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## We Believe....

### A history of the Nicene Creed By Pastor Munding

The Nicene Creed was written by the early Church and adopted by the Church Council at Nicea in AD 325. The present form which we use every Sunday appeared in AD 451 at the Council at Chalcedon. In AD 313 Emperor Constantine declared in the Edict of Milan that Christians could now legally practice their religion, saying, "that it was proper that the Christians and all others should have liberty to follow that mode of religion which to each of them appeared best." This edict did not make Christianity the state religion. That would come a few years later under the reign of Emperor Theodosius (AD 347-395). Even still, the legalization of Christianity meant that the church could not focus its attention to different heresies that have sprung up over time which have corrupted the Word of God. While there were many heresies that arose soon after the church was formed at Pentecost, the church at large was unable to come together and make a universal statement condemning these heresies. Many individuals wrote against the various heresies such as Irenaeus of Lyons who wrote against the Valentinian Gnostics; but the church around the whole Roman Empire could not gather together and make official statements as one body until AD 313.



The first official council of the church was the Council of Nicea, who gathered together to condemn the teachings of Arius who was a priest in Alexandria, Egypt. Arius was teaching that Jesus Christ was the first creation of God the Father thus making Jesus not equal to God. Arius maintained that the Son of God was created by the Father and was therefore neither coeternal with the Father, nor consubstantial, thus denying His divinity. Today we call his false teachings Arianism which is still taught today by some, including the Mormons.

After much discussion with Emperor Constantine (who at this time was new to the faith and was sympathetic to the teachings of Arius), Hosius from Cordoba in Spain convinced the Emperor to hold a council made up of bishops to condemn the teaching of Arius and make a declaration of the true faith, especially concerning the divinity of the Son.

The council began on 20 May and it involved 318 bishops from around the Roman Empire. Only a few of the bishops were followers of Arius, yet the debate of the divinity of Christ was heated. There were rumors that St Nicholas (yes the same St. Nick whom we get Santa from) at one point in the debate punched Arius in the face. This most likely didn't happen as Arius would not have been allowed into the council since he wasn't a bishop, but it goes to show how heated this debate really was. The salvation of mankind rests solely on the divinity of Christ. If Jesus is not fully God then He would not be able to take away the sins of the world. He would be unable to defeat sin, death, and the devil if the Son of God is not God Himself. The Scriptures also speak clearly of Jesus Divinity so any teachings that say otherwise are going against the Holy Word of God.

The hero of the council was Athanasius, the bishop of Alexandria, who staunchly defended the Scriptures concerning the divinity of Christ. Because of his eloquent defense of the scriptures and his attack on Arius' teachings, many bishops who were sympathetic to Arius began to waver and change sides. Arius' teaching could not withstand the testimony of the Scriptures and the testimony of the apostles. In the end only three bishops remained sympathetic to Arius and his teachings, and the church officially condemned Arianism and formulated a confession that spoke rightly about the divinity of Christ, using specific language which speaks against the teachings of Arius. This would be why the Nicene Creed speaks so much on the relationship between God the Father and God the Son. It is important for us to confess that which the early church confessed so that we would not err when it comes to the true teachings of church. To confess a teaching that is different from that of the creeds is to go against the very Word of God which the creeds are a faithful exposition of.



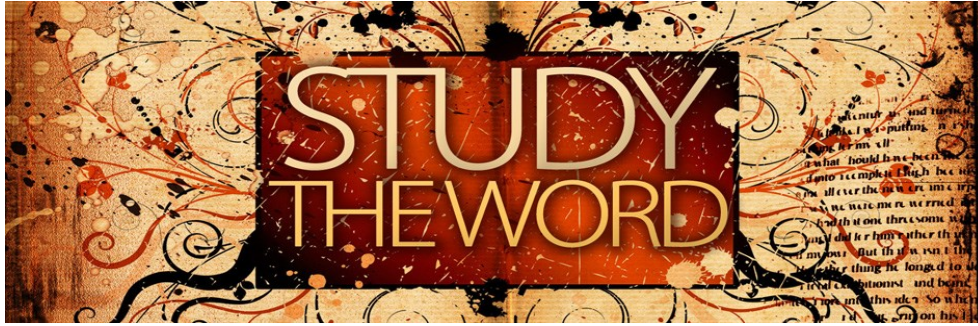
Janet	5/2
Brycen	5/7
Cherylene	5/8
Pastor	5/13
Nick	5/17
Joyce	5/21
Amy	5/21
Finnley	5/24



Jack & Pat	5/19
Howard & Judy	5/22
Eric & Chris	5/26
Mike & Amy	5/30



# **May Bible Studies**



The Zoom links for each are the same each week & are in the Friday Announcements. Email.

**Adult Sunday School, (with Eric) 1pm, Zoom**

**Monday Women's Bible Study (with Annaliesa), 10am, Zoom**

**Pastor's Wed. Evening Bible Study, 7pm, Zoom**

## **Holy Cross Book Club. Mondays\*, 7pm, Zoom**

**Pastor Mundinger continues with our current book:**

"Without Flesh: Why the Church Is Dying Even Though Jesus Is Still Alive" by Jonathan M. Fisk.

The Zoom link is the same each week & is in the Friday Announcements. Email.

\* we meet every Monday of the month except when there is a Monday evening council meeting.



## **WOMEN'S COFFEE & CONVERSATION**

*Join us on Zoom,  
Monday's at 9am*



The Women of Holy Cross continue to meet every Monday (on Zoom) for **Coffee & Conversation.**

**JOIN US ANY MONDAY AT 9AM!**

All women are welcome—we even have some women call in from their new out of state homes and/or their out of town vacation locations!

It's an informal gathering to check in, get updates, offer support to each other & those in our congregation, & plan Holy Cross activities (along with many laughs).

The Zoom link is the same each week & in the Friday Announcements email.

Support our “**Baby Essentials**” drive for Options Health from Mother’s Day (5/9) through Father’s Day (6/20)



*Items needed for the next Distribution Event:*



Diapers (Sizes 1 - 6)



Baby Wipes

**DROP-OFF DETAILS:**

Location: Church Office or the Narthex • Dates/Times: Collection runs Mother’s Day to Father’s Day

*Unable to drop off items? Purchase items from the Amazon Wishlist!*

Find the Amazon Wishlist, make a donation, or learn more at: [optionshealth.org/diapers](https://optionshealth.org/diapers)

**You can drop off diapers and/or baby wipes at Holy Cross, or shop from their Amazon Wishlist, which includes a wide choice of baby essentials.**

Link: [https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/1K5AF9MCJ1M5T/ref=cm\\_wl\\_huc\\_view](https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/1K5AF9MCJ1M5T/ref=cm_wl_huc_view)

## **WoHC (Women of Holy Cross)**

**Our next "Keeping Connected" Zoom call is Thurs., 5/20, 7pm.**

Topic: **share funny parent or grandparent stories. Pictures are encouraged!** Here is some inspiration:



**“SO, I STEPPED AWAY FOR, LIKE, TWO SECONDS...”**

THE BEGINNING OF EVERY PARENTING HORROR STORY, EVER.



*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25*



## May 2021 – WoHC Update by Joyce Liebe, President

A few of women met IN PERSON (outside) on April 23 to regroup & discuss future plans. What joy to sit at a table and have a face-to-face conversation! Keeping in mind the LWML Mission & Values, we had a productive discussion & decided it is a good time for us to reach out to all ladies to get your input as we make plans for the coming months. We plan to do that next month.

**Look for your invitation to a gathering after church on Sunday, June 6.**



\*\*\*\*\* **A message from Grace Gin** \*\*\*\*\*

A note to the ladies of the Holy Cross Family:

Blessings and love from your sisters in Christ.

As we inch closer to life returning to “normalcy” after COVID-19, we look forward to reconnecting with our sisters at Holy Cross. We may question the importance of fellowship. Isn’t it enough to go to church on Sundays and greet each other with hi and bye afterwards? We are very busy in our lives with work, families, and activities. We don’t have time for more activities with the “Women of Holy Cross”.

You are absolutely right about wasting time, if you view WoHC as only a social group run by an exclusive group of women at Holy Cross. But that is completely the opposite of what it is and what we strive for. We believe that Christ is the head of the church and we are part of the members of the body, and every member needs to support each other to function properly in order to carry out the Great Commission of the resurrected Jesus Christ to spread the gospel to all nations of the world.

The Women of Holy Cross’ aim is just that. With fellowships and care projects, we stay connected and get to know each other in a deeper level and support each other with love and encouragement. With study of God’s Word, we nourish our souls. As a healthy (physically and spiritually) body we are better equipped to deal with daily challenges we face and carry out the Lord’s commission with, for example, our daily witnesses and mite collections to support the Lutheran Women Missionary League grant projects.

All female worshippers at Holy Cross, by definition, are members of the Women of Holy Cross. Next time when you received an invitation to a WoHC function, please consider the reason stated above. We hope you will participate...

## **LWML Mission Statement**

**As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.**

## **LWML Core Values**

**Christian Women** — We live as redeemed children of the Triune God.

**In God’s Word** — We live in joyful response to the Holy Scriptures.

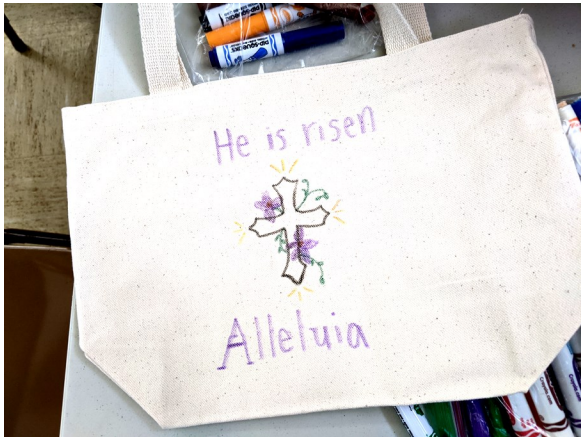
**Mission-Focused** — We answer God’s call to share His Gospel at home and abroad.

**Embrace Diversity** — We are sisters in Christ who value and benefit from each other.

**Servant Leaders** — We are called and equipped by God to serve others.



Pastor, Alex, Kamryn, & Kayleigh  
decorating and filling bags for children  
attending our Easter service.





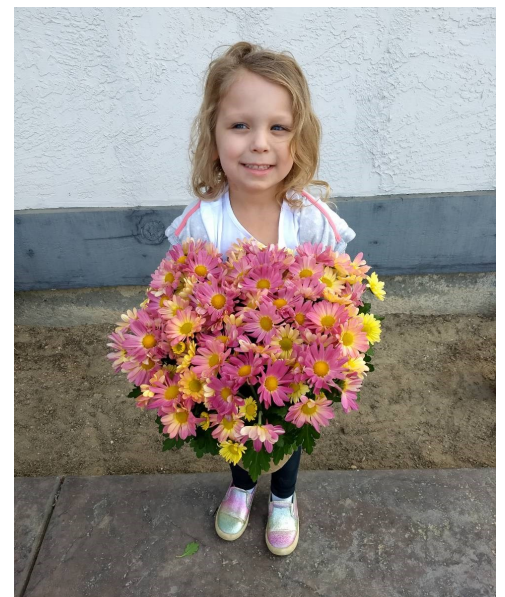


And, a thank you note with pictures:

My kids and grandkids wanted me to pass along their heartfelt thanks for the special job that was done on the baskets for the kids. They all loved them and enjoyed the adventure of opening all the eggs. Even though Addison and Zachary had to stay home with fevers they were still able to have a fun time with the gifts that were sent. They kept hiding them in their yard and then Papa (Gregg) had to find them. Thanks again and please pass the thanks onto the girls who created the baskets.

Thank you,  
Cheryl Syrovatka

Here they are with  
their Easter mums:





# Easter Sunday





# Easter Sunday





## HCMKKP MEN PATHFINDERS LEAD THE WAY TO HOLD FIRST MANDATORY FACE TO FACE FORMATION OF THE YEAR AND LIVE TO TELL THE STORY! There we were...



(Left - Right, Front - Back) Bill Riechmann, Jack Easby / Chaplain Munding, Joe Odrzywolski / Eberhard Weiss, David McHuron (neighborhood conscript Navy guy) / Mike Liebe (CINC), Luker (CO) / Gary Goodshaw (neighborhood conscript and Navy guy friend of Allen Brueckner), Super Duper Senior Master Chief Allen Brueckner another Navy guy

There we were, Buttercup on Clayton, 1000 hours, 15 April 2021, risking our lives to see if we could still tell time, drive, greet

another human civilly, order food from a menu without the women dictating what we're gonna eat and to determine if we could consume said menu items and live to tell stories about it. AND we even shed our masks to permit facial recognition so this venture could be photographically documented for the sake of history and "we beat the women to it" moment!

Buttercup provided their back room without having promised to do so. They waited awhile to take our orders but that was a good thing for those subject to bifocal error or dyslexic and those who suffer from Advanced Adult Attention Deficit Disorder (AAADD); Navy guys are known to suffer from all these issues and research is still underway to determine what additional issues Marines may have. The good news is, all the food was fit for consumption and the men always enjoy eating; however, the meals are more costly and truth be told, I think me missed our Mels Steak and Eggs. Our waitress was nice, but I don't think she appreciated it when I asked for separate checks. 😞

All in all, it was great to get together again. We've all missed the monthly formations even if they are mandatory. A few members of the platoon need to get back in the habit of properly setting priorities. We should be able to go to battle with more than ten (10) combatants without having to conscript men from the neighborhood. The platoon goal for 2021 is to have a force of 25 at every formation.

The next mandatory formation is scheduled for 20 May. The commander may select a different venue (possibly Country Waffles, 5435 Clayton Rd., Concord) and an earlier start time of 0900 hours. Be watching for an email announcing mission details and listen for announcements before church service the Sunday prior. The location may be switched again in June. It has been reported that Huckleberry's restaurant chain will be taking over the old Mels location and open sometime in June or July. The commander is hoping that the food and pricing will lead us to the old Mels for future mandatory formations.

That is all! The Commander



## NIFTY FIFTIES (by Luker)



As expected, the ever vigilant and brave Men's Platoon proved that face to face gatherings in restaurants are possible and enjoyable. That said, it's time to determine the level of bravery that exists among our older population. To test the water, there will be a Nifty Fifties gathering at **Mountain Mike's PIZZA at 1300 hours (sorry - 1 PM for civilians) on 12 May 2021.**

Judging from church attendance and the numerous faces that haven't been seen for months, we need some idea of who will participate. We will start planning one (1) event per month and take it from there. As for this pizza event, we've been there and done that. The pizza is good! The price is right! They take separate checks! Looking forward to great attendance.

Enjoy the picture below of our last Mountain Mike's outing (2/27/2020):



## **From Jan Walker, Council Financial Secretary**

### **JUST A REMINDER... Giving to Holy Cross with Your Bank's Online Bill Pay Feature is Easy!**

A quick and easy way to give electronically, with no worries about writing a check, having an envelope, or even a stamp, is to give electronically by using the "BillPay" feature on your bank's website. This service is usually provided free of charge to you as the customer. Each bank's website is a little different, but the typical process is the same.

- \*Log onto your bank's website and click the link for "BillPay."
- \*Add the church as payee—Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1092 Alberta Way, Concord, CA 94521
- \*Set up a recurring payment to be sent to the church on a scheduled basis (weekly, monthly, or a one time gift)
- \*If you don't want a recurring payment, then leave the amount blank and simply send an offering anytime you want and for any amount.
- \*If the bill pay feature at your bank allows for a "Memo or Note" regarding the check, enter in your Holy Cross envelope number.

### **AND IN ADDITION...Year to Date Giving Statements**

They will be sent out at the end of June, and then at the end of the year for 2021. Statements will be mailed or put in your mail slot in the narthex if I know that you are attending church in person.

If you have any questions about using Online Bill Pay for offerings or donations to Holy Cross, please contact Jan Walker, Financial Secretary, (mrsjwalk@yahoo.com or 970 744-8613).

## **From Mike Liebe, Council President**

### **Coming Soon! A new way to financially support our ministry at Holy Cross**

Our Council has agreed to proceed in implementing the Vanco e-giving capability for Holy Cross. This will allow us to add a "Donate Now" electronic "button" to our website and Facebook page that will take persons to our private and secure Vanco page to make credit or debit card contributions to support our ministry activities at Holy Cross.

The Council envisions this new feature can be used for projects, special fund-raisers, events, and other innovations, including an easy way for friends of Holy Cross to join in on the great work we do.

As a credit/debit card application, you may be aware there is a transaction and percentage servicing fee like those that are applied to businesses. For that reason, the Council wishes to use this new tool as a supplemental opportunity rather than our members and frequent worshippers shifting their weekly giving to the Vanco e-giving. We set up Auto Bill Pay recently as a method for members to simplify giving at no extra costs to members or Holy Cross, and you can also continue to use your envelopes and the offering tray as we have done for many years.

You will be hearing more about Vanco e-giving as we introduce this new and flexible way to financially support our ministry at Holy Cross!



# May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9am Vision Mtg. Zoom
2  9:30am Worship Service, Options Health Speaker after 1pm Adult Sunday School Zoom 2-6pm EB Myanmar PH	3 OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom 7pm Pastor's Book Club Zoom	4 11a Prayer Group, Sanctuary	5 7pm Pastor's Bible Study Zoom	6	7	8
9  9:30am Worship Service 1pm Adult Sunday School Zoom 2-6pm EB Myanmar PH	10 OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom 7pm Pastor's Book Club Zoom	11 11a Prayer Group, Sanctuary	12 1pm Nifty Fifty Mountain Mike's 7pm Pastor's Bible Study Zoom	13  5:45pm Congregation Pizza Dinner 7pm Ascension Worship Service	14	15
16 9:30am Worship Service 1pm Adult Sunday School Zoom 2-6pm EB Myanmar PH	17 OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom 6:30pm Council Mtg	18 11a Prayer Group, Sanctuary	19 7pm Pastor's Bible Study Zoom	20 TBD HC Men's Kaffeeklatsch 7pm WoHC Keep Connected Zoom	21	22
23 9:30am Worship Service 1pm Adult Sunday School Zoom 2-6pm EB Myanmar PH	24 OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom 7pm Pastor's Book Club Zoom	25 11a Prayer Group, Sanctuary	26 7pm Pastor's Bible Study Zoom	27	28	29
30 9:30am Worship Service 1pm Adult Sunday School Zoom 2-6pm EB Myanmar PH	31 OFC CLOSED 					

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

## Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

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Council Secretary: Carrie Kroeger

Financial Secretary: Jan Walker

Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka

Trustees: Allen Brueckner, Bill Luker

Elders: Bill Riechmann, John Coyne,  
Eric Roman, Herb Neumann

Secretarial Staff: Joyce Liebe

**Office Hours:** Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm

Newsletter Editor: Joyce Liebe  
[editor@holycrossconcord.org](mailto:editor@holycrossconcord.org)

### **Sunday Worship Schedule:**

Sunday Service 9:30AM

Adult Sunday School 1PM Zoom

Youth Bible Study 11AM

Sunday School 11AM (on hold)

### **Week Day Bible Study Schedule:**

Monday (Ladies) 10AM Zoom

Wednesday (Adult) 7PM Zoom

### **Book Club Schedule:**

Monday 7PM

**\*\*\*Above subject to change due to COVID\*\*\***

### **Bulletin & Cross Currents Publication Deadline:**

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

June 2021 Cross Currents: May 22, 2021