

## CROSS CURRENTS

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

Pastor Chu

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

BIRTHDAYS, DATES	2
PRAYERS, CONDOLENCES	3
FROM OUR PRESIDENT, CHOIR	4 5
WOHC	
FACILITY AND- MAINTENANCE UPDATE	6
OUTREACH	7,
NFS OUTINGS	8
FEBRUARY 2018 CALEN- DAR	9
HC WEEKLY SCHEDULE	10



The season of  
Lent begins on  
Ash Wednesday,  
February 14,  
2018

*"The season of giving ends, but the need remains"* is the caption that flashes across the screen in a recent State Farm ad encouraging charitable work.

The ad opens with a scene at a bustling soup kitchen filled with people engaged in conversation and enjoying a meal together, as volunteers serve and children cheerfully run to and fro. In the background, a man (musician Willis Earl Beal) is playing the piano and singing, in a low, barely audible voice, a somber version of the Simple Minds song, *"Don't You (Forget About Me)"*

The ad transitions to a scene of the same, but now nearly empty, soup kitchen, with what appears to be a single volunteer, and as the ad ends, Beal audibly sings the song's refrain and one other line from the song, *Don't you, forget about me. Don't, don't, don't, don't. Don't you, forget about me... As you walk on by...* and the caption, *"The season of giving ends, but the need remains"* appears across the screen.

The State Farm ad calls attention to what we know or at least can imagine: the spirit of volunteerism and charity that peaks during the Christmas season fades dramatically after Christmas, yet the needs of the beneficiaries of such charitable work remain after Christmas.

Thank God that His giving of spiritual and material blessings to us are not confined to Christmas or any other season of the year. Thank God that in the Incarnation and Birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, God gave us a gift that keeps on giving. *For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall perish, but have eternal life.* (John 3:16). The Son of God, Immanuel — God with us — came into our world to live, suffer, and die for us to atone for our sins and guilt, and arising from the dead guaranteed our resurrection to life upon His return.

God didn't show us His grace just at Christmas but He continues to meet our needs. The forgiveness bought and paid for with the blood of Jesus is renewed to us again and again in the assurance of forgiveness in the Gospel and the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood that we receive by grace through faith. He continues to comfort and give peace that passes understanding and transcends circumstances.

On top of spiritual blessings, God gives us daily what we need for life and countless gifts, including material blessings, none of which we deserve but all which He gives because of His goodness and mercy.

As we continue to receive spiritual and material blessings from the God who doesn't and won't stop giving, may God move us to charity toward those whose needs remain even though the world's "season of giving" has come and gone; we

(Continued on page 2)

**IMPORTANT DATES**

2/4: Bites for Mites Bake Sale

2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25: Adult Sunday Bible Class

Continuation of "Christianity: The First Three Centuries"

2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25: Sunday Youth Bible Class

2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25: Sunday School

2/7: Wednesday Evening Bible Class

2/14: 5:45pm Ash Wednesday Dinner;

7pm Ash Wednesday Worship w/ Holy Communion &  
Imposition of Ashes

2/18-3/7: Pastor Chu on vacation

**Pastoral Care during Pastor's vacation:** Members may call  
their elders during his absence.

(Continued from page 1)

worship and serve the God who cares for all the needs of all people and has blessed us so that we can be a blessing to others.

Next time God gives you the opportunity to help those in need, hear their unspoken pleas: *Don't you, forget about me. Don't, don't, don't, don't. Don't you, forget about me... As you walk on by... because "the season of giving ends, but the need remains" and God does not stop giving to us or to others through us.*

**BRIDGE**

For Feb. we plan on playing **bridge** on the 4th Monday due to Presidents Day weekend. We will go back to the 3rd Monday in March.

Thanks,  
Jean Eissner

**Church Council Dates**

We adopted a change that when a Council meeting falls on a holiday Monday we will meet the previous Monday instead. This will happen in February due to President's Day on February 19. The **Council meeting will be February 12.**

Thanks,  
**Mike Liebe**

**WoHC February Dates**

2/5: WoHC Board Meeting at 2:15 pm

2/11: General Meeting, Lunch, Prayer Partners, Card  
Crafting at 11:00 am

**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.

## Long Range Planning and Call Committee Update

In November the Council and Elders shared with you our plan to create a Long Range Planning and Call Committee to work together as Pastor Chu moves toward his planned retirement. Pastor is supporting us in this transition with his advance notification, flexible window of timing and advice in the process. He has also encouraged that the selection and calling of a new pastor is the responsibility of our congregation and church family. We are starting our work as long range planning because this change is a natural time to review how we are fulfilling the Great Commission and our Mission in serving God, our church family and community, and confirm how we will proceed in our Mission and in selecting a new pastoral leader.

We have a core committee of volunteers and room for more. Please consider volunteering to participate in the committee. We are starting with planning meetings each Sunday after worship, convening concurrent with coffee fellowship except on Sundays with other scheduled meetings such as Voter's Assembly meetings.

As a first step, all members and worshippers are invited to complete our short survey in early February. It is intended to collect important information from you about our ministry at Holy Cross and opinions and desires as we proceed in the call process. We ask that the survey is returned by Sunday, February 11, so that we can compile and share summary information in our February 18 Voter's Assembly meeting.

We ask that all members of our church family pray about this matter, that we will be guided by the Holy Spirit and act in ways that glorify and please God, and that He will reveal and send a new Pastor to us who will continue His plans for us. Mike Liebe

### Voter's Assembly Meeting February 18

Mark your calendar for February 18 to participate in our Voter's Assembly meeting at 11:00 following coffee fellowship. We have several important agenda items of interest to you including:

- ⇒ A recap of our operating results for 2017,
- ⇒ and approval of our 2018 operating budget.
- ⇒ Facilities and Maintenance Committee updates,
- ⇒ an update from our Long Range Planning and Call Committee, that will include a summary of our survey results.

We have lots going on to start our new year. Be sure to participate in the meeting and share your ideas for Holy Cross. Mike Liebe



### CHOIR REHEARSALS

for February will be February 6, 13, and 20. No rehearsal on February 27.



## **February 2018 - What's Happening with the WoHC? by Joyce Liebe, President**

We had our January General Meeting on Monday, 1/22, where we had Janet Frazer from The Network of Care lead 8 WoHC in the packaging of care packages. I was not able to attend, however Grace Gin, who coordinated the outreach effort, advised that the evening went well! The WoHC also gave Janet a \$150 donation to assist with the purchase of food for the packages. This is a wonderful local organization that we were pleased to be able to support. Thanks to all who attended and helped!

### **Upcoming WoHC activities:**

#### **Sunday, 2/4, 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 11 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. Sign up now!**



#### **Sunday 2/11, General Meeting, Lunch & Card Crafting 11am, Parish Hall.**

After Worship Service & coffee fellowship, the women will gather & participate in several activities. After a short meeting, we will have lunch. Then we will make some cards! We will have all supplies ready for you to make valentine (or Anniversary, Just Because...) cards. While we have dessert, we will discuss if we want to continue Prayer Partners or try something else. **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!**

#### **Wed., 2/14, Ash Wednesday Pizza & Salad Dinner: 5:45pm, Worship Service: 7pm**

You are invited for a pizza dinner before our Ash Wednesday Worship Service (plus it is Valentine's Day, so join us and take a night off from cooking)! **Signup sheet is up.** Free Will Offering proceeds will go to Mites.



Activity details are also on our Bulletin Board & Sunday Bulletins. As always, please feel free to contact me or any



## Facilities and Maintenance Committee Update

Our Holy Cross Facilities and Maintenance Committee has been in place for a few months now and has been making good progress in working together to take care of physical needs at our church. The Committee has set up a monthly-rotating, on-call person to share duties and provide a point of contact for facility needs.

Some F&M projects completed in 2017 include heavy duty trimming of the Ed Building privet and other shrubs, fence post repairs, removal of a dead tree in the courtyard, re-staining of handrails and benches, and sanctuary roof repair; in addition to our ongoing inspections and preventive care such as fire extinguisher and EXIT sign servicing.

For 2018 we have a number of projects already in the hopper that include tractor servicing, more roof repair, painting, grinding lifted sidewalks, and adding more motion-sensor lighting on the grounds. You may have noticed two of our signs have had dazzling makeovers, thanks to coordination by Marilyn Neumann and Women of Holy Cross funding from Corner Café proceeds. Thank you! And a big project we expect to finally accomplish this year is the replacement of our Parish Hall roof.

**Ed Building Alarm System** - A SimpliSafe monitored alarm system was installed in December as an Eagle Scout project and is now operational. If you have a key that will open any of the Ed Building entry doors (including the wing doors such as the library), it is important that you receive instruction about the alarm system and a PIN code to allow turning the system off and on. If in doubt, please contact our office or a Facilities Committee or Council member.



In addition to ongoing planning and projects, there are five Saturday work parties scheduled for 2018 - February 10, April 14, August 11 and November 10 for Holy Cross volunteers; and a Troop 484 Boy Scout work party on July 14. Our wish list for our next work party on February 10 includes:

- More Ed Building privet trimming to expose our pole lighting better.
- Adding motion-sensor lighting at the back of the Parish Hall, and Ed Building entrances.
- Weed abatement for all the green we are seeing sprouting up.
- Refurbishing the sanctuary doors.
- Starting to organize our tool inventory.

**We have projects to fit all abilities.  
Please mark your calendar and join us at 9:00 on February 10.**



## OUTREACH

To All Volunteers,  
Thank you for your patience over the last months.

Guess what? I received a phone call from Dana, (the gal that is head of our food serving) and she asked if we would be willing to give up our serving date in January. There is a church that have a kids' group and they want to help the adults serve and prepare the lunch for the shelter. I thought - what a wonderful thing to get their kids involved in serving the less fortunate. So I gave up our Sunday again, I hope you understand. Dana apologized for asking us again, and thanked us for giving the other church a chance to serve.

We are on calendar for the rest of the year on the 4th Sunday. Thank you for your patience. I also appreciate your help and kindness over the years.

Wishing you a blessed New Year.

**THANK YOU** with much love and thanks to ALL that have donated to Outreach this past year with food, snacks, candy (and Finley for sharing your Halloween candy), desserts, casseroles, clothing, toiletries, and your time and love for the less fortunate. We are truly blessed with warm coats, nice clothes, almost new shoes, socks, towels, sheets, and many more items. As of now, we don't have room to store any more items.

P.S. The shelter had to quit taking all donations also, they had so much, and also the donation places weren't accepting either. With the rain starting, the homeless will need items to replace the wet clothing. So now we have replacements for them. God is good.

Special thanks to 'Our angel Idalene' for all the time and work she put into Outreach, folding, organizing and donating the like-new linens, clothing, shoes for which we are very thankful!

Pat Easby



Violet:

This was taken 12/29/17 at her facility in Walnut Creek. She wishes everyone at Holy Cross a Merry Christmas with best wishes for the New Year.

Note from Editor: This picture and information was submitted after the Deadline for the January edition. It was so sweet and I felt that it should be included in the February edition.

## Nifty Fifty Outings for Feb. 2018

### The First Outing

We plan two outings for Feb. 2018. The first is to one of my favorites. The **Spaghetti Factory**, located at 1955 Mt. Diablo Street in Concord, CA, 94520. We will be going there on **Thursday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00. They have a lunch Pasta Classic Entrée served with pasta, hot fresh baked bread, soup, or a crisp green salad, Sicilian Meatballs (two) delicately seasoned with a blend of herbs and spices, topped with their Marinara sauce. Price is \$9.99. They have an extensive menu with a host of other selections. Most of you have at one time or other eaten there so you know how great it is. Not ostentatious (pretentious or conspicuous) just good food. Sign up in the Social Hall so we know



how many to plan on. Bring a friend and meet at church at 12:00. We leave at 12:15. Marv Kreitz

### The Second Outing

We are going to **Peter's Steak House** located in **Isleton, CA on Friday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Isleton is an old town that existed during the Gold Rush period of 1849. Chinese immigrants lured to California for gold, stayed on to begin a hand labor task of dredging out and constructing levees to hold back the water. When the water was pumped out, there were islands formed creating what Isleton residents now call home. The town now consists of old buildings with metal exterior siding as a precaution against fire, much the same as Lock (Al the Wops) just a short distance from Isleton. All lunches are served with a choice of green salad or steak fries and of course they have Prime Rib, steaks, fish and chips, and a host of sandwiches. Sign up in the Social Hall in order to know how many people are going to lunch. The lunch is scheduled for 1:00. We will meet at church at 11:45 and leave at 12:00. Bring a friend. Marv Kreitz

**I asked for *STRENGTH*...**

And God gave me Difficulties to make me strong.

**I asked for *WISDOM*...**

And God gave me Problems to solve.

**I asked for *PROSPERITY*...**

And God gave me Brain and Brawn to work.

**I asked for *COURAGE*...**

And God gave me Danger to overcome.

**I asked for *LOVE*...**

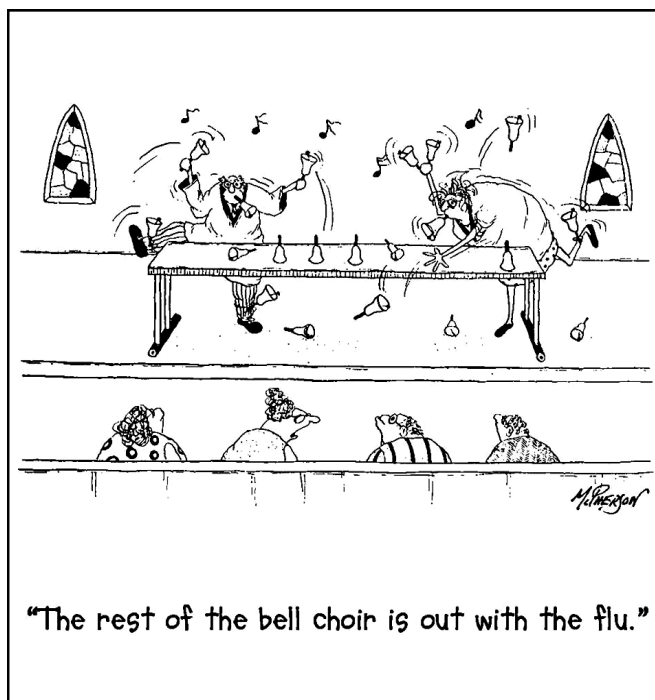
And God gave me Troubled people to help.

**I asked for *FAVORS*...**

And God gave me Opportunities.

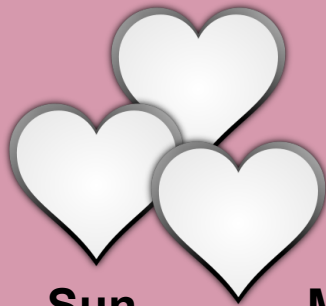
***I RECEIVED NOTHING I WANTED...***

***I RECEIVED EVERYTHING I NEEDED!***



"The rest of the bell choir is out with the flu."





# February 2018



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 OFC CLOSED	2	3
4 Mite Box/Hat Sun. <b>Bites for Mites Bake Sale</b> 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Bible Class/Sunday School 2-6p Myanmar (H)	5 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C ) 2:30p WoHC Board- Mtg. (C) 7p Scouts	6 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	7 7pm Bible Study	8 OFC CLOSED  1pm NFS Spaghetti Factory	9	10 9:00a Work Party
11 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Bible Class/Sunday School 11a WoHC Lunch/Cards 11a Fac .& Maint. Mtg 2-6p Myanmar (H)	12 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C ) 6:30p Church Coun- cil 7p Scouts	13 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	14 Ash Wednesday 1p Senior Brd 5:45p Dinner 7:00p Worship/ Communion	15 OFC CLOSED 8:30a Mens Kaffeeklatsch 6:30pm La- dies Bunco (H)	16	17
18 9:30am Worship 11am Voter's Meeting 11a Bible Class/Sunday School 2-6p Myanmar (H) <b>Pastor's Vacation Feb. 18-March 8</b>	19 President's Day HOLIDAY/OFC CLOSED 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C ) 7p Scouts	20 6:30p Elders 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	21	22 OFC CLOSED	23 1pm NFS Peter's Steak House	24
25 9:30am Worship 8:30a Outreach Sunday 11a Bible Class/Sunday School 2-6p Myanmar (H)	26 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C ) 1:30p Bridge 7p Scouts	27	28			



Holy Cross Lutheran  
Church, LCMS  
1092 Alberta Way  
Concord, CA 94521

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS  
1092 Alberta Way  
Concord, CA 94521  
(925) 686-2000  
[www.holycrossconcord.org](http://www.holycrossconcord.org)  
[office@holycrossconcord.org](mailto:office@holycrossconcord.org)

**Pastor: Bill Chu**

President: Mike Liebe  
Vice President: Gregg Syrovatka  
Council Secretary: Carrie Kroeger  
Financial Secretary: Scott Stadler  
Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka  
Trustees: Allen Brueckner, Bill Luker  
Elders: Bill Riechman, John Coyne;  
Eric Roman, Herb Neumann

Secretarial Staff: Joyce Liebe  
Newsletter Editor: M. Kuefner  
[editor@holycrossconcord.org](mailto:editor@holycrossconcord.org)

**Office Hours:** Mon.-Wed. & Fri., 9am-1pm

**Worship Schedule:**

Sunday Service	9:30 AM
Communion	1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , and 5 <sup>th</sup> 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
---------	----------------

**Outreach:**

Fourth Sunday of each month after service

**Publication Deadline:**

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday  
March. 2018 Cross Currents: Feb. 22, 2018