

# First Words

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# Lent

## Ash Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

Each year we set aside forty days to struggle with greater intensity against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

This day is the beginning of the journey of Lent and is marked with an ashen cross on our foreheads as a reminder of our mortality.

- 12:00 pm Holy Communion (spoken)  
 and Imposition of Ashes
- 7:00 pm Holy Communion (sung)  
 and Imposition of Ashes

## Thursdays in Lent, beginning March 17<sup>th</sup>

During the five Thursdays that fall between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week we gather for a simple evening soup supper, conversation at table about our communal journey and then share in Evening Prayer.

March 17<sup>th</sup> • March 24<sup>th</sup> • March 31<sup>st</sup>  
 April 7<sup>th</sup> • April 14<sup>th</sup>

The evening schedule:

- 6:00 pm Soup Supper  
 6:30 pm First Kids Choir  
 6:30 pm Table Talk  
 7:00 pm Evening Prayer  
 7:40 pm Choir Rehearsal

## Sundays in Lent

- 8:30 am Holy Communion (Meditative)  
 9:15 am Christian Education for all ages  
 10:30 am Holy Communion (Choral)



## From ashes to fire

Lent leads the Christian community from ashes to the bread and wine, the cross, the fire and water of the Three Great Days: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Vigil of Easter.

As we move together through the weeks of Lent we come to recognize the ebb and flow of this season, not straightforward but more like the meandering of a stream moving toward the sea.

We do not celebrate Lent as mere remembrance of our mortality or as a brief period of artificially-induced repentance.

We celebrate it as our communal preparation for the baptismal celebration that is Easter's vigil.

And then we celebrate Easter's Fifty Days in order to reflect on our baptismal mission in the wider world.

During the five Thursdays that fall between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week we gather for a simple evening soup supper, conversation at table about our communal journey and then share in Evening Prayer.

Make the most of the time, as you are able, in a spirit of worship and prayer, together at church and at home.

This March issue of First Words gives the description of our corporate opportunities on the Thursdays in Lent, as well as for Ash Wednesday and the Great Three Days.

Take time for personal engagement with the Spirit within. Take 10 minutes for silence and pray to begin or end the day; sit in the sunshine; stroll along the beach or in a park; walk a Labyrinth; read the Psalms; review the Catechism.

## Pastor's Ponderings



The opportunities are at hand to turn the heart and mind toward the grace and mercy of God during these forty days.

I invite you to take part. Blessings for the journey!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Kenyon Segelmann".

## Government is not the enemy

*Is government us or them?*

With no public announcement, we have changed from a people sharing a common life to several hundred million individuals who happen to live near one another, and we risk losing our soul in that change.

"We the People ... in order to form a more perfect union ..." Thus begins one of the crowning documents of human history—the Constitution of the United States.

"We" was the first word. In the preamble alone, the phrases "establish justice," "domestic tranquility," "common defence," "general welfare" and "blessings of liberty" all appear.

Few statements have ever so nobly set forth the commitment of a people to their common life.

To be historically accurate, in the republic's early decades the "we" had a state rather than a federal leaning, leading to the Civil War, which Abraham Lincoln called the struggle to see if a nation con-

ceived under the proposition that all are created equal could prevail.

His final words in that address expressed a resolve that "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Historians note that the verb form that accompanied "the United States of America" prior to the Civil War was plural: "The United States are ...."

After that war, it became singular: "The United States is ...." We had become a single people, dedicated to our principles and to the notion that our individual well-being was tied somehow to the well-being of our neighbors.

On that wave of common identity, Franklin Roosevelt led us through the Depression, Dwight Eisenhower initiated a highway system that wove us together and Lyndon Johnson proposed a "Great Society."

But throughout history, from Old Testament times until now, prosperity has

## Guest Commentary



eroded common purpose. Prosperous people drift into self-preoccupation.

As people withdraw into greater concern for their private welfare, government as public enterprise fades; the "we" becomes "they." Common purpose becomes interference, and the poor and vulnerable are left on the margins.

see BISHOP, page 6

## The best way forward is to grow

## President's Corner

*At February's congregational meeting, the congregation passed an amendment to the budget resolution directing Council to report on spending priorities for 2011 if income exceeds budgeted amounts.*

In a literal sense, it would be premature to make any commitments about 2011. For one thing, the year will be almost over before we have a clear idea whether giving is really significantly up. In 2010, giving was pretty much on budget through November, then had a huge drop in December; our deficit for the year is almost entirely due to this December decline.

In any case, there's always a certain amount of seasonal fluctuation in giving—some people give their entire amount all at once, for example—so it's not realistic to think that we'll know in, say, June, whether giving will be substantially above budget.

Bumping up budgeted line items in November or December would be pretty meaningless, since the purpose of a budget is to enable planning.

But I think the question was probably meant to be more symbolic and psychological than literal. If there's an upward trend in giving, how will that shape the budget in 2012 and beyond? The answer to this requires looking at our budget more globally.

FLC's income for 2011 is projected to be 78% giving and 20% rental income from the adjacent Homer and Webster properties (the remainder is from weddings, concerts, etc.)

While relying on property income isn't unusual for urban churches, it's something we need to be aware of. We rely on this external stream of income to fund programs substantially more ambitious than we could afford from giving alone.

And we've been ambitious: the largest component of our spending is personnel, and in the last few years we've added two part-time staff positions (choir director and youth director) and expanded the organist's job by adding a second service.

A few fortuitous, but temporary, circumstances have made this possible. The Youth Director was initially seeded from a directed contribution which provided for more than the first year's salary for the position.

It was a terrific gift and a great boost to our youth program, but that fund is now exhausted, and continuing the position means bearing its expense in the budget.

The cost of the 8:30 service was initially limited as well, but that expense too is now fully funded from the budget.

We have booked end-of-year deficits for the past three years. Wise Councils in the past have saved surpluses to be used in just such times as these, but that cushion is fast running out. We're not going to be able to keep running deficits, and our primary goal at this point has to be the continued solvency of the church.

Even if it looks like we are ahead mid-year, we have an obligation to stay afloat. The Council is very reluctant to propose cutting any of our programs (such as laying off a staff position) because of fears that would lead to a feedback loop: smaller programs means fewer people attracted to the church and fewer people motivated to give.

Rather, we made some small cuts to committee budgets and what we hope will be a temporary cut to benevolence, in hopes that we can restore all of it in future years.

And we've asked the congregation to "stretch" its giving for an additional



\$10,000. We feel confident in the future of FLC and in the ability of our parishioners to support the excellent programs we've developed.

If we do end up with a surplus in 2011, our wisest course might be to bank it in order that we can continue our programs, and re-establish our former benevolence level, in 2012 or future years.

FLC is a terrific church, and it is well worth our support, and I encourage all parishioners to search their hearts (and wallets) and see if they can manage a 4% giving level beyond pledges.

A final word: the best way to keep FLC solvent is for the congregation to grow. New members filling the pews would make having two services so much more worthwhile, and new families with kids make the youth director that much more valuable as well; it's a chicken-and-egg proposition, in addition to potential additional income.

We're already seeing growth in the choir. And new members help with our perennial volunteer shortage, too. It's a win-win! So get out there and recruit.

— ALLEN SIMON

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

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

## Vision and our properties

Over the past several months, the Task Force has accomplished the following:

- Met with the Palo Alto Planning Director and walked our properties
- Met twice with Carol Schneider of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA
- Commissioned “bubble diagrams” of various options for our properties
- Presented to Adult Forum
- Conducted interviews with six FLC’s Committees to review needs and assessment of our “physical plant”
- Reviewed with John King opportunities in the residential real estate market for purchasing a home for pastoral housing
- Assessed recent new construction of homes on Homer Avenue

### Important Conclusions

- Through our interviews of the FLC Committees, there is not a need for additional area
- Management and reorganization of our current program area is desired
- The current real estate market and low interest rates present opportunities to purchase a home for our future pastoral housing needs
- Our real estate assets hold the key to providing funding and/or debt structure towards the question of how we assess paying for improvements to our “physical plant”

### Next Steps

- Evaluate the model(s) of recent new residential units on Homer Avenue as a revenue source to support the reorganization of our program area

## Properties Task Force

- Review with the City of Palo Alto the “bubble diagrams” that depict reorganization of our program area for conformance with current zoning and if our plans present any risks
- Understand the opportunities and risks to purchasing a home for future pastoral housing
- Continue to seek your input to our efforts and to hear your visions for our community at First

Thank you for your support and please, continue to keep our process in your prayers.

God’s Peace,

– JUDY LARSEN, KARAN BARICH,  
ALLEN SIMON, KEN SCHREIBER,  
PASTOR SEGERHAMMAR,  
AND DON HARRIER

## FLYing far

Wow, it’s been a while since we talked. How are you all doing? FLY? Oh we’re doing okay, thank you very much.

We’ve been a bit busy lately with some more exciting plans. January ended with an interesting Ski Trip to Tahoe and our worshipping with Christ the King Lutheran and Pr. Chip.

Please ask us more about that trip whenever you want, pictures are posted on the FLY bulletin board in the Social Hall.

And the latest Youth Sunday was an interesting event. We had a number of Confirmation students who really stepped up

wonderfully into leadership roles and put remarkable effort into the worship service.

Going forward, FLY and Confirmation will be working together on mosaic pieces as reminder of the power of God’s love in the midst of whatever in life might make us feel broken.

These pieces will be a Lenten project and will be displayed in the upstairs youth rooms during the Easter season.

For you parents, please keep reminding us about our “self-images” we need to

make for the project. Nate will try his best to do the same.

March also brings us another social event. We’ll be looking forward to church sleep-over for the Confirmation students. And a movie night for the highschoolers.

All in all, we’re expecting a wonderful couple of weeks ahead. May God bless you all with a renewing Lenten season and a beautiful beginning to spring.

– NATHAN WINTERHOF

## Souper bowl time nears

Time to get your soup bowls ready.

Lenten Soup Suppers begin Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, and continue on Thursdays through Lent.

Soup is served at 6 pm and followed by a Lenten Vespers service at 7 pm. Try to make these evenings part of your Lenten discipline this year.

Sign-up sheets for bringing soup will be in the Parish Hall. We like to have 6–7

large pots of soup each Thursday along with good bread.

See you there!

– SUSAN BERTELSEN

## Fellowship

## Health kits for LWR

Many thanks to everyone. We made our goal of sending 48 Heart-to-Heart Health Kits to Lutheran World Relief. We started gathering the specific items in January and finally assembled the kits the day before Valentine's (Heart-to-Heart) Day.

Our 48 kits are on their way to join kits sent from other congregations to Lutheran World Relief in St. Paul, Minnesota.

At some point in the future somewhere in the world, LWR will deliver as many kits as are needed when they are needed the most.

It can seem like a small token; a towel, washcloth, comb, nail file/clippers, toothbrush and soap.

The Lutheran World Relief website writes about what these kits mean to someone whose life has been turned upside down:

"The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit allow them to wash away the dirt and sweat, with the fresh scent of soap and the softness of a towel as reminders of someone's care and concern for them in their plight."

The LWR program's coordinator said the following during the relief effort in Haiti in 2010.

"In the aftermath of a disaster, when people are living in very close quarters and without adequate sanitation, the spread of disease is a very real concern.

"Something as simple as a bar of soap can make such a big difference."

Thank you again for making a difference.

– ALICE ROBINSON

## Social Ministry



## 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

## Rios Task Force

possible so we can start making plans. Thank you!

– CHRISTINE SEGERHAMMAR

## It's a British invasion!

## Masterworks Chorale

Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm

Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm

Grace Lutheran Church

3149 Waverley Street, Palo Alto

What do Freddy Mercury, John Lennon, Benjamin Britten, John Rutter, "Eleanor Rigby", Ralph Vaughan Williams, Andrew Lloyd Weber, Elton John and Sting all have in common?

They're part of Masterworks Chorale's eclectic celebration of the amazing contributions and vital influence English composers and songwriters have had on

both classical and popular music in the 20th century!

Feel the explosive energy of "Bohemian Rhapsody" and taste the biting melodies and brooding lyrics in Sting's "Field of Dreams". Delight in the gentle sparkle of John Rutter's "For the Beauty of the Earth" and discover Benjamin Britten's earliest choral work "A Hymn to the Virgin".

Our homage to the British Isles wouldn't be complete without such songs as "Danny Boy", as well as Lennon and McCartney's "Yesterday", Elton John's heartwarming "Your Song" and the beloved "All I Ask of You" by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Join us for a spot of tea and some English shortbread at intermission and vote for your favorites for the audience sing-along choosing from folk melodies such as "Greensleeves", "Loch Lomond" and well-loved classics from the The Beatles, Elton John, and more!

Don't just "Let It Be"; buy tickets today (not "Yesterday.")

Tickets are \$20 advance purchase, \$25 at the door and \$10 with valid student ID.

Click or call [www.masterworks.org](http://www.masterworks.org) or 650.574.6210.

– BONNIE FULLERTON

BISHOP, from page 2

So how is it with us? Is government "us" or "them"?

In the days of royalty and dictators, government was "them," but in a thriving democracy, government is meant to be a robust "us."

We the people decide our fate. We the people elect our neighbors to come together and shape our common life.

Together, through our government, we build roads and hire teachers to nurture our children and police and firefighters to keep us safe. We establish courts to maintain order and fairness; we protect our land and build parks.

It's all we.

Government is not an "it" or a "them." Taxes aren't theft; they're the means by which we pool our resources, fairly and with order, to underwrite this common life.

When did "we" become "they?"

Social shifts happen imperceptibly over time. However this one unfolded, it was articulated clearly when in 1981 our president announced, "Government is not a solution to our problem; government is the problem."

Ever since, we have largely been in the grips of a culture that suggests government is "them." Political ads demonize government work, and taxes are seen not as fostering common purposes but the result of "them" robbing "us" of money we deserve to keep.

"We the people" is a powerful concept. When it arises to throw off dictators or tear down Iron Curtains, it is liberating and ennobling.

When in a democracy it is twisted to rally people against their own government, it is like an immune system run amuck that eats the very body in which it resides.

We are human, both noble and flawed. So is our common life, our government. We live today in a hard moment, where cuts are necessary and resources scarce.

We need to be wise, critical and imaginative. We have been those things in the past; we can be again.

So why is a Lutheran bishop writing a social and historical critique?

Because I believe the choices now before us are fundamentally moral choices: justice for all and compassion for the general welfare.

These are not simply constitutional values, they are values rooted in the faith

traditions of the people who make up this state and nation. A budget is a moral document. In it we must not forget our commitment to the most vulnerable that live among the "we."

I believe we yearn to be a moral people. Amid challenging decisions, we must not lessen our commitment to those among us who depend on our common life for their own well-being.

If it means we use the vehicle of government to work smarter, leaner, more imaginatively, we do it. If it means pooling more of our resources through fair and smart taxation, we do it.

What we must not do is decide to meet the challenges solely with the tactic of retreat. We are too good a people for that. Too many lives depend on us and on our living out those words: We the People.

– BISHOP PETER ROGNESS

*The Rev. Peter Rogness is bishop of the St. Paul Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and president of the Minnesota Council of Churches.*

*This commentary first appeared in the February 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Minneapolis Star-Tribune.*



The Third Concert in the First Lutheran Series  
**Felix Mendelssohn's**  
***Elijah***

**Sunday, March 13, 2011, 4:00 pm**

The First Lutheran Choir and Chamber Orchestra  
directed by Katherine McKee

**Frederick Matthews, baritone**

Robin Holbrook, Elfrieda Langemann, and  
Margaret Marshall, sopranos

Lucas Simon, treble; Alison King, alto

Colby Roberts and Allen Simon, tenors

Andrew Chislett, organ

**Admission: \$12 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under**

Or buy 4 tickets for \$40 to mix and match for the remaining two  
concerts in this series. Child care provided for this concert.

Tickets at the door or send a check and SASE to:

**First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Avenue  
Palo Alto CA 94301**

## March Forum topics

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

### March 6<sup>th</sup>

First Lutheran Youth (FLY) will lead a discussion of "How do We Build Community in our Daily Lives?"

Ten years ago, there was notable concern about the disconnectedness of our lives. How do Facebook, Twitter and other electronic ways to find and foster connections provide ways to build communities?

How do we find ways for actual person communities, both at FLC and in other parts of our lives? Join the Forum discussion on these issues.

### March 13<sup>th</sup>

Pastor Kemp will lead a discussion on readings and ideas that he will share during Lent.

### March 20<sup>th</sup>

Choir Director Kathy McKee will share thoughts on the Lenten music provided at FLC during the weeks leading to Easter.

### March 27<sup>th</sup>

Martha Stillman uses a New York Times article on The Moral Instinct as part of teaching ethics classes. Martha will lead a Forum discussion of The Moral Instinct (the article will be distributed ahead of time but it is not necessary to read the item to join in the discussion).

*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*

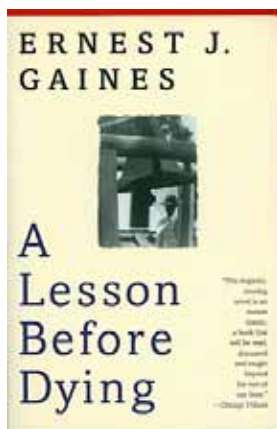
## Adult Forum



*suggestion for others to follow up on, please contact Ken Schreiber (talk to him before or after Forum, call him at 650.853.1049 or email him at krsplan@mindspring.com).*

– KEN SCHREIBER

## Food for thought and discussion



*A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines will provide much food for thought and discussion for the Book Group's March meeting.

Set in a small southern community in the late 1940s, this straightforward and "enormously moving" novel explores the burdens of racism, the meaning of manhood, and the power of human courage and grace in the face of deep injustice.

A winner of the National Book Critic's Award for 1993. All are invited to experience

this powerful story and join the discussion: Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm upstairs at church.

Coming up in April: *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus Borg. We will read Borg's thoughts and gather to discuss this important book on Monday evening, April 11<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to join in this special Lenten opportunity for study and sharing.

– CHRISTINE SEGERHAMMAR

## March birthdays

1	Patrick Roberts, Taylor Mendiola
2	Laurie Berg, Fred Krueger
3	Darius Moshfeghi
4	Robin Holbrook
9	Janet Giffra, Don Harrier
11	Neil Christiansen, Erin Guhr
12	Jacob Segerhammar
14	Ralph Qualls, Elizabeth Schoenholtz

17	Grace Souders
19	Avery Dohrmann
21	Alison Varney
25	Margaret Marshall
26	David Willrich
27	Robin Bogott, Susan Scott
28	Annika Mannsfeld, Elisabeth Mannsfeld
29	Heike Fischer, Soren Holbrook

*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** Lift up in prayer Randall and Carol Stubbs, teaching music at Makumira University College of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. Rejoice with them and their students as they learn the gifts of music and friendship.

**2** During Lent pray for our seminary students, that their hopes of fulfilling their vocational dreams of serving in the mission work of the church may be realized.

**3** Pray for Dr Dorcas Wang as she teaches leadership development and capacity building among companions in the Chinese church and ministers at an international congregation in Beijing.

**4** Pray for the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary as it hosts a retreat, "Career Crossroads," March 4-6, where participants will explore what God might be calling them to do.

**5** Pray for congregations in the Upper Susquehanna Synod going through the Transformational Ministry process together: St. John Lutheran Church, Jersey Shore, Pa; Grace Lutheran Church, Jersey Shore; Garman Lutheran Church, Jersey Shore; Trinity Lutheran Church, Avis, Pa; and St. James Lutheran Church, Rauchtown, Pa.

## 6 Transfiguration of Our Lord

We lift up to you, merciful God, the members of the emerging Christian communities in Myanmar and Thailand, that they may expand their holistic ministries.

**7** Pray for Blair Lutheran Church in Blair, Wis., served by Pastor Christine Hallemeier, a new congregation formed by the people of Zion Lutheran and First Lutheran in Blair for the sake of doing more effective ministry and mission together in the same community.

## 8 United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace

"For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others, Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us." (from "Service of Word and Prayer for Peace")

**9** Remember in prayer Dr. Edna Johnson as she coordinates a new Masters in Nursing Education program in Liberia and as she continues to provide support to Curran Lutheran Hospital in Zorzor.

**10** Pray for the Central States Synod Mission Fund Appeal. The funds from this appeal will be used to do the work God is calling the synod to do in the four mission foci the synod has identified.

**11** Thank God for Patrick and Jacqueline Bencke, who serve at Kyushu Lutheran College, a college of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kumamoto, Japan. Patrick teaches English and Jacqueline works in the music program.

**12** Pray for Oak Harbor Lutheran Church in Oak Harbor, Wash., as they offer food, fellowship and a place to do homework for students of Oak Harbor High School.

## 13 First Sunday in Lent

We give you thanks, O God, for the vitality of the churches in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Build up these dynamic communities, that they may encourage other churches within the Lutheran communion.

**14** Give thanks for the continued work of Pastor Viking and Marissa Dietrich who are in Ghana, West Africa. Viking is one of the regional representatives for the West Africa Region and Marissa serves in an associate appointment capacity.

**15** Pray for the Lutheran World Federation staff on the ground in Haiti, including Louis Dorvilier, ELCA staff, as they continue to provide food, water, housing and health care for victims of the 2010 earthquake.

**16** Thank God for Pastors Claudia Bergmann and Scott Moore, serving in Germany. Pastor Scott Moore is the ELCA coordinator in Wittenberg.

**17** Pray for Chelsea Mathis, inspired as a teenager to volunteer for the ELCA as it works to promote peace in Palestine; she is now helping to promote travel to the Holy Land so others will be as inspired as she was.

**18** Pray for Pueblo de Fe, St. Paul Minnesota, a bilingual new mission start in St. Paul's West Side.

**19** Lift up in prayer the staff and volunteers of Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, Tucson, Ariz., providing im-



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

migration services to refugees and asylees to assist them in achieving independence and stability in the United States.

## 20 Second Sunday in Lent

Gracious God, we pray for the future of China, Hong Kong and Macao, as these countries journey through a long period of adjustment and seek to form peaceful long-term relationships.

We praise you for the continued growth of these churches as they spread the Good News about your love and compassion.

## 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Pray that all ELCA members will work to bring to fruition the church's statements on education, which have placed great importance on equity to benefit the poor and extend their choices. They have singled out racial discrimination as impermissible.

## 22 World Water Day

Pray for Pastor Sam and Cindy Wolff, who serve at Nairobi International Lutheran Church in Nairobi, Kenya, a congregation of the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church, which includes many emphases, including a Water Project.

## 23 World Meteorological Day

Ask God to help ELCA members take to heart the task given in Genesis, "The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." (Genesis 2:15)

## 24 World Tuberculosis Day

Thank God for the opportunities we have with companion churches and the ELCA Global Mission program unit as they grow in their capacity to respond to HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria,

**25** Give thanks for Diane Persson and Daniel Johnson who serve with the Amity Foundation in China, teaching English at a university in Baotou, Inner Mongolia.

**26** Pray for the many Lutheran Campus Ministry groups as they venture out and are welcomed into new communities on their alternative spring break trips, that they open their eyes, ears and hearts to embrace the people they meet and build new relationships.

## 27 Third Sunday in Lent

Loving God, we pray for the people of Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore, that they may be strengthened to meet the many challenges of a pluralistic world.

We thank you for the companion relationships among the ELCA Southeastern Synod, the Lutheran Church in Singapore, and the Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore.

**28** Pray for the Seward Peninsula Lutheran Ministries Conference of the Alaska Synod, serving Alaska natives, to be held at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Nome, Alaska, April 13-17.

**29** Remember in prayer Pastor Wayne Nieminen and Pastor Christa von Zychlin, seminary professors at the Lutheran

Theological Seminary in Hong Kong. Praise God for the dedication of the students, many of whom go forth to serve in Asian countries including Cambodia, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, and Hong Kong.

**30** Pray for the Virginia Synod and Roanoke College as they host a conference titled; "We Love To Tell The Story," July 14-16.

**31** Thank God for the faithful service of Barbara Robertson in the area of the Morogoro Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, especially in their deepened engagement in community health work and in ministry among people living with HIV/AIDS.

# **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

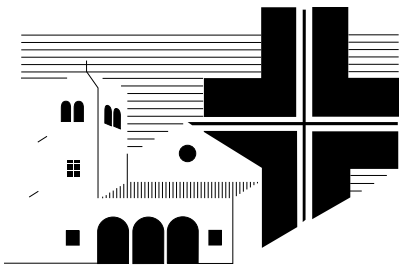
## **Staff:**

P. Kempton Segerhammar ..... Pastor  
Katherine McKee..... Choir Director  
Julia Simon..... First Kids Choir Director  
Andrew Chislett..... Organist  
Nathan Winterhof..... Youth Director  
Karri Haddeland..... Childcare  
Karen Krogh..... Financial Secretary  
Maria Soria..... Custodian  
Patricia Kerr ..... Office Manager

The Rev. Mark Holmerud, Bishop, Sierra Pacific Synod  
The Rev. P. Kempton Segerhammar, Dean, Peninsula Conference

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



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