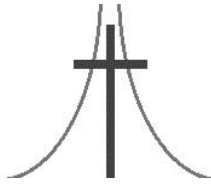




# The Crossroad



## HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

and

### Early Childhood Education Center

4321 Cerritos Ave.

Cypress, CA 90630

Church: (714) 527-7225

Education Center: (714) 527-7928

[www.holycrosscypress.org](http://www.holycrosscypress.org)

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Holding true to our Lutheran doctrine, we *exalt* the Lord in worship, *equip* believers to spread the Holy Gospel, and *encourage* Christ-like love and service.

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I love the Christmas Season with all the many beautiful Christmas lights and decorations. I always enjoy the drive home from church and to the evening activities, and seeing all the beautiful Christmas lights on the houses and the many clever and interesting home Christmas decorations.

All those beautiful lights remind me of another fantastic Light who came into this world of ours. This Light shone in the darkness. The darkness tried to overcome the Light. But it couldn't. Who then is this Light? None other than the One of whose birth we celebrate during this season of the year, Christ the Son of God and our only Savior.

He is the One True Light that has shone in the darkness. By darkness, I mean this world of sin. The world of sin is a darkness, a deep, torrid darkness. And it's sad to say but many do not even realize how terrible the darkness of sin really is. They love this darkness. They prefer this darkness.

That is until they have had contact with the one true Light, Jesus Christ. Once the Christ has entered into their lives, they see how horrible the darkness of sin

really is, how deceptive it is, and how wrong they were to love this darkness.

We Christians also need to be careful. We can take our living in the Light for granted. Our faith can lose its importance in our lives. The celebration of Christmas can take on the meaning of parties, gifts, family get-togethers, instead of what it should really mean, the celebration of Christ's presence in our world. When this happens, the light can fade in our lives, and the darkness can begin to enter our lives.

Christmas is a precious season. It is a time of joy all because of what God did for you and me and all the world. In great love and mercy God sent us His only Son. God in Christ, came into this world of sin for a special reason, to seek and to save the lost. His Light searches out all who are lost in the darkness of sin. His Light reaches out to us and draws us to the open arms of a loving Father who desires all to be with Him forever.

This month there will be many opportunities to worship and praise our gracious and loving God. Besides Sunday worship, we also have Wednesday evening worship. That's why I sincerely encourage all of you, even if you have not joined us in worship for some time, to come and join us in our praise and celebration of Christ's coming to this earth.

Worship with us. Commune with us. Let us together sing our glories to God in the Highest, for all that He has done for us. Let us look together in that manger and see what love is all about. Let us worship our Lord in loving gratitude for His coming down to this earth, to be our Savior and Lord. Let us also at the same time, remember that He said He would be coming back again, to take us and all believers back to heaven with Him. May the joy of this season uplift you and your faith and love.

Pastor Don Oldenburg



**"Glory to God in the Highest  
And on Earth, Peace, Good will to all men."**

**Please join us in worshipping Christ our Lord  
at our Advent and Christmas Services:**

**Mid-Week Advent (every Wednesday)**  
December 2nd, 9th, 16th  
7:00 p.m.

**Blended Service**  
Sunday, December 6th  
9:30 a.m.

**Early Childhood Christmas Service**  
Wednesday, Dec. 17th  
7:00 p.m.

**Blended Choral Christmas Service**  
Sunday, December 20th  
9:30 a.m.

**Christmas Eve Worship**  
December 24th  
7:00 & 11:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day Worship**  
10:00 a.m.

**New Year's Eve Worship**  
December 31st  
7:00 p.m.

**Oh come, let us worship the Lord our Savior!**

## 2010 Commitment

Have you handed in your 2010 Commitment? Extra commitments are available in the entrance of the church and in the church office. Please fill out the signed and unsigned commitment forms. Place the signed commitment in the envelope, put your name on the envelope, and then place that envelope and the unsigned commitment in the "commitment box" in the narthex.

## The Widow's Mite

Stewardship is defined as one who manages another's financial affairs or property. Christian Stewardship is an act of worship giving back to God from the blessings He has already generously given to us. 2 Cor. 6 says, "Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully." Luke 12:34 says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Obviously Christian giving is a Bible-based directive as highlighted by these facts: the word "believe" in the Bible is listed 273 times, "pray" is listed 371 times, "love" is listed 714 times, and "give" 2,172 times! Further, the Gospel says that there is nothing that man can give that he has not first received from God. God does not seek something from his people as something for them.

Why do we give? We give as an act of worship, as a response to God's grace, as an expression of thanks to God, and as a response to Christ who gave Himself for us on the Cross. Love and Faith set the percentage of giving with the tithe being the model for us all. Christian churches generally approach giving in three separate ways. One model uses a plate offering only, one uses a budget-based model for offering and the third model uses a love-based, spirit-filled percentage of one's per capita income as the basis for Christian stewardship. The first model returned approximately 1.4% of members per capita income, the budget-based model returned 2.4% and the spirit-based model based on a percentage of one's per capita income was 4.3% or more than three times as much as the plate-offering only model.

Time and Talent are also very important, but with respect to giving Time, Talent, and Treasure as one author stated, "not a multiple choice question." Clearly giving is separate from the other God-pleasing works of Faith. An excellent example of faith-filled giving was our recent Samaritan's Purse project, Operation Christmas Child, where our original goal of 100 was doubled!

May He continue to bless all of our stewardship efforts at Holy Cross as we all seek to bring the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others.

### Jerry Raithel

Director of Stewardship



Start Christmas week off on a musical note. Listen to the familiar reading of Luke 2 and hear the beautiful story of Christ's birth proclaimed in sonorous harmony and expressive melody by our Holy Cross Choir and praise team, *Joyful Noise*. The annual Christmas Choral Service takes place Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. (only one service this Sunday). Invite and encourage friends and family to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas by worshipping with you at this choral service, the inspiring Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, or Christmas Day Service.

Merry Christmas!

Celeste, Ken, Holy Cross Choir, and *Joyful Noise*

## December Birthdays

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Renee Aungst      | 20 George Hallak    |
| 2 Jim Moseman       | 24 Elizabeth Hanson |
| 6 David Goldberg    | Christina Renken    |
| Jean Krauss         | 25 Michael Ellis    |
| 8 Kristen Harris    | 26 Carol Doss       |
| 9 Heather Turpin    | 27 Phil Bright      |
| 10 William Finnsson | Eileen King         |
| 11 Louise Mowery    | John Lightle        |
| 12 George Papendick | Pastor Oldenburg    |
| Jeff Renken         | Rachel Wantuch      |
| 13 Colton Allen     | 28 Lenor Chunko     |
| 15 Judy Moss        | Lillian Hughes      |
| 16 Melissa Means    | 30 Aileen Rose      |
| Nelson Reynolds     | Sandy Giese         |
| 17 Noelle Giddens   | Heather Salai       |
|                     | Jessica Shipley     |



## Encountering the Lord in



### THE "GREATEST FISH TALE" Ever Told...

Beginning **January 6th** we're getting ready for an exciting 6-week adventure to northern Iraq, near Mosul, previously known as the city of Nineveh.

**Come, join us...**

**Mark your calendar!**

We've all heard stories of the "one that got away"...well, in our January study, you'll learn about the one that got caught!

**Come, join us...**

**Mark your calendar!**

**Allegory? History? Parable?** we hope you'll **come join us** as we follow Jonah on a "harrowing journey to the depths of the seas where he's confronted with god's grace, compassion and His sovereign control over all events.



**Begins**  
**Wednesday,**  
**January 6th**  
**6:55 PM**

## December Anniversaries

|                      | Date       | # of Years |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| Judy & Jerry Raithel | 12/19/1965 | 44         |
| Sandy & Dave Giese   | 12/21/1957 | 52         |
| Beverly & Darcy Hall | 12/21/1956 | 53         |



## *People in the Pew*

### **Mark Ruhl**

Mark was born in Syracuse, New York. He attended high school at Westminster High, received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Engineering at Cal State University, Long Beach. His pre-graduation work experience included: button/badge maker, math tutor, short order cook, cook and manager at McDonald's foods.



Mark's post graduate work experience included working at Rockwell International/Boeing continuously since 1981 where he held a variety of positions: software engineer, system engineer, analyst major subcontract manager, proposal manager, system simulation manager, and senior manager for system analysis.

He is married to Liz and they have a son, David, who is attending Humboldt State in Northern California.

Mark attended Garden Grove United Methodist until 1979 and Holy Cross from then until now (30 years). He has been an usher, the Chief Usher, Secretary of the Board of Directors, Choir Member, Counter, Youth Leader (with Liz), Director of Planning, Board of Christian Education Member, Board of Christian Ed. Chairman, Elder, and Chief Elder.

You might see Mark walking down streets in Cypress with Liz after a long day at work. He also enjoys working on model trains, reading, gardening, and making paper spacecraft models. He likes to watch comedies. Mark also enjoys watching football, Broadway plays, and almost anything having to do with space and spacecraft. Mark played the trumpet and french horn in the marching and concert bands while in junior high and high school.

He has 2 brothers and all three married girls who only had sisters. He says that he has a wonderful mother-in-law (Marge Golbeck).

As a youth he spent many summers and Christmases in Springfield, Missouri where many of his relatives still live. Mark loves to travel and has made many trips up and down the Western U.S. He has traveled throughout Arizona, New Mexico, Missouri, Washington D.C., Florida, and Colorado. He has cruised on a houseboat on Lake Powell, and has taken a cruise up the inland passage in Canada/Alaska.

### **Lillian Hughes**

Lillian was born in Spring Grove, Michigan. She graduated from high school and continued on to college for two years.

She was married to her first husband, John Walter, for 20 years. Later, she married John Hughes. Lillian has 3 children, Larry, James and Joyce. She also has 6 grandchildren.

Lillian has been a member of Holy Cross since 1974 (35 years). She also attended First Lutheran in Long Beach for 11 years. At Holy Cross she has been a member of the choir, the King's Women, and was secretary of the Tri-F's for 2 years.

Lillian worked as a teller and an auditor. Now, she enjoys walking, reading, doing crossword puzzles and dancing.

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### **Plans, Plans, Plans**

Business plans, marketing plans, holiday plans, lesson plans, vacation plans, and yes, MINISTRY PLANS. In order to be successful, everything needs a plan.

As many of you recall, several years ago under the leadership of Pastor Kusel and Carl Stone, Holy Cross's members developed a 5 Year Ministry Plan. Collectively we explored the ministry needs of our congregation, the potential outreach into our local surrounding communities and the larger global community. Many of the goals established during that process have been accomplished, and also, with the passage of time, our congregation and our world have experienced significant demographic, economic and social change. With this in mind, it is now time for our congregation to revisit, revise and revitalize our Ministry Plan, and we need your ideas and input.

How will we, Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Cypress spread the Gospel message in our city, our country, our world? How will we minister to the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of our members, our friends, our fellow human beings? What will this congregation look like and be doing 5 years from today?

Huge questions? Huge tasks? You bet! But this is the task our Lord gave all of us to do when He said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the end of the age". Matt. 28:19 & 20. And He promised to be with us, to help us, and we know with God all things are possible.

So, what can you do? Right now you should pray, asking God for inspiration, for ideas, for direction and for courage to expand our thinking and our inreach and outreach activities. Then, you should attend a very important congregational meeting on SUNDAY, FEB. 7<sup>TH</sup> after the 9:30 a.m. Blended Worship Service. This will be the first step in creating plans for our church's future, and a time for you to discuss your ideas, your thoughts, your plans and share in the excitement of moving forward in ministry.

### Celeste May

Evangelism Director Elect

### Remember Our Troops in Prayer

|             |                  |              |
|-------------|------------------|--------------|
| Daniel Buhr | Andrew Christian | Everett Doss |
| Greg Hanson | Daniel Loveless  | David Mertes |
| James Ramer | James Vaughan    |              |

### PUSH

(Pray until something happens)

### A Little Humor



#### *Untimely Answered Prayer*

During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, "Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?"

Tommy answered soberly, "I asked God to teach me to whistle, and He did!"

### Petal Pushers® Get Ready to do it Again!

Petal Pushers is a group of 4,000 volunteers who decorate five Rose Parade floats in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade. Each year, volunteers from across the nation assemble in December during Detail and Decorating Days to decorate the Lutheran Hour Float and other commercial sponsor's floats. Our volunteers range in age from 13 to 96. Many of our volunteers "urban camp" on floors of local Lutheran Churches. Individuals, church groups, families, senior citizens and Girl Scout Troops are some of

the people who join in the fun and assist in making the Rose Parade a time honored tradition for all. The Lutheran Hour Ministries has been proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Pasadena Rose Parade for the past 60 years.

It's that time of year! The Petal Pushers® are currently recruiting volunteers for the 2010 parade. The Petal Pushers® will be decorating 6 floats and assisting with floral preparations in the flower tent.

### DECORATING SCHEDULE:

**Detail Days:** Saturday, December 5th, 9 am – 5 pm  
Saturday, December 12th, 9 am – 5 pm  
Saturday, December 19th, 9 am – 5 pm

### Decorating Week:

Saturday, December 26th  
Day Shift: 9 am – 4 pm  
Evening Shift: 1 pm – 9 pm

Sunday, December 27th through Wednesday, December 30th

Day Shift: 8 am – 3:30 pm  
Evening Shift: 3 pm – 11 pm

Thursday, December 31st

Day Shift only: 8 am to completion (approximately 12 pm)

As a reminder, all volunteers must be 13 years and older (for insurance purposes).

All volunteers during Decorating week are required to have a Petal Pushers shirt (any year).

Please be as accurate on your count as you can. We will close shifts as we have enough volunteers (please email [reservations@petalpushers.org](mailto:reservations@petalpushers.org) any updated volunteer counts).

Thanks to the efforts of the Petal Pushers®, we are able to keep the only religious float in the Tournament of Roses Parade. You volunteers are a blessing! We look forward to working with you this year!

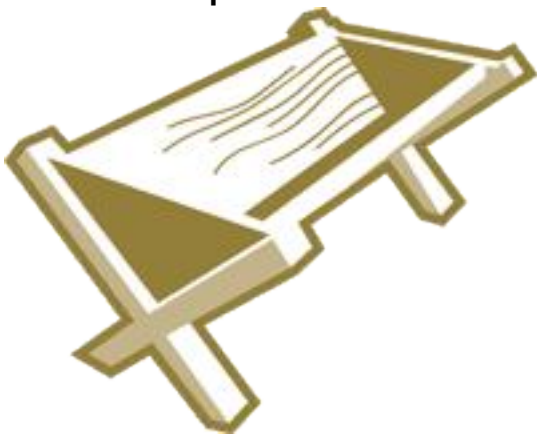
Register online today!  
[www.petalpushers.org](http://www.petalpushers.org)

Lynn Gast Petal Pushers® Chairman 949.458.0606



To find all you need to know to connect with the world of Lutheran youth ministry in the Pacific Southwest District and beyond go to [www.psd youth.net](http://www.psd youth.net). Here you will find not only officially organized youth events, such as the District Youth Gatherings for both High School and Junior High, but also to connect the diversity of ministries within the district to one another, sharing special events district wide or within a given region.

**Advent Anticipation**



In early church history, Advent began as a time of repentance. It served as preparation for Epiphany, which was the second most popular day for baptisms (after Pentecost). Common traditions during the Advent season, including wreaths and candles, add to the anticipation of Jesus’ birth. Another tradition is to leave the manger empty when you set up your nativity scene. Then, during Christmas morning celebrations, you can place the newborn baby Jesus in his “bed.”

**Bible Quiz**

Only one of the four gospels has the story of King Herod being fearful when he learned from the wise men that a special baby had been born. The wise men asked, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” Shocked and threatened by their query, Herod pretended to want to pay his respects to the newborn himself. He asked the wise men to return and tell him where the child was. Then he ordered his soldiers to kill every male child age 2 and under. That ancient holocaust is often called the Slaughter of the Innocents, or the Massacre of the Infants.

Which gospel contains the shocking story?

- A. Matthew
  - B. Mark
  - C. Luke
  - D. John
- (answer at bottom of page)



**Church Staff**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Pastor</b><br>Don Oldenburg   | <b>Music Director</b><br>Ken Culley                    |
| <b>Church Secretaries</b><br>Barbara Romo (mornings)<br>Adrian Pavich (afternoons) | <b>Early Childhood Educ.Center Dir.</b><br>Mindy Weiss |
| <b>Board of Directors</b>  |  |
| Chairman   | Steve Corum  |
| Secretary  | Daniel Eli   |
| Treasurer  | Aileen Rose  |
| Chief Elder  | Mark Ruhl  |
| Director of Education  | Ethel Bowman   |
| Director of Evangelism   | Gail Walters   |
| Director of Finance  | Len Leonard  |
| Director of Parish Services  | Tony Barrett   |
| Director of Planning   | Diane Goldberg   |
| Director of Property   | Darrell Peters   |
| Director of Stewardship  | Jerry Raithel  |
| Director of Ushers   | Alecea Duran   |
| Director of Youth  | Lisa Eckman  |

Answer: A (see chapter 2)

The Crossroad editor: Janet Grimmett

Advisors: Pastor Oldenburg & Gail Walters, Dir. of Evangelism

Articles may be sent via e-mail to [hccrossroad@gmail.com](mailto:hccrossroad@gmail.com) or placed in The Crossroad box in the office.

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