



CROSS AND CROWN LUTHERAN CHURCH
**CROSS AND
CROWNICAL**

Volume 40, Issue 11—November, 2007

Pastors: Newton W. Kerney • Laura Ziehl • Daren Erisman
Web Site: www.crossandcrownrp.org

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” Revelation 7:12

As our country approaches a day of Thanksgiving, the church has something to offer. As a church, we are very good at thanksgiving. When we gather for worship, we gather in thanksgiving for what God has done. In Word and Sacrament and hymn and prayer, we give thanks for the grace God so freely gives in our lives. Daily we lift up individual prayers of thanksgiving.

When my oldest daughter was about three, she and I would say “please and thank you prayers” at night. I asked her to think of one thing to ask God “please” for, and one thing to say, “God, thank you.” I thought one of each was sufficient for a three year old. She did not. There was usually only one please; “Please God, help Grandpa who is sick.” But her thank you list began with the butterfly she had seen that morning and went on through her snack at school and ended finally with the names of all of the people she loved. It took awhile. This is the church at its best. When the list of the things we are thankful for is so long, we can scarcely capture the depth of God’s care for us. And when this is true, our lives become a reflection of our gratitude.

Our stewardship is such a reflection. On November 4th, we will all bring our pledges for the work of God through this congregation. The pledges placed at the altar bring with them a trail of thanksgivings – our gratitude and our hope. Dr. Mark Powell is fond of saying that God’s call to stewardship is not intended as command -- but as promise. To live in a state of thanksgiving and to give up what is ours and trust God for the rest, is the blessing-life God intends for us. It is God’s promise to us, that trust in him will make our hearts glad.

As a congregation, we took such a leap of trust and faith as we began to dream of a Welcome Center. As the floor and walls of the Welcome Center go up around us, we have much to be thankful for in this season of Thanksgiving. It is a risk to step out in faith beyond where we believe our limits to be. And yet, it is precisely to this place that our God calls us.

A day of Thanksgiving is coming, but for the church, it is a way of living. May you know the joy and hope and trust and promise that come from life lived in Jesus’ name.

Peace,
Pastor Laura



Cross and Crown School News



Trick or Treat for UNICEF

While “Trick or Treating” on Halloween students asked for donations for UNICEF. Last year over \$400 was collected. This year’s goal is \$500. Do you have change in your pocket?

Thanksgiving Lunch

It’s Turkey Time! And the CCLS PTO is putting on another feast. The annual Thanksgiving Lunch for students and family will be held on Thursday, November 8th. Lunch will be served from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The presale price is \$5 per student, \$8 per adult and \$10.00 at the door.



See’s Candy

Buying candy for the holidays? Order your See’s Candy from a CCLS preschool or elementary student.

Preschool students are raising money for outdoor playground activities – order deadline 11/27

Elementary students are raising money for 5th grade outdoor education – order deadlines are 11/5 for Thanksgiving and 11/27 for Christmas orders.

Book Fair

The Fall Scholastic Book Fair will be here from November 13th through the 16th. This is a great source of books for children and adults. A family night will be held on Friday, November 16th. Don’t forget about Christmas, birthday or any day gifts.



Inservice/Thanksgiving Week

CCLS will be closed the week of November 19th for Teacher Inservice Days and Thanksgiving.

Conferences

It’s time for 1st trimester parent-teacher conferences. Middle School conferences will be held on the inservice days, November 19th and 20th. Elementary conferences will be held November 27th – 30th. School will end at noon on these days.

SCRIP

The school office has SCRIP for sale any day of the week. You can call ahead to check on the availability of the item you want. You can get a copy of the SCRIP order form on the school website www.crossandcrownrp.org as well as information about all of the rebate programs that the school participates in.

Margie’s Trip to Japan

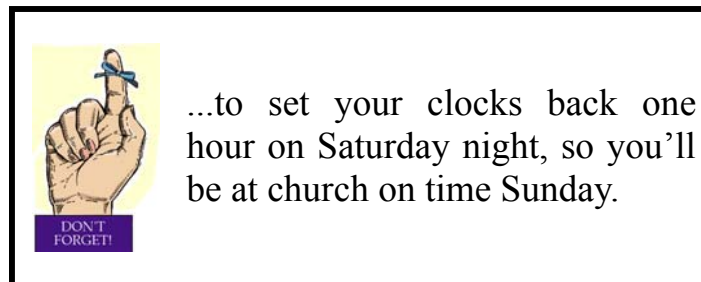
Margie traveled to Japan last month to take part in the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program Award. Are you curious about her trip? Check out her blog: <http://www.margiepugh.blogspot.com> and find out what she has learned about the education system, culture and people of Japan. In the spring Mrs. Pugh will share her experiences with all of the students and staff of CCLS.

Current Events



NOVEMBER 4 IS STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

This Sunday will conclude our annual pledge campaign for 2008. Please return your pledge card and time and talent booklet, so we may plan for the ministry of our church in the coming year. The time and talent booklet is just as vital to the health of the church as is the pledge card. Most of us can't do a lot, but we all can do *something* that will be of value to God's presence in this place, in our community, and in our world. Please consider both documents prayerfully and return them on Sunday Morning.



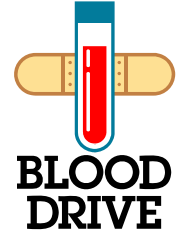
Mexico Mission Fundraiser Set for November 13

The Mexico Mission team is already gearing up for the 2008 Mission to Mexico. Their first fundraiser will be held at Mary's Pizza in Rohnert Park on **Tuesday, November 13**. If you haven't participated before, here is how it works. Twenty percent of all sales generated by this fundraiser on that day, either Dine-In, Take-Out, Delivery or Gift Card Purchases, will go to the Mexico Mission. **You must have a flyer for your purchase to count.** A flyer is included in this newsletter, and there are additional flyers on the table in the Narthex, if you would like to share with a friend or two. It's great fun to have the church "take over" Mary's for either lunch or dinner that day. Plan now to enjoy an evening out and help the Mexico Mission at the same time.



THE BLOOD DRIVE IS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Thank you to all who signed up in advance. If you did not sign up, there is still room for you. Just drop by the Fellowship Hall following the service, and the technicians will be there to assist you. The blood drive runs from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Next Saturday, November 10 Funeral Planning Workshop and

Advanced Care Planning for Health

If you missed the Funeral Planning workshop last June, don't worry! Another opportunity is coming your way **on November 10 from 9:30 a.m. to Noon**. More than 17 family units benefited from the last workshop, so don't miss this second opportunity for this important life planning event.

Pastor Newt will begin the day at 9:30 with a **Funeral Planning Workshop**, followed at around 11:00 a.m. by "**Advanced Care Planning for Health, Part 1**," to be presented by Pat, who has presented this workshop in various places throughout the county. "**Advanced Care Planning for Health, Part 2**" will be held on Saturday, December 1, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Please let the church office know if you'll attend, so we can have enough materials for all attendees.

Are You Concerned About World Hunger?

There will be an **offering of letters** in the Fellowship Hall **next Sunday between services** to urge our government leaders to be more aware of hunger issues. There will be paper, pens, addresses of national leaders and sample letters for your use in drafting letters to our elected officials. Thanks to Joan Sorensen for facilitating this project.

Current Events



**COME JOIN THE
CELEBRATION!
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18,
5:00 P.M.**

Can you believe that it's been a whole year since we celebrated the end of our Capital Campaign? A quick look at the front of the church gives us a concrete (no pun intended) way to see the results of our dream for this place. We will celebrate the many blessings that have been bestowed on us this year at our annual **Harvest Dinner on November 18 at 5:00 p.m.**

Our special guests will be all those folks who have joined the church this year.

Sign up on Sunday in the Narthex or call the church office if you plan to attend.

**ANNUAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE
Wednesday, November 21
7:00 p.m.**

Come and bring your friends and family as we gather to thank God and each other for our many blessings.

The offering for the evening will go to support NOAH as they help supply holiday dinners for those whom we serve. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will match up to \$500.00 of the funds donated for this purpose.

Pie and coffee will follow in the Fellowship Hall.



CCLS BOOK FAIR

The fall book fair will be held November 13-16 in the Fellowship Hall. There are great books for children and adults. This is a great way to get an early start on some Christmas shopping. Drop by any day between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to see what they have in store for you.



QUILT SALE

IT'S TIME FOR THE FALL QUILT SALE

Our Quilters, who provide so many lovely quilts for a variety of causes, will have their annual **Quilt Show and Sale on**

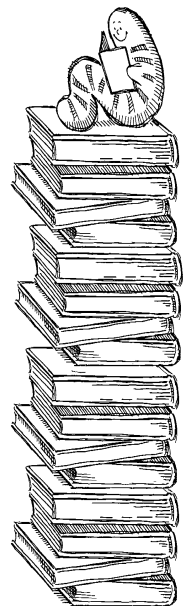
Sunday, November 18 and Sunday, December 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. They will have many kinds of quilted items for sale, perfect for your home or for gift-giving. Be sure to check them out when you come to coffee those two days.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The November pick of the Women's Book Club is: "The Bookseller of Kabul," written by Asne Seierstad; copyright - 2002. This story is an interesting, domestic account of family life in present day Kabul, Afghanistan. The author, a Norwegian journalist, went under cover for a month with this family, and her account of life behind a "burka" is unnerving!

The group will meet on Wednesday, November 28th (the week after Thanksgiving).

The book club will not meet in December - but look forward to our once-a-year book exchange, which will be held on Wednesday, January 2, 2008.



Order Your Name Tag Now

A new name tag order will be made in early November. If you would like to have one, please contact the church office to order yours.

Opportunities for Service

Walk-A-Thon 2008 “Race for Higher Education” Needs Your Help!



Dear Cross & Crown Families,

Start Up Your Engines! Cross & Crown is proud to announce their 1st Walk-A-Thon to be held on Friday, May 9, 2008. This year's theme will be, "The Cross & Crown Race for Higher Education". Our goal as Cross & Crown PTO is to continue to supplement our children's education in meaningful and long lasting ways. Our goal is to have each child raise \$100.00. That would mean \$16,000.00 for our school.

As with most independent schools, tuition does not fully cover the enrichment budget and our school relies heavily on endowments and fundraisers to maintain quality education for our children.

We welcome you to join us by becoming a sponsor. Possible ways in which we ask for your support are: A monetary donation and/or an item(s) for our raffle. You may drop off your donation at the school office or mail it to us at the address below, **attention: Walk-A-Thon 2008.**

Here are some benefits you receive when you provide a contribution:

- Tax deductions to the full extent allowed by state and federal law.
- Exposure of your business to families, friends and supports of our school through published acknowledgement, depending on your contribution choice.
- The knowledge that your contribution will directly benefit the students by providing funds for programs such as, Enrichment and Professional Development.

You may not know the names of all our students, but they'll carry thanks in their hearts for your kindness and generosity. Please send all donations in as soon as possible, but no later than February 1, 2008. While we may not be able to predict the future, through contributions we can create it!

Sincere Thanks,
Walk-A-Thon Committee

Cross & Crown Lutheran School PTO
5475 Snyder Lane
Rohnert Park, CA 94928



WANTED—CLEAN USED TOYS AND CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

These items are being collected to be distributed to the families of NOAH during the holiday season. Only items that are clean and in good repair will be accepted. **PLEASE DO NOT BRING THESE ITEMS TO THE CHURCH.** Call Joe Cornett (688-4418) if you have items to donate. He will pick them up and take them to the fire hall for distribution.

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE TO THE WELCOME CENTER OR MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

A small window to make a large tax-exempt charitable contribution

Congress has provided an excellent tax incentive for charitable contributions, but you must act soon. The Pension Protection act of 2006 allows individuals 70-1/2 and older to make tax-exempt charitable contributions up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA assets to an eligible charity. The transaction must be made by December 31, 2007, as it is not certain that provision will be extended.

This legislation is good news for many IRA account holders 70-1/2 and older because this qualified charitable distribution, or QCD, satisfies the minimum distribution rule. In addition, QCD monies are excluded from adjusted gross income and, therefore, are tax-exempt. Married couples may donate up to \$200,000, provided each spouse owns at least one IRA and can make a \$100,000 QCD.



You could benefit from a QCD if you fit into one of the following categories:

- You are a high income taxpayer who itemizes deductions. Higher income taxpayers have to reduce their allowable itemized deductions once their adjusted gross income exceeds a certain threshold (\$150,000 in 2006). By utilizing this tax incentive, the donated amount is not included in adjusted gross income, thereby permitting the taxpayer to take more itemized deductions.
- You donate a substantial portion of your income to charity. QCD's are not subject to the 50% of adjusted gross income limitation for charitable contributions. QCDs may allow you to give more than you otherwise could, while still receiving tax benefits for charitable contributions.
- You are a taxpayer who doesn't itemize deductions. A QCD is attractive to a taxpayer who otherwise could not deduct a charitable contribution because he or she takes a standard deduction.

While most public charities are eligible to receive QCDs, private foundations, donor-advised funds and split interest gifts (for example, charitable remainder trusts or charitable lead trusts) are not. Please talk to Wes Claassen, our Endowment Committee Chair (795-6810) your financial or tax advisor to see if this option is appropriate for you.

OUR FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF SEPTEMBER 30:

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget
Total Revenues	\$ 67,218.13	\$ 51,770.17	\$ 477,624.43	\$ 469,209.49
Total Expenses	<u>65,041.27</u>	<u>50,009.27</u>	<u>486,802.90</u>	<u>481,793.11</u>
Net Income	<u>\$ 2,176.86</u>	<u>\$ 1,760.90</u>	<u>(\$ 9,178.47)</u>	<u>(\$ 12,583.62)</u>

Holiday Candle

On Thanksgiving, we share a special meal with family and friends. Make this holiday candle as a festive centerpiece for your table.

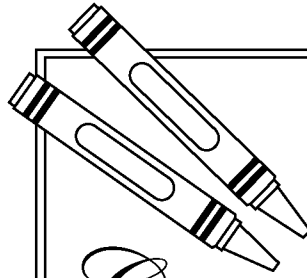
What you need:

- Paper towel
- One 8-oz. clear plastic cup
- Petroleum jelly (Vaseline)
- Paper or plastic disposable bowl
- About 8 oz. of a variety of dried beans, peas, corn, etc.
- Bottle of white glue
- Plastic spoon
- An 8- to 10-inch taper or dinner candle
- Adult to help



What you do:

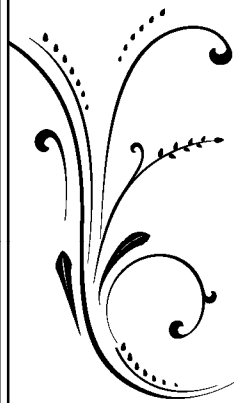
1. Using the paper towel, rub a generous amount of petroleum jelly on the inside of the cup (bottom and sides).
2. In a bowl, pour the dried-bean mixture.
3. Squeeze enough glue into the bean mixture to generously coat it. Stir the mixture with the spoon.
4. Spoon about half of the bean mixture into the greased cup. Then place the candle, with any plastic wrapping removed, into the center of the mixture. Next, fill the cup with the rest of the mixture. Smooth the top to make it flat, making sure the candle stays straight.
5. Squeeze extra glue around the hole made by the candle. Let the bean mixture dry completely, which could take a day or longer.
6. When the bean mixture is dry, gently pull the candle. Both the candle and beans should come out as one. (If they don't, pour more glue and wait another day.)
7. Place your candle on a small plate for a festive Thanksgiving centerpiece.



Just for KIDS

Counting Our Blessings

THANKSGIVING IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO "COUNT OUR BLESSINGS." GOD BLESSES EACH OF US DAILY IN SO MANY WAYS. SOLVE THE FOLLOWING MATH PROBLEMS. THEN WRITE THE WORDS ON THE NUMBERED LINES BELOW TO COMPLETE EPHESIANS 1:3, NIV.



- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 14 - 7 = ___ Father | 10 + 15 = ___ in |
| 10 + 9 = ___ heavenly | 6 - 3 = ___ to |
| 10 + 5 = ___ blessed | 12 - 6 = ___ and |
| 2 - 1 = ___ Praise | 6 + 6 = ___ Christ |
| 7 + 7 = ___ has | 18 - 9 = ___ our |
| 11 + 11 = ___ every | 22 - 11 = ___ Jesus |
| 12 + 12 = ___ blessing | 1 + 1 = ___ be |
| 10 + 10 = ___ realms | 7 + 6 = ___ who |
| 13 + 13 = ___ Christ | 2 + 2 = ___ the |
| 8 + 8 = ___ us | 10 - 5 = ___ God |
| 8 + 9 = ___ in | 4 + 4 = ___ of |
| 5 + 5 = ___ Lord | 9 + 9 = ___ the |
| 10 + 11 = ___ with | 10 + 13 = ___ spiritual |

“

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26		

”

EPHESIANS 1:3, NIV

Answer: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

About Our Folks



"I don't know where Cain and Abel went for Thanksgiving, Son. I just know they didn't go to Grandma's."

About Our Folks

If you attended the annual picnic on October 7, you had an opportunity to taste some wonderful pots of chili and vote on your favorite. The first place winner was Evelyn, and she has been so kind as to share her recipe with us. Bon Appétit!

Chili Con Carne

2 pounds lean round steak
 4 cups sliced onion
 4 garlic buds, minced
 2 tablespoons imitation bacon bits
 4 tablespoons chili powder
 1 tablespoon flour
 1 28-ounce can tomatoes, coarsely chopped
 Juice from canned tomatoes
 3 bay leaves
 1 tablespoon salt
 1 tablespoon oregano
 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
 2 teaspoons fructose
 2 cups canned red kidney beans (optional)

Cut all fat off meat and cut it in 1/2-inch cubes. Put the meat in a hot, cured, heavy iron skillet and brown. Then remove meat from skillet and set aside. Do not wash pan. Put onions, garlic and imitation bacon bits into a hot skillet and cook until onions are clear and slightly browned. Mix the chili powder and flour together in a bowl. Add enough juice from the canned tomatoes to make a paste. Add the paste to the onions and put in a large saucepan with a lid. Add the meat and the canned tomatoes with the remaining tomato juice. Simmer for 1/2 hour. Add the bay leaves, salt, oregano, red wine vinegar and fructose. Cover and simmer for 2 hours. If you are using beans, add them the last 15 minutes of cooking time.

Makes 8 servings.

A LITTLE TALK WITH THE FAMILY...

...about security. One of the ongoing problems around a facility as large as ours is the proper security for the building and the people who utilize it. As part of my afternoon routine, I go through the main part of the building turning off lights that were left on, securing doors that weren't securely closed (or closed at all) and closing windows that have been left open. Last weekend, one of our families came into the church on Saturday afternoon and found a homeless person making himself at home in the Fellowship Hall. When asked how he had gotten in, he said the kitchen door was unlocked so he thought there were people here. Not too long ago, I found a homeless man sleeping on the back pew in the sanctuary when I did my afternoon check. Luckily, Joe was still on the grounds. The school staff sometimes finds doors left unlocked or open when they

(continued on next page)

Prayer Requests

(continued from last page)

arrive at building at 7:00 a.m. **PLEASE** do not leave any lights on other than the emergency lights that are specifically marked to be left on. Don't unlock **ANY** door in the facility and walk away from it without re-locking it (the main doors by the office are often left open when groups are meeting in another part of the building. Anybody can walk in, and they often do.)

Please help us keep this facility a safe place for all of us. Thanks,
Barb