

# First Words

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## Lent continues

Thursdays in Lent continue on April 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

Soup Supper at 6 pm—Parish Hall

Holden Evening Prayer at 7 pm—Sanctuary



## Holy Week

### **Palm/Passion Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**

Palm Procession, Holy Communion at 8:30 and 10:30 am

*Music at 10:30: Victoria, Bach*

### **Maundy Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**

Light Supper, Word, and Foot Washing at 6 pm

### **Good Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Stations of the Cross at 12 noon

Procession of the Cross at 7 pm

### **Easter Vigil, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Fire, Word, Renewal of Baptism, Bread, and Wine at 8 pm



## Easter Celebration

### **Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**

Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt at 9 am

Vocal, choral, handbell, and organ music at 10:10 am

Festival Holy Communion at 10:30 am

*Music at 10:30: Stanford, Hurford*

## Be still and know

I write this article from the Camaldolese Hermitage in Big Sur. I have enjoyed coming to this inviting monastery for Lenten retreats for many years.

The days are quiet and restful, full of silence and punctuated with prayer.

The stunningly beautiful vistas of the Pacific Ocean and the rhythm of the Daily Offices (Vigils, Lauds, Vespers) and Eucharist are soothing balm for the soul of this Type A cleric and fellow follower of Jesus.

In the invitation into Lent we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and love of neighbor.

For me, these days at the Hermitage allow me the time to speak a language of love for and praise to God—Creator, Word and Spirit—which in turn directs that love outward in the form of prayer for my neighbor.

My prayers during these hours and days focus on many matters but they do certainly include all of you, that God continue to hear the needs of your heart, strengthen you in love for your families and loved ones and increase your faith, your trust, in the love and grace of God for you.

As each of you take the opportunity to slow down the pace of your daily round, even for a short bit of time, you can be still and in that stillness you will, as the Psalmist has written, come to know that I am God.

Slowing down, being still and listening for the voice of God in the silence of your heart truly does bring rest and refreshment of spirit.

When you and I do this we will receive strength for the continuing journey of this season so that we might more deeply



ly grasp the resounding joy of Easter's promise.

Blessings to you and yours in these days!

## What happened to the picture board?

Many members of First Lutheran have enjoyed seeing the FLC signature quilt, made in 1933 by the Dorcas Society, and given to then-pastor Everett Hedeon.

But what happened to the member photos that used to be posted in the spot where the quilt now hangs?

Be assured, the photos will be back. We're regrouping and reorganizing. Many of the old photos, especially those that included children, were badly out-of-date. (Kids grow fast!)

Jill Knuth will be tapping many of you on the shoulder during coffee hour for the next few weeks and asking you to pose for a new picture.

It only takes a few minutes and it will help a lot if you can get your whole family together and present your group to Jill so she doesn't need to go into sheep-dog mode to round everyone up.

We hope to post most of the new pictures by Easter. There will be some gaps to fill, but we'll post a blank card with a family name in each spot where we'd still like a new photo.

The photo board is a great outreach tool for visitors since they're all drawn to look at it. And it helps all of us (especially new members) to know each other better.

— JILL KNUTH

## Arts



## Ministry and property

We had a good presentation by the New Property Task Force last week, with lots of thoughtful questions.

Among the options included the possibility of rearranging the classroom and office space in our building partly onto the adjoining property on Homer Ave. (which we own), perhaps rebuilding its current residences elsewhere on the campus (on the Webster St. side).

This brought up a question about ministry, which I think everyone in the congregation needs to examine in detail.

Ever since the task force was formed, it has struggled with the question of how best to have the adjacent properties serve our ministry.

One option is to maximize our income from those properties in order to fund our music program and other parts of our ministry which we find important.

Another is to have the properties serve as a ministry in themselves, encompassing social service programs, below-market housing, halfway houses, and the like.

Finally, as in the task force's option "C," we can expand the church campus itself into the additional space, allowing room

for congregational expansion and more breathing room for current programs.

None of these approaches is in conflict with the idea of ministry in general; it's only a matter of what kind of ministry we want to focus on.

The first two options give a clear choice between social-services ministries and more worship-oriented ministries, supported by property rental income.

But the third choice forces us to address our vision for ourselves in a larger fashion, because it would sacrifice some of our rental income, which currently provides some 20% of our budget, without a specialized purpose.

It would be a leap of faith, anticipating that a new-and-improved campus would help attract more congregants, leading to increased pledged income to compensate.

It would commit us to becoming a new FLC, not just the old FLC with a new coat of paint. Is this a case of "if we build it, they will come"?

Or is it a risky maneuver which is potentially putting our current, successful ministry programs on the chopping block?



We won't be able to evaluate these proposals properly, or make any final decisions, until we get some ballpark figures for cost, and a better idea of what our options are regarding the Webster property.

But the process of self-examination is valuable, and especially suitable for this Lenten season.

The task force is looking forward to hearing everyone's thoughts on these matters.

But it's especially important as we go into the call process in the next couple of years, for us to know what we want ourselves to become, so we can call as pastor who will help us get there.

– ALLEN SIMON

## Sunday School update

The Sunday School will be working on various projects during Lent including a special egg carton Easter craft.

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are finishing up pictures of the Apostles symbols.

April 3<sup>rd</sup> the children will bake and sell cookies to benefit victims in Japan and Haiti. See Maria Cortez for details.

On Easter Sunday there is no Sunday School as FLY will be making breakfast for everyone.

## Learning

There will be an Easter craft in the Children's Center from 9:30–10 am. The Easter Egg Hunt will be at 10 am. Please gather in the Childrens Center.

– BARBARA ERICKSON-KELLY

**FirstWords** welcomes all submissions and letters from readers.

Email [firstwords-editor@flcpa.org](mailto:firstwords-editor@flcpa.org).

### Ian and Erin Colahan

New members Ian and Erin Colahan met as students in Ithaca, NY where they pursued their undergraduate and graduate studies.

Ian attended Cornell University and Erin attended Ithaca College.

Erin, originally from Milton, NY, is a physical therapist working at Lytton Gardens in Palo Alto and Ian, originally from Reading, PA, is a mechanical engineer working for Apple in Cupertino.

Erin is a studio artist and sculptor, and Ian plays soccer and sang in glee club in college.

Together, they recently ran their first marathon in the Napa Valley Marathon and love to hike, backpack, ski and snow shoe.

– MARGARET MARSHALL



### Leif Schmit-Kallas

Leif Schmit-Kallas may be a new member, but his joining is more of a homecoming than anything else. His mom Nancy is a long-time member, and he was baptized here by Pastor Kemp in 1995!

Leif spends his days as a grad student in applied economics at San José State University.

Geographic information systems are also of interest to Leif, along with the occasional bonsai creation.

He's also an avid outdoors enthusiast, known to frequently take hikes to exotic and far-away places like Half Dome.

– JIM PULS



Join us for the final concert of this year's series  
May 1, 2011 at 4:00 pm



## A Family Concert

Featuring

### Dawn Harms

Join violinist Dawn Harms for a delight-filled interactive musical adventure for the whole family. Dawn takes her audience on an exciting musical adventure that spans more than 300 years. From the masterpieces of Bach and Mozart to music being written as the performance takes place, her energetic show delights people of all ages and offers young audience members a chance to compose or play the violin for the first time. With pianist Roxanne Michaelian, she brings great classical music to life, and employs her zany cast of costumed characters to enchant concert goers with such delightful novelties as *The Hot Canary* and *The Orange Blossom Special*.



The performance will be followed by an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social.



So bring the whole family and join us for an afternoon of fun!

**Admission: \$12 for adults, \$5 for children**  
**First Lutheran Church**  
**600 Homer Ave, Palo Alto**

## ELCA members donate \$750,000 for Japan

CHICAGO (ELCA)—Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) have contributed nearly \$750,000 in response to the massive earthquake and tsunami that struck northern Japan March 11<sup>th</sup>.

ELCA Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton provided this report on March 25<sup>th</sup>. One hundred percent of all donations designated for the Japan disaster go to the local response.

The Rev. Sumiyuki Watanabe, president of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church,

expressed his “deep gratitude” to ELCA members for their “heartfelt prayers” and the financial gifts the church has received from the ELCA to date.

“Within this sudden disaster, we have asked ourselves what can we, as humans, do? But we come back to (these) words (from Hebrews): Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Behind these words is the understanding that while there is a limit to what is human, we proclaim there is no end with God,” Watanabe said.

Financial gifts for the Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami can be contributed at <http://www.elca.org/japanearthquake> on the ELCA website. Credit card gifts may be made by calling 1-800-638-3522.

Gifts designated for the Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami can also be sent to: ELCA Disaster Response, 39330 Treasury Center, Chicago, IL 60694-9300.

Who is this riding among us?

*Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth.*

Blessed is he who comes in the name of God.

*Hosanna, may his Way be victorious.*

Who is this riding the animal peace?

*Jesus, the Prophet of Nazareth.*

Blessed be the freedom he brings

*Hosanna, may his Way be victorious.*

Who is this carrying the palm of peace?

*Jesus, the Prophet of Nazareth.*

Blessed be our leader, the Prince of peace.

*Hosanna, may his Way be victorious.*

Who is this that destroys the weapons of war?

*Jesus, the Prophet of Nazareth.*

Blessed is he who comes in the name of God.

*Hosanna, may his Way be victorious.*

Who is this that frees the oppressed from prison?

*Jesus, the Prophet of Nazareth.*

Blessed is he who releases all captives.

*Hosanna, may his Way be victorious.*

Who is this that makes wars to cease in all the world?

*Jesus, the Prophet of Nazareth.*

Blessed is he who restores the Paradise of Eden.

*Hosanna, may his Way be victorious.*

*from “The Covenant of Peace—A Liberation Prayer”*

## Sister Parish news

## Social Ministry

A delegation from El Salvador led by Bishop Medardo Gomez and his wife, Rev. Abelina Centeno Conrrado will be attending the Synod Assembly May 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> to be held at the Hyatt Regency in Burlingame.

Other members of the delegation are Rev. Guadalupe del Rosario Cortez de Huezo, Rev. Norma Noemi Castillo de Menjivar, and Attorney Aracely Ventura.

Bishop Gomez and the whole delegation will honor us with their presence at a congregational potluck dinner on Tuesday evening, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

The Social Ministry Committee is also planning to host the three women pastors during their stay in the Bay Area, Monday and Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.



*Pastors Conchita Angel and Guadalupe Cortez; Bishop Medardo Gomez and Pastor Abelina Centeno Conrrado*

This is a great opportunity for us to learn more about the current activities of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church and the Sister Parish Program (managed by Rev.

Norma), and the work being done both here and in El Salvador.

Please save the date!

– KARAN BARICH

## Miles needed for Rios visit

Calling all Frequent Flyers!

Here's your chance to help us provide transportation for our Sister Parish delegation for their visit to us this summer!

Dates planned are June 30<sup>th</sup> through July 11<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping to collect frequent fly-

er miles from some of you world travelers to help bring them here.

A 50,000 mile gift would be great, but any miles would be welcome! Please contact Christine Segerhammar ([segerhammar@comcast.net](mailto:segerhammar@comcast.net)) as soon as

possible so we can start making plans. Thank you!

– CHRISTINE SEGERHAMMAR

## Rios Task Force

### SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2011

Hyatt Regency Hotel San Francisco Airport Hotel

Burlingame, CA · May 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

Keynote speaker is Mark Allen Powell from Trinity Seminary and Bible Study Leader is Carol Jacobson from PLTS.

Honored Guest Bishop Medardo Gomez of the Iglesia Luterana Salvadoreña (the Lutheran Church of El Salvador).

## April Forum topics

Adult Forum is held in the Library on Sunday mornings from 9:15 am to 10:15 am. The schedule for April includes:

### April 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Superstitious Prayers:** Ken Schreiber will lead a Forum discussion of a recent article on faithful prayer and superstitious prayer by Christian author Rodney Clapp.

### April 10<sup>th</sup>

First Lutheran Youth will lead a multi-generational Forum discussion of Happiness.

Share your thoughts on what is happiness; how do you find happiness; how do you hold on to happiness; and how your faith links and doesn't link with happiness.

### April 17<sup>th</sup>

Forum will discuss the roles of community in our lives.

What roles do and can our church family play in our communities?

Does the church family have a special role to play?

How is the church family different from other communities?

Should communal relationships be enriched at FLC?

### April 24<sup>th</sup>

There will not be a Forum on Easter Sunday.

*If you have an issue that you would like Forum to take up, whether you would like to develop information and lead a discussion or have a suggestion for others to follow up on, please*

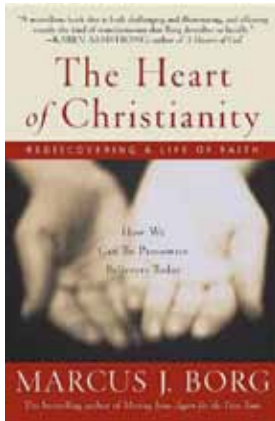
## Adult Forum



contact Ken Schreiber (talk to him before or after Forum, call him at **650.853.1049** or email him at [krsplan@mindspring.com](mailto:krsplan@mindspring.com)).

– KEN SCHREIBER

## Exploring Christian belief



All FLC members and friends are welcome to read and join the discussion of Marcus Borg's *The Heart of Christianity*, his groundbreaking exploration of Christian traditions, dogmas and beliefs in light of modern-day thinking and sensibilities.

What does it mean to define oneself as "Christian"?

Borg, renowned Jesus scholar, has written honestly, intelligently, passionately, and in language accessible to lay people.

Please come and add your reactions and insights at the next Book Group meeting, Monday evening, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 to 8:30 pm, upstairs at church.

– CHRISTINE SEGERHAMMAR

## Book Group

## April birthdays

2	Christine Segerhammar
5	Devin Dohrmann Karin Zander
6	Beth Grote Dorothy Towne
14	Mark Bertelsen
16	Lauri Mielikainen

23	David Holmkvist
24	Chris Holbrook
25	Mike Yoshikawa
28	Ella Guhr Bruce Lundeen
29	Nicholas Gaya
30	Stefan Mannsfeld

*Prayer petitions for Sundays follow the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and can be incorporated into the prayers at weekly worship. Weekday entries are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the church.*

*Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.*

**1** Pray for local, state, and federal elected officials, as they consider budget decisions that will affect our communities and all of God's people.

## 2 World Autism Awareness Day

Pray for all who live with autism spectrum disorders and celebrate their unique talents and skills. Pray for those who diagnose, treat, advocate and care for those living with autism.

## 3 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Lord of the nations, we pray for the people of East Timor, Indonesia and the Philippines as they struggle with religious and political diversity.

Grant that they may receive your peace and a sense of the richness of life that comes through your abundant gifts.

**4** Pray for the participants in the Leadership Conference at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago April 4-5 as they reflect on the theme, "Experiencing God through Preaching and Worship."

**5** Pray for the Rev. Justin and Kari Eller, who serve in La Paz, Bolivia. They work in the Office of Mission in the Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Boliviana (Bolivian Lutheran Church).

**6** Pray for the Lutheran Summer Music Program and the young people who are applying to participate in this four-week music program that focuses on community, faith and Lutheran musical heritage.

## 7 World Health Day

Pray for those who research antimicrobial resistance and its global spread that threatens the continued effectiveness of many medicines used to treat the sick.

**8** Pray for the ELCA Church Council as they meet April 8-11 at the Lutheran Center in Chicago.

**9** Pray for Nancy Stevenson, an English teacher at Makumira University College of Tumaini University, the senior seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, and for the educational ministry of the church in Tanzania.

## 10 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Blessed God, in the midst of serious political and economic challenges in the region, we pray for the people of Japan, North Korea, South Korea and Taiwan, that your abundant grace may be showed upon them.

**11** Pray for the Lutheran AIDS Network Biennial Conference, which meets at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, April 11-12.

**12** Pray for missionaries serving as English teachers as part of the J-3 program of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church: Douglas Foster, John Hoyle, Susan Wironen, Dana Dutcher and Carolyn Stypka.

**13** Pray for the ELCA public policy directors and the advocacy ministry shared by ELCA members as they speak out for families struggling in tough economic

times, for internationally recognized human rights and for the good stewardship of God's creation.

**14** Pray for Kristopher and Rebecca Hartwig. Kristopher serves with the Palliative Health Care program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania exploring hospice care with people living with HIV and AIDS. Rebecca is involved in a music and nursing ministry.

**15** Pray for the Rev. Phillip Baker, ELCA regional representative for theological education and church relations in Asia, as he works with institutions and churches throughout Asia.

**16** Pray for those who grieve because of war or natural disasters throughout the world.

## 17 Sunday of the Passion

God of mercy, send the gentle rains upon the lands of Djibouti and Somalia.

May the fields bear fruit and the people be renewed in the midst of their constant living with drought and hunger.

**18** Pray for the ministry of the Leadership Program for Musicians and all church musicians during this week of many worship services.

**19** Pray for displaced people and refugees so that they may receive what they need: shelter, food, clothing, blankets, education and security.



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

**20** Give thanks for the Rev. Richard Young's ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana.

He has just returned from service in a parish of four congregations where, as a medical doctor, he coordinated and developed health programs for the church in Guyana.

**21** Pray for Linnae Stole who teaches English at the Lutheran High School in Cieszyn, Poland. Bless her continued ministry as she completes her first year of service.

**22** Pray for ELCA Global Mission volunteer Dana Olson who serves as a tutor at Springboard for Children in London, a faith-based organization committed to serving at-risk children in the United Kingdom.

## **24 Resurrection of our Lord**

God of hope, we praise you for the witness of the growing churches in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Continue to strengthen and comfort these churches as they reach out with compassion to their neighbors.

## **25 World Malaria Day**

Give thanks for the progress in controlling and treating malaria throughout the world.

Pray for continued progress in preventing and treating the disease and for greater access to health care for those at risk.

**26** Pray for Anna Rudberg, intern pastor in Slovakia, as she assists the Bratislava International Church and teaches religion in the local high school.

**27** Pray for the Rev. Tim and Mari McKenzie who serve with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Tim teaches church history at the Japan Lutheran College and Seminary and Mari assists with orientation for new ELCA personnel who teach English at Lutheran schools in Japan.

**28** Pray for the Alaska Synod of the ELCA as they meet in assembly April 28–30.

**29** Pray for the Arkansas-Oklahoma, Northeastern Minnesota, and Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana synods of the ELCA as they meet in assembly April 29–May 1.

**30** Pray for the participants of the 2011 Book of Faith Jubilee: Inspiring Everyday People to Engage the Bible as they meet at Luther Seminary, April 29–May 1.

# **First Words** is a publication of First Lutheran Church of Palo Alto, California.

## **Officers of the congregation:**

Allen H. Simon.....Council President  
George Yule.....Vice President  
Maria Cortez .....Secretary

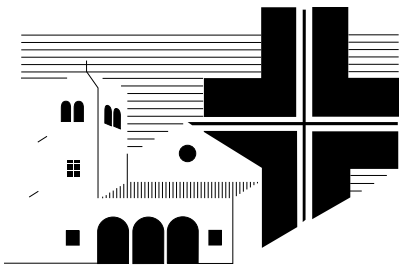
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Visit our website at <http://www.flcpa.org>.



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