



**HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN
CHURCH, LCMS**

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CONGREGATIONAL



**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 25
4:00 PM**

Details on page 3



Cross Currents



Volume 9 Issue 120

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

October 2014

MESSAGE
FROM

PASTOR CHU

TRUTH AND FACTS MATTER

Truth and facts matter, especially for Christians, even when addressing emotionally charged situations such as the shooting death of unarmed Michael Brown by Officer Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri on August 9, 2014. When Christians substitute assumptions and platitudes for truth based on facts in such situations, one wonders what witness that presents to the world about the importance of truth to Christians and Christianity.

There are few facts that we know about the Ferguson tragedy. There are, however, numerous unsubstantiated "facts," some of which conflict with one another, e.g., differing witness accounts as to what Michael Brown was doing the moment he was shot and killed.⁽¹⁾

Even though they (and we) don't have all the facts (and we might never know every single fact associated with the case) and they were not witnesses of the shooting, many, including Christians, have been speaking as though they were. Absent facts to substantiate their allegations, they have nonetheless unabashedly prejudged the officer as guilty of racially motivated murder.

Perhaps we can expect such biases from the media, which sometimes skew reports to fit their desired narrative. We might also anticipate similar narratives from those civil rights champions who have a history of protesting for and standing with families selectively to advance their own agenda. A fair question to ask is: Where were these leaders, the media, and others who are so outraged over the Ferguson tragedy when 166 black men were being killed between January 1 and August 9, 61 of whom were 21 or younger? Where was their outrage over the 30 black men who were murdered between August 9 to Sep-

tember 7, 10 of whom were 21 or younger? And all these murders were in Chicago alone.⁽²⁾ Have they marched in protest against the so-called "Knock-Out Game" where young men (overwhelming majority of whom are black) try to knock out victims (overwhelming majority of whom are white), including elderly victims, with one sucker punch?⁽³⁾

I empathize with Michael Brown's parents and family and understand their sentiments. I can only imagine their pain. I pray for God to comfort them with His peace that passes all understanding. I pray also for Officer Brown and his family.

However, pain and grief do not validate assumptions as facts. Presumptions should not be confused with facts. Nor should outrage and biases born of personal experience or a desire to empathize with those hurting be equated with fact. Yet that is what some Christians are doing, which is troubling. Case in point? One church leader posted the following on his Facebook page, referring specifically to how Asian Americans should be responding to the Ferguson tragedy, as if he and others of his ilk already know all the facts:

"We need to be lifelong learners, not mere reactors. Why is it so easy for AsAm's to take all of the rights and privileges that were gained by mostly African Americans in the Civil Rights Movement and to now turn their backs on their community today instead of stand in solidarity? A probing article sent to me by my AfAm brother, fellow pastor, and friend as we walk to-

(Continued on page 2, Truth & Facts)

Truth & Facts

(Continued from page 1)

gether.”

The author then linked to the “probing” article that is titled, *“The Unacceptable Silence of Asian American Christians In Response to Ferguson.”* ⁽⁴⁾ The article links to other articles with titles that hint at the tenor of its message: *“This is Why We’re Mad About the Shooting of Mike Brown,” “When Terror Wears A Badge,” “Becoming a White Ally to Black People in the Aftermath of the Michael Brown Murder,” “The Police Are the Issue In Ferguson, Not Michael Brown’s Character.”*

The article argues that *“if we, Asian American Christians, really believe that we are one family in Christ, then we must respond accordingly. We must respond with compassion and grief at the loss of life... compassion is never wrong”* — except apparently for Officer Brown and his family. Not once does the author call for compassion for Officer Brown who, if he is innocent of the thus-far-baseless allegations, has had his life, career, and reputation ruined by those who are falsely and unjustly maligning him as a racist murderer. Nowhere in this article — or in similar articles and Internet postings — is there the acknowledgment that the actual events might have unfolded differently than their narrative.

Even if such allegations were to be proved later when the facts finally come out, that still does not justify the seemingly dismissive attitude toward truth and the facts to date, especially by Christians who should be concerned about truth.

The Facebook posting asked the rhetorical question that is replete with generalizations and assumptions: *“Why is it so easy for AsAm’s to take all of the rights and privileges that were gained by mostly African Americans in the Civil Rights Movement and to now turn their backs on their community today instead of stand in solidarity?”*

Perhaps more important questions to ask — questions based on the fact that we don’t have all the facts yet — are: What of the 8th commandment (or 9th, depending on the tradition)? What of the Christian’s love for truth? What of the Christian’s witness of truth to the world?

The commandment reads, *“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor,”* which Martin Luther explains as follows: *“We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.”*

I am not suggesting that we try sugar-coat this or any other tragedy. Who would argue that young Michael Brown’s death is a horrendous tragedy, especially for his family? However, those who have assumed as fact racist and murderous motivation on Officer Wilson’s part are at least in danger of transgressing the commandment. Compassion for Michel Brown’s family and withholding judgment until we have the facts do not have to be mutually exclusive; both are the right and Christian responses.

Truth and facts matter, especially for Christians, who claim to stand on the truth of God’s Word. ✚

(1) http://www.cnn.com/2014/09/10/us/ferguson-michael-brown-shooting-witnesses/index.html?hpt=hp_c2

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gvgzspKcQk> (Graphic language) — Relevant transcript at <http://www.thelaw.com/journal/eyewitness-says-brown-rushed-ferguson-police-10605/>

(2) <https://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=0Ak3IlavLYTovdGhfeHY5VmhGaXVOVmNiWlpPdWRfWUE&output=html>

(3) <http://whitegirlbleedalot.com/tag/black-on-white-crime/>

(4) <http://feistythoughts.com/2014/08/16/the-unacceptable-silence-of-asian-american-christians-in-response-to-ferguson/>

As a contrast, read Thomas Sowell’s thoughtful, reasoned, and responsible response to Ferguson based on to-date facts at <http://jewishworldreview.com/cols/sowell082114.php3>



Birthdays

- 1 Shelby Oatis
- 3 Erna Beutel
Glenn Stenson
- 6 Claudia Gemar
- 13 Mike Liebe
- 14 Walter Hoffman
- 18 Kimberly Chu
- 19 Dee Jakel
- 24 Annaliesa Liedtke
- 28 Betty Kallsen
- 29 Sandy Coyne
- 30 Cheryl Syrovatka
- 31 Gregg Syrovatka

Anniversaries

- 7 Michael & Brittany Olson
- 12 Gregg & Cheryl Syrovatka
- 17 Dave & Chery Collett
Ron & Dee Jakel
- 19 Joe & Peggy Odrzywolski
- 20 Ken & Liz Ballard
Bud & Jan Walker
- 29 Bill & Kim Luker
- 30 Tom & Sue O'Malley



Those who are in need of our prayers:

Sue Saalfeld, Muriel Strieter, Joy Parker (Gayle Bothe's sister-healing), **Wanda Schwartz, Dorothy Taylor** (Karen Gamble's mother), **Robert & David Grandt** (Liz Aduan's brothers), **Pauline Fudge** (Liz Aduan's Aunt-heart failure) **Inge Stone, Elizabeth Bothé** (Gayle Bothe's granddaughter, non-churched), **Abbi and Alex Roman, June Stewart** (Judy West's friend-fainting), **Jan Tammiste** (Roman's nephew-brain injury, healing), **Betty and Cal Kallsen, Billy Godsey** (healing), **Jeannine Godsey** (inner peace), **Steven Liedtke** (healing), **Esther Lacey and Bernice Aiman** (Violet Griffin's sisters-elder care), **Matt Goodshaw** (Brueckner's family friend-continued multiple myeloma), **Maddie Conklin** (Judy West's friend-lung, pancreatic cancer), **Bob Oliver** (healing), **Herbert and Clara Huppert** (healing, guidance), **Bill Bothe** (successful radiation treatments), **Lee Rankin** (Jennifer's mom-healing), **Julie Oback** (Diana Meux sister-cancer, healing), **Andrew Gamble** (Gamble's grandson-juvenile arthritis), **Ron Gamble** (recovery), **Bob Hartman, Gavin West** (healing), **Kristie Barton** (healing), **Drew Oatis** (concussion, healing), **Blake Frances** (Bill Luker's grand nephew-chemo, brain cancer).

Chaplains among the armed forces and those serving in the military:

Taylor Bothe-Yates (Gayle Bothe's grand-niece, 2nd tour Afghanistan), **Capt. Richard Hill** (Violet Griffin's great nephew), **Cadet Megan Gemar, PFC Kevin Hayworth** (Glenda's grandson-Hawaii), **P.O.W. and M.I.A.'s.**

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL OKTOBERFEST SATURDAY

OCTOBER 25 4:00 PM

Come one, come all and invite your friends to the Annual Oktoberfest dinner. Come for fun and friendship and a wonderful meal. Please sign up in the Parish Hall. Suggested donation \$10. All proceeds will go to the Parking Lot Fund.



PARKING LOT UPDATE SEPTEMBER 25, 2014

BY JEAN EISSNER

The Parking Lot Committee presented a proposal to the Church Council on September 22, 2014. The recommendation included the following:

- Angled parking as discussed at the information meeting held on September 14, 2014.
- The configuration of the tree planting areas.
- A contract with Morgan-Bonanno replace the asphalt.
- Acceptance of the conceptual modified proposal from Morgan-Bonanno which is for replacing approximately 2/3 of the existing asphalt.

The Council has the plan under consideration and will be investigating funding of the project. A recommendation will be presented to the Voter's Assembly.

PG&E has not advised as to when the tree removal will take place which is their responsibility. They will provide three trees to replace those they remove. A decision must be made as to the location of the new trees.



NFS OCTOBER ACTIVITY

**CLAYTON VALLEY OKTOBERFEST
SATURDAY OCTOBER 4TH 2014**

There is a real Carnival Atmosphere with booths set up by vendors displaying different apparel and home items throughout downtown. Various tempting cuisines are offered at the food booths where you can make your selections of German or American foods and tote your treasure to the huge dining room tent full of tables where you can sit and be entertained by a German Band and a professional dance groups doing various folk dances while you eat. In the past years, we dined on Viener Snitzel and Spraeztel, from D.J Bistros Restaurant of Concord which is always excellent. The opening ceremony begins usually around 1:00 or 1:30 with a St. Bernard Dog pulling a wagon with a keg of beer into the tent and when the keg is opened so start all the activities...there of course are several kinds of German Beer.

Peter and Annaliesa Liedtke usually get there early and reserve seats in the front for those of you who wish to attend. This will appear in the Cross Current after the 4th but the Oktoberfest is on Sunday too.

It's great fun don't miss it...Just go there around 12:00 or 12:30. We will not meet at church.....unless small groups wish to ride together (set that up on your own.).

We didn't plan a 2nd activity as we felt the church Oktoberfest would take its place.



CHOIR NOTE:

OCTOBER REHEARSALS

TUESDAY the 7th, 14th, and 21st
(no rehearsal on the 28) at 7:15PM

NIFTY FIFTY SENIORS OUTING RECAPS

BY MARV KREITZ

MAC'S OLD HOUSE LUNCH

SEPT 12, 2014

We had eleven people signup and ten arrived at Mac's Old House at 11:30, when they opened, as planned; however, one showed up at 1:00, the normal NF Senior lunch outings schedule, but not today....It pays to read the small print. I knew the waitress so when I made the reservations I requested to sit in the front room not one of the back rooms ... and that's where we were seated. Several had the Calamari Steak (three large pieces), Judy West had the Prime Rib and the portion was so large that she had to take the half of it home. I had what I always have; the Ground Round priced at \$6.95 and subbed the pasta with potato salad for an extra buck. The Mine-strone soup (a large bowl) was excellent as always and the basket of bread rounded out our meal. The food is good and the prices are reasonably inexpensive so the place is always crowded. They take cash only and do not give separate checks So knowing this, I used my calculator and put in the price for what each person ordered adding 30% on top of that for tax and tip. We ended up with eleven dollars over which went into our senior kitty.



The picture shows all the smiling faces...so you know everyone had a good time. Join us for our next outing...Bring a friend!! I should mention that the conversation we had in our carpool to the restaurant never slacked. If that isn't getting to know your fellow Christians, nothing is!!!!

FORT BRAGG SKUNK TRAIN

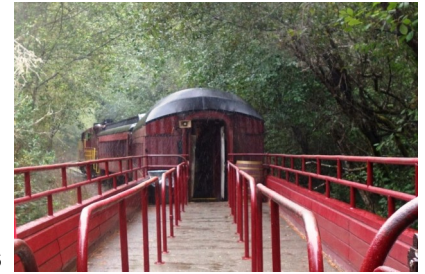
SEPT. 23 - 25, 2014

On Tuesday morning, Erna and I met up with Bill Luker and his wife Kim, Grace Gin, Annaliesa Liedtke and Terry Hawkyard at Church. Since there were seven of us, we carpooled in two cars with Bill and I driving. Bill's pickup had space for most all of our luggage in the covered truck bed giving us plenty of room for our ride to Fort Bragg...We stopped at Cloverdale for lunch at The Eagles Nest a small restaurant in the middle of town. Since we planned to have a nice dinner at the Wharf in Fort Bragg, we just had something light. We stopped in Wil-lits for Bill to give his back a rest. The windmills and racks of clothing outside of a variety store close by drawn the ladies attention and off they went shopping! Grace bought several beautiful night lights, great gifts for the person that had everything. Others also took advantage of the sales.

The trip on HW 20 was very twisty and took over an hour. Grace experienced her first ever car sickness and gave up her whole lunch involuntarily! We arrived in Fort Bragg at a little after 4:00, by the time we checked in at Harbor Lite Inn and got settled it was 5:00.

We called the Wharf to postpone our dinner reservations to 6:30 giving us a little time for cocktail hour in Marv's room. The Wharf Restaurant was beautifully decorated with Christmas tree lights and quite crowded for a Tuesday night. We were seated so we could see the entrance to the Harbor. The view and the lights created a festive relaxing ambience perfect for after driving for 4 hours! For starter, I had a bowl of Clam Chowder; it was excellent. But, the Fish & Chips (supposed to be local fish) that followed was only mediocre. Grace had the fresh Alaskan Halibut which looked good. Most everyone had seafood of some kind and an enjoyable evening...

The next morning after breakfast at the motel, we headed out to the train station downtown. The weather forecast was 100% rain for the





day and sure it came! We all had rain gear so we were prepared. Everyone who works for the train was extremely gracious and helpful. Seeing me using my walker, a train attendant took me to a little room around the back of the depot so I could wait out of the rain. He came for me when at boarding time and I was the first to board. The rest of our group were next to board so we had our choice of seating which we chose next to the open car where you can stand holding on to railings while enjoying the scenery. Grace and I went out to brave the elements and it was really invigorating.



During our trip, the conductor/entertainer went from compartments to compartments to entertain passengers with guitar playing and singing old railroad tunes and passengers joined in. People showed their appreciation by stuffing his pockets with greens!! We had lunch at the Northspur station where there were three or four food stands each selling different types of food. I had a pepper jack cheeseburger grilled on site. After lunch we boarded back the train for the trip back to Fort Bragg station; it was still raining. Some of us went back to the motel while others wanted to go to the lumber museum.

That evening, the group decided to dine at the Cliff House Restaurant which served an early bird dinner special, an entree with a glass of wine for only \$15.00. Grace and I didn't join them because we only wanted a light dinner at a local diner across the street; however, we found that the diner was closed so we drove around looking for a place to eat and stumbled upon a tiny café called Nit's, a place no more than 20' wide but clean and well decorated. To our surprise, it serves Thai fusion cuisine. There was only one person, Nit, working there. She is the waitress as well as the cook. We had the daily special: fresh locally caught Salmon with rice and vegetable for \$12.00. The dessert, awesome homemade huckleberry pie (made by Nit with locally picked huckleberries) à la mode for \$6.95. Grace and I had the salmon and split the pie. That was an enjoyable meal!! When we got back to the motel, the rest of

the group arrived back at the same time. They raved about their dinner and wanted to continue the party. I said, "Not me, I'm off to bed." even though it was not yet 8PM and so did Kim, but everyone went to Erna and Annaliesa's room.

The next day, Thursday, we checked out and drove down HW 1 past Little River and stopped at Heritage House where Ruth and I spent our 50th wedding anniversary. It was as beautiful as I remember. We drove down to the cottage along the edge of a cliff where we took pictures of the waves crashing against the cliffs and islands be-



low...such a serene setting, so quiet and peaceful. We had planned on stopping at a winery in Anderson Valley, but it was still raining so we just kept on going till we got to Cloverdale and believe it or not stopped at the Eagles Nest Restaurant for a break. Just a short time later we stopped at the Cappola Winery near Geyserville for lunch...It had stopped raining and was now (being inland) around 70 degrees so we asked to be seated outside with the stipulation that should it rain we could finish inside. We had a lovely setting with greenery vines etc. surrounding us. Our waiter was very knowledgeable of the items on the menu and helped us order something we wouldn't have at home. Grace had Rack of Lamb Madame Bali The lamb racks are marinated in pomegranate juice and white onions for three days then grilled on their parrilla. It looked great...Cost \$33.00. Erna and I, Bill and Terry shared two orders of Marrakesh Lamb, each order serves 2 for \$42. It came in the clay pot it was cooked in for eight hours. The meat was so tender; it fell off the bones. I truly had a delightful experience. We got back to Concord around 6 PM. It was a very enjoyable trip.

"Great trip. Really enjoyed it. All the ladies got a chance to ride in Luker's truck and Grace found it to be a very motionally exciting experience! The truck carried all the luggage. Surprise, surprise! Marv came prepared to stay a month from the size of his suitcase; the ladies got it right (this time). Thanks to Marv for all the hard work putting this first of a kind trip together." —*Bill Luker*

"During this trip, Marv led us to all the places that he and his wife Ruth enjoyed. I was very impressed by Marv's loving memory of his wife, Ruth." —*Terry Hawkyard*

"I enjoyed the time spent with the Nifty Fifties, listening to their life stories and getting to know them better." —*Grace*

OCT. 2014 – WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE WOHC? BY JOYCE LIEBE

The WoHC (Women of Holy Cross) are excited to kick off our upcoming year of activities this month.

Please make a point of joining us after church on Sunday, 10/12 to get our new program!

Mark your calendar with the upcoming key activities:

SUNDAY, 10/12. LWML SUNDAY AND OUR WELCOME BACK "MUGS AND MUFFINS" GATHERING



- o Wear purple and celebrate LWML Sunday! The theme this year is Ephesians 5:2 "and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us & gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering & sacrifice to God"
- o Bring your favorite mug and join us at 11:00 AM for beverages and muffins (or bagels if you prefer) . We will have a very short program and the 2014-2015 Program will be introduced & handed out.

- **Saturday, 10/18. Fall Zone Rally** at Grace Lutheran in Pittsburg.
 - o 8:30-9am Registration & continental breakfast.
 - o 9am-12:30pm Program & lunch. \$10 suggested donation.
 - o Sign up NOW and indicate if you want to carpool from Holy Cross.
- **Monday, 11/10. General Meeting** with Pastor Chu leading a Bible Study followed by craft time.
- **Thurs.-Sat., 11/6-11/8. Corner Cafe** This has become our biggest Parking Lot fundraiser of the year! While the very popular & fun Holiday Hutch Boutique is going on, we provide good food in a festive setting. This IS NOT a WoHC event; however we lead & coordinate it on behalf of the entire congregation. Look for more info on how you can help (donate food & beverages, work a shift, set up, clean up, etc.). Plus, plan to come & have a meal or snack!
- **Monday, 12/8. Annual Christmas dinner.** Held at our Holy Cross Parish Hall again!!! The Board will finalize & communicate more details. Please consider being a table hostess. Check out the WoHC bulletin board and Sunday bulletins for more details on these and all activities.

Sign up and join us for any & all activities.

As always, please feel free to contact me or any of the Board if you have questions, comments, or suggestions."

Joyce Liebe, WoHC President

p.s. We do not have a secretary yet. Did I miss your call or offer to help? It's not too late.

LWML CNH District - Mt. Diablo ZONE FALL RALLY

Saturday, October 18, 2014

8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Grace Lutheran Church

195 Alvarado Ave, Pittsburg, CA 94565

Registration Donation \$10 include Continental Breakfast & Lunch

Program Presentation by Teen Challenge

Sign Up Sheet is posted on WoHC bulletin board in the Parish Hall



OCTOBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 9:30a CVWC Craft (H)	3	4 Noon - NFS to Clayton Oktoberfest
5 <i>Mite Box / Hat Sunday</i> 9:30a Worship w/ Communion (Rev. Muller, guest preacher & liturgist) 11a Sunday School 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	6 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 2:30p WoHC Brd 7p Boy Scout (L)	7 7:15p Choir	8 1p Senior Brd (L)	9 9:30a CVWC Craft (H)	10	11
Pastors' Conference in Spark, Nevada						
12 <i>LWML Sunday</i> 9:30a Worship 11a WoHC "Mugs & Muffins" 11a Sunday School 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	13 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 7p Boy Scout (L)	14 7:15p Choir	15 7p Bible Study - <i>Exodus</i> (H)	16 9:30a CVWC Craft (H)	17	18 8:30a LWML Fall Zone Rally @ Grace, Pittsburg
19 9:30a Worship w/ Communion 11a Sunday School / Adult Bible Study - <i>Ezekiel</i> (L) 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	20 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 1:00p Bridge 6:30p Church Council 7p Boy Scout (L)	21 6:30p Elders Mtg 7:15p Choir	22 7p Bible Study - <i>Exodus</i> (H)	23 9:30a CVWC Craft (H)	24	25 4p Congregation Oktoberfest
26 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> 9:30a Worship 11a Sunday School / Adult Bible Study - <i>Ezekiel</i> (L) OUTREACH 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	27 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 7p Boy Scout (L)	28	29 7p Bible Study - <i>Exodus</i> (H)	30	31	

(cl= Choir Loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg, H=Parish Hall, L=Library, ws=wing room)



OCTOBER

**Holy Cross Lutheran
Church, LCMS**

1092 Alberta Way
Concord, CA 94521



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS
1092 Alberta Way
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Email: holycrossconcord@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.ctsmemberconnect.net

Pastor: Bill Chu

President: Mike Liebe
Vice President: Gregg Syrovatka
Council Secretary: Carrie Kroeger
Financial Secretary: Scott Stadler
Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka
Head Trustee: Allen Brueckner
Elders: Bill Riechman, George Oatis, John
Coyne, Eric Roman, Herb Neumann
Secretarial Staff: Sue Reiter
Newsletter Editor: Grace Gin

Worship Schedule:

Sunday Service	9:30AM
Holy Communion	1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays
Adults Bible Studies	11:00AM
Sunday School	11:00AM

Week Day Bible Study Schedule:

Monday	12:30PM Conference Room, Ladies
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

November Cross Currents: October 22, 2014

Office Hours: M-F 9AM-1PM