



## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MAY 2018



### PASTOR PEGGY'S PAGE

*When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability (Acts 2:1-4, NRSV).*

Generally, I don't think we Lutherans think much about the Holy Spirit except, perhaps on the Day of Pentecost which we celebrate this month (May 20). We tend to focus on the other two persons of the Trinity, God and Jesus (actually, Lutherans are sometimes accused of focusing primarily on Jesus with God coming in second).

I don't know if you noticed but during the season of Easter we have read a number of texts that refer to the Holy Spirit.

April 8: When Jesus appeared to the disciples in the locked room the day after the resurrection he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (John 20:22-23).

April 22: After healing a sick man, Peter was questioned by Jewish leaders as to how he had accomplished this. The text tells us that he was filled with the Holy Spirit and proclaimed to them that the man was healed through the name of Jesus whom they crucified and God raised (Acts 4:5-12).

April 29: The apostle, Philip is instructed by the Holy Spirit to meet an Ethiopian Eunuch whom he teaches that the scriptures pointed to Jesus. Then after baptizing the Eunuch, the Spirit "snatches" Philip away to another place (Acts 8:26-40).

May 6: The Holy Spirit is poured out upon a group of gentiles who begin praising God (Acts 10:44-48).

May 13: Peter explains how King David had been told by the Holy Spirit that the Messiah would be betrayed by one close to him and that through scripture David had revealed this (Acts 1:15-17).

Even as we have focused and celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ during this season of Easter we have seen that the Holy Spirit leads the church in faith and witness to what God has done through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

In Luther's small catechism, when defining the third article of the Apostles' Creed (the part that begins, "I believe in the Holy Spirit") he states that it means that,

"I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life."

He is saying that it is the Holy Spirit who brings us to faith and keeps us in that faith, that gives us gifts which enlighten us, makes us holy before God, forgives sins, will raise us from death, and gives us eternal life in Christ.

I am fully convinced that in my own life it was the Holy Spirit who led this unchurched girl to seek and find God through the gospel proclaimed and lived within the Lutheran Church. I also believe that the Holy Spirit working through the church, led me to seminary, to St. John and now to you. I further believe that in each of our lives there are events, some miraculous and some which appear quite ordinary in which the Holy Spirit is working for our sake and for the sake of others. In prayer and in service the Holy Spirit is with us. In times of joy and in times of grief, the Holy Spirit gives us Christ's presence. It is this that we celebrate not just on the Day of Pentecost, but through the long season which follows when we will hear again the stories of the Holy Spirit throughout time and through the people of God working God's will within the world.



## **PRESIDENT'S POINT OF VIEW**



MAY 2018

Well, it has finally happened, WE HAVE NATURAL GAS AND, THEREFORE, HEAT. The furnaces in the Sanctuary are, once again, operating, the furnace in the Fireside Room is operating, the furnace in Ross Hall is operating, the hot water heater in the Fireside Room and the kitchen in Ross Hall are functioning the stoves in the kitchen once again can cook and Nazanine once again has heat, hot water and cooking ability. It has been a little over one month since we had to turn off the gas to the property because of many gas leaks in the underground piping. After many consultations with various contractors we decided to award two contracts, one to Crown Plumbing for the new gas services and one to G.E. Richardson Electrical, to install heat pumps in the Education wing. They were both very accommodating and worked well within our limitations. (We also received some needed consultation from Guy Furlo who very generously donated his expertise.)

### **OUR SINCERE THANKS TO THESE COMPANIES AND THEIR EMPLOYEES!!**

The changing over from the ancient boiler in the Education Wing has allowed us to install heat pumps which will provide both heat and air conditioning in the school area. The old boiler was very inefficient as it had to run 24 hours, seven days a week, 365 days a year using both gas and electricity.

Kudos are also deserving to two of our council members, Stefan Myslicki and Gwennie Balcomb. Gwennie spent many hours in the selection of contractors and the general supervision needed. Stefan utilized his organizational skills to find funds to complete the financial requirements without having to borrow money from outside institutions.

As you are aware, this activity cost. We did have to reduce many reserve accounts and utilize some of our investment money. These accounts will need to be built up again in order to maintain our desired level of operation. We have been blessed by a few contributions specified to the completion of the project. If it is within your financial ability, any designated contributions would be appreciated.

As we are thrilled to have been able to complete this project, we need to be prayerfully thankful for the blessing that there were no catastrophic events as a result of the many gas leaks. Once again this event reminds us of the protective hand of God. His grace has been evident many times in our history but never more important than in this time of danger to us and the immediate neighborhood, let us remember this blessing and give thanks to God



## PROPERTY REPORT FOR APRIL 2018

Gwennie Balcomb

- Met with PG&E Gas leak in front of Ross Hall-Gas turned off
- Run generators for Sanctuary and Ross Hall for Heat
- Portable heaters for the school area, cottage, and Fireside Room (For churches, for Bible study group, Groups in the back)
- Installed Hot water heater and Dryer for school and cottage
- Made arrangements for new heat system in the school
- Made arrangements for the Gas line installation.
- Met with inspector
- Installation of Heat pumps in the school area
- Installation of Gas line in Sanctuary, Fireside Room, Ross Hall, and Cottage.
- Met with PG&E for hookup of new Gas lines.
- Repair heaters in Sanctuary
- Above project was from March 13-April 18

Commented [FG1]:



Thank you to Linda Perez, Gwennie Balcomb, Joanne Peronto for decorating the Cross for Easter.

Thank you to Len Brothers for picking up the flowers

Thank you to Nazanine Bain, Deana Hernandez, and Joy Plummer for the Easter Egg hunt for the children.

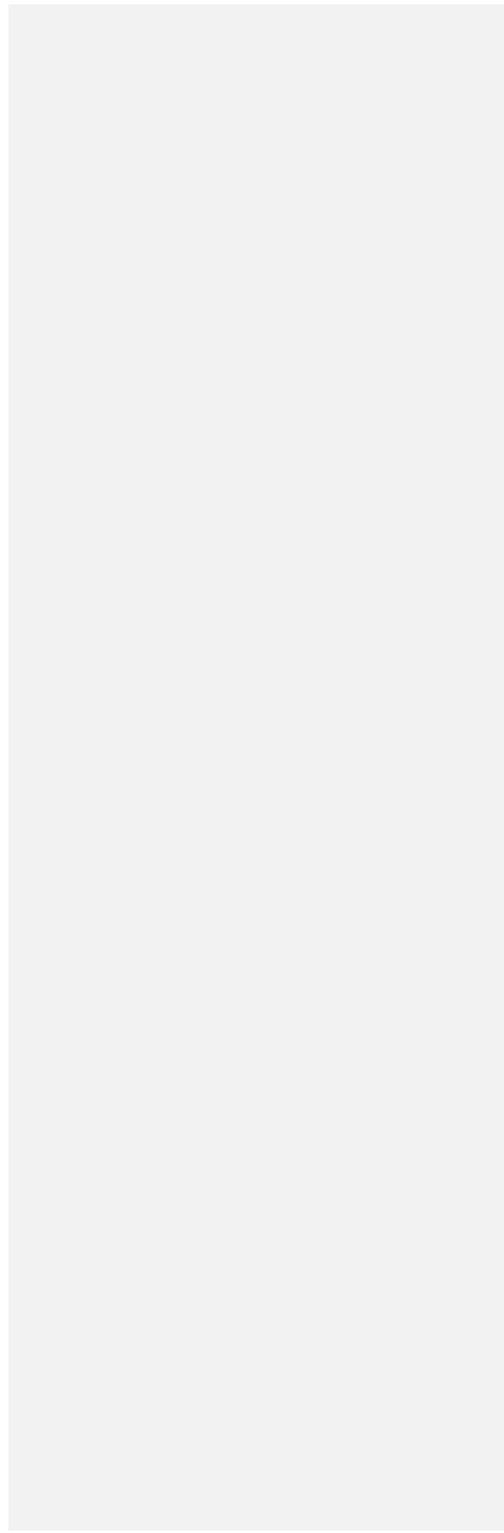
## *EASTER SUNDAY*

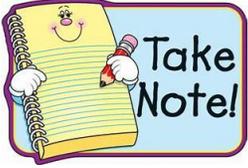
Thank you to Susan Kim, Korean Glory Church for the beautiful arrangements on the altar for Easter Sunday service.

Thank you to Bunches in Los Gatos for the gift of flowers for the Cross

Thank you to Linda Perez for the lovely Lily plants







### Birthday's for April

Rudy Camarena 10  
Verna Bachman 18  
Joanne Peronto 20  
Lisa Lippi 27  
Margarete Werner 29

### Anniversary for April

John and Mardi Kambish 17  
Patrick and Joy Plummer 23



Mario Chissesi	Les Grundy
Dottie Chissesi	Marie Hughes
Thelma Spaziani	Sharon Biller
Eunice Phillips	Alice Abbing
Don Wixon	Jim White
Doris Wacker	Family of Vicky Wheeler on
Nathan Crall	her passing (Neighbor)
Nathan Crall	

We are sensitive to both the need of friends and relatives to seek healing prayer for others and to the need we all feel to have others care and pray for us. If you or someone you know needs prayers, please feel free to place a request in the offering basket or call the church office.



## *SOCIAL CONCERN OF THE MONTH: THE LORD'S PANTRY*

**“A generous person will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.”  
Proverbs 22:9**

In Silicon Valley, a region famed for its foodie culture where you can dine on gold-flecked steaks, \$500 tasting menus, and \$29 loaves of bread, hunger is alarmingly widespread, according to new research conducted by the Health Trust.

One in four people in Silicon Valley are at risk of hunger, researchers at the Second Harvest Food Bank have found. Using hundreds of community interviews and data modeling, a new study suggests that 26.8% of the population—almost 720,000 people—qualify as “food insecure” based on risk factors such as missing meals, relying on food banks or food stamps, borrowing money for food, or neglecting bills and rent in order to buy groceries. Nearly a quarter are families with children.

Food insecurity often accompanies other poverty indicators, such as homelessness. San Jose, Silicon Valley’s largest city, had a homeless population of more than 4,000 people during a recent count. They are hungry, too: research conducted by the Health Trust, a local not-for-profit, found food resources available to them are scattered and inadequate.

Because poverty is often shrouded in shame, the clients’ situations can come as a surprise. Often we think of somebody visibly hungry, the traditional homeless person, but the study is

putting light on the non-traditional homeless: people living in their car or a garage, working people who have to choose between rent and food, people without access to a kitchen.”

We are not thinking when we pick up our shirts from the dry cleaners, get our landscaping done, go to a restaurant, or get our child cared for, is that person hungry? It is very easy to assume they are fine. Thank you for helping us care for those in need with your generous donations and time! Mary DeHart

From Mary De Hart, Director of Lord’s Pantry

Stats for the months of: MARCH of people served by Lord’s Pantry

Adults 1515

Children 287

Seniors 981

Homeless 300

Total served: 3080 individuals 991 families

Layettes given out: 8

**THE MONTH OF APRIL WAS SET ASIDE AS A MONTH OF AWARENESS FOR THOSE AFFLICTED WITH AUTISM.**



**The following is a wonderful article from a Mother raising an Autistic Child**

## **AUTISM**

This word has been life changing for us. It's beautiful. It's scary. It's humbling. It's overwhelming. But most importantly, it's misunderstood.

It's learning where in public you can go and for how long. It's learning to use utensils, learning to eat and to drink, learning to point, learning to climb steps, to jump, to run and even learning to walk. It's teaching how to play with others when all they like to do is play alone.

It's waiting for years to hear words and sentences that you never thought you'd hear. It's the soft kisses of a babies lips you never thought you'd feel. It's the tight hug of babies arms you never thought would learn to squeeze you. You learn very quickly to take nothing for granted.

It's thought to be a temper tantrum of a child not getting their way when it's really a meltdown of a vulnerable child who's not in control of the sights and sounds around them. Where every Autism journey is different, THIS is Autism for us.

It can also be triumph and joy. You learn to see Autism not for what it can take away, but what it can give. It gives miracles, hope, love compassion, happiness, but most of all it gives strength to fight for a world that my child can be accepted in.

A world that can understand that someone can be different than you but just as equally special. They may follow a different road map than you but the end destination is the same: **ACCEPTANCE.**

Our generation is raising the adults who will one day be the nations leaders, lawmakers, teachers and politicians. In a world that is so severely divided today, we have the power as parents to instill kindness, love and acceptance of others like a wildfire in our little one's hearts and minds.

If I could do anything to make a difference in the life of my child, it would be to spread inclusion. That's not something children learn on their own. It's taught by us-the parents. You don't have to understand Autism, you just have to accept it. **ACCEPTANCE** after all is where it all begins.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THOSE WHO LIVE WITH AUTISM**

## **ELCA presiding bishop issues pastoral statement on humanitarian situation in Syria**

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*"Give God no rest" (Isaiah 62:6-7) until that day when "the wolf and the lamb shall feed together. ... They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord" (Isaiah 65:25) (ELCA social statement, "For Peace in God's World").*

In recent days we have witnessed, with additional horror, further atrocities in Syria in a conflict that has taken almost countless lives over the past seven years and displaced millions of Syrians and others.

Following the April 13 air strikes conducted by the armed forces of the United States, the United Kingdom and France, the president and the general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation issued a [statement](#) that I encourage ELCA members to read and prayerfully consider.

Our church is responding to the needs of Syrian refugees and displaced people through the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), in coordination with ACT Alliance (formerly Action by Churches Together). The IOCC has been assisting those in need in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan to ensure food security, establish shelter, and provide better access to water and sanitation facilities, among other activities. LWF-Jordan is working with Syrian refugees and host communities in Amman, Mafraq, Irbid and in the Zaatari refugee camp, bolstering livelihoods through cash transfers and skills training in agriculture practices and improved technologies for vegetable production in home gardens to benefit malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women, and sick people. They are also providing psychosocial support, particularly among women. We plan to continue and intensify this work.

In the face of this ongoing humanitarian crisis, our nation also needs to open its arms again to receive Syrian refugees for resettlement in the United States. We will continue to work in ecumenical partnership as we pray, advocate and work to receive refugees.

Last, but not least, our government, as part of the international community, needs to redouble its efforts to work diligently for a diplomatic resolution of this conflict. As U.N. Secretary General António Guterres said earlier this weekend, "There is no military solution to the crisis. The solution must be political."

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



### **IMPORTANT NEEDS IF YOU CAN HELP**

**We are very much in need of a recommendation for a gardener**

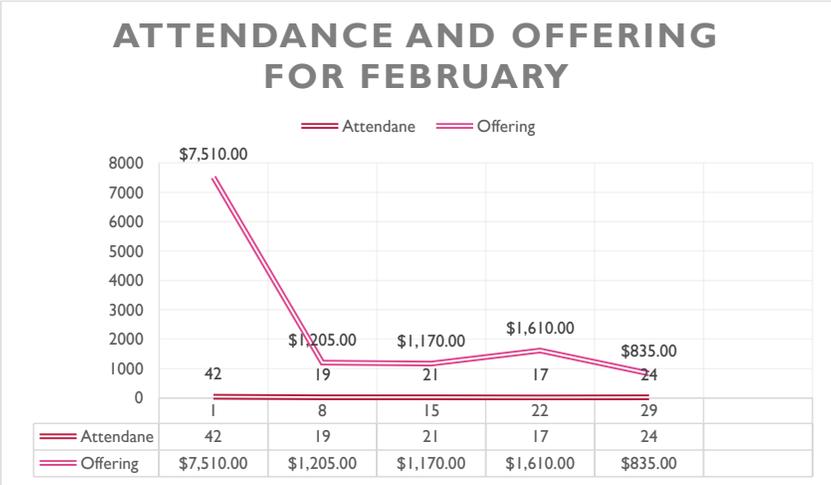
**We are also in need of a volunteer to check supplies needed in the Fireside room each month.**



**Monthly Financials**

**Totals for MAY 2018**

**Offering Total: \$12,330.00 Social Concern of the Month: \$327.00**



A REMINDER THERE ARE MATERIALS ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO TAKE THEM HOME

Pastor Peggy White  
Office Schedule-by appointment

In case of a need (24/7)

Office 408 356 5055

If there are items you would like to see in the newsletter, please contact the church  
office

FLC Ministry Staff

Peggy White, Pastor

Organist/Pianist: Ian Langga

FLC Executive Committee

Bob Balcomb, President

Open– Vice President

Skip McAskill – Secretary

Stefan Myslicki – Treasurer

Council Members

Linda Perez

Deana Hernandez

Bob Zeiher

Gwennie Balcomb

Len Brothers



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