

CROSS CURRENTS

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

Actions have consequences; so do words and ideas.

Pastor Chu

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The season of
Lent begins on
Ash Wednesday,
March 1, 2017.

A recent Pew study confirmed what many have suspected based on anecdotal evidence: the so-called "Ferguson Effect" (1) is real and police officers at times hesitate to engage in proactive policing or take actions that protect them for fear of undue and unfair scrutiny and accusations.

Since the confirmed-by-the Justice-Department-and grand-jury-to-have-been-a-justified shooting death of Michael Brown by Officer Darren Wilson on August 9, 2014, in Ferguson, Missouri, that led to wide-spread, violent protests, a number of incidents have been reported in which police officers were hesitant to draw, let alone fire, their weapons for fear of the almost-always-proven-to-be-unjustified criticism and charges of racism (where certain races are involved as victims) and/or police brutality that could ruin the officer's career and life, as it did Officer Wilson's.

One such incident occurred on October 5, 2016, in which a Chicago female police officer was severely beaten by a 28-year even though officers punched and shocked him with tasers in an attempt to free their fellow officer from his clutches. The female officer was hospitalized with shoulder, wrist, and neck injuries. Police Superintendent Johnson, discussing the incident the following night, that the officer *feared for her life but did not draw her gun because "she didn't want her family or the department to go through the scrutiny the next day on the national news."* (2)

"Murder Rate Spike Could Be 'Ferguson Effect,' DOJ Study Says" was a 2016 headline posted by npr.org. The study's author noted that in 2015, murder spiked in urban areas, homicides jumping 17% in the country's 56 biggest cities. "That's a far larger percentage increase than in nearly any other year we've seen over the last couple of decades," the author said. (3)

A study released on January 11, 2017 by the Pew Research Center (4) appears to confirm the DOJ study and provide evidence that the Chicago female officer's reason for not using her firearm even when it was appropriate and justifiable is as widespread among officers as many had feared. Based on a national, representative sample of 8000 male and female police officers from 54 police and sheriff's departments (each with at least 100 officers) across the country, the Pew study, conducting interviews between May 19 and Aug. 14, 2016, found that a large percentage of officers noted the following in their own departments because of high-profile incidents involving blacks and the police:

- * Officers have become more concerned about their safety (93%)
- * Officers have been reluctant to use force when it is appropriate (76%)
- * Interactions between police and blacks have become more intense (75%)
- * Officers have become less willing to stop and question people who seem suspicious (72%)

These findings are instructive on the importance of truth and facts, especially for

IMPORTANT DATES**2/18-28: Pastor Chu on vacation**

Sunday Adult Bible Class: On break during February

2/1, 2/8, 2/15 7pm Adult Bible Study

2/5 11am Voters Assembly Mtg

2/6 2:30pm WoHC Board Mtg.

2/12: 11am WOHC General Mtg.

2/26: Bites for Mites Bake Sale

3/1: 5:45pm Ash Wed. Dinner;
7pm Worship w/ Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

4	John C.
5	Don R.
11	Sue O.
12	Mike S. Gavin W.
18	Nathan M.
19	Maxine F.
20	John B. Mike V.
22	Trina G. Tina V.
27	Justin B.

(Continued from page 1)

Christians, no matter how emotionally charged an issue or incident might be.

When “Ferguson” happened, many, including many Christians, expressed outrage and — absent any substantiating evidence — leveled charges of racism and murder against officer Wilson and disparaged those who opted to wait for the fact before rendering judgment.

As I’ve written before, Christians ought to be concerned with truth. We need to be extra careful that we don’t sacrifice truth and facts at the altar of political correctness or social activism. Christians who accused and convicted Officer Wilson of racism and murder in the courts of conventional (television, radio, newspaper) or social media (blogs, Facebook pages, YouTube postings, etc.) without factual basis at the very least flirted with breaking the 8th commandment (“Thou shalt not bear false witness”), which Martin Luther explains as including the protection of others’ reputations. I have read or heard few apologies from Christians who prejudicially and publicly asserted or insinuated Officer Wilson.

If Christians demonstrate by our words a cavalier attitude toward truth and facts in such incidents as Ferguson or in Ferguson-related issues, why should unbelievers believe that we’re not playing fast and loose with truth and facts when we proclaim the Gospel of Christ’s incarnation, life, crucifixion, and resurrection and that “God so loved the world that He gave His Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16)?

Not only do our actions have consequences, so do our words. Christians know this as well as anyone since we believe in the God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who is the way, truth, and the life, and we believe and proclaim God’s Word as truth, which matters and is a matter of eternal life by grace through faith in Jesus.

- (1) Coined by a police chief in St. Louis and popularized by writer Heather Mac Donald, the term describes the idea that “violent crime is up in many American cities because officers are backing off of proactive policing.” (<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/09/has-the-ferguson-effect-finally-been-debunked/502265/>)
- (2) [WashingtonPost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2016/10/17/ferguson-effect-chicago-police-release-video-of-beaten-officer-who-didnt-pull-weapon/?utm_term=.874cd3d75bc8)
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2016/10/17/ferguson-effect-chicago-police-release-video-of-beaten-officer-who-didnt-pull-weapon/?utm_term=.874cd3d75bc8
- (3) <http://www.npr.org/2016/06/15/482123552/murder-rate-spike-attributed-to-ferguson-effect-doj-study-says>
- (4) “Behind the Badge” http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2017/01/06171402/Police-Report_FINAL_web.pdf



*My sister, Eileen Cross, and her husband, Dennis, send their thanks for the many prayers offered for them over many months. Dennis' cancer is currently not growing, but he is still under his doctor's watchful eye. We continue to pray for his healing and give thanks for the remission. Eileen is recovering well from her recent hip replacement surgery. She is thankful to walk without pain. She had a long wait for the surgery as she cared for Dennis. Please continue to keep Dennis and Eileen in your prayers. Blessings,
Cherylene Brueckner*



CHOIR REHEARSALS for February will be February 7, 21, and 28. (No rehearsal on Feb. 14.)



Voter's Assembly Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 5!

by Mike Liebe

Please mark your calendar for an important Voter's Assembly Meeting following Coffee Fellowship on **Sun., Feb. 5.** We will be reviewing our operating results for 2016 & approving our 2017 budget. We need your participation, so please commit a bit of your time for these important matters for our Church. Thank you.

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

As I write this, we will have had our Jan. General Meeting on Monday, 1/23 at Sue O'Malley's home (bunco & LSS Sweet Home Basket donations). Later in the month will be our 5th Sunday Congregational Potluck & Concord PD Safety/Active Shooter Presentation. Thank you to all who have volunteered their time & talent for these 2 events.

Upcoming WoHC activities:

Sunday 2/12, General Meeting, Lunch, Secret Pals/Prayer Partners, & Bible Study, 11am, Parish Hall. After Worship Service & coffee fellowship, the women will gather & participate in several activities. There will be short meeting, then soup & salad. We will then reveal our Secret Pals of the last year & choose Prayer Partners. While we have dessert, Cherylene Brueckner will lead us in a Bible study. She writes: "The Bible Study, *The Wondrous Cross*, by Jan Brunette, was published in the Winter 2016 issue of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. Copies of the study will be available at the meeting. Jan has been an active member of LWML for over 40 years. With Lent just weeks away, I hope that this study will touch our hearts & help us prepare for the Lenten season. Do you have a special cross in your home (on the wall, or on a shelf, or in your jewelry box)? In the next few weeks think about what your cross means to you, where it came from, why is it special to you. We can have some time for sharing after the study." *We are having this meeting after church, to eliminate another trip to church to meet & also avoid night time driving. Please plan to spend some time with your Holy Cross sisters in Christ. Sign up now.*



Sunday, 2/26, Bites for Mites Bake Sale 11am, Parish Hall. This is another annual tradition where we bake goodies & then offer them for a donation to our Mighty Mites. As of now we have already funded the first 5 of the 16 2016-2018 LWML CNH Mission Grants! You can see the list on page 6 of the WoHC Program, the WoHC Bulletin Board, & also on bulletin board in Narthex (by flower chart). So, bakers, start checking recipes & buyers, bring your appetites & wallets.

Monday, 3/13, General Meeting, Election of Officers (VP & Treasurer), & Craft, 6:30pm, Parish Hall. After a short meeting & election, we will have Christmas in March craft project! Those that have helped to decorate our Sanctuary Christmas tree know that some of the handmade ornaments we put on the tree need repair. These ornaments were made by WoHC many, many years ago. With the help of Altar Guild lead, Andrea Buetel, we will spend some time bringing the ornaments back to their original beautiful condition. The repair work will not involve any special skills. Mainly it will be gluing, pinning, & possibly sewing/tacking. If you aren't sure you will be able to do the physical work, come & cheer those that can! Plus, as always, we will have dessert!



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.





WoHC Prayer Partners

A personal prayer partner concept has a scriptural basis:

**“Two are better than one,
because they have a good return
for their work:
If one falls down,
his friend can help him up.
But pity the man who falls
and has no one to help him up!
Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”**
Eccl. 4:9, 10, 12.

The WoHC are trying something new. Rather than Secret Pals, we will offer the opportunity for the WoHC to sign up to be a prayer partner. We have a 1 page “Pray for Me” sheet that you fill out with basic info. We will draw/match 2 women up. Then it will be up to you to meet & decide how this will work best for the 2 of you. Carol Lau & Pat Kroeger, Membership Development co-chairs, will hand out & collect the forms. We are also reaching out to those WoHC that are homebound or not able to make it to church regularly to participate. These ladies will be hand matched up with a WoHC who can meet with them.

We encourage you to try this & let us know the successes & challenges you have.



Holy Cross Family -

Flowers & plants in church are symbols of God's creation. With their freshness & beauty, flowers suggest the life that God gives & they create a quiet but uplifting spirit of joy.

If you would like to honor or remember a special event or loved one, please consider providing flowers for our Sunday worship.

I have posted the **2017 altar flower calendar** in the Narthex. Please sign up, noting your name & the occasion/in memory of or honor of.

I would also appreciate you sending me an email or verbally letting me know now how you wish your acknowledgement to appear in the bulletin.

If you have any questions, you can contact me or Andrea Beutel, Altar Guild chair, at andbeutel@gmail.com or 672-9605.

Thank you to those that provide flowers. They are a wonderful way of showing praise & thanksgiving to the glory of God. Joyce Liebe, Secretary

p.s. Andrea shared a tip: she usually orders flowers from Safeway & takes her own vase to them. She says they use it & she gets more flowers since she's not paying for an unneeded vase each time!

Outreach Sunday, Jan. 22

Wow, what a lovely sunny Sun. morning. Everything looking & smelling so fresh from the rain. I arrived at the kitchen to get the ovens hot.

Kimberly Chu got going on figuring how they were going to heat the 150 sandwiches and keep them warm and crisp. Mike Liebe arrived and they went into full production. Unwrapping sandwiches, into microwave, then to oven, then rewrapped and put into ice chests to stay warm.

Ina Dekker and her daughter prepared the huge salad for the group. Dessert (home baked cookies) were delivered from Sue O'Malley. We also served a homemade comfort food of rice. Jan & Scott Selby brought fresh boxes of Starbucks Coffee & served them.

The people seemed to be very full & happy. Some just needed an ear to listen. They were very thankful for everything. They mentioned how nicely we treated them. A man commented on - that he liked the pretty runner we had put on the serving table. They also thanked us for serving them and taking away their dirty dishes. We were there to serve them today, it was their day. GOD BLESS THEM—Pat Easby

How do I become a WoHC?

It was brought to my attention that some women that attend Holy Cross don't feel they are a part of the WoHC. I apologize for giving that impression. If you are a woman and you attend Holy Cross, you are a WoHC. Likewise, you are a part of the LWML. There is no membership, forms to sign, dues, minimum number of meetings to attend, etc.

There is a WoHC Board, which in basic terms is several women who volunteer to take on roles to keep us organized. It is hard for a group to accomplish much without a leader & folks to carry the word out to others. All women are welcome to be on the Board. We have voted positions (Pres., VP, Secretary, & Treasurer) & appointed positions. Based on your strengths & interests, you can ask to help with the appointed positions. In fact, we like to have more than 1 women share these roles.

Each summer the Board puts together a yearly program. We have activities that encompass the LWML Mission – including spiritual growth, serve/assist others using our God-given talents & gifts, as well as basic fellowship with each other. We hold events after church, evenings, & afternoons to try to fit into various schedules.

I understand many women do not want or are not able to take on a Board or appointed position. That is fine, we understand. I wasn't always on the Board. However, you can & should participate in those activities that sound interesting to you. We try to reach out & invite everyone via announcements, email, phone calls, & talking to you in person.

Please know you are an important WoHC. If there are changes you would like see made, let me or any Board member know. This is your organization, let's make it as good as it can be.

Thank you, Joyce Liebe, President, WoHC

2017 Holy Cross Directory

I am beginning to work on an update of our Directory. I will be asking for your help in confirming that the data we have is correct.

Primarily we want to list your name, address, telephone number(s), & email address(es). I will list as much or as little details as you want.

We will also be looking to update your now adult children's information. If they are no longer living at home, we can list them separately, or however they prefer.

I appreciate your cooperation on this project.
Joyce Liebe, Secretary

next
DIRECTORY



FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES FOR NIFTY FIFTY SENIORS

FIRST ONE IS FIORE'S RESTAURANT ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Fiore's Restaurant on Feb. 9th located at 5100 Clayton Road Concord CA 94521. This is a very special Restaurant where you would want to take a date as it is very intimate and the owner is there to make sure everything is just right. I can't say it better than these reviews. We started with the pesto dip. It was unbelievable sweet and savory, a must have. The bread served was warm, flavorful and soft with a crunchy crust. The bruschetta was not your typical dish. It was exotic and melted in your mouth with truffles, artichoke hearts and hints of blue and mozzarella cheese. Again another review: The chef is unbelievable and the staff is friendly and attentive. Try the stuffed mushrooms and the risotto. Both are my personal favorites. We have been there before and several have had the recommended special and were very pleased. Meet at church at 12:15 and leave at 12:30. Lunch is at 1:00. Try something exciting rather than the plain old hamburgers, talk it up and bring a friend, we are a class church. Marv Kreitz



NUMBER TWO IS ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23. PIZZA AND A MOVIE



Our 2nd outing is a combination of pizza and a movie (we do do some things just for the fun of it). It is scheduled for the 23rd of February.

The Round Table Pizza Restaurant located on the corner of Oak Grove Road and Treat has an ALL YOU CAN EAT BRUNCH Monday through Friday for \$8.99. The pizza special is good from 11:00 till 1:30 which includes all varieties of Pizza, a salad bar and twists for dessert. My SIR's group plays bridge there and it's clean and comfortable and most of our players have the brunch. Anyway we have to decide where we want to go to the movie and what we want to see. SOOOO indicate what movie you want our group to go to on the Sign-up sheet. We will coordinate and put the results in the Bulletin or notify everyone that signed up where we are going and when we will eat etc. Now you can't say you don't have a say in our seniors Nifty Fifty Group. Marv Kreitz

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Please check all of your email accounts and make sure that you have changed the editor of Cross Currents email address. The newest and current address is **editor@holycrossconcord.org**. I will no longer be checking the Yahoo account for information. I do enjoy reading, editing and setting up the newsletter each month. It has helped me know names and faces of the members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Thank you.

Peter's Steak House

There were only four of us that showed up for the delightful trip through the Delta to the really great place to eat at Peter's Steak House. Herb Neumann, Dave Caruso, Bill Riechmann, and me and I can truly say the trip was a delight. It had just rained and the hills were already carpeted with green. A little fog was in the air, everything was fresh, just the kind of weather that makes me glad to be alive in this beautiful part of the country. There was literally no delay the bridge, painting was done and it was clear sailing all the way to Isleton. We took two cars, why I will never know. When we arrived I swear the two men with full beards were drinking just the same as when we were there two or three months ago. Our waitress was a delightful lady handling the bar and the waitress job. She may have been the cook too. I felt like having Prime Rib so I ordered a Prime Rib sandwich (they weren't serving dinner) and it came in a long roll (sub like) with the Prime Rib hanging over the sides done just as I like it. Must have been 3/4 of a pound of meat and so tender I could have eaten it with my fork along with a pile of French fries for \$10.50. I was so pleased. I think I will make the trip again just for the sandwich. I think Bill had Prime Rib too. Herb had a steak and Dave had a hamburger. Anyway we all were delighted with the price and the meal. The drive back was as enjoyable as the trip out only we could use Mt Diablo as a guide. Those of you that missed this trip missed a good outing. Marv Kreitz

Mecca Mexican Restaurant

We had eleven sign up for our lunch at the Mecca Mexican Restaurant located in Pittsburg, CA and ended up with 9. Missing were Ken and Carole Crone. As soon as we were seated we had four or five bowls of their famous bean dip and salsa and as many bowls of chips. Their service was excellent and even though they said no separate checks, they accommodated us. I had what I always have there. Marcela Special for \$10.75. It had gone up a buck and a bottle of Bud Light and it also had gone up. The highlight of the lunch was when Mike Liebe received his burrito (picture) and it had to be eight or ten inches long and at least 5 or 6 inches in diameter. He ate all the time we were there and he must have taken half home. Don't know how good it was but there was plenty to eat. There is certainly a large enough menu and you can get half of any of the regular dinners and a large assortment they call specials. They kept the bean dip and salsa bowls full. Join us at our next outing...and bring a friend. Marv Kreitz





February 2017



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 7pm Bible Study	2	3	4 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
5 Mite Box/Hat Sun. 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Voters Mtg. & Sunday School 2-6p Myanmar Christian	6 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 2:30p WoHC Board- Mtg. (C) 7p Scouts	7 7:15p Choir Re- hearsal	8 1p Senior Brd 7pm Bible Study	9 12:15p NFS Fiore's	10	11 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
12 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School 11a WoHC General Mtg. 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	13 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Scouts	14 Valentine's Day	15 7pm Bible Study	16	17	18 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
19 9:30am Worship 11a Sunday School 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	20 President's Day HOLIDAY/OFC CLOSED 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 12:30p Bridge 6:30p Church Council 7p Scouts	21 7:15p Choir Re- hearsal 6:30p Elders	22	23 NFS Pizza and Movie	24	25 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
26 9:30am Worship 10:30a Outreach Sunday 11a Sunday School Bites for Mites Bake Sale 2-6p Myanmar Christian	27 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Scouts	28 7:15p Choir Re- hearsal				

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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
March. 2017 Cross Currents: Feb. 22, 2017