



# Cross Currents



Volume 11 Issue 112

Holy Cross Lutheran Church,

December 2013

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## The Objective Truth of Christmas

Many people experience the “holiday blues” during Christmas in particular, often going back and forth between cheer and melancholy. Loneliness, relationship issues, financial struggles, grief, and other circumstances often dampen our “Christmas spirit.” Recalling fond memories of loved ones who have passed away or wishing for what might have been can intensify or resurrect sadness during Christmas, especially when we’re surrounded by people who seem happy and cheerful.

“Holiday blues” can rob us of the joy of our Christmas celebration; they cannot, however, rob us of God’s blessings of Christmas because though our emotions can diminish our appreciation and enjoyment of Christmas, God’s blessings of Christmas are not dependent on how we feel. Our celebration may be subjective, but what is celebrated at Christmas, that is, the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ, is objective. Feelings, doubts, or circumstances do not and cannot undo history, that 2000 years ago in Bethlehem, in the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son who came into human history to save us from sin (Gal.4:4), which is summarized beautifully in the Second Article of the Nicene Creed:

*The Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation*

*came down from heaven*

*and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.*

The objective truth of Christmas, independent of our emotions, is that God has come to us in the flesh in Jesus, who is Emmanuel, “God with us,” to reconcile us to Himself. Jesus bridged the eternal separation between God and man caused by sin, reestablishing peace and fellowship between God and man by His atoning sacrifice on the cross.

Nothing can erase the divine, historical, and objective reality of Jesus’ incarnation, birth, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension; nothing will deter Him from returning to raise us to life in the resurrection. The blessings — namely forgiveness of sins and life in resurrection as well as His abiding grace and mercy now — that result from all that Jesus has done and continues through the means of grace as Emmanuel, “God with us” transcend feelings and circumstances.

*“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11). †*





**December 24, 2013**  
**Christmas Eve Wor-**  
**ship Service, 7:00 p.m.**

**December 25, 2013**  
**Christmas Day Wor-**  
**ship Service with Holy**  
**Communion, 9:30 a.m.**



**December 4 & 11, 2013**  
**Midweek Advent Bible**  
**Study (Ruth), 7:00PM**

### *Women of Holy Cross*

#### **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY** **Dec. 9, 2013 at 5:30PM**

ALL LADIES - H.C. MEMBERS, NON-MEMBERS, friends & family are invited to join us for our "Women of Holy Cross annual Christmas Dinner Party" on Monday December 9th in the Parish Hall. Donation of \$15 to cover costs, please submit to Melarie or Cherylene by Sunday December 1 (Check payable to Women of Holy Cross).

The decorations will be lovely; you may not believe you are in the Parish Hall! We'll have five or six Christmas theme tables each uniquely decorated by different ladies.

There will be Appetizers, Buffet Dinner, Singing, White Elephant Gift Exchange, Desserts—yum...yum, fun...fun!

*We'll see you at the Christmas Party, Bring your friends!*

Dress Festive, Snazzy, Casual, or Comfy!



### **ATTN: MUSICIANS -**

If you sing or play an instrument at any level and would like to participate in the Christmas Eve service, please contact Diana Meux (dianamcm02@yahoo.com or 510-526-3294). *Oh, come, all ye faithful and let all our songs employ to repeat the sounding joy in proclaiming "Joy to the World, the Lord is come!"*

#### **Rehearsals for December:**

Dec. 3, Dec 10 & Dec. 17 - 7:00PM

Dec. 24 - 6PM

Dec. 25 - 8:50AM

### **LUNCH & CAROLING** **SUNDAY DECEMBER 15 AT NOON**

The Women of Holy Cross will again be going Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 15. Lunch will be served about 11:45 AM and we will be on our way to bring some musical cheer to those who are shut in. Just show up...everyone is welcome. See you on Sunday, December 15.



### **January Chili Cookoff**



There will be 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? We are looking for you. Remember SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2014.

## Congregation Thanksgiving Dinner

We would like to thank everyone who attended and supported our congregational Thanksgiving Dinner last Sunday. We all enjoyed being united with one another for a very Blessed and spectacular Buffet! It was also wonderful to have some new faces to meet and get to know! We raised \$465.00 towards our parking lot fund!

We would ***especially*** like to thank Melarie and Mike Seidel and Idalene and Scott Stadler for giving us a Blessed Thanksgiving! And also for their talents, their time in decorating, slicing, cutting, chopping, and preparing a delicious variety of sides to go with the decadently moist turkey. And the scrumptious desserts!

We would also like to thank the Reiter family, Carol Chu, and new friends, Kathleen and her daughter Leanne for a great job of quick clean up and to everyone who stayed to help set the hall back for our tenant, Myanmar Christian Church gathering.— *Sue Reiter*

## Christmas Adopt-a-Family 'Gifting Tree'

Have you checked out the tags on the brightly lit tree in the Parish Hall? They contain Christmas wishes of members of the Women of Holy Cross 'adopted family'. If you want to fulfill one or more of the wishes, please take a tag (s), sign your name on the space provided at the bottom and cut that portion out and return that part to Melarie Seidel.



**All gifts are to be returned unwrapped** (in a box will be nice) **with a gift receipt attached by Sunday, Dec 8.**

Please save your receipts so WoHC can get matching funds from Thrivent. Thanks to all who participate in the WoHC Christmas Adopt-a-family.

## You are invited...

### Nifty Fifty Seniors Christmas Celebration - Thursday, December 19

On Thursday December 19th 2013, the Nifty Fifty Seniors invite you to attend their Christmas Celebration in the Social Hall where they will have a delicious lunch, sing Christmas carols and listen to Jack Mortenson, our 'Historian Bible Scholar', make a presentation on Paul's contact with the intellectuals of his time bringing them the good news of Jesus birth and resurrection. In prior years Jack stated that: The Christmas celebration is an opportunity for believers to express joy as grateful recipients of God's grace in sending his son Jesus into the world to be our Savior. The United States, especially with Obama as president, tries to divert our attention from "The Reason for the Season" so we must pray, worship and mediate to the profound and extraordinary truth of what God has done through the life of Jesus. We start

our celebration with lunch at 11:30. Last year we had a commercial catering service handle the lunch. This year, our own wonderful talented beautiful Melarie Seidel and her helpers have volunteered to make the lunch and charge our group whatever it costs. I'm sure she will need help in cleaning up as we will use our plates and utensil etc. for the lunch. After lunch we will sing Christmas Carols accompanied by Sally Miller on the piano and Marv leading the signing. Last year (and I hope again this year) our German contingency sang "Silent Night and We Wish you a Merry Christmas" in German. We certainly are blessed to have such a group of Christians at our church and what a wonderful way to herald in the Christmas Season. Please SIGN UP EARLY in the social hall so we know how many to plan on. What a great time to bring a friend...





## Lunch at the Creekside Restaurant Rossmoor

Thursday Nov. 7th 2013

I was a little disappointed when we ended up with only 4 at our lunch at the Creekside Restaurant in Rossmoor. Last time we went we had 16 and they seated us behind the Bar. This time I made sure we



were seated in the main dining room. Which was elegant and loaded with people eating

both inside and outside which gave it a festive upscale dining experience. Bill Reichmann and I started our lunch with a cup of Mexican soup with bits of Doritos and cheese on top and I can truly say it was very tasty. It came with a small roll with butter which made it special. I had a regular hamburger which I must say was under cooked, but was delightfully arranged on a plate...The conversation and the atmosphere was delightful. —*Marv Kreitz*

## Al the Wops - Nov. 21 2013

It was a windy day but it was sparkling, charged with positive ions, especially after our first rain of the season that left everything clean and fresh. I had made reservations for 10 and we had 11. Dave and Ann Caruso, Bud and Jan Walker, Herb and Marilyn Neumann went direct. Herb drove his Model A Which he parked across the street from the restaurant and looked really elegant. I picked up Trina Godsey and went to church where we picked up Erna Beutel, Bill Reichmann and Bill Luker, so I had a car full....What a Blessing. Trina was full of information having lived in Rio Vista when Bill worked for Chevron, and we were enthralled with all of the places that Bill Luker had

visited during his duty in the mid East. We went on 160 across highway 12 straight to Lock It was as always beautiful traveling along the Sacramento River and we marveled at how much water was flowing and understood why



Southern CA would want to tap into this source. Lock was the same as it has been for years. All the building are right on the street leaning and seemly bursting at the seams with wires pipes and old railings telling a story of years gone by Al the Wops as usually was loaded at the bar and almost empty in the dining area..With eleven we sat 5 at one table and 6 at the other. Most of our table had the steak and Sour Dough Bread along with Peanut Butter and the companion Jar of Jam a delicious salad was included. It was great...The steaks were Strip New York steaks and were excellent especially since that's all you get. But it was all I could eat. Most of those at our table either had a glass of wine or beer. Herb was concerned about not having potatoes or anything other than the steak. After we had eaten, we went into the bar and Dave was trying to stick a dollar to the ceiling by wrapping it around some change or a weight gotten from the bartender; after three tries, he gave up, just another activity included in our outing. The trip back with Mt Diablo in the distant again reminded us of what a wonderful

area we live in and what a blessing to travel with Christian Friends. — *Marv Kreitz*



## Nifty Fifty Seniors Activities for Dec 2013

### Holiday Buffet Norseman's Restaurant Wednesday, Dec. 4th 2013

The Nifty Fifty Seniors at Holy Cross have 22 going to the Buffet Lunch at Norseman's Restaurant at Diablo Valley College on Wed Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. Cost is \$22.00 including tax and tip.

If it's anything like the buffet they put on last year it will be fantastic...as it is put on by the culinary students at the college with white linen table cloths and students presenting their specialties, such as caramelized onions Prime Rib carved to order, Pomegranate salad (mixed greens tossed in champagne vinaigrette with candied walnuts, blue cheese and pomegranate seeds) Fried Turkey Breast and a decadent array of desserts.

Meet at church at 10:00 leave at 10:15 For those driving be sure to get a parking pass from me as you could be tagged if you don't have one. This is kind of after the fact as all 22 tickets are taken. If anyone else would like to go, call 925 969 2358 which is the box office at DVC; it could be they have some returns.

### The second activity is Christmas Celebration on Thursday, Dec 19, 2013

...see details on page 3

## WOMEN OF HOLY CROSS December Activities

### Sunday Dec 1

- Mite Box Sunday/Hat Sunday -
- If you plan to attend the Christmas Dinner, PLEASE SIGN YOUR NAME & your guests names on the signup sheet in the Parish Hall today and give Melarie Seidel or Cherylene Brueckner \$15.00 to cover cost for the WOHC Christmas Dinner. Please make check payable to Women of Holy Cross.

### Monday Dec 2

WoHC Board Meeting, 2:00 PM in Conference Room

### Monday 12/9

WoHC Non-progressive catered CHRISTMAS DINNER, Christmas Carols and White Elephant Gift Exchange

**Sunday Dec 15** Congregational/Caroling after Sunday School

**Wednesday 12/25** Christmas Day Service, 9:30AM



**Mike and Tina Voss**

At the November Women of Holy Cross general meeting, Mike and Tina Voss put on a very good informative program on "Security for Women". They gave us a list of things we can be aware of when we are out in public places and how we can protect ourselves.

They are sales representative for the company called "Damsel in Defense". They have several items for sale especially made for women and their protection. Many ladies took the opportunity to do their Christmas shopping that evening. One very popular item is a flash light that features a loud siren with a magnet attached so it can stand on top of your car and light up the area around you. When you have trouble with your car, you can turn on the siren with the bright light flashing, it will be very easy for people to spot you in the dark.; in addition, it has features to cut seat belts and break windows. You can also find other items such as stun guns, mace, and other protection gadgets for sale. See Mike or Tina for more details. They are donating 10% of their commission back to Holy-Cross.

—Pat Kroeger for WoHC

# WoHC Christmas Dinner Itinerary and Menu

**5:30 PM**

*Beverages & Appetizers*

*Move About & Mingle*

**6:00 PM**

*Dinner*

## MENU

*Heavenly Hearts of Romaine Lettuce  
with vinaigrette dressing*

*Herb Roasted Boneless Pork Loin  
with Berry sauce*

*Oven Roasted New Baby Red Potatoes  
in Rosemary Herb Butter*

*Fresh Green Beans Almandine*

*Sweet Potatoes*

*Dinner Rolls*

*Fruit Plate*

*Desserts*

## **December**

### **Birthdays**

- 1 Liz Ballard
- 2 Marla Kuefner
- 5 Rayna Kamerzell
- 6 Diana Butterfield  
Peter Liedtke
- 16 Alexandra Roman  
Susan Stenson
- 18 Bill Luker
- 21 Allen Brueckner
- 25 Marv Kreitz
- 27 Terry Hawkyard
- 30 Christopher Chu

### **Anniversary**

- 10 Herb & Marilyn  
Neumann



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

**Sue Saalfeld**, **Muriel Strieter**, **Loyce 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), **George Fraine** (Kimberly Chu's friend's father-cancer, treatments), **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), **Brian and Megan Baker and family** (Gail Baker's daughter-adoption of twins, safe travel Uganda), **Gayle Bothe** (healing shoulder), Lysa Roberts (eye test), Maddie Conklin (Judy West's friend, lung/pancreatic cancer), Terry Leak (Gayle's brother-in-law healing-broker 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), **Warrior Officer Donna Cheek**, (Carrie Kroeger's cousin-4<sup>th</sup> tour-Afghanistan), **PFC Kevin Hayworth** (Glenda's grandson-Hawaii), P.O.W. and M.I.A.'s.



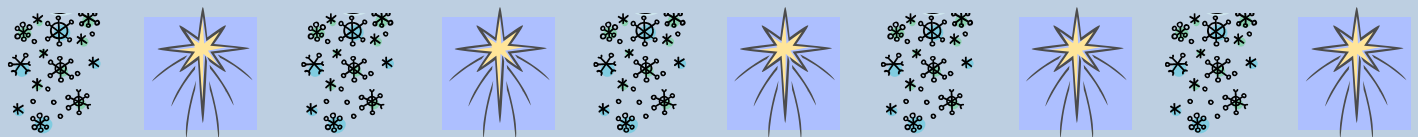
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Mite Box /Hat Sunday <b>9:30a</b> Worship w/ Comm 10:30a Voters' Assem- bly 11:00a Sunday School / Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	<b>2</b> 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 2:15p WoHC Board Mtg 7p Boy Scout (L)	<b>3</b> 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 10a NFS lunch outing 7p Bible Study (H)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>9:30a</b> Worship/ 11:00a Sunday School / Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	<b>9</b> 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 5:30p WoHC Christmas Dinner Party	<b>10</b> 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 1p Senior Brd (L) 7p Bible Study (H)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>9:30a</b> Worship w/ Comm 11:00a Sunday School / Bible Study 12p Caroling 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	<b>16</b> 1p Bridge 7p Boy Scout (L)	<b>17</b> 6:30p Elders Mtg 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 11:30a NFS Christmas Celebration	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>9:30a</b> Worship 11:00a Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30a OUTREACH 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	<b>23</b> 7p Boy Scout (L)	<b>24</b> 6:00PM Choir <b>7:00PM</b> Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> <b>9:30AM</b> Christmas Day Service w/ Comm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>





**Holy Cross Lutheran  
Church, LCMS**

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Concord, CA 94521



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Website: [www.ctsmemberconnect.net](http://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:**

Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM

Christmas Day Service 9:30 AM

Sunday Service 9:30AM

Communion 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

Adults Bible Studies 11:00AM (Library and Conf. Rm)

Sunday School 11:00AM

**Week Day Bible Study Schedule:**

Monday 12:30PM Conference Room, Ladies

Wednesday 7:00PM Parish Hall

**Choir Rehearsal:**

Tuesday 7:15PM—8:45PM

**Outreach:**

Fourth Sunday of each month, 11:30AM

**Publication Deadline:**

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

January 2014 Cross Currents: **December 27**

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