



The Grapevine

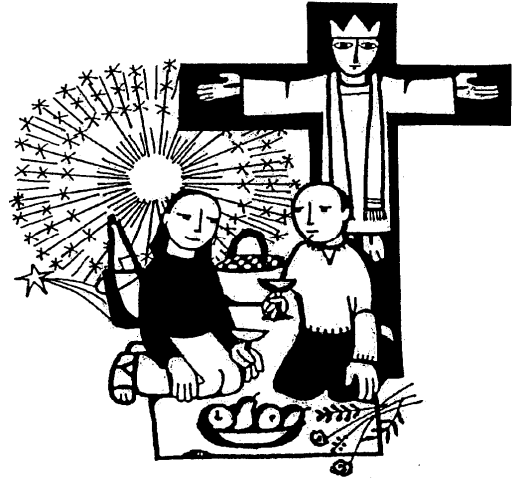
A Monthly Newsletter For The Family And Friends
Of Faith Lutheran Church Of Sonoma Valley

Volume 3, July-August 2010 — Summer Issue

My Dear Family,

As I “speak with you” today, it’s the Fourth of July! Summer Sundays in Sonoma, unless you’re anywhere near the town Plaza, are blissfully sunny, beautiful, and quiet.

This being the Fourth of July, I am thinking about faith and freedom. I’m reflecting on some disturbing truths I’ve carried with me for most of my adult life. They stem from The Decline And Fall Of The Roman Empire, written in 1788 by Edward Gibbon. This book sets forth five basic reasons why great civilizations wither and die:



- 1) The undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis for human society;
- 2) Higher and higher taxes and the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace;
- 3) The mad craving for pleasure – sports becoming every year more exciting, more brutal, more immoral;
- 4) The building of great armaments when the real enemy is within – the decay of individual responsibility;
- 5) The decay of religion - with faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life, losing power to guide people.

The average age of the world’s civilizations has been 200 years. According to historians, civilizations and empires tend to progress through the following sequence:

- From bondage to spiritual faith
- From spiritual faith to great courage
- From courage to liberty
- From liberty to abundance
- From abundance to selfishness
- From selfishness to complacency
- From complacency to apathy
- From apathy to dependence
- From dependence back again to bondage

Our beloved America is 234 years old. I am concerned for our country, and yet, as a baptized Christian, I am still hopeful. I am thinking about some thoughts from Psalm 118: *I called to the Lord in my distress; the Lord answered by setting me free....It is better to rely on the Lord than to put any trust in flesh. It is better to rely on the Lord than to put any trust in rulers.*

I continue to live in hope because families of Christian faith, large and small, still flourish throughout our land. Our own beloved Faith Lutheran Church is by no means least among them. I am hopeful as I witness your abiding faithfulness in worship, eagerness for Bible study, loving warmth of fellowship, care for one another, your claiming both the form as well as the power of faith, and your joy and optimism in the midst of abiding threat and terror...all sustaining gifts from God who loves us, rescues us in Jesus Christ, and gives our faith its structure, substance, and wonderful staying power.

It's the Fourth of July. I am very concerned, but I am all the more hopeful!

Sincerely,

Pastor Tom
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It has pleased Almighty God in His loving wisdom to call unto Himself our beloved **ELSIE MAYERS** and **DEE KRAUSS**.

Elsie died peacefully at home on Wednesday, June 23, 2010. A memorial service will be celebrated here at Faith Lutheran Church on Tuesday, July 6th at 4:00pm. A fellowship supper will occur in Goehring Hall immediately following the memorial service.

Dee Krauss died on Monday, June 28th surrounded by her loving family. A Memorial Service will be held here at Faith on Saturday, July 10th at 11:00am. A luncheon reception will be held immediately following the service in Goehring Hall.

We express our sincere condolences and our confidence in the resurrection promise of our Lord Jesus to both the Mayers and Krauss families.

Rest eternal, grant to them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them for Jesus' sake.
Amen.

Volunteers

What would our church be without volunteers? Are you thinking we could still come to church and worship without them? We can be assured Pastor Tom would lead us in the liturgy and deliver his Biblically sound sermons, but would we find the sanctuary properly prepared for worship and the Lord's table set? Would the aroma of fresh-perked coffee greet us as we processed to Goehring Hall after worship? I fear we might have to trample the weeds to cut a path to get to the church if we didn't have our dedicated volunteers regularly mowing the grounds. Just imagine the state of disarray without so many parishioners volunteering their precious time to keep our church running smoothly.

A list of committee members is included in this month's Grapevine issue. As you can see, several people volunteer on more than one committee, and we sincerely appreciate their efforts. There are also several people who volunteer in other capacities behind the scenes such as offering rides, preparing meals, and helping where and when asked, which are not listed.

We can be proud of such selfless service. Feel free to contact any committee or board chairperson to offer help on a regular basis or on a specific project. It is certainly true that "it is better to give than to receive."

In love and service,
Cheryl Casciani

President – Cheryl Casciani Vice President – Harry Akre Treasurer – Jim Engelman Secretary – Nancy Casazza Financial Secretary – Lucy Musick
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Board of Elders—Herb Heil, Chair

Ross Dencklau
Beulah Lindsay
Don Rachuy
Don Russell
Eva Westberg

Board of Education—Susie Ryan, Chair

Anna Dohse
Paulette Miller
Mary Piller
Sandra Thompson

Stewardship—Roger Nikkel, Chair

Youth Ministry—John Casciani, Chair

Endowment Committee—Harry Akre, Chair

Ilse Eichler
Jim Engelman
Judy Hill
Ann Marozik
Roger Nikkel
Pastor Windsor

Fellowship Board—Anna Dohse, Chair

Nancy Davies
Ilse Eichler
Martie Norrbom
Janice Paine
Jerry Redden
Susie Ryan

Mission Outreach—Sandra Thompson, Chair

Nancy Heil
Judy Hill
Janice Paine
Esther Ridenour

Human Care Committee

Cheryl Casciani
Anna Dohse
Jack Geistlinger
Judy Geistlinger
Sandra Thompson
Mercedes Vegvary
Julius Vegvary
Pastor Windsor

Altar Guild—Valerie Kemp, Irene Lavaysse,

Co-chairs

Peggy Carroll
Nancy Davies
Lisa Dencklau
Ilse Eichler
Shirley Engelman
Joan Linden
Karen Nielsen
Carol Petersen-Villasenor
Alfa Rachuy
Karen Russell
Phyllis Street
Sandra Thompson

Church Property

Buildings and Interior – Randy Miller, Chair
Exterior and Grounds - Paul Chapman, Chair
Mike AhSan
Scott Bamford
Herb Heil
Vagn Nielsen

Memorial Garden—Sandy Piotter, Chair

Lynn Banfield
Anlei Lee
Kathy Lee
Ann Marozik

Worship—Nancy Davies, Chair

Ilse Eichler
Jim Engelman
Shirley Engelman
Valerie Kemp
Irene Lavaysse
Don Russell
Karen Russell
Pastor Windsor

Women's Bible Fellowship

Bernice Thorstenson - President
Pat Adams – 1st Vice President
Anna Dohse – 2nd Vice President
Mary Piller – Secretary
Janice Paine – Treasurer

Contacts:

Judy Hill – Ruth
Ilse Eichler – Hannah-Sarah
Charlotte Weise – Naomi-Phoebe

Care Ministers

Alfa Rachuy, Coordinator
Harry Akre
Nancy Davies
Herb Heil
Janice Meneken
Herb Meneken
Janice Paine
Don Russell
Anita Torres

Pew Research

Paul Chapman
Nancy Davies
Anna Dohse
Pastor Windsor

Litter Crew—Pastor John Marozik, Coordinator

[Listed are those who have assisted in picking up litter one or more times in the past year]

Kathy AhSan
Mike AhSan
Scott Bamford
Lynn Banfield
Paul Chapman
Jim Engelman
Cindy Hingtgen
Tim Hingtgen
Ann Marozik
Al Martinson
Desiree Martinson
Mary Piller
Alan Piotter
Sandy Piotter
Edwin Richards
Don Russell

SECURITY ISSUES Once again we need to remind **EVERYONE** who use either the church, office, and especially Goehring Hall, **TO MAKE CERTAIN ALL DOORS ARE CLOSED AND LOCKED.** Recently three were either left wide open or not locked. The exterior bathroom doors are many times left unlocked; the main entrance to Goehring Hall was found unlocked; the main entrance to the Family Life Center was not only unlocked, but wide open. All doors, when closed, must be pulled/pushed tightly to assure locking. At the end of each meeting or gathering, someone must take the initiative to check to make sure **ALL** doors are closed and locked.

AN INFORMED FAITH IS A GROWING AND VIBRANT FAITH Our Sunday morning Bible Class community offers a new study called "When You Need God's Special Guidance...." This study matches predicaments of life and the human emotions attached to them to sections of the Word of God that address these experiences with God's guidance. Come and share this enlightening study on Sundays at 8:30 am in Goehring Hall with Pastor Tom.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY, led by Pastor John Marozik, will not be held during the months of July and August. We shall resume our study in the Book of Psalms on the Tuesday after Labor Day, September 7th. During the summer as time allows, read through the Psalms and notice the wide variety of themes. If you could use an extra large print edition of the Psalms, please see Pastor John.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM Host families are needed for foreign exchange high school students for the 2010/2011 school year. Experience, firsthand, the culture of another country in your own home. Being a host family is a great opportunity to show foreign students how warm and caring American families can be! You provide room and board and a loving environment. The students come from around the world and provide their own medical insurance. They also pay for all of their own school and personal expenses. Learn about a new culture while sharing your own! For more information please call Sarah at 415-710-8795 or email at sarahpinkin@gmail.com. Please feel free to visit our website as well, www.chinet.org.

NEW ADDRESSES Please take a moment to update your FLC directory to reflect the following:

Jackie Bohlken
109 Vineyard Circle
Sonoma

Alvin Eickhoff
159 La Mancha Drive
Sonoma

Sharon Forrest
PO Box 2066
Hollister, CA 95024

LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS Would you be willing to volunteer once a month to help make Braille Bible books? We carpool and drive to St. John Lutheran Church in Napa and work from 9:00 am to Noon on the fourth Tuesday of every month. There are various jobs to do with fun and fellowship. Please let me know if you would like to join us or if you have any questions.

Also, we have a need for clean plastic bags to pack Braille books and distribute food for FISH. Please put bags in the FISH box in the Narthex. Thanks!

Mary Piller (935-6377)

KEEP DIZMANG FAMILY IN PRAYER Ilse Eichler recently received a letter from Chancy Dizmang (see copy on Connections Board) informing her and the congregation of Faith of medical concerns. Both Nancy and Chancy need encouragement at this most difficult time and would love to hear from their friends at Faith. All that is needed and would be appreciated is just a quick note. Their address is 701 W. Second St., Ft. Scott, KS 66701-3204.

ON SUMMER BREAK With many folks traveling and visiting with family and friends, we find it necessary to take a summer break from our usual routine during the months of July and August. This will include our Choir practice, Pastor Tom's Thursday evening Bible class, Pastor John's Tuesday afternoon class, and our children's Sunday School classes. All will resume after Labor Day, and we will be rested and ready for a new start!

This Month's Special Thanks

Mary Piller and Mike AhSan who assist in the monthly FISH food donation to those in need. Mary helps pack up the products and Mike lends a hand with the heavy work!

Henry Hanson and Scott Bamford make sure the Hall is cleared the first Tuesday of each month, are on hand to clean Goehring Hall, and put all tables and furniture back in their proper places on Wednesday afternoons after the giveaway.

John Casciani, Paulette Miller and Chris Pena who chaperoned and guided our youth group on their Mission trip to New Orleans. **Matt Dencklau** also assisted during the trip. We are so very thankful to these individuals who gave of their time and provided supervision on this most important youth endeavor!

Valerie Kemp's outstanding service and her expertise in handling the many church-related affairs. She always goes above and beyond what is expected of her office duties. She is always there, always gracious, and always helpful beyond expectation!

<p>THOUGHT FOR THE DAY...When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say, "Jesus, could You please get that for me?"</p>

COLORFUL SAYING OF COLORFUL LUTHER—A sample of the reformer's wit and wisdom.

On preaching: When I preach I regard neither doctors nor magistrates, of whom I have above forty in my congregation; I have all my eyes on the servant maids and on the children. And if the learned men are not well pleased with what they hear, well, the door is open. It is not necessary for a preacher to express all his thoughts in one sermon. A preacher should have three principles: first, to make a good beginning, and not spend time with many words before coming to the point; secondly, to say that which belongs to the subject in chief, and avoid strange and foreign thoughts; thirdly, to stop at the proper time.



THE CAT YEARS

By Adair Lara

I just realized that while children are dogs – teenagers are cats. It's so easy to be a dog owner. You feed it, train it, boss it around. It puts its head on your knee and gazes at you as if you were a Rembrandt painting. It bounds indoors with enthusiasm when you call it.

Then, around age 11, 12 or 13, your adoring little puppy turns into a big old cat. When you tell it to come inside, it looks amazed, as if wondering who died and made you emperor. Instead of dogging your footsteps, it disappears. You won't see it again until it gets hungry – then it pauses on its sprint through the kitchen long enough to turn its nose up at whatever you are serving. When you reach out to ruffle its head, in that old affectionate gesture, it twists away from you, then gives you a blank stare, as if trying to remember where it has seen you before.

You, not realizing that the dog is now a cat, think something must be desperately wrong with it. It seems so antisocial, so distant, sort of depressed. It won't go on family outings.

Since you're the one who raised it, taught it to fetch and stay and sit on command, you assume that you did something wrong. Flooded with guilt and fear, you redouble your efforts to make your pet behave.

Only now you're dealing with a cat, so everything that worked before now produces the opposite of the desired result. Call it, and it runs away. Tell it to sit, and it jumps on the counter. The more you go toward it, wringing your hands, the more it moves away.

Instead of continuing to act like a dog owner, you can learn to behave like a cat owner. Put a dish of food near the door, and let it come to you. But remember that a cat needs your help and your affection too. Sit still, and it will come, seeking that warm, comforting lap it has not entirely forgotten. Be there to open the door for it.

One day, your grown-up child will walk into the kitchen, give you a big kiss and say, "You've been on your feet all day. Let me get those dishes for you." Then you'll realize your cat is a dog again.

