

CROSS CURRENTS

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

Pastor Chu

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYERS, BIRTH-DAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, SHELTER NEEDS	2
PARKING LOT REPORT, BIBLE STUDIES	3
NFS PLANNED ACTIVITIES, DATES TO REMEMBER	4
WOHC ACTIVITIES	5
WOHC OCTOBER RECAP	6-8
NOVEMBER 2015 CALENDAR	9
HC WEEKLY SCHEDULE	10

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the re-deemed of the LORD say so! Psalm 107:1-2a

One of the first lessons we learn as children and which we teach our children about relating to others is to say "Thank you." One of the "joys of parenthood" is teach our kids to go beyond merely saying, "Thank you," and actually be thankful. Neither learning to be thankful nor teaching our kids to be thankful is an easy undertaking.

As parents, we can encourage our kids to be thankful but we cannot *make* them be thankful. Being thankful comes from learning and recognizing that gifts are precisely that, gifts, and that they are given out of love and generosity and not because we somehow deserved them. Thankfulness comes a heart that has experienced undeserved love and compassion.

Thankfulness to God flows from a heart that recognizes that all His goodness, mercy, and gifts are predicated *not* our own worthiness but on His steadfast, unconditional love, even though our sinful nature prefers to think otherwise. We would like to think that whatever God gives, He is obligated to do so because we have somehow earned it, that we are receiving only what is owed to us; when that happens, our focus is no longer on how good God is but on how good we think we are.

Thankfulness to God focuses on who God is and what He does in spite of who we are and what we have done and continue to do — we are sinners who have sinned and continue to sin. God freely, graciously, mercifully, and unconditionally gives, even though we are undeserving and even when we are unthankful and ungrateful. The psalmist writes, *O give thanks to the Lord,*

for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! This is the psalmist's call to God's people to praise God.

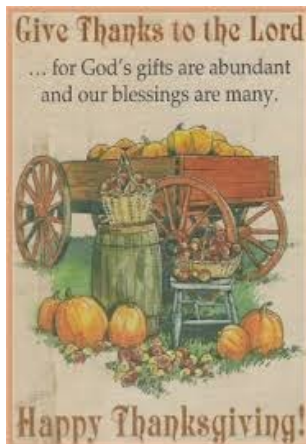
If we read the rest of the psalm, we note that the psalmist says nothing about our worthiness. Rather, it is all about God doing great things for us in spite of us and our sinfulness.

Of course, we need look no further than the cross to see God's grace and mercy; in His Son, Jesus, whom He gave to be the atoning sacrifice to redeem us, rescue us from the clutches of hell, and deliver us to eternal life, we see how as St. Paul says, *God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* (Romans 5:8)

As if that were not enough, He hears and answers our daily cries for help. He sustains our earthly, physical life with food, water, clothing, and shelter and adds luxuries on top of those. He provides refuge, peace, and comfort from the storms that rage around us. All these and much more because of His unending love, even when we fail to give thanks.

So to teach our children to be thankful to God, and to learn to be thankful to God, we look to God and what He has done. We turn to the Scriptures and God's wonderful plan of salvation, how He sent Jesus to be our Savior, to save us from sin and death, and to give us endless blessings in everlasting life. We praise and thank God for who He is. We pray and sing and proclaim with the psalmist:

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the re-deemed of the LORD say so! Psalm 107:1-2a



Those who are in need of our prayers:

Sue Saalfeld, **Muriel Strieter** (hospice care), **Joy Parker** (Gayle Bothe's sister-healing), **Wanda Schwartz**, **Dorothy Taylor**, **David Grandt** (Liz Aduan's brother), **Elizabeth Bothé** (Gayle Bothe's granddaughter, non-churched), **Abbi and Alex Roman**, **June Stewart** (Judy West's friend-fainting), **Jan Tammiste** (Roman's nephew-brain injury, healing), **Betty and Cal Kallsen**, **Jeannine Godsey** (inner peace), **Steven Liedtke** (healing), **Herbert and Clara Huppert** (Herbert- heart, kidney healing, guidance), **Julie Oback** (Diana Meux sister-healing), **Ellie** (Julie Oback's mother-healing from leukemia, saving faith in Christ), **Julie & Benjamin** (comfort and strength), **Andrew Gamble** (Gamble's grandson-juvenile arthritis), **Bob Hartman** (eye surgery,healing), **Blake Frances** (Bill Luker's grand nephew-cancer, healing), **Suzanne Stadler** (healing), **Linda Pass and family** (healing, comfort), **Jack and Doris Mortenson** (healing), **Eyona Pargman** (healing), **John Gainer** (Marilyn's nephew-healing), **Shafighah** (Eyona's daughter-Cheryl's mother in-law, hospice, healing, **Ann Caruso**-healing, **Ron Gamble**-healing, **Dennis Cross** (Chris Roman's uncle-cancer surgery, healing), **Nick Campanella** (Reiter's neighbor-healing), **Dorothy Hansen** (Janet Villa's mom-healing), **James Hardesty** (Marilyn's son-healing), **Ron Jakel**, **Chery Collett**, and **Christy**- (Jakel's daughters-healing), **Dee Hunsinger** (Sue's friend-bone marrow cancer), **John Luker** (cancer treatments-healing), **Helene Liebert** (Mike Voss' co-worker-liver, colon cancer).

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

Taylor Bothe-Yates (Gayle Bothe's grand-niece, Texas), **Cadet Megan Gemar**, **PFC Kevin Hayworth** (Glenda's grandson-Hawaii), **Lt. JG Aaron Bell**, Navy Chaplain CB Unit, Gulport, MS (Rev. & Sherry Bell's son), **P.O.W. and M.I.A.'s**.

NEEDS AT THE CONCORD SHELTER

The Concord Shelter is in need of towels. If your congregation, family, school or workplace can help, please deliver to the shelter, 2047 Arnold Industrial Way. Thank you!!!

Dear Holy Cross Family,

As the winter months are approaching, the shelter is getting more clients, so their needs are increasing. Please donate your New or gently used, clean, Hand & Bath Towels (place in a plastic bag please) and leave them on the table in the Parish Hall, marked PatEasby--- We'll take them to the shelter for you!

You are welcome to join us on the 4th Sunday of the month (Outreach Sunday's) just check in at 10:30am @the kitchen following our Sunday service --- and we'll lead the way.

NOTE. The shelter is in real need of ELECTRIC FRY PANS OR ELECTRIC POTS? They ARE not allowed to have a stove because they (the facility) is not licensed/or up to code to do so. They get a variety of foods donated but have no way to cook them. This would help them so much if they could cook the donated fruits, veggies, etc. wouldn't be going to waste!

Thank you, Pat Easby.

November Birthdays

1	George Oatis
4	Joe Odrzywolski
5	Sally Miller
7	Annah Reiter
8	Judy Scouten
9	Lorenzo Ellsworth
10	Liz Aduan
	Andrea Beutel
15	Lauretta Oliver
21	Suzanne Saalfeld

November Anniversaries

2	Mike & Gail Baker
5	Terry & Revia Maurer
9	Dwight & Claudia Gemar
20	Gerhard Neumann & Shinta Susanty

We have all enjoyed driving and parking on the finished lot. The Contractor, Morgan-Bonnano did the work “on time” and “on budget”. They provided and installed 16 extra car stops so that the lot would “look good”.

There has been a problem of intrusion by non-authorized vehicles which resulted in additional striping and car stops for a cost of \$714.60. The Church Council is considering the installation of a parking lot barrier which will restrict the use of unauthorized vehicles. Quotes to be presented at their October meeting.

Additional costs were incurred for root protection and irrigation parts. We are required to purchase and install 3 trees. The irrigation for the new trees has been installed and is operational. This is the final item to be considered by the Parking Lot Committee. Please give your written suggestions for the types of trees to a member of committee. The suggestions will be welcome and given careful consideration.

Many thanks to the Congregation for your support. Our facility not only looks better, it is safer.

Note from the editor: Thank you to all of the work from these committee members and the hours of work and time expended. I know this was a project of many months (years) and the result is wonderful.

Bible Study and Small Group Opportunities

- Pastor's **Sunday morning** Bible class is studying the letter of “**James**”.
- Women's Group on **Monday** in the Conference room/**12:30 p.m.-2:00 pm**. Book Study on the “**52 Women of the Bible**”, author Jean Syswerda. Leader is Carol Lau.
- Pastor's **Wednesday night** study of the book of “**Romans**” at 7:00 pm.
- **SMALL GROUP**: Offered on **Tuesday**, from **1:00-2:30 pm** in the conference room. Book entitled, “**The Faces of Grief**” - author Marian Talley/Cunningham. This is a 12-chapter study for both men and women led by Pat Kroeger. Please call 672-5107 if you have any questions.

NIFTY FIFTY ACTIVITIES IN NOVEMBER (AND EARLY DECEMBER)

Our first activity for November is to have lunch at D.J Bistros on Friday Nov 13th at 1:00. This is an old standby as we have a great contingency of Germans at our church as well as on our senior board so it's easy to select a German restaurant for lunch. D.J Bistro's forte is Wiener Schnitzel, Bratwurst, and Sauerbraten with Red Cabbage and Spaetzle. A variety of German Draft Beer is offered in half liters to quench your thirst. D.J. Bistros is located near

the Park and Shopping Center in Concord. The address is 1825 Sutter Street Concord CA 94520, Most of you have been there, but if you haven't I suggest you ride with someone that has as it very difficult to find. Meet at church at 12:15, leave at 12:30, and lunch is at 1:00. Come out and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow Christians (note I didn't say Seniors) as any adult is welcome. Bring a friend.



Our 2nd outing is really on Dec 2nd, too early to put in the Dec issue of Cross Current. We are again planning on attending the Diablo Valley College's Christmas Brunch this year on Wednesday, Dec 2nd. Last year the cost was \$30.00 including tax and tip and I anticipate the same price this year. We are committing to 12 tickets as soon as we find out we can order them. We have to pay when ordering so the first 12 that sign up should be assured of tickets. Last year we were one of the first to order so we did get 12 and were able to order again but that's not certain this year. (I just called the college ticket office and they said they don't tell them until the day they go on sale. so I will keep calling until they are available.) The luncheon is put on by the culinary students at DVC and is like a final test before graduation which brings out the very best in everyone. Tables are elegantly set with goblets, fine silverware, linen table cloths giving the dining room a festive setting. Students

are decked out in their chef's uniforms standing behind their food specialty, on the loaded buffet tables. Among the goodies offered last year were Pomegranate salad (mixed greens tossed in a champagne vinaigrette with candied walnuts) deep fried turkey breast served with caramelized onions, Prime Rib carved to order and a decadent array of desserts. Service is excellent with students having a napkin over their arm moving among the tables offering help. We should have all the information by mid November. Meet at church at 10:00 AM, lunch starts at 11:00, parking passes are needed and will be passed out at church ahead of time. If you go direct, don't go without a parking pass. The dining room is in the new building on the third floor next to where the old lunch room by the lake used to be. I will have more information before we leave. This is a prelude to the Holiday Season and a great chance to bring a friend to enjoy the festivities

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Nov. 6 & 7** Holiday Hutch and Corner Café
- Sunday Bible class will not meet on **Nov. 15**. Congregational **THANKSGIVING DINNER** will be at 11:45 a.m.
- **Thanksgiving Day service:** Thursday, **Nov. 26 at 9:30 a.m.**
- **November 29** begins a new Church year with the **First Sunday in Advent**.
- During **Advent**, the **Wednesday evening Bible study** will continue to meet from 7:00-8:00 pm in lieu of midweek services. Everyone is invited and welcome. We are studying the Letter to the Romans.
- **Daylight Savings** Sunday is **Nov. 1**. Fall back!

NOTE



Choir rehearsals

this month are scheduled for November 3, 17, and 24 at 7:15 pm. Come and join to sing a joyful song unto the Lord.

November 2015 - What's Happening with the WoHC? by Joyce Liebe, President

A BIG THANKS to all who joined us for our Mugs and Muffins gathering on LWML Sunday last month. We had a good time listening to some examples of forgiveness & how to not worry so much - to let God "take the wheel". We also got to practice our singing, which we perfected by the last song.

Reminder of upcoming key activities:

***Fri.-Sat., 11/6-11/7. Corner Cafe** On Friday 8:30am-8pm and Saturday 9am-4pm our café will be open & ready to serve all the Holiday Hutch shoppers (as well as those who just want to relax, enjoy some tasty food, & support a good cause). This is not a WoHC event; however we lead & coordinate it on behalf of the entire congregation. Look for more info on how you can help (donate food or beverages, work a shift, set up, clean up, etc.).*

***Monday, 12/7. Annual Christmas Dinner, 5:30pm - 8:30pm.** We will be dining at the new Norseman Restaurant at DVC (Diablo Valley College). The price is \$25 and our menu includes:*

Market Green Salad with Blue Cheese, Toasted Nuts, Dried Cranberries & Citrus Vinaigrette

Assorted Homemade Rolls & Butter

Roast Chicken Breast with Red Pepper Butter, Roasted Red Mashed Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables

OR

Sautéed Salmon with Beurre Blanc on Wild Rice Pilaf & Seasonal Vegetables

Assorted Dessert Sweets & Petites

Wine, water, coffee, & ice tea included

We choose Norseman because the food has always been impressive & also that it supports our local college by giving the students practice in not only the preparation of our food, but also all the other back of & front of house work: set up, serving, clearing, & clean up. These young folks need the practice & us older folks want to relax & enjoy the evening free of aprons & dish washing gloves J. The night will include some singing and an optional White Elephant gift exchange. This Annual Dinner is by far the best attended, most festive, uplifting, & special WoHC event of the year. Look for your invitation in your church mailbox soon. Sign up ASAP.

Christmas Angel Tree:

Every year the WoHC lead the congregation in adopting several families/individuals for Christmas. With your generosity, we have provided gifts, as well as grocery and shoe gift cards. This year, with the help of a Thrivent Grant, we will do the same via Angel Tree®. Angel Tree®, a program of Prison Fellowship, reaches out to the children of prisoners and their families with the love of Christ. There are over 2 million children in the U.S whose lives are filled with abandonment, loneliness and shame that come from having a mom or dad in prison. This unique program will give us an opportunity to share God's love by helping to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the families of prisoners. Melarie Seidel is coordinating this effort - look for more info soon.

Check out the WoHC bulletin board and Sunday bulletins for more details on all activities.

Please feel free to contact me or any Board members if you have questions or comments.

L.W.M.L. FALL RALLY-Livermore, Sat., Oct. 17th-We had an awesome time joining the women of Zone 7 in Bible study, fellowship, fun, worship and information-gathering meeting. Thanks to whomever donated for our in-gathering. "City Serve" was the organization who provided a wonderful speaker. We learned and listened about what the Tri-Valley area is doing to reach out to those in need. The food was very nourishing and everyone was talking and enjoying the day. Thanks to all who attended and Pastor Chu's participation. It was a blessed day in the Lord. —Carol Lau

Saturday at 7:30 am. Pat Kroeger was in our new parking lot waiting for Pat Easby, Carol Lau & Eyona Pargman to arrive. The "silver streak" was running & ready to go. -Pat K. was the pilot & Carol the co-pilot! All the way to Livermore we had good discussions & many laughs!

Forty minutes later we entered the The Fireside Room (toting the LWML Banner and The Attendance Plaque) and registered for the Rally. In the room was an 8 ft. Buffet table full of many beautifully displayed, fancy breakfast rolls/biscuits, small bagels, cereal, etc., and various bowls of fresh fruits. Everything was decorated with brightly fall colored accents. It was a very welcome & comfy atmosphere.

We opened with prayer. The ladies from Holy Cross read the devotion, "Reach out and Touch"; followed by LWML. Zone 7 counselor, Pastor Chu's interesting & thought provoking Bible Study. He ended the study right on schedule too!

CONGRATULATIONS Faith Lutheran Church who received the Attendance plaque for having the most people attending the Rally.

So be sure you come to next Rally, you won't be disappointed!

We also had a lovely worship service, message with communion, beautiful music with guitar, organ, piano, and soloist. Wait until you see that organ!

It was a good day, a very good day indeed!—Pat Easby



MUGS 'N MUFFINS-L.W.M.L.

Sunday, Sept. 27-We gathered after worship for fellowship, fun, and faith stories. We sang up-lifting songs, laughed about our favorite "mug" stories and shared personal devotional experiences. Our Women of Holy Cross program for the year's activities and mission projects was passed out and discussed, highlighting our special events for the 2015-2016 year. Make sure to read the program and get involved all year long. We especially appreciate all the mite box support each month. Keep up the good work in the Lord.

Thanksgiving Day Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the breathe to say
Thank you for another day

Thank you for the eyes to see the world of beauty surrounding me
Thank you for the ears to hear your message of hope loud and clear
Thank you for the hands to serve and far more blessings than I deserve
Thank you for the legs to run the race of life until it's won

Thank you for the voice to sing
Thank you Lord for everything

Amen





LWML Sunday Mugs and Muffins





MORE MUGS AND MUFFINS



CORNER CAFE COM- ING SOON

**Friday, November 6th
and Saturday, November
7th.** This is a congregational
supported event. The kitchen
needs hands to help serve and
many opportunities to con-
tribute. There will be sign-up
sheets posted after the Ok-
toberfest celebration. More
details to follow. Save the
dates.





NOVEMBER 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Day Daylight Savings Ends <i>Mite Box/Hat Sunday</i> 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Study	2 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 2:30p WoHC Board Meeting 7p Scouts	3 <i>Election Day</i> 1:00p Small Group 3:30-6:45p Firecracker Forum 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	4 7p Bible Study	5	6 Holiday Hutch & Corner Cafe	7 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum Holiday Hutch & Corner Cafe
8 9:30am Worship 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	9 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Scouts	10 1:00p Small Group 3:30-6:45p Firecracker Forum	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i> 1p Senior Brd 7p Bible Study	12	13 12:15p NFS to DJ Bistro	14 9:00a Sanctuary Cleaning 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
15 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11:45a Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	16 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 12:30p Bridge 6:30p Church Council 7p Scouts	17 1:00p Small Group 3:30-6:45p Firecracker Forum 6:30 Elders 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	18 7p Bible Study	19	20	21 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
22 9:30am Worship 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30a OUTREACH 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	23 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Scouts	24 1:00p Small Group 3:30-6:45p Firecracker Forum 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	25	26 9:30am Thanksgiving Day service	27	28 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
29 <i>1st Sunday in Advent</i> 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian	30 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 2:30p December WoHC Board Meeting 7p Scouts		Dec. 2 NFS Outing to Diablo Valley College's Christmas Brunch			

Holy Cross Lutheran
Church, LCMS
1092 Alberta Way
Concord, CA 94521

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS
1092 Alberta Way
Concord, CA 94521
(925) 686-2000
holycrossconcord@sbcglobal.net
www.holycrossconcord.org

Pastor: Bill Chu

President: Mike Liebe
Vice President: Gregg Syrovatka
Council Secretary: Carrie Kroeger
Financial Secretary: Scott Stadler
Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka
Trustees: Allen Brueckner, Bill Luker
Elders: Bill Riechman, George Oatis, John
Coyne; Eric Roman, Herb Neumann

Secretarial Staff: Sue Reiter
Newsletter Editor: M. Kuefner
Newsletter email address:
hc_editor@yahoo.com

Office Hours: M-F 9 AM-1:00 PM

Worship Schedule:

Sunday Service	9:30 AM
Communion	1 st , 3 rd , and 5 th Sundays
Adults Bible Studies	11AM
Sunday School	11 AM

Week Day Bible Study Schedule:

Monday (Ladies)	12:30PM Conference Room
Wednesday	7:00PM Parish Hall

Choir Rehearsal:

Tuesday	7: 15PM-8:45PM
---------	----------------

Outreach:

Fourth Sunday of each month after service

Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday
Dec. 2015 Cross Currents: Nov. 20, 2015