

CROSS CURRENTS

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

Pastor Chu

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Reformation Day

It seems that hardly a few months can go by without a new study or poll alerting us to changing demographics and new methods on how best to navigate those changes to reach the next/new generation(s).

Ongoing tension between old and new ways of “doing” worship and “packaging” and “marketing” the Gospel, and meeting the needs of the younger generation in order to get new blood/younger folks into “dying” congregations vs. meeting the needs of older members fuel discussions and debate on how to do church, reach the lost with the Gospel, or bring back to Christ’s fold those who have strayed.

While it’s difficult and presumptuous to question the wisdom of recognized experts, it is fair to question whether any approach, however innovative and seemingly promising, actually works and, if it has been tried and proven in one context/congregation, whether it would be successful in any given context/congregation.

As congregations’ sizes shrink — a phenomenon in many of our LCMS congregations as well as throughout most church bodies — we need to continue to do our best to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ (it is what we are called to do as God’s people and God’s Church), using tools and available resources; however, we should test the “spirits” (to borrow 1 John 4:1 language) and examine the various methodologies and programs, particularly where significant costs are attached. Just because something is new doesn’t necessarily mean it is best or even good; likewise, just because something is old and the “way we’ve always done it” doesn’t necessarily mean it is best or even good.

As we prepare to celebrate the 499th anniversary of the Reformation, we do well to remember the “Solas” that came out of the Reformation: Sola Gratia (Grace alone), Sola Fide (Faith alone), Sola Scriptura (Scripture alone); others add Solus Christus (Christ alone).

God can and does work through tools and programs developed with skills and talents He gives to His Church to share the Good News of salvation by grace through faith in Christ. But without a doubt — because we have God’s promise — He is the One doing the saving through the power of the Gospel of His Crucified and Risen Son, Jesus Christ:

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Isaiah 55:10-11

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

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Romans 10:17

¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

1Corinthians 3:6-7

⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

We might be tempted to feel guilty when we don't have the energy we once did to initiate and carry out evangelism programs or community outreach events or when we don't have the financial means to hire consultants to advice on how to "jump-start" our congregations.

However, rather than feel guilty, let's cast our burdens upon the Lord of the Church. Where we have been unwilling to share the Gospel and otherwise allow Him to use us for His kingdom work where He has placed us in our congregation and various vocations with family and community, let's confess our sin of unwillingness to Him who is merciful and forgiving.

Let's pray the Lord of the Harvest to send us into our respective harvest fields and Him to strengthen us to do as well as we can what He calls us to do, trusting Him to bless His Gospel that we share with those He puts us in contact with. Let's encourage one another in the faith within our congregations and share the love of Christ in words and deeds with those whom the Holy Spirit brings to our midst.

Faith Alone, Grace Alone, Scripture Alone are not Reformation Principles trapped in the 16th century. They are Scriptural, divine truths for faith, life and the work of the Church today.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS		OCT. BIRTHDAYS CONT.		OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES	
1	Shelby O.	29	Sandy C.		
3	Erna B.	30	Cheryl S.	7	Michael & Brittany O.
4	Janet V.	31	Gregg S.		Dave & Chery C.
6	Claudia G.				Ron & Dee J.
	Kristie B.				
13	Mike L.			12	Gregg & Cheryl S.
14	Walter H.			19	Joe & Peggy O.
18	Kimberly C.			20	Ken & Liz B.
	Tatiana A.				Bud & Jan W.
19	Dee J.				
24	Annaliesa L.			29	Bill & Kim L.
26	Carole C.			30	Tom & Sue O.
28	Betty K.				



CONDOLENCES

The Lord called Eyona Pargman to Himself on September 7, 2016. Her memorial service will be Friday, September 30, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. at Holy Cross.

Please pray God's comfort and peace for her daughters and the rest of the family.

Terry Hawkyard passed away on September 9, 2016; she is with her Savior, Jesus.

Please keep in your prayers her sons, Eddie and David, daughter-in-law, MaryLou, and grandkids, Philip and Kathryn.



CHOIR HAS RESUMED with rehearsal on Tuesday. 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. **October choir rehearsal dates are Oct 4, 18, and 25 (not on Oct 11).**

SAVE THE DATE—October 29, 2016

Oktoberfest 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...



OUTREACH SUNDAY

We are Blessed again!

Outreach is always on the 4th Sunday of each month. We prepare a meal for 100+ people. We serve at noon at the Concord Shelter.

We have been blessed that Kimberly Chu stepped up and volunteered to help us in the kitchen early on Outreach Sunday-mornings, and Idalene Stadler in the later morning until noon.

Thank you ladies for helping us reach out to those that are trying to improve their lives by being self-sufficient.

Many hands make light work. MEN are more than welcome to join us also...in fact encouraged! Thank you all for your Outreach support.

Bill Luker and Pat Easby

Important Dates

- Monday Women's Bible study at 12:30 pm.
- Pastor's Wednesday evening Bible study will meet on October 19 & 26. (will NOT meet October 5 & 12).
- Pastor's Sunday Bible class will meet October 2, 16, 23, and 30. Focus will be on Martin Luther and the Reformation.
- Sunday, October 9 is Confirmation/youth lunch
- Pastor Chu will be at the CNH Pastors' Conference, October 11-13. He can be contacted via email/texts or calls to his cell phone.

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

Well, summer is over & it is back to school, which for the WoHC means monthly Board meetings & our "welcome back" General meeting. We hold this General meeting late Sept. - Oct. & it is where we gather together to introduce the current WoHC Board, hand out our new program, as well share some time together and get to know each other a little better.

Due to popularity, we will again have a "Mugs & Muffins" theme. And we will combine it with LWML Sunday. It's great as it really puts an emphasis on the tie of WoHC to LWML. The attendance for our welcome back event has increased as we are already at church, so plan to stay a little longer and catch up with the WoHC (plus have a little snack, laugh a little, & find out something new about our Sisters in Christ). I hope you are able to join us - SIGN UP NOW!



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.

Fri.-Sat., 11/4-11/5, Corner Cafe Since our café opened in 2010, we've raised over \$4500 for our Parking Lot & over \$500 for Mites! While the very popular & fun Holiday Hutch Boutique is going on, our café offers 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 or beverages, work a shift, set up, clean up, etc.). Plus, plan to stop by to check out the Holiday Hutch handmade items, see this years' café décor, & have a meal or snack!

Breaking News - Mark your Calendar for our Christmas Dinner!

Monday, 12/5, Annual Christmas Dinner, 5:30pm. This year we are going to try a new location, La Veranda in Clayton. The Manager & his team have been very accommodating & I hope many of you can join us for this wonderful Christmas tradition. We will be communicating details soon. NOTE: DVC had many advantages-namely the fantastic food & service, however the price would have gone up due to facility charges, no wine due to policy changes, & the distance/parking were an issue for some. So we will give a new location a try & access the feedback.

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.

WoHC Welcome Back 2016

LWML Sunday Service, Oct. 9, 9:30 am



AND

Mugs and Muffins, Oct. 9, 11 am

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 WoHC. Plus, we will hand out the 2016-2017 Program, which includes the upcoming year's activities, birthdays, anniversaries, etc.

Autumn

© Julie L. O'Connor Published March 2013

There's a crispness in the air that greets the morning sun, a feeling of anticipation, a new day has begun. Harvest days are ending, winter is drawing near, yet in between is surely the most special time of year. They call it Indian Summer, and it seems to fit the bill, for it's as if the Lord took a feathered brush and painted all the hills.

Now as I sit contented, atop of one of these, a book in hand to pass the time, the sound of a gentle breeze, I can almost imagine an Indian child upon this mountaintop, looking down at the land of her forefathers, lost within her thoughts. For in every person's lifetime some heartache may occur, but on these hills in quiet solitude, God helps us to endure.

So I say that the eyes are a window, beauty is found within the soul, and upon the hills of Autumn, that are strewn with red and gold.

NIFTY FIFTY OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

We plan again on two activities for October 2016.

The first is

The Octoberfest in Clayton on Oct. 1st at 11:30

The Nifty Fifty will visit the Octoberfest in Clayton on Saturday Oct 1st. There is a real Carnival atmosphere with vendors of various apparel and items and home items with booths set up throughout downtown Clayton. Various tempting cuisines are offered at the food booths where you can make your selection of German or American foods. You can tote your aromatic treasure to the huge dining room tent full of tables where you can sit and be entertained by German bands and professional dance groups doing various folk dances while you eat. Last year we dined on Viener Snitzel and Spaetzel, from DJ Bistros Restaurant in Concord which is always excellent.

They usually have Turkey Legs (huge) and of course hamburgers and hot dogs....AND Beer. I don't think you can get in if you don't drink beer. It actually starts at 11:00 but they don't start the music and festivities in the big tent until about 1:00 PM. We plan on meeting there about noon and eat first. They have a cart pulled by a St Bernard Dog with a barrel of beer which they break open and then the festivities began. I guarantee you will have a good time. I love to dance, but just don't think I will be up to it this year. Please sign up so we know how many to plan on. Marv Kreitz

Our 2nd Outing

Is for lunch at

The Black Angus Steak House and a Movie at the I Max Theater Thursday, Oct. 13th

We plan on driving to Dublin and having lunch at the Black Angus Steak House which has excellent lunches at \$8.99 as well a well-rounded menu. After which we will go across the square to the I Max Theater and see a movie on their huge screen in 3 D. I don't know what will be playing at this time, but I do know that we did this before going to Mimi's and seeing a Christmas animated movie about a young boy going to the North Pole and everyone seemed to have an enjoyable time. Sign up as usual in the social hall. We plan on eating around 1:00 and going to the movie at around 2:30 or we may go to the movie first and then to the Black Angus after the movie. We have to play it a little by ear depending on when the movie we want to see is on. Try something new. I can tell you it will be a fun filled day with Christian Friends. Sign up in the Social Hall so we know how many to plan on.....Meet at Church at 12:00 noon and leave at 12:15 . This can change too.....Marv Kreitz



Upcoming events that you should make note of to enjoy with your Nifty Fifty Group

- November 3rd lunch at DJ Bistro
- Nov. 16th Lunch at Diablo Valley College — Cost \$37.98
- Nov 11th Thanksgiving at Church
- Dec. 15th Sing A Long at church Lunch by the NF (Melarie) Bless Her

THANK YOU

OUTREACH says "thank you" to Sue and Ken Reider for their help in preparing meals for the homeless shelter for the past 7+ years. Also thanks to your "girls" and their friends, for pitching in (like making all those Mini tacos that the Homeless love, buttering buns, making sandwiches, stirring pots, doing whatever was needed). You truly were a blessing to us and are missed.

Who can match the meat slicing, opening a zillion cans, baked turkeys, good punch and soup, etc. that you prepared Kenny! And the huge, yummy, pretty salads Sue made. Not to mention all the cleanup you did all morning.

We appreciated all of you very much. Stay well.

Thank you and God Bless you in all your ventures.

In God's love and ours,
Bill Luker and Pat Easby

Al the Wops August 26, 2016

Our trip to Al the Wops was much the way we planned. The drive through the delta along the river was enjoyable as was viewing the farming in the lush rich soil of the former river bottoms. It's hard to believe it was all under water at one time. Kind of like a trip back in time. Anyway, we arrived at the town of Lock and found parking on the main street about a half a block from the restaurant. As expected the bar was busy and the dining area was empty. There were four of us. Pastor, Herb Neumann, Bill Riechmann and me and we all ordered the steak and it was delicious. Tender and done just right. It must have been 10oz's as it was thick. I think it was a New York Strip Steak. The salad was as always excellent and Herb and I each had a beer. The sour-dough bread was loaded with butter and we had two helpings with the peanut butter and jam. I can really say it was the best meal I have had there since I started going there. I usually go because I like the ride through the Delta. When we went out in the bar a group of students were there and one was dressed in a skirt with a big hat hiding under a stool. Evidently he was a pledge for a fraternity. It was a fun outing and I'm looking forward to our next trip to AL the WOP's. Marv Kreitz

Look at the fun our NFS have on their trips!



Skipolinis Pizza

Sept. 8, 2016

It was a beautiful day to go out to lunch but when I looked at the signup sheet for our jaunt to Skipolinis Pizza, only Trudy, Bill Luker and Marv were signed up. I had planned on 10 and had spoken with the restaurant as to what to order. They had recommended three Combinations and two salads. I reduced it to one of each and figured that was plenty—Guess what....When we arrived at a little after 4:00 there were eleven there sitting outside on the patio under a beautiful spreading tree. I was just going to have a coke but nothing would have it but ordering two pitchers of beer and the fun went on from there. We ended up with two salads and two family size combinations and a third family sized pizza that had more of everything. Needless to say everyone had a delightful time. Even Kristie Barton (who lives there in Clayton) joined in the festivities. Take a look at the picture and you can just see what you missed if you didn't go. As always the camaraderie was great the food was great and we all are looking forward to our next outing. Marv Kreitz



NFS September

Outings



Brunch at Lone Tree Sept 18 2016



We made a reservation for 10 and ended up with 11. We were seated in the main dining room looking out over the lone tree golf course, a very enjoyable setting. They were right there with mimosas. I think I was the only one that wanted Champagne so everyone had their drink and I waited I'm just being super critical. I was hungry so I was the first to go and fill my plate. I went to the iced area where they had lox and bagels and took more than I should have of the sliced salmon and a glob of cream cheese next to many shrimp and then I wanted something hot so I took some scrambled eggs. When I went back to my seat I had a plate full and hadn't even touched the main food. My next trip was to the station with the prime rib and steak station which I had some and that along with an omelet and a serving of large shrimp (warm) again and that was all I could get on my plate. Ask any of those that went how great the food was and most of us are ready to go back again. Bill Luker took a liking to a dessert that was in a small container with a strawberry or grape on top. He must have had five or six. Cost of the brunch (we all received the senior rate) was \$25.00 including tax. We all decided on a 15% tip which brought it to \$29.00 each....a really great price for a really great Brunch. Marv Kreitz

October 2016



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 11:30a NFS Octoberfest
2 <i>Mite Box/Hat Sun.</i> 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Class 2-6p Myanmar Christian	3 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 2:30p WoHC Brd. Mtg. 7p Scouts	4 7:15p Choir Rehears- al	5	6	7	8 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
9 <i>LWML SUNDAY</i> 9:30am Worship Mugs & Muffins Confirmation/youth lunch 2-6p Myanmar Christian	10 <i>Columbus Day</i> 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Scouts	11 CNH Pastors' Conf	12 1p Senior Brd CNH Pastors' Conf	13 12:15a NFS Black Angus CNH Pastors' Conf	14	15 9am Alter Guild Mtg 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
16 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Class 2-6p Myanmar Christian	17 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 12:30p Bridge 6:30p Church Council 7p Scouts	18 6:30p Elders 7:15p Choir Rehears- al	19 7p Bible Study	20	21	22 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
23 9:30am Worship 11a Sunday School/Bible Study Outreach 10:30a 2-6p Myanmar Christian	24 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Scouts	25 7:15p Choir Re- hearsal	26 7p Bible Study	27	28	29 HC Oktober- fest
30 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Class 2-6p Myanmar Christian	31 <i>Reformation</i> 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Scouts					

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

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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
November Cross Currents: Oct. 21, 2016