



CROSS AND CROWN LUTHERAN CHURCH

CROSS AND
CROWNICAL

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year! As many wise people have said, “the only thing certain in this life -- is change.” The New Year is upon us and we cannot stop it, or hold it back. Some people welcome change with open arms, others resist it with every fiber of their being. Likely you know which is true for you. And where is God in all of this? God is immutable, steadfast and faithful. His love is constant and unchanging. Though everything else around us would change, we lay our trust in God’s never failing love and faithfulness.

And were it not for this truth about our God, who could stand? One of the most consistent comments made to me by a person in pain or grief is, “were it not for God’s steadfast faithfulness, I could not bear this day.”

And too, there is another truth about our God that pulls at us and causes our hearts to quicken their beat. Ours is a God who says, “Behold, I make all things new,” the God that commanded Abraham to leave his home and the God that led the Israelites out of slavery and into the desert wandering. Ours is the God that altered the universe in the birth of child in a manger and called 12 disciples to drop their nets and follow him. Where would we go, if not for the God who pulls us forward? From where would our strength come, if not from the master potter who molds and strengthens us for the work that lies ahead?

Advent was a season of waiting. It was a time of anticipation for the revelation of God. Advent hangs in the air to see what will happen. Epiphany is a season of change. It is the time of the manifestation of what God has done. Salvation is on the move. The child is now grown. Now we see Jesus at his baptism and we will hear him proclaim that he is the one who has come to fulfill the prophet’s words. He will heal and cast out demons and dispel darkness with a word.

Ours is an immutable, mutable God. One whose steadfast love is unchanging, but who never ceases to change us. In this New Year, may you know God’s never failing love. And in this season of Epiphany, may the light of Christ touch you in ways that change you forever.

Happy New Year,

Pastor Laura

Cross and Crown School News

Day is Night

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



Breakfast for Lunch



January 25

Pasta Feed

The annual CCLS Pasta Feed will happen this year on Friday January 25th in the Fellowship Hall. Food preparations will be overseen by CCLS parent Don Clark and 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.

2008/2009 Registration

Registration for the 2008/2009 school year will begin the week of March 3rd. Church members receive a tuition discount. CCLS offers classes from preschool through 8th grade. Preschool is for children 2 years, 9 months to 5 years of age. Students entering kindergarten must be 6 on or before 12/2/08. Look for additional information in upcoming newsletters. If you have any questions you can call the school office at 795-7863.



Visiting Korean Students

Four Korean students, grades 3rd – 6th, are visiting for the month of January. These students are a welcome addition to the classrooms and playground during the short time that they are here.

Petaluma Bounty Assembly

CCLC members are invited to attend an assembly with CCLS grades 3rd – 8th. This assembly will be put on by Petaluma Bounty on January 28th to learn about the needs of our local community and how food systems are able to address the needs of low income households. The CCLS garden has contributed over 212 pounds of produce to Petaluma Bounty which distributes to food pantries, senior centers, and provides sustainably grown food to low income families at a reduced cost. For more information go to www.petalumabouty.org.



Coming Events



HOLIDAY BOOK EXCHANGE SCHEDULED

The **Women's Book Club** is meeting for a **Holiday Book Exchange on Wednesday, January 9th at 7:00 pm in Joan's home.** On this evening, we bring a wrapped book to give away, and celebrate this past year of book reading/discussions.

In addition, we will be meeting for our **regularly scheduled Book Club Meeting on Wednesday, January 23rd at Kelly's home.** We will be discussing Kelly's book pick, "Water For Elephants" by Sara Gruen. This book is filled with great stories of the unique American Circus Trains in the tough years of the 1920's and 30's; all from the perspective of a young veterinarian student, who cares for the Circus animals.

Mission Endowment Team News

The next workshop in our Life Event Series will be a session on Asset Giving. This will be held on January 12, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. The leader for this workshop will be Laura from the ELCA Foundation. She will be coming from Chicago and we know that you will find this helpful. This will be an educational event so please plan to attend. There will be an opportunity to sign up for this and if you have any questions, please call one of the team members.

As you may know, during 2007 we sponsored workshops on Funeral Planning and Health Care Directives. These were well attended and many participants expressed their appreciation. In addition we are planning workshops covering wills and estate planning. Watch for further announcements on upcoming events.

Your Mission Endowment team members are Wes, Gary, Rocky, Jeff and Art.

Due to the political situation in Kenya, Carly's trip has been delayed until the country is safer. The funds that have so generously been donated will be held until it is safe for her to make the trip.

Appetizer

Bunco

Camaraderie

Dessert

To build a welcoming community

We need others, more than a few!

Come catch up with old friends,

And meet a new person, or two!

Friday, January 18 at 7:00

Fellowship Hall

Sign-up in the Narthex

Bring an appetizer or dessert to share

Annual Meeting Information



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SET

The annual Congregational Meeting has been set for **Sunday, January 27, 2008**. Bring a finger food to share at **4:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**, and the meeting will convene at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please read the information on this page and following ones pertaining to the business of this meeting.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For the last year, our leadership has struggled with how to create a structure that will reflect how we currently try to fulfill our Mission, and allow us to do that in the future in ways none of us can imagine today. The question has been: How can we be organized to give permission to all of you to pursue your vision of God and enable you to use your time and talents to pursue your visions with the support and permission of this Congregation? If we ever expect to INVITE visitors and newcomers, we need to be able to INVITE, GROW and SERVE.

Our current structure requires a limited number of members to make a commitment to a minimum of specific times and specific tasks. It removes the majority of the Congregation from offering your time, talent, skills and vision, and limits the ability of those of you who offer to serve as elected leaders to actually offer your time, talent, skills and vision.

The "Continuing Resolution Proposal" on the next page is a step toward achieving a vision for our future. At the up coming Annual Meeting, we are asking you to approve this resolution. It will give your permission to officially allow your "elected leadership" to operate in ways more in tune with how we actually do the work of our Congregation. It will free many of the faithful stewards and leaders of this Congregation from unrealistic commitments of time and will allow the pursuit of visions, ministry and God's call. It will give your leadership team the time to carefully and prayerfully craft a major change to our "Governing Documents," our Constitution and Bylaws, in a way that will permit us to pursue our individual visions and call from God through this Congregation's faithful stewardship now and in the future. These changes needed to be approved by you, the members of the Congregation.

This is an early step, not the final step, in this pursuit of vision. It is offered to you after much prayerful and careful consideration and the work of many hands, minds, hearts and souls. Please prayerfully consider it and grant us your permission to proceed with this vision.

Yours in Christ,

Mark

Annual Meeting Information, continued

PROPOSED CONTINUING RESOLUTION REGARDING: REORGANIZATION OF THE STRUCTURE OF CROSS AND CROWN

IT IS HEREBY Resolved that: The Congregational Council and the Administrative Boards shall be allowed to realign and reassign Duties and Responsibilities within the elected membership of all Boards and the Council for at least one year.

During this time it is the express intent of this resolution and the Congregation, that the leadership of this Congregation develop a new operational structure which is better able to make use of the time and talents of the membership and be able to more effectively react to and anticipate changes in local and congregational demographics, technology and other influences on the life and health of the Congregation.

It is expected, but not required, that within, or at the end of the first year, appropriate amendments to the constitution and bylaws will be presented to the Congregation at the Annual or a Special Meeting of the Congregation, for discussion and approval, as required by the Constitution and By-laws.

If proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws are presented for approval at a Special Meeting of the Congregation and approved, then the elections of Officers and "Board" Members at the following Annual Meeting shall be consistent with the amendments. If the Amendments are presented at an Annual Meeting and approved, the elections shall be consistent with the Amendments. If they are not approved, the elections shall be as provided for by the Constitution currently in effect.

This Resolution shall remain in effect and operational until such time as the envisioned amendments are fully approved, adopted and become operational, or this Resolution is rescinded by a simple majority vote at an Annual or Special Meeting of the Congregation.

During the time in which this Resolution is in effect, any and all actions required or allowed shall be duly approved by the appropriate Church Leadership body, as it may be constituted or realigned or renamed in accordance with this Resolution. This Resolution shall not affect nor is it related to any portion or Chapter of the Constitution or related By-laws, except to the extent that certain Boards are specified in other sections and Chapters of the Constitution and By-laws, other than "Chapter 10 Organization" in specific rare situations.

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 choose to donate. **Two Sundays in January have not been taken, plus other spaces throughout the year. Check the calendar to see if your special day is available for you.**

Host Families Needed for SSU

The Sonoma State American Language Institute (SSALI) is looking for host families to host students who come here to study intensive English. Students come primarily from Asian countries to learn or perfect their English skills. They are generally between 18 and 25 years old. They pay you a monthly stipend of \$575 per month for room and board. If you live in Rohnert Park and think you might be interested, please call Barbara at 664-2742.

FINAL STEWARDSHIP RESULTS

Amount of 2008 pledges received:	\$ 402,162
Amount of 2007 pledges received:	385,168
Total Difference	\$ 16,994

Number of packets mailed out:	271
Number of families who pledged last year	106
Number of pledges received to date:	113
Number of new pledges this year:	26

Number of pledges increased:	37
Number of pledges decreased:	10
Number of pledges remaining the same:	40
Pledges last year but not this year:	14

Number of time and talent sheets returned:	62
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Thank you to everyone who pledged of your resources to further the ministry of Cross and Crown in 2008.



About Our Folks (continued)

Second Mary's Pizza Fundraiser Set to Benefit the Mexico Mission



Date: Tuesday, January 15
**For: Dine-In, Take-Out, Delivery or
 Gift Card Purchases**

Twenty percent of all sales generated by this fundraiser on that day will go to the Mexico Mission. **You must have a flyer for your purchase to count.** A flyer is on the inside back page of this newsletter (please be sure to take your address label off the cover, as a security issue) 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 a meal at Mary's and help the Mexico Mission at the same time.

Dinner Club Back by popular demand!

A welcoming community means
you know who's who in the pew
next to you...



How do we do that?
Like good Lutherans we eat together...
Sign up to join a dinner club

Dinner Club: 6 - 8 people who will meet once a
month in February, March and April at each
other's homes and share a meal and get to know
each other.

Forms available now on a table in the Narthex.
Open to all adults

Mexico Mission

MEXICO SERVANT-TRIP 2008 (Meeting Jan. 13)

***** YOU MUST HAVE A PASSPORT TO GO TO MEXICO *****

*“...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me...” (Mt 25:35)*

- What:** Build two simple houses for families in need with the guidance and expertise (over 25 years of experience) of Amor Ministries (www.amor.org).
- Where:** Tijuana, Mexico.
- When:** Spring Break, March 24-29.
- Who:** Workers, Camp-Crew Folks, Drivers, and Planners. This is meant to be an intergenerational event with anyone from the congregation invited, but due to the physical labor (building homes) and living conditions (tent camping) it is suggested that this event is best for 9th Graders and above, and mature 7th and 8th graders if they are accompanied by a parent. **NOTE: We will be limiting the group this year to roughly 33 people.** We need approximately 15 people per house and a few folks who would be willing to serve as a camp crew (at least part of the time) and we also need people who are not going to Mexico but would be willing to help with preparations. If you are able to help in any of these capacities, let us know.
- Cost:** Currently, Amor Ministries charges registration fees of **\$185 per person** so please keep this figure in mind as you budget for this trip. We will fundraise to cover the other costs such as food and travel, and we will fundraise to cover as much of the registration fees as possible, particularly for family groups and those in need. Scholarships are available. **We do not want anyone excluded because of cost.**
- Next:** Email Pastor Daren of your intention to go—or ask questions. **Get Your Passport now**—you must have it and it takes over 2 months to process.
- Put these dates on your calendar:**
- ✦ **Mandatory Meeting Sunday, January 13th at noon.**
Mexico Dinner and silent auction on Sunday, February 10th at 5:00 p.m.
 Invite your friends and family.
- Contact:** Pastor Daren at erismanziehl@sbcglobal.net (this is the best way to reach him).
- Help!** We need donations of food, tools, auction items, and money for the rising cost of gas and transportation. **Please consider funding one or more scholarships (\$185)**—you will not only impact the life of a family by giving them a “home,” but you will change the life of that youth or adult who has given themselves in service.

etc.

You're Invited!

Join us on Monday, January
28th at 1:00 pm in the
Sanctuary for an assembly
presented by
Grayson James of
Petaluma Bounty!

The assembly will address
hunger insecurities in our
community, the food system
and how local individuals,
businesses and our school
are part of the solution.

DID YOU KNOW...

...that the Sonoma County Election Commission will be using our Fellowship Hall as a polling place at the February 5th election. If you have previously voted at the high school, you'll be voting here on that day. The Fellowship Hall will not be available for any other activity that day or evening.

Order Your Name Tag Now

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

Prayer Requests

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 12-STEP GROUPS

In the past few weeks, we have had two requests from 12-step groups to use our facility for meetings. Part of the criterion for outside groups to meet here is that a church member be present, in case of emergency. A Narcotics Anonymous group has requested a Thursday night meeting space, and an Overeaters Anonymous group has requested meeting space on Saturday morning. If you would be willing to “sponsor” either group, please contact one of the pastors. This is a great way to share our ministry with the greater community, but we do need a responsible party on premises when they are meeting.

Women's Retreat Registration

Healing the Heart – Embracing Life's Journey



Our Speaker this year is Rev. Eunice Pearson Webb. She graduated from Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN with a B.A. in English and from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, with an M. Div. She served as an intern at Cross and Crown from 1991 – 1992. She has served congregations in Sacramento, CA; Prescott, AZ, and is presently at Community Lutheran in Las Vegas, NV.

Check in: 3:00 – 6:00, Friday, April 18, 2007
 Check out: 12:00, Sunday, April 20, 2007

The Whole Enchilada Plan: \$190

Registration and full payment must be received by Sunday, January 27, 2008 to qualify. (\$45 is considered a non-refundable deposit.)

The Fajita Plan: \$195

Register by January 27. Pay a \$45 non-refundable deposit at registration and 3 consecutive payments of \$50. To be paid in full by April 6, 2008.

Taco Plan: \$200

Register after January 27, 2008. Pay a \$45 non-refundable deposit. To be paid in full by April. 6, 2008.

Cost of weekend includes room, 5 meals, linens, towels and pillows.

Registration will begin Sunday, January 13, 2008

Questions? Contact Debbie.

REGISTRATION

Name _____	Deposit: _____
Address _____ _____	Plan Selected: _____
Phone _____	
Email _____	
Church Mailbox _____	Accessible room needed?
Roommate requested _____	____ Yes ____ No

Further information will both be requested and provided upon registration.

Original Recipes.



Original Shack.

CROSS & CROWN LUTHERAN CHURCH & Mary's Pizza Shack!

Pizzas, pastas, salads! Go to the **ROHNERT PARK**
Mary's Pizza Shack (101 Golf Course Dr. 585-3500)

On Tuesday January 15, 2008 and support
CROSS & CROWN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Twenty percent of sales generated will go to the church.

The fundraiser is for the whole day, but this flyer must be presented in order for the church to receive the donation. Make copies and pass them around. People are always looking for a good excuse to have homemade pizza & pasta!

**Available for Dine-In, Take-Out, Delivery or
Gift Card purchases.**

Sorry, no coupons, discounts or gift cards will be accepted for payment with this fundraiser. This flyer can't be distributed at the restaurant's entrance or in its vicinity. You Must Present This Flyer!