

Cross Currents



Volume 2 Issue 124

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

February 2015

Inside this issue:

Special Event Sched-	2
Birthdays	2
Prayer List	2
Parking Lot Update	3
Marv Turned 90!	3
Bake Sale	3
NFS February Activities	4
Brass Door Recap	4
Thank you from adopted Christmas family	
WoHC President's note	5
WoHC Feb Activities	6
Outreach	6
Thank you note	6
February Church Events Calendar	7
New Directory	8



Ash Wednesday
February 18

Truth: Only One Way to Salvation

"Truth is in the eye of the beholder" is truth for many people; they believe that they determine what is true. Another way to put it is: "You have your truth and I have mine." Truth is in the eyes of the beholder when we're dealing personal preferences, like and dislikes, opinions, and judgments, but not when it comes to facts and certainly not when it comes to the Word of God.

I wrote in recent newsletter articles that Christians should be standing on the truth of God's Word even when dealing with the social issues of our day. As implied in those articles, even Christians can fall into the trap of defining truth by personal experience, popular memes, politics, and political correctness even when such "truth" is contradicted by fact and reason. For example, some Christians have taken up the slogan "Hands up, Don't shoot" as gospel truth even though the Ferguson grand jury testimonies indicate that the victim did not utter that phrase nor did he put his hands up in surrender. As Christians, our stand on issues, including social is-

suess, is a witness to the world of what truth, especially the truth of Scripture, means to us.

We can debate social issues which Scripture does not directly address, but when it comes to damnation and salvation, it is not we sinners who have the final word but God, against whom we have sinned and



before whom we stand guilty and deserving of eternal damnation.

We might say things like, "I can't believe that a loving God would condemn people to hell as long as they try their best;" God's Word says, *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23) and *the wages of sin is death* (Romans 6:23a). In fact, all are conceived and born sinful (Psalm 51:5) and no one can plead "Not guilty" before God on the basis of his own goodness or offer as mitigating factors ignorance, intention, effort, or anything else. God gives salvation solely on the ba-



MESSAGE
FROM
PASTOR CHU

sis of His grace through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, who bought our forgiveness and salvation with His guilty plea and suffering on the cross in our place: *⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast.* (Ephesians 2:8-9)

God does love us. Jesus says in the passage we know and love: *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.* (John 3:16). The is the Gospel; there is no other. Jesus goes on to say, *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.* (John 3:17) This is the Gospel truth about how we are saved. Jesus says that He is *the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through [Him]*. (John 14:6) Jesus

(Continued on page 2, Truth)

Truth (Continued from page 1)

Christ crucified is it. No matter how much we might wish it were otherwise, there is no other way, no other savior: *There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*" (St. Peter in Acts 4:12) *Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.* (John 3:18).

When it comes to our salvation from sin and eternal death, the truth of the One who beholds us in grace and mercy on account of His Son, Jesus Christ, is the only truth that counts.✝

**Voters' Assembly**

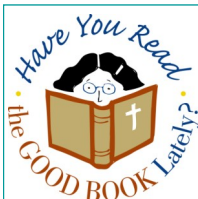
**Sunday, February 8
after Service**

**Ash Wednesday Service
February, 18 at 7:00 p.m.**

Holy Communion and
Imposition of ashes

Ash Wed. Dinner – 5:45 p.m. Parish Hall

All congregation members are welcome to enjoy dinner & fellowship prior to our Ash Wed. Evening Service. Because it was so well received last year (& easy for the cooks) we will have Papa Murphy's fresh baked Pizza, tossed salad, & dessert. Signup sheet will be posted.

**Sunday Bible class**

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 at 11 a.m.

Wednesday evening Bible study

Feb. 4, 11, 25 at 7 p.m.



**February
Birthdays**

- 4 John Coyne
- 5 Don Roberts
- 11 Rhonda Liedtke
Sue O'Malley
- 12 Mike Seidel
- 13 Bill Koch
- 18 Nathan Maurer
- 19 Maxine Albino
- 20 John Beutel
Mike Voss
- 22 Trina Godsey
Tina Voss
- 27 Justin Beutel

**Those who are in need of our prayers:**

Sue Saalfeld, **Muriel Strieter** (hospice care), **Joy Parker** (Gayle Bothe's sister-healing), **Wanda Schwartz**, **Dorothy Taylor**, **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** (Herbert- heart, kidney 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), **Bob Hartman**, **Blake Frances** (Bill Luker's grand nephew-chemo, brain cancer), **Helen Wehmeyer** (Kroeger's family friend-stroke/heart attack, 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** (chemo treatment, healing), **Donna Spiegel** (Katty's daughter in-law-healing), **Jaime Spiegel** (Katty's granddaughter-ulcer surgery, healing), **Lorna Meintzer** (Eyona's daughter-physical therapy, healing), **Hannah Mc Shane** (Judy West's granddaughter-surgery recovery and results), **Michael Mewhinney** (Ann Caruso's brother-prostate cancer-wisdom, treatment and healing), **Linda Pass** (healing), **Jack Mortenson** (healing).

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.**

PARKING LOT UPDATE **JANUARY 2015**

At the January Voters meeting the plan presented by the parking lot committee to resurface the parking lot was approved. The work will not be done until any threat of winter weather is past and the ground is dry.

The committee has continued to meet and has had discussions with the contractor regarding drainage, ADA requirements, concrete curbs around tree planters, additional car stops etc. There were a number of issues not included in the original estimate. The curbing would add \$30 per lineal foot – estimated cost of curbing around current planting areas and new ones as planned is \$5,700, additional car stops as needed- \$30 each, encroachment permit from the City of Concord \$1,275, possible ADA option - \$2,500. Other costs - \$1,500.

We are still waiting for the removal of the trees by PG &E.

As of December 31, 2014 the restricted fund for the parking lot was approximately \$39,000, other restricted funds that are to be used approximately \$25,000 for an approximate total of \$64,000. We are happy to report an increase in the available amount, the support for the project is very much appreciated. The Council is investigating additional financing.

If you have questions, please contact a member of the parking lot committee. — Jean Eissner



sion grants in our area!

For more info on this event, visit our website: cnhlwml.org

BAKE SALE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2015
AFTER SERVICE, PARISH HALL

100% of your purchases at our bake sale will help fund Lutheran Women's Missionary League mis-

Marv Turns 90!



Marv became a nonagenarian on December 25, 2014. His family set up a luncheon at Holy Cross to celebrate his 90th birthday with the congregation after service on Sunday Jan 4.

Marv's son Bill, his wife Bonnie of Minneapolis, their daughter Heidi (Bill's) and her husband Keegan of Seattle came from out of states to join his sister Cheryl, her husband Gregg Syrovatka and their children to celebrate this special occasion.

Chef Randy, Marv's grandson, made BBQ and lemon pepper pull pork. they were so delicious that many went back for more! Marv shared some of the interesting tidbits of his life. If you had missed out, you may want to ask him about the counterfeit nickel!



Chef Randy Syrovatka's YUMMY BBQ and lemon pepper pull pork.



In Conversation (l-r) Trina, Marv, Bill, Bonnie



Heidi assisting grandpa at the buffet line

NIFTY FIFTY FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Movie and Lunch - Thursday Feb 12, 2015

We planed two outings for the Nifty senior group in Feb. The first, Feb 12, is seeing a Movie called The Imitation Game and lunch at Mimi's Restaurant located in Concord just off Willow Pass Road. The Movie, The Imitation Game, is a 2014 thriller film about a British Mathematician, logician, Cryptanalyst and pioneering computer scientist Alan Turing. He was a key figure in cracking Nazi Germany's naval Enigma code which helped the Allies win the Second World War.

The movie starts at the Century 16 Pleasant Hill theater at 10:40 and lasts 114 min or about two hours so we scheduled our lunch at Mimi's at 1:30. You can park at the garage just across from the theater. Meet at church at 9:45 and leave at 10:00.. Those of you that choose to go direct should still sign up so we know how many to make reservation for at Mimi's. I'm looking forward to seeing this film as it is highly rated. Bring a Friend

Grand Island Mansion - Sunday Mar. 1, 2015

Our 2nd outing is actually scheduled for Sunday March 1st. We are going to the Sunday Champagne Brunch at the Grand Island Mansion located at 13415 Grand Island Road, Walnut Grove, Ca. 95690 The Menu is fabulous as follows. Freshly baked Focacia bread, rolls and scones, coffee, tea, milk, orange Juice with Champagne served throughout the meal. Mediterranean Orzo Pasta Salad along with Herb Seasoned Vegetables, Red and Yukon Potato Hash, Fresh Seasonal Fruit with Yogurt and Toasted Walnuts, Eggs Benedict, Italian Toast, Fresh Mushroom and Asiago Cheese Crepes, Chef inspired Frittata, Oven Roasted Herb Seasoned Prime Rib and Scrumptious Gourmet Dessert Buffet are there for your choosing.

Cost of the Brunch is \$29.95 plus tax and Gratuity. The buffet is served Sunday only from 10:30 to 2:00. If we leave church at 11:00 we should be there by 12:30 which is what we did last time and we had plenty of time there including the tour of the Mansion. Walnut Grove is near Lock where we have gone many times always enjoying the drive along the Sacramento River through the delta. Meet at Church after the service at 10:45 and leave at 11:00. This is a delightful outing but is a way to travel. Those riding should pay the toll and chip in on the gas. This is a really great chance to get to know other church members and bring a friend...

The Brass Door Recap

It was a sunny day as we left church for the Brass Door Restaurant in San Ramon. I knew it was going to be a memorable day as I had a car full and was going to eat at one of my favorite restaurants. Bob & Pat Nicholson, friends that I used to work with, were meeting us there. Most of our group had met them before as they have joined us on several outings. I used to have a group from Ward's of 10 or 12 that met once a month for lunch but most are too old and have aches & pains and we don't meet anymore. So, I was looking forward to a visit with them as well as the camaraderie of our church group. As always they seated us at a table in the back area with linen tablecloths and goblets for water glasses which always impresses me as the atmosphere of an upscale restaurant. I had what I always have, the dinner senior special of -9 Oz ground round that comes with mashed potatoes with mushroom gravy and vegetables salad and dessert. still only \$13.50. I noticed several of our group had the same and as always it was great. The service was excellent as most of their help has been with them for years and they know how to get the job done.. I like to schedule lunches out as it doesn't make a difference if there is two or ten so if you would like to attend any of our lunches at the last minute just give me a call. as always it's a great occasion to bring a friend.

A Thank You From One of Our Christmas Adopted Families

We received a note from one of the families we adopted for Christmas last year. The actual note is posted on the WoHC Bulletin Board; however it really touched our hearts & we wanted to share it with everyone here. It read:

"Thank you so much for your gifts, the kids are really enjoying it and they are happy. And I love the white sweater you gave me. It fits good on me. Me and the kids made Chinese clothespin doll for you. I hope you like it. I hope you had a very merry Christmas and a wonderful new year! God bless, Merry, Jordon, & Jacob"

The Chinese clothespin doll is also on the Bulletin Board.



What's Happening with the WoHC? by Joyce Liebe

The Women of Holy Cross started the new year off with a couple of fun events in which we were able to help women & children in our community & also show appreciation to some of our Holy Cross members.

January's General Meeting was held at Sue O'Malley's home. Her neighbor, Marina, works for the Contra Costa County WIC program. She shared what WIC is about & we had a "Baby Shower" with proceeds to benefit the participants of WIC. Thanks to the WoHC we had 2+ large tables filled with clothes, handmade blankets, towels, shoes, socks, books, etc. Also several packages of diapers! We had fun with a couple of games & then desserts (yes, more than 1). Lastly we had an encore Happy Birthday presentation to Terry Hawkyard – she loves our singing!



On the 19th of January the WoHC Board members prepared a **Thank You Dinner for the Council Members**. At 6pm, twenty total gathered around the tables and enjoyed a semi-leisurely meal. After a short devotion & prayer, we had our salad, entrée, bread, & dessert. Then the Council members went off to their meeting & the WoHC cleaned up. The Boy Scouts that came early helped move tables & chairs back to their original placement so they could use the hall afterwards. The clean-up was done quickly with all the help, by 7:20pm we were headed home.



A Serious Note from WoHC Board... The gifts we have received are not ours alone. God gave them to us for the purpose of serving Him & serving other people.

At our **March General Meeting**, one of our tasks is election of officers. The positions that are open: Vice President & Treasurer. We also need to fill the final year of our Secretary.

We are a small group of women that meet to plan activities & make decisions about how we can best serve God with our time, talents, & (modest) wealth. We often rotate between positions to try them out & that provides new insight into how we may improve things. However we really would like some new women to join us. We work well together & back each other up when we are unable to make it to a meeting (or several meetings due to extended vacations). Some women aren't able to come to most meetings – they do their part from home & touch bases with us each month. We also encourage teaming up with someone & sharing the position. Have you heard the song, "Here I am Lord"? Part of it includes:

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? ■ I have heard You calling in the night.

I will go Lord, if You lead me. ■ I will hold Your people in my heart

How about you? Will you open your heart to serve? Is this a time for you to answer His calling in the night? Please consider saying yes if you are asked to serve with us.

This is our current Roster:

Board as Elected

President Joyce Liebe

Vice President Cherylene
Brueckner/
Appt'd

Secretary VACANT

Treasurer Melarie Seidel

Chairpersons:

Birthday Gifts Idalene Stadler

Christian Life Marilyn Neumann
& Grace Gin

Gospel Outreach Gayle Bothe

Human Care Sue Reiter

Membership Dev. Carol Lau

Servant Resources Pat Easby

Sunshine/Cards (B'day)

Idalene Stadler
(Get Well/Anniv/Sympathy)

Chris Roman

OUTREACH

Sunday, Jan.25, 2015

Praise The Lord! A very successful time at the shelter today, feeding the less fortunate; (those who are waiting to get into permanent housing.)

We prayed The Lords Prayer, and then we dished out over 150 plates to some very hungry people – (This included the plates that were taken outside to feed those that weren't registered at the shelter).



Plus, 25 more plates were pre-dished for the hospital Section.

Luker donated a "ton" of chicken ...and we served chicken, carrots, mashed potatoes and gravy, almond green beans, fresh green salad & warm French bread, and Sue O'Malley homemade cookies for dessert!

While they were eating (& coming back for their 2nd & 3rd helpings), Carol Lau presented them with spiritual food. How blessed all were with full stomachs and hearing Gods word. Thank you carol.

Thank you to Holy Cross kitchen volunteers today; Kenny and Sue Reiter & pat Easby. Bill Luker, Kiley, and Mindy Wertz & Pat served at the shelter.

Thank you to all who have donated candy, snacks, canned foods, dressings, etc. to Outreach. All are very much appreciated. You are welcome to join us for OUTREACH

Any fourth Sunday of the month!

— Pat Easby



A special thanks to all my family and friends that helped me celebrate a real milestone in my life. That of reaching 90 years of age. I

deeply appreciated all the cards, presents congratulations and warm and carrying feelings I received. Marv

WoHC February activities:

Sun., 2/8. Bites For Mites Bake Sale – after church in Parish Hall. The baked goods sold at this Bites for Mites bake sale will be baked by HC members (also members of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League: California-Nevada-Hawaii District). Enjoy every tasty bite knowing that they were made with love & that the funds raised from your purchase are going to be used to spread God's love to people in need through LWML CNH mission grant projects in our District & through organizations in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Signup sheet to donate baked goods is on our Bulletin Board.

Monday, 2/9. General Meeting, Secret Pals, & Prayer Box Craft – 6:30pm Holy Cross Parish Hall

Join us as we reveal this past year's Secret Pals & choose new ones. We will have Secret Pal forms available prior to meeting if you want to participate & cannot come to meeting. See Carol Lau or me. We will also have craft time with Cherylene Brueckner – we will take all the Altoid boxes we've been collecting & turn them into charming Prayer Boxes to be given out at the Spring Rally.

Wed, 2/18. Ash Wed. Dinner – 5:45pm Holy Cross Parish Hall
All congregation members are welcome to enjoy dinner & fellowship prior to our Ash Wed. Evening Service. Because it was so well received last year (& easy for the cooks) we will have Papa Murphy's fresh baked Pizza, tossed salad, & dessert. Signup sheet will be posted.

Looking ahead –

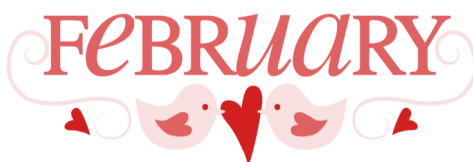
Please mark your calendar & invite family/friends to our LWML Zone 7 Spring Rally. It's on **Sat., 4/25 – 8:30am.**


This year Holy Cross will be the host, so you won't need directions to get there. Our speakers will be from Futures Explored, a local non-profit that provides services & support for adult with disabilities (yes, this is the company that I work for). I'm excited to share the good this organization has done for the last 50 years! These Rallies pack a lot of wonderful information & spiritual inspiration into the 3-4 hours we spend together. Look for details in the coming weeks.

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 Liebe

FEbruary



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Mite Box /Hat Day 9:30am Worship / Communion Baptism Clayton Alexander Mourelatos 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	2 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 2:30p WoHC Board Mtg 7pm Boy Scout (H)	3 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	4	5	6	7
8 9:30am Worship Bake Sale, after service 10:30am Voters Assembly 11am Sunday School/Bible Study 12p Confirmation 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	9 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 6:30pm WoHC General Mtg 7pm Boy Scout (L)	10 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	11 1pm Senior Brd (L) 7pm Bible Study (H)	12 9:45am NFS carpool to movie and lunch outing	13	14 
15 9:30am Worship / Communion 10:30am Sunday School/Bible Study 12p Confirmation 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	16 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 1:00p Bridge (H) 6:30pm Church Council 7pm Boy Scout (L)	17 6:30p Elders 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	18 5:45pm Ash Wed Dinner 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	19	20	21
22 9:30am Worship 11am Sunday School/Bible Study OUTREACH 12p Confirmation 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	23 7pm Boy Scout (L)	24	25 7pm Bible Study (H)	26	27	28



Holy Cross Lutheran Church,
LCMS

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Concord, CA 94521



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Website:
www.ctsmemberconnect.net

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 Conf 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

March 2015 Cross Currents:

February 20

Office Hours: M-F 9:30aM-12:30PM

Attention!

Our New Directory:

We are preparing to print our **New Holy Cross Directory**. Please check your listing in the Narthex, date and initial, so we can make any corrections before we got to print.

Thank you