

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 5 • MAY 2011

# First Words

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**Christ is Risen!**

**He is risen indeed!**

*Kristus är uppstånden!*

*Han är sannerligen uppstånden!*

**Χριστός ἀνέστη!**

**Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!**

**Christus ist auferstanden!**

**Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!**

**المسيح قام! حقا قام!**

**המשיח קם! באמת קם!**

**ქრისტე აღსდგა!**

**ჭეშმარიტად აღსდგა!**



## Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lenten journey is complete and now we enter the fifty days of Easter joy! We Lutherans are good at Lent but not as adept at celebrating the Easter season.

We can get there though and to that end I've included a cut out/tear out syllabus with activities and ways to go about making a good Easter season. I hope you find it refreshing and fun.

Big doings on several Sundays this month. On the Third Sunday of Easter, May 8<sup>th</sup>, Christa Compton will preach at both services and lead the Sunday Forum. Welcome Christa.

On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 15<sup>th</sup>, Nathan Winterhof will be preaching and assisting at both services.

The choir has been invited to sing at the closing worship of the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly—a huge honor, I might

add—joining with FLC delegates George Knudson, Amber Stime and myself.

I have been invited to preach at the Baccalaureate service at Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas, on the Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

I did my first three year of undergraduate study at Bethany and I am most honored to have been asked to share in this part of their graduation weekend. Susan Scott will preside and preach in my absence.

We celebrate the Affirmation of Faith and Confirmation of Lindsey Bogott, Annie Harrier, and Trevor Varney on the Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 29<sup>th</sup>. It is a milestone in the lives of these young persons, launching them into adulthood in the Church.

Congratulations Trevor, Lindsey and Annie as you join more deeply into the body of Christ.

## Pastor's Ponderings



Big doings indeed! Looking forward to celebrating them with you.

**Christ is risen indeed.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. Keny Segelmann".

## Celebrating the Fifty Days of Easter

Welcome to the Great Fifty Days of Easter! It is a time to bend the curve outward from the introspective orientation of the Lenten focus on the cross of Christ to an outward orientation of celebration and thanksgiving for God's victory over death in the risen Christ.

The idea of celebrating this fifty-day season has a long history in the church, although the actual practice of celebrating Eastertide ebbs and flows depending on local custom or practical energy!

The hope is that this practice might catch fire in our midst once again. Included here are some suggestions for making celebration—as individuals, families, groups, and as a community. It will take time for this practice to sink in and become a part of our piety but it will help us grow in faith and to see life through Easter eyes.

### Celebrate the light of Christ

At the Easter Vigil a new fire was lit. The flames leap into the night, the sign of

Christ gloriously rising from the grave. From this new and powerful fire, we light the Paschal Candle. It is the light of Christ, which burns in our liturgies throughout the fifty days of Easter, a symbol of the presence and power of the the Risen Christ.

- Have candlelight dinners on Easter's Sundays. Use Ps. 103:1-2 as grace.
- Get a large candle, decorate it, surround it with signs of new life: flowers, a budding twig, an egg shell, baptismal napkin. Light it, pray by it each day. Thank God for the Risen Christ.
- Build a bonfire in the night; roast marshmallows, sing songs of praise.
- Watch a sunrise, take walks and smile inside and out.

### Celebrate the Baptismal waters

Through the waters of Baptism we have passed over with Christ from death into

new life. At the Easter Vigil, we celebrate baptism, bringing others to new life in the Risen Christ. Throughout Easter, we are sprinkled with the water from the baptism into the risen life of Christ.

- Splash in a puddle; walk in the rain; sail a toy or real boat.
- Go for a swim; relax in a Jacuzzi; take a bubble bath.
- Go to the beach, think about the power and unpredictability of the waters of baptism.
- Give thanks to God for the gift of water. Learn about what you can do to help keep the waters of the earth clean. Be a good steward of water use.
- Install a fountain in your garden or family room!

## Pastor

see PASTOR, page 5

## Who runs First?

It's easy to assume that all decision-making at a church is done by the pastor.

In some denominations, notably Roman Catholics, this is how things work. Of course, Pastor Kemp makes week-to-week decisions about liturgies, hymns, and other worship details.

But, as in other Lutheran churches, most of the policy-making at FLC is done by committee. The principal committee is the church Council, whose job is to set overall policy.

There are specialized committees which focus on specific areas such as music, education, and outreach.

Although new members are welcome on most committees, the Nominating Committee is evaluating new members to nominate to church council.

If you're interested in serving, please let me or Pastor Kemp know. We're particularly looking for new voices who haven't served on Council before.

This community is principally run by volunteers. If you like FLC, ask yourself what part of it you can help run more smoothly—ushering? hospitality? teaching? concert series? outreach?

And how can we make your participation easier? Different meeting times? Child care?



Also, don't forget the congregation voted to "stretch" its pledges by 4% or so. This Easter season might be a good time to do your part on that if you haven't already.

— ALLEN SIMON



## Confirmation Saturday is May 7<sup>th</sup>

The first and second year Confirmation classes will gather for the fourth of four Confirmation Saturday retreats.

Time: 9:28 am–2:11 pm

Place: Church

Topic: complete memory work on the Apostles' Creed; articles & meanings.

Fun: May Fete Parade and Ice Cream/Yogurt Fest IF...

Kicker: All students pass the memory challenge. Start reviewing now...

*YOU CAN DO IT!!!*

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

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

## FIRST PEOPLE

You'll have noticed new pictures on the photo board. If your photo is not there, or you'd like a re-take, talk with Jill Knuth. Let's complete the set!

Grace to you and peace.

Ten years ago, when Lutherans and Anglicans in Canada and in the United States embarked on journeys of full communion with one another, we pledged our commitment to unity in Christ for the sake of the mission of Christ's church. On this anniversary, we rejoice and give thanks for those places of cooperation and ministry that our agreements have enabled. We are mindful that our commemorations in Buffalo and Fort Erie this day take place during the great Fifty Days of Easter. As the Resurrected Lord breathed his Spirit onto his disciples and commanded them to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we continue to ask for God's Holy Spirit to empower us continually to live together into that call.

We have chosen a place near the border between our countries to celebrate our historic agreements, to provide a unified witness to the saving grace of our Lord Jesus, to share our commitment for renewal in Christ's Church and God's creation, and to serve our neighbor in need.

As we continue this journey, we call upon our pastors, bishops, and denominational and congregational leaders to active engagement in God's mission and an increase in their capacity for multiplying ministry in the world.

We recognize God's call to serve and protect Earth in the face of unprecedented global threats to our air, land, and water. Principles of justice call us to live more

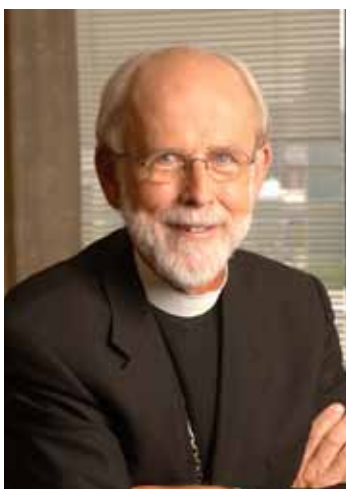
sustainably as individuals and in community, and to work for systemic changes that support care for God's creation and for our neighbors. We acknowledge that our economy is based upon a worldview that sees creation as "resource" rather than sacred, of intrinsic worth, and "very good." As a result we often plunder creation, and the well-being of low-income and minority communities, as well as other-than-human communities, suffer. We call upon our congregations and institutions to advocate for and embody a more sustainable, compassionate economy. We also challenge our congregations and institutions to make choices and support policies to reduce our collective consumption of energy, thereby reducing the pollution and climate change that stems from the burning of fossil fuels. We call upon our four churches to work together in matters of environmental justice.

As people of faith, we have a strong tradition of helping our neighbor in need. These acts of charity are an integral expression of our faith and help meet the immediate needs of people living in poverty and those hit by disaster. Now is the time to work for justice as well, to advocate for more substantial long-term solutions that will create an anti-poverty agenda which we can all support. We will continue to encourage members of our congregations to meet immediate needs but also ask them to join together and pressure our governments to focus seriously on reducing poverty. We must continue to advocate for decent employment

and to enhance our social safety net -- and to ensure that all have the opportunity to access both. Working together on matters of poverty and economic justice is an area where our four churches can forge an important common witness.

Meeting along the border of our countries, we are painfully aware of the issues of immigration and of people who lack lawful immigration status along other borders in the world. In our own context, we are mindful of those who have migrated to our countries to join their families, to work, or to seek refuge from persecution or violence. Countless families are separated by stringent immigration laws. As Christians, we are compelled by Christ's life and teachings to welcome the stranger as neighbor, serving, as Christ did, those who are marginalized. In our national and international ministries with and for migrants and refugees, we continue to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform.

We acknowledge that almost all of us are immigrants ourselves: we live in nations built on land taken from others. Our churches have long involvement in mission and evangelism among First Peoples. Sadly we have an equally long history of marginalization and oppression, often through church-run boarding schools, whose main goals were assimilation and the eradication of First Peoples' culture and heritage. As we atone for the past, we call upon our churches to continue processes of dialogue, healing, and reconciliation. Today, the definition of



Evangelism and Mission has transformed into partnerships with First Peoples and their ministries walking side by side with Christ.

We are also aware that our own full communion arrangements reflect this border between our two countries: The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church in Canada are in full communion, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Church are in full communion. We ask our four churches to explore ways to formalize our relationships and deepen the partnerships between all four of our churches. On the basis of Called to Common Mission and the Waterloo Declaration, we look forward to the development of fuller relationships that will lead to a common mission, ministry, and witness in the world.

We put our trust and hope in Christ, who has led us thus far in these relationships. With boldness we venture now with a time of breaking new ground, planting more seeds, and tending them in the spirit of authentic partnership in the Gospel. With humility we offer all our labors to the Lord, hoping they take us and all our brothers and sisters in Christ towards a fuller realization of that unity for which he prays.

In the words of the Waterloo Declaration, “We rejoice in our Declaration as an expression of the visible unity of our churches in the one Body of Christ. We are ready to be co-workers with God in whatever tasks of mission serve the Gospel. We give glory to God for the gift of unity already ours in Christ, and we pray for the fuller realization of this gift in the entire church.”

In the words of Called to Common Mission, “We do not know to what new, recovered, or continuing tasks of mission this Concordat will lead our churches, but we give thanks to God for leading us to this point. We entrust ourselves to that leading in the future, confident that our full communion will be a witness to the gift and goal already present in Christ, ‘so that God may be all in all.’”

– **MARK S. HANSON**

*Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

**FRED HILTZ**

*Primate, Anglican Church of Canada*

**KATHARINE JEFFERTS SCHORI**

*Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church*

**SUSAN JOHNSON**

*National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada*

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PASTOR, from page 2

## Feast on God’s abundance

The bread and the wine of the Eucharistic feast draw us to the table of God’s abundance to share the Body and Blood of Christ. Our Easter liturgies, with candles and flowers, freshly baked bread and sweet wine, the glorious music, respond to God’s generosity and are a sign that, through our baptism, we have become guests at the heavenly banquet of eternal rejoicing and are recipients of the abundance of God’s grace.

- Have a resurrection cook-out; broil fish, toast Easter bread. (John 21:9)
- Go to a special restaurant. Try a new food. Learn about and give thanks for other cultures and races, prepare a meal to celebrate diversity.
- Make an Easter basket of food for someone who is shut in or sick.
- Help others to feast - participate in a soup kitchen or a food pantry.
- Celebrate Ascension Day (on the Fortieth Day of Easter).

Celebrate Pentecost’s wind and flames

On the day of Pentecost, the fiftieth day of Easter, as the disciples were gathered together, there came from heaven a sound like the rush of a violent wind, filling the entire house where they were sitting. Tongues of flame appeared among them and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. This amazing event marks the beginning of the Church’s spread beyond the original community of disciples and is sometimes call the Birthday of the Church.

Out into the world they went, bursting with the joy of Easter and alive with the Spirit’s power, to share the Good News of the Resurrection.

- Wear red (or yellow or orange) on June 12 to the Feast of Pentecost.
- Go fly a kite. Put a tail of red and yellow streamers on it.
- Bring somebody new to church on Pentecost.
- Hang wind chimes on your porch or balcony.
- Blow bubbles; play with a pinwheel; inflate the tires on bike and car.
- Take off your hat and let the wind mess up your hair!

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## Be an apostle of Easter

The first witnesses of the resurrection were women who gathered at Jesus’ tomb when the Sabbath was over to anoint his body with spices. They came to the place where death abides to honor it but they learned from the angel that Jesus had risen from the dead. They ran to share the good news with the other disciples. By our baptism, we too are called to “proclaim by word and deed the Good News of God in Christ.”

- Be an Alleluia person from head to toe!
- Greet someone with “Alleluia! Christ is risen!” every day for the Fifty Days!
- Make an Alleluia scroll or banner for your house. Hang it on the front door.
- Pray for the newly baptized and for those still preparing to be during this season, and for their new life of discipleship in Christ.
- Be a wager of peace; forgiver of wrongs; builder of community.

– **KEMP SEGERHAMMAR**

## Sister Parish news

Our Sister Parish relationship with Rios de Agua Viva kicks into high gear this spring and summer with a couple of major events.

You are probably aware of our plans to host a delegation from our sister parish Rios de Agua Viva at the end of June for about 12 days.

But prior to that, Bishop Medardo Gomez—the bishop of our companion synod (the Lutheran Church in El Salvador)—his wife, and three other pastors from El Salvador will be special guests at our Synod Assembly at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Burlingame on May 13<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>.

Bishop Gomez will preside at the opening service on Friday afternoon and preach at the closing service on Sunday morning. Special music will be provided for the Sunday service by our very own choir.

Pastor Kemp and two lay voting members will represent us at the Assembly, but we are all invited—even urged—to attend as visitors, to observe the proceedings, look at the displays, and especially to participate in worship.

Saturday evening will feature Lutherans Concerned's annual party early in the evening, followed by a very special reception for the El Salvador delegation.

The assembly planners are also looking for volunteers from local churches to help with a wide variety of tasks. If you have some time to spare, get in touch with Mary Ann Fiene (650.563.9680, 805.218.0462, or [mafiene@gmail.com](mailto:mafiene@gmail.com)) and find out what you can do.

Last summer, our Bishop Mark Holmerud visited El Salvador and also toured many of our synod's sister parishes there, including celebrating communion at our sister parish, Rios de Agua Viva.

After the Assembly closes, our El Salvador delegation will be returning the favor, and we are much honored to be hosting the whole delegation for a pot-luck dinner on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6 pm.

Erin Guhr will be coordinating the sign-ups for food and for setting up before and cleaning up afterwards.

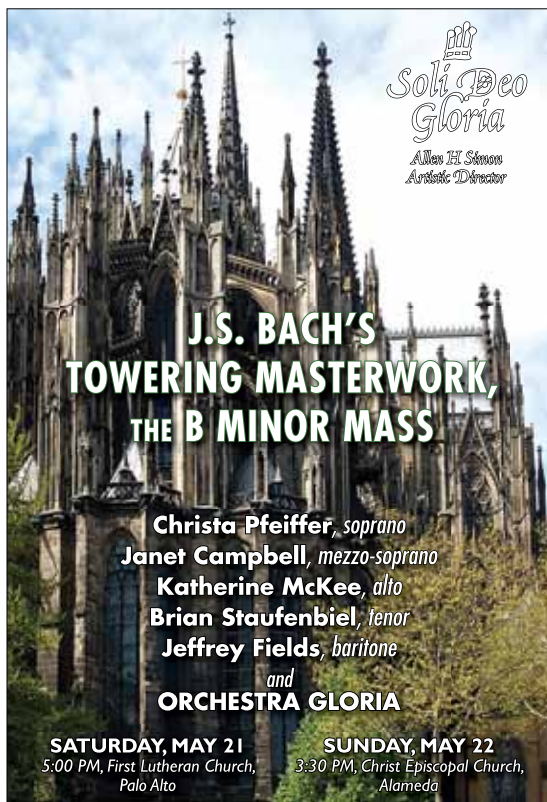
## Social Ministry

We hope that many of you will be able to take advantage of this rare opportunity to meet the leaders of one of the smaller, but one of the more vibrant Lutheran Churches in the world, right in our own Parish Hall! We also anticipate some visitors from UC Santa Cruz and the churches there that participate in the Sister Parish program.

We are also hosting the three Salvadoran pastors (all women) on Sunday after the Assembly until Wednesday morning, when they will move on and visit San Francisco for a few days, and then move down to the Monterey Bay area for a few more days before returning home.

We will need places for them to stay on Sunday through Tuesday nights and some help with transportation and translation as we entertain our guests on Monday and Tuesday. If you are able to help with this endeavor, please let Pastor or Christine Segerhammar, Karan Barich, or me know.

— JOE HALETKY

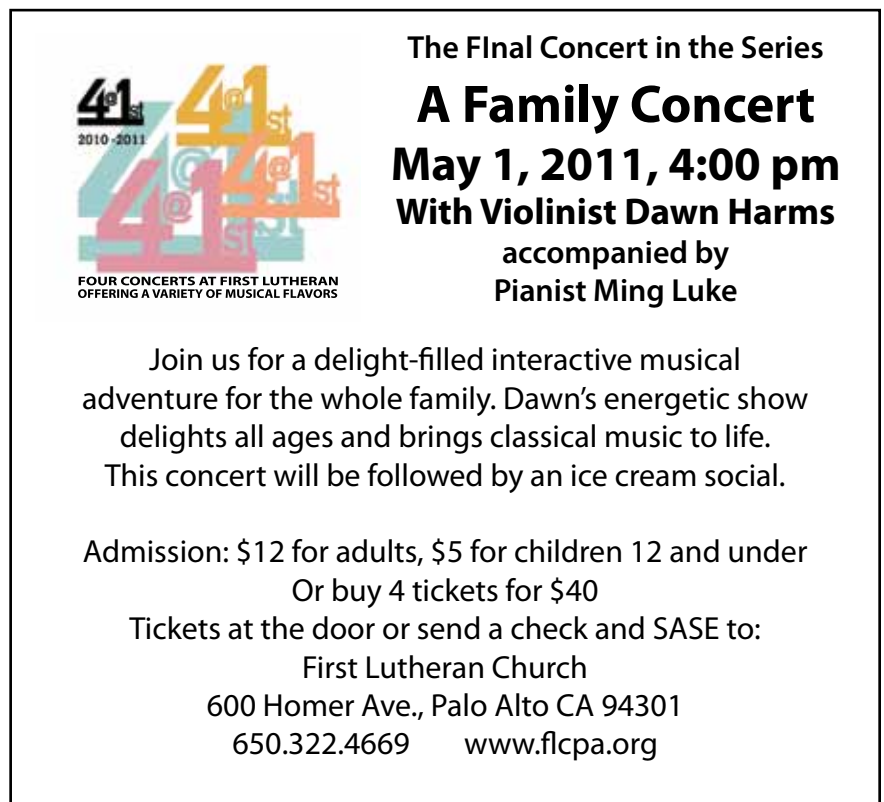


*Soli Deo Gloria*  
Allen H. Simon  
Artistic Director

**J.S. BACH'S  
TOWERING MASTERWORK,  
THE B MINOR MASS**

Christa Pfeiffer, *soprano*  
Janet Campbell, *mezzo-soprano*  
Katherine McKee, *alto*  
Brian Staufenbiel, *tenor*  
Jeffrey Fields, *baritone*  
and  
**ORCHESTRA GLORIA**

**SATURDAY, MAY 21**      **SUNDAY, MAY 22**  
5:00 PM, First Lutheran Church, Palo Alto      3:30 PM, Christ Episcopal Church, Alameda



**The Final Concert in the Series**  
**A Family Concert**  
**May 1, 2011, 4:00 pm**  
**With Violinist Dawn Harms**  
accompanied by  
**Pianist Ming Luke**

Join us for a delight-filled interactive musical adventure for the whole family. Dawn's energetic show delights all ages and brings classical music to life. This concert will be followed by an ice cream social.

Admission: \$12 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under  
Or buy 4 tickets for \$40  
Tickets at the door or send a check and SASE to:  
First Lutheran Church  
600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto CA 94301  
650.322.4669      [www.flcpa.org](http://www.flcpa.org)

## He is risen, indeed! Alleluia, alleluia!

We've celebrated the Easter news in FLY this year with another joyous breakfast together. And again, a huge "Thank You" needs to go to our youth who did a great job working together and to John King and Barbara Erickson who helped keep us all on track.

As the school year snowballs to its close over the next 6 weeks FLY and Confirmation will also be wrapping up their year together too. In class we've prepped Easter baskets to send to the First Lu college students and we'll be planning our end of the year social event too. It's always difficult to plan with everyone's busy schedules, but I have faith we'll get a great event going and have a lot of fun together.

Mark your calendars for Confirmation Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> and for the final Youth Service of this year, coincidentally on Pentecost, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Youth Sundays are one of our biggest additions to the Sunday school year. We are still trying to find the best ways to mix things up and keeping everyone engaged. Hopefully we'll all have a meaningful, if different, experience this Youth Sunday.

– NATHAN WINTERHOF



## A dream of a concert



Masterworks Chorale presents Brahms, Bruckner, Dvořák and Rachmaninov in a dream of a concert, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4 pm at All Saints Episcopal, Palo Alto, with Rodney Gehrke at the organ, and June 5<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm at the Cunningham Chapel at the University of Notre Dame de Namur with full orchestra. Soloists Fatinah Tilfah, soprano, and Jason Detwiler, bass will join the choir at both concerts.

The Romantics used music in an expressive and passionate way to elicit deep emotional response. Composers used images of nature and simple folk songs to evoke these feelings. This sensitive concert features selections from the Rachmaninov Vespers and the Bruckner mo-

## Masterworks Chorale

tets, both examples of the use of early chant in new and deeply felt settings. The Schicksalslied or Song of Destiny – truly Romantic in its view of the gods in bliss while man plunges headlong into the abyss – is full of the rich harmonies and melodies Brahms is known for. Finally we present Dvořák's Te Deum, a brilliant and sparkling piece written in celebration of his first trip to America.

Get your tickets now for this enchanting visit to a more Romantic era.

Click or call today: <http://www.masterworks.org> or 650.574.6210.

– BONNIE FULLERTON

## May Forum topics

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

### May 1<sup>st</sup>

Happy 400th Birthday King James Version of the Bible! Jill Knuth will lead a discussion of the KJV.

### May 8<sup>th</sup>

FLC member Christa Compton, completing her second year at Pacific Theological Seminary, will update Forum on her Seminary activities and plans.

### May 15<sup>th</sup>

On March 16, 2009, Don Knuth spoke on religion and computer science at the Google Author's series held at the Google headquarters in Mountain View. Forum will divide the slightly more than one hour talk into two parts thus allowing

time for discussion of the material that Don presented.

### May 22<sup>nd</sup>

Part II of Don Knuth speaking on religion and computer science as part of the Google Authors series.

### May 29<sup>th</sup>

The recent Forum session on communities led to interest in viewing a video that is part of James Fishkin's recent book: *When the Public Speaks: Deliberative Democracy and Public Consultation*. James Fishkin is Professor of Communications and Professor of Political Science at Stanford, where he has undertaken extensive research on the public's role in democracy.

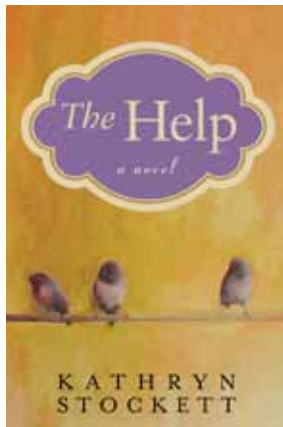
*If you have an issue that you would like Forum to take up, whether you would like to develop information and lead a discussion or have a*



*suggestion for others to follow up on, please 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

## Book group gets "Help"



*The Help* by Kathryn Stockett will be the FLC Book Group's upcoming focus for discussion.

A national bestseller, now out in paperback, it is set in Jackson, Mississippi in 1962 in the midst of the Civil Rights movement, in a world of privileged white women and the black women who work as their maids and nannies for their families.

The moving story weaves the voices of three of these women in a debut novel of "poignancy, humor, and hope".

All are welcome to read and discuss! Meet upstairs at the church on Monday evening, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30 pm.

– CHRISTINE SEGERHAMMAR

## Book Group

## May birthdays

1	Ted Carlstrom
9	Barbara Erickson-Kelly
11	Michael Barich
13	Susan Bertelsen
14	John King, Lois Qualls, Friederike Schaeffner, Paul Schmoller
16	Stephanie Leong
18	Mary Ann Harris, Stephanie Yoshikawa

19	Madison Valentine, George Yule
20	Emily Simon
25	David Dohrmann, Jackie Holmkvist
26	Randy Urdahl
27	Lise Sorensen Brunhart
29	Tami Fletcher, Evelyn Frykman
30	Trevor Varney

*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 First Sunday of Easter

God of wisdom, we lift up to you the leaders and people of Sudan and Uganda. May peace accords and reconciliation efforts bring restoration to the hearts and lives of those who have suffered for so long.

**2** Pray for Christians who serve in areas of the world where Christians are persecuted or exists as a minority.

**3** Pray for Aaron Schutte, Global Mission Volunteer who teaches at Kibeta English Medium Primary School in Bukoba in the Northwestern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

**4** Pray for our brothers and sisters in the Middle East as they continue to seek solutions for the security, peace and justice of all people there.

**5** Praise God for Erin Ostroski and Isaac Smith who are serving in Uruguay this year through the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program.

**6** Pray for the Florida-Bahamas, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Minneapolis Area, Southeastern Minnesota and South-eastern Pennsylvania synods of the ELCA as they gather for assembly this week.

**7** Pray for those who suffer from the fallout of nuclear disaster.

## 8 Second Sunday of Easter

Living God, we praise you for the witness and joy the churches of Kenya and Tanzania bring to the world. Let us join our

voices in rejoicing. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

**9** Pray for the work of the ELCA World Hunger program that addresses the root causes of hunger and poverty through relief, development, education and advocacy.

**10** Give thanks for those who volunteer to teach at the Lutheran schools in Bratislava, Košice, Liptovsky Mikulas, and Tisovec, Slovakia. Pray for Jennifer Christen, Alicia Cooke, Jonathan Covel, Heidi Hartwig, Benjamin Leeney and Rachel Liptak who will return to the United States in summer 2011.

**11** Pray for those who are recovering from natural disasters, especially the people of Haiti, Japan and Indonesia.

**12** Give thanks to God for the Rev. Arden Strasser, who serves in leadership development in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia.

**13** Pray for the Northern Great Lakes, Rocky Mountain, Metropolitan New York, Northeastern Ohio, Northwest Washington, Southeast Michigan, Southwestern Washington, Sierra Pacific, Eastern North Dakota, Northwestern Minnesota, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, and Southwestern Texas synods of the ELCA as they meet in assembly this week.

**14** Thank God for the Rev. Joshua and Susan Magyar, who are serving in the Morogoro Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

Josh is the coordinator for Theological Education by Extension in the diocese and Susan teaches part-time at a local preschool in Morogoro.

## 15 Third Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, as the churches of Malawi and Zambia struggle in a cycle of drought and flood, give them strength and wisdom to feed the hungry and announce the good news of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

**16** Blessings upon the many young people participating in the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program.

Pray for Joshua Busacker, Bethany Danielson, Christine Doidge, Jessica Fairfax, Michael Lengel and Heather Nelson who serve in a variety of social ministry settings in South Africa.

**17** Pray for the president of the United States and the Congress that the Holy Spirit will guide them to remember those most vulnerable in our nation.

**18** Pray for people in areas where individuals struggle daily with malaria and HIV and AIDS.

**19** Pray for Ruth Goehle, who is beginning her service as the ELCA consultant to the medical services rehabilitation and anti-malaria initiative in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe.

**20** Pray for the Pacifica, South Carolina, Northwestern Ohio, Saint Paul Area, Southeastern Iowa, Southern Ohio, Southwest California, Texas-Louisiana



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Gulf Coast and North/West Lower Michigan synods of the ELCA as they meet in assembly this week.

**21** Pray for Bishop Ambrose Moyo who serves as consultant and liaison person to ELCA Global Mission facilitating the ELCA's accompaniment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe, emerging Lutheran Churches in Southern Africa and the Zimbabwe Council of Churches in their capacity building, peace building and institutional and leadership development programs.

## **22 Fourth Sunday of Easter**

O God, look with mercy upon the people of Zimbabwe, as Zimbabwe struggles with economic and political uncertainty.

May the companion relationship between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe and the ELCA Upstate New York Synod be a source of solace and encouragement.

**23** Pray for an end to the exploitation of women and children that leads to human trafficking and sexual violence.

**24** Pray for greater protection of human rights throughout the world and world leaders who work for justice, reconciliation and peace.

**25** Give thanks for the work of Linda Gawthorne serving among the indigenous Kogi people of Colombia who are displaced from their land in the Santa Marta Mountains by violence.

Linda provides spiritual nurturing and helps translate the Bible into Kogi.

**26** Give thanks for all who graduate from educational institutions this spring. Pray that graduates and others seeking employment will find fulfilling and sustainable work.

**27** Pray for Joseph and the Rev. Deborah Troester and family, serving in Baboua, Central African Republic.

Joe serves as water resource manager and Deborah serves as theological school instructor and communications representative for ELCA companion church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic.

**28** Pray for the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service as they offer shelter and support to displaced peoples.

## **29 Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Almighty God, we give you thanks for showering your Spirit upon the people of Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland.

May they find continued strength to engage the social, economic and political challenges within which they witness.

**30** Give thanks for veterans and all who gave their lives in military service.

Pray for all who currently serve in the military and risk their lives in service to their country.

**31** Pray for young people who are bullied. Pray that parents, teachers and church leaders respond quickly and with compassion to those who live in fear.

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George Yule ..... Vice President  
Maria Cortez ..... Secretary

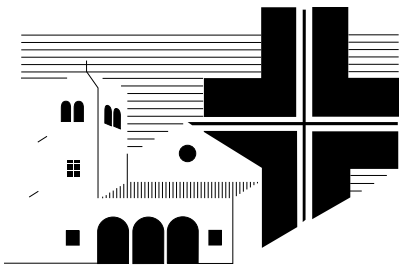
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