



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

Volume 40, Issue 12—December, 2007

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

As the season between Thanksgiving and New Year's gets incredibly busy, so does our church and worship schedule. Many activities have been planned to enhance the wonder and meaning of the season for our members and friends. Here is the schedule of church and school activities for December. Please use it to enhance your own worship as we prepare for the coming of the Christ child.



December 2—8:30 to 12:30 p.m. Quilters Quilt and Craft Sale
Quilts, quilted craft items and handmade jewelry by Beads by Bashi for yourself, your home, and gift giving.

December 4—7:00 p.m. CCLS K-3rd grade presents "Light of the World"

December 9—5:00 p.m. Annual Church-wide Christmas Dinner



December 11—7:00 p.m. CCLS 4-8 grade presents "Light of the World"

December 14—5:00 p.m. High School Youth Group caroling in San Francisco, followed by lock-in



December 16—9:15 and 10:45 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program

December 24—Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Services of carols and candles



December 25—10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship with Communion

Cross and Crown School News

Sports



The volleyball season ended with CCLS **8th grade** winning the league tournament and the **7th grade** claiming another league championship. Congratulations, teams!

Boys Basketball has begun for the CCLS Middle School.. Games and practices run through January at many locations in Sonoma County with the MSSSL (Middle School Sports League).

Music

Our Music Director is busy working with students in preparation for the annual Christmas Programs. Our **K-3rd grade students** will perform on Tuesday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. and our **4th – 8th grade students** will perform on Tuesday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m..



Christmas Vacation

CCLS will be closed for Christmas vacation from **Noon on December 21 through January 6**. School resumes on Monday, January 7, 2008.



January



Breakfast for Lunch

Day is Night

Students and staff of Cross and Crown Lutheran School will have breakfast for lunch on **Friday, January 18th** as they participate in "Day is Night". On this day students and staff will wear their pajamas to school and parents will serve hot pancakes, sausage and juice as a special lunch.

Pasta Feed

The annual **CCLS Pasta Feed** will happen this year on **Friday, January 25** in the Fellowship Hall. Food preparations will be overseen by a host of other volunteers. Tickets for this event will be available in advance as well as raffle tickets. Proceeds from this evening will benefit the Middle School special programs.



January 25

Activity Report

LATEST STEWARDSHIP UPDATE SOME STATISTICS AS OF 11/19/07

Amount of 2008 pledges received	\$ 380,918
Amount of 2007 pledges received at this point	385,168
Number of packets mailed out:	271
Number of pledges received to date:	106
Number of new pledges this year	104
Number of time and talent sheets returned	59



If you are among those who plan to pledge your financial and personal stewardship but have not yet returned your forms, please do as soon as possible. The budget process is beginning, and we need concrete figures as much as possible for 2008 planning.

Thanks to all who participated in the blood drive on November 4. Twenty-three pints of blood were collected.

Thanks to all who participated in the Mary's Pizza fundraiser for the Mexico Mission. A total of \$384.00 was raised as a result of your support. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is matching \$380.00 of the proceeds.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Bread for the World letter writing campaign last weekend. A total of 30 letters have been sent to our elected officials.



Thanks to the Board of Fellowship for their work in preparing the lovely Harvest Dinner that was served on November 18.

Thanks to Art and Myrna for furnishing the cake in commemoration of Christ the King Sunday on November 25.



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him

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 supporters 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



Opportunities for Service



CHRISTMAS, NOAH AND YOU

DECEMBER, 2007

It's almost time for Christmas! NOAH is planning a unique treat for all of the churches that belong. It was decided by the NOAH Board that everybody should have a chance to help with handing out food in December. So we split it up! Rather than one church having to do all the work that December entails, we will all do it.

The plan is that each church will take care of food distribution for just one week in December—three churches, three weeks. And with Christmas Day falling on a Tuesday this year, it would be difficult to purchase and hand out groceries during the week that actually includes Christmas. Ditto for New Years. So, NOAH will be shut down both weeks; the week of December 24 and the week of December 31. Activities will resume the week of January 7.

We drew straws and **Cross and Crown** ended up with **December 19**, the last week NOAH will operate in December. That means there will be only one day for us to shop in December, and one Wednesday to hand out Christmas groceries. Sign-up sheets for both the shopping day and the distribution day will be posted on the bulletin boards the first week in December.

Won't you help? It's for a wonderful cause. I'm hoping everybody can spare just one afternoon in the week before Christmas to help ensure that those less fortunate than us will get a few extra groceries to help tide them over during the Holidays. Hopefully the canned goods drive that Cross and Crown School had in November will help give the needy families an extra big food ration during Christmas week. We'll also be collecting food from Rancho Cotate High and several grade schools. **Why don't you set aside either Tuesday, December 18, or Wednesday, December 19 and brighten someone's Christmas through your help?** Or, if you can't help either of those two days, make a Christmas donation earmarked for NOAH. But please, do something!

Dick Noreen
Cross and Crown NOAH Coordinator

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS OFFERING



The Advent and Christmas special offerings this year will be split between the 2nd Mile giving for our Sierra Pacific Synod Ministries and the ELCA World Hunger Fund. These synod ministries include such organizations as Lutheran Social Services, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and the Night Ministry of San Francisco. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will match up the first \$600.00 of this offering.

Opportunities for Service

Women's Spiritual Growth Group

Invites all Women to join us in studying

“The Christmas Night’
by Billy and Ruth Graham
Beginning Sunday, December 2

Chronicles I
Beginning in January



Women's Retreat 2008

Healing the Heart – Embracing Life's Journey

Featuring
Rev. Eunice Pearson Webb

April 18-20, 2008

Save the Date!

More information and registration coming in January

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 your financial or tax advisor to see if this option is appropriate for you.

OUR FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF OCTOBER 31:

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget
Total Revenues	\$ 47,121.58	\$ 51,770.17	\$ 524,952.21	\$ 520,979.66
Total Expenses	<u>50,620.38</u>	<u>49,709.27</u>	<u>537,423.28</u>	<u>531,502.38</u>
Net Income	(\$ 3,498.80)	\$ 2,060.90	(\$ 12,471.07)	(\$ 10,522.72)

About Our Folks

• FLOWER CHART •



The **2008 Flower Calendar** is on the bulletin board outside the Church office. Sign up soon to get your preferred date for donating flowers. The cost is \$25.00, and you will be sent a reminder near the time you chose.

Sonoma County Adult and Youth Development (SCAYD), in conjunction with the Cotati-Rohnert Park Realtors Association, will be holding their **Third Annual Coat Giveaway**, providing warm winter coats for families in Cotati and Rohnert Park.

Friday, November 30

From 2:30 — 5:30 p.m.

Sonoma County Adult & Youth Development (SCAYD)

7345 Burton Avenue

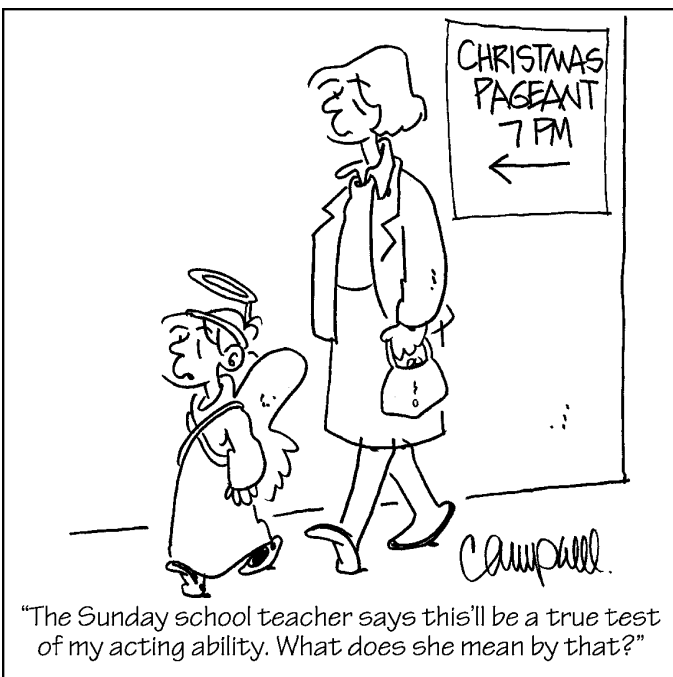
(Behind Mountain Shadows

Middle School — to the left of the gym)



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 if you have items to donate. He will pick them up and take them to the fire hall for distribution.



Our Stewardship Of Service

CHURCH AND SCHOOL WORKDAY REPORT

Thirty-six people signed in for the work day on 11/4
18 were "school" people – 11 of these people were
also members of our church.

18 were "church" people – 6 people were new
members!!

Spent \$54.93 in general supplies for cleaning and
painting tools. This does not include the cost for
the paint which our Facility Manager purchased
at Kelly Moore on our account.

Completed Jobs

Moved bark to garden

Washed hand grime from light switches in
elementary wing

Moved redwood bark

Touched up paint in church/preschool hallway

Cleaned sanctuary pews

Touched up green trim in elementary hallway

Cleaned glass in Narthex & Sanctuary

Sanded/Painted preschool benches

Washed/cleaned fellowship hall doors & pillars.

Painted fence area next to *Spivak's* office

Washed bathroom stall walls/doors-elementary

Moved garden boxes from back of classroom

Elementary School exterior doors and frames –
washed/cleaned both inside and outside

Jobs Not Completed

Clean dirt off elementary hallway pipes

Realign wooden gate latches behind

Pick up trash

Jobs to be completed by school parents in

2-4 weeks

Paint Fire Lanes – by 1st grade family

Trim Trees in Elementary Playground – by
Kindergarten family

Remove remainder of wooden fence slats – by
Kindergarten family

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED!!!