

CROSS CURRENTS

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

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There is neither Democrat nor Republican...

Pastor Chu

In about five weeks, the last of the 2016 primaries and caucuses will be held; whether any candidate emerges from the primary/caucus process with the requisite delegates to be the nominee for either of the two main parties prior to their respective national conventions in July remains to be seen. With so much at stake, candidates are firing accusations, aspersions, name-calling, and vitriol either directly or through their campaigns. Even within each party, the top candidates are as different as night and day on some issues, which means that Christians who share similar political leanings might find themselves at odds with one another during this primary season over substantive issues.

Conventional wisdom advises caution when discussing politics, especially with family members, because it often leads to arguments and possibly to fractured relationships; we can argue that this applies to such discussions among Christians as well.

On the one hand, not discussing politics with fellow Christians — especially Christians in one's own congregation — would seem the wisest course for the sake of not letting anything harm our relationship with brothers and sisters in Christ. St. Paul says in 1Corinthians 8:13, *Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble*. If political discussions lead to arguments or worse among Christians, then we should not engage in such discussions for the sake of Christian fellowship and our fellow Christians.

On the other hand, should we not be able to speak even about politics with fellow Christians without letting our political passions overrun our love for one another as fellow redeemed who are one in Christ? ²⁷*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ*, Paul says. ²⁸*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female* — and we might add, “neither Democrat nor Republican nor Libertarian nor Independent, neither Trumpster nor Cruzite, neither Hillaryite nor Bernie-ite — *for you are all one in Christ Jesus*. (Galatians 3).

Better not to discuss politics with fellow Christians if we're not able to do without getting upset — or worse, without engaging in the antics of politicians — because we are one in Christ, and that unity transcends even political affiliation and ideology. ⁴*There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call — ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all* (Ephesians 4:4-6; cf. 1Corinthians 12:13; Colossians 3:11).

However, I encourage you to strive by the grace of God to engage in conversation with each other on whatever topic, even politics, and to let the love of Christ prevail as you do so, in order that you listen and speak to one another with patience, compassion, and concern for one another as fellow believers. *Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers [and sisters] dwell in unity* (Psalm 133:1).



PENTECOST

MAY 15



The annual **Palm Sunday dinner** was a big success with the beautifully decorated tables and the delicious food. Over \$200 was donated to the Parking Lot Fund due to the generosity of those who attended.

Easter Morning

We want to thank the Chu Hen House for the donation of all the eggs (already colored) and also the Stadler orchard for all the fresh squeezed orange juice. Thanks to all who brought delicious rolls, breads and fruit platters. I know the kids had fun at the Easter egg hunt and a great big thank you to those who helped put on the hunt. Blessings, Melarie



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Janet O.
- 7 Brycen S.
- 8 Cherylene B.
- 9 Frances M.
- 12 Revia M.
- 15 Bud W.
- 17 Nick S.
- 21 Joyce L.
Amy M.
- 24 Finnley R.
- 26 Josh B.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 18 Michael & Linda P.
- 19 Jack & Pat E.
- 22 Howard & Judy S.
- 25 Dennis & Carol L.
- 26 Eric & Chris R.



May Choir Re-
hearsal Dates
May 3, 10, 17.



NETWORK OF CARE-What a great time we had on Monday evening, April 11th. Janet Frazer was a lovely, informative speaker regarding her non-profit organization which she started in honor of the loss of her daughter. Our group of 10 ambitious women assembled 250 bags of nutritious food for Emergency Rooms recipients at local hospitals. Thank you to all who helped with this worthy cause and especially our hostesses for the wonderful dessert and beverages. We had an awesome meeting also and great ice breaker. Carol Lau



OUTREACH/CONCORD SHELTER-Sunday, April 24th-So many donations, so many hands to help, so many hearts for helping the poor in our community. Our congregation is so fully blessed in this ministry to feed the poor both physically and spiritually. We had many hungry people to meet us and they were so appreciative of a good home-cooked meal. This is a very worthy cause and we can always use more hands to help serve the less fortunate. God loves a cheerful giver. Carol Lau

CONDOLENCES

Steven Liedtke has passed away. His service was held on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at 11:00 am at Holy Cross. Please keep the Liedtke Family in your prayers.



CONCORD SHELTER needs SMALL SHAMPOOS

Our local Concord Adult Shelter is in need of SMALL (Hotel or travel size) shampoos. If you can help, please bring your donations to church and place them in one of the plastic bins on the literature table just inside the parish hall....we will take them to the shelter on OUTREACH SUNDAYS (4th Sunday of the month).

Vacationing?? Please save the extra shampoo, etc. for us. We will even take empty small bottles as well. Thank you for your most appreciated and needed donations.



May 2016 - What's Happening with the WoHC? by Joyce Liebe, President

On 4/11 about 13 WoHC attended our April General Meeting. We started with Janet Frazier, Executive Director, the Network of Care, telling us how she started her non-profit organization. It's an amazing story - here's recap from her website:

In 2001, Jim & Janet Frazier were summoned to a hospital near Sacramento to hear that their daughter Lindsey was in critical condition, the victim of a car crash, & that her older sister Stephanie had not survived. So began the longest night of their lives, trying to take in the loss of one child & keeping a vigil over their critically injured daughter in the trauma unit.

Over a day later, Janet stood up & almost collapsed. Hours of terror, grief & a complete lack of food & water had taken their toll. A nurse brought out her own brown bag sandwich, & gave it to Janet, which gave her much-needed sustenance & something else as well—a feeling of connection from this simple act of sharing.

In the months that followed, with daughter Lindsey back home & on the mend, Jim & Janet determined to start a program to supply other families with support & that sense of connection—in this case, a meal or snacks in a bag—while they were at the bedside of a sick or injured child. In 2004, they launched The Network of Care, which distributed bags of food items to families whose children were in the hospital at Kaiser in Walnut Creek. Today, along with a network of volunteers, they serve 60 hospitals!

One mother wrote: *"I wanted to write to say thank you. I had to bring our one-year-old son to the ER in the middle of the night because he was struggling to breathe. After several hours, he was admitted & we spent the night in Pediatrics. My husband was at home with our daughter, so I was left by myself with a frightened son who was hooked up to all kinds of machines as well as an IV. It was nearly impossible just to leave him long enough to get to the bathroom. I cannot tell you how much I appreciated the bag of snacks. Without it, I would not have eaten, & it made all the difference."*

Their mission: to deliver nourishing bags of snacks & meals to pediatric units, ICU nurseries & trauma centers. For families who lack the time, energy or presence of mind to look after their own needs while they are focused on their children, The Network of Care provides not just food but a lifeline of strength, support & comfort.

Janet had stopped by Sam's Club & purchased cases and cases of snacks. Then with Carol Lau's help, she lined some of each on tables. At one end 2 gals labeled each bag, then 6-8 of us filled bags & put in spoons, napkins, & info card, & lastly 2 gals stapled bags closed. It wasn't that long before we had filled 250 bags! Plus, we gave Janet a \$100 donation from our General Fund which will support over 50 families! We helped Janet clean-up & load up - then onto our meeting, dessert, & sharing "where in the World would you like to go?". Many stories, laughs, & tips were shared. Thanks to Cherylene for the dessert & for kicking off our sharing.

Upcoming WoHC activities:

*Tues., 6/14, Dinner Out with Friends & Family, Oakhurst Country Club, 6pm Mark your calendar now for this **CONGREGATION** event. We will enjoy a relaxing meal with a wonderful view - for only \$18 per person (tax & tip included). Invite family & friends to join us.*

Upcoming Zone & District activities:

Sat., 5/21, Zone 7 Spring Rally, Resurrection Ministries, Brentwood Details coming soon. Look for signup sheet & indicate if you want to carpool from Holy Cross.

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.



Angel Tree – Last Christmas & More Information on this Program

Many of you participated last Christmas in providing gifts via the Angel Tree program. It was our first year participating in Angel Tree and we provided gifts to about 30 children. While it was quite a bit of work to coordinate all the various steps in the program (Melarie Seidel was our coordinator), feedback was that it was a positive outreach experience and we want to do it again.

To recap, Angel Tree is a program of the nonprofit Prison Fellowship. Angel Tree connects parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts. Local church volunteers purchase and deliver gifts and the Gospel to children in the name of their prisoner-parent.

Melarie was invited to an Angel Tree recognition lunch held April 2. I agreed to go with her. As we drove to Palma Ceia Baptist Church in Hayward, I was unsure what to expect (except lunch 😊).

Well, it was a very informative and uplifting experience (and the lunch was outstanding). We were among about a dozen churches - from Sacramento, Stockton, Vacaville, and various other Bay Area cities. Some have been supporting the program just a year like us and some 15+ years. We all shared best practices to make the experience as positive as we can.

I want to share some highlights:

Prison Fellowship is an international organization, established 40 years ago

Angel Tree is one of their programs. They also have mentor/inmate programs, a warden exchange to minister/help each other, re-entry support, & criminal justice advocacy.

In 2015, 2.7 million children had a parent in prison

These families are broken up and face unique challenges (the children often move, with the same or different guardians)

Broken families can perpetuate a cycle of incarceration

Inmates who have family to come home to are more likely to have a successful re-entry

In 2015, in California alone, Angel Tree supported 50,000 children (down from previous

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(Continued from page 5)

years)

After listening to the statics and discussion, I realized that these prison programs can be valuable in many ways. Some of us, me included, may sometimes have the opinion to lock up criminals and let them serve their time (I still think this is true for repeat offenders and those that commit heinous crimes). However we all make mistakes/sin. There are many reasons for incarceration: punishment, deterrence, rehabilitation, and restitution. We all hope and pray that inmates are released to do better than they did before they entered prison.

I see the programs of Prison Ministries helping to accomplish that goal.

We must remember that the gifts are not the main point of Angel Tree. The point is to let the children (plus prisoner parent & extended family) know that God loves them and they are not forgotten.

In closing, two stories to share. The Hayward Baptist church that hosted us has served Angel Tree children for over 15 years. If the children are still in their area and the inmate is still incarcerated, they can "adopt" the same children for years. They have had at least a couple released inmates visit their church, with their child(ren), to meet and thank the church members for their support. Also, one of the Pastors of the Baptist church meets with inmates regularly. He said that it "lights up the prisoners life" to know they have this tie to their children.

Angel Tree – Plans for this year & how You can help

We want to support Angel Tree again this year. In addition to our congregation's support, for the last several years, the WoHC have submitted a request & have received a matching \$1000 grant from Thrivent to support our Christmas adopt a family outreach program.

Thrivent changed how they handle grants (no longer approving a maximum of \$1000 per event). Instead a Thrivent member can apply for a \$250 action grant to support a Human Care need/project.

We doubt this will occur, and even if it does, we will still not have \$1000 as in the past. So - the WoHC want to raise money to offset the \$1000 we will not be receiving.

We plan to have a congregational BBQ this summer! We will also have some games and it will be topped off with homemade ice cream! And to make it even sweeter, we will have a bake sale (you can choose what you want for dessert & also take some home & to share).

Be on the lookout for your invitation! Then mark your calendar and plan to attend, have fun, a good meal, & help of raise money to support Angel Tree!

Thanks to everyone for your support, Joyce Liebe

Matthew 18:5 And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.



We Can Do It!

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13

LWML
2016 Zone 7
SPRING RALLY
SATURDAY MAY 21, 2016

Hosted by Resurrection Ministries
1275 Fairview Avenue
Brentwood, CA 94513
925-634-5180 | www.rezministry.org

**PLEASE JOIN YOUR SISTERS IN CHRIST
at the 2016 LWML Zone 7 Spring Rally**

- ★ Breakfast & Check-in: 8:30 am - 9:00 am
- ★ \$10.00 suggested registration donation:
includes morning refreshments and lunch
- ★ Guest Speaker: SARAH SUNDIN, award-winning author

INGATHERING IS TO SUPPORT THE
★ **CCBSM** ★
CONTRA COSTA
BLUE STAR MOMS

We will be collecting most needed food items for care packages for our troops: (new & small packs)
BEEF JERKY - BEEF STICKS - TRAIL MIX
TUNA/CHICKEN SALAD KITS - CANNED CHILI - STEW - PASTA
OATMEAL PACKS - CRACKERS/COOKIES - RICE KRISPY TREATS
CORN NUTS - GRANOLA BARS - SUNFLOWER SEEDS - POP TARTS
FRUIT ROLL-UPS - GUM & MINTS
DRINK SINGLES (CRYSTAL LIGHT, ETC) - INDIVIDUAL COFFEE PACKETS
CIDER MIX - TEA BAGS

Each society please RSVP number of attendees to JAN PERRY at 925-788-3346
or janperry13@sbcglobal.net by 5/14/16
Visit REZMINISTRY.ORG/EVENT-ITEMS/LWML-SPRING-RALLY for more info

2016 LWML CNH DISTRICT CONVENTION

Ladies, it is 10:30 on Friday morning, the car is gassed up and loaded with luggage, in-gathering and two women from Holy Cross. Pat (Easby) and I (Gayle Bothe) are excited to be on our way to the 2016 LWML CNH Convention! We arrive and register into the convention and then our room, it all went very smoothly. We arrived too late to attend the afternoon program called SWAPP—Study, Worship, And Praise, Prayer. That was led by Pastoral Counselor Bill Chu.

The first Session that evening opened the Convention then we had Worship Service with Communion. It is truly awe inspiring to hear 229 (mostly) women raising their voices in song to God. It is good to start everything we do with our focus on God, especially here as we are all about furthering God's Kingdom through our Mite Projects.

The LWML CNH conventions are always very

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Note to ALL Ladies This is your chance to invite your friends, neighbors, etc., it's also our chance to WELCOME BRENTWOOD, into our Zone 7 LUTHERAN WOMAN MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

On Saturday, May 21, 2016, Brentwood is hosting their First LWML Rally. We would like to welcome them and show our support for their new endeavor. PLEASE set this one morning aside for an interesting, inspiring, & fun, time, with your sisters in Christ. You can dress casual and comfy!!

There will be carpooling, from Holy Cross, so please sign up, or you may drive yourself if you prefer.

Continental Breakfast, drinks, a great speaker, AND lunch, will be provided.

WE CAN DO IT! SHOW YOUR SUPPORT. Pat Easby

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well organized to fit in all the informational segments, Bible Studies—morning and afternoon, breakfast, lunch and dinner, balloting, different offerings for specific funds—Steinbeck Memorial Scholarships Fund and then Rubin Memorial Fund and on Sunday offering for Mites. There are also breaks giving us time to visit displays, CPH Store and servant events and time to meet new people and greet ladies you have met at other conventions, a zone rally or retreats.

The banquet Saturday night was followed with entertainment that we provided for ourselves with a little help from a couple of line dancing instructors. Yes, you read correctly, many, many ladies and a couple of husbands got up and learned several line dances. For those of us who just watched it was so much fun also. We have an untapped resource in LWML. The group could go on the road, they looked so good. I bet they slept well that night!

We had two moving and inspiring presentation by Rev. Trinidad Castaneda in Hispanic ministry in Arvin, CA and Pastor Doua and Sue Xiong in Hmong ministries in Merced, CA. It is always moving to hear how the Gospel is reaching people in our own country and state as a part of mission work.

Well, I got a little wordy and yet didn't say enough to get across what a privilege and special treat it is to attend an LWML Convention. However, get out a jar or a baggy and start setting aside some money (don't take it from Mite donations!) because in two years the 2018 District Convention will be somewhere in the Greater Bay Area. On top of that, Holy Cross will have some responsibilities at that convention. The more local churches help the less any one church has to do and all will go as smoothly as this one did.

Thanks for hanging in with my rambling.

Your sister in Christ,

Gayle Bothe



April 2016
LWML District
Convention



NFS May Activities

Again we are planning two activities for May 2016!!!

The first is on Friday the 13 of May at Moa Korean BBQ, located at 508 Contra Costa Blvd. This is a BBQ restaurant that specializes in Korean BBQ which is pork belly or beef brisket rather than the traditional Pork Ribs. Frankly I have never eaten BBQ Pork Belly, but after reading the reviews I'm looking forward to our lunch there. There is a variety of ways they prepare the food as the meat is lightly flavored with the marinade includes miso, garlic, herb, wine, ginseng and curry. When I talked with Bill Luker he said they have thin sliced beef and pork and many of the regular BBQ items. When I brought up Korean BBQ on the internet, there were more 5 star ratings than any of the restaurant I had written about. Example: "We ordered the beef brisket, very thin slices of marbled beef which grilled up into delicious crispy bites that paired perfectly with the spicy miso or sesame garlic oil dipping sauces. Next we ordered plain shaved pork belly and those were delightfully crisp and delicately porky after their turn on the grill." Sign up in the Social Hall so we know how many to plan on. Try something new!!! Lunch is at 1:00. Meet at church at 12:00 and leave at 12:15. As always, bring a friend. Remember to sign up in the Social hall.

Our 2nd outing is also on a Friday the 27 of May and is an old favorite, The Brass Door Restaurant is located at 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon .CA 94583. I have always enjoyed dining at this restaurant as it is an upscale restaurant with linen tablecloths and Goblets for water glasses. They always start with baskets of sourdough garlic bread loaded with butter even before we order. I plan on having what I always have from the dinner section on the lunch menu where they have senior offerings of their 9 Oz ground round with mushroom gravy and vegetables, salad and dessert which is I think still is \$13.50. Hardly a senior portion. Last time we were there several of our group also had this or other senior offerings on the menu. The senior price is in red and is extended from the items. Not all items have senior portions which includes the salad and dessert. I think this place is fantastic as it reminds me of the kind of places I used to visit back In Minnesota with Ruth. It is a change of pace from the typical youth or sport oriented chains. Lunch is as always at 1:00 and we should plan on meeting at church at 12:00 and leave at 12:15 Sign up in the Social hall so we know how many to plan on. Again these outings are great ways to get to know your Christian friends.



Lunch at Le Cheval Restaurant
3/24/16.
Seniors having a good time!!!



March WoHC Meeting—Hat Day

It was a beautiful day as we left church. Just the kind of weather I like with a western breeze and a few scattered clouds and Trudy as my guide. We journeyed to 680 and where it joined with highway 4 turned and headed towards Vallejo cutting off on Cummings Skyway then Crocket Blvd and down into the town of Crocket. It's a good thing I had printed out a map on MapQuest because if you don't know the way you can wander as it looks like you end up in a gravel quarry and a dead end street when you look up and there across the tracks is the Nantucket Restaurant. When we arrived Joe and Peggy were there in the lot waiting. Pastor Chu was also there. We ended up with 9, a really nice sized group. Tim Hintz, Eberhard Weiss, Pastor and Joe Odrzywolski anchored the end of our table and the conversation was endless. I'm sure they covered the coming election, the Warriors and everything important people talk about....Anyway they got to know each other much better. Trudy, Anke, Bill, Peggy and I anchored the other end and all enjoyed just being together. If you haven't joined us in one of our outings you really missed out as our group is super friendly and fun to be with. I had a cup of clam chowder and a salad and it was excellent. Several had the Fish and Chips and it looked great. The food was great, the conversation was great, and the camaraderie was great. Don't miss our next outing.

☺☺☺ You wouldn't believe how many people have never known what a "mite" is. ☺

Or why they are called "mite" boxes". (Bug boxes in church?)

☺☺☺

Check out the following web site from LMWL for a complete explanation.

<http://www.lwml.org/mites>

Thank you Pat Easby for sharing this information.



MAY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Mite Box/Hat Sun. 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Class 2-6p Myanmar Christian	2 2:30p WoHC Brd Mtg.	3 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	4 7p Bible Study	5 Ascension of our Lord	6	7 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
8 MOTHER'S DAY 9:30am Worship 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian	9 7p Scouts	10 3:30-6:45p Firecracker Forum 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	11 1p Senior Brd 7p Bible Study	12	13 12:00p NFS Moa Korean	14 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
15 PENTECOST 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian	16 12:30p Bridge 6:30p Church Council 7p Scouts	17 3:30-6:45p Firecracker Forum 6:30p Elders 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	18 7p Bible Study	19	20	21 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum Zone 7 Spring Rally
22 TRINITY SUNDAY 9:30am Worship 11a Sunday School/Bible Study Outreach 10:30a 2-6p Myanmar Christian	23 7p Scouts	24 3:30-6:45p Firecracker Forum	25 7p Bible Study	26	27 12:00p NFS Brass Door	28 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
29 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian	30 MEMORIAL DAY 7p Scouts	31 3:30-6:45p Firecracker Forum				

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

Secretarial Staff: Sue Reiter
Newsletter Editor: M. Kuefner

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
June 2016 Cross Currents: May 20, 2016