

Holy Cross Lutheran

Church

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Holy Cross Messenger

Volume 46 Issue 5

May 2011

—Through My Window—

Pastor Scott D. Perry

The True Meaning of Easter. So what if the Easter bunny wins the hearts of children everywhere? So why not strike "Easter Vacation" from the vocabulary of our schools and substitute "Spring break"? What difference does Easter make anyway?

It makes a lot of difference to those who are in touch enough with reality to take life and death seriously. It made a lot of difference to a very real woman named Mary. Let me tell you her story.

Mary had the heart-wrenching honor of washing the dried blood from Jesus' lifeless body as two other followers prepared the tomb cut into Jerusalem's cold limestone. Mary wept as she washed--wept and remembered....

She had been born to luxury, heiress to a textile fortune, a native of Magdala, a town along the coast of Galilee. "Little good it did me," she mused. Money had brought the opposite of happiness. She looks back at her teen years as a blur of painful, compulsive acting out. Her parents had thrown up their hands in despair, she recalled. She recollected the gnawing fear, the self-loathing that ate at her very core. And she could remember the caring boldness in Jesus' penetrating eyes as he had confronted the demons that tormented her and commanded them to be gone forever. That had been the last of the frantic, distraught Mary. A gentle, peace-filled Mary had taken her place. Until today.

Today she had seen her Lord die an excruciating death, his body weight hanging limp from the nails driven through his hands and feet, suspended from a cross like a common criminal.

Her heart caught in her throat as she remembered and wept and washed away the caked blood with her tears. She wept, too, as she watched the men lift Jesus' corpse onto the tomb's carved ledge, and roll a massive stone across the doorway.

Was all her hope for nothing? What of all the thousands of diseased bodies he had healed? The broken lives he had restored? The promises of the Kingdom of God?

But early Sunday morning she was back at the tomb to finish anointing his body. When she arrived the tomb stood open, stone pushed to the side, ashes of the Roman guards' watchfire still smoldering. "How can they be so cruel?" she cried as she ran to tell the apostles. So cruel.

But it wasn't cruelty that rolled away the stone that Easter morning. It was the powerful hand of God as Jesus Christ stepped forth brimming with Life.

Mary saw him, mistaking him for the gardener. But there was no mistaking his familiar voice--"Mary." She fell at his feet, tears of grief melting into tears of joy. "Rabboni", she said as she looked into his face. "Teacher."

Yes, Easter bunnies still capture the hearts of children and schools talk about "Spring Break", but you and I know what really happened on Easter.



The President's Report May 2011

A



What a joyous, blessed Easter! He is risen indeed!

God is truly working through our hands as we witnessed His love last month at our two community outreach events. These are a part of God's vision for our church -- one of our goals is connecting more with the community. Our Respite Event for Families with Disabilities as well as the Veterans' and their Families Resource Fair at the county fairgrounds were both a great success. We reached out and touched many hearts with the Holy Spirit's help-- playing with the children and giving the parents a break , providing fun for the siblings and disabled children as well as providing a great ministry to the veterans of the Santa Clara Valley. Providing a prayer table and the children's play area at the Veterans' Resource Fair while the veterans and their spouses made use of the many organizations coming together to give support and help for our veterans. There were over 500 people whose lives were touched by God through Holy Cross' presence at the Veterans' Resource fair event alone! It was a perfect example of over 60 community organizations working together along with Holy Cross, to connect with needs in our community. God is so good!

On May 2, the leaders of the 2020 Vision Plan Implementation and Action teams will meet to recap, update and give reports on how the various teams have made progress in our goals and action items. Stay tuned and I'll update YOU as well, in my annual report to the voters at the semi-annual June 26th congregational Voters Meeting and lunch. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

At our Voters Meeting we will discuss the annual budget with any input you may have and then vote its approval at that meeting. We also will have our annual election of officers and leaders. We have openings for the following positions: Council Secretary, VP Children & Youth; VP Non-Members as well as Sunday School Director and Chairperson for the Children's Ministry Team. If you would like to serve, wish to nominate someone or need more information regarding any of these positions, please contact me or any of the council members and we'll be happy to answer your questions and or place your name on the ballot.

Let us all serve the Lord with gladness! He truly loves us. With the Holy Spirit's help, our church family will be able to work together, by using our own special gifts to accomplish great things in His Name.



Your friend in Christ,
Kathy Spenhoff
Council President



Treasurer's March Messenger Report

The financial picture for March was much improved from last month. The Lord continues to provide us with what we need. We pray that we can produce a new budget in June that more reflects this reality. It is becoming quite common in churches that offerings alone don't cover expenses. Rentals, endowments, and legacy gifts are needed to help carry on the Lord's work. Each year Holy Cross receives unexpected gifts that improve our bottom line. We thank the Lord for them and pray these gifts will continue to come. We also pray that the Holy Cross Endowment Fund continues to grow. Our vision is to be able to dependably fund some of our ministries using only endowment yields. Please consider the Holy Cross Endowment when you are doing or redoing your financial plans.

<u>Average Monthly Need</u>	<u>Monthly Response</u>	<u>Attendance (all services)</u>
\$42,178.59	\$38,932.04	1,032

George Lutz
Treasurer



May Neighborhood Outreach Walk

Join us for an hour to walk around the neighborhood distributing Holy Cross flyers to our neighbors living around Holy Cross. We just leave the leaflets under the doormats, so it's really easy to do. Let's spread the good news of God's Light and salvation through His Son, Jesus! Meet in the church office on **Saturday, May 14th at 10 AM** .

Contact Kathy Spenhoff for information (257-4851 or email at k_spenhoff@yahoo.com)

Kathy Spenhoff, Community Outreach Committee

The Woolies It's time for our annual garage sale-ing event on Saturday, June 4, 2011. We will meet at 8:30 at Effie's Coffee Shop (on the corner of Hacienda & Winchester in Campbell) for breakfast, then on to the garage sales to search for gently used baby clothes to donate to **Real Solutions'** (formerly Community Pregnancy Center). RSVP to Elli Anderson at 354-5825 so we'll know how many will be joining us at Effie's.



High Schoolers are working hard on their Mystery Dinner Theater. Come have dinner and see the show **Sat May 7th.**

HS Spring Celebration at Great America, **Saturday May 28th.** Enjoy the rides and various Christian bands on stage.

HS Boundary Waters canoe trip is July 27 - Aug 4th .

May 2011 Messenger - Mission Committee

Mission Bowl-a-thon Coming Sunday, May 15th

Our annual Holy Cross Mission Bowl-a-thon is coming again on **May 15th** at Cambrian Bowl (on Camden near Union – in the “old shopping center, behind the pizza parlor and Bev Mo). Information about this great fellowship and mission support event is available outside church every Sunday from now until the event. **Bowlers meet at the alleys at 2 PM. Please join the 40+ bowlers** on that Sunday, **or** join the smaller group event we are planning on the **alternate date of Saturday, May 21st** (a new date since the last note), if you can't make the Sunday date because of Confirmation or another conflict. **Bowling is free** and fun (no need to be a pro), **kids are welcome** (they get bumper lanes if they want - lucky), and **you are also encouraged to sponsor bowlers** as a wonderful way to support our Short-term Mission projects. We have been approved by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans again to **match a portion of the proceeds** as they have in previous years to help the Joni & Friends Family Retreats this summer. **Be a part of this marvelous fellowship and support event. It's too much fun and too important to miss.**

May 22 – Hear About the April 2011 Mission Trip to Vietnam

We are thankful for the Holy Cross team that traveled last month on our first short-term mission project to Vietnam. The flights were long, the schedule was busy, but the connections with our partners in Vietnam were inspirational, and the wonderful service mission was so worthwhile. They met with Pastor Cima and his team in support of these mission partners in the area of Hanoi. This door was opened as a direct way for Holy Cross to go there to encourage and participate in these ministries started by the Engelbrechts that we have prayed for and supported for many years. The mission included helping them in areas of nutrition, English learning, health, education, especially children's programs, and spiritual encouragement for our partners in sharing the love of Jesus. The Holy Cross members who participated are Marie Russell, Amy Burnham, Pastor Scott and Andrew Perry, John and Alyssa Renken, and Brian Young. The trip was from April 7-16. **Be sure to plan to come on Sunday, May 22, as they share their experiences with the congregation.** Thank our amazing Lord for their safe travel and good health during this challenging trip. May the Lord keep leading us in this new Gospel Mission opportunity.

Czech Youth English Camp 2011

This year's Czech Youth English Camp will be held from July 4 – 10. The team from Holy Cross and Shepherd of the Valley is vigorously planning ahead for this year's mission project. We were truly blessed to have a short, but inspirational visit from Pastor Michal, pastor of our Trinec church partner in this ministry in January. We are thankful for all of you that have considered going on this great mission opportunity, and thankful for the group that is now making their plans – from Holy Cross: Marie Russell and Matt Fehrenbach so far – others are considering this opportunity, and more are greatly encouraged. Others from Shepherd of the Valley, Kent Zarley, our long-time partner from Iowa, and Ashley Effken (mission partner from last year) will round out the team. **Contact Marie and/or Wanda Olson for information about participating in this opportunity and hearing more about it in their next planning meeting.**

The trip no longer seems far ahead, it's coming up fast, and the team is deciding on travel, lodging, Tee-shirts, Bibles, crafts, sport activities, and class teaching materials already. They are following in the steps of those who have gone before to participate in this special mission effort for the youth in the Czech Republic. Holy Cross is blessed to partner with Shepherd of the Valley in planning and staffing this special project. We've been discussing the schedule for travel, approximate costs (Holy Cross helps a lot), the camp schedule, sharing of responsibilities during the week, the people we work with over there, and all the other items associated with this project.

The picture shows a great camp tradition – campfire night – meaningful sharing with great friends and growing in the love of our amazing Lord.



The Czech Youth English Camp continues to be a challenging, but rewarding way to share time and faith with the wonderful young people that participate in this week-long learning experience in the eastern part of the Czech Republic, not far from the Polish border. May the Lord again bless this event with good friendships and growing faith.

Continue Praying for our Missionary Partners

Please continue to pray for Ted Engelbrecht and his family, our long-time mission partners in Southeast Asia, as he slowly recovers from the serious foot injury and subsequent infection he experienced. He encouraged our April mission team and continues to be a special servant of the Lord for all educational mission efforts in Asia, even though they will be moving to Washington state when they are able.

- Pastor JP Cima and his family in Vietnam – wonderful hosts for the Holy Cross team that traveled there in April. Pray for all their on-going efforts to share the love and grace of Christ in Vietnam.
- The Norton family, who have served in Guinea, West Africa. Pray for strength and blessings on the people who have heard the Gospel through them in the midst of so much turmoil in that country. They are in the USA for a time of additional training for witnessing in the Muslim world and for educational opportunities for their children. We hope they can visit us at Holy Cross – watch for details.
- Pray for Pastor Michal Klus, his family, and all our partners in ministry in the Czech Republic as they, with us prepare for the next Youth English Camp to be held in July.
- The Hoech and Wade families serving in Kyrgyzstan, Central Asia. They ask for our continued prayers as they personally witness of Christ's love and care for the Dungan people in their area. An excerpt of one of their notes follows on page 12 – continue to pray for all their challenges.

Plan Ahead - Mission Committee Opportunities Meeting on June 11

Join us when the Mission Committee meets on Saturday, June 11 at 9:30 AM to plan and encourage participation in all our great mission opportunities. We meet about once each quarter. Several Holy Cross people are active on this exciting committee, Wanda Olson (Vice President responsible for this area of ministry at Holy Cross), Pastor Scott and Thao Perry, Art Larson, Linda Retterath, Amy Burnham, Marie Russell, Carol Weinrich, Lois Banke, and Joan and Gene Eckert. Michal Mueller, Brian Young, and Eliysha Fehrenbach also try to attend as they are able to add their great inputs and ideas. Holy Cross is truly blessed for this on-going ministry spreading the Gospel in so many ways. Join this exciting ministry team at our next meeting to be announced in the Bulletin. These meetings are full of the Lord's Spirit. We'll be hearing back from the team who went on the first Vietnam ministry mission trip, reviewing the "Treasures" sale and youth car wash (April 2nd) and the annual Bowl-a-thon for Missions (May 15), final planning for the next Czech Republic Youth English Camp (in July), and all the other opportunities coming ahead in 2011. Questions? Call Joan or Gene Eckert, 997-3878, or Wanda Olson, 972-0315.



Mission Bowl-A-Thon

Mark your calendar for Sunday May 15th at 2:00 until 4:30 PM. Come to "Cambrian Bowl" 14900 Camden Avenue in San Jose. Cheer on your favorite bowler and remember to sign up to support him or her which in turn supports the short term missions.

Respite Event for Families Affected by Disabilities

The respite event for families affected by disabilities held at Holy Cross on Saturday, April 16, was a huge success. Everyone had a great time! We had 27 volunteers/buddies/kitchen team members to help with the actual respite event in the morning. We served 8 children with disabilities, 5 siblings, and were able to bless 8 families with time to do activities that would be difficult for them to do with their children with them. Our heart felt praise to the Lord for the outpouring of love given out to these special families by our disciples at Holy Cross!

The following is information about people with autism that hopefully will make you more sensitive when you see and meet people with autism in the general public.

Autism

Autism is a developmental disorder that appears in the first 3 years of life, and affects the brain's normal development of social and communication skills.

Causes, incidence, and risk factors

Autism is a physical condition linked to abnormal biology and chemistry in the brain. The exact causes of these abnormalities remain unknown, but this is a very active area of research. There is probably a combination of factors that lead to autism.

How many children have autism?

The exact number of children with autism is not known. A report released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests that autism and related disorders are more common than previously thought. It is unclear whether this is due to an increasing rate of the illness or an increased ability to diagnose the illness.

Symptoms

People with autism may:

- Be overly sensitive in sight, hearing, touch, smell, or taste (for example, they may refuse to wear "itchy" clothes and become distressed if they are forced to wear the clothes)
- Have unusual distress when routines are changed
- Perform repeated body movements
- Show unusual attachments to objects

Communication problems may include:

- Cannot start or maintain a social conversation
- Communicates with gestures instead of words
- Develops language slowly or not at all
- Does not adjust gaze to look at objects that others are looking at

Social interaction:

- Does not make friends
- Does not play interactive games
- Is withdrawn
- May not respond to eye contact or smiles, or may avoid eye contact
- May treat others as if they are objects
- Prefers to spend time alone, rather than with others
- Shows a lack of empathy

Response to sensory information:

- Does not startle at loud noises
- Has heightened or low senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell, or taste
- May find normal noises painful and hold hands over ears
- May withdraw from physical contact because it is over stimulating or overwhelming
- Rubs surfaces, mouths or licks objects
- Seems to have a heightened or low response to pain

Behaviors:

- "Acts up" with intense tantrums
- Gets stuck on a single topic or task (perseveration)

Has a short attention span
Has very narrow interests
Is overactive or very passive
Shows aggression to others or self
Shows a strong need for sameness
Uses repetitive body movements

Expectations (prognosis)

Autism remains a challenging condition for children and their families, but the outlook today is much better than it was a generation ago. At that time, most people with autism were placed in institutions. Today, with the right therapy, many of the symptoms of autism can be improved, though most people will have some symptoms throughout their lives. Most people with autism are able to live with their families or in the community. The stresses of dealing with autism can lead to social and emotional complications for family and caregivers, as well as the person with autism.

We still need volunteers (Short Term Missionaries) for the Joni and Friends Family Retreats the weeks of June 12 and July 17 at Mission Springs Conference Center.

Art Larson
Disability Ministry



Happy Mother's Day

We thank you for the love of the mothers you have given us, whose love is so precious that it can never be measured, whose patience seems to have no end.

Bless these amazing women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.

When they are down, give them comfort; when they are discouraged, give them hope; and when they are tired, give them strength. May they feel Your love in their hearts, Your peace in their minds, and Your joy in their spirits.

Please bless our Mothers with the gift of Your love this Mother's Day. May we honor them in word and deed, and teach our children to do the same.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. *(from Living Grace)*

May Recreation Event

Let's go hiking at Uvas Canyon May 30. Watch Bulletin Board and bulletins for details.

C.O.M.E. News:

Here are the statistics for January, February, and March, 2011, for C.O.M.E. located at First Immanuel Lutheran Church, on the corner of Third Street and San Salvador in San Jose. All figures are for the three months combined.

FOOD: Number of people served was 6,283
 Amount of food obtained was 100,230 lbs. or 50.12 tons

CLOTHES: Number of people served was 2,636
 Number of items distributed was 11,328

VOLUNTEER HOURS: 1,413

C.O.M.E. can always use plastic and paper grocery bags. You may leave them in the Celebration Center with the clothing.

Thanks for your support of this important ministry.

--Jean Caron
 Community Outreach Ministry Committee

Daytime Companion Needed – if you know of someone who would be interested in a part-time companion position for a shut-in member, please call 356-2657

"Men's Breakfasts - . The dates for the upcoming breakfasts are, Saturday, May 14th (Second Saturday) and Saturday June 4th.



Our group is fun, informal and we have discussions on a wide range of subjects.

We will be focusing on the Lutheran Men's Network study "How we Got the Bible" you can preview the upcoming sessions - Lesson 2 (Can We Be Confident in The Bible) for May and Lesson 3 (Silencing the Old Testament Critics) for June - on the internet <http://www.lhmmen.com/> Right up there with Christian fellowship and Bible study, the cooking skills of Leon Robinson are a mainstay of our gathering.

What do you have for breakfast on Saturday mornings?

Please invite a friend or neighbor to join us for this fun and informal group. Contact Richard Lambie: Home 356-0055 Office 551-2122 Cell 408.499.2693"



The GEMS (God's Energizer Motivated Seniors)

Great food and good company was enjoyed by all at the GEMS luncheon when we went to Bangkok Taste on Blossom Hill Road. They have wonderful Thai food and the prices are very reasonable, we recommend it!

Hope you can join us the last Thursday of May (the 26th) when we go to Chili's Restaurant on the corner of Blossom Hill Road and 5650 Almaden Expressway. You can meet us there at 12:00 or carpool from church at 11:30. Please call me and let me know you will be joining us so I can make the reservations and be sure there is room for us all at the table. 408-356-3525 x 230 please leave a message on my phone if I'm not at my desk.

May 5th Come watch a movie with us in the Fireside Room. Bring your brown-bag lunch and something to drink or enjoy the coffee, tea and popcorn that is furnished along with the movie. We will be watching "Joshua", it is a gentle fable about the second coming.

May 26th Out to Lunch Bunch at Chili's (see above for address information). We always get individual checks for our food and drinks so there is no bill splitting.

Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.
Proverbs 3:3-4

Agape Love,
Donna Jones

Preschool Vacation Bible School

JESUS SAID... is a joyous time with Jesus. The children will grow in their understanding of the love that Jesus has for them through Bible lessons, crafts, music and activities planned for the week.
Begins June 6-10, 2011 at 9:15—11:30 am.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) Elementary/Middle School



JESUS SAID... is our theme for VBS this year. Be sure to sign up soon to assure you get your first choice of craft electives. There are two weeks that we will be offering VBS for kids entering 1st – 8th grade; Session 1: August 1st - 5th and Session 2: August 8 - 12, 2011 from 8:45 to 12:30 pm. So pick a week that works for you and we will see you in August. For more information, please contact Karen at 356-6828.

Volunteers may contact:
Linda Suda at (408)395-6048 or
Karen Heinitz at (408)356-6828.



Holy Cross Scene

Yes, the GEMS did it again ... there were 16 of 'God's Energized Motivated Seniors' enjoying lunch at the Britannia Arms restaurant recently. It was so nice to have Donna Jones leading us in the opening prayer, thank you Donna, you do a great job in the church office as well. The delicious food we all enjoyed, along with lots of gossip from both ends of the long table certainly made for a great and fun filled luncheon. Watch the Sunday bulletins for our next outing.

That first Saturday in April was certainly a busy day at Holy Cross. From early morning until late afternoon, on our grassy area next to church, we held our annual Youth Car Wash and Treasure Sale. There were many prospective buyers wandering around the tables loaded with sale items. The weather was beautiful, some sun and pleasantly warm, a perfect day for the annual event. The funds were divided, some to the high school youth to visit Bounding Waters, and for the trip to Viet Nam and for the Czech Republic. The parking area driveway was even busier. There were many hard working Holy Cross students doing a grand job washing cars for only \$10.00, with our DCE Michael Mueller organizing their efforts. Let me mention my neighbor who'd brought her car to be washed, she was tickled pink with how great a job the youth did.

At the 11:00 service on Sunday, April 3rd, Pastor Scott officially installed Andy Meyer as our Business Administrator, taking over from Pat Helton who'd done such a wonderful job for us for these last five years before retiring. After many bible quotations and explanations of what would be involved in the position, Pastor Scott asked Andy if he would willingly accept the job requirements; Andy immediately and quietly stated, "I will". Pastor Scott then asked us in the audience if we will accept Andy in this position. "We will, with the help of God" was the immediate response of all. Pastor Scott then laid a hand on Andy's head with several more blessings, and we now have our new Business Administrator. Pat Helton was presented a lovely oak wood plaque inscribed with "well done; a good and faithful servant for five years of service" and signed by our Board of Elders.

Our Holy Cross member Pauline Brondos enjoyed her 99th birthday, and even though she lives at Carlton Plaza in assisted living, she doesn't need a walker or oxygen. Her son Dave brings her to our 11:00 service every single Sunday, and it's such a pleasure to see Pauline and greet her. In addition to her son Dave and daughter-in-law Becky, she has six grandkids, some of whom live in our area, and they all enjoy Pauline's lovely smile. Thanks to our Lord for this delightful Lutheran family at Holy Cross.

Each Wednesday evening at 6:30 during our Lenten season, so many Holy Cross members were in church for the inspirational Lenten services. Most of them had just enjoyed the delicious homemade soup/supper which was served in the Celebration Center just before church started. Thanks so much to all these hard working fellow members among whom are Melinda Giordano, Elli and Kelli Anderson, Pat Baltus, Jean and Roger Caron, Mary Ann and Dennis Van Sicklen.



On Palm Sunday at Holy Cross this year at both services, we were pleased to have Sam Kaufman lead us in her vocal version of the Ladies Of The Bible and their lives during the Easter season. The presentation of the life of Jesus at Easter time was delivered most eloquently, accompanied by our organist Douglas Peterson. Sam gave a most dramatic presentation of the women involved in the life of Jesus at that holy time. Our most sincere thanks to this dedicated Christian lady.

The Seder dinner on Maundy Thursday in the Celebration Center was well attended. Tickets were sold in advance and of course there were some last minute guests who arrived to enjoy the occasion. Pastor Scott welcomed everyone and asked all to join in the common prayer which had been printed in the four page booklet at each place setting. The booklet allowed the Pastor and the diners to read some responses so appropriate to the Maundy Thursday holiday. Our Administrative Assistant Andy Meyer also joined the Leaders and guests as they took turns reading aloud. Each table had designated seats for the 'mother and father and child' who had easy tasks to handle during the evening. The Elders distributed communion wafers and the wine cups during the evening service, so all joined in celebrating holy communion together.

The dinner was excellent! Thanks to Melinda Giordano, Rich Mirto and their group of volunteers. The roasted lamb, the potatoes and carrots, were enjoyed by all along with all the trimmings. After the meal, we were served delicious apple cake topped with whipped cream. Before the evening ended, all the hard working volunteers who worked in the kitchen were thanked for the tremendously job they did. A lovely Easter dinner celebration.

Easter Sunday at our beloved Holy Cross was simply glorious. Pastor Scott conducted the 9:00 and 11:00 service (two of three) where the pews were filled to capacity with the many worshipers who were there to celebrate our risen Lord. Previous to the start of the service, many of the guests gathered in the Celebration Center to enjoy the satisfying fruit and

baked sweet rolls breakfast. Pastor Scott's sermon was superb and several times he included the beloved statement "He Is Risen" to which all responded "He Is Risen Indeed"! The church choirs were active indeed. The One Voice Choir, the Bell Choir, the New Life Choir and the Chancel Choir showed off their talents and were enjoyed by everyone. It was an absolutely beautiful Easter Sunday morning, inspirational to all.

See you in church ...
Lois Beltz



SERVANT OF THE DAY---WANT TO HELP?
NEED HELP ?

Weeds too high? Need meals? Need a ride? Need a break? Holy Cross "Servant of the Day" program helps with light housekeeping, transportation, yard work, meals, help during illness, after surgery or for new moms, etc. If you need a "Servant", call the church office (356-3525) and we'll be there to help...no charge!

We are currently looking for servant help with occasional transportation for another member, help with church maintenance, technical/ IT support and helping the office staff with minor clerical tasks. If you can give an occasional hour or so to help another Holy Cross member IN ANY WAY contact Jeanine Weissahn(356-6976) or Kathy Spenhoff

Servant of the Day

(257-4851). We love new volunteers!

Los Gatos at CISH

Highlights of our year always include the visits of supporting and partnering congregations. Over the last two weeks it was the turn of Pastor Scott Perry and members of Holy Cross Los Gatos, CA. They visited village project sites, a university where we have GEOs teaching ESL and the office of our new international school which will open in August of this year. We thank God for them and thank them for their long partnership and visit. I also thank our whole team here for hosting them so well. You others, too, are always welcome! We would love to have you visit, as well. We will pray for it.



Notes from Kip & Ivy Hoech, our Mission Partners who just returned to Kyrgyzstan

It's hard to believe our furlough ended three weeks ago already. In one month, we made 65 visits with people in 17 churches and two sending organizations, plus dental and doctor visits. Thanks to all who hosted, helped, prayed for, or just loved on us!

Please pray for our container of soy seed, inoculant, and 3 grain bins to be released from Latvia. It arrived there by boat on March 29, in plenty of time for the 12-day trip to Kyrgyzstan before our end of April goal for our farmers to plant their soybeans. The shipping company and customs agents keep requesting document after document from us before they will release it. Every other day for the last ten days, we've thought this was "the last one". Then they ask for something else. It's almost become ridiculous. The latest "last document" is this: tomorrow I have to go to the customs office in Bishkek to request them to send a telegram to the customs office in Latvia stating that they agree to receive our container. I've didn't know anyone still sent telegrams. ***Please pray they customs officials would do what is needed, and that the container would have no further delays.***

On Tuesday, eight of us will meet all day to start crafting another Good Book story into oral Dungan story form. Our story is "The Great Commandment and the Good Samaritan". It has been quite a challenge to find a time when all eight of us can be there. We are working in two dialect groups so it takes all eight of us to be there. We're excited to finally be able to all get together. ***Pray for the result to be an accurate, interesting, easily retellable story which many people would hear and retell both now and for generations to come.***

Ivy's acupuncture trainer (master) has returned to Kyrgyzstan. Ivy will spend much of the next two weeks treating patients with him at our local clinic and learning on the job. Ivy is always bold to pray with the patients and ask them questions that lead to spiritual conversations. Monday through Wednesday they will treat patients in a Dungan village an hour from here. Ivy hopes this will open new relationships to her that she can continue once the trainer has left. ***Pray for the patients' healing, for glory to God, for Ivy's bold witness, and for identification of men and women who want to know the Great Physician personally.***

Sorry this is longer than usual, but each of these requests is urgent. Thanks for your faithful prayers. We'll let you know what happens.

May Wishes For You

***May peace break into your home and
May thieves come to steal your debts.***

***May the pockets of your jeans
Become a magnet for \$100 bills.***

***May love stick to your face like Vaseline
And may laughter assault your lips!***

***May happiness kiss your face
And may your tears be that of joy***

***May the problems you had
Forget your home address!***

In other wordsBlessings to you!



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
REV. MATTHEW C. HARRISON

Dear brothers in Christ,

Epic and deadly storms swept across the southern United States late Wednesday, killing more than 250 people and causing millions of dollars in damages. Our brothers and sisters at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Cullman, Ala., are among the many facing the devastation wrought by the storms. All this comes on the heels of tornados that struck St. Louis on Good Friday and damaged homes and businesses in Mapleton, Iowa, earlier this month. This is not to mention the ravages of other storms and flooding in various parts of the country.

We have been in touch with LCMS leaders in the Southern and Mid-South Districts and give all praise to our Heavenly Father that the lives of LCMS members have been spared. Our thoughts and prayers go out to these brothers and sisters, though, as they deal with the aftermath of the storms and as they console their friends and neighbors, who may have lost loved ones.

As you prepare for worship this weekend, we want to provide you with a [bulletin insert](#) to share with your congregation, which gives information about the storm damage in the South and how we can help our hurting brothers and sisters. Also, I encourage you and your congregation to visit LCMS.org often for the latest news about the church's response to the storm and inspirational stories of endurance during these difficult times.

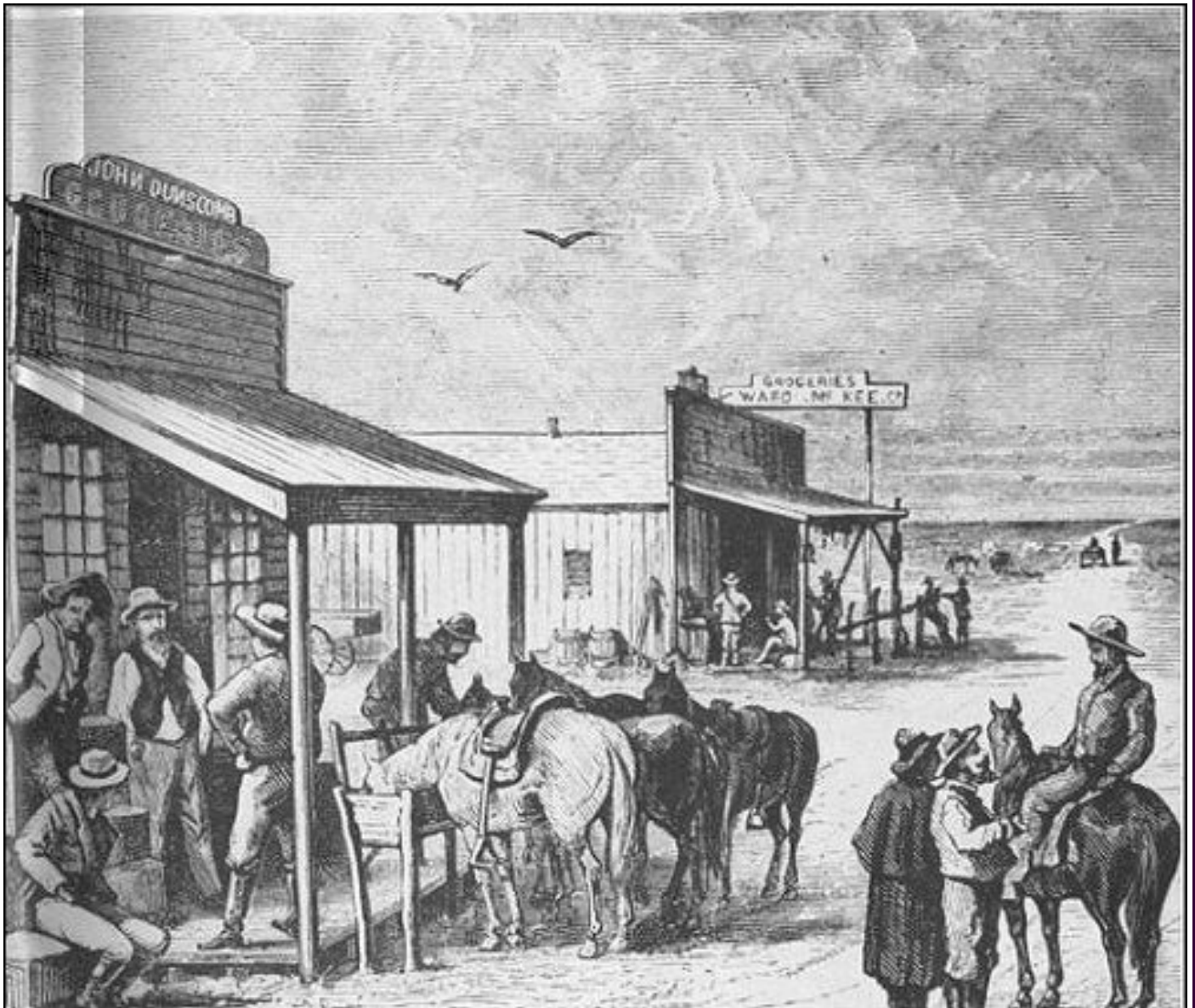
"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Ps. 46:1). In the face of innocent loss of life and destruction at unimaginable levels, we turn to the Lord of wind and wave, who stilled the storm with His mighty Word, yet demonstrated His boundless mercy to us all on the arms of the cross. Please join me in helping financially those who have suffered loss. The task of recovery ahead is great, but God's mercy is boundless.

Together in Christ's mercy,

Rev. Matthew C. Harrison, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

"Witness, Mercy, Life Together."





**5:30 PM on May 7, 2011 at
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Celebration Center.
Early Bird Special* \$12/Person & \$35/Family.**

As an invited guest, you will be supporting the youth ministry at Holy Cross by raising funds for youth trips, including mission trips and retreats which build and strengthen their Christian walk. But wait, that's not all, you also get to solve a mystery, connect with other adults and families from the Children's Center and the Church, and go home with your auction bounty, a full belly and a fellowship fed soul.



*** Suggested Dinner
Donation
(At the Door \$15/\$40).**

**Thank you for your
advance reservations!
(More fund raising
dollars go to the youth.)**

DEATHS: The Lord's comfort and strength for family and friends of **Joan Eckert** at the loss of her father, **Clarence Griffith; Rich and Sandy Peters** at the death of **Aunt Edith Rosenlund;**

ANNIVERSARIES: Congratulations to **Bob and Monica Bellizzi** who will celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary on May 4th; **Bob and Lynn Black** will celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary on May 8th. We pray for God's continued blessings to you.

If you ever have some special news regarding anyone in our church family, please let the secretary know in the church office, 356-3525.

Linda Lutz, Parish Administrator

Forget Me Not Prayer List

Members who are Shut-ins:

Wayne & Emma Hopp, Sr.
Doris Lilley
Dorothy Scholz
Bill Meyer
Jean Piehl
Jim Schwartz
Mary Martuscelli
Ruby Pfeiffer
Edna Sorensen
Bernita Stage
Renie Young
Dicie Walters
Carl Weiss



Family and Friends Needing Prayer:

(Requesting party is in parenthesis)
Aunt Marty (Diana Finato)
Barry & Joan Machado (former members)
Bernice Wagner (Mike Hughes)
Betty Conway (Tom Conway)
Tom Conway
Brandon Philip (Joan Eckert)
Carol Cobb (Pam Livingston)
Dave Koch
Isabel Denny (Jean Caron)
Jessica Newton (Kristi Ramey)
Joseph (Pam Dovala)
Lydia Griffith (Joan Eckert)
Orin Mead (Lisa Hughes)
Raymond (Linda & Jerome Retterath)
Shirley Schuchman (Diane Bromtead)
Vince (Rich Mirto)
Woehleke Family

Those Serving Our Country:

Aaron
Lindze Bare
Travis Bare
Scott Brose
Crystal Camp
Luis Caraves
Clayton Carroll
Michael Carroll
John Hill
Jordan
Jeff Motichka
Michael Horne
Chris Hutton
Adam Madewell
Scott McGuire
Kyle Mattox
Anita Wolfe





May Birthdays

- 2 Fred Martin
- 3 Sandra Cisneros
- 4 Diana Finato
Chanse Gedman
Emma Hopp
Thomas Ramey
- 5 Ed Lacina
- 6 Kim Loos
- 7 Mary Martuscelli
Brian Young
- 8 Harper Cenicerros
Carol Weinrich
- 9 Vicki McVey
Sarah Lambie
Ellen Stout
- 10 Paulette Thomas
- 11 Steven English
Kris Lutz
Richard Peters
Kirk Van Sicklen
Roger Zimmerman
- 12 Margaret Springer
- 14 Jacob Boettcher
Alyson Frederick
Wayne Hopp III
Lissa Zimmer
- 15 Stephanie Watson
- 16 Torrie Lucas
- 17 Shari Amundson
Courtney Thomas
- 18 Polina Edmunds
Karen Gould
Karen Moga
- 19 Gail Lopez
Gina Martuscelli
- 20 Stacey Choate-Ciletti
Brianna Harris
William Meleyco
- 21 Melanie Bollentino
Lea Finato
William Meleyco
- 21 Melanie Bollentino
Lea Finato
Michael Walters

- 22 Todd Bollentino
Judy Jenks
- 23 Mel Bockman
Lois Ferber
Jean Piehl
- 24 Laura Thurman
- 26 Michael Giordano
- 27 Jim Schwartz
- 28 Sean Meyer
- 29 Kelly Martin
Maureen Meyer
Kathryn VanMaanen
- 30 Thomas Conway
JadeIris Dickinson
Nathaniel Fehrenbach
- 31 Andrew Black

June Birthdays








- 3 Abraham Parker
Carolyn Parker
- 5 Alexander Koehler



May Anniversaries

- 4 Robert & Monica Bellizzi - 53 yrs.
- 8 Bob & Lynn Black - 57 yrs.
Scott & Julie Lucas - 7 yr.
- 9 Frank & Susan Arroyo - 30 yrs.
- 10 Joseph & Deborah Walker - 31 yrs.
- 12 Peter & Jennifer Gorvad -10 yr.
- 18 Roy & Ann Bolhorst - 36 yrs.
- 19 Dave & Becky Brondos - 38 yrs.
Greg & Merissa Harris - 10 yr.
- 20 John & Wanda Olson - 23 yrs.
- 21 Frank & Carolyn Messina - 17 yrs.
- 24 Chuck & Karen Gould - 31 yrs.
- 26 David & Doris McCullough - 49 yrs.
- 29 Michael & Pam English - 20 yrs.

May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Servant of the Day Sunday</i> 8:30 AM Contemporary (Comm) 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Traditional (Comm) 11:00 AM Joy Singers 2:00 PM Bridal Shower for Amy Burnham 7 PM C3 Worship Service</p> <p><i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> 1</p>	<p>Women's Bible Class 10:30 AM 2020 Vision Leaders Mtg. - 7 PM - FS Boys Scouts 7 PM CC</p> <p>2</p>	<p>AA Group 12-1PM GLS Institute - FS 6-7:30 PM Prayer Gathering - 7 PM</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Staff Prayer Mtg. 9:30 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM New Life Choir 12:30 PM Nursing Home Ministry 1:30 PM Good News Club 6:30 PM Confirmation Classes 6:30 PM HS Youth 6:30 - 8 PM Finance Comm. Mtg. 7:00 PM King's Brass 7:30 PM</p> <p>4</p>	<p>GEMS - Brown Bag Lunch @ Movie 11:30 AM - FS Sew & Grow ChristCare Group @ Beltz home -7 PM One Voice 7:30 PM</p> <p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	 <p>Youth Mystery Dinner - 5:30 PM</p> <p>7</p>
<p>Mother's Day 8:30 AM Contemporary 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Traditional 11:00 AM Joy Singers</p>  <p><i>Third Sunday of Easter</i> 8</p>	<p>Women's Bible Class 10:30 AM Boys Scouts 7 PM CC</p> <p>9</p>	<p>AA Group 12-1PM GLS Institute - FS 6-7:30 PM Women's Bible Study Soup Supper @ Jeffrey home - 6:30 PM Church Council Mtg. 7 PM</p> <p>10</p>	<p>Bible Class 10:30 AM New Life Choir 12:30 PM Nursing Home Ministry 1:30 PM Good News Club 6:30 PM Profession of Faith - 6:30 PM HS Youth 6:30 - 8 PM King's Brass 7:30 PM</p> <p>11</p>	<p>Pathways Group - Lib. 2 - 3:30 PM Sew & Grow ChristCare Group @ Beltz home 7 PM Women's Bible Study @ Suda home - 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 7:30 PM</p> <p>12</p>	<p>Disabled Veterans 7 PM</p> <p>13</p>	<p>Men's Breakfast 8 AM</p>  <p>Neighborhood Outreach Walk 10 AM</p> <p>14</p>
<p>Confirmation Sunday 8:30 AM Contemporary (Comm) 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Nursing Home Ministry 11:00 AM Contemporary (Comm) & Rite of Confirmation 2:00 PM - Bowl-A-Thon @ Cambrian Bowl 5:30 PM Good Tidings</p> <p><i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> 15</p>	<p>Women's Bible Class 10:30 AM Boys Scouts 7 PM CC Bell Choir - 7:30 PM</p> <p>16</p>	<p>AA Group 12-1PM GLS Institute - FS 6-7:30 PM Children's Center Board Mtg. 7:15 PM - Lib.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>Staff Prayer Mtg. 9:30 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM New Life Choir 12:30 PM Nursing Home Ministry 1:30 PM Good News B-B-Q - 6:30 PM HS Youth 6:30 - 8 PM King's Brass 7:30 PM</p> <p>18</p>	<p>One Voice 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 7:30 PM - FS</p> <p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>Spring Sing Rehearsal - 9:30 AM @ Holy Cross Welcoming Team Mtg. 9:30 AM</p> <p>21</p>
<p>Armed Forces Sunday 8:30 AM Traditional Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 3:00 PM Spring Sing @ HCLC 5:30 PM Good Tidings</p> <p>Spring Sing - 3 PM</p>  <p><i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> 22</p>	<p>Women's Bible Class 10:30 AM Boys Scouts 7 PM CC Elder's Mtg. 7 PM Bell Choir - 7:30 PM</p> <p>23</p>	<p>AA Group 12-1PM GLS Institute - FS 6-7:30 PM</p> <p>24</p>	<p>Bible Class 10:15 AM New Life Choir 12:30 PM HS Youth 6:30 - 8 PM King's Brass 7:30 PM</p> <p>25</p>	<p>GEMS Out to Lunch Bunch - 11:30 AM Pathways Group - Lib. 2 - 3:30 PM Women's Bible Study @ Suda home - 7:15 PM</p> <p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>HS Celebration at Great America</p> <p>Burnham - Pederson Wedding - 10 AM</p> 
<p>8:45 - 9:00 AM Fellowship 9:00 - 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Blended Worship</p> <p><i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> 29</p>	 <p>MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>30</p>	<p>AA Group 12-1PM</p> <p>31</p>	<p>Beginning Sunday, May 29th</p>  <p>Summer Worship Schedule 8:45 - 9 AM Fellowship Sunday School 9 AM - Worship 10 AM</p>			<p>28</p>