



Cross Currents



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Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

January 2014



“Resolution” for Your Life in Christ for 2014?

By Pastor Chu

A study by the University of Scranton (Jesuit university in Scranton, Pennsylvania) a year ago found that the most popular New Year’s resolution is “Lose weight.” Among the rest of the top 10 resolutions are “Enjoy Life to the Fullest” (4) and “Spend More Time with Family” (10).

The study also found that while 45% of Americans usually make New Year’s resolutions and another 17% do so infrequently, only 8% are “successful in achieving their resolution.” Whether or not you make New Year’s resolutions, St. Paul gives a goal that we and all Christians should and can strive for in our daily life in Christ. He writes in Colossians 3:

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, who are holy and beloved, hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, ¹³putting up with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

¹⁴Above all these put on love (agape), which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule

in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body, and be thankful.

¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Paul’s words are both descriptive and prescriptive.

On the one hand, they describe our life in Christ that flows from our new nature in Christ given us in Baptism and the Gospel; that is, these virtues are created, sustained, and nurtured in us — *God’s chosen ones, who are holy and beloved* — through the means of His Word and Sacraments and naturally express themselves in our words and deeds.

On the other hand, Paul’s words prescribe how we are to live; “put on” is an imperative; it is a command. At odds against our new nature that desires to please God and live these virtues are our old sinful

nature, the devil, and the world, so that our life as Christians is a daily struggle between our old sinful nature and our new nature. Every day we must make an effort, by the grace of God, to live in the name of the Lord Jesus and to put on these virtues (cf. The Fruit of Spirit, Galatians 5:22-23) even though we will not be able to do it perfectly, which is why our life in Christ is also a life of daily repentance. (Read Romans 6-7, Colossians 3:5-11, Ephesians 4:17-32)

What makes God’s Word through Paul in Colossians 3:12-17 unlike any New Year’s resolution we might make is that God’s Word enables us to do what God calls us to do, so that by His grace, we can put on *hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, and we can put up with one another, and forgive one another just as God in Christ forgives us.*

May God grant this to us, His chosen ones at Holy Cross by grace through faith in Jesus, in 2014, and to all whom He has called into His kingdom by the Gospel.



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BIBLE STUDY**REMINDERS:**

No Sunday
School or Adult
Bible class on January 5

Monday Bible study re-
sumes on January 6,
12:30PM, Conference
Room

Wednesday Bible study
on Genesis — January 8,
15, 22, 29. 7PM, Parish
Hall

Help Needed

CHRISTMAS**UNDECORATING**

**SATURDAY JAN 11
AT 9AM**

Please join the Altar Guild to
take down the Christmas
decorations on Jan 11th at
9 am. We especially need
men to help with the tree.
Contact Andrea Beutel for
more information. 672-
9605 or andbeu-

**CHOIR SCHEDULE**

Rehearsals, Tuesday
at 7:15PM

January 7, 14, 21

NFS JANUARY OUTING**THE BRASS DOOR RESTAURANT**

THURSDAY JAN 23 2014

The Nifty Fifty seniors are planning just
one outing for January and that is to
The Brass Door Restaurant located at
2154 San Ramon Blvd San Ramon,
Cal 94583 which has been a land-
mark since 1955. The rustic yet ele-
gant décor lends a warm welcoming
feel with linen table
cloths excellent ser-
vice and specializing
in such things as
prime rib of beef
rack of lamb and
chicken piccata.



Frankly when I go there for lunch I or-
der off the dinner menu section where
they list senior portions specials. The
senior ground round steak is 9 ounces
of top quality meat and comes with
mashed potatoes, vegetable with
mushroom gravy, salad or soup and
dessert for \$13.50 is my favorite.
When we went there before several of
our group ordered this and were
pleased...There is of course a number
of specialties all delicious This is an up
scale restaurant and you should plan
on spending around \$20.00 including
tax and tip.

Lunch is planned for 1:00 PM so we
should meet at Church at 12:00 and
plan on leaving at 12:15 Sign up sheet
is in the social hall. Those that plan on
going direct should still sign up and let
me know so I can include them when
I make the reservation. Sometimes it
quote busy...Invite a friend...

CONGREGATIONAL**JANUARY CHILI COOK-OFF**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2014



There will be a CHILI COOKOFF
the last Sunday in January.
Start looking for your favorite
CHILI recipes.

We are also having a TALENT
SHOW. Can you tell a joke?
Read a poem? Play the Piano?
Put on a skit with your friends?
Or, just share some of your inter-
esting life experiences with us.
We are looking for you. Remem-
ber SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2014.

WOMEN OF HOLY CROSS**BUNCO NIGHT**

JANUARY 13, 6:30 PM

Hostess: Judy West

Bunco is a fast-paced dice game,
lots of fun, for all ages. Excellent
time to invite
people who like
to play games;
EXPERIENCE
NECESSARY!



There will be
prizes and time for refreshment
and fellowship! We will have a
short business meeting to keep
you current on top of Holy Cross/
L.W.M.L.!

HOLIDAY DINNING AT NORSEMAN'S RESTAURANT

Dec 4th 2013

Twenty-two seniors attended the sumptuous annual Holiday luncheon at Diablo Valley College. It was put on by DVC culinary students showcasing their specialties. The



dinning room was elegantly set; students in white aprons bustling from table to table giving outstanding service. We were dazzled by the array of salads and appetizers such as stuffed Mushrooms with blue cheese fillings finished with a light crispy bread crumb topping and a host of

cheeses. Yummy entrees followed such as Prime Rib with a spicy sauce like gravy, Ham, turkey and all he trimmings and massed potatoes (mixed with pumpkin) Candied Yams with orange caramel sauce etc. Last but not least was a decadent assortment of desserts. With a Student standing by to explain the variety of cookies and gooey chocolate concoctions. We had two members that had lost their tickets , but they had us seated eight at two tables and six at a third, so if you didn't have a seat you didn't have a ticket....so we had no problem....We met Paul John Bernhardt Chef instructor for Hotel Restaurant and Management at the College who was, as any

good manager, hovering over the total luncheon presentation We told him how impressed we were with the buffet and how proud he should be of the excellent way his student handled such a large group of dinners. An added touch was the ginger bread house display being judged near our tables..Wilma Burch told me afterwards that they had a shuttle from the parking area off Golf Club Rd to the restaurant that she used, so when we go (and I'm sure we will) next year those that need a ride can use that service...A great time was had by ALL! —Marv Kreitz



January Birthdays

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

Anniversary

- 10 Peter & Liz Aduan



Those who are in need our prayers:

Don Roman (Eric's dad, recovery from stroke), **Herb Huppert** (healing), **Sue Saalfeld**, **Muriel Strieter**, **Lloyce Logan** (Judy West sister-in-law), **Joy Parker** (Gayle Bothe's sister), **Wanda Schwartz**, **Dorothy Taylor** (Karen Gamble's mother), **Robert & David Grandt** (Liz Aduan's brothers), **Pauline Fudge** (Liz A's Aunt-heart failure) **Inge Stone**, **Elizabeth Bothé** (Gayle Bothe's granddaughter-non-churched), **Abbi and Alex Roman**, **June Stewart** (Judy West's friend), **Jan Tammiste** (Roman's friend), **Betty Kallsen**, **Cal Kallsen**, **Bonnie Holmer** (Gayle Bothe's aunt), **Billy Godsey** (healing), **Jeannine Godsey** (inner peace), **Karen and Gary Cox** (Judy West's friends-cancer), **Bill Kreitz** (Cheryl's brother-cancer treatments), **Steven Liedtke** (healing), **Esther Lacey and Bernice Aiman** (Violet Griffin's sisters-elder care), **Karen Traficante** (Gregg Syrovatka's co-worker's wife-cancer-healing/solace), **Matt Goodshaw** (Brueckner's family friend-melanoma, treatments-healing), **Philip Aduan** (hand-healing, surgery), **Debra Nourazar** (Eyona's daughter-stent surgery, recovery), **Will Voertman** (Sue's brother-diagnosis, strength, restoration), **Ken Horneck** (Ann Caruso's brother in-law- heart attack (proper treatment), **Kathy Horneck** (comfort, both turn to God), **Lysa Roberts** (eye test), **Maddie Conklin** (Judy West's friend, lung/pancreatic cancer), **Terry Leak** (Gayle's brother-in-law healing-brother ribs and surgery).

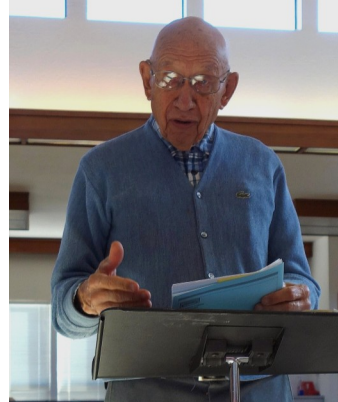
Chaplains among the armed forces and those serving in the military:

Cpl. Michael Dawers (Bill Koch's grandson), **Taylor Bothe-Yates** (Gayle Bothe's grand-niece), **Jordan Bennett and Capt. Richard Hill** (Violet Griffin's great nephews), **Cadet Megan Gemar**, **Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl** (P.O.W. in Afghanistan), **Warrant Officer Donna Cheek**, (Carrie Kroeger's cousin-4th tour-Afghanistan), **PFC Kevin Hayworth** (Glenda's grandson-Hawaii), P.O.W. and M.I.A.'s.

SENIOR CHRISTMAS SING-A- LONG

DEC 19TH 2013

On Thursday Dec 19th the Nifty Fifty held their Luncheon and Sing-A-Long for Christmas and enjoyed a delicious meal catered by our own talented, proficient, ingenious, competent, Melarie Seidel. Bless you Melarie. Entering the Social Hall we immediately felt the warmth that can only be felt when a group of Christians are gathered together in Jesus name. We had four tables with white linen tablecloths beautifully decorated with candles pine branches and a host of other Christmas decorations. Thanks to Erna Beutel, Trudy and Chrystal. We had settings for thirty two and we had thirty two. Coincidence? Grace was given by Bill Riechmann and lunch was ready at 11:30. After lunch with Sally Miller at the piano and Marv leading, we sang carols and then Jack Mortenson gave a sermonette on Paul's contact with the intellectuals of his time bringing them the good news of Jesus birth and resurrection. Paul pointed out that "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of Heaven and Earth and does not live in temples built by hands. He is not served by human hands as if he needed anything, "because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else". God did this so men would seek him and perhaps reach out and find him, though he is not far from each of us. Next, we sang two more carols and then the much awaited German contingency gave a German rendition of Silent Night. Surprise! Surprise! Dave Hawkyard, Terry's son, a professor in Mexico City, visiting on holiday, sang Silent Night in Spanish. And that's not all, we persuaded Grace Gin to sing Silent Night in Chinese. Maybe next year we can supply the words in German and Spanish to all of us so we can join in...Notice I didn't mention Chinese; most of us wouldn't know how to read that. What a blessing to have such talents! We concluded our festivities singing God be With you till we meet again... I would be amiss if I didn't mention Sue and her husband Ken heading up the cleanup crew. Thanks!





WoHC CHRISTMAS DINNER **FROM MY PERSPECTIVE ~ JOYCE LIEBE**

Over 50 women attended our annual WoHC Christmas Dinner, sitting at one of six tables. Each table was decorated/hosted by a different woman; I was one of those women. Allow me to share some highlights with you.

Do you remember the part in The Wizard of Oz movie where Dorothy goes from the black and white of Kansas to the color of Oz? If so, do you remember the feeling of wonder you had as you watched that scene? Well, as we walked into our Parish Hall

the evening of Monday, Dec., 9, many of us had that same feeling. We had an enclosed, cozy dining area surrounded by tiny white lights. At one end of the area was a warm "family room" area that included a comfortable arm chair, decorated Christmas tree, festive wrapped gifts, AND a fireplace between the formal drapes! It felt like we were at someone's home! After mingling, beverages, and appetizers, we sat down at a table. My table was decorated with a variety of my Christmas dinner plates, napkins, and rosemary from our yard. My centerpiece included votive candles surrounding my one new Christmas decoration purchase this year - a Kurt Alder gingerbread house with lights. There were long time HC members (such as Eyona and Pat K.) as well as recent visitors (Kathleen and her daughter) sitting at my table.

Before we ate, Cherylene read us a special Christmas devotional story and we sang some Christmas songs. Then we all enjoyed a catered dinner of pork, red potatoes, green beans, sweet potato casserole, salad, etc. as we shared our holiday plans and got to know each other better.

Afterwards we sang a few more songs and held our traditional "white elephant" gift exchange. Having so many participants made for an interesting process. Most of the gals who had numbers that went first were polite and chose a new gift. As the game went on, we did have some



"stealing" occur. It's always interesting to see those quiet, polite women who rush to get (steal) the gift they want! Glass beer mugs and angel figurines topped the stealing list (what a combo!).

After all the gift exchange excitement, we enjoyed dessert and coffee - then headed home. What a warm and comforting evening of fellowship we had! It's a blessing to have so many able and willing to share their time and talents.



GIFT WRAPPING FOR ADOPT-A-FAMILY



On the morning of Tuesday, Dec. 10, five ladies, Idalene, Kathleen, Melarie, Joyce and Cherylene, were busy wrapping gifts for our adopted families. Thanks to our Holy Cross donors, we were able to provide gifts for two families of four and one family of two, a total of five adults and five children (ages from 4-11). In addition, the families of 4 were given each a grocery gift cards of \$150 and for the family of 2, \$100. On top of that, everyone was given a \$20 Payless Shoe gift card! A huge thank you to Thrivent for their matching fund once again.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

Thank you, thank you ladies who attended this event to make it a success, to those who invited family & friends, gave rides and donated beverages, appetizers & the huge variety of desserts. Thank you Idalene, Suzanne, Cherylene, Pat and all who helped decorate the hall transforming it into a warm welcoming setting. Melarie, Cherylene, Idalene, Joyce, Marilyn and Grace shared their creativities in decorating a table each. Their personal touch made each uniquely beautiful.

In order for all ladies to enjoy the evening, we had the main course catered by: **Personal Chef Greg Chew** & the food were awesome!

The dinning tables had a minimum of 6 candles per table which made it possible for us to eat by serene candle light! Oh, I can't forget the lovely **chair covers** complete with bows, so elegant!

This is a lovely way to start our Christmas season...with our sisters in Christ; singing & praising our Lord, dining, praying and laughing together. A good time was had by all!

It was a special treat, a great Joy, and a real blessing to have so many of our 80+ Young ladies attending along with the teens & 20yrs. Plus. All Glory and Praise to Lord for ALL!



CAROLERS VISITED SHUT-INS

On Sunday December 15, after Sunday school and Bible study, Melarie Seidel provided lunch for the carolers before their outing. This year, they visited Muriel Strieter, Cal and Betty Kallsen.



Violet Griffin with Muriel Streiter and Carol Chu



Cherylene Brueckner with Cal and Betty Kallsen



May the
NEW YEAR
bring you
BLESS-
INGS!!!

In His love,
Pat Easby



January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Mite Box /Hat Day 9:30am Worship / Communion 11am Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	6 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 2:15p WoHC Board Mtg 7pm Boy Scout (H)	7 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	8 7pm Bible Study (H)	9	10	11 9a Christmas Tree Take-down 11a Baptism Finnley Dalton Roesti
12 9:30am Worship 11am Sunday School/Bible Study 12p Confirmation 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	13 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 6:30pm WoHC General Mtg: Bunco 7pm Boy Scout (L)	14 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	15 1pm Senior Brd (L) 7pm Bible Study (H)	16	17	18
19 9:30am Worship / Communion 10:30am Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	20 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 1:30p Bridge (H) 6:30pm Church Council 7pm Boy Scout (L)	21 6:30p Elders 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	22 7pm Bible Study (H)	23 12p NFS Lunch Outing to Carpool	24	25
26 9:30am Worship 11am Sunday School/Bible Study Chili Cook-off 11:30am OUTREACH 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	27 7pm Boy Scout (L)	28	29 7pm Bible Study (H)	30	31	

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



**Holy Cross Lutheran
Church, LCMS**
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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

Photography: Grace Gin

Worship Schedule:

Sunday Service	9:30AM
Communion	1st, 3rd, and 5th Sun-
days	

Adults Bible Studies	11AM (Library & Conf. Rm)
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Sunday School	11AM
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Week Day Bible Study Schedule:

Monday (Ladies)	12:30PM Conference Room
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Wednesday (all)	7:00PM Parish Hall
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Choir Rehearsal:

Tuesday	7:15PM—8:45PM
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Outreach:

Fourth Sunday of each month, 11:30AM

Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

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