



# Cross Currents

## Holy Cross Lutheran Church

CONCORD, CA

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

March 2024

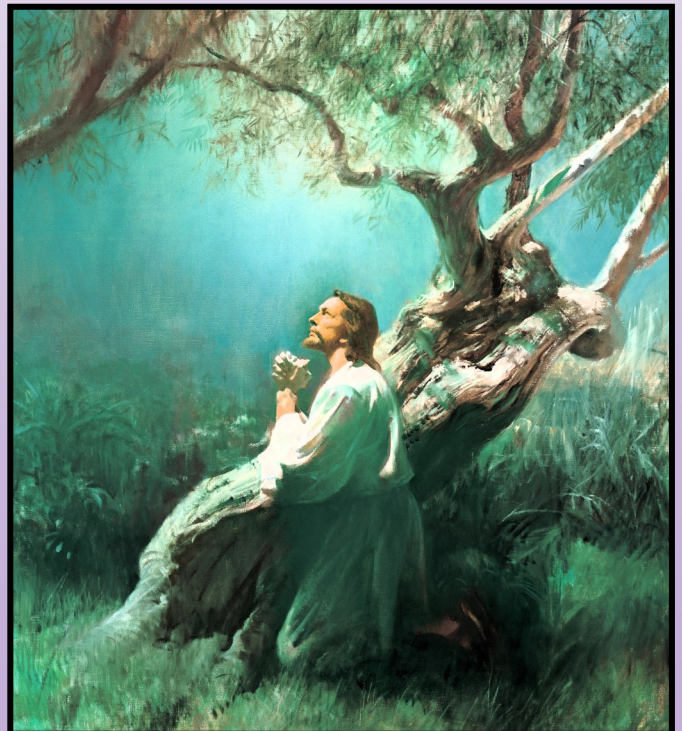


### Keeping the Silence by Pastor Mundinger

Our lives here on earth are full of noise, they are quite busy. I find it difficult to find a space of quietness even during my daily routines. There is always something distracting me; yet in this season of Lent we are called to be in quiet devotion at times. Even Jesus Himself found time to step away for prayer with His Heavenly Father.

You may notice every year during this season that the mood at church seems to change. Things seem a lot darker. Even our music seems to be darker and less joyous than it was when we celebrated the Transfiguration of our Lord. This is, of course, on purpose since the season of Lent is a season of reflection and meditation on the passion of our Lord and this calls for quietness at times. It calls for meditation away from the usually distracting noises of our every-day lives, that we would give it the proper attention it is due.

On the following page is an excerpt from an article in the Lutheran Witness by Dr. Gregory J. Wismar about keeping a holy Lent. In it he gives us ways to be keepers of the silence in our daily lives during the season of Lent.



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## **“What is the holiest season of the Church Year?”**

*By Gregory J Wismar*

Perhaps that seems an inappropriate question. After all, each season in the annual cycle we observe has its distinct spiritual character. There is the anticipation of Advent, the glorious rejoicing of Christmas, the exuberant triumph of Easter, and the resounding power of Pentecost. But what season invites us more than any other to a repentant reflecting, to a changing of the patterns of our lives, to a new dimension of devotion? That season is Lent, the period of preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Day. Each year on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, the liturgy of the Church calls us to begin “a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection,” when “our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The words used in the Ash Wednesday rite of the *Lutheran Service Book Agenda* also remind us that “from ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.”

Each of the seasons of the church year is observed and celebrated, but Lent, and only Lent, is “kept.” The holy season of Lent invites us to be “keepers” — the people of God who keep the fast, keep the silence, and keep the focus throughout this singular season.....

.....Another spiritual dynamic of Lent is that it is a time to *keep the silence* in reflection and devotion. The language of Lent is purposefully quieted. The word *alleluia* is not used as an expression of praise in Lent. Our vocal and instrumental music is reflective and subdued. Purple, the liturgical color customarily appointed for Lent, is the “quietest” of the colors used throughout the church year and is associated with penitence and sorrow.

In many churches, the crosses, crucifixes, and other religious artwork is “veiled” — covered with a transparent cloth throughout the 40 days to mute their brilliance and to add a solemn tone to the worship space. In some places, families also cover religious paintings and wall hangings in their homes.

Times of silence for personal reflection and prayer before individual or family devotions have special meaning in Lent. The words of one of the great Lutheran hymns of Lent serve as a call to an extra measure of devotion and prayer: “Jesus, I will ponder now / On Your holy Passion; / With Your Spirit me endow / For such meditation” (*LSB 440*).

Today, establishing a proper setting for such reflection in our fast-paced and noisy world may take extra determination. Finding that place and observing that time, however, is another central component of the discipline of the holy season of Lent and is more than worth the effort.

Although much devotional material for the Lenten season exists, one of the best — and readily available — sources of such material is the corpus of Lenten hymns in Lutheran hymnals. Each hymn contains meaningful sacred lyrics from across the history of Christian poetic expression — ready to be rediscovered and taken to heart again and again, whether as part of keeping the silence or in concert with others.



# March Bible Studies

**Pastor's Sunday Adult Bible Study, 11:15am, Parish Hall**

**Monday Women's Bible Study, 10am, Zoom \*\***

**Pastor's Wednesday Evening Bible Study, 7pm,** (on break through Lent/Easter)

\*\* Zoom links are the same each week/in the Friday Announcements email.



Eberhard	3/1
Rich	3/4
Kamryn	3/11
George	3/17
Jean	3/23
Chery	3/24
Nathan	3/25
Madison	3/31



## Thank You

Thank you for the many months of faithful prayers for my shoulder surgery in July and the L-O-N-G recovery/physical therapy. I am functioning fairly well now, and so thankful for the improved range of motion and lessening of pain. I had a bad tear in my rotator cuff so the recovery is lengthy. Your prayers and support made a BIG difference! I still have some work to do. I am blessed that the Lord walks with me. Allen and all of you do too! Thank you!

Cherylene

## Holy Week Services







## Great Start with our February 4 Vision Discussion!

Thank you to all who participated in our discussion on February 4 about our mission and vision here at Holy Cross, a foundation for activities in the coming five years. We shared lots of ideas and suggestions to fulfill our mission to live out The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-

21) by creating:

- Meaningful worship opportunities for members and guests
- Christian growth and unity through Bible study
- The sharing of Christ with family, community, and the world
- Service to our community, including those less fortunate
- Internal and external fellowship opportunities





## Look at this exciting list!

- Monthly prayer/praise sessions - whole congregation joins together.
- More joint church activities/collaborative events
- Community service events (e.g. foodbank) - volunteers wear church T shirts.
- Care Team - help members with elder care, giving them a break for some self-time. Visit members in care facilities, read scriptures to them.
- Go out and invite people (friends, family neighbors) to church once a month (publish in bulletin)
- Member drive - invite past members to return to our church (maybe combine with 5th Sunday meal)
- Men's bible study (5-minute bible study program)
- Youth education assistance (reading & math training - to help kids negatively impacted by COVID)
- New member/visitor follow-up/outreach program
- Research some type of veteran's program/approach.
- Develop program/workshop on how to start spiritual conversations.
- Team Jesus - work with circuit or district to create merchandise/apparel.
- Give Holy Cross coffee cups (sippy cups for kids) to visitors/new members (maybe with a verse), keep us on their minds. Welcome packages. MLBG beer mugs?
- Door hanging materials/mailers - let people in the neighborhood know we are here and our church hours.
- Member ride program for those who cannot attend (member pickup, Uber ride, etc.)
- Reach out to cities who are losing Lutheran churches (print an invitation and pass out or mail, get old church directories)
- Reach out to confirmed youth who are no longer attending our church.
- Invitation Sunday - invite other members from closed churches to join us for service and a meal.
- Make our live stream services known to remote, homebound or underserved persons.
- Spanish service (or other language)
- Increase our social media exposure (establish an Instagram account)
- Grief counseling group at church but for entire community (Pay a trained group to lead, but we host)
- Adopt (in fellowship) a military Chaplain.
- Sponsor an international church or fund someone on a mission.
- Veterans - Pastor join one of their monthly meetings as a guest speaker.
- Xmas - an all-music service and invite the community (maybe in public location)
- Joint volunteer activities with other Lutheran churches (also joint services)
- Youth group - sing at train station and pass out church fliers.
- Women's shelter - volunteer and care
- Support TAY - young persons who have aged out of foster care.

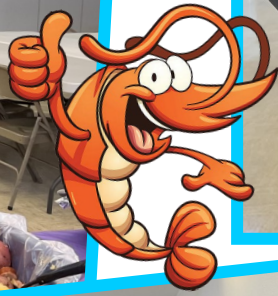
Wow! This is like a Las Vegas buffet. Where do we start? Many raw ideas and not all will fit on our plate. For our next step the Vision Committee is reviewing and discussing so that we can investigate and develop a few of the ideas to serve our mission. And you are invited to this next step by joining in the Vision Committee meeting (Zoom call) each first Saturday morning at 9:00. Another way is to share the ideas that come to when reading the list - more details and your how-to ideas to share.

We have Great News and gifts to share! Let's work together on how we will do it.





# 4th Annual Ragin' Cajun Occasion







**An event of Food and Fellowship  
Saturday, February 10, 3pm**



Photo Credit:  
Carole  
&  
Joyce





# Mites and Missions with Women of Holy Cross

The end of the 2022-2024 biennium is fast approaching, March 31, 2024! We are on the downhill stretch, collecting Mites to fund our last two mission grants, #16 Gospel Outreach in Thailand for \$3,500 - Lutheran Hour Ministries, and #17 Indonesian Hymnal Project for \$5,000 – LCMS Office of International Mission, Asia Region. Gather your change or write a check (payable to *Women of Holy Cross*) and help us fund these last two grants.



Cherylene Brueckner and Joyce Liebe plan to attend the 2024 LWML CNH Convention in April. The delegates at this convention will be voting on the Mission Grants for the 2024-2026 LWML CNH biennium. Cherylene is our delegate from Holy Cross. In March she will ask for your input as she prepares to vote on the mission grants that have been submitted for consideration. Information on the convention is listed below. Registration and more info can be found on the website, [www.lwmlcnh.org](http://www.lwmlcnh.org), or you can talk to Joyce or Cherylene. Join us in Redding for a wonderful weekend of worship, music, Bible study, fellowship, and servant events with our LWML CNH sisters and brothers in Christ! Wear purple!!

## 2024 LWML CNH CONVENTION



Gifted to Serve by God's Grace

April 19-21, 2024



Holiday Inn Convention Hotel  
1900 Hilltop Drive, Redding, CA 96002



"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

1Peter 4:10 (ESV)



**Goal:** Because of God's undeserved love to us, we are encouraged to share Christ through our service, ministry, and missions.

**Objectives:** Through Bible Study, prayer, and worship:

- ♥ Discover and embrace our spiritual strengths and gifts,
- ♥ Build our relationships through fellowship and servant events,
- ♥ Confidently serve God and others with joyful hearts.



## INGATHERING: Please donate: socks, hand and bath towels.

WoHC will have a collection box in the Parish Hall during March to support one of the convention ingathering recipients, **Good News Rescue Mission in Redding**. Founded in 1964 by a group of concerned Christians, the Mission has offered a hand-up out of emotional, physical, and spiritual poverty to thousands. The 389-bed facility offers various services to men, women, and children in need – all free of charge. The purpose of GNRM is to bring Good News of Jesus to the poor, homeless, and/or needy of Shasta County by sharing the love of God; providing emergency subsistence services of food, shelter, and clothing; providing long-term recovery services; and educating and equipping people to effectively minister to others.



# WoHC

**LADIES:** We are playing Mexican Train Dominos every 3rd Thursday of the Month.

**JOIN US** this month: **March 21, 1-3pm,**  
in the Parish Hall for fun & fellowship.

**No experience necessary!**

Bring your own beverage, snack provided.



Photos of some of the serious (and not so serious) gamers from February 15. There's always some refreshing ourselves of the rules, then laughter, catching up, & overall fun. This month we had ladies from Benicia Lutheran & First Lutheran (Concord). It's a blessing for the WoHC to share our fun! We will continue to meet each month of 2024! Mark your calendar & join in!

By Joyce



*Nifty Fifty*  
*A-Z Lunch*

**February 22**

  
**SPEISEKAMMER**  
A GERMAN TAKE ON DINING

# YOUNG ADULT GROUP

February 9th



Young Adult Group meets the second Friday evening of each month.  
Activities Vary.



GAME  
NIGHT

Photo credit: Pastor Munding

## March 8 Activity

Red Door Escape Room

See next month's Cross Currents to find out if they get out!!!



**RED DOOR**  
**ESCAPE ROOM**  
**CONCORD**



# Congratulations!



PETER & LIZ'S SON,  
PHILIP, MARRIED  
AMANDA AT HOLY CROSS ON FEB. 17,  
WITH PASTOR MUNDINGER  
OFFICIATING.

# MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9am Vision Meeting
3  9:30am Worship Service After Coffee Fellowship 11:15am Pastor's Bible Study	4 OFC CLOSED  10-11:30am Women's Bible Study Zoom 7-9pm Scouts PH	5  10:30am Prayer Group, Brueckner's  7pm Trivia, Calicraft	6   5:45pm Supper 6:30pm Worship	7  5pm Choir Practice cl	8  Young Adult Activity	9  9:30am Altar Guild Meeting, Sanctuary
10  9:30am Worship Service After Coffee Fellowship 11:15am Pastor's Bible Study	11 OFC CLOSED  10-11:30am Women's Bible Study Zoom 7-9pm Scouts PH	12  10:30am Prayer Group, Brueckner's  7pm Trivia, Calicraft	13   5:45pm Supper 6:30pm Worship	14  5pm Choir Practice cl	15	16
17 9:30am Worship Service After Coffee Fellowship 11:15am Pastor's Bible Study	18  10-11:30am Women's Bible Study  6:30pm Council Mtg 7-9pm Scouts PH	19  10:30am Prayer Group, Brueckner's  7pm Trivia, Calicraft	20   5:45pm Supper 6:30pm Worship	21OFC CLOSED  9am Men's Mandatory , Huckleberry's 1-3pm WoHC Mexican Train, PH 5pm Choir Practice cl 6:30pm Elders Mtg,	22OFC CLOSED	23  9am Altar Guild Spring Cleaning, Sanctuary
24  9:30am Palm Sunday Worship Service After Coffee Fellowship 11:15am Pastor's Bible Study	25 OFC CLOSED  7-9pm Scouts PH	26  10:30am Prayer Group, Brueckner's  7pm Trivia Calicraft	27	28   1pm Nifty Fifty A-Z Dining Location TBA  6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service	29   12p Good Friday Worship Service 6:30pm Good Friday Worship Service	30
31  9am Easter Breakfast 9:30am Easter Egg Hunt 10am Easter Worship	<div><div><div>YVCS School Daily Schedule</div><div>*Morning Care: 7:15a - 8:40a Classes Mon-Fri: 8:45a - 3:00p *After Care: 3:15p - 6:00p</div><div></div></div></div>					

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





1092 Alberta Way  
Concord, CA 94521

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

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(925) 686-2000

Find us on Facebook



Find us on YouTube



### **Pastor: Rev. Andrew Munding**

[pastor@holycrossconcord.org](mailto:pastor@holycrossconcord.org)  
(608) 797-9163

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, Byron Nelson

Secretarial Staff: Sandy Coyne

**Church Office Hours:** Tues.-Fri. 9am-1pm

Newsletter Editor: Sandy Coyne

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

### **Sunday Worship Schedule:**

Worship Service 9:30am

Pastor's Bible Study 11:15am (In person)

### **Weekday Bible Study Schedule:**

Monday (Ladies) 10am Zoom

Wednesday (Adult) 7pm Zoom (on break through Lent/Easter)

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

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

April 2024 Cross Currents: March 26 2024