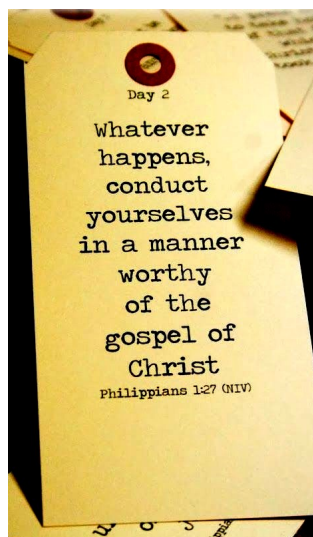


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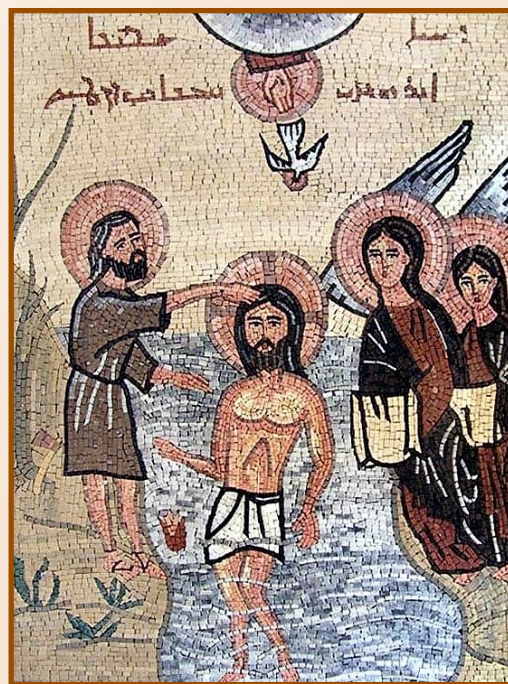


## Baptism Saves! By Pastor Mundinger

As we continue our discussion of the doctrine of Baptism one question always seems to keep popping up. How can baptism save? This is a valid question for we Lutherans have been taught since the very beginning the three solas: "Grace alone", "Faith alone", and "Scripture alone". We rightfully understand that it is by grace through faith that we are saved, not through any of our own works. The Apostle Paul is very clear on this point throughout his various epistles. No work from ourselves can save us. There is nothing we can offer to the table that will help us achieve eternal life, it is all on account of the work of Christ and Him alone.

The thing to remember, though, is that Baptism is not a human work that we do to earn salvation. If baptism was merely an act of obedience, then of course it cannot save us. Lutherans rightfully believe that Baptism saves because it delivers Christ to us. That is, Baptism takes the grace of God earned by Jesus at the cross and applies that grace to the individual. This is why the Apostle Peter can confidently declare to us, *"Baptism, which corresponds to this, **now saves you**, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."* 1 Peter 3:21

Baptism isn't just some ordinary washing that removes dirt and filth. Baptism removes sin from us. It offers forgiveness of sins and where there is forgiveness of sins there is salvation. Peter also speaks of the benefits of baptism in the book of Acts when he says, *"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* Acts 2:38. Those who turn from their wicked ways and are baptized will have their sins washed away, there will be forgiveness, and they are promised the Holy Spirit. This is the same Holy Spirit



Continued on next page

which Christ promises the disciples who will create and sustain faith in their hearts which clings to Christ and his work on the cross. Peter is very clear that Baptism gives you these gifts, forgiveness, and the Holy Spirit. Of course, only God can grant us these things.

Paul also speaks of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in his letter to Titus, *“He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”* Titus 3:5-7

Baptism is a means which God acts for us. It is a way that he brings to us His most precious grace and mercy that Christ won for us on the cross. How can Baptism save? Because it is God working his salvation for us through the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, that is through the forgiveness of sins and the giving of the Holy Spirit. Scripture is very clear that God is working through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Of course, I have heard some say, “Faith comes through the Word of God only.” and this is a true statement. Faith comes through hearing after all, according to Paul. The thing is Baptism is way more than just pouring water on someone. If that were the case then it would be just a washing for the removal of dirt. We Lutherans believe that Baptism is water combined with the Word of God. When the Pastor speaks the words which our Lord gave us, “I baptize you in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” it is actually God’s Word which is being spoken much like in the Words of Institution, absolution, reading from Holy Scripture, and the sermon.

God works through his Word that is attached to the physical element of water to wash our sins, forgive us, and give us his Holy Spirit. You do not receive these things because of the pastor or your own will, but rather because it is God speaking and working His grace for you. Again, if Baptism was a work of our own doing then it could not offer us forgiveness and the Holy Spirit, and it certainly couldn’t save us. I thank the Lord that this is not the case and that his faithful servants, Peter and Paul, have declared to us the great and wonderful reality that in the waters of Holy Baptism our Lord forgives us our sins and pours out on us the Holy Spirit who creates and sustains faith in our hearts that clings to Christ and all his works for our salvation. Baptism now saves you!



Ray	9/3	Marlene	9/23
Karen	9/5	Melarie	9/24
Linda	9/10	Howard	9/25
Judy	9/12	Brian	9/26
Bob	9/14	Jaen	9/26
Brandon	9/16	Katie	9/27
Mitzi	9/19	Cooper	9/30
Roberta	9/19		

Bill & Gayle	9/3
Bill & Roberta	9/4
Mike & Melarie	9/13



# September Bible Studies

Pastor's Sunday Adult Bible Study, 11am, Conference Room

Monday Women's Bible Study, 10am, Zoom

Resumes, 9/12. The Zoom link is the same each week/listed in the Friday Announcements email.

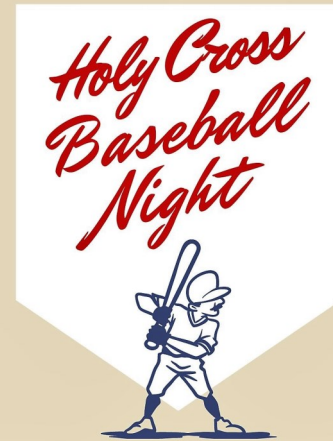
Pastor's Wed. Evening Bible Study, To Be Announced Soon



## **UPDATE – Missionary Rev. Jerry Lawson and family...** Cherylene Brueckner



In recent correspondence from Mission Central we learned that that Pastor Lawson and his family have once again been reassigned. They are now serving in Latvia, where Pastor Lawson teaches theology through the Luther Academy in Riga. "Please pray for Pastor Lawson and Patty as they serve in Latvia. Ask God to prepare the hearts and minds of the students who participate in the instruction offered through Luther Academy so that the work being done will be fruitful. Pray for the leaders and members of the Luther Academy as they prepare church workers around the world. Let us thank God that the Lawsons are serving His children in this part of the world." – Mission Central



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 6:40PM,  
OAKLAND A'S VS CHICAGO WHITE SOX**

**LET'S GO  
A's!**

**CARPOOL  
ENCOURAGED,  
WE WILL TAILGATE  
BEFORE**



***Celebrate the Feast of the Holy Cross,  
Wednesday, 9/14, 6pm***

**Join us for our 3rd annual celebration of this Feast Day!  
Pastor will lead worship service with communion in the  
Sanctuary & we will feast on pizza after.**

**Sign up so we can accommodate everyone (or RSVP to Joyce).**

**Bottled water provided, bring other beverage if you want.  
Goodwill offerings accepted.**

**Plan to Celebrate the  
Feast of the Holy Cross,  
Wednesday, 9/14, 6pm**

Celebrated on Sept. 14,  
Holy Cross day honors &  
commemorates the sacrifice  
that Jesus Christ made on  
the cross for our salvation.

## WELCOME new members



*Bryon & Sharon Nelson*

Dear Holy Cross Family,  
Thank you for your gracious welcome last Sunday. The comfort and joy of fellowship with friends, old and new, warmed our hearts, as well as the treats made sweeter by the fellowship of saints. We feel blessed to be included as part of the Holy Cross Family.

*In Christian love,  
Bryon and Sharon Nelson*

I want to thank you all for your prayers on behalf of my niece Lindsey Garcia. She was diagnosed with breast cancer and had all the possible treatments for the cancer. After her last surgery she had a cat scan. The results showed no more cancer. Praise God! She will have reconstructive surgery as soon as she can be scheduled, and I will ask for prayers as soon as I know.

I also want to thank you and ask for continued prayers for my sister Joy Parker. She has a pain in her brain ever since an accident years ago. We continue to pray it may be God's will to take that pain away. She had knee replacement surgery 8/23/22. Please pray for a good recovery and strength to go through her physical therapy.

Again, I thank you for remembering my loved ones in your prayers.  
Sincerely, Your sister in Christ, Gayle Bothe

*Thank you!*

### Current mailing address for Penny Jonas:

Rosalie Jonas  
Room 130 B  
Kentfield Hospital  
1125 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.  
Kentfield, CA 94904  
(415) 456-9680 (main desk)







Tuesday, August 30th, **Britt Odemba, LCMS Missionary from Kenya**, joined us for a presentation on her work with Project 24, a children's boarding facility program initiated by the LCMS and the ELCK, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. Britt has been serving in Kenya for ten years. This past year she has been supervising Project 24, now comprised of eight locations, mostly in western Kenya. There are 200-300 students she personally visits



four times a year. The students have sponsors that they correspond with quarterly. Donations of \$90 per month sponsor one child. One of Britt's tasks is to manage those letters, making sure they are sent to the children's



sponsors. About one hundred of the students have individual sponsors (primarily in the US), some have group sponsors, and the remainder are sponsored from Project 24's budget.

Britt's slide presentation and the information she shared, gave us a taste of the mission field. Missionary Gary Theis at Mission Central in Iowa is firm in pronouncing "We are all missionaries." We may not walk the roads of Kenya, but prayers and financial support of our LCMS missionaries make us an important part of the mission field.

Thanks to all of our participants in this event. We enjoyed the Ice Cream Social too!

### DID YOU KNOW???.....

That you can give to Holy Cross by using your IRA account? You can make a "qualified charitable distribution" (QCD) directly to Holy Cross from your IRA, and we already have a few members doing this! With a QCD a check goes directly from your IRA to Holy Cross, never passing through your hands and this distribution is excluded from your taxable income.

This method is a great way to satisfy the required minimum distribution (RMD) rule which is either 70 ½ or 72 depending on your birthdate. If you have an IRA, are at least 70 ½, and would like to consider giving an offering this way, please let me know. I encourage you to check with your financial advisor or accountant too.  
Jan Walker, Financial Secretary





## **Hot August for LWML CNH Mites!**

Submitted by Cherylene Brueckner

Indeed, August was HOT... our LWML faithful Mite givers are hot! The mighty Mites have funded **Mission Grant #3, Fort Wayne Theological Seminary Food Co-op - \$2,500, Fort Wayne, Indiana.** (Mission Grants #1 and #2 were funded in June-July.) The Co-op is vital to the livelihood of many seminary students, providing 80-85% of the family's food and household needs at no cost. How wonderful is God's timing to fund this grant just as the new fall school year is starting. We are now collecting mites to fund **Mission Grant #4. Hmong Lent Family Retreat – \$13,000** for the Hmong Outreach of Redeemer Lutheran, Fresno & St. Paul Lutheran, Merced, California.

When the Hmong people sought refuge in the USA after the Vietnam war, they brought their cultural tradition of spirit worship with them.



They have a strong family unit bonding, often 3 generations live in the same house. The Hmong outreach ministry has been reaching out to the Hmong communities in various ways over the last 6 years. One of the ways has been through the LWML CNH District retreats. Last August 23 Hmong ladies and youth attended the retreat. The benefits of the retreats are reaching both the church and unchurched with



knowledge of Jesus. The Hmong Outreach ministry would like to have a Lenten family retreat for an in-depth program Maundy Thursday through Easter Sunday. Hmong families will get a chance to know Jesus better through the lens of the Lenten Season. They will learn Jesus's journey and purpose of traveling to Jerusalem to die for the world as well as His resurrection at that First Easter. Non-believers, often family members will hear testimonies in their native language of how Jesus has blessed them in their daily lives since becoming believers. The funds will be used to offset the cost of the retreat facilities, Lenten devotionals and pamphlets.



**Holy Cross collected \$679 in Mites during June, July, and August, with 50% going to LWML CNH Mission Grants, 25% to LWML CNH General Fund, and 25% to LWML (national) Mission Grants. See the poster in the Parish Hall for funding and payment of the LWML Mission Grants.**





Thank you to the Coyne family, Marlene, Liz, & Pastor for coordinating this special occasion!

We always knew that Bill is a kid at heart ;-)!



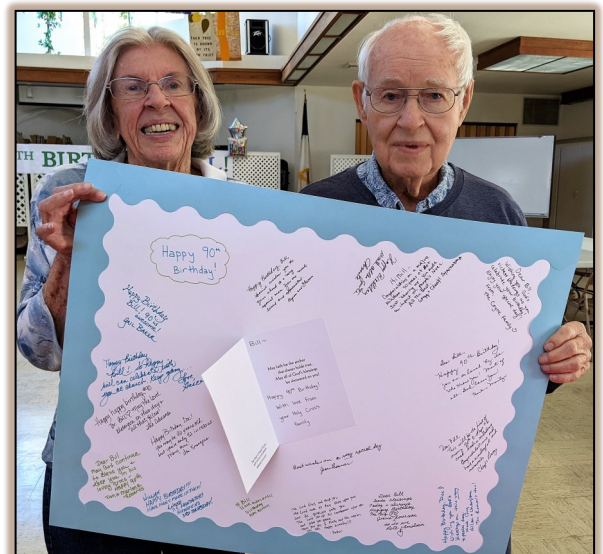
And the happy couple: Roberta and Bill!



Special handwritten Birthday wishes on a HUGE card!



And thank you to the adorable clean up crew: Zachary & Addie helping John.







The tasting station. Everyone voted for their 1st & 2nd choices.



Jan announcing the winners!

**AND..... here are our winners:**



1st Place: Peter Liedtke



2nd Place: Mike Liebe



3rd Place: Gayle Bothe



Pastor leading our "Retirement of Debt" service, which included burning (a copy of) the mortgage.





**LET'S CELEBRATE OUR INDEPENDENCE DAY!**  
(OFF-ROADERS)



Joe sharing some Holy Cross facility history.





# WOMEN OF HOLY CROSS

## Card Ministry



7/26/22: Anniversary Cards



In thanksgiving for 80 years of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, each member, group, zone, or district is encouraged to reflect God's love by blessing others with 80 of something, remembering events from the last 80 years, or sharing legacy concepts for carrying forth the LWML mission.



The WoHC wrapped up our "80" project! On 7/26, Cat, Grace, Marlene, Liz, Jan, & Joyce made 30 Anniversary cards! Then, on 8/12, Gayle, Christl, Gai, Sharon, Cherylene, Jan, Cat, & Joyce made 60+ Birthday cards for our HC ladies. These will be used for our card ministry.



8/12/22: Birthday Cards





# WOMEN OF HOLY CROSS

All aboard for an afternoon  
of fun and fellowship! Join  
us for **Mexican Train  
Dominoes!**



July 6



July 20





**7/25/22:  
Ann's Sunshine Café**

We also went to Ann's on 8/29—however ladies were having such a good time that no pictures were taken.



**WOMEN OF HOLY CROSS  
Fellowship Meals**



**Nifty Fifty  
A-Z Lunch**

**Eureka, Concord 8/25/2022**





## Oktoberfest Beer Brewing at Holy Cross

by Mike Liebe

Our brewmeisters gathered on August 14 to kick off our inaugural session of Oktoberfest beer brewing. It was a flurry of pots and bigger pots, measuring and watching water boil, cooking, and cooling, sanitizing, and washing and, of course, sampling an example a finished home-brew that was provided by Mike Voss. He also applied his brewing experience in supervising and coaching the brewing teams.

True to a men's project, Gregg needed to make a run for supplies (to More Beer rather than Home Depot in this case). While there he shared our Lutheran men's group was busy brewing. The

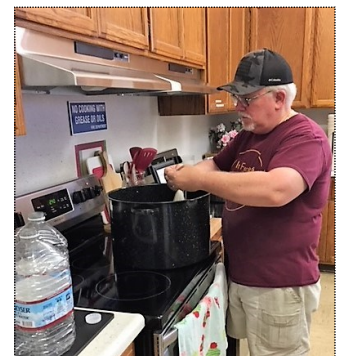
associate at More Beer revealed he is also a Lutheran and went on to describe Martin Luther's beer-making activities, and the important role of his wife, Kathryn, in brewing innovations such as the addition of hops.

Back at the Parish Hall, we completed the cooking and cooling, added yeast to the wort, and put the concoctions to rest so the yeast would do its magic. We plan to bottle the finished product on September 7. All adults are invited to sample our creations at the **Holy Cross Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 15**. Prost!



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The  
Commander  
turned  
Swabby!





## Kitchen Update— Progress Report

by Joyce Liebe

### NEW FAUCETS TOO!



God is  
so good,




On a related note, there were 3-4 hotel pans of food & bread left from Scott Morfeld's memorial reception. The family asked us (Holy Cross) to care for the leftovers. Saturday morning I contacted Linda & asked if they could use it. "YES!" she said. Mike & I delivered it to her home, where she told us it came at just the right time! Jack is busy caring for his wife who is trying to figure out why she is having seizures (he also cares for his elderly mother who lives in Oakland)— so they are short handed.

Early July our NEW REFRIGERATORS were delivered: Thank you Jan for coordinating their delivery & set up, plus removal of the old ones. We now have ice markers!!!!



**What happen to our old freezer?** After no one at Holy Cross was interested, I posted it, for free, on Facebook Marketplace & Nextdoor. After a couple failed attempts (due to no way to transport it), a gal named Linda contacted me. She works with Jack Fliehmman, who provides basic needs (food, clothing, protection, & the Word) to 50-60+ of our homeless neighbors every day. She arranged for their Pastor to come pick it up. Here was her text to me afterwards: "Yes we took the freezer. A few friends went & found it and brought it to me. I was going to message you & thank you, but I haven't had a chance. They got the big beast into my house haha & she's working just fine, thank you, thank you, thank you!"


Here is a Facebook excerpt afterwards (conversation between Jack & Linda)

**Colin Jack Fliehmman**  
1d · 🌐


Linda Jacob needs help moving a freezer to her home. A church is donating it to her. Also needs help serving this Sunday.  
[#thankful](#) [#loverevolution](#) [#LoveArmy](#) [#loveinaction](#)

👍❤️ You and 6 others 2 comments 1 share

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share




**Linda Jacob**  
Mission accomplished

Like Reply 2 👍🙏

**Colin Jack Fliehmman**  
Linda Jacob you work so hard for service to and for our Homeless Friends. [#loverevolution](#) [#loveinaction](#) [#LoveArmy](#) [#thankful](#) LOVED, KNOWN, AND NOT ALONE!



# SEPTEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <b>PASTOR VAC</b> 6pm YVCS Back to School 6-7pm Choir Practice cl	2 <b>PASTOR VAC</b>	3 <b>PASTOR VAC</b>
4 <b>PASTOR VAC</b>  9:30am Worship Service After Coffee Fellowship	5 <b>PASTOR VAC</b> <b>OFC CLOSED</b>  <b>Labor Day</b>	6 <b>PASTOR VAC</b> 10:30am Prayer Group, Brueckner's 7pm Trivia, Calicraft	7 Oktoberfest Beer Bottling	8 6-7pm Choir Practice cl	9 <b>LET'S GO A's!</b> 5pm Tailgate 6:40pm Game	10
11 9:30am Worship Service After Coffee Fellowship 11am Pastor's Bible Study E	12 <b>OFC CLOSED</b> 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Women's Bible Study	13 10:30am Prayer Group, Brueckner's 7pm Trivia, Calicraft	14  6pm Feast of the Holy Cross Service w/ Pizza after	15 9am Men's Mandatory Formation, Huckleberry's 6-7pm Choir Practice cl	16	17
18 9:30am Worship Service After Coffee Fellowship 11am Pastor's Bible Study E	19 <b>OFC CLOSED</b> 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Council Mtg.	20 10:30am Prayer Group, Brueckner's 7pm Trivia, Calicraft	21	22 6-7pm Choir Practice cl	23 5-9pm YVCS Date Night Fundraiser PH	24
25 9:30am Worship Service After Coffee Fellowship 11am Pastor's Bible Study E	26 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Women's Bible Study	27 10:30am Prayer Group, Brueckner's 7pm Trivia, Calicraft	28	29 <b>OFC CLOSED</b> 6-7pm Choir Practice cl	30 <b>OFC CLOSED</b>	

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

## YVCS School Daily Schedule

\*Morning Care: 7:30a - 8:40a  
Classes Mon-Thu: 8:45a - 3:30p  
Classes Fri.: 8:45a - 2:15p  
\*After Care: 3:45p - 5:30p







1092 Alberta Way  
Concord, CA 94521

### **Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS**

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Find us on Facebook

Find us on YouTube



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[pastor@holycrossconcord.org](mailto:pastor@holycrossconcord.org)  
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President: Mike Liebe

Vice President: Gregg Syrovatka

Council Secretary: Carrie Kroeger

Financial Secretary: Jan Walker

Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka

Trustees: Allen Brueckner, Bill Luker

Elders: Bill Riechmann, John Coyne,  
Herb Neumann

Secretarial Staff: Joyce Liebe

**Office Hours:** Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm

Newsletter Editor: Joyce Liebe

[editor@holycrossconcord.org](mailto:editor@holycrossconcord.org)

### **Sunday Worship Schedule:**

Sunday Service 9:30am

Pastor's Bible Study 11am (In person)

Youth Bible Study 11am

Sunday School 11am

### **Week Day Bible Study Schedule:**

Monday (Ladies) 10am Zoom

Wednesday (Adult) 7pm Zoom

### **Bulletin & Cross Currents Publication Deadline:**

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

Oct. 2022 Cross Currents: Sept. 27, 2022