

CROSS CURRENTS

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

Read, Hear, Study, Believe, Trust, and Stand on the Word of God! Pastor Chu

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EPIPHANY

"Ligonier Ministries sponsored its 2016 State of American Theology Study by Life-Way Research to measure the current theological awareness of adult Americans [survey of 3000 Americans]... identified specific doctrines and heresies they wanted to test... [and] focused on six key doctrinal areas [including]... specific areas where Americans differ from historic and orthodox views."

The six categories are: God, Goodness and Sin, Salvation and Religious Texts, Heaven and Hell, Church, Authority.

Some of the findings (shown in the table at the end of this article) should give us pause — especially the beliefs of some of those who claim to hold "Evangelical beliefs" — and remind us of the tremendous need for Christians to be vigilant and diligent in reading, hearing, and studying the Word of God in order that our faith in Christ might be fed, strengthened, and safeguarded against heresies.

Paul's warning in his second letter to Pastor Timothy in the first century warns and calls us to attend faithfully to the Word of God: *³For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.* (2Timothy 4:3-4).

Against such tendencies of the sinful and rebellious heart, Paul's command and encouragement to pastors today are the same as to Pastor Timothy: *¹I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.* (2Timothy 4:1-2)

As we start a new year, set aside time each day, even if only a few minutes, to read and, by its grace, trust and stand firm on God's Word and its power and efficacy to guard against and correct false teaching and false beliefs: *¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.* (2Timothy 3:14-17)

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Agreeing with Statement:	General	Evangelicals
Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God.	52%	71%
The Holy Spirit is a force but not a personal being	56%	
God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism and Islam.	64%	48%
Even the smallest sin deserves eternal damnation.	19%	47%
People have the ability to turn to God on their own initiative.	79%	82%
By the good deeds that I do, I partly contribute to earning my place in heaven.	52%	39%
The Bible was written for each person to interpret as he or she chooses.	51%	30%
An individual must contribute his or her own effort for personal salvation.	77%	
Heaven is a place where all people will ultimately be reunited with their loved ones.	60%	64%
Worshiping alone or with one's family is a valid replacement for regularly attending church.	59%	42%

<http://thestateoftheology.com/assets/downloads/2016-state-of-america-white-paper.pdf>

	JANUARY BIRTHDAYS
7	Brittany O.
14	Dennis L.
15	Josh C.
16	Christl R. Drew O.
17	Ricky L.
22	Pat K.
24	Wilma B. Bill R.
26	Grace G.
27	Britney L.
28	Marc A.
31	Bob O.
	JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES
10	Peter and Liz A.



Photo of Pastor ministering to Sue S. at her Assisted Living Home.



Epiphany

January 6, 2017

January Choir by Diana Meux

The choir will rehearse on **Jan. 10, 17, & 31.**

There are **NO** rehearsals on **Jan. 3 or 24.**

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM
OUTREACH GROUP—Pat Easby

Our next Outreach † to feed at the shelter will be on the 4th Sunday in January!!



(☐ The 5th SUNDAY



will be the
CONGREGATIONAL POT
LUCK

January Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday morning on the January 8, 15 and 22.

Wednesday night at 7 pm on January 11, 18 and 25.

Women's Bible Study on Monday at 12:30 on January 9, 16, 23 and 30.

CONDOLENCES

A former Holy Cross member, Elizabeth Blaubach, was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer and passed away. Her memorial service was December 22. We offer our prayers for her family as they mourn her passing.

January 2017 - What's Happening with the WoHC? by Joyce Liebe, President

Happy NEW Year! December was busy for the Women of Holy Cross. We had two special events. The first was our **Christmas Dinner at La Veranda** on 12/5. The good news is we had 37 women sign up! The bad news is the restaurant event planner forgot to update our final count (& she was off that evening). I walked in to find the waiters trying to fit 37 in a room that seats 25-30. Oh bother! Even though 9 of us sat in another room to eat, everyone stayed positive & had a wonderful time visiting with each other & enjoying a delicious meal. We all gathered in the smaller room for our white elephant gift exchange & singing (the tight space did not detour some from taking gifts from others!). At the end of our evening, the restaurant had no other customers, so we all gathered to sing Silent Night in the main dining room & said our goodbyes. THANK YOU to all the women who made this Christmas tradition a joyful one!

On 12/9, Grace Gin, Annaliesa Liedtke, Pat Easby, & myself met at Melarie Seidel's home to **wrap our Angel Tree gifts**. As usual, Melarie had everything ready for us - we wrapped, labeled, & put bows on all the gifts. After 2 ½ hours, we were all done & Melarie's front room had dozens of beautiful packages. Mike & Melarie brought all those packages to church on Sat., 12/10, for our **Angel Tree pickup**. See separate article with details. NOTE: as mentioned earlier, we had Angel tree BBQ money left, so we contacted the CA. Angel Tree Regional Office. They have 176 children in Utah without a church sponsor (they say many times the families in Utah are Mormon & will not respond to another church for ministry). We sent \$950 to the Regional Office, where they will in turn purchase & send gifts to the children in Utah. THANK YOU to all Holy Cross members who helped us complete this wonderful outreach activity!

Upcoming WoHC activities:

Monday, 1/23, General Meeting & Bunco, 6:30pm, Sue O'Malley's home. Plan to join us for another annual tradition: Bunco, Outreach, & Dessert. We will be collecting gently used or new items for Lutheran Social Services "Sweet Home Baskets". These items are given to foster kids as they move out on their own. Please see flyer posted on WoHC Bulletin Board for details. Donation Box is in Parish Hall (or bring the Sue's on 1/23). Please sign up now.

Sunday, 1/29, 5th Sunday Congregational Potluck & Concord PD Active Shooter Presentation, 11am, Parish Hall. It's the first 5th Sunday of 2017 & we are having a potluck! While we all are gathered to share our family favorites, we invited Sgt. Mike Roberts, Concord Police Dept., (yes, Don & Marlene's son) to speak about a serious issue these days - safety! Sgt. Roberts will speak first, then we will share our potluck lunch. Look for another signup sheet for this event - so we know how many tables to set up.

Activity details are also on our Bulletin Board & Sunday Bulletins. As always, please feel free to contact me or any of the Board if you have questions, comments, or suggestions.



Angel Tree Story

by Joyce Liebe & Melarie Seidel



On Sat., Dec. 10th we had our Angel Tree gift pickup. This year, due to the lower number of children assigned, we kept the event simpler, offering homemade cookies, juice & coffee (& Christmas music). Mike & Melarie, Pastor & Kimberly, plus Mike & I greeted those that came. Melarie was anxious to meet D., J.'s grandmother (J. is 9 years old & goes to school in Concord). They had spoken on the phone several times & she had asked, if, in lieu of gifts, could we help pay for J.'s basketball camp. Since we had the money we honored she request. What a pleasure to meet D. & J.! As we sat & visited, we learned that J. plays in a local Basketball program. What a polite, soft-spoken boy. He was so appreciative of the cookies & juice. His face lit up when we discussed basketball (& other sports). D. made us feel like family, telling stories of herself, her church, & J.. She whispered to him to make sure to thank us. He went around to everyone, saying thank you & giving us a hug! I asked if I could take a picture & do a little write up for our church bulletin. They were happy to do so (look at J.'s smile!). This encounter was a highlight of our Christmas!

Thanks to everyone who helped with Angel Tree!

WoHC January General Meeting, BUNCO, & Outreach Night

Monday, 1/23



Help a formerly homeless young person ages 18-24, or family move into an apartment. When our youth and families come to LSS, they often come with only a grocery bag full of possessions. They have renewed hope with their new housing, but are walking into an empty apartment with no income to buy household supplies. 30% of whatever income the client has – usually less than \$750 – must be paid out in rent. This leaves very little money left for food and basic needs – about \$17 per day. **Sweet Home Baskets** make them feel welcome and shows that others care.

With your assistance, this will ease the burden as they finally have a place to call Home, Sweet Home.

Items needed, New:

Laundry Soap
Hand Soap
Cutting Board
Brillo pads
Toothbrushes and toothpaste
Bar of soap
Sponges
Dish soap
Paper towels
Toilet paper
Shower curtain and rings
Shampoo and Conditioner
Tinfoil and saran wrap

Can be gently used:

Plates and bowls
Cutlery
Towels
Measuring cups and spoons
Silverware Holder
Can opener
Blankets
Small appliances
Dishes
Small skillet and saucepan
Glassware
Coffee mug

WoHC Christmas Party – photos on following pages

On Monday 12/05/2016, the Women of Holy Cross met for their annual Christmas Dinner at La Veranda restaurant in Clayton. It was so fun to see new faces of families & friends, and see folks dressed up in Holiday clothing!

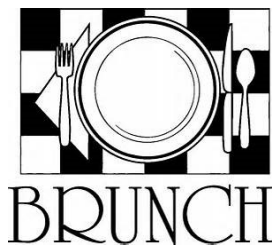
I thought the food was delicious and there was plenty to eat, all at a reasonable price. Joyce Liebe brought her decadent rum cake for dessert. After dinner, we participated in a playful White Elephant gift exchange; for some reason, everybody kept stealing my gifts, ha ha! The night ended with a round of Christmas Carols.

A big thanks to Joyce for organizing and Melanie Seidel for arranging the White Elephant gifts.

– Ina Dekker

WoHC Jan. Event-Everyone's Invited

Sunday, Jan. 29, 5th Sunday
Congregational Potluck Brunch &
Concord PD Active Shooter Presentation,
11am, Parish Hall. It's the first 5th Sunday
of 2017 & we are having a POTLUCK
BRUNCH! While we all are gathered to
share our family favorites, we invited Sgt.
Mike Roberts, Concord Police Dept., to
speak about a serious issue these days –
safety! Sgt. Roberts will speak first, then
we will eat. SEE YOU THERE!

**NIFTY FIFTY SENIORS DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The Nifty Fifties December 15 outing was in our beautifully decorated parish hall. The table settings were spectacular with wreaths, bells, candles, and many personal Christmas treasures. Emceed by Marv Kreitz, the program was devoted to miracles in our lives. Marv shared two of his own experiences to begin.

Christmas carols were sung and the German contingent treated us with the rousing Kling, Glocken, Klingelinge-ling and on to Oh Tannenbaum and Silent Night.

Lunch, prepared by Melarie Seidel, Inc. was delicious.

After lunch, Annaliesa Liedtke read Jack Mortenson's annual Christmas message. Bill Luker read a Christmas miracle story of Santa visiting a soldier, heroic and thankful for all. Bill Morfeld told of his miracle in the sky. Annaliesa Bockenbauer read the poem "Star of Bethlehem" in German, and translated it later.

Pastor Chu gave us a lesson on Christmas in Hong Kong and gave the blessing.

After singing "God be with You 'til We Meet Again", we adjourned. Hope to see you at this festive heartwarming event next Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

NFS JANUARY OUTINGS

The first is on **Thursday, January 5th to Peter's Steak House** located in Isleton CA. Isleton is an old town that was established during the gold rush period of 1849. Actually the town was at first just a part of the Delta. When the Chinese immigrants lured to CA for the gold stayed on to begin the hard task of dredging and constructing levees to hold back the water and when the water was pumped out islands were formed, one of which was what an Isleton resident now call home. When you come off Highway 160 which follows the Sacramento River you go down into Isleton and are very much aware that you are going below the level of the river. I have always been fascinated by the Delta, coming from Minnesota where they have thousands of lakes and islands, but never build below the water level. The town of Isleton consists of old buildings with metal sidings as a precaution against fires much the same as Lock. Peter's Steak House serves all lunches with a choice of a green salad or steak fries. The fish and chips and Prime Rib are excellent and of course they have a host of sandwiches to choose from. I'm looking forward to the drive through the Delta and lunch at Peter's Steak House. Meet at Church at 11:45 leave at 12:00. Lunch is as always planned for 1:00 Sign up in the social hall so we know how many to plan on...Bring a Friend.

Our 2nd outing is again on a **Thursday, January 19th to The New Mecca Mexican Restaurant** located at 324 Railroad Ave. Pittsburg, CA and is at our usual time of 1:00. The Mecca Restaurant has been a favorite place for Mexican food since early in the 1960's. They say it has been remodeled but I can't say that it looks remodeled to me. But they do have excellent Mexican food. I like having a Chile Verde Burrito with just pork in the burrito which is what you get at Mecca's not with a lot of rice and beans. When you first sit down they bring you a bowl of their famous bean dip and a bowl of salsa along with a big bowl of chips. It really sets the stage for a great meal. I usually have the Marcela Special (\$9.75) which is a Beef Enchilada and a Pork Burrito which comes with refried beans cheese and rice. I ask for a double refried beans as I don't care that much for the rice with my Mexican meal. I do like a beer though and I get a Bud Light which is \$3.50 for a total of \$13.75. So with tax and 20% tip it comes to about \$18.00, really hard to beat in this day and economy. Meet at church at 12:00 leave at 12:15. Sign up in the Social Hall. Get out and have some fun with you Christian Friends. Marv Kreitz

DECEMBER IN PICTURES



Editor's Note: Electronic recipients will receive extra pages of pictures after Jan. 1. Happy New Year.



JANUARY 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Mite Box/Hat Sunday 9:30am Worship/ Communion 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	2 HOLIDAY - Ofc. Closed 7p Scouts	3	4	5 11:45a NFS Peter's Steak House	6 Epiphany	7 9am Un-decorate Sanctuary 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
8 9:30am Worship 11a Sunday School/ Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	9 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 2:30p WoHC Brd Mtg. 7p Scouts	10 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	11 1p Senior Brd 7p Bible Study	12	13	14 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
15 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School/ Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	16 MLK DAY HOLIDAY - Ofc. Closed 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 12:30p Bridge 6:30p Church Council	17 6:30p Elders 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	18 7p Bible Study	19 12:00p NFS New Mecca Mexican Restaurant	20	21 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
22 9:30am Worship 10:30a Outreach Sunday 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	23 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 6:30p WoHC General Meeting 7p Scouts	24	25 7p Bible Study	26	27	28 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
29 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11am 5th Sunday Potluck & CPD Talk 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	30 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Scouts	31 7:15p Choir Rehearsal				

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Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka
Trustees: Allen Brueckner, Bill Luker
Elders: Bill Riechman, George Oatis, John
Coyne; Eric Roman, Herb Neumann

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Office Hours: M-F 9 AM-1:00 PM

Worship Schedule:

Sunday Service	9:30 AM
Communion	1 st , 3 rd , and 5 th Sundays
Adults Bible Studies	11AM
Sunday School	11 AM

Week Day Bible Study Schedule:

Monday (Ladies)	12:30PM Conference Room
Wednesday	7:00PM Parish Hall

Choir Rehearsal:

Tuesday	7: 15PM-8:45PM
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Outreach:

Fourth Sunday of each month after service

Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday
Feb. 2017 Cross Currents: Jan. 22, 2017