

CROSS CURRENTS

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

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In a Season 7 episode of the television show, “24,” government agent Jack Bauer was in the White House to extract information from a Senator’s aide regarding an imminent terrorist attack; as anyone familiar with Jack Bauer knows, his tactics are not for the faint of heart. After being called “reprehensible” by the politically-correct Senator, Bauer responded, “*You, sir, are weak, unwilling and unable to look evil in the eye and deal with it.*”

Bauer’s words encapsulate what many believe to be the problem with many of our political leaders who, for various reasons — perhaps for fear of offending those perpetrating such evil as the multiple murderous attacks in France, or to appear inclusive, tolerant, and compassionate, or to further their own political agenda — are unwilling or unable to call evil what it is and deal with it accordingly. One would not and arguably cannot deal with what one does not believe exists.

For various reasons — perhaps wanting to be thought

of as tolerant, open-minded, and loving — some Christians are unwilling and unable to look sin in the eye and call it what it is and acknowledge that the wages of sin is death (physical death and eternal suffering). Against Scripture’s clear teachings on sin and grace and Law and Gospel, they accept behaviors that Scripture calls sinful. But unless we recognize and confess that we are sinful and deserving of God’s wrath against sin, we would see no need for the Savior whose birth Christmas celebrates; consequently Christmas offers nothing beyond the festivities, which for many define Christmas.

Christmas, at least as Christians celebrate it, focuses on the birth of Jesus Christ, the “*only begotten Son of God... God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with Father... who for us men and our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man*” (Nicene Creed) or as the Apostles Creed put it, He was “*conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary.*”

PASTOR CHU

Christians also understand that the Nicene Creed doesn’t stop there but elaborates on “*who for us men and our salvation came down from heaven*” with “*was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried;*” the Apostles’ Creed confesses the same. And both creeds then confess Christ’s resurrection, ascension, and the promise to come again to judge the living and the dead (Second Article), at which time will be our resurrection (Third Article).

Christians know Jesus lived beyond the cradle of Bethlehem, the angel’s announcement of the Savior’s birth, and the Gloria of the angelic chorus the night He was born. We know Jesus’ temptations in the wilderness. We know Gethsemane. We know Calvary. We know Jesus’ suffering and death “*for us men and for our salvation.*” We know all these, but unbelievers do not.

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Christmas offers wonderful opportunities for us to share the reason for the Lord's birth, that He came to save sinners from the wages of sin. Not that we should try to turn every Christmas party or dinner conversation to sin and grace and Law and Gospel, but the Holy Spirit

gives us many opportunities to share the Gospel during this time, e.g., when we write Christmas cards, exchange pleasantries with store employees, prayers at Christmas dinner. And should the Spirit bless us with the opportunity for deeper conversation, we can point out that Christmas has meaning because of Good Friday and that the birth of Christ would not have any consequence were it not for His crucifixion where He stared sin in the eye and atoned for the sins of the world — including your sins and mine — with His own precious, innocent blood.



CORNER CAFÉ 2015



THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS

Eleanor Tyson's family (peace), **Bill Morfeld** (back surgery and healing), **Jamie Eissner** (married to Tommy, Jean Eissner's grandson-healing with new treatments for heart issues) **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** (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 grandnephew-cancer, healing), **Suzanne Stadler** (healing), **Jack and Doris Mortenson** (healing), **Eyona Pargman** (healing), **John Gainer** (Marilyn's nephew-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 & Dave 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), **Cheryl Syrovatka** (knee surgery, healing), **Sharon (Goodrich) Hutton** (healing), **Trudy Huenninghaus** (healing).

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**.

December Birthdays

1	Liz Ballard
2	Randy Syrovatka Marla Kuefner
3	Steven Liedtke
5	Rayna Kammerzell
6	Peter Liedtke
8	Anke Weiss
9	Kevin Liebe
12	Emily Scouten
16	Alex Roman Susan Stenson Ron Jakel
18	Bill Luker
21	Allen Brueckner
22	Mindy Wirtz
25	Marv Kreitz
27	Terry Hawkyard
30	Christopher Chu
31	Jennifer Rankin
December Anniversaries	
10	Herb & Marilyn Neumann

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR DECEMBER

Christmas Eve worship: Dec 24, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day worship: Dec 25, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday evening Bible study will meet: December 2, 9, 16

Sunday Bible class will meet: December 6, 13, 20

Elders will meet: December 15

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: This 4 week Advent study, “Countdown to What Counts From Heaven Above” by Richard Kapfer, **every Monday @ 12:30pm-2pm in the conference room.** Keep our eyes focused on Jesus’ birth.

THRIVENT WORKSHOP - SOCIAL SECURITY-STRATEGIZE TO MAXIMIZE: When it comes to navigating the Social Security landscape, the choices can be overwhelming! Please join us for a complimentary presentation to learn how to sort through the options to help ensure the choices you make are right for you. If you are interested, please pick up a flier on the literature table in the parish hall. **Two dates to attend, Nov. 30th, and Dec. 8th both located at the Ygnacio Valley Library.**

ORDER NOW: Deadline is Nov. 30
Emily Scouten in A Christmas Carol

Emily Scouten will be appearing in Notre Dame de Namur's annual musical presentation of "A Christmas Carol - a Gift to the Community", featured as Scrooge's landlady, Mrs. Mopps. This is the 30th year NDNU, with The Performing Arts Company, has presented free performances as a gift to the community; audience members are encouraged to bring a donation of a new toy or non-perishable food item to be distributed to Peninsula families in need.

The musical features music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Tony Award winning writer Lynn Ahrens, and book by Mike Ockrent and Lynn Ahrens. It is based on Charles Dickens' 1843 novel.

Performance dates: Dec. 12, 17, 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 12, 13, 19 and 20 at 2 p.m. All performances are in the NDNU Theatre on Ralston Avenue in Belmont.

To obtain free tickets, fill out the online order form found at theatre@ndnu.edu or boxoffice@ndnu.edu, and mail with a postage-paid return envelope so that it is **received** at NDNU by **November 30**.



ATTN: MUSICIANS

If you want to contribute to the Christmas Eve service, please contact Diana Meux (dianamcm02@yahoo.com or 510-526-3294). Thank you so much!



Choir Rehearsals for December

December 8 7:15 pm

December 15 7:15 pm

December 22 7:00 pm

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

November was busy opening the Holy Cross Corner Café to support the Holiday Hutch boutique. Thanks to those who donated baked goods, beverages, worked kitchen shifts, set up, cleaned up, bought/prepared food, & everything else that went into this successful fundraiser. Melarie was in charge of the kitchen/food & with her guidance we raised over \$1100. Half will go to the Parking Lot fund & half to our LWML Mighty Mites! Lastly, our Parking Lot tip jar had \$164 at close of business Saturday!

Upcoming activities:

Monday, 12/7. Annual Christmas Dinner, 5:30pm - 8:30pm, Norseman Restaurant at DVC (Diablo Valley College). The price is \$25 for 3 course dinner, wine, beverages, & taxes. If you have not signed up yet, please email me jliebe@pacbell.net or call 686-1037 ASAP as the final count was turned in 11/30. We are looking forward to having a relaxing evening with our sisters in Christ, enjoying food & fellowship.

Christmas Angel Tree® Our Christmas Tree has gift tags for the 30 children we're adopting.

Angel Tree® Luncheon Saturday, 12/12, 11am-1pm. We are hosting a lunch party for the children and their families. They will be treated to games & activities, Bible Lesson led by Pastor Chu, lunch, and dessert. As they leave, we will give each child the gifts we purchased on behalf of the parent who is incarcerated. We welcome your support & prayers with this hands-on local mission project.

Monday, 1/11, General Meeting, 6:30pm. Sue O'malley's home Join us for our annual bunco gathering - always lots of laughter & fun! We will also be collecting donations for Wardrobe for Opportunity. Look through your drawers & closets to see if you have any items to donate (see separate article that lists all items they accept). Thanks to Sue for opening her home to us - we always have a good time when we meet there!

Details on our activities are also on our Bulletin Board & Sunday Bulletins. As always, please feel free to contact me or any of the Board if you have questions, comments, or suggestions.

As Christmas approaches, I remember this poem I saved. Seems a good time to share:

We are special women of Christ, concerned about others,
passionate about life.
We all look different, but
our hearts are alike.

Our feeling for mankind is love, not despair
Just look around, we're found almost anywhere.
We're young, middle-aged, & senior Divas,
And we all share a love of Christ Jesus.

You can find encouragement is our way
To invite others in the circle that went astray.
Our goal in life is to serve one another,
All mankind; sisters & brothers.

By sharing his love we'll receive a crown
With jewels circled all around,
We're not boastful, and not proud
We're just enjoying Jesus aloud.

Written by Terry C Lewis
on
July
16,
2011



ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS PARTY

-- The Women of Holy Cross are treating the Angel Tree participants to a Christmas party and luncheon on Saturday, December 12, from 11-1. You are invited to join us for lunch but you will need to sign up. Those who donated money or gifts are encouraged to attend to see what joy you have brought to the kids.



**THANKS FOR
ALL YOU DO
FOR HOLY
CROSS
LUTHERAN**



January WoHC General Meeting Invitation

Please join us at Sue O'Malley's home on Monday, January 11th at 6:30pm. We will be playing bunco and also accepting donations for Wardrobe for Opportunity.

Wardrobe for Opportunity works in partnership with the community to assist low-income men and women in their effort to "Find a Job, Keep a Job and Build a Career." Your gently used professional clothing goes directly to a client with an upcoming interview. Volunteer stylists work with clients individually in their boutique; helping them put together interview-ready outfits and providing that extra boost of confidence.

What a great time to clean out your closets/drawers, and help a worthy cause!

They accept the following items (undamaged, clean, dry cleaned or ironed; clothing on hangers):

Belts	Blazers	Blouses	Briefcases	Coats	Cuff Links
Dress shirts	Dresses	Earrings	Handbags	Jackets	Skirts
Polo Shirts	Watches	Scarves	Shoes	Slacks	Sport Coats
Suits	Umbrellas	Ties			

They also accept the following NEW items (still in original package):

Stockings (hosiery, knee-hi's) Socks

You may bring items on Monday night or leave them on the table in the parish hall beginning January 3rd.

We look forward to seeing you there (4495 Barberry Court, Concord)!

WOMEN OF HOLY CROSS GENERAL MEETING—We met in the parish hall on Oct. 19th for a short business meeting and Bible study led by Grace Gin. She did an awesome study about friendship from the LUTHERAN WOMEN'S QUARTERLY. There was time for sharing faith stories and personal events in our life. The dessert was pumpkin muffins with pumpkin ice cream—thanks Marilyn and Grace. Thanks to everyone who came out and share the work of the Lord. —Carol Lau



THANKSGIVING DINNER --- Approximately 60 folks enjoyed a noon Thanksgiving meal. The turkey with all the fixings was served on white linen table cloths. Homemade stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, squash, sweet potatoes, ambrosia and a variety of relishes were served. Pumpkin and apple pie with ice cream was served for dessert...YUM YUM! An additional \$300 was made for the Parking Lot fund. Thanks to all those who helped clean up.....the cook appreciated that very much!!!

OKTOBERFEST---WOW! What a fantastic evening of great music and food from Sauerkraut with a variety of sausages, mashed potatoes, gravy, homemade sweet and sour cabbage, applesauce and apple pie and ice cream for dessert. Many thanks to those who attended and especially those who helped with the cleanup...\$400 will be added to the Parking Lot fund from the money that was made. Thanks also to the Mike Seidel and Scott Stadler for all the preparations!!!!

NIFTY FIFTY SENIORS—DECEMBER ACTIVITY

On Thursday Dec. 17 the Nifty Fifty Seniors invite you to attend their Christmas Celebration in the Social Hall where we will have a delicious lunch provided by Melarie, sing Christmas Carols, and listen to Jack Mortenson our Historian Bible Scholar's presentation on the Bible. In Jack's last presentation he stated 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 world tries to divert our attention from the "Reason for the Season" so we must pray, worship and meditate to the profound and extraordinary truth of what God has done through the life of Jesus. God lives through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. The coming of Christ was predicted 700 years before his birth. What a blessing to have such a scholar as a member of our church. We start our celebration with lunch at 11:30. We need help in the setup and clean up after so please help if you can. We definitely

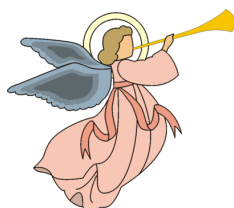
need someone familiar with the dishwasher to help as we are using the plates and utensils from the church. We plan on singing two carols before lunch and continuing after lunch. With Marv leading the singing and Sally or Melarie (as she is not cleaning up) playing the piano. I expect our German contingency will agree to sing Silent Night and one or two other carols in German. David, Terry Hawkyard's son from Mexico City will sing Silent Night in Spanish and I hope to have a Christmas story to read or a cassette to play. We will have a basket with a suggested donation of \$5.00 to offset the lunch expenses. So tune up you High C's and join us for a prelude to the approaching holiday season. Sign up in the Social Hall so we know how many to plan on. This is really a great time to invite a neighbor or a friend.



DJ Bistro Friday Nov 13, 2015


We didn't plan on many attending partly because Trudy and her close friend Karol were not going but I should have known because of the great contingency of Germans at our church as well as our senior board we had twelve attend. So it is easy to select a Good German Restaurant for lunch. D. J. forte is Wiener Schnitzel, Bratwurst and Sauerbraten with Red Cabbage. I had the Hungarian Goulash and it was great. Many had the Wiener Snitzel the full serving which contains two large slabs of breaded pork roast along with potato salad and a never ending serving of sweet sour dough bread (Not sure if there is such a thing). I wondered how they were planning on eating so much. It seems that they planned on taking the 2nd slab home for a second meal. Note the only difference between Wiener Schnitzel and Jaeger Schnitzel is one is served with potato salad and one with red cabbage and Spaetzle. Most had a half liter of their beer which certainly enlivened the conversation. The restaurant is very quaint with table cloths and a homey atmosphere. Carol and Ken Crone volunteered to take Violet home (they are a really great new active members of our church) I had brought Violet to the restaurant as she was the only one that met at church. Everyone else went directly there.





DECEMBER 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 1:00p Small Group 3:30-6:45p Firecracker Forum	2 7p Bible Study	3	4	5 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
6 Mite Box/Hat Sunday 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	7 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 5:30p WoHC Christmas Dinner 7p Scouts	8 1:00p Small Group 3:30-6:45p Firecracker Forum 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	9 1p Senior Brd 7p Bible Study	10	11	12 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum 11-1p Angel Tree Luncheon
13 9:30am Worship 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	14 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Scouts	15 1:00p Small Group 3:30-6:45p Firecracker Forum 7:15p Choir Rehearsal 6:30p Elders	16 7p Bible Study	17 11:30a NFS Christmas Celebration	18	19 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
20 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	21 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 12:30p Bridge 6:30p Church Council 7p Scouts	22 1:00p Small Group 3:30-6:45p Firecracker Forum 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7p Worship 	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 9:30a Worship/ Communion	26 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
27 9:30am Worship 10:30a Outreach Sunday 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	28 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Scouts	29 1:00p Small Group 3:30-6:45p Firecracker Forum	30	31		

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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
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Outreach:

Fourth Sunday of each month after service

Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday
Jan. 2016 Cross Currents: Dec. 22, 2015