



Cross Currents

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

February 2019

Volume 2 Issue 167

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Pastor's Message

In my February 2017 newsletter article, I began with the proposition: "Actions have consequences; so do words and ideas."

I referenced a Pew study (1) that confirmed the "Ferguson Effect." (2) It found that since the August 2014 Ferguson, Missouri, shooting death of Michael Brown by Officer Darren Wilson - investigated by the Justice Department and a grand jury and determined to have been a justified shooting- many police officers had hesitated to fire, or even draw, their weapons to protect themselves because they were afraid of knee-jerk allegations of racism or police brutality that could ruin their lives and the lives of their families. One female officer who had been severely beaten by a 28-year male suspect, even after he had been tased, explained that she had *"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.'"* (3)

I suggested that these findings were instructive, especially to Christians, on the importance of truth and facts, noting that when "Ferguson" happened, many Christians leveled baseless accusations of racism and murder against officer Wilson and disparaged those who opted to wait for the facts before rendering judgment. I've seen few apologies from those who "jumped the gun" (pun intended) and convicted Officer Wilson in conventional and/or social media with their spurious allegations. In fact, some continue to assert disproved narratives, e.g., "hands up, don't shoot" to advance whatever their cause because their cause is more important to them than truth and facts.

Christians, more than anyone, I proposed, ought to be concerned with truth and should take utmost care that we don't sacrifice truth and facts at the altar of political correctness or social activism, because if Christians were to show a cavalier attitude toward truth and facts in social or political issues, why should unbelievers believe that we're not playing fast and loose with truth and facts when we proclaim the Gospel truth 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)?

I concluded that not only do our actions have consequences, our words do as well. Christians should know this as well as anyone since we believe in the God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who is the way, truth, and the life (John 14:6), 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.

Race relations haven't gotten any better since Ferguson. We're as divided as ever on political ideology. Our political discourse and conversations on social issues are becoming less and less civil. "What abouts" - and you can reference whatever or whomever from the "other" side - is often a default argument on both sides. And these are going on even among Christians.

Such divides will always be part of our political and social landscape. Of great concern to Christians should be if and to what extent such division impacts how we

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view, interact, and treat fellow believers who subscribe to political and/or social views that differ from ours, such as the ongoing issues of wall or no wall, amnesty or no amnesty, DACA or no DACA, abortion or anti-abortion, etc.

The Gospel is one. The Lord is one. The Church is one. The body of Christ is one. At the very least, we should be able to engage in civil discussions with those whom we call brothers or sisters in Christ, even when we have different views on a matter.

It's incumbent on Christians not only to read the Word of God, hear the Word of God, study the Word of God, and say that they believe the Word of God, we ought also to stand on the Word of God and let God's Word inform, guide, and direct our views on issues and our discourse on those issues, especially with fellow Christians.

- (1) "Behind the Badge" http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2017/01/06171402/Police-Report_FINAL_web.pdf
- (2) 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/>)
- (3) 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
 See also <http://www.npr.org/2016/06/15/482123552/murder-rate-spike-attributed-to-ferguson-effect-doj-study-says>



2/4	John C.
2/5	Don R.
2/11	Sue O.
2/12	Mike S.
2/12	Gavin W.
2/19	Maxine A.
2/20	John B.
2/20	Mike V.
2/22	Tina V.
2/27	Justin B.

CHOIR REHEARSALS for February will be on Feb. 5, 12, & 19. (No rehearsal on Feb. 26.)

~ Diana



Upcoming Fellowship Activities

February Sunday School and Bible Study Schedules

- *Sunday Bible Class 11:00AM: 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24*
- *Sunday School 11:00AM: 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24*
- *Monday Ladies Bible Study 10-11:30AM*
- *Wednesday evening Bible study 7:00PM: 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27*



Welcoming LCMS-CNTH District President Rev. Michael Lange



February 2019 – WoHC Happenings by Joyce Liebe, President

Here's a recap of our upcoming events. Please join us.

- ◇ 2/10 (Sun.) Bites for Mites Bake (& More) Sale, after church
- ◇ 2/21 (Thurs.) Ladies Game Night, 6:30pm, Parish Hall
- ◇ 3/2 (Sat.) LWML Zone 7 Spring Rally, 8:30am, Livermore
- ◇ 3/6 (Wed.) Ash Wed. Pizza Dinner, 5:45pm (Worship 7pm)

Join us for our
Bites for Mites Bake
(& MORE) Sale

Sunday, February 10

We will have a variety of items available:

baked goods, savory snack items, Valentine cards & treat boxes, dog biscuits, jam, and MORE...

All donations go to Mites & fund our CNH 2018-2020 Mission Grants.



Save the date!

Saturday, March 2, 2019, LWML Zone 7 Spring Rally

“Led by the Spirit”



²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. Romans 8:26-27 (NIV)

Our Savior Lutheran Church Livermore, CA

More information coming soon. We will carpool from Holy Cross.



ATTENTION LADIES!

JOIN US in the Parish Hall for our next

GAME NIGHT: Thursday, 2/21, 6:30pm

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ of Holy Cross,

Thank you very much for your condolences, cards, emails, kind offers, words of encouragement, and prayers during our family's time of grief over the death of our dad/grandpa, Wing Chu. We are grateful for, and were touched by, your expressions of Christian love. We also appreciate your faithful prayers for Wing's eternal salvation which God answered by bringing him to faith before his passing. Rejoice with us in knowing that Wing is now with our Lord Jesus waiting for the day of resurrection at Christ's promised return! Alleluia! Praise the Lord!

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. To God be the glory!

Pastor, Carol, Kimberly, and Christopher

Our first Work Party of 2019 is set for Sat., 2/23, 9am. Plan to come for a hour or more to help!



Visiting with Doris



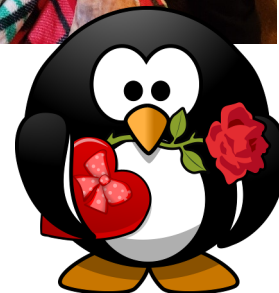
**** I finally found a home for the Conn Starduster organ that we had stored in Ed Building. Mike offered it to one of his company's (Mercy Housing) senior housing properties in SF. After Pastor's father's memorial service we dropped it off. Below is a thank you note. Joyce ****



Hi Michael,

I just wanted to pass along my thank you for the beautiful organ!! Our residents will get tremendous use out of it and it really actually fits with the whole chapel theme we have going in our community room J A huge thank you for transporting, unloading, and setting it up!!!

Troy S. Ward, RESIDENT SERVICES MANAGER II



February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Mite Boxes 9:30a Worship w/ Communion 11a Sunday School/ Bible Study 2-6 Myanmar Christian	4 10-11:30a Women's Bible Study (C) 2:15p WoHC Board mtg (C) 7-9:30p Scouts (PH)	5 11a Prayer Group	6 7p Bible Study (PH)	7 OFC CLOSED 1p Nifty Fifty lunch, Bronze Buddha, Concord	8 PM Parish Hall Private Rental Set Up	9 All Day Parish Hall Private Rental
10 9:30a Worship 11a Sunday School/ Bible Study 11a Bites for Mites 2-6 Myanmar Christian	11 10-11:30a Women's Bible Study (C) 7-9:30p Scouts (PH)	12 11a Prayer Group	13 7p Bible Study (PH)	14 OFC CLOSED Happy Valentine's Day	15 PM Parish Hall YVCS Rental Set Up	16 All Day Parish Hall YVCS Mother Son Event
17 9:30a Worship w/ Communion 11a Sunday School/ Bible Study 2-6 Myanmar Christian	18 OFC CLOSED HOLIDAY 10-11:30a Women's Bible Study © 6:30p Council Mtg (C)	19 OFC CLOSED 11a Prayer Group	20 7p Bible Study (PH)	21 8:30a Men's Kaffeeklatsch, Mel's 6:30p Ladies Game Night (PH)	22	23 9a Facility & Maint Work Party
24 9:30a Worship 10:45a Voters Mtg 11a Sunday School/ Bible Study Outreach Sunday 2-6 Myanmar Christian	25 10-11:30a Women's Bible Study (C) 7-9:30p Scouts (PH)	26 11a Prayer Group	27 7p Bible Study (PH)	28 OFC CLOSED	YVCS School Hours: 8:30am-9pm YVCS Parish Hall use during week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir: Mon. & Wed. 12:30-3pm Band: Tues. & Thurs. 12-3pm Chapel: Fri 8:30-9:15am (family 	

cl=choir loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg, PH=Parish Hall, L=Library, ws=wing room

Holy Cross Lutheran

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Council Secretary: Carrie Kroeger
Financial Secretary: Scott Stadler
Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka
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Elders: Bill Riechman, John Coyne,
Eric Roman, Herb Neumann

Secretarial Staff: Joyce Liebe
Newsletter Editor: Kimberly Chu
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Office Hours: Mon.-Wed., Friday 9am-1pm

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)	10:30PM Conference Room
Wednesday	7:00PM Parish Hall

Choir Rehearsal:

Tuesday	7: 15PM-8:45PM
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Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday
March 2019 Cross Currents: February 22, 2019