

CROSS CURRENTS

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

Pastor Chu

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Stereotypes may or may not have basis in reality; even where there is, it is often tenuous at best.

Mike Vacarro, New York Post's chief sports writer, suggested in his recent article, "Ryan Lochte Is Everything the World Hates About Americans," that the "Ugly American" stereotype abroad is alive and well in 2016 thanks to Ryan Lochte and his three teammates who lied about being robbed in Rio. Vacarro relates how his colleagues stereotype the "Ugly American" as having a *sense of entitlement, however subtle; a feeling of superiority, however unintended*.

Sometimes, as I've traveled overseas, Vacarro writes, I've been troubled by that notion, of the assumption of the Ugly American. I've thought it a cartoon, a caricature, whose time was surely over. And then, sometimes, you see someone like Ryan Lochte open his mouth. And when you hear what comes tumbling out, it all makes perfect sense. (nypost.com/2016/08/18/ryan-lochte-is-everything-the-world-hates-about-americans/)

The world — nonChristians — often stereotypes Christians as having a "holier-than-thou" air of superiority, hypocrites who often don't practice what they/we preach.

Whether we agree with the stereotype of Americans, the stereotype of Christians has basis in fact: we don't always practice what we preach and, in fact, we can't. No matter how determined we might be to obey God — assuming we want to, which we often don't — we do fail to practice what we preach and will do so till the day we die. And sometimes perhaps in our zeal to proclaim the Word of God, especially the Law, we forget to do so in a humble, compassionate, and winsome manner.

Christians are neither perfect nor better than anyone else and we don't, and certainly shouldn't, claim to be. We are sinners just like everyone else. Difference between Christians and nonbelievers is faith in Christ. Christians, through faith in Christ, are forgiven sinners, declared righteous and not guilty by God on account of Jesus Christ Whom He judged guilty in place of all sinners. By His grace, we accept the gift of forgiveness and salvation. This doesn't make us better than anyone else; it makes us better off for now and for eternity.

Jesus warned that we, who bear His name, would be hated by the world because it hates Him. The world also hates Jesus' Word that we believe, trust, confess, and profess, because it accuses sinners, holds sinners accountable, condemns sinners, and points sinners to Him as the way, the truth, and the life.

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The world does not need any reason to hate or accuse Christians other than that we claim Jesus to be the Son of God and the only Savior and we teach, confess, and stand on Scripture as the inerrant, infallible Word of God that is at odds with the wisdom of the world.

But let's not give the world cause to cling to the stereotypes of Christians by perpetuating those stereotypes with our words or actions. Rather, we admit that we are sinners, no better than anyone one, though we are better off because of faith in Christ as Savior and Lord. And when we fail to love God above else and to love our neighbors — believers and unbelievers alike — as we love ourselves, we admit and confess our sins, ask for forgiveness from God and from those whom we sinned against, and look to Jesus and point others to Him as Son of God who loves with divine, undeserved, and unconditional love that forgives, restores, and renews.



September Birthdays

- 3 Eric I.
Ray K.
Eleanor T.
- 5 Karen G.
- 10 Linda P.
- 12 Judy W.
- 16 Brandon V.
- 19 Mitzi A.
Roberta M.
- 20 Steve V.
- 21 Violet G.
- 23 Marlene R.
- 24 Melarie S.
- 25 Howard S.
- 26 Brian G.
Jaan K.
- 27 Caitlin P.
- 28 Ken B.
- 30 Cooper S.

September Anniversaries

- 1 Billy & Ina D.
- 3 Bill & Gayle B.
- 4 Bill & Roberta M.
- 13 Mike & Melarie S.

CONGRATULATIONS



Greetings!

Born 8/21, 10:30 AM @ Kaiser Walnut Creek. 6 lb, 9 oz.

Proud parents are Jecek and Carolee Kicki (Luker)

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

- Women's Bible Study on Monday's at 12:30. Studying Cynthia Heald's "Becoming a Woman Who's God is Enough"
- Wednesday—Pastor's Bible Study on Paul's letter to the Romans—Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28
- Pastor's Sunday School Bible Class will resume in October with a series on the Reformation in preparation for the celebration of the 499th anniversary of the Reformation.

CHOIR RESUMES with rehearsal on Tuesday, September 6 at 7:15 pm in the choir loft. We're in need of more voices; if you can, please come join in "making a joyful noise to the Lord!" Contact Diana Meux at di-anamcm02@yahoo.com or 510-526-3294.

"Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing." (Psalm 100:1-2)



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

Our "Main Event" this summer was our **Angel Tree Fundraiser**. The BBQ and Bake Sale were well attended, even though it was around 100 degrees outside!

The 60 or so that attended, including several guests, stayed cool inside, enjoying their meal along with some singing, games, & visiting. It was great to see so many folks in the Parish Hall having a great time! I would like to take a moment to mention a few special folks

Pat Easby for heading up the kitchen crew, which included her friends Denise & Helga

Idalene Stadler for leading the set up/decorating crew

Mike Liebe plus Gregg & Cheryl Syrovatka, who grilled the hot dogs.

Sue Reiter for making sure we had enough cold beverages

Carol Lau & Annaleisa Liedke for leading the singing

Grace Gin & Carol Chu for taking care of all the fresh fruit trays

Mike Liebe for arranging for all the various games we enjoyed

Pastor Chu for making the rounds, visiting with everyone & playing a few games too

Ina Dekker for inviting her family, her daughter's friends, & another couple to join us (plus helping me clean & cut up the fruit)

Gayle Bothe for helping set up, kitchen crew, & clean up

My co-workers Yuki Yoshida (plus her daughter) & Sheila Matsutani for providing half of the bake sale goodies. When I told them about our fundraising plans, they volunteered to help us. Therefore, there were no expenses associated with the Bake Sale!

The entire WoHC Board for working together to make our plans to replace Thrivent grant money a success!

I know there were many others who helped before, during, and after the Fundraiser. Also many who donated money - whether they could attend or not! It's amazing what we can do when we pull together!

Now for the great news - **we raised over \$1400!** This will go a long way to provide gifts to several Angel Tree children in our area! Praise the Lord!

Upcoming WoHC activities:

Sun., 10/9, LWML Sunday AND our Welcome Back "Mugs and Muffins" gathering after church (11am). Bring your favorite mug and we will provide the beverages and muffins. This is one event you must attend - it's after church, so just plan to stay and spend some time with us! It's a great way to meet the Board and many other women at HC. Plus, we will hand out the 2016-2017 Program, which includes the upcoming year's activities, birthdays, anniversaries, etc.

Upcoming Zone & District activities:

Sat., 9/24, Zone 7 Fall Rally, St. Philip Lutheran; Dublin Details will be communicated later.

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.

Nifty Fifty September Activities

Skipolinis Pizza Thursday Sept 8th 2016 At 4:00 PM

The reason we are scheduling it for 4:00 is that they don't open till 4:00. I was talking with the gal there to see what we could do ordering Pizza etc. for around 10 people. I told her that we wanted a good Pizza with lots of meat and she recommended that we order 3 of the Family Size Combination Pizza that has Salami, Pepperoni, Mushrooms, Olives, Bell peppers, Onions, Sausages and Ground Beef that sells for \$30.00 each and feeds about 4 people. I mentioned a salad and she said that we should order 2 salads because most people eat more Pizza than Salad for \$11.50 ea. or \$23.00. For drinks we can order pitchers of Beer, premium at \$18.95 (Black Diamond, Sierra Nevada, Pale Ale, Samuel Adams, Stella, or we can order Domestic Beer for \$15.75. A Pitcher is 60 Oz, or we can have everyone order their own drinks. They have wine and soft drinks. We can decide what we want to do when we get there. Total 3 Pizza's at \$30.00 or \$90.00, two Salads \$23.00 total of \$113.00, tax at 9.5 & and you have \$123.74 or \$12.30 per person using specious accuracy. Skipolinis Pizza is located at 1033 Diablo Street in Clayton. Meet at Church at 3:30 leave at about 3:45 or go direct. It really doesn't make that much difference as we will probably be the first there. Should be fun. Sign up though as if we order. We need to know how many are coming. Bring a friend! Marv Kreitz

Our second outing is to a Champagne Brunch Lone Tree Golf & Event Center Sunday Sept 18th 10:00 – 1:30

We are planning on Brunch at the Lone Tree Golf and Event center located at 4800 Golf Course Rd. Antioch CA 94531. I have to tell you how Trudy and I got acquainted with Brunch at Lone Tree Golf Course. She won Brunch for two at a lunch at the Round Hill Country Club (a SIR outing) as a door drawing. I had played golf at Lone Tree several times with the SIRs and the Club House was just a shack selling hot dogs and hamburgers and sending players out to play the course. I thought it wouldn't be much of a lunch but was I ever wrong. We were seated and they immediately were there with Mimosas or Champagne. We relaxed and then went in the adjacent room which featured Two Cooking Stations. Prime Rib, Ham, waffles & French toast and of course Omelets. There was a large display of Seafood on Ice followed by about 8 or 10 covered food containers with ever type of eggs bacon potatoes etc. They even had one with BBQ ribs. They also had a fancy Dessert assortment. Needless to say we piled the food on and returned to our table where they were already there with more Champagne. Brunch at Lone Tree is \$22.95 for seniors and Adults \$25.95. We plan on leaving right after church at 10:40 and should be there by 11:30. They stop serving at 1:30. That's what Trudy and I did and we seemed to have plenty of time. Sign up in the social hall. **Bring a friend!** Marv Kreitz

SAVE THE DATE—October 29, 2016

Octoberfest has been scheduled and the Trustees are chairing the committee. The annual tradition continues. Of course, more people are always needed to help the committee with this great event. Contact Mike Liebe to join the committee or to offer your help in other ways.



Roll out the barrel...

From our President of WoHC

Time Tested Beauty Tips

The following was written by the late educator-humorist Sam Levinson for his grandchild and it just so happened to be one of Audrey Hepburn's favorite poems. She read it to her children on the very last Christmas Eve she spent with us here on Earth.

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.
For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people.
For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.
For beautiful hair, let a child run his or her fingers through it once a day.
For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone.
People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed and redeemed; never throw out anyone.
Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you'll find one at the end of each of your arms.
As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.
The beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure that she carries, or the way she combs her hair. The beauty of a woman must be seen from in her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart, the place where love resides.
The beauty of a woman is not in a facial mole but true beauty in a woman is reflected in her soul. It is the caring that she lovingly gives, the passion that she shows, and the beauty of a woman grows with the passing years.

NEW LIM's

We had made reservations for 8 and 11 showed up. The restaurant was very accommodating and added additional tables. I remembered last time we were there I had ordered Kung Po Shrimp and it was delicious, but this time I was going to order something different. They had dinner for two at about \$10.00 so I talked Trudy into ordering a dinner for two and when they started the meal, they brought a bowl of sour soup enough for two bowls each ...which I could only eat one and a half. Then came Chow Mein prawns and re-fried rice enough to feed all of us. Trudy and I ate as much as we could and asked to have the rest boxed to take home. Bill Luker and Eberhard and Anke were sure right the food was very ample and good. They have converted me from the Jade Garden. Wow, how can you not join us and enjoy each experience with us! Marv Kreitz

RED LOBSTER

It was as always a beautiful day, but it was going to be hot. Not like back in Minnesota where the humidity is so high that you are miserable even with a temperature in the 80's. Trudy and Karol were meeting me at my house at 11:45 and parked in front. I was hoping the neighbors would notice two good looking gals getting into my car. My neighbor across the street has a girlfriend that I met at his 90th birthday party, but he didn't say anything. We drove to church just to see if anyone was waiting for a ride. Sue came out and gave me the signup sheet and we picked up Crystal and left for the restaurant. We ended up with 7 at the restaurant. We were all looking forward to a having some kind of fish for lunch. I ordered Salmon and it came with two sides like the Black Angus. I ordered a salad and mashed potatoes and it was delicious. Frankly I don't remember what everyone had but the outing was a success. Sometimes it's just getting out with friends for an afternoon makes my day. Join us on our outings! Marv Kreitz



***FUN TIMES
WITH THE NIFTY FIFTY
SENIORS OF HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH***



SEPTEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 8a-4p Eagle Scout Project
4 <i>Mite Box/Hat Sun.</i> 9:30am Worship/ Communion 2-6p Myanmar Christian	5 <i>Labor Day</i> 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Scouts	6 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	7 7p Bible Study	8 4:00p NFS Skipolini's Pizza	9	10 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
11 9:30am Worship 11a Sunday School 2-6p Myanmar Christian	12 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 2:30p WoHC Brd. Mtg. 7p Scouts	13 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	14 1p Senior Brd 7p Bible Study	15	16	17 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
18 9:30am Worship/ Communion 10:40a NFS Lone Tree Brunch 11a Sunday School 2-6p Myanmar Christian	19 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 12:30p Bridge 6:30p Church Council 7p Scouts	20 6:30p Elders 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	21 7p Bible Study	22	23	24 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum 8:30a Zone 7 Fall Rally, St. Philip Lutheran, Dublin
25 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School 10:30a Outreach 2-6p Myanmar Christian	26 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Scouts	27	28 7p Bible Study	29	30	

Holy Cross Lutheran
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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:
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
October Cross Currents: Sept. 22, 2016