wine Host Mike Liebe with Pat Kroeger



WoHC President, Joyce Leibe

between red, white, or sparkling cider. Kevin Liebe also assisted with kitchen & clean up duties. Even our Christmas singing was accompanied by Sally Miller! There are too many folks for me to thank (and I don't want to miss anyone), so

please accept this group thanks to everyone who helped to make it such a special night. A special note of thanks to our table hostesses: Dee Jakel, Jan Walker, Ann Caruso, Pam McGinnis, Sue O'Malley, Marlene Roberts, & Judy West who put their personal touches on each dinner table! I know I went home feeling full, emotionally & physically. What a blessing to have these sisters (& brothers) in Christ.



Hostess Pam McGinnis



Hostesses Ann Caruso & Jan Walker

NOTE : be sure to check out the poster in the Parish Hall with more pictures from the night. ❄️

January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Mite Box /Hat Day 9:30am Worship / Communion 11p Marv Kreitz's 90th Birthday Lunch Celebration 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	5 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 2:15p WoHC Board Mtg 7pm Boy Scout (H)	6 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8	9 12p NFS Carpool - Lunch at Brass Door	10 9a Christmas Tree Take-down
11 9:30am Worship 11am Sunday School/Bible Study 12p Confirmation 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	12 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 6:30pm WoHC General Mtg: Baby Shower @ O'Malley's 7pm Boy Scout (L)	13 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	14 1pm Senior Brd (L) 7pm Bible Study (H)	15	16	17
18 9:30am Worship / Communion 10:30am Sunday School/Bible Study 12p Confirmation 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	19 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 1:00p Bridge (H) 6:30pm Church Council 7pm Boy Scout (L)	20 6:30p Elders 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	21 7pm Bible Study (H)	22 12p NFS Lunch Outing to Carpool	23 12:30p NFS Carpool - Lunch at Fiore	24
25 9:30am Worship 11am Sunday School/Bible Study OUTREACH 12p Confirmation 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	26 7pm Boy Scout (L)	27	28 7pm Bible Study (H)	29	30	31

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



**Holy Cross Lutheran
Church, LCMS**

**1092 Alberta Way
Concord, CA 94521**

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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 9:30AM

Communion 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

Adults Bible Studies 11:00AM

Sunday School 11:00AM

Week Day Bible Study Schedule:

Monday (Ladies) 12:30PM Conference Room

Wednesday 7:00PM Parish Hall

Choir Rehearsal:

Tuesday 7:15PM—8:45PM

Outreach:

Fourth Sunday of each month after service

Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

February 2015 Cross Currents: January 22