
THE VISITOR

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Westchester, California

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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.”*

May greetings to you;

In the month of May in many parts of our country the fields, gardens and orchards are green and growing, giving us the promise that seedtime and harvest will again prevail, and with God’s blessing the earth will yield its increase and provide food for all God’s creatures. According to God’s design the sun will warm the fertile soil, the rains will cause the seeds to sprout and grow into healthy, productive plants, vines, trees and bushes. Last month’s newsletter article had the title of *“April showers bring May flowers.”* We are now seeing evidence that this old saying is true.

In May we will also be celebrating two special church year events: Ascension Day on May 14 and Pentecost Day on May 23. These two



very important events help to encourage and empower us as God’s stewards. On Ascension Day our Lord returned to the right hand of the Father, not to escape from the world, but rather to serve as our Advocate to the Father. It is so encouraging for us to know that Jesus is at the right hand of the Father pleading for the forgiveness of our sins which results in fresh starts for us as God’s stewards. At the price of His own life Jesus earned for us the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. His resurrection was proof positive that the Father

accepted His suffering and death on the cross as the perfect and complete sacrifice, and His ascension provided proof positive that just as He came from heaven to be our Savior so He

returned to heaven to rule all things for the sake of His church—that is, the sake of us—His stewards.

Pentecost Day reminds us of when the Holy Spirit descended upon the first apostles and empowered them to be renewed servants of Jesus who became bold and effective witnesses of the good news of salvation in Christ Jesus. Pentecost Day also reminds us of the new birth of faith in us through the marvelous, yet mysterious, working of the Holy Spirit. For most of us that started with our baptisms. That new life continues as the Holy Spirit works through His Word and the sacrament of Holy Communion to strengthen and equip us to be effective stewards. As God’s stewards we have the promise that the Holy Spirit empowers us to do what we otherwise could not do.

The seventh Biblical Stewardship Principle states that ***“God’s stewards are served and serving.”*** This means that ***“God’s stewards recognize that their stewardship involves a Gospel-powered style of life which is demonstrated in servanthood within all the arenas of life.”*** By the grace of God we are reminded that we are to serve our Lord with personal acts of compassion and service as well as financial gifts. Some people seem inclined to think that stewardship is just about money. Yes, it is about money and how we manage it, but that is only the tip of the iceberg.

Stewardship involves our wise management and use of all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.

What a blessing and encouragement it is to know and believe that Christ died for us, rose again from the dead, ascended into heaven as the divine conqueror of sin, death and the devil, and now sends His Holy Spirit to be the Lord and Giver of life. May the Holy Spirit enable us to use our time, talents, relationships, treasure and all the other special gifts and blessings in a way that honors our God and blesses our neighbors.

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.

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 PRESCHOOL

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

May, the month in which we are privileged to celebrate our Moms. That's right the person who kisses our boo boos, gives us a hug, reads us a story upon her lap, the one who tells us Jesus loves us no matter what, the one who makes sure we are okay. The one we call MOM. Spell that upside down and what do you get WOW. So make sure you WOW your MOM on Mother's day.

This month our themes will include; Foreign Cultures, Weather, Mother's Day, Rain Forest, and God's little creatures better known as bugs. If you would like to read a story to one of our classes, please come on down to the preschool. The children really love visitors.

The Trike-A-Thon and Auction brought in about \$6,500.00 so far, we still have pledges coming in and hopefully Thrivent will be matching some of the money.

Our enrollment has been staying about the same since we have been gaining a student here and there. We have also lost a few students. Due to the rise in unemployment some of the families have moved out of the area to find jobs. Please pray for our preschool that God sends us the children who need to be blessed by our preschool.

Different ways you can bless our preschool: pray, we always need

Kleenex, glue sticks, dress-up clothes, children's books, copy paper and ball point pens. So if you are out and about and would like to bless us, please pick up a few items. Thank you in advance for helping our preschool.

Serving His Children, Ronda Pata
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ALTAR GUILD

A glorious Easter service was celebrated by the congregation family, friends and visitors. Our Altar was adorned by flowers provided by Kathleen & Pastor Umbenhaur, Katie & Dr. Ed Fickenscher, Dorothy & Gary Smith, Eleanor Davis, Jennifer & Tim Sullivan, Janet & Wayne Lund and Dianna Kennedy. The early risers beautifully decorated our cross with Calla lilies. They were Ruth Long, Allen Bakalyar, Beverly Tietjen with Rose & Bob Glick. Thanks to them for making our church so special to show the joy we feel at Easter. We were blessed by the 64 persons who took communion. HE IS RISEN INDEED!

The Altar Guild met with Pastor on Thursday, April 22nd. We miss Ruth's contributions and will call upon her if we need her expertise. The rotation for the next 3 months will be as follows: May—Diana Kennedy, June—Gail Theodore, July—Debbie Shockley.

Mother's Day will be celebrated on May 9th and the men of the congregation have a nice day planned

for the moms. The Easter season will continue through May 16th. On May 23rd we observe the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples of Christ and so passed on to us through Baptism. The paraments are Red which symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit as well as the blood of Christ that was shed for us. We can join ourselves to this gift by wearing something Red on Sunday. May 30th ends the Easter season with the celebration of the Holy Trinity. The season of Pentecost follows with Green paraments from June 6th to October 24th.

A busy time for your Guild but one we are blessed to share. We are here to serve God and His ministry.

God be with you all—Diana Kennedy
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MAY PRESCHOOL BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd Alexa Hanley
- 5th Cameron Kuhn
- 13th Skylar Campbell
- 18th Marrisa Pinero
- 22nd Sean Binder
- 23rd Brianna Edwards-Butler
- 24th David Boyd
- 28th Jacob White
- 30th Amara McDuffie



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MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3rd Donna Bakalyar



- 4th Viola Bortz
 - 13th Brandon Trollope
 - 19th Jim Schubarth
 - 19th Bill Hullinger, Jr.
 - 25th John Tietjen
 - 28th Kathleen Marinaccio
 - 30th Anthony Shockleu
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MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 8th Cynthia & Dean Blagg

- 14th Evelyn & Delbert Trollope

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YOU ARE INVITED

The members of Faith Lutheran Church—Morningside, Inglewood, California invites you to join us in a **Celebratory Luncheon** honoring **Rev. Dietrich N. Schleef** for thirty five years as their pastor. **Date & Time:** Sunday, May 23, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. **Place:** Oasis Prime Rib and Seafood Restaurant, 3310 West Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90305. **Please RSVP by May 17th**—to Linda in the church office 320-670-7272.



FLOWER CHART & REFRESHMENT CHART

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

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

Refreshment Chart: 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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**BROTHERS AND SISTERS
IN CHRIST,**

We have each been given so much. God provides us with all that we have. It isn't ours; really, it is a loan from God to use as we see fit. As Christians we strive to do all to the glory of God and for the welfare of our fellowman. God's gifts include all our time, talent, and treasures ... here is a record of how we are doing with our treasures:

	Offerings	Budget Requirements
Dec. 2009	\$ 7,089	\$ 7,500
Jan. 2010	\$ 6,365	\$ 7,500
Feb. 2010	\$ 6,539	\$ 7,500
Mar. 2010	\$ 7,360	\$ 7,500
Average	\$ 6,838	\$ 7,500

The stewardship committee



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LWML YARD SALE

It's spring, and with that season comes cleaning! Cleaning means finding treasures you don't use or need, all

sorts of useful items for our annual yard sale. We're asking you to sort through those items and get ready to bring them to church. The day after Mother's Day, May 10, is the start of our in-gathering. You can bring these items any time between May 10 and June 15. The yard sale will be Saturday, June 19. Any questions see Pat or Beverly.

Please note the following rules:

1. **All** clothes must be washed/cleaned and folded in a box or placed on hangers.
2. **All** shoes must be in good condition, pairs together with a rubber band or in a box.
3. **All** toys must have all parts and not be broken.
4. **All** dishes, pans, utensils, etc. must be washed and cleaned.
5. **All** small appliances must be in working order.
6. **All** books must be in saleable condition.
7. *We are not accepting large furniture without prior approval.*
8. We are accepting plastic hangers and paper/plastic bags.

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**NEWS FOR "OUR"
MISSIONARY FAMILY:
PASTOR GLENN & SUSAN
FLUEGGE & FAMILY**

Christ is arisen from the grave's dark prison. So let our joy rise full and

free; Christ our comfort true will be.
Alleluia! Were Christ not arisen, then
death were still our prison. Now, with
Him to life restored, we praise the
Father of our Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia! Now let our joy rise
full and free; Christ our comfort true
will be. Alleluia! LSB #459

Greetings-

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Or
Il Est Ressuscite! Il Est Ressuscite!
On Sunday I asked several different
people if this was a common phrase
here and found out that it is not. It
seems that that tradition is an
American "thing." However, it did not
stop us from greeting everyone in this
way.

We had Easter dinner at our house.
The Nicks family was kind and had us
over for Christmas so I thought I
would return the kindness and have
them over for Easter. Dean Nicks was
a member of Grace Lutheran in
Escondido, CA and his parents are still
members. He also went to Grace
Lutheran grade school about 10 years
before Glenn. His wife, Heather, is
from Canada and they have 6 children.

The Nicks have been in Africa longer
than we have and this is the first time
we have been in the same country not
far from each other. It has been a great
joy to get to know them. On Tuesday
they are "moving" back to Canada for
awhile. We are going to miss having

them around. I did manage to
remember to take pictures.

The most important event that
happened in the last couple of weeks
was the installation of the new bishop
of the Lutheran church of Southern
Africa. Please note that it is the church
of *Southern* Africa and not South
Africa. South Africa is the name of a
country and Southern Africa is the area
or region much like West Africa, East
Africa, and North Africa. Anyway, on
March 28th Wilhelm Weber (who is
also, at the moment, Rector of the
Lutheran Theological Seminary of
Pretoria) was installed as the new
bishop. It was an amazing service
with lots of great music, singing,
clapping and dancing (however there
were no drums and I miss them from
Togo). It is also the first time I have
been able to attend anything like it.

There were letters read from
presidents of many of the Lutheran
churches around the world that we are
in "fellowship" with along with great
words from co-workers, family, and
friends here in South Africa and
elsewhere. I can't imagine what the
installation service for the president of
the LCMS is like. Glenn, Samuel,

Abigail, Caleb, and Jesse are on break.

The kids have to go back to school on
the 7th but Glenn has off until next
Monday (12th). Before the school
break each of the kids' classes drew a
country that has a team participating in
the world cup. On Wednesday they

are to wear a shirt the color that represents that team. Jesse has to wear a colored shirt that represents South Africa, Caleb has to wear a colored shirt that represents England, Abigail has to wear a colored shirt that represents Argentina and Samuel has to wear a colored shirt that represents Portugal. The next break from school will happen when the world cup is happening in June. Then we have a long 6 weeks off of school.

I have finally made it to the doctor. Before we left the states I was diagnosed with Hashimoto's syndrome which is an auto-immune thyroid illness. I was told to see a doctor in South Africa and get a second opinion.

I have finally done that. The doctor was recommended to me by our co-worker, Cindy Rodewald. He is a German guy and is more about eating right and other remedies before handing out medicine. On my first visit this is what he told me as well.

He said it is really easy to take care of Hashimoto's with diet. He took a blood test and told me to come back in 3 days. When I came back he had 3 words for me, "You need medicine."

This part is for those that know more about what I am saying than I do. A normal TSH (I have no idea what that means, but it has something to do with the chemical the thyroid needs to work) is 0.27-4.2 and mine is 19.52.

Also, my anti-thymoglobulin is at 120 and it should normally be between 0-

40. So I have hypothyroidism and have joined the world of pill poppers. I was asked if I felt tired but told him not anymore tired than I've felt in the last 13 years. \"/

We are also trying to "get" our stuff out on the web in as many ways as possible. Not only am I on Facebook but I am also on Twitter and Flickr. Someone (Joe Burnham who is here for a some time teaching at the Seminary with Glenn) is helping me transfer everything from my IWEB web site to Flickr. We are also going to set up a Blog with word press as it is more accessible than my website. However, we want to keep our "names" and have been told this is possible. Computers have such a huge learning curve for me but I am slowly getting there.

We have had more rain in the last week than is good for the crops and other vegetation. It is "fall" here and harvest time. We need the warmth and sunshine to keep things from molding and to also help in the germination process. And on that note I will end this letter. In Christ, Susan Fluegge (Glenn, Samuel, Abigail, Caleb, Jesse, Eliana)

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AS FOOD CRISIS LOOMS IN HAITI, LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF RESPONDS!

The "lean season" is approaching in Haiti – the time between planting and harvest when food supplies are at their

lowest and the threat of hunger increases. To help rural communities affected by the January earthquake, Lutheran World Relief and local partners will distribute seeds to boost agricultural production and offset food shortages. LWR will work with two partners in Haiti to distribute seeds to rural communities. Before the earthquake, a quarter of Haiti's children were malnourished and a third of the overall population suffered from chronic hunger. Seeds for black beans, peanuts, and cowpeas will provide an important source of protein. Families will also receive seeds to grow carbohydrates like cassava and yams. Rounding out the distribution will be vegetable seeds like squash, pumpkin, green beans and onions, all providing essential nutrients. "Without the overwhelming support of our donors, projects like this would not be possible," says John Nunes, LWR president and CEO. This project is one part of LWR's long-term response to the Haiti earthquake. LWR has committed \$6 million in funds and at least 3 to 5 years to help the island nation recover. *To make a donation* that enables LWR to continue its work around the world, including rapid response to emergencies, please visit lwr.org/giving or call 800.597.5972.

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STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

O Lord, giver of life and the source of our freedom, we are reminded by the psalmist that yours is "the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it." We know that it is in Your hand that we have received all we have, and are, and will be. Gracious and loving God, we understand that You call us to be the stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.

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Ablaze!/Fan the Flame 

Please remember to place your contribution to Ablaze!/Fan the Flame in the collection tray. Thank you for your help.