

CROSS CURRENTS

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

Pastor Chu

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**Thanksgiving Day
Worship Service
with Holy Communion**

Thursday, November 24 at 9:30 a.m.

Thy will be done? Did/do you dare pray the 3rd petition of the Lord's Prayer regarding this year's presidential election?

We know and trust that the Triune God is the one true God, the Creator of heaven and earth and the Lord of the nations; we confess as much in the First Article of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds every Sunday.

We know St. Paul's words in Romans 13 that *"there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."* We might even know some of the Old Testament passages that speak of God giving the nations to Israel, meaning the nations were His to give.

Was/will God's will be done on November 8, 2016?

If you're reading this after the election has taken place and the results are known, you are either ecstatic and thanking God for the man or woman elected or you are crestfallen and wondering what in the world God was thinking.

Or perhaps you are unhappy regardless of which candidate occupies the White House on January 20 as the 45th President of the United States. In a "normal" presidential election — as normal as can be — you would have voted for the candidate that you like or at least find less intolerable, no matter what your political party affiliation; most likely you would have voted your party's candidate. This year, however, many are unable and unwilling to compromise and vote for the 'lesser of two evil' because that "evil" is just too much.

Before I go further, let me issue three disclaimers:

1. I am not questioning anyone's faith in Jesus as Savior
2. I am not referencing allegations of sexual assault; I am referring to what the nominee himself has said in addressing moral and spiritual issues.
3. I am not endorsing a particular candidate.

Every United States citizen has the right and privilege to vote for whomever he/she chooses.

However, of grave concern in this election cycle should be that a number of Christian leaders whose careers and ministry have been defined by their stand on issues of family and morality are, in their exuberant support of the nominee, dismissing, excusing, or ignoring the Republican nominee's questionable stand (based on his own words) on marriage, sin, and the need for forgiveness from Jesus.

A Christian can (and should) condemn sinful attitudes and behaviors for what they are — sins — and still support a nominee for office on the basis of policies and politics. That is our right, privilege, and freedom as a citizen of this country.

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But for a Christian, especially a Christian leader, to speak and act as if those same sinful attitudes and behavior were inconsequential because electing their nominee is paramount is to stray from God's call for us to be the light of truth to the world and forfeit our moral authority to speak against those same and other sins in the future.

Another concern should be that perhaps more than in recent elections, this election has pitted Christians against one another. Question is: What happens after the election? Will we as God's people be able and willing to put aside political differences and in thought, word, and deed witness to our unity in Christ that transcends politics: *"one body and one Spirit... called to the one hope that belongs to [our] call — one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all"*? (Ephesians 4:5-6). By the grace of God, the answer is and should be, "Yes!"

This election is as consequential, if not more so, as any in recent years for a number of reasons, including the number of seats on the United States Supreme Court that could be vacated by aging justices during the next four years; the president will nominate new justices who, should they be confirmed by the Senate, will determine the course of this country for decades to come.

Whichever political party we identify with, whatever our political leanings, and however we voted or will vote, as believers in Jesus Christ we know and believe that God is still God and that He is in control. And by His grace, we are able to confess with the psalmist:

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,

though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

*³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.*

¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth!"

And whether November 8, 2106 is yet to come or has come and gone, we pray, "Thy will be done".

2016 September, Outreach Preparations

I packed my car with casseroles, condiments, fresh fruits, and all veggies for our huge fresh green salad, etc. and headed for Holy Cross. It's 8:00 in the morning, Outreach Sunday and on my arrival at Holy Cross, Mike Liebe was busy cutting up fresh vegetables, etc. for the salad, while Kim Chu was busily chopping a bag of onions.....Mike's eyes were pouring out "Rain", and I did hear a faint complaint. I quickly turned on the fans and opened the window. The onions were so strong they even produced some flow from my eyes and Kimberley's.

Mike kept busy working from one project to another. Next he made some punch to take to the shelter. Then he did dishes in between. Kim went on to cut all the fresh fruit for a big bowl of sauce. Idalene came in on the second shift and buttered all the buns. She also prepared some items wrapping them for travel to go into Luker's transporter. She made sure we got all the items out of the refrig, ovens, etc. so we didn't forget anything. She cleaned up our little messes and did all the things we needed help with. What a team!

We finished right on time to leave for the shelter.

Idalene stayed behind and did all the final cleanup for us. What a help that is. Those of us that served at the shelter today were: Mike Liebe, Carol L, Bill Luker, Mindy, and Pat E.

We served 4 big casseroles, rolls, a huge green vegetable salad, fresh mixed fruit sauce, and punch. They ate everything, coming back for several refills. We prepared for 100+ servings and they ate all of it.

Luker then repacked his "food, pan, & people transporter" to take all back to church. He then unloaded the people, next came the pans and dirties that needed to be washed and put away.

It was a good day, a very good day indeed! Blessings to all that helped today. Pat Easby

Walking With My Lord

I am a servant of the Lord, so let me find the ways.

He's called me too acknowledge Him in Everlasting Praise. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



**COUNT YOUR
BLESSINGS.**
NAME THEM **ONE BY ONE.**
COUNT YOUR
MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT **GOD** HAS DONE.

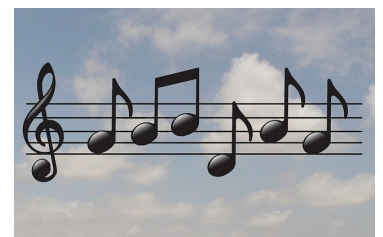
November Birthdays

- 1 George O.
Clara H.
- 4 Joe O.
- 5 Sally M.
- 7 Annah R.
- 8 Judy S.
- 9 Lorenzo E.
- 10 Liz A.
Andrea B.
- 15 Lauretta O.
- 21 Suzanne S.

November Anniversaries

- 5 Terry & Revia M.
- 9 Dwight & Claudia G.
- 20 Gerhard N. & Shinta S.

CHOIR REHEARSALS for November will be on Nov 8, 15, and 22. There will be no rehearsal on Nov 1 or Nov 29.



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

Thanks to all the ladies who were able to make time to join our "Mugs & Muffins" Welcome Back event on LWML Sunday. It was great to have many of our Board members participate & share a little about LWML, WoHC, & themselves! As always, the mug stories were a hit - we laughed until we cried & had our heart moved by some of the stories (some that may sound a lot like yours!). Either way, the fellowship was sweet and so were the muffins.

If you didn't get a new 2016-17 WoHC Program (salmon color), please let me know!

Upcoming WoHC activities:

Fri.-Sat., 11/4-11/5, Corner Cafe Since our café opened in 2010, this CONGREGATION event has raised over \$4500 for our Parking Lot & over \$500 for Mites! Like last year, our proceeds will go 50% to Parking Lot & 50% to Mites. While the Holiday Hutch Boutique is going on, we provide tasty food & beverages in a festive setting. Idalene Stadler & her small team will do the decorating. Melarie Seidel is coordinating the Cafe kitchen & will be letting us know how we can help. So, plan to come, browse the creative items (gifts?) at the Holiday Hutch & have a meal or snack at the Corner Cafe!

Monday, 12/5, Annual Christmas Dinner, 5:30pm. Plan to join us for this wonderful Christmas tradition! Details:

La Veranda, 6201 Center St, Clayton

Menu includes Antipasto, salad, choice of Chicken Picatta or Tri-tip, starch, vegetables, & desert (no need to preorder)

Price \$25, tax & tip included

House red or white wine, \$5 a glass

Plus, we will sing a couple Christmas songs & end with our White Elephant gift "exchange". Look for your invitation & sign up. This is a perfect time to invite your friends or relatives to join us for a leisurely meal & warm fellowship.

Angel Tree® Gift Pick-Up Saturday, 12/10. We are planning to participate in the Angel Tree program again this year. Even though Thrivent \$1000 grants are no longer available, due to our congregation's' generous support of our summer BBQ fundraiser, we have \$1400 to go toward this outreach project! We have not planned the details of this event, however we will be inviting the children and their families to come to Holy Cross, have a snack/meal & as they leave, we will give each child the gifts we purchased on behalf of the parent who is incarcerated. We welcome your support & prayers with this hands-on local mission project.

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.

"Thanksgiving dinners take 18 hours to prepare. They are consumed in 12 minutes. Halftimes take 12 minutes. This is not coincidence." -- Erma Bombeck



MUGS & MUFFINS RECAP BY GRACE GIN

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The WoHC reconvened after the summer off with a MUGS & MUFFINS get together after LWML "Come and See" Sunday service on October 9th. Twenty ladies were in attendance.

Mike Liebe and Herb prepared coffee and tea for the ladies. Tables were nicely set up with Mug Tree as centerpieces by Idalene and Pat E. Plates of muffins and grapes were placed on each tables. Cherylene and Grace led the group in singing opening hymns "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty".



While the ladies were enjoying their refreshments, Joyce played the beautiful song, "The Rose" by Better Midler, on her iPhone and read an inspirational story along the theme of "never too old to be young". She handed out new programs for the year 2016-017. Cherylene introduced the board and chair members and gave an overview of the program booklet. Pat Easby directed a devotional skit played by Ina Dekker, Carol Lau and Idalene Stadler.

Carol Lau invited ladies to share their interesting mug



stories. Many of them participated. Carol Crone shared with us her skill in painting porcelains which she acquired while in Germany. She used to hold "The Breast Cancer Mug Project" work-

shops and classes on porcelain mug painting. She showed us some of her beautiful mugs.

For closing, the ladies sang the hymn "Lutheran Women One & All.



Zone 7 LWML Fall Rally 2016

The LWML Zone 7 Fall Rally was held at St. Philip's Church in Dublin. Eight women from Holy Cross attended, and forty- three women total came out for fellowship & food! This was my first Rally, and I enjoyed meeting new Sisters in Christ, worshipping in a different, lovely Sanctuary and seeing the overflowing table of ingathering donations each church group had donated for FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition).

This year's theme was "Living as a Woman in Mission: a Modern Day Martha". Our speaker Sherry Mattson shared how her upbringing and life experiences have led her to serve her church & community. Pastor Chu led a Bible Study teaching that when we help a person in need, we help point them towards Christ. We also sang hymns, participated in a group discussion, and elected the new Officers.

A big thank you to SPLC's Mary-Martha Guild for hosting the rally, Pastor Blasdel and his wife Denyse for their hospitality, LWML President Susan Contreras and the Zone 7 Board for a wonderfully meaningful event. I could really feel God's love surrounding us that day.

Written by Ina Dekker,
Servant Resources, Women
of Holy Cross Board

NIFTY FIFTY SENIORS NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

Again we are planning two activities for Nov. The first is

D.J. Bistro Restaurant Thursday Nov 3, 2016

This is one of the favorite German eating places our Nifty Fifty group goes to as we have such an active German Group at our church. Everyone knows the menu is loaded with items like Wiener Schnitzel, Bratwurst and Sauerbraten with Red Cabbage and Spatzle. The last time I was there I had roast pork and it was great. Annaliesa had ordered it and I knew she knew what was good. I had always had the Yeager Schnitzel, but I felt like something different. They, of course, have a variety of German draft beer offered in half liters to quench your thirst. The restaurant is located at 1825 Sutter Street near Park and Shopping Center in Concord. Actually, if you drive from church turn right on Alberta then left on Clayton and continue to down town Concord and turn left on Concord Blvd. Cross Galindo and the 2nd street and to the right is Sutter. Turn right on Sutter then left in the first entrance to a shopping center. Then turn right and it's about 100 feet. It's hard to find but ask any customer and they will say it's worth it. Meet at Church at 12:15, leave at 12:30 and lunch is at 1:00 or you can meet us there. Please sign up so we know how many to plan on. This is a great outing so invite a friend!

Our second outing is to

Champagne Brunch at The Lone Tree Restaurant on Sunday Nov. 13, 2016

We normally go to the Diablo Valley College Brunch in November which has always been excellent but they have raised the cost to \$37.98 to be paid for when ordered which entailed additional work and it has always been hard to get to even when it was near the lake on the ground floor. Now it's on the 4th floor in the new building and is even harder to get to. Our senior board felt The Lone Tree Brunch at \$25.00 (senior rate) which is a champagne brunch, while DVC is not, and is located in Antioch, was a better choice. Bill Luker made reservations for 10 with the option of adding more as we near the Nov. 13th date. Again they sell out at Lone Tree even though they have a large area to dine in so to insure a place sign up now in the social hall. When we were there on Sept 18th they had delightful older pianists playing all the great old songs (from WW2). The restaurant featured two cooking stations with prime rib, ham, waffles & French toast and of course omelets. There is large display of seafood on ice followed by 8 or 10 covered food containers with every type of eggs, bacon, potatoes, sausage etc. They even have a container of BBQ ribs as well a decadent array of desserts. I guarantee you won't go away hungry and you will have plenty of space to park. Again it's a great place to bring a friend.

The Restaurant is located at 4800 Golf Course Rd., Antioch, CA, 94531.



Some of our hard working ushers on Sunday morning.



Enlarge 150 - 200%

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NOVEMBER 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>All Saints Day</i>	2 7p Bible Study	3 12:15p NFS to D. J. Bistro	4 Holiday Hutch & Corner Cafe	5 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum Holiday Hutch & Corner Cafe
6 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> <i>Daylight Savings Ends</i> <i>Mite Box/Hat Sunday</i> 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian	7 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 2:30p WoHC Board Meeting	8 <i>Election Day</i> 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	9 1p Senior Brd 7p Bible Study	10	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i>	12 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
13 9:30am Worship/ Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Study NFS to The Lone Tree 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	14 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Scouts	15 6:30 Elders 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	16 7p Bible Study	17	18	19 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
20 9:30am Worship 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 11:45a Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner 2-6p Myanmar Christian	21 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 12:30p Bridge 6:30p Church Council 7p Scouts	22 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	23	24 9:30am Thanksgiving Day service 	25	26 11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum
27 <i>1st Sunday in Advent</i> 9:30am Worship 11a Sunday School/Bible Study Outreach 10:30a 2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)	28 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 2:30p December WoHC Board Meet- ing 7p Scouts	29	30 7p Bible Study			

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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
Dec. 2016 Cross Currents: Nov. 22, 2016