



# The Grapevine

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

Volume 3, March 2010  
Lent/Easter Issue

Dear Easter People:

Forgive me for anticipating Easter ahead of time. Easter falls between two Grapevine issues, so this issue will contain encouragement for your participation during the remainder of Lent, as well as an invitation to celebrate Easter, the “Queen of Feasts,” the absolute heart and core of Biblical Christian faith! Details are important. With all that’s going on in the Gospel of John, Chapter 20, you would think that the folded napkin in the tomb on Easter morning would be a detail not worth our time, nor consideration.

Nothing could be further from the truth! The Gospel of John tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes. The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed at the head of the stony coffin.

Early Easter morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved (the eye-witness author of the Gospel of John). She said, “They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, and I don’t know where they have put Him!”

Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see. The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn’t go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus’ head was folded up and lying to the side.

Was that important? Absolutely! Is it really significant? Yes!

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, we have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition. When the Servant set the dinner table for the Master, he made sure it was exactly the way the Master wanted it. The table was furnished perfectly, and then the Servant would wait, just out of sight, until the Master had finished eating. The Servant would not dare touch that table until the Master was finished.

Now when the Master was done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard and would wad up the napkin and toss it onto the table. The Servant would then know to clear the table, for in those days the wadded napkin meant, “I’m done.”

But if the Master got up from the table and folded his napkin and laid it beside his plate, the Servant would not dare touch the table because . . . the folded napkin meant, “I’m coming back!”



While the grand sweep of the Easter story is so magnificent in and of itself, we tend to overlook details that we think are of little significance. Imagine a folded napkin and the message that gives us today. Death could not do Him in. He's coming back...from the dead, and into the lives and thoughts of His believers in all generations to follow. You and I are, by our Baptism into Christ's death and rising, a part of the grand sweep of the Sacred Tradition we call the one Holy, Christian and Apostolic faith. What marvelous assurance the details of the Sacred Story give us as we realize that Christ is a very real presence in our hearts and minds today. May that assurance bless your celebration of Easter here at Faith this year, together with all of the Sundays that follow that comprise the "Easter season," and all Sundays and weeks thereafter. A Blessed Easter to all!



#### **PALM SUNDAY, March 28<sup>TH</sup>**

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

#### **MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>**

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 2<sup>ND</sup>**

Gathering on the day of our Lord's sacrificial death at 7:00 pm, we celebrate special evening devotions based upon the Passion according to Saint John. Special music from Faith's choir will be included, and the congregation once again leaves in silence.

#### **THE FESTIVAL OF EASTER MORNING, APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>**

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!**

*Pasta Tom*  
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**Worship Board** What is it? Good question. I asked it myself. The answer I received was, after all, pretty simple. We do our best to provide a meaningful setting for worship, to each member and visitor. Sounds simple enough, but it takes many hard-working members to accomplish this meaningful act.

Our Board consists of the following dedicated members; **Jim and Shirley Engelman, Don and Karen Russell, Valerie Kemp, Irene Lavaysse, Ilse Eichler and Pastor Tom.** These wonderful, caring people keep all phases of worship moving smoothly, and we are responsible for ushers, lectors, Communion assistants, acolytes and altar guild members.

In January we had our first Board meeting. We approved the purchase of the new Lenten paraments, which hopefully you have seen and love as much as we do. We approved the Lenten service schedule and decided to have a Board meeting every two months to make sure that all parishioners have an opportunity for input to the Board.

A few weeks ago in the Sunday service Pastor Tom asked members who might be interested in serving to sign up for a committee. We were very blessed to see that many members said they would serve on one or more of our various committees. We will be setting up instruction classes for each of the committees listed above. This will also be a refresher course for those who currently serve on committees.

If you have any questions, ideas or concerns, please give them to me or any Board member. We are here to serve, and that is best done when members let us know what they want from their worship service with the Lord. Thank you.

Nancy Davies  
Worship Chair

**NEW NAMES AND ADDRESSSES?** A number of our readers have asked us to include new names and addresses within the congregation. The present Pastor's class will soon be a happy memory, and the next New Member Sunday is slated for Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. At that time a new directory will be published which will include names and changes of address and phone numbers as well. That way, we'll all be current in the comings and goings within our parish.

**HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEB SITE LATELY?** If not, check it out. Our Web Committee posts updates on a regular basis. In our photo gallery, thanks to **Helen Conrad**, we have a set of pictures taken at one of our recent Soup/Supper Dinners. We also have updated photos of our Elders. Also, should you miss a Sunday worship service, Pastor Tom's sermons are available, always for a two-week period. So, next time you're at your computer, surfing the web, go to [flcsv.org](http://flcsv.org)!

**GET TO KNOW YOUR “ELDER”** Our Board of Elders is now into its second year of service. If you’re not sure who your Elder is, check out the bulletin board in the Family Life Center. A picture of each of our six Elders is posted above the list of member families under each Elder’s care. Also, on the wall in Goehring Hall next to the kitchen entrance, we have a group picture of the current Board.

Just in case you’re wondering what an Elder does, here is the Constitution “job description:”

1. **To oversee the congregation’s worship life.** This will include, under the Pastor’s leadership, the nature, purpose, and conduct of God-pleasing worship, both corporate and personal.
2. **To oversee the care and well-being of the members of the congregation.** This includes arranging for ministry to sick, troubled, dying, bereaved, aged, and homebound members of the congregation.
3. **To oversee the care and well-being of the Pastor and his family.** The Board of Elders shall annually review the salary of the called Pastor and make appropriate recommendations to the Budget Committee.

**Coffee Fellowship Calendar for March 2010 through June 2010**  
**Provided by our Board of Social Ministry**  
**A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex**

<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>
7th—Hosted by Russell, Carroll and Redden	4th—Easter Celebration hosted by Social Ministry
14th—Hosted by John Casciani	11th—Hosted by Joan Linden
21st—St. Paddy’s Day hosted by Social Ministry	18th—Hosted by Faith Choir
28th—Birthday Celebration and Pastor’s B’Day Celebration hosted by Social Ministry	25th—Birthday Celebration hosted by Social Ministry
<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
2nd Sign-up— <b>OPEN</b> —	6th Sign-up— <b>OPEN</b> —
9th—Mother’s Day hosted by Bernice Thorstenson	13th—Hosted by Naomi Circle/WBF
16th—Hosted by High Tea Committee	20th—Father’s Day hosted by Social Ministry
23rd—Birthday Celebration hosted by Social Ministry	27th—Birthday Celebration hosted by Social Ministry
30th Sign-up— <b>OPEN</b> —	

## FAITH YOUTH SUPPORT 30-HOUR FAMINE



**Emily Garbarino** and **Claire Eraldi** will be leading the Faith Lutheran Youth Group as they do World Vision's 30-Hour Famine for the 8th year on April 16-17. The kids fast for 30 Hours from Friday lunch to dinner time on Sunday. Our theme this year will focus on the history of poverty and poverty in the U.S.A.



World Vision's **30 Hour Famine** is a worldwide movement of students who are serious about serving God and fighting hunger - all on an empty stomach. For 30 hours, participants get a taste of hunger by not eating - something more than a billion people around the world experience every day. And by doing fundraising activities, community service projects, and learning more about the facts of world, hunger students are changed in amazing ways as they help others and save lives. In the 8 years we have been involved in the 30-Hour Famine, I have noticed these young people carry an awareness of the problems of poverty and carry this awareness on into college and adulthood. They are the ones addressing the major problems of the planet. Last year kids in the U.S.A. raised \$10,900,000 and \$3,100 of that was from Faith Lutheran Youth with your support. **Thank you to all members of Faith Lutheran!**

John Casciani, Youth Director

### **A SERMON "WITHOUT WORDS" IS SOMETIMES THE MOST POWERFUL**

A member of a congregation who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the Pastor decided to visit him. It was a chilly, Northern California evening. The Pastor found the man alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for the Pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace, and waited.

The Pastor made himself at home, but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the Pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth, all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow, and then its fire was no more, so that it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The Pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more of the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the Pastor reached the door to leave, his host said, with a special smile on his face, "Thank you so much for your visit, and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday."

We live in a world today which tries to say too much with too little; consequently few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

**NEED HOUSEHOLD ASSISTANCE?** Jose Guzman, a friend of Anita Torres, is ready and willing to lend a hand with any household jobs. He does masonry work, landscaping, and will assist in various odd jobs as needed. Please call Anita Torres at 707-217-2988 (cell) or 707-935-3557 (home) for further information and rates.

**AN INFORMED FAITH IS A GROWING AND VIBRANT FAITH!** Many opportunities for an informed and growing faith are available here in our parish congregation. They include:

**Sunday morning Bible Class community** currently studying the prophecies of the Bible which have been fulfilled in the person, work, and ministry of Jesus. Come and share in this enlightening study on Sundays at 8:30am in Goehring Hall with Pastor Tom.

**Tuesday afternoon Bible study**, led by Pastor John, gathers in the conference room at 1:30pm every Tuesday for one hour. Currently we are reading through the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians—his wonderful Epistle of Joy.

**Thursday evening Bible Class community** meets in Goehring Hall at 6:30pm with Pastor Tom for our on-going study of the amazing Gospel of John.

Take these opportunities to grow in your knowledge, in your faith, and in love for God and His Holy Word. Feel free to join in any of the classes at any time.

**GRIEVING PROCESS** I recently received the third installment of a four-part series entitled "Journeying Through Grief" by Kenneth C. Hauck. I feel it important to share this small part of the book for those members of Faith who have recently lost loved ones.

*"No one knows the tears still inside me. People think it's all past. They think I'm all better.*

*Every once in a while I think, I hope, I pray that things will be better, too. But then I remember, and the pain floods back, and the bottom falls out, and I fall and I fall.*

*And I know once again that things aren't all better. My loved one is gone and I cry alone. How much longer, God? How long does this last?"* Author Unknown

Losing your loved one will become the hardest thing you will ever have to do in your life, but there comes a time when the pain is a little less acute and the tears not so hot and incessant; a bird, a song or a baby's belly laugh can and will make you smile again. Lean on God to help get you through this horrible time. As is written in Psalm 91..."God, you are my protector and defender." Lean on Him!

I once described what I was going through after Gerhard died like this: Grief is an entity that is so tall you cannot climb over it, so deep you cannot dig under it, and so wide you cannot circumvent it on either side. The only way to get to the other side is to go through it! You are in my thoughts and prayers.

God bless you!  
Anna Dohse

