

Cross Currents



Volume 2 Issue 114

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

February 2014

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Abortion is a Scriptural Matter

Racial tension. Terrorism. NSA invasion of privacy. Erosion of Christians' religious freedom and rights. Growing disconnect between politicians/bureaucrats and the average person. Burgeoning national debt and uncontrolled spending. Illegal immigration. Assault on and erosion of Scripture's teaching of marriage. Unemployment. And the list can go on and on. There are also the crises beyond our borders, e.g., escalating Middle East violence and its toll on the lives of countless millions, atrocities in parts of Africa, imminent nuclear Iran, to name a few.

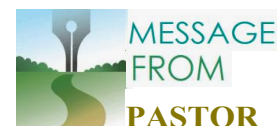
There is no shortage of issues and crises we face as a nation and as individuals and there is no consensus as to which is most pressing; how one ranks these issues depends on one's personal situation.

At or near the top of our list, however, ought to be the life of the unborn. To be sure, abortion is a political issue, but only because it has been co-opted for political purposes. For

Christians, abortion is a Scriptural matter; for all people and especially for babies in the womb, it is a matter of life and death.

We can quibble about the actual number, but abortion has claimed the lives of 55-60 million babies since the January 22, 1973 Supreme Court *Roe vs. Wade* decision. For all the arguments each side of the issue adduce to support their view, the starting point and anchor for where Christians stand on this or any moral issue is the Word of God, and Scripture speaks clearly on the preciousness and sanctity of human life and that what is in the woman's womb is human life; Scripture also speaks clearly against the taking of human life (with few exceptions, e.g., capital punishment, self-defense). (Genesis 1:27; Exodus 20:13; 23:7; Job 31:15; Psalm 22:9-10; 51:5; 127:3-5; 139:13-16; Isaiah 44:2; 49:5; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:44)

Let's be clear: Christ atoned for all sins on the cross, including the sin of abortion. All sins are forgiv-



able, except the sin of rejecting Jesus as Savior (which is to reject the only salvation from sin and eternal death that God offers as a gift of His grace because of Jesus' death for the sins of the world). Any woman who has had an abortion and anyone — man or woman — who has been complicit in the taking of the life of that child can be and are forgiven through faith in Jesus.

However, let's not equate forgiveness with endorsement. God's forgiveness of our sins on account of Christ does not mean that He approves of our sins. That God forgives and remembers our sins no more (Jeremiah 31:34; cf. Hebrews 8:12, 10:17; Isaiah 43:25) on account of Christ does not make our sins acceptable to Him.

Since most of us have not been personally impacted by the issue of abortion, we're not likely to give it much attention, espe-

(Continued on page 2, Abortion)

Abortion (Continued from page 1)

cially with all the other pressing national, international, and personal issues we face. However, for the sake of the babies in the womb as well as for mothers who have had or are considering abortion, we ought not to be silent or nonchalant. (Pro-life resources: www.lutheransforlife.org, www.priestsforlife.org, www.liveaction.org)

To be silent on what Scriptures teaches about the life in the womb is to leave the unborn to fend for themselves. To be silent on what Scriptures teaches about the sanctity of life, including the life of the unborn, is to let people continue to sin without hearing the truth of God's Word. And to be silent on what Scripture teaches about God's forgiveness through Christ is to allow sinners to carry their own guilt and face sin's consequence without the forgiving, healing, and restoring love of God for them in Christ.

On the sanctity of life and the abortion issue (and any issue), search the Scriptures (John 5:39), stand on and with the Word of God, and proclaim Christ and His Word of Law and Gospel.

Adult Christian Doctrine Class

We will meet at Holy Cross on Saturday, February 15, 2014, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



This is for those who are interested in formal membership with Holy Cross or who would like a review of the major doctrines of the Christian faith. We will use Martin Luther's Small Catechism as the outline for discussing what Scripture teaches about the Trinity, Sin and Grace/Law and Gospel, Salvation by God's Grace through Faith, the Means of Grace, New Life in Christ.

Voters' Assembly

**Sunday
February 9
after Service**

**Confirmation classes
for February:** February 2
February 9
February 23

**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 our prayers:**

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 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), **Jan Tammiste** (Roman's friend), **Betty and Cal Kallsen, 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** (healing), **Ken Horneck** (Ann Caruso's brother in-law-heart attack (proper treatment), **Kathy Horneck** (comfort, both turn to God), **Gayle Bothe** (healing-shoulder), **Maddie Conklin** (Judy West's friend-lung, pancreatic cancer), **Terry Leak** (Gayle Bothe's brother-in-law, healing-broken ribs, surgery), **Bob Oliver** (surgery-healing), **Herbert and Clara Huppert** (healing, guidance), **Don Roman** (physical and spiritual healing), **Amber Dominguez** (Reiter's friend-healing, spiritual guidance).

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

Cpl. Michael Dawers (Bill Koch's grandson-Afghanistan), **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-Afghanistan), **PFC Kevin Hayworth** (Glenda's grandson-Hawaii), **P.O.W. and M.I.A.'s.**

Youth of HOLY CROSS SHARES THEIR GOD GIVEN GIFTS WITH OTHERS IN NEED

by Sandy Coyne



The Youth of Holy Cross are learning the importance of helping others in need, and realizing how they can use their time, talents, and gifts from God to be of service to others. With help and encouragement from Pastor Chu and their families, the kids recently worked together to raise funds to be donated to an organization called Heifer International. This organization provides livestock and agricultural programs to people living in poverty in many countries worldwide.



After making contributions of their own, the Youth hosted a Bake Sale following the Worship Service on Sunday, December 15th to raise additional funds. The kids enjoyed making a variety of cookies, and other sweet treats.



These items (along with some Krispy Kreme donuts provided by Pastor Chu) were displayed in the Parish Hall, and members of the Congregation supported the cause by contributing to a free will offering. The donations towards the Bake Sale amounted to a total of \$300. Combined with other donations, and assistance from Pastor Chu, the Youth were able to send gifts of livestock including one water buffalo, one goat, a pig, and a flock of chicks to families in need through Heifer International. The Youth would like to thank the Congregation for their generous assistance. Should you wish to know more about the Heifer International organization, please feel free to ask the Holy Cross Youth about their involvement, or visit Heifer International online at www.heifer.org



GETTING TO KNOW YOU, GETTING TO KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU

Conversations with Ann Caruso and Marilyn Neumann

We really enjoy worshipping at Holy Cross and meeting new people. In fact, we would love to get to know all of you better. Recently we met with Pastor Chu and told him of our idea of getting to know people on a one on one basis and then sharing our conversations in the Cross Currents. Our column will be called *Getting to Know You, Getting to Know All About You*. Pastor gave us his counsel and blessing, and we set up our first conversation. We hope you will enjoy learning more about each other and find it a blessing. Our first conversation took place on Friday, January 17, 2014. Here are some of the highlights that we learned about this wonderful person:

- Born in Denver, Colorado
- Second of three daughters; Five years difference between her and oldest sister; 18 years difference between her and youngest sister.
- She has a vivid memory when she was 5 years old during WWII. She remembers how they would save a nickel

so they could buy a Savings War Bond. Nothing could be wasted. They would save the tin foil wrapper from a stick of Nickel Gum. Sugar was rationed. There was a feeling that all Americans were united in the war effort. "We were poor, but I never knew how poor we were until I was invited to a birthday party at a friend's house. It was a ritzy neighborhood, but that was nothing compared to seeing the birthday girl ring a bell for the Maid to come and serve us."

- When she was 11 her Father was drafted, and he and his family were sent to Hahn AFB in Germany. While stationed at the American base, she met a young man who will one day be her future husband, but she didn't know it at the time.
- While living on the base in Germany, she and her family attended church services on the base. The Chaplain was Methodist. In Colorado, she and her family also attended

(Continued on page 4, Getting to Know You)

NIFTY FIFTY ACTIVITIES

Lunch At Lazy Dog Restaurant

Feb. 13, 2014

We again have chosen to have only one activity for the Month of Feb. and that is Lunch at Lazy Dog Restaurant located at 1961 Diamond Blvd Concord Cal. 94520 on Feb 13th. This is a new Restaurant located where The El Torito Mexican Restaurant and cantina had been for 20 or more years in the Willows Shopping Center. Reading the reviews it sounds interesting having devoted a large area with heat lamps for outside dinning. The salad portions (and Japanese cucumber) are very generous and the ribs were moist and tasty A full rack could feed two people. The Chili was one of the better ones I've had and was quite hearty with chunks of beef almost like brisket. It sounds like a fun and interesting new place to try..May turn out to be one that we will put on our return list... Meet at church at 12:00 leave at 12:15 Lunch is scheduled for 1:00. If you decide to go direct please sign up any way so we know how many to plan on...

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Tour

May 9, 2014

Ever wonder what is involved in making water safe to drink? The Contra Costa Water District is hosting Two Public Outreach Tours this May. You'll have a chance to go behind the scenes at a water treatment plant, visit one of their Delta intakes and explore the Los Vaqueros Reservoir. Call (925) 688-8175 to reserve your spot.

We are planning on going on the first tour May 9th, but..... they don't let you sign up as a group only as singles...It's a truly great tour and includes lunch and is free. About three years ago we went to the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Dam as well as the Marina where they were catching fish...(The Reservoir is stocked with Trout) and had a very interesting outing...They have a bus that hold about twenty so it's first come first served. I signed up already for the May 9th tour. Call the above number I spoke with Jim Freschi and reserve a spot. The tour includes a stop at the Randall-Bold Water Treatment Plant to see how they make our water clean and healthy. They will introduce you to some of the animals in the watershed like a gopher snake. And concludes at the John Muir Interpretive center at Los Vaqueros. It should be a great outing, but you need to **CALL NOW**. If you can't get in on the 9th sign up for the 23rd. The tour starts at the CCWS's Concord District Center at 1331 Concord Ave. Concord Ca. Don't Miss Out....

Getting to Know You (Continued from page 3)

a Presbyterian Church and a Baptist Church. Today, her older sister is a Southern Baptist living in Alabama, and her youngest sister is a Mormon and lives in Los Angeles.

- At 16, she returns to Denver, Co where she graduates from high school.
- After high school graduation, she returns to Germany and works as a bookkeeper, a job which will give her a solid background in Accounting.
- She returned to Denver, Co applied for and got a job working for the FBI in Washington, DC.
- Her next job in Washington, DC was as a Flight Attendant on TWA's Super G Constellation aircraft.
- About this time, she got engaged to the young man she met some years before in Germany. After marriage, they decided that she would not continue flying all over the country working for TWA.
- Her new husband's company transferred them to San Francisco, California. They moved into an unfurnished apartment in Oakland with two mission tables, a camel saddle (yes, a camel saddle), a chair, and rented sleeping bags.
- Their first two children, a girl and a boy, were born in Oakland, California.
- The company transferred them to Kodiak, Alaska where they lived for 3 years. Their third child, a boy, was born there. They were transferred from Alaska to Bellingham, Washington where they lived for 6 years. Their final move with the company was back to California. They bought and lived in a couple of homes in Concord, raising their family, before purchasing their current home in Clayton 18 years ago.
- She and her family have been members at Holy Cross Lutheran Church since 1962. They have attended here ever since except for the 9 years when they were transferred to Alaska and Washington.
- She worked as an Accountant for a CPA firm for 19 years before retiring.
- Her beloved husband passed away in 1998. She cherishes their years together, raising their family and enjoying traveling together in later years.
- Her passions are: serving the Lord in a number of capacities at Holy Cross, followed closely by her children, 7 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild (with another 1 on the way).
- She grew up playing lots of sports. Her children encouraged her to take up golf after retirement and she now plays with a woman's group (the Nine in One as often as 3 days a week. She also exercises at a local gym most mornings during the week.
- Her life verse is from Matthew 6:33 – *"But Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, and All These Things Shall Be Added Unto You"*.

Would you like to know who this wonderful lady is? Just turn to page 6 to find out.

Women of Holy Cross Activities at a Glance

February 2014

- Sun 2/2 Mite Box Sunday/hat Sunday
- Mon 2/3 2:15 pm Board Meeting
- Mon 2/10 6:30 pm General Meeting
Hostesses: Judy West & Pat Easby
- Short Business Meeting
 - Bottle Art Craft
 - Secret Pals Revealed
 - Beverages & Dessert

March 2014

We need Hostesses for our March and April general meetings. Please think about volunteering. You don't have to do it alone; ask someone to do it with you or we'll help you find someone to help you.

- Sun 3/2 Mite Box & Hat Sunday
- Mon 3/3 2:15 pm Board Meeting
- Wed 3/5 [ASH Wednesday](#)
[5:45 PM Dinner- Parish Hall \(Hosted by WoHC\)](#)
[7:00 PM - Ash Wednesday Service](#)
- Mon 3/10 6:30pm General Meeting ☆
Election of Officers, Net Work of Care
Bagging Everyone welcome!

☆ 2 Hostesses needed for this meeting! If you like to volunteer, please let Cherylene know.

LWML CNH District Convention in Sacramento May 2-4, 2014

We need a delegate & an alternate. Registration packets should arrive by Feb. Save your \$\$ so you can attend with us for a: good time, entertainment, great speakers, Bible Study, music and bonding with your Sisters in Christ

Save these dates!!! We'll be staying over Fri. & Sat. nights

ATTENTION NOTE FEBRUARY

by Pat Easby

Don't forget your **Secret Pal !**

In only a couple of weeks, we'll be getting together to reveal ourselves and choose new secret pals.

What a fast, fun, evening this will be...make it a point to attend on **February 10, Monday, at 6:30pm**, in the parish hall.

Please don't disappoint your S.pal; show up!

Better yet, bring her a **card or a gift** at the time you reveal yourself. ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME & YOU **DO NOT** HAVE TO BE A SECRET PAL to join us; JUST COME AND HAVE FUN.

We'll have **beverages, goodies & dessert**, a short General **meeting**, and top it off with the fun **glass bottle art!** We'll still finish early evening!!!!

ALL secret pals please attend—don't disappoint your pal. When we reveal ourselves –it' would be nice if we'd have a card, or a small gift for our secret pals.

FUN CRAFT— is a pretty glass bottle art - - - led by Cherylene. It'll be fun!! Your friends are welcome too! Short General meeting, Snacks, drinks, dessert!!!! ALL ladies & teens are welcome to participate. You do not have to be a secret pal in order to participate this evening. Just Come—Have Fun-!!!! HOSTESSES: Judy West & Pat Easby

WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO SIGN UP, SO WE KNOW HOW MANY TO prepare for. Sign up sheet is on the WoHC Bulletin Board next to the office door. THANK YOU.

*_Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Christ did. I John 2:6 **WWJD***

HOSTING a "WOMEN OF HOLY CROSS GENERAL MEETING"

Monday Night at 6:30PM What Does a Hostess do?

1. Come a little early - have a friend help you
2. Set up & make coffee/drinks & dessert
3. You provide the dessert
4. Nice to have a theme (Fall, Winter, Christmas, Birthday, etc)
5. Have a table cloth to go with your theme (\$1.00 store) nothing elaborate, make it easy & fun.

More Grants Funded Sharing God's Love

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) announces payments made to the following Mission Grants for the 2013-2015 biennium. Thanks be to God for the faithful prayers and mite giving of His children! Learn more about each grant at www.lwml.org.

Partial payment of \$8,000 for Lutheran Children's Books for Southeast Asia. This grant will allow the Lutheran Heritage Foundation to print and distribute approximately 9,000 copies of *Luther's Small Catechism* and 6,000 copies of *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* into the languages of Southeast Asia. An additional \$64,000 is still needed to complete this grant.

Partial payment of \$25,000 for Rebuilding Nord Est Haiti Lutheran School. This grant will help to rebuild the Lutheran primary school in Haiti, and will meet current earthquake standards and serve the physical and spiritual needs of Haitian children. An additional \$75,000 is still needed to complete this grant.

Partial payment of \$20,000 for I CAN – Serving At-Risk Children With Learning Needs. This grant will help to bring the love of Christ to children who are at-risk and have special learning needs through Lutheran Special Education Ministries' after-school and summer programs. An additional \$79,000 is still to complete this grant.

Partial payment of \$5,000 for Support for Lutheran Public Radio. This grant will help allow the director of business operations to devote more time to development, so that the radio and internet show, "Issues, Etc.," can continue to proclaim the Gospel and provide a better understanding of contemporary social issues in a Christian context. An additional \$35,000 remains to be paid to complete this grant.

Partial payment of \$20,000 for Worship for Shut-ins. This grant will help to fund the production, marketing, and distribution of the weekly "Worship for Shut-ins" DVD program, produced by Lutheran Ministries Media. An additional \$60,000 remains to be paid to complete this grant. You may help fund the remaining mission grants of this biennium and meet our national goal of \$1.83 million. Each district also has their own mission grant goal. By God's grace, your mite offerings, along with the contributions of other LWML supporters, will help meet these mission goals. In addition to filling your Mite Box, you may also donate to the LWML through your local society. A portion of this donation is sent to national to support national mission grants. You may also donate online at www.lwml.org. Checks or money orders may be designated as "missions" and mailed to Lutheran Women's Missionary League, PO Box 411993

OUTREACH

(The 4th Sunday of the month)

by Pat Easby

WE SERVE THE NEEDY LUNCH, AT THE SHELTER on the 4th Sunday. IF YOU WISH TO HELP (prepare or serve) *please stop by the kitchen immediately following our church service on Outreach Sunday.*

No experience necessary, just Bring a happy heart and a smile!

*Note: Outreach can always use: **donations of any type** of candies, chips, popcorn, crackers, all types of snacks. They love chocolates, hard candies, bars, etc. Feel free to purchase snacks & candies on sale after the holidays. They don't mind eating out-of-season candies! **THANK YOU!***

OUTREACH

Handy Information

DO YOU KNOW A HOMELESS VETERAN?

Do you know that Supportive Services for Veteran's Family (SSVF) will provide

- FIRST MONTH'S RENT
- SECURITY DEPOSIT
- UTILITY ASSISTANCE

IN ORDER TO USE THE SERVICE, VETERANS MUST INTEND TO RESIDE IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY.

CONTACT NUMBERS:

SSVF PROGRAM, SHELTER, INC.
(925) 957-7579

CCC HOMELESS SERVICES:
(800) 799-6599



FEBRUARY 2014

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

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



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

Worship Schedule:

Sunday Service 9:30AM

Communion 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

Adults Bible Studies 11AM (Library & Conf. Rm)

Sunday School 11AM

Week Day Bible Study Schedule:

Monday (Ladies) 12:30PM Conference Room

Wednesday (all) 7:00PM Parish Hall

Choir Rehearsal:

Tuesday 7:15PM—8:45PM

Outreach:

Fourth Sunday of each month, 11:30AM

Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

March 2014 Cross Currents: February 20