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# THE VISITOR

## OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Westchester, California

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Volume 12 Issue 4

April 2010

The Mission of Our Savior Lutheran Church  
*“To communicate to our community the love of Jesus  
and the changeless Word of God in today’s changing world.”*

*“April showers bring May flowers”* is an old saying that is fairly well known to adults and children as well. It is very true that God blesses His creation with rain which causes seeds to sprout and grow upon the earth. This blessing of rain is something good that God lavishes upon all people, regardless of whether or not they are believers in Jesus as their Savior. And, because of the blessing of rain, seedtime and harvest will prevail and the earth will yield its increase and provide food for all God’s creatures. Not only does rain bring forth flowers but also the fruits and grains from gardens, vineyards, orchards and fields. God is good and His mercy endures forever. His rain will come not only in April but throughout the growing season.



We rejoice and are glad that God takes such bountiful care of our physical needs. That is important, but in April we will celebrate a special day which reminds us that God also takes care of all our spiritual needs. That day is Easter, a day set aside to celebrate the victory of Jesus over sin, death and the devil. As the Bible teaches, because He lives we shall also live. What great, good news that is to celebrate and share with others who also need to hear some good news.

Why does God lavish such rich physical blessings upon us? Dr. Martin Luther explains it so well when in the Small Catechism he wrote: *“All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy without any merit or*

*worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true!”*

Why does God lavish upon us such rich spiritual blessings because of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus? Again, in the Small Catechism Luther wrote: *“that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true!”*

God lavishes His rich blessings upon us to manage and use in ways that honor Him and bless others as well as ourselves. This is what we mean when we talk about Christian stewardship. God’s stewards freely and joyfully manage all of life and life’s resources for His purposes. This management includes taking care of God’s creation so that the physical needs of all God’s creatures are satisfied. It also includes sharing the good news of hope and salvation through Jesus who died for us and rose again.

A blessed Easter to you all!

*Pastor Umbenhaur*

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## PRAYER CONCERNS

Please add these prayer needs to your daily prayers.

That God send more children and families to our pre-school so we may share the Gospel of Jesus with them.

That God strengthen our faith and love that our stewardship overflows to His glory and building of a lasting ministry at Our Savior.

For Jenny Bobbitt (preschool teacher)—health and for her sister who was just diagnosed with cancer. For Mona Johnson, Doris Penner’s sister-in-law just had cancer surgery.

Our men and women in the armed services. Our government officials. Our NATION. For the people in Haiti.

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## CHILDREN OF OUR SAVIOR PRE-SCHOOL

Dear Family and Friends of Children of Our Savior Pre-school,

April showers bring May flowers. It looks like we will be having those showers pretty soon. So I will be looking forward to beautiful flowers soon.

April is such a wonderful month, especially this year; we start off the first Sunday by celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. How awesome is that.

We are blessed to live in a country where we can share our faith with

others. We were taught in Pastors class, when we were studying the Muslim religion, to do just that. I never really thought about this religion until our daughter started middle school and she has now been exposed to friends that have different religious beliefs. I am so proud that she is able to tell others about Jesus. Since I have talked about Christina, I am proud of Hunter as well; he got a triple and scored the winning run at his baseball game last Sunday. Children are such a blessing.

Preschool, I love our preschool, the children are so wonderful and I as well as the staff am able to share Jesus' love with them on a daily basis. This month we will talk about Easter, New Life, and Farm and Pets. If you would like to come down to our awesome preschool to read a story to one of our classes, please feel free to do so, we love visitors. By the way we now have 147 students enrolled.

Since I am writing this before our Trike –A – Thon, I would like to thank all who helped set everything up and served our lunch, especially my dad (Ron Quamme) and my uncle, (Gary Quamme) for b.b.q.ing for us. BIG thanks to Beverly Tietjen for all she does for me but especially for the school. To Missy Simpson who worked on the gift baskets and putting things together. Last but not least, to the staff who supports me in all that I do, you ALL are a blessing!

Serving His Children,  
Ronda Pata

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## ALTAR GUILD

Our most holy week comes early this year—the final days of March and the beginning of April. Palm leaves will be distributed on Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

On Maundy Thursday, Debbie Shockley will assist Pastor Rex in stripping the Altar in preparation for Good Friday's service, the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ. ***Both services will be held at 5:30 p.m.***

On Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, we can shout "He is risen" and celebrate Christ's resurrection. Involved in preparing the living cross on Easter will be the Allen Bakalyar family, Rose & Bob Glick, Beverly Tietjen and Ruth Long—at 6:30 a.m. Please purchase and bring into church on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> your Easter lilies and Calla lilies. Scout out your neighborhood and see if there are any calla lilies blooming. Then, ask your neighbors if you might have a few for your church. We will need all Calla lilies available for our annual living cross—about 50 or more! Please place your Calla lilies in the deep kitchen sink in the back. Regarding your Easter lily plant, print your name on a coffee stirrer/stick and place it inside your 6" pot near the plants stem (for I.

D. later). These are kept on the back counter in the kitchen until Easter day.

Diana Kennedy is our blessed angel in arranging the appropriate banners each Sunday and season in church—the Altar, walls, etc. Hugs and handshakes are nice to show our appreciation for her diligence. Her assistants now are Debbie Shockley and Gail Theodore, minus me (yours truly) as I am resigning from the Altar Guild March 31<sup>st</sup> after 40 years of service. I will continue to help with different church projects but nothing definite at the moment.

God bless you,

Ruth Long, Altar Chairperson

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### APRIL PRESCHOOL BIRTHDAYS

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Savanna Cropper
- 4<sup>th</sup> Jacob Emmett
- 5<sup>th</sup> Marco Torre
- 5<sup>th</sup> Gabriella Scollan
- 6<sup>th</sup> Daniel Trainor
- 8<sup>th</sup> Maureen Glastetter
- 9<sup>th</sup> Alicia Helmstetter
- 9<sup>th</sup> Jackson Bevelheimer
- 20<sup>th</sup> Aidan Pearson
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Ryan Carlow
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Julian Cruz-Hornstein
- 24<sup>th</sup> Maggie Easley
- 26<sup>th</sup> Simran Sethi



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### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 8<sup>th</sup> Samuel Shockely



- 18<sup>th</sup> Hudson Morshead
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Alex Umbenhaur
- 25<sup>th</sup> Robbie Shockley Jr.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Kathy Brown

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### NO APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

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### **FLOWER CHART & REFRESHMENT CHART**

There are still dates that you can sign up for—don't be left out!!

**Flower Chart:** May-2, 9—July-18, 25—Aug.1—Sept. 26—Oct.3, 10, 17, 24, 31—Nov.28, Dec.6, 19, 26.

**Refreshment Chart:** Apr.11—May 2, 9, 16, 23—June 6, 20, 27—7-11, 18, 25—Aug.1, 8, 29—Sept. 12, 26—Oct.3, 10, 17, 24, 31—Nov.7, 14, 28—Dec. 6, 12, 19, 26.

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### **THE RISEN JESUS GIVES US THE POWER TO BE A RENEWED STEWARD OF THE GOSPEL!**

**Easter Sunday:** Believers in Christ and His resurrection are moved to be good stewards of our money, time, talents, and especially the Gospel of salvation.

**2nd Sunday of Easter:** By God's grace we believe the message of God's eyewitnesses and spend our lives praising God with our words and

actions.

**3rd Sunday of Easter:** We have been born again so we may show sincere love for others with words and actions.

**4th Sunday of Easter:** Jesus as God's Chief Steward endured extreme suffering. We may be considered foolish for doing the Lord's work, but this is good stewardship!

**5th Sunday of Easter:** We are the people of God, equipped for every good work, including using all we are and have for God's purposes.

**6th Sunday of Easter:** We may suffer for what is right, but we will be blessed in doing so. Christian stewards know we are building up treasures for the new life to come.

**7th Sunday of Easter:** What joy we have in knowing that what we do as Christian stewards really does have eternal consequences!

## **ABLAZE / FAN THE FLAME**

Recently, we were in receipt of a letter from the Rev. Dr. Thomas Zehnder, Executive Director-World Missions for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. In his correspondence he congratulates and encourages our congregation for the support we are giving to this multi-year mission outreach. He also encloses a check to our congregation reflecting our portion of the gifts we made through the final quarter of 2009. As you may recall, the way this works is that all gifts received are apportioned to the Synod, to our own Pacific Southwest District and to the individual gifting congregation. The idea is to keep us all aware and focused on the fact that missions are not just something we do in some far flung country, but also are a part of what we do regionally and in our own local community.

In the case of our own congregation, the Voters' Assembly voted last year at the December meeting to use our portion to support the work of Missionary Rev. Glenn Fluegge in South Africa. Pastor Fluegge was a guest speaker at our church and preschool this past year, and described the exciting work being done at his African Seminary, to train indigenous young men to become Pastors and spiritual leaders in their own countries. Thus far, men are being trained who are citizens of

Recent offerings at Our Savior:

	<b>Offerings</b>	<b>Budget Requirements</b>
<b>Dec. 2009</b>	<b>\$ 7,089</b>	<b>\$ 7,500</b>
<b>Jan. 2010</b>	<b>\$ 6,365</b>	<b>\$ 7,500</b>
<b>Feb. 2010</b>	<b>\$ 6,539</b>	<b>\$ 7,500</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$ 6,727</b>	<b>\$ 7,500</b>

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Liberia, Ethiopia, South Africa, Zambia, Nigeria and Sudan. And, there is even a young woman from South Africa who is undergoing deaconess training. So, as you can readily appreciate, this seminary support which we provide has a strong multiplying dimension to it, as these trained servants of the Word return to their respective countries to proclaim the Good News of the Christian faith.

Thus it is that we encourage one another to continue to “Fan the Flame” of the **Ablaze** outreach here in our own congregation by contributing as we are blessed and able to the spreading of the Gospel both near and far. Contributions (above and beyond our regular tithing) should be placed in an envelope marked for **Ablaze** and placed in the offering plate. As Rev. Zehnder says in his letter to us, “May God continue to richly bless you and yours, as you continue to serve Him in His kingdom.”

Don Tietjen,  
Congregational Coordinator

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### RETIRING NEWS

After 40 years of service to our congregation as chairman of the Altar Guild, Ruth Long is retiring from this position, effective the end of March. We give thanks to God for these many years of Ruth’s service to Our Savior Lutheran Church and to Ruth for her

dedication and guidance. The LWML will be holding a special recognition for Ruth at a date in the near future. Diana Kennedy, Debbie Shockley and Gail Theodore will continue to serve on the Altar Guild. If you are interested in joining this committee, see one of these members.

Beverly Tietjen

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### LUTHERAN WOMEN’S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML)

“Sing to the Lord for He has done glorious things. Let this be known to all the earth.” Isaiah 12:5 is the LWML theme for this biennium.

Most of us connect singing with times of joy and celebration. We find it nearly impossible to sing under duress. Perhaps the meditative season of Lent is a good opportunity for us to reflect on our District LWML theme topics for the biennium, **Sing to the Lord-A Song for Every Heart**, and for the upcoming convention, **Sing to the Lord**.

We may spend much of our time during Lent reflecting on the Lord’s suffering and sacrifice on our behalf, leading us to thoughts of our own unworthiness and sin.

How could we consider breaking into song with such heavy thoughts? But sing we do – all through Lent, through Holy Week and the crucifixion; beautiful songs such as

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,” “Just As I Am,” and “In the Cross of Christ I Glory.” Songs that lead us in meditation and prayer as we once again remember that His all-encompassing love led Him to complete this journey, to lift the burden of our sin, wash it completely away, and open the door to heaven and eternity with Him.

The coming celebrations of Easter, Ascension and Pentecost are filled with songs of joy that can only be sung by those who have realized the cost of salvation, paid for us by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. So don't hesitate to sing during Lent. Let those profound words and stirring melodies in minor keys work in your hearts and prepare you for the Alleluia songs of great joy. Sing to the Lord for He has done glorious things!

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## SING TO THE LORD

The Pacific Southwest District Lutheran Women's Missionary League will hold its District Convention, June 11-13, 2010, in Tempe, Arizona. Registration forms are available on line at [www.womeninmission.org](http://www.womeninmission.org). This is going to be a wonderful convention with uplifting speakers, great music, and, of course, the fellowship of our sisters and brothers in Christ. Please plan to attend.

Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name, seek Him, and make known

what He has done. Come join us and Sing to the Lord for He has done glorious things. The desert will be alive with sounds of music.

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## STAMPS

Remember to save your stamps for the LWML mission projects. Stamps *must have perforations on all four sides*. These are called **commemorative stamps**. We no longer take a stamp that has one smooth side since it is considered a **common stamp**. Trim the paper around the stamp to ¼". It is very important that the perforations not be damaged. If you have any questions see Dorothy Smith, our stamp chairman.

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