



# The Grapevine

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

—Volume 4, Easter 2011 Issue—

## EASTER IS JUST THE BEGINNING . . .

Dear Easter People,

**Christ is risen—He is risen indeed. ALLELUIA!!!**

I'm sure glad Easter is over. All that work, all that effort. It was wonderful, but I'm glad it's behind us. If those words sound strange to you, it's because they should be. Unfortunately, lots of Christian folk actually think that way. There is nothing about Easter that is over. **Easter has just begun.** It is, as so many of us know, not a day, but a **season**—of seven weeks. In fact, those seven weeks give definition to the rest of our lives. **We live an Easter life;** we are Easter people through our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. This issue of your newsletter is a follow-through on these blessed truths. **New things are starting up.** We invite you to be involved—we invite you to benefit from as many of the following opportunities as possible.



**Our Thursday Evening Bible Class Community** begins anew on Thursday, **May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** in Goehring Hall with Pastor Tom. We begin a **new study**...St. Paul (with the exception of Ephesus) stayed longer in **Corinth** than in any other city. He remained there for eighteen months. It had been a very difficult and controversial, but rewarding, experience for St. Paul. The problems he left behind required correspondence back to the congregation. The Christian church has found such value, such inspiration, such guidance, and direction in those letters that they became part of the New Testament.

The correspondence of Paul has generated lots of controversy in the Christian church down through the generations. We have, to some extent, brought our own prejudices to the study of that letter, **most notably the role of women in the church.** Should women really keep silent in the church? This study will attempt to look, without prejudice, to what the text is actually saying, what the words actually mean, and what the situation actually was to which Paul was writing.

The letters of Paul to the church at Corinth cause us to reexamine the person and work of the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts, the worship life of the church, the meaning of Easter for our lives now, and the meaning of Easter when our earthly life is over. The letters to the Corinthians are incredibly rich and applicable to our life situation today. **I commend this study to you; I know you will find genuine benefit through this experience.**

Our **Sunday Morning Bible Class**, which meets in Goehring Hall at **8:30am** with Pastor Tom embarks on a brand new study called, “**GIFTED BY GOD’S SPIRIT.**” This study begins on **Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**.



Who or what is the Holy Spirit? — Is the Holy Spirit found only in the New Testament, or is there some Old Testament evidence as well? — What does the Holy Spirit do? — Who sent the Holy Spirit? — What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit? — How will I recognize those gifts? — Do I have them? — How will I know if I have them? —What are they good for?

All of these questions have answers deeply rooted in the Scriptures and in the on-going tradition of the church’s life. These answers can bless and benefit our lives together as God’s people here at Faith Lutheran Church. With all that in mind, I extend to you an invitation to be among us at **8:30 on Sunday mornings** for this enriching course on the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts.

**NEW PASTOR’S CLASS BEGINS** On **Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**, a new Pastor’s Class series begins in Goehring Hall at 6:30pm. The series runs for eight consecutive weeks from **6:30-7:40pm**. A Pastor’s Class is an experience for those contemplating membership in the household of Faith, as well as for those who would enjoy a refresher course in the basics of belief as taught and expressed by Lutheran people. I would love to have you share in this experience. A sign-up poster awaits your signature in the narthex of the church.

I am hopeful that some of our regular long-time members, together with new potential members, will consider enjoying this series. It’s a great way to begin new friendships and solidify those longtime friendships as well. Think about it, and please add your name to our “class list.”

**Christ is risen—He is risen indeed. ALLELUIA!!!**

*Pastor Tom*  
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**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE** It’s a pleasure to welcome **Nancy Heil** as Chairperson of our Board of Stewardship. Her Board is already hard at work helping us understand the true nature of our “stewardship life” together as the people of God at Faith Lutheran Church. A good starting point always is a review of the Constitution’s description of this part of our lives together:

“The objective of the Stewardship Board is to provide all church members and non-members with leadership to aid them in understanding **just how important everyone is** to the body of Christ and the church at Faith Lutheran Church in Sonoma Valley.”

When people hear the word “stewardship,” they immediately think of money, pledging and tithing. **In reality, the committee’s responsibility is actually more about getting to know one another, recruiting and encouraging people to serve, when time and health permit.** The Stewardship Board at Faith is composed of **Mary Piller, Janice Paine, Brenda LeCount, Earl & Karen Petersen, Nancy Heil** and **Pastor Windsor**. By early summer, our Stewardship Board will begin a program called, “People to People.” We will begin visiting our parishioners to extend friendship and to establish common interests to determine how our congregation can be helpful to our members and offer opportunities for service. The visits will have nothing to do with money.

Prior to a visit, representatives of “People to People” will contact members in order to establish a comfortable time for a personal visit. We look forward to sharing friendship, care, and opportunities for congregational service.

## **Making Announcements**

Our life at Faith Lutheran involves more than coming together for worship. We are a warm, compassionate, caring group. When one of our parishioners hurts, we all hurt. We also enjoy sharing our accomplishments and concerns with one another. So, how do we do this? In addition to upcoming events listed on the last couple of pages of the worship booklet, Pastor Tom provides an opportunity for those in the congregation to make brief announcements concerning our life at Faith. As useful and informative as these announcements are, they are becoming a bit too lengthy and are at times not appropriate in the worship setting.

At our last meeting, council discussed the appropriateness of announcements, and how much time to devote for this purpose. This discussion resulted in creating some guidelines for parishioners to follow when planning announcements; verbal and written.

1. Call Pastor Tom or meet with him before worship service to ask to be allowed to share a verbal announcement at the conclusion of worship.
2. Submit flyers or written material intended for parishioners' folders to both Pastor Tom and the congregation's president for approval before distribution.
3. Talk to Pastor Tom before worship to request a specific prayer be shared during worship.

It is not the intent of council or Pastor Tom to stifle information. Please understand that at times an announcement and/or flyers may be deemed inappropriate for our church setting, such as political announcements. Whether allowed or denied, we still care for the concerns of one another.

In love and service,  
Cheryl Casciani

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**SOAP FOR HOPE** In the last few years, many in our family at Faith have sent money for the work in the Haiti Mission. Now the Stewardship Committee, with your help, will be undertaking a more "hands on" project to help the people of Haiti. During the month of May, there will be a box in the narthex to collect your donations of soap (any bar soap, even hotel soaps) and hand sanitizer to help squelch the deadly cholera outbreak in this poverty-stricken Caribbean country. More than 25,000 people have died from the disease which is likely spread through infected water. Experts say more than 60% of these deaths could be prevented with better sanitation. LCMS World Relief and Human Care is working to distribute water filters which will provide clean water for up to six years. But many Haitians can not even afford a bar of soap. The difference between life and death in Haiti is now an ordinary bar of soap!!

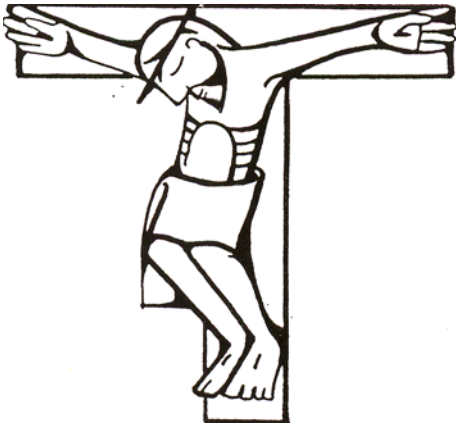
The **soap donations from Faith Lutheran will be mailed June 1** to Haiti Mission in Florida. This organization schedules four trips to Haiti each year and will be taking, hopefully, LOTS of soap from Sonoma to the people of Haiti when they travel there in the latter part of June. **THANK YOU to all in our congregation who can donate to this worthwhile project!**

## HONORING FAITHFUL LONG-TIME MEMBERS TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AND COUNTING . . .

On **Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**, members of Faith Lutheran Church who have been actively involved in worship and service in this congregation for the last 25 years will be honored during the service and a special coffee fellowship will be dedicated to them!

Our records indicate that there are approximately thirty-five members in this category. Each honored member will receive a special invitation in the mail to be a part of this day of celebration.

We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)



### IS A CRUCIFIX LUTHERAN?

The Lutheran reformers of the Sixteenth Century steadfastly maintained that the crucifix, the portrayal of our Lord's sacrifice for us on Calvary's Cross, stood at the heart and core of the holy Christian faith. Lutheran people have carried that tradition down to this very day.

The question, however, does occur: "Isn't it better to focus on Christ's resurrection? Isn't this why we should use a bare cross to symbolize the resurrection?"

Some will conclude that we worship a **resurrected** Jesus, **not** a dead Jesus. But this reasoning misses the mark. The **Biblical** truth is that we worship Christ who is **both** crucified, and resurrected. We must be careful **NOT** to downplay the Crucifixion for it won forgiveness and salvation for us; the Resurrection won for us eternal life. Both are true; both are necessary. Christ resurrected from the **tomb**, not the cross. Therefore, a bare cross cannot be a symbol of the resurrection. If one wishes to symbolize the resurrection, an empty tomb is best, for this is from which Christ arose.

The point is that **both** a bare cross and a crucifix symbolize the **same thing**: Christ's crucifixion for the **salvation** of the world. **Both** can be rightly used.

When Faith Lutheran Church was established here in Sonoma Valley, it was without question that a portrayal of Christ's sacrificial death for our sins would adorn the original altar. That crucifix has witnessed to the source of our salvation for sixty-three years. Later on, it stood on the back wall of the sanctuary for many years. It has been completely refurbished in a most beautiful way by **Ty Krauss** and his son, **Gabe**. It has been permanently reinstalled in the narthex (the entryway) of our church facilities with a plaque beneath it which reads:

This crucifix adorned the altar of the original chapel of Faith Lutheran Church dedicated May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1948. Rededicated Easter Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to the glory of God.

We express our gratitude to Ty and Gabe for their beautiful renovation. It is a gift of love that they offer in honor and loving memory of their mother and grandmother, Dee Krauss.

# This Month's Special Thanks

Our **Board of Fellowship**, headed by **Anna Dohse**, coordinated great Soup Suppers for five weeks during Lent. Thank you to all who provided the most delicious soups, breads and desserts. We appreciate the contribution of our Lenten service lectors: **Herb Meneken, Peggy Carroll, Nancy Davies**, as well as the **Jews For Jesus** presentation. We were also blessed with beautiful music provided by our choir under the direction of **Peggy Carroll** with **Mark Rasmussen** on piano, as well as an evening accompanied by **Chris AhSan** on the clarinet.

To **Harry Akre**, for his many hours of work prior to Easter power-washing and refurbishing the sign on Arnold Drive directing people to worship at Faith. It looks great!

On **Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**, FLC hosted a landscape spruce-up work party coordinated by **Scott Bamford**. What a HUGE success. Approximately 20+ volunteers put in many hours of work beginning at 9am. Trees and shrubs were trimmed around the perimeter of the parking lot, the courtyard area was cleared of weeds and debris, leaves and pine needles were blown off the parking lot; the patio and Memorial Garden area were cleaned and weeded, gutters cleared, as well as numerous other "spring cleaning" projects being completed. Thank you to all who gave of your time and hard work and to Scott for your organizational efforts, for providing tools & equipment. And to Sandy Thompson for providing the treats that kept the troops going!

Many thanks go to **Vagn Nielsen** and **Herb & Nancy Heil** for their on-going upkeep of the grounds surrounding the front of the church. Vagn is responsible for so much unseen underground work, while the Heils pop by whenever they see something that needs to be done.

We thank **Randy Miller** and **Paul Chapman** who as co-property chairmen have contributed much to keep everything in running order for the last couple of years.

Our **Board of Worship**, under the direction of **Nancy Davies**, was also hard at work beautifully decorating for Passion Sunday with palm branches. For Easter Sunday, the crew transformed the interior with Easter lilies and the most gorgeous floral arrangements by **Ilse Eichler**. When all was done, it was a beautiful sight to behold.

Thanks go to all who brought goodies for our continental breakfast between the Easter services and to **Sandy Thompson** who provided lots of fun and treats for Sunday School attendees. The kids were thrilled!

Again, our sincere thanks go to our choir, their Director, **Peggy Carroll, Mark Rasmussen** who accompanies on the organ, and to **Pastor John Marozik** on flute, who not only enrich our regular weekly worship services with their beautiful sounds, but with the additional hymns they provided during the season of Lent and Easter morning.



*Dear Friends,*

*My sister Vera joins me in thanking you for your care, concern & for all of your prayers during the time we have been dealing with health problems. We are so thankful to have friends such as all of you. How blessed we are to have a loving church family! God bless & keep each one of you. With Love, Beulah Lindsay & Vera Protzman*

## EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER CONTACT

Dear Members of Faith Lutheran Church,

In the last several years, emergencies with members of our congregation have occurred when it has been necessary to call immediate family members to notify them of accidents or other health issues.

Unfortunately, valuable time has sometimes been lost in trying to contact someone who would even know the family members, let alone the telephone numbers.

Please list below several names of nearest of kin that should be notified if you are having health problems.

The names and telephone/cell phone numbers will be kept confidential and would only be accessible by the Pastor or church office manager as needed.

My Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name and telephone/cell number of closest relative, next of kin or in the case of no immediate family, closest friend to be contacted.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please put this completed form in an envelope marked EMERGENCY NUMBERS and put it in the collection plate next week. Thank you.

Nancy Heil  
Stewardship Chair