

Cross and Crown Lutheran and School Newsletter

November 2020



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Message from Pastor Ted

Reformation Day, Halloween, and the California Fires are behind us. Well, almost behind us. As we turn into the month of November, we keep Coronavirus with us while looking forward to Thanksgiving Day and holiday shopping. Well, some of us look forward to shopping.

When in Exodus Egypt got hit with ten plagues, God was teaching Pharaoh a lesson about how to treat the Hebrew slaves. What might God be teaching us right now in Rohnert Park?

For one thing, we are learning about mask wearing, social distancing, and sheltering in place. For some of us this means loneliness. For others it means: "stop calling me? I already get too many phone calls." For still others, it means getting over-Zoomed and under-hugged.

Political turmoil is taking its toll. Friends are becoming unfriends because of the bitter rivalries. This acrimony would likely plague us even if Coronavirus did not. We need an extra dose of the Holy Spirit's power of unity to heal the wounds that have opened up.

Nobody, not even Jesus, told us that the Christian life would be a piece of cake. Rather than a cake, our life is more like a prune. Dark and wrinkled but still tasting quite good. And good for us.

When expressing your gratitude to God on Thanksgiving Day, nibble on a prune.

■ Pastor Ted



Letter from the Congregational President

Greetings to Cross and Crown Family & Friends

We continue to be challenged and to be open to where we are needed as we walk humbly with God. Currently I am thankful for the fresh air and enjoy observing the changes in light and shadows as I take my walks and hikes.

Meeting our church's expenses is a continuing challenge as I mentioned in my Stewardship Talk. We remember and thank God for his/her generosity to us. During this stewardship campaign remember that Cross and Crown needs your compassion and generosity for our church, school, and community.

Recently we received a very generous gift of \$28,000 from the estate of Mark Gangl. He earmarked funds from the sale of stock he held to be given to Cross and Crown. In addition to singing in the choir and Praise band, he served on various boards, committees, on the council and as Council President. We thank Mark's family for this donation.

Over the last couple of months we have begun a Prayer Circle to enhance our prayer chain. Five of us, Pastor, Kim Burns, Tandy Whitaker, Elizabeth Hoelter, and myself have been meeting on Zoom early Tuesday afternoons. We pray for God's help to address needs and concerns of our immediate community as well as folks who live distantly and abroad. We pray for folks on our prayer list as well as other concerns brought to our attention. Please let Kim know of any concerns or needs you would like our Prayer Circle to address.

Peace be with you,
Myrna Kappler, Church Council President



Update from Cross and Crown Lutheran School

Our school has been open eight weeks during this pandemic now. As each week of instruction ends, the staff thanks God deeply for keeping our students and families healthy and COVID-free so we can continue to teach our children in-person. Even though this year presents additional stress, procedures, and time restraints for our staff, we all view our open school as a blessing from the Lord and praise Him for His continued guidance.

This year seems to be passing by so quickly. We have put all the Halloween decorations and costumes away and are now getting ready for the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Those of you who remember Pastor Newt may recall that he called this time of the year "All-HallowedThanksmas". At times it sure does seem that everything runs together, especially when the Christmas decorations are in the stores the same time as Halloween. As we now move into the season of "thankfulness", each class at Cross and Crown will be exploring how we and our families celebrate Thanksgiving and give thanks to our heavenly Father for all that He provides. To help celebrate the season here at school, we will be holding a Thanksgiving Luncheon, COVID

style, (for students only, class by class), on Monday, November 16. The coronavirus pandemic just cannot keep us from **all** CCLS traditions!!!

Thank you again for keeping our families and staff in your prayers. He has heard and has answered.

Peace,

Jean Bashi
Administrator



Update from NOAH

NOAH continues to serve the community.

In October we had an average of 92 families, with 268 members. We are moving toward indoor weekly distributions starting November 4th. Social distancing and mask wearing will be required.

Cross and Crown will host the November 18th distribution as well as the distributions on December 2, 9, and 16. Please consider volunteering to help at any of the dates. To volunteer, or if you have questions, please contact Elizabeth Hoelter at (707) 794-8451.

Cross and Crown members donated \$170 in October. We appreciate that and the prayers of support. Thanks for both.

Special thanks to John Umland, Skip Wellman, Ken Schlesinger, Sharon Wambold, and Claudia Theis for helping with distributions in October.

On another note, one of our board members is preparing meals and distributing them to the homeless in Rohnert Park. If you would like to support her efforts with a cash donation I will be happy to pass it along to her.

NOAH will also have their See's Candy fundraiser. Attached is the flyer of what options are available. To place an order before Thanksgiving, please contact John Umland at 585-9303 or Elizabeth Hoelter at 794-8451. Your orders will be back in time for Christmas.

Blessings.

Elizabeth and Bruce Hoelter



Financials

October 6	\$ 3,295
October 13	\$ 1,218
October 20	\$ 3,035
October 27	\$ 1,865
Simply Giving	\$ 3,635
Online Donations	\$ 1,008
Total	\$14,056



Milestones

Wedding Anniversaries

November 4	Warren and Joan Hopkins
November 8	Steve and Katie Broski
November 27	Jim and Carole Bossaller Bruce and Elizabeth Hoelter

Birthdays:

November 1	Rylie Koehler Rebecca Slingland
November 2	Donovan Perkett Mark Klipfel
November 3	Randall Beck
November 7	George Kaczmarek
November 10	Sharon Winterfeld
November 16	Steve Broski
November 18	Ken Schlesinger
November 20	Logan Gornowicz
November 21	Bev Leach Chris Gornowicz Brianna Padilla
November 24	Declan Perkett
November 26	Chuck Oberfell
November 28	Mandy McCarthy
November 30	Daniel Steger Kyle Leroux Andrew Pharris



Prayer List

Healing

Barb A. (former CCLC member)
Bob (NOAH member)
Alexandria and Family (Hoelters)
Linda (Joanne B's friend)
Bill (BIL of Fred A.)
Linda (Joanne B's friend)
Pam R.
Bob R.
Dutch A.
Charles (Jackie N.'s son)
Richard (Sue's friend)

Long Term Healing

Joanne (Kim B's friend)
Carole B.
Gabe B.
Chris (Mandy Mc.' BIL)
Mark (Curtis S's friend)
Chris (Diane C's son)
Ed (Vicki B's dad)
Carole B.
Sawyer (Michelle S's friend)

Homebound Members

Dick and Dorothy N.
Ruth M.
Pastor Leon H.
Beverly L.
Ginny C.
Norma C.

Grief

Family of William (father of Robert S.)



Commitment Sunday

It is November and this means it is time for Commitment Sunday, a time where we prayerfully consider how we will give back to God through our time, talent, and finances. This week the church office will mail out pledge packets to each member and long-time visitor of CCLCS. In it is a letter from Pastor Ted, a pledge card, a time and talent form and an envelope to send the items back to church. This year Commitment Sunday will be on November 15. We are anticipating not being able to worship in person. Therefore we request you fill out your forms and mail them back to church in the envelope provided. Thank you for your support of the church and its ministries.



Update from Our Seminary Student

Wow! What a journey 2020 has been! I never imagined that we would find ourselves in this season when I first started discerning whether Seminary was what I was being called into, but nonetheless, here we are!

While this calendar year has certainly seen its struggles with the Coronavirus, political unrest amidst an election season, and racial tension, this year has also thrown some curveballs at our family and personal lives. In the pain and struggles that come with unrest and uncertainty, our family has remained faithful, knowing that in time, God's plan will be revealed. We must take another step forward. We remain hopeful, and we remain faithful that God will provide.

This semester in Seminary at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary has been rewarding. While we are all "sheltered-in-place" and learning as a cohort, albeit digitally, we are a diverse and outstanding group of young theologians who are excited to continue learning with the hopes that one day we will be called to serve our Church. This semester I am taking a few courses to ease myself back into the school lifestyle, and this transition has found itself rewarding. I look forward to putting some of the lessons we are learning into action, transforming the "God Work, Our Hands" into more than just a single day of service but into a lifelong calling of our faith to love God and our neighbor.

Thank you to the members of Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, who have faithfully planted that seed of hope and ministered to the future of our Church. Because of your generous donations to the "Seminarian Fund," what was going to be a challenging financial burden that quickly became an overwhelming burden after an unexpected job loss, your ministry to our future helped pave a path for this journey to continue at just the right time. From the bottom of my hearts and with so much gratefulness, thank you for your support!

I look forward to continuing this journey and leaning into what God has in store for me this season. Let us all pray that 2021 becomes what the year 2020 was supposed to be, a year of clearer vision.

Peace,

Brian Brozovic

Note: If you would like to donate to the Seminarian Fund and minister to the future of our Church by helping to offset the financial burden of Seminary, please bookmark in the memo line any offerings made to Cross & Crown Lutheran Church for the "Seminarian Fund."



Daily Thanksgiving Devotionals

Beginning November 1 through the Thanksgiving Pastor Ted and Kim will be sending out a daily devotional to remind us to be grateful this season. The devotional will be emailed out daily to those with current email addresses on file with the church. They will also be available on the church website. Forward them to someone else who may benefit from them.



Current Worship Schedule

With Sonoma County keeping us in the purple level that means no in-person worship. Therefore, please continue to watch the pre-recorded service on Sundays or at your convenience after 8 a.m. A Kid's Club message is also pre-recorded and available on the website after 10 a.m. on Sundays.

We do not know if the county will be open for worship by Thanksgiving, therefore, Pastor Ted is planning a pre-recorded service for our **Thanksgiving Service** that will be available after 6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 26.



Campus Closed

November 11 Veteran's Day
November 23-27 Thanksgiving Week (Kim and Pastor will work at home through Wed.)



Dine and Donate Fundraiser for CCLS – Round Table Pizza

On November 19, the school is having a Dine and Donate Fundraiser at Round Table Pizza in the Raley's Shopping Center. The school will receive 20% back on all sales accompanied by the attached flier. This includes take out, delivery and curbside pick-up. This is a great way to support the school and a local business. Please join us!