

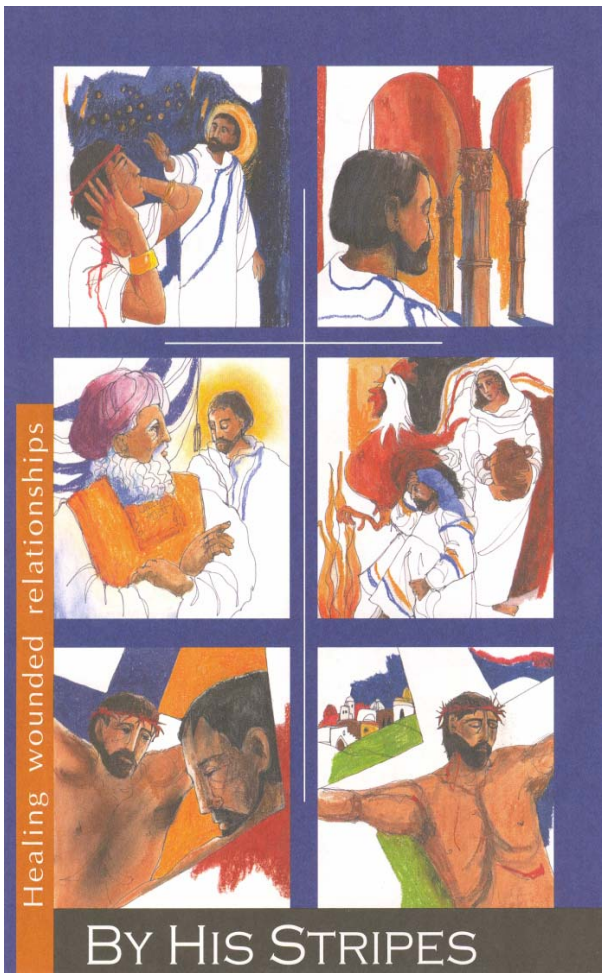


The Grapevine

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

Volume 2, March 2009
Lenten Issue

Christianity is about relationships: Our relationship with God and our relationship with others. Follow Christ along His Lenten way and discover how He reclaims us and all our relationships in this timely and very personal series of services for Lent. This series brings the powerful message of God's death-defying love directly into the family-God's family, and your own!



Dear Lenten People:

Lent is our annual forty day journey with Jesus to Jerusalem and to the cross. Wednesdays during this Holy Season are marked with heart-warming and spirit-enriching activities. On the Wednesday following Ash Wednesday (the actual beginning of Lent), we present a series of five Lenten mid-week experiences. Each year a different theme is explored.

This year our Lenten series is all about human relationships: our relationship with God, first of all, and then, our relationship with family, friends, and others. As we follow Christ along His Lenten way, we discover how He reclaims us and all of our relationships in this timely and very personal series of services for Lent.

Our 2009 Lenten services will take place in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm, following our soup/supper fellowship meals served promptly in Goehring Hall at 6:00 pm. One of our lay people will join me in conducting both the service and the message for the evening. The series brings a powerful message of God's death-defying love directly into the family experience - God's family, and your own personal family as well.

Here then is an outline of the unfolding theme of the Wednesdays in Lent:

Wednesday, March 4

The Destructive Pattern of Invalidation is seen in the testimony against Jesus at His trial.

Wednesday, March 11

The Destructive Pattern of Negative Interpretation is seen in the High Priest's reaction to the claims of Christ.

Wednesday, March 18

The Destructive Pattern of Withdrawal is seen in Peter's denial of his Lord.

Wednesday, March 25

The Secret of Not Having Unrealistic Expectations is seen in Jesus' willing sacrifice on Calvary's Cross.

Wednesday, April 1

The Secret of Forgiveness and Absolution is seen in Jesus' opening of paradise to a sinner.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT FAITH 2009

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH

On this very special Sunday, at 10:00 am, we will have a festive procession, and the reading of the Passion according to Saint Mark in a setting for narrator, readers, and the entire congregation. The service will continue with festive Holy Communion.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH

We meet on the night of our Lord's betrayal at 7:00 pm for a narrative Holy Communion service (a service in which the various parts of the liturgy are explained as we enact them). The altar is stripped and the Sanctuary is made ready for the observance of Good Friday. The congregation leaves in silence.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH

Gathering on the day of our Lord's sacrificial death at 7:00 pm, we celebrate special evening devotions based upon the seven last words of Christ from the cross. Special music from Faith's new choir will be included, and the congregation once again leaves in silence.

THE FESTIVAL OF EASTER MORNING, APRIL 12TH

The Early Service begins at 7:00 am in the Memorial Garden Patio. We greet the Easter dawn, a sign of our Lord's resurrection; we celebrate our own dying and rising with Christ in Baptism with water Baptismal blessings for everyone at a portable Baptismal Font set up on the patio. We process, singing, to the church doors which become the "doors to the open tomb" for the reading of the Easter Gospel and process singing into the Sanctuary for the first celebration of Easter Holy Communion.

Then, at 10:00 am, we gather for the festive liturgy of Easter.

May God bless your praying and your planning and your participation in the services of Lent, Holy Week, and on Easter Sunday. **May it be a spiritual resurrection for you!**

Pastor Tom
CJ

GivenForUs



LENTEN DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR EVERYONE

Be sure to receive your copy of our Lenten devotions for 2009 "Given For Us." You'll find a copy in your mail file in the Narthex of the church. If you do not yet have a mail file, copies are available on the counter in the Narthex.

These devotional booklets prepared for our National church by the Lutheran Layman's League, downloaded and assembled by Valerie Kemp and her "helpers" in the church office are intended to make daily devotional time a constant experience throughout the great forty days of Lent.

Taking a few moments of personal quiet time in prayer and meditation can be a great way of holding the Cross of Christ before your eyes and heart.

ALWAYS A WORK IN PROGRESS . . . The great Cathedrals in Europe were always "a work in progress" in that it took centuries to complete and continually add memorial art to the ever expanding facilities. While hardly a Cathedral, our delightful parish church and charming facilities are constantly being improved because of the commitment and dedication of our people. We do this to honor Christ and present a first impression that is very pleasing to newcomers. Latest improvements include the complete repainting of the Sunday School area of our Family Life Center in Goehring Hall. We are so glad that one of our new members, **Randy Miller**, did the painting for us, and **Herb and Janice Meneken** added their talents to the trim work and doors throughout that part of the facility. What a difference!!!

Also, we express our appreciation to **Alfa Rachuy, Ilse Eichler, and Irene Lavaysse** for completely cleaning out and reorganizing the Sacristy (the worship preparation room to the right hand side of the altar area of our church). Years (literally!) of accumulated "stuff" was disposed of, or put to other use. The room is open, uncluttered, and invites the kind of activity it was originally designed to house. Thanks, everybody!

"I'M GLAD WE DON'T HAVE EVENING SERVICES, I CAN HARDLY SEE!" Ah, but we **are** having evening services...increasing numbers of evening services. For that reason, it is important at long last to give some constructive attention to the lighting of Faith's Sanctuary. On Sunday, March 1st, a General Assembly will convene **immediately** after the Sunday morning service (in the Sanctuary) so that Faith's new Board of Property Management (which includes **Gerhard Dohse** [Chair], **Scott Bamford, Al Martinson** and **Tim Hingten**) can present to the congregation a simple plan for greatly increased lighting. The plan includes much brighter flood lights in the amber lighting fixtures, plus new track lighting on both sides of the Sanctuary. The Board of Directors has allotted \$2000 for the equipment. We are very grateful to **Al Martinson** who plans to do much of the work himself. There will be recessed lighting in the back of the church at the choir area which will provide fine, even, bright light. However, it will be up to the General Assembly to "visualize" the proposed changes and, if deemed appropriate, give their approval. It is hoped that these improvements, if passed by the General Assembly, will be in place by Easter.

THE TAFFETAS A musical journey through the fabulous 50's at the Sonoma Charter School on Fridays and Saturdays from March 6th – March 22nd. Ticket cost: seniors \$20—if we have 10-20 people cost will be \$18—if we have 20+ people 15% discount of \$20 senior ticket! See the Connections board in Goehring Hall to sign up for your date of preference. We'll carpool from the church and rides are available. If you need any more information, contact Nancy Heil at 938-4568.

CHOIR GOING “GREAT GUNS” AT FLC Nineteen people (count them: 17 singers, together with **Peggy Carroll**, our Choir Director, and **Mark Rasmussen**, our Choir Accompanist) gather weekly for rehearsal to add special beauty and energy to the Sunday Service. We're thrilled at the commitment and joy these folks are experiencing at Peggy's direction. If you would like to join the choir, we would love to have you sing with us. During the forty days of Lent, the choir will meet on Wednesdays with the gathered congregation at 6:00 pm for Lenten Soup/Fellowship meals; they will convene in the Sanctuary at 6:30 for the first part of their rehearsal. Following the Lenten service, which begins in church at 7:00 pm, they will stay on for an additional one-half hour of rehearsing. Everyone involved seems to think that this schedule will work well, and provide enough time to prepare for the choir opportunities ahead.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIBLE STUDY AT FAITH

On **Sunday mornings at 8:30 am in Goehring Hall**, we gather with Pastor Tom for our on-going series called “**Back To The Basics**” which provides a refresher of the basics of faith in Luther's Catechism. Included in this on-going series are the Three Articles of the Apostles' Creed, the Ten Commandments, the Sacrament of Baptism, the Sacrament of Holy Communion, with frequent sidebar studies of interesting areas related to the topics at hand. The fellowship is warm, and the coffee is hot. We'd love to have you join this committed, joyful group.

On **Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm in Goehring Hall**, we gather with Pastor Tom for our on-going large group study of the Book of Revelation. The visions given to John on the Island of Patmos near Greece long ago included experiences the early Christians were facing in the Roman Empire of their day, but also includes apocalyptic visions of future experiences that will come upon the earth at the end of time. Christians will undergo them along with everyone else, but will emerge vindicated and victorious. Come, and join this enthusiastic bunch of Bible students.

On **Tuesdays at 1:00 pm in the Conference Room**, we join Pastor John Marozik in a walk through of the Scriptures. A verse by verse, chapter by chapter study of the various Books of the Bible with interesting commentary and lively discussion.

Faith's **Women's Bible Fellowship** groups:

The **Hannah-Sarah** group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Conference room

The **Naomi-Phoebe** group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2:00 pm at the home of Jackie Bohlken

The **Ruth** group meets on the 2nd Friday of the month at 10:00 am in the Conference Room

For further information, and for transportation if needed, please call Judy Hill at 935-7441 or Shirley Engelman at 933-8069.

