



The Grapevine

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

—Volume 4, June 2011 Ascension/Pentecost Issue—

A DEAD HERO . . . A LIVING LORD

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

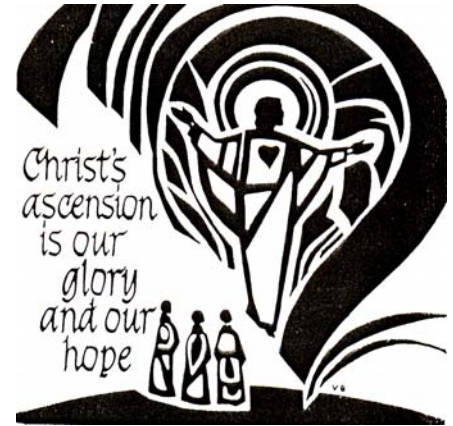
“El Cid” is the 1000 year old history of Rodrigo Diaz, a Spanish Knight who almost single-handedly saved the kingdom of Spain from the Moors. The movie itself is based on truth. It spoke the truth when it showed El Cid’s victories. It told the truth when it showed his death and how his generals tried to pretend he was still alive. The movie accurately showed how they dressed his body in armor, strapped him to his horse, and tied a sword to his hand. Then it showed the body of the dead leader charging out of the gates of the city, leading his men against the enemy.

The movie is quite accurate...up to that point. For then, in a desire for a happy ending, the movie begins to lie, showing the Spanish forces in the lead routing the frightened Moors. But it didn’t happen that way—the dead body fooled no one. The charge failed and the defeated Spaniards retreated. **They found out that a dead man is a poor leader.**

In contrast, you and I, together with God’s faithful ones of every generation, follow a living Lord. Over 2000 years ago, Jesus was crucified. Tens of thousands had been crucified before Him, but only Jesus – unexpectedly, unbelievably – came back to life. Because He did, the world has changed. Those who believe in Jesus as their living Lord are confident that death does not have to be the final word in their lives. Those who put their hope and their futures into the nail-pierced hands of the risen Savior know that they will never be alone and that nothing in this world can separate them from the love of God, which has come to them through Christ Jesus. **Christ has risen!** Yes, we know from our own experience and from the limitations of our human nature, that sort of thing does not, and simply cannot happen. And yet it did, because Jesus is the presence of the living God veiled in human flesh. He was not subject to our limitations. At the Father’s command, He arose. In the days that followed, Jesus’ friends saw Him, ate with Him, talked with Him, and touched Him—not just once, but numerous times. This, the most wonderful event in the history of the world, is on full display for all to see in the spiritual life of His family—the church. Jesus lives, and because He does, we follow a living Lord.

Come share the on-going sacred story of the risen Lord, including His appearances to Thomas and to the disciples on the Road to Emmaus. See—through the scriptures—the dramatic effects of that first Easter touch on increasing numbers of people. The story broadens and widens. At Jesus’ ascension to the Father, the Holy Spirit is promised - the Spirit that will bring to life the power of Jesus, bring to our remembrance all that He said and did, and bring His living presence into our hearts and minds.

This edition of your Grapevine calls out to you to remain faithful in word and sacrament and reap the benefits of God’s risen life in this our loving and faith-filled family known as Faith Lutheran Church of Sonoma Valley.



Pastor Tom
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Tea for Two or One Hundred Twenty-Two

As I placed the last box of china in storage, I offered a prayer of thanksgiving for another very successful tea. The tables were beautifully set for the 122 women and children who attended. For the first time ever, we had a waiting list of 12. As always, the food was delicious and beautifully displayed. And the men once again did an outstanding job serving and accommodating our every need.

Little did we know seven years ago, when Sandy Thompson invited Lucy Musick, Janice Meneken, Muriel Masztal and me for afternoon tea in her backyard, that we would host such a grand event. As we sipped tea and savored the delicate sandwiches Sandy had made, we entertained the idea of holding a tea at church. We thought it would be nice to offer an event for mothers and daughters to enjoy together, especially to provide little girls the opportunity to dress up and learn social graces. Sandy pulled out her stash of tea books, and as we perused the recipes and ideas, we began to realize it was possible to hold a large-scale tea. Several months later, we held our first tea. Decorations consisted of simple green tablecloths, and one person at each table brought her own china to set the table. The five of us prepared an assortment of homemade sandwiches and scones and purchased desserts. My son-in-law, Mark Ravera, provided beautiful, soft background music with his guitar. It was a lovely affair. Before the last dish was washed, we set a date for the second tea, and as they say, "The rest is history." What we hadn't anticipated was the opportunity for relationship building and camaraderie among the women and men in our congregation as they work on the tea.

This year the committee changed a bit with Lucy and Janice retiring and Cecelia Rezanage, Susie Ryan, Karen Petersen, Bernice Thorstenson, and Ilse Eichler joining the committee. Of course, the seven of us could not put the tea on alone. When the call for help was voiced, several parishioners volunteered, and we are sincerely grateful. The committee extends a huge thank you to the following people who helped make this year's tea enormously successful. Please forgive me if I left anyone off as it was not intentional.

Mike Ah San, Harry and Elaine Akre, Patsy Azevedo, Scott Bamford, Hans Basart, John Bordynski, Peggy Carroll, Nancy Casazza, John Casciani, Paul Chapman, Jim and Shirley Engelman, Sharon Felker, Nancy Garcia, Jack Geistlinger, Henry Hanson, Herb and Nancy Heil, Tim and Cindy Hingtgen, Chris Kemp, Bonnie Kruger, Dave Latona, Joan Linden, Herb and Janice Meneken, Barbara Mezzetta, Don and Lucy Musick, Janice Paine, Earl Petersen, Sandy Piotter, Pastor Tom, Edwin Richards, Katie Rogers, Don and Karen Russell, Julius and Mercedes Vegvary, Carol Petersen-Villasenor, and Charlotte Weise.

Mark your calendars for the 7th Annual Tea to be held on May 19, 2012.

In love and service,
Cheryl Casciani

Dear members of Faith Lutheran Church,

Few individuals have the opportunity to positively change other people's lives in a personal way.

We try, in our busy lives, to help those less fortunate than ourselves. We give money here and there, growing from the brief satisfaction that those few dollars we can spare will help feed a family for a month.

But very rarely do any of us get to experience the effects of our altruism first hand.

I have been fortunate enough to experience this, not because I am any more giving than the next person but because of the support of a small group of peers, the efforts of my passionate youth leader John Casciani, and the rare opportunity to participate in a mission trip through my church, Faith Lutheran Church.

A few summers ago, when I was still a dramatic, pampered teenager, my youth group traveled to Tijuana Mexico to build houses in an impoverished area of town.

I could complain about the acrid stench of sewage floating in the river, the lack of plumbing or the devastating heat, but several years later, looking back, I couldn't be any happier to have experienced all of those things and more.

Through this mission trip I not only found different perspective but I found that through God there is kindness, humanity and good in a world of tragedy, poverty and evil.

Very few people can make a positive change in a personal way, but little did I know how much this experience would positively change me.

Heather Malia Ah San



Heather graduated from the University of Oregon with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism. She is off to Washington D.C. to work in that field. Congratulations, Heather!

ANNOUNCING NEW LEADERS

ADOPT A HIGHWAY **Tim Hingtgen** has volunteered to head Faith's litter crew which picks up trash along the two-mile stretch of Hwy. 121/12 every 2 months or so. As such, he will take over the scheduling, organizing and storage of supplies for this worthwhile service to the greater community of Sonoma Valley. We thank **Pastor John Marozik** who was in charge of this service for numerous years.

PROPERTY **John Bordynski** is the new chairman of the FLC Property Committee. In this capacity, John will oversee and report monthly to church council of the needs of the parish/grounds and, with the assistance of many hands, take care of on-going maintenance. As we all know, teamwork is necessary in keeping up such a large area. Our thanks and appreciation go to **Randy Miller** and **Paul Chapman** who have been co-chairs of this most important committee for several years. Also, we are truly grateful for everything **Scott Bamford** has contributed in all areas!

SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN CALLED for Sunday, **June 12th**, following the celebration of worship. The purpose of this meeting will be to choose between padding and repairing our pews, or replacing them with sanctuary chairs. Please look in your mail folder for additional information on the costs of these various options. If at all possible, plan to attend this special meeting.

FAITHFUL LONG-TIME MEMBERS HONORED On May 22nd, members of FLC who have been actively involved in worship and service in our congregation for the last 25 years were honored during morning worship, followed by coffee fellowship dedicated to them. The group consists of approximately 40 individuals, most of whom were in attendance. Special thanks to the families/caretakers who made it possible for **Mercedes Collier, Ruby Ehrlich** and **Adele Harrison** to attend. In gratitude to God and for their faithful service, the honorees received a certificate of appreciation and a baptismal medallion to mark this special occasion. Thanks go to **Nancy Heil** and the Stewardship Committee for organizing this memorable day. Please visit the photo gallery on our web site (flcsv.org) for pictures and more information.

Report from the Fellowship Board

2011 was started with birthday celebrations and a lovely Valentine's Day Fellowship, hosted by our dear **Sandy Thompson**. We enjoyed a delicious St. Paddy's Day Corned Beef 'n Cabbage feast in March. March was also the month we held Memorial Services for Dave Amundsen and Betty Muehl. Dave, after fighting illness long and hard, joined His heavenly Father and is now at peace. Although, I wasn't as privileged as those who had known him longer, I feel that my life has been enriched just to be able to call him friend.

The last memory I have of Betty Muehl is of her pushing her walker around as she wiped the tables in Goehring Hall after Coffee Fellowship on a Sunday morning shortly before she passed away. That's a sight I'll always remember—Betty helping in whatever way she could. I've been told that's the story of her life—always there to lend a helping hand.

I feel honored to have known these wonderful people and shall miss them both very much.

Now on to some personal news: As many of you may have already heard, I am stepping down as chair of the Fellowship Board, effective July 1, 2011.

Due to many reasons, chief among them that my plate is too full and I feel myself stretched in too many directions, a decision had to be made to simplify my life. I felt that I could not do my best at chairing Fellowship while being distracted with other tasks. I thought about it long and hard and came up with a great solution. I asked our dear **Susie Ryan** if she would co-chair the Board with me until July and then take over as chairman for the remainder of the year. She said YES! I am deeply grateful and know she will do a tremendous job!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that have been invaluable to me on the Fellowship Board: **Jim and Shirley Engelman**, although no longer officially Board members still help whenever they can to set-up or clean-up on Sundays. Thank you!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to **Janice Paine, Susie Ryan, Jerry Redden** and of course, **Bernice Thorstenson**, another un-official Board member, always ready and willing to lend a hand, for all your help, loyalty, advice and just being a sounding board when needed. I love you all very much and feel so honored to have had the chance to work with you on this great Board.

Yours in Faith and Fellowship,
Anna Dohse

OUR WEB SITE If you haven't already visited our site, **FLCSV.ORG**, please log on. It is updated on a regular basis with highlights of coming events and Bible Study information. Our thanks go to **Janice Meneken** who captures and posts pictures of our life at Faith in the Photo Gallery section of the site. Recently added are photos of long-time member honorees and additional information about that special Sunday service. Also included is an extensive array of pictures taken at our Ladies Tea, including many of the models in the fashion show.

ON THE SUNDAY OF MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND Faith's choir ended its active season. We bless the Lord for Peggy Carroll's inspired leadership, for Mark Rasmussen's beautiful accompaniment, and for the dedication and joy that the choir members bring to enriching our worship life. We express our sincere gratitude to our choir, and anticipate the onset of a new season beginning in early fall.

THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN....Blessed are those whose spirits are high for they sit on top of the world. Blessed are those who refuse to mourn for they need no comfort. Blessed are the aggressive for they shall dominate the earth. Blessed are those who are satisfied for their righteousness for there are more important things to hunger for. Blessed are those who have rights for they shall obtain justice. Blessed are the sharp of mind for they "can't see" God. Blessed are those who dictate the peace for they shall play the role of God. Blessed are those who are accepted for being so agreeable for they sit on top of the world. Blessed are you and people like you, accept you, and want you for their leader and consider themselves fortunate to know you. Rejoice and be flattered, for great is your prestige on earth.

THE WORLD RIGHT SIDE UP....Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure at heart for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way, they persecuted the prophets who were before YOU. (Matthew 5:2-12)

From "The World Upside Down or Right Side Up!" by Paul G. Bretscher

FROM THE MAY 28, 2011 NEWSLETTER OF FISH (Friends In Sonoma Helping)

"TOUGH ECONOMY IS SEEN IN THE UPTICK OF CLIENT REQUESTS"

FISH saw a sharp increase in requests for food and rental assistance in the first three months of 2011. There was an average of 190 food calls a month during this period. If this rate continues throughout the year, it could top out at 2264 calls—a 14% increase over 2010.

Coordinator, Carol Sharpe, reports that the first Wednesday food giveaway (at Faith Lutheran Church) was back up to December levels in April with 245 households and 1143 individuals served. All of the food delivered from the Redwood Empire Food Bank was given out. FISH is very grateful to all the volunteers who work so hard at First Wednesday. Carol is looking for a "pencil-pusher" to sign in clients.

Requests for rental assistance showed an even more dramatic increase. During 2010, FISH gave out \$76,761 in rental assistance. The 2011 budget calls for \$90,000 in aid for rent—a 17% increase. In January and March of 2011 alone, FISH gave out \$9,750 and \$9,500 of rental aid, respectively.

MAKE BIBLE STUDY A PART OF YOUR LIFE AT FAITH

Our Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class Community convenes every Sunday at **8:30am in Goehring Hall** with Pastor Tom. We are currently involved in a study called **GIFTED BY GOD'S SPIRIT**. This on-going study will examine the person and work of the Holy Spirit and lay out the spiritual gifts listed in the scripture: their purpose, and their nature.

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study gathers at **1:30pm** in the apartment of Phyllis Leisy at Merrill Gardens (800 Oregon St., #162) with Pastor John Marozik. We are currently studying the Gospel of Luke. **June 7th will be our last session until Sept.**

Our Thursday Evening Bible Class Community gathers at **6:30pm in Goehring Hall** with Pastor Tom. This class is currently involved in a study of St. Paul's letters to the Christians living in Corinth in Greece. Through his correspondence to the Christians at Corinth, some amazing teaching regarding women in the church, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and the overall Christian life emerged.

As your schedule allows, perhaps you could join one or more of these groups. Along with the learning comes the joy of fellowship and personal interaction as we relate the scriptures in our daily lives by sharing our personal recollections.

What Makes a Dad?

God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it ... Dad

Author Unknown