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We Believe.... An explanation of the Nicene Creed By Pastor Mundinger

....and rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures....

It may at first seem a little odd to talk about Easter during the season of Christmas. We have a few days left until we start the season of Epiphany so why focus on Easter for this article instead of Christmas. Besides the fact that chronologically we have been following the words of the Nicene Creed given to us by the Council of Nicea, Easter does have quite a few similarities with Christmas.

First and foremost, we see and hear the words of the angels proclaiming the good news of salvation to the shepherds. ***"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. We also see and hear the good news of the resurrection being proclaimed by angels. ***"Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him."*** Mark 16:6.

In both the story of Christmas the shepherds run to find the Christ child lying in the manger and they tell Mary and Joseph all the wonderful things they have witnessed. On Easter morning the women at the tomb run to tell the disciples about the good news of the resurrection. Peter and John also run to the tomb to see what the angels have spoken of but instead of finding the Christ wrapped in cloth, they only find the burial cloth lying on the tomb.



Continued on page 2

The Christmas story is so much more than mere similarities with the story of Easter, it is the beginning of the end of the darkness of sin and death and it is the beginning of the new creation for the world. A world that sits in darkness is illumined by the Christ Child, yet the magnitude of what this salvation means is fully shown when the dawn breaks through the darkness of night in Christ's glorious resurrection.

As this Christ child grew and made his journey to the cross, we see a glimpse through his ministry of what his resurrection will bring to creation. He will bring restoration for all of mankind. Many who are broken by various ailments and deformities are restored, the demon possessed are liberated, the blind are given sight, and the mute now can cry out in joy! These miracles are a mere foretaste of what is to come for all believers and the resurrection guarantees this healing when our bodies are restored on the last day in the resurrection of the dead!

The Christ child is born in the darkness of this world in order that through the light of his resurrection we may have a sure confidence in all that is to come for us! Christmas is a celebration of Easter, as it is also a celebration of Good Friday, for this is where Jesus will end up. The child that is lying humbly in a manger is destined to die, to be put in the ground, and rise again. And you who are united with him will follow him as well; for one day you too will face death and your body will be placed in the earth, but just as Christ our head rises in His resurrection, so to we his body rise again. ***"For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ."*** 1 Corinthians 15:22-23.

January Bible Studies

The Zoom links for each are the same each week
& are in the Friday Announcements email.

Adult Sunday School, 11am, Parish Hall & Zoom

Monday Women's Bible Study, 10am, Zoom

Pastor's Wed. Evening Bible Study, 7pm (starts 1/26)



Brittany	1/7
Josh	1/15
Christl	1/16
Luke	1/20
Pat	1/22
Bill	1/24
Addison	1/24
Grace	1/26
Marc	1/28
Samantha	1/29



Peter & Liz 1/10



Christmas is a special time for me. And since working as our secretary, it's even more so. While it's the busiest time of year, it's also the one that brings many opportunities for me to focus on all I have to be thankful for & what my priorities should be. The saying "grateful, thankful, blessed" absolutely applies to me. I love this job & you all are the main reason why. That said, I especially want to thank everyone who took time & gave me a card & or gift. I save them & on Christmas (or the day after depending on schedule) spend focused time opening each. I need nothing but honestly appreciate & enjoy each gift—many took my interests & likes into consideration. ❤️ Thank you! Blessings, Joyce

CALLING ALL
HOLY CROSS COOKS

Chili COOK OFF!

5th Sunday, 1/30,
after worship

**YOU
BE THE
JUDGE**

AWARDS FOR:
1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place, Peoples Choice

Sign up to bring
chili or sides.

IT'S
CHILLY
OUTSIDE,
IT'S HOT
IN HERE!



A special surprise visit with Diana Bourke (Meux), home for Christmas from Ireland. Pictures sent by Marilyn Neumann.



Thank you for your support of our **Second Annual Food Drive**

in partnership with the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano. We fill three barrels of food for the hungry with our Food Drive that ran from **Halloween thru Thanksgiving (10/31- 11/25/2021)**. The Food Bank picked up our barrels on December 7, and Neil Zerchin, Food Drive Administrator for Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, sent us a "thank you" letter on December 10. He noted, *"The **819 pounds of food you donated** equates to 683 meals for our neighbors struggling to make ends meet. How does your hard work make a difference? Since the Covid pandemic began in March, 2020 the Food Bank has been supporting 280,000 people each month. That is 100,000 more people seeking help than just a few months ago. In Fiscal Year 2019 you helped us distribute about 25,000,000 pounds of food. The last year we were up to 31,000,000 pounds and we are on track to hit 40,000,000 pounds this current year."* In closing, Neal says, ... **YOU did it!** ... *It takes a village to feed a village. Thank you for being a part of the solution."*



The Holy Cross Vision Committee thanks you too! Let's be ready on Halloween 2022 to kick off our **Third Annual Food Drive!** Plan now to volunteer for the 2022 Halloween Drive-Thru food/treat swap and month-long Food Drive. We are part of the "Village"!



Allen (left) helps take the food barrels to the truck.
The Food Bank worker loads the truck





Lutheran
Social Services
OF NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA

Another LSS Christmas gift drive completed! This year we had 43 adults & 7 children that we were able to fulfill all of their wish requests. A few WoHC met on 12/4 to wrap the gifts, and the LSS representatives gathered all the gifts to deliver.

THANK YOU to Melarie for coordinating, our Holy Cross families who donated gifts &/or money, & to our shoppers, including Liz.



More pictures
on next page.

For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.' Deuteronomy 15:11



Thank you
Kaytlyn Coyne
for many of
these pictures!

LWML CNH 2020-2022 Mission Grants Update:

A few weeks ago, we were so excited to report that all Mission Grants #1-14 have been funded, and many have also been paid. We are currently working on #15, shown below. We are so thankful for the faithful Mite giving at Holy Cross. The California-Nevada-Hawaii mission Grants are selected at our biennium conventions for a two-year period. As we are now approaching the end of the current 2020-2022 biennium (March 31, 2022), we are working hard to fund all 22 mission grants, a total of \$124,000. Grants #15-22 total \$37,075, so we still have some work ahead of us! From each Mite given, 50% funds our CNH Mission Grants, 25% funds CNH operation expenses, and 25% funds national LWML Mission Grants and expenses. The first Sunday of each month is Mite Sunday here at Holy Cross. If you forget your mites on the first Sunday, you can bring them **any** Sunday!

LWML CNH Mission Grant #15

Wheels for the Gospel - \$10,000 Ruth Guild of St. Luke's Reno, Nevada

In 2013 St. Luke's established a children's tutoring program which serves 20 students weekly from outside their congregation. The tutoring/mentoring program is mission based with a strong gospel component, using the model of Rebecca's Garden of Hope. St. Luke's also has active middle & high school youth programs. Additionally, the general membership participates in a variety of activities and service events to reach out to their community for the gospel of Christ. St. Luke's plans to expand their thriving ministries through its transportation services. The grant is to retro-fit/repair their current old van, or use as seed money to purchase another van. The church has a line item in the budget for van maintenance.



Explore the bulletin boards here at Holy Cross for more LWML/WoHC and LWML information.

LWML = Lutheran Women's Missionary League, WoHC = Women of Holy Cross,

CNH = California-Nevada-Hawaii District.

Every female member of a LCMS church is a member of LWML,
an auxiliary organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, serving the Lord with gladness!



Oh Come, All Ye Faithful Potluck Brunch



Thank you Liz Aduan for our
table decorations & gifts.





Oh Come,

All Ye Faithful



*Potluck
Brunch*



Thank you Carole Crone for
many of these pictures!



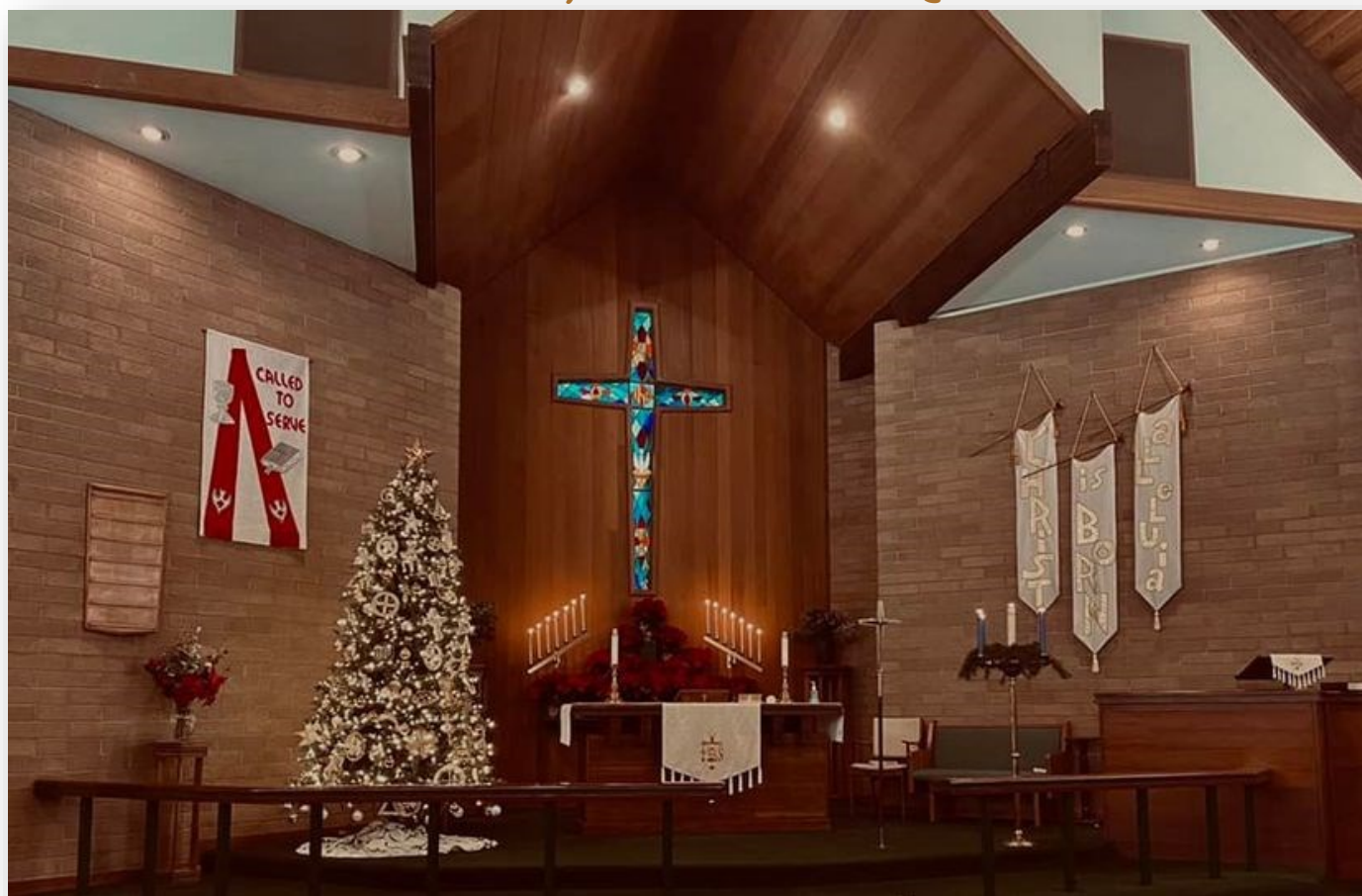
Sunday, 11/28, the 1st candle is lit on our Advent Wreath



*Friday, 12/24, the 5th candle, the Christ candle, is lit!
This symbolizes that Christ, the light of the world, has entered the darkness.*



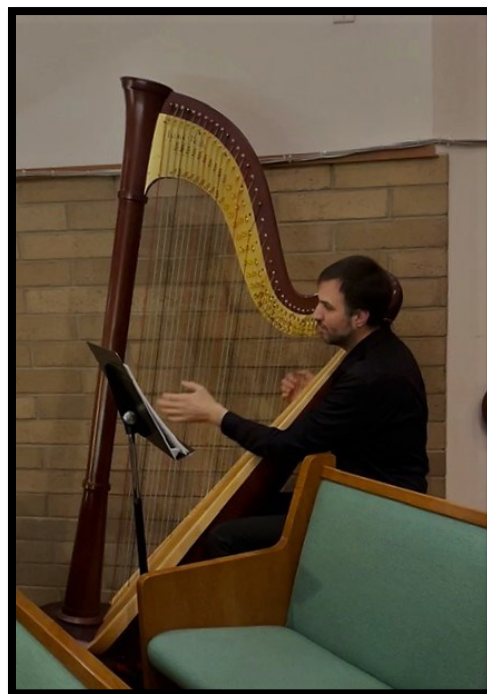
Christmas Eve, before worship started.



Outside view of a
side sanctuary door



Close up of our
Advent wreath



Guest Harpist: Gerry Porcaro

Unto You Is Born a Savior: An excerpt from Luther's Christmas 1544 sermon

December 1, 2021 / [Letter From the President](#), By [Matthew Harrison](#)

It's a marvel that we can "listen in" to Martin Luther's own sermon on Luke 2, from Christmas 1544. Luther emphasizes two marvelous points: Christ took on our flesh and was born of the Virgin Mary. And He did this "for you." That's all we need for a truly Merry Christmas. —Pastor Matthew C. Harrison

This highest work [Christ taking on our flesh and being born in Bethlehem] is done "for us and for our salvation"; as the angel sings: "Unto *you* is born a Savior" [Luke 2:11]. That the son of God becomes like us would be quite enough. But that is not all. Not only does He become flesh and blood, etc., but your Savior. You are subject to death, sin, and the devil. He wants to redeem you from them. Who will believe this? Ah, heavenly Father, You put Your Son at a maiden's breast to nurse Him and then let Him be hung upon the cross to die — and all this takes place for our sakes. Who will not rejoice at this? Surely we would die of joy, if we [considered this] aright. But our flesh and the devil prevent it. That is our misery and sadness: that I read this and hear it preached that it is so; the prophets proclaim it; the angels preach; the shepherds spread the report that Christ has come and the angels sing; the apostles do miracles to attest it; and the holy Church still sings [about it]. But how is it that it does not penetrate us, so that we say: "The One who is like you is God the Creator; He nurses at the breast, and yet He is my God; and all this so that He might deliver me"? What a clod and stump am I, that I do not receive Him and acknowledge Him as my Savior? [God says,] "This Child was not given only to the mother so that she might supply Him with milk, but for you, so that He might die and deliver you from My wrath." All this I hear preached and I read; I have it painted and sung for me, but I do not take it to heart. I go away as if I had been listening to a fable ... Should I not think: "If this Child whom the mother embraces is mine, if He is my brother, how, then, should I respond?" It would be no wonder if we became righteous from the heart, even without any other teaching. But we should be warmed and even melt with joy. But the devil has poisoned our flesh and blood so that they will not allow us to attain that fruit and joy, where I hear: "This little Boy does not belong to the mother, but to you, not only as He clings to her ... but also as He hangs upon the cross. It is most certain that He has been given and born for you." Then the heart is warmed and says: "If this is true, then there is no ill so great that I would not endure it, even if I had to suffer still more. But on the contrary, [He suffers], and for the sake of the son, I should give eternal thanks from the heart, and my mouth and heart should overflow with joy." That is what should happen, and it does happen among Christians, so that their eyes cry tears of joy. But the crude masses go their way and remain [unaffected]. That is a sign that you do not believe this work. Otherwise, you would reform yourself and rejoice. [If you want to know] how we have reformed ourselves, look at the greed and fornication. We continue in sin and shame, scraping and scratching. Oh, woe to those for whom this work seems to have been done in vain, men of iron who despise this work and let it be preached but do not take the work to heart, though it is [proclaimed] throughout the whole of Scripture. Let there be weeping and lamentation over those who receive no benefit from this, and no fruit of joy ensues.

[But] the dear holy angels sing: "Glory to God in the highest, [and on earth, peace,] goodwill!" [Luke 2:14]. "Goodwill" means [God's] good pleasure and joy. God has not sent this work into the world with a grim countenance, with stormy brow. Rather, as [He says] at the Jordan: "This is My beloved Son" [Matt. 3:17]. All things laugh — the angels, the creatures — only the devil and the flesh do not. The angels are filled with joy, and the work has nothing to do with them. They had reason for being envious and sour. But these best of spirits sing: "Glory!" — [glory] for all the works of God, but especially for this one, as if to say, "Truly, the one who does such a thing, who sends His Son to cling to a maiden's neck, and not only for the honor but also for the eternal salvation of mankind, such a one is God indeed!" That is grace, love, mercy indeed; for this He is worthy of praise. And this not only in heaven but also on earth; whatever lives and moves shall have peace, good days, and rest, and "goodwill to men."

From Martin Luther, "Sermon for Christmas Vespers, (Luke 2[:8–14])," in Luther's Works: Sermons V, ed. Christopher Boyd Brown, trans. Christopher Boyd Brown, vol. 58 (St. Louis: CPH, 2010), 194–195.



Merry Christmas

Flight 2022 Instructions

Good morning and welcome to Flight 2022.
We are prepared to take off into the New Year.

Please make sure your Positive Attitude and Gratitude are secured and locked in the upright position. All self-destruct devices: pity, anger, selfishness, pride, and resentment should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt, and discouragement should be put away.

Should you lose your Positive Attitude under pressure during this flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated, you can assist other passengers who are of little faith.

There will be NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight.

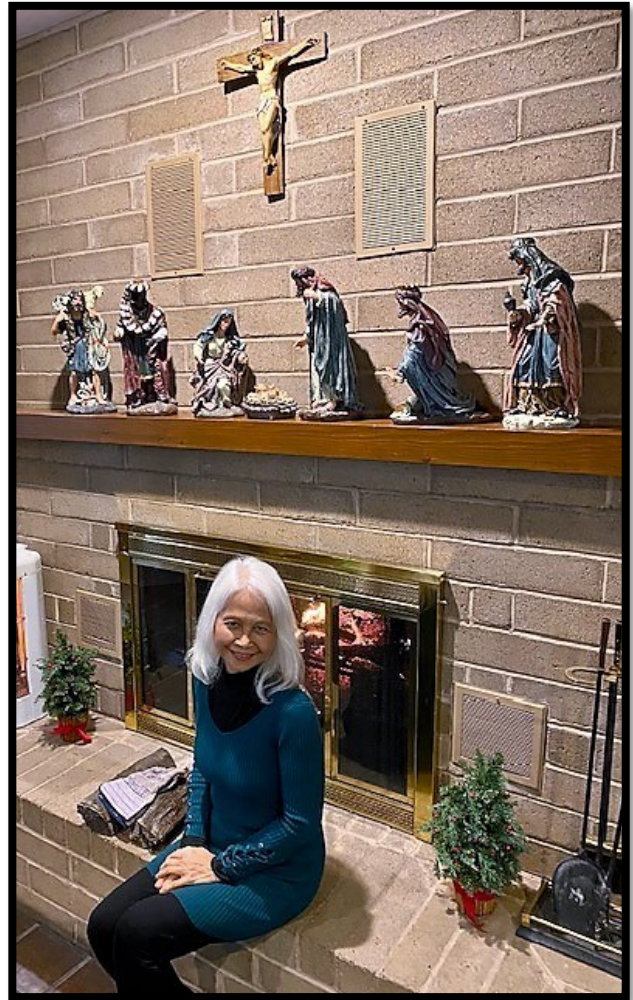
God, our Captain, has cleared us for take-off.

Destination – GREATNESS!

Wishing you a New Year filled with new HOPE, new JOY, and new BEGINNINGS!

Stay Blessed!

And welcome in 2022.



Here's a picture of Ruth, our organist, taken after one of our Christmas services (in front of our new Nativity set). On a side note, Ruth is so grateful and wants to know who is the "Angel" that dropped the

Halls lozenges off for her. She says she's losing sleep over it



Thank You to Sam Liebe & her mom Janine for donating Grandma Marie's Nativity set to us.

JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2  9:30am Worship Service 11am Adult Sunday School Zoom/PH	3 OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom	4 10:30am Prayer Group, Sanctuary	5	6 5pm HC/YVCS Ops Mtg PH/Zoom	7	8 9am Sanctuary: Christmas Un-Decorating 10am Vision Mtg, Zoom
9 9:30am Worship Service 11am Adult Sunday School Zoom/PH	10 OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom	11 10:30am Prayer Group, Sanctuary	12	13	14	15
16 9:30am Worship Service 11am Adult Sunday School Zoom/PH	17 OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom 6:30pm Council Mtg Zoom	18 10:30am Prayer Group, Sanctuary	19	20 9am HC Men's Mandatory Formation, Huckleberry's	21	22
23 9:30am Worship Service 11am Adult Sunday School Zoom	24 OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom	25 10:30am Prayer Group, Sanctuary	26 7pm Pastors Bible	27 1pm Nifty Fifty Lunch, TBD	28	29
30 9:30am Worship Service  11am 5th Sunday Chilly Chili Cook-Off	31					

cl=choir loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg., PH=Parish Hall

YVCS School Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:45am—3:30 pm, Friday: 8:45am—2:15pm



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Elders: Bill Riechmann, John Coyne,
Herb Neumann

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editor@holycrossconcord.org

Sunday Worship Schedule:

Sunday Service 9:30AM

Adult Sunday School 11 AM (In person & Zoom)

Youth Bible Study 11AM

Sunday School 11AM (on hold)

Week Day Bible Study Schedule:

Monday (Ladies) 10AM Zoom

Wednesday (Adult) 7PM Zoom

Bulletin & Cross Currents Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

February 2022 Cross Currents: January 27, 2022