Sunday School Summit 2, Revisited

Sunday School Summit 2 was a big success! I didn’t think we could match the attendance we had at our first Sunday School Summit, but we were right there at 50 people for this second round of conversation about passing on a living and loving faith to our children. What was equally inspiring were the number of folks who showed up who attended the first Summit, as well as the new faces who joined in the conversation this time around. It made for a wonderful and varied mix of conversation. Sunday School Summit 2 also had a wonderful intergenerational dynamic at work. It is heartening to know that folks understand how passing on a living and loving faith to our children cannot happen without a living and loving faith active in our adults.

The coalition going forward on the Summit conversation is picking up speed and energy. In fact, continuing to attach “Sunday School” to the conversation limits what the Spirit is giving birth to. What is now apparent to me and so many others is that a conversation that began about Sunday school teacher recruitment has morphed into a conversation about spiritual transformation for all. I expect a new name to emerge that will give voice to the Spirit’s deeper movement within this conversation.

A word that we spent time talking about at Summit 2 was “formation.” We used John 10:1-10 as a centering text to explore what formation might look like at Holy Cross. In particular, we focused on John 10:10 – “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” We split into small groups to name those things that exist to steal and kill and destroy. The groups then examined the things that actually serve to bring abundant life into our home, church, and community. In some respect naming what robs and diminishes life was much easier than naming those things which bring about life. We likely spend too much time focusing on the things that are not presently working that we sometimes forget the things that are.

Naming what takes life versus what offers it is a crucial step in the process of spiritual formation. It is important to name something in order to take the crucial second step in spiritual formation. The second step in spiritual formation is claiming our reality. This is a terribly difficult thing to do. The various 12 step programs in existence today use different terminology for this step, but it usually has something to do with “acceptance.” Acceptance is a move beyond denial, which prefers to accept as truth any number of myths and illusions that help prop up a person’s life. Of course, they are just that – props. They are not foundational.

Once we name them, then claim our current reality, we are ready for a third and vitally important final step - the step of doing something about it. Making the decision to do something about our current situation takes an incredible amount of courage, but those who have taken this step, state that what they experience approaches what Jesus named as abundant life. We spent time naming the fact that Holy Cross is a long way from being a congregation that is truly on the path of spiritual formation. This is not a knock against past or current efforts to offer meaningful opportunities for spiritual formation at Holy Cross. It is simply naming that there is still so much more work to be done.

We also spent time claiming the brutal realities that stand in the way to spiritual formation. In affluent suburbia, here are some of the brutal realities facing our children today: bullying, cutting, suicide, eating disorders, depression, and the rise of early onset diabetes. Our adults are dealing with a preoccupation with grand homes; titles that signal life significance; luxurious vacations to mask superficiality; loneliness, and quiet desperation, depression and stress-related disorders; and high blood pressure, high cholesterol, acid reflux, and Type II diabetes.

Those gathered at Summit 2 did a wonderful job of naming and claiming our current situation. I then posed a single question to the group: Can we do something about our reality? More importantly, will we do something about it? We spent the second half of our time together exploring a topic that I have introduced in some detail in previous newsletter articles, namely the topic of the National Study of Youth and Religion, a 10-year study funded by the Lilly Endowment.

It is the largest and most comprehensive study to date on youth and religion. As a refresher I’d like to name some of the

continued on next page
essential findings from the study, and then share some of the insights that perhaps explain why the study revealed what it did:

Our youth are not hostile towards religion or church.

Our youth have a positive view towards faith. They simply don’t give it much thought. “It’s basically a nice thing.”

The church and the Christian faith are seen as feel-good experiences that really demand nothing of its adherents. In America, we have “divine whatever-ism.”

Only 1 in 12 American youth practice Christianity in a way where the faith is important in their lives.

As a matter of note, the aforementioned 8% reveal levels of personal vitality, success, and sense of purpose that Jesus would name “life.”

When considering the items above, a natural question that emerges is – Why are our youth this way? The answer may surprise you even as it surprised some gathered at Summit 2. It is not because of...

- an absence of youth ministers,
- an absence of really trained youth ministers,
- lack of funding or resources for young people,
- a lack of religious programming,
- baseball, softball, soccer, and the like.

It is because of us! We are the problem. Most youth mirror their parent’s faith. Some possible explanations of how we got to this point are:

- “Constantinian Hangover” (demise of Christendom and institutionalism)
- American individualism - the church shaking up with the American Dream
- Information-based Christian education
- The birth of the American teenager - Post World War II youth with free time and disposable income
- Churches have offered the culture a “diner theology” - a bargain religion, cheap but satisfying.
- We expose our children to the faith but do not teach them.

Thus, we became colonized by a foreign religion. There is not enough space or time to flesh all of this out now, but rest assured that it will be developed more fully in time. In the meantime, some steps that emerged from Summit 2 about what we must do for our children are:

- We must change.
- We must move from information to demonstration.
- We must reclaim the lost art of teaching our children as opposed to simple exposure to Jesus.
- We must invest in them.
- We must be role models for them.
- We must necessarily become transformed ourselves.
- We must remember the most difficult project in the world: the transformation of the mind.

More specifically, as we move forward, two groups are being formed: a group of five who, though small, will work for the whole, employing a laser-like focus on necessary next moves, and a group of 32 who will represent the critical mass necessary to create significant and lasting change to the way we understand and do spiritual formation at Holy Cross. Combined, these two groups will work towards an immediate strategy and vision for spiritual formation at Holy Cross to be shared and revised at key points along the way, the details of which will be explored as part of their planning process.

As I’ve said in print and in conversation, you are always welcome to join the growing coalition to pass on a living and loving faith to our children. The invitation still stands. To those of you who haven’t been able to attend a summit yet, but who have been praying for our work and our conversation, thank you. For the many prayers you will offer for our future gatherings, I thank you in advance. Your confidence in this process is inspiring!

Living and thriving in the love and grace of God,

Pastor John
From the Council President:

As we continue our journey to improve and enhance our education and youth program the council has reflected on what we can do to help. We are keeping up to date with monthly reports from the preschool. Council members were judges at the HCLS pie and chili-cook off and are encouraging members to support the preschool.

Another education summit was held on October 16th, with good attendance and an eagerness to improve our Sunday school and youth programs.

The Livermore Homeless Refuge which runs the winter shelter has asked Holy Cross to be one of the locations for this winter’s shelter. The Council is considering the request and will report back to the congregation.

It is a balancing act, trying to keep our church growing and flourishing. We are a congregation with many different people. The differences in age, gender, and background don’t separate us, but bring us together in a common understanding of God’s love. We care about the world around us and about each other. That caring helps us make decisions that follow Christ’s teachings. It’s not always easy to do the right thing, but in the end we do it. I am hoping that is what we will do with the Homeless Refuge project. It is my hope that we will open our hearts and our doors to people who are living outdoors in the elements and welcome them in to Christ’s home. I think we will because this is the kind of church that we are. We are always there to care.

“And Jesus said to him, ‘You lack one thing; go sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.’” Mark 10:20

In Christ, Sally

---

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Financial Report for September 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry Spending Plan Category</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Expenses/Outgo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Operating YTD</td>
<td>$23,842</td>
<td>$27,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Salaries, facilities, debt reduction)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benevolence</td>
<td>$1,455</td>
<td>$619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Miscellaneous - ie. World Hunger, ELCA Disaster, HCLS, etc)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Support, Month</td>
<td>$1,084</td>
<td>$1,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Synod)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We currently have a positive bank balance of $24,970. This balance is above our starting balance of $14,550. We were above our budgeted goals for Benevolences by $446 and above our goal for Mission by $251 for the month. Giving to Haiti was $648 under our monthly commitment by $602. Donations to Open Heart Kitchen were $390 over our monthly commitment by $90.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!
Crafty Ladies

2011 Holiday Bazaar

Friday, November 4
Saturday, November 5
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
and
Sunday, November 6
after Worship Service

Bazaar will be held in the Fellowship hall

Original Gifts and Décor • Stocking Stuffers
Ornaments • Jellies, Jams, Baked Goods
Grandma’s Attic

All handcrafted by members and friends of Holy Cross Lutheran Church

As in previous years, all proceeds from the bazaar will be used for unfunded projects at Holy Cross.

SEE YOU AT THE BAZAAR!
Citizens with the Saints is the theme for the 2012 National Youth Gathering taking place next July in New Orleans. This theme for the gathering blends the rich faith history, diverse culture and arts of New Orleans with the communion of saints that is present when God's people gather!

Many of our senior high youth are looking forward to an incredible experience with over 30,000 other Lutheran youth and adults next summer. Not only is this an inspiring opportunity for our youth, it is also a blessing to many of the residents of New Orleans.

Following is a quote from a New Orleans resident after the last National Youth Gathering:

The whole city is buzzing about the blessings that all the Lutheran Youth have brought to the City of New Orleans! Please pass the word to all the church members that they truly provided a beautiful witness of faith well lived! I know that their labor brought great joy to our Lord and the fruit of their labor will be enjoyed by His people of New Orleans for years to come!

Our planning at Holy Cross has already started. In the upcoming months, you will see fun activities and opportunities to help our youth make their way to New Orleans. We hope you will participate, have fun and help our youth as they gather with the saints!
2012 Envelopes

Several people have told me that they would rather not have a box of envelopes every year. These are usually members that make one donation each year or use Simply Giving to cover their financial commitment to Holy Cross. If you prefer to continue to use the weekly envelopes, it will be fine. I am just trying not to order too many. Thank you for your help by letting me know your preference by email to kendall.trautwein@sbcglobal.net. If I don’t hear from you, things will stay as they are now with envelopes.

Ken Trautwein, Financial Secretary

November is World Hunger Month.

Please remember our many hungry brothers and sisters throughout the world—from the starving in Pakistan to the drought-struck East Africans. As you give thanks for the plenty that you enjoy, make a generous donation to the ELCA World Hunger program. (Look for ELCA World Hunger envelopes in the rack on the back of the pew in front of you.)

Put your useable WARM COATS, BLANKETS and SOCKS for the homeless in the box in the Fellowship hall. As you know, Livermore now has a Homeless Refuge that accepts all people regardless of gender, race, color, creed, or religion. The refuge will be open from November 1 through April for homeless guests to spend the night when the weather forecast is for rain or for temperatures below 45 degrees. While Livermore’s homeless have a warm place to sleep in the worst weather, they still need protection from the cold and wet during other times. Donated items will be delivered to the refuge throughout the winter.

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY

Join us every Saturday at 7:30 am – 9:00 am at Holy Cross.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>1ST READING</th>
<th>2ND READING</th>
<th>GOSPEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOV. 6</td>
<td>Revelation 7:9-17</td>
<td>1 John 3:1-3</td>
<td>Gospel of Matthew 5:1-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV. 27</td>
<td>Isaiah 64:1-9</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 1:3-9</td>
<td>Gospel of Mark 13:24-37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

All of us at Holy Cross School would like to extend a “Happy Thanksgiving” to all of you. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve the community through our preschool ministry. We are very thankful for our wonderful, dedicated staff, and all the amazing children and parents who attend our program.

Once again Pastor John has taken on our Godly Play program. It is great to have this partnership and connection with the church. The children love hearing the special stories he tells them and the special touch he adds to the stories.

On October 3rd we were able to begin our Lunch Bunch program, which complements our preschool classes for the four- and five-year-olds. Lunch Bunch is offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm. The idea is to offer enrichment activities and a communal lunchtime experience (lunch brought from home) for those children enrolled in our morning program. Our teachers have been very flexible in scheduling, which allowed the program to move forward.

Our 4-year-olds and Jr. K took a trip to the Pumpkin Patch at G & M Farms, while our three-year-olds got to pick out a pumpkin from our very own HCLS Pumpkin Patch, complete with hay bales and cornstalks which were donated by G & M Farms.

Our Fall Festival was held on October 19. We had a great turn-out and great food. Thanks to our fundraising chair, Stephanie Cesaretti, and our parent representative chair, Lisa Valverde, it was a huge success. This year families and church members got to show off their culinary creativity with our chili cook-off and pie contest. We raffled off nine baskets and nine wreaths that the children made. I need to extend a special thanks to several people: to G & M farms for their donation of hay bales, corn stalks and pumpkins; to our awesome judges - Brooks Bagby, Marilyn Carstensen, Dave Jones, Leslie King, Ken Trautwein, AJ Vasquez and Diane Yang; and last, but not least, to the HCLS Board and Staff for their hard work and all they do to support our school.

HCLS See’s Candy fundraiser will be in November, just in time for holiday gift giving. Delicious dark and milk chocolates are the perfect gift for friends, family, and business acquaintances. (Why not order a box for yourself prior to those New Year’s resolutions?) Look for order forms in mid-November.

Wishing you and yours Thanksgiving blessings,

Jenifer

BOOK CLUB

November 9: The Greater Journey (Americans in Paris) by David McCullough
December 14: In the Garden of Beast: Love, Terror and an American Family in Hitler’s Berlin by Erik Larson

You are invited to join us in the music room the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am.

Midweek Forum Bible Study group

We are two weeks into a 12-session video series entitled First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God. Presenters are Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan. This study is filmed on location throughout Galilee and Jerusalem. If you’ve missed the first two sessions, join us for session 3. All are welcome. We meet at 10 am on Wednesdays in the music room.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| - Crafty Ladies Set up  
- Stephen Ministry  
- Music Team | - AA Meeting  
- Crafty Ladies Set up | - Crafty Ladies Bazaar  
- Young at Heart  
- Mom’s in Touch  
- Venture Crew | - Men’s Bible Study  
- Crafty Ladies Bazaar | - Men’s Bible Study  
- Crafty Ladies Bazaar | - Men’s Bible Study  
- Bird family event  
- Rauch set up |
| 6      | 7      | 8       | 9         | 10       | 11     | 12       |
| - Worship Celebration  
- Crafty Ladies Bazaar  
- Boy Scouts | - Crafty Ladies Clean up  
- Stephen Ministry  
- Music Team | - Book club  
- Stephen Ministry  
- Music Team | - Mid-week Forum  
- AA Meeting  
- Crafty Ladies final meeting | - Young at Heart  
- Mom’s in Touch | - AA Meeting | - Men’s Bible Study  
- Bird family event  
- Rauch set up |
| 13     | 14     | 15      | 16        | 17       | 18     | 19       |
| - Worship Celebration  
- Daisy troop meet  
- Rauch event | - Boy Scouts | - Finance meeting  
- Music Team | - Mid-week Forum  
- AA Meeting  
- HCLS Holiday Boutique  
- Boy Scouts | - Young at Heart  
- Mom’s in Touch  
- Venture Crew  
- Church council | - AA Meeting | - Men’s Bible Study |
| 20     | 21     | 22      | 23        | 24       | 25     | 26       |
| - Worship Celebration | - Boy Scouts | - Music Team | - Mid-week Forum  
- AA Meeting | - Mom’s in Touch  
Happy Thanksgiving | - AA Meeting | - Men’s Bible Study |
| 27     | 28     | 29      | 30        |          |        |          |
| - Worship Celebration  
- Daisy troop meet | - Boy Scouts | - Music Team | - Mid-week Forum  
- AA Meeting  
- Choir |          |          |          |

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:**
Meets every Sunday at 11:00 - 11:45
Nov. 6, 13, 20, and 27

**JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY:**
Nov. 6  10:45 am  Meet in youth room  
Nov. 13  10:45 am  Meet in youth room

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY:**
Nov. 6  10:45 am  Meet in youth room  
Nov. 13  10:45 am  Meet in youth room
Let us Help you with Thanksgiving Dinner!

Our Senior High Youth will be taking orders for Thanksgiving pies on two Sundays, November 6 and 13.

Delicious apple, pecan, and pumpkin pies will be prepared and available for your pickup on Wednesday, November 23 in the Fellowship Hall.

The cost is $10 per pie and proceeds will help our youth attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer.

Please contact Sharon Lemmon – 454-9876 or Kareen Knowles – 443-4104.

In December, Holy Cross will again be collecting donations of NEW BABY ITEMS, AS WELL AS CASH, FOR BUNDLES OF JOY.

Further information in December Crossroads and bulletins.

Greetings all,

Keeping Connected is the recurrent theme used for all our communications. To be able to keep everyone connected, it’s time for all you to speak up with what’s happening in your committee or council seat, group or ministry, during church and after church. We want everyone to have the opportunity to participate in all the events and groups and meetings when possible. If it’s not on the calendar, it’s not going to be mentioned. So I ask all of you to please send any and all announcements to me by each Wednesday afternoon to be able to include it for the bulletin, scrolling announcements in service, as well as additions to the weekly Keeping Connected card.

Questions? Comments? See me or Pastor John.

Thank you all for your service!

Kate

$ Money, $ Money, $ Money

Your donations to Holy Cross help do some wonderful things! They support Back Packs, Open Heart Kitchen and the Tri Valley Haven locally; ELCA World Hunger, Haitian Timoun and Disaster Relief globally; and, of course, pay to sustain our Church with all of its needs. There are many ways to make contributions. The most popular way now is through use of weekly envelopes. A second is through the use of on-line giving. The programs available are through “Simply Giving”, where periodic withdrawals are made from your account and deposited directly to HCLC and through “Paypal.” (I recommend that Simply Giving be used because of much lower costs.) Third, an annual donation may be made. You can do this on-line through a link to Paypal that can be found on our web site. Some people prefer to donate stocks. We also have an endowment fund, if you wish to make a more permanent gift that will continue to give over time.

Please contact Ken Trautwein, our financial secretary, for guidelines about Stock donations and other questions you might have.
Please keep Holy Cross informed about births, deaths, weddings, graduations, hospitalizations, or a special recognition in your household by calling the church office at 447-8840.

Friends & Family in Our Prayers

Dan Ben-Aderet, friend of Carolyn Belak
Don Brink, former member
Bob Colombo, friend of Jones, Schaffers & Robsons
Arlene Dwyer, mother of Barbara Bell
Dave Jensen, Brother-in-law of Art & Donna Pontau
Coleen & Kyle Van Meter, daughter and grandson of Ruth Harder
Danielle O’Mahoney, friend of Diane and Carolyn Belak
Blanche Pontau, mother of Art
Sierra Schoefer, granddaughter of Marilyn Carstensen
Jeff Shaw, friend of Sally Trautwein
Max Woods, cousin-in-law of Ken Gann
Larry Zinser, husband of Barbara

Military Deployment

Shaun Tighe-Barrios, USA
friend of Marcia Sizemore, deployed to Iraq
Joshua Saucier,
grandson of Jean & Dick McCabe, deployed to Afghanistan

The following members represent you on the Council:

President: Sally Trautwein
Vice President: Bill Miller
Secretary: Joyce Correia
Treasurer: Audrey Sato
Financial Secretary: Ken Trautwein
Brooks Bagby
Alan Brooks
Marilyn Carstensen
Pat Cheney
Eric Jurgenson
Bob Pierson
Donna Pontau
Diane Yang
Michelle Kuneli
(youth representative)
IN celebration

NOVEMBER Anniversaries

Alan & Kathy Brooks  11/15/1969
Tim & Jeanette Kuneli  11/19/1983
Roberta & Nolan Bonner  11/20/1954

NOVEMBER Birthdays

2  David Woolsey  10  Daniel Pierson  21  Carol Myers
6  Barbara Anderson  11  Weston Everett  22  Colin Schmidt
   Bryan Jensen       12  Sherry Miller    25  Gary Potter
   Sue Tripp          13  Enid Schleif     26  Benjamin Roller
 7  Bonnie Hahn       15  Alicia Diebner  26  Kortni Lawrence
   Stefanie Olson     17  Bonnye Burns  27  Jim Belak
   Sarah Wilcox       18  Bob Kehl       27  Alan Brooks
 8  Sara Bell         20  Phyllis Farrell 29  John Bost
 9  Kathie Lindman    21  Ryan Knowles  30  Margaret Olsen

Don’t forget to place your donations of NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS in the barrel in the Fellowship Hall. There is a great need for these items at both the Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry and the Interfaith Sharing Food Pantry.
The Ministers: The people of Holy Cross
Senior Pastor: John Preston Bost
Office Manager: Kate Valley
Director of Music: Susan Peterson
HCLS Director: Jenifer Montgomery
Organist: Susan Peterson
Crossroads Production: Cheri Brewster
Crossroads Editor: Ronnie Kiefer
Custodian: Ryan Knowles

CROSSROADS Deadline:
Please submit articles for next month’s issue by
November 15, Tuesday.
Email Cheri Brewster at brewsterdesign@sbcglobal.net
or bring to the church office.

Remember to send your change of address or email to
admin@holycrosslivermore.org or call 925.447.8840

1020 Mocho Street, Livermore, CA 94550
Phone: 925.447.8840 | FAX: 925.447.4937
www.holycrosslivermore.org