

Christ Lutheran Church

Connected

April 2010

Happy Easter

Christ Arose

Je - sus, my Sav - iour! Wait - ing the coming day
Je - sus, my Sav - iour! Vain - ly they seal the dead -
Je - sus, my Sav - iour! He tore the bars a - way -

REFRAIN

Up from the grave He

CLC Connected

The monthly newsletter of
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Preschool Director Chris Porrazzo

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00AM	Traditional Services
9:30 AM	Blended Worship
11:00 AM	Informal Worship



Thoughts from Pastor Joe

It's the day most of us breeze through in a hurry to get to Easter. These are the hours suspended between cross and garden tomb, between death and life, between destruction and hope. It's a little like the intermission separating two halves of a powerful drama; time to get up, get a Coke and stretch the legs before the lights dim, the story continues and the inevitable climax arrives. It's Saturday, the time between.

We don't pay too much attention to that day. I noticed recently, when looking through a series of devotional books focused on Holy Week, that most of them skipped right past Saturday. There were devotionals for Good Friday and others for Easter Sunday; Saturday was completely missing. But I wonder what that day was like. The disciples had seen their friend and master die a horrible, agonizing death. Peter crouched in shame, hiding from his denial. Mary, Jesus' mother, had held his lifeless body in her arms, knowing the terror only a parent who out-lives her child could know. The other Mary cried as she contemplated approaching a cold tomb that she thought contained a colder corpse. What was that day like for those who had heard his promise of life but had witnessed his grisly death?

Saturday is the electricity in the air a moment before a lightening burst. It is the day when grief and hope blend together into the brew of ordinary existence, a day of expectation but when darkness seems to have won. Saturday is where we live out our lives caught as we are between pain and promise, between a dying we can feel in our bones and a rising that is yet to come. Even as we prepare to celebrate Easter, Saturday is preparing us for the new creation we will become. And so we live with hope though we're not surprised by pain, we live with joy though sadness sometimes stings, we live "as dying, and see—we are alive; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 6:9-10)

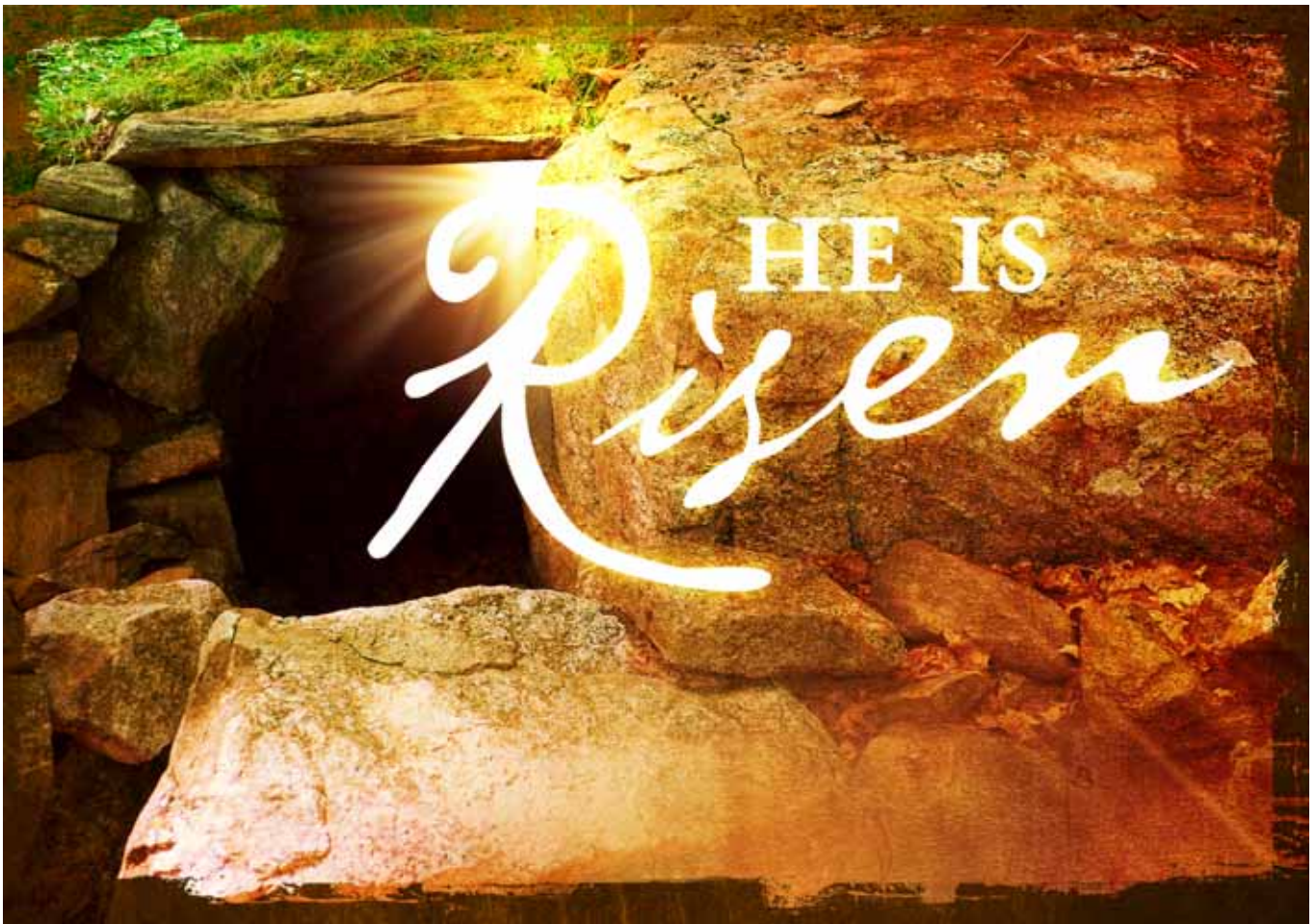


Thoughts from Pastor Joe, *continued*

To some degree I believe that we are at a “Saturday moment” in the life of our congregation. Much has transpired over the last several months that has led us to this point at which we stand on the edge of new life. We are at that unique point between what has gone before and what God is about to do. To me, it is an exciting place to be. The possibilities are endless, as they always are when God is birthing new life and new beginnings. Renewed worship, deeper forays into the scriptures, strengthened focus on pastoral care, prayer, relationships. Staff reconfigurations to enhance our ministry. New emphasis to meet the needs of our community. What God has in store is about to break upon us. Could there be anything more exciting?

Take a few moments this year to taste fully that day between the Friday which breaks the heart and Sunday which overwhelms the soul. On Saturday wait and ponder, pray and hope. I have a feeling it will make Sunday that much sweeter.

Happy Easter.



Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule

Join us as we mark the Day of Resurrection and our reason for hope with grand Easter hymns, and praise choruses.

Last Supper Worship & Drama Thursday, April 1-7:30 pm

"Remember Me," the drama that recalls Jesus' last Supper with his disciples, will form the core of our worship experience. Communion will be shared together.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service Friday, April 2 at 7:30 pm

Good Friday is a service in which we experience the gathering darkness on that day of sacrifice. Easter's joy makes sense only in the context of Friday's cross. By the cross of Christ comes new life. In his death, we are made whole. The path to Easter leads us to the foot of the cross where we will gather for this worship service.

Easter Sunday—April 4

6:15 AM – Hilltop Sunrise Service

(Meet in the church parking lot dressed for walking up the hill and for the chill of the early morning)

7:45, 9:00, 10:15, 11:30 – Festival Services

8:30 am—11:30 am – Easter breakfast served by our High School youth in the Fellowship Center

If possible, so we can extend a warm welcome to the community and ease overcrowding, please consider worshiping at one of the earlier or later services on Easter Sunday, and parking in the adjacent lots.

Thank you.





When we think about prayer, we often fall into one of two ditches. We think we either have to pray like an old fashioned Southern Baptist stretching out Jesus so that it is five syllables long or that we need to talk like a 16th century Episcopal priest and use the antiquated English with all the 'thees' and 'thous'. The funny thing is that is not at all how God calls us to pray. Let me give you a few biblical examples of prayer.

Genesis 18: Abraham

In this first book of the Bible, we see God visit Abraham. The image here is that God sits down with Abraham in human form and they converse. This is a powerful image and has often been used in religious art because it shows the intimacy of the conversation over a meal. Abraham is serving God, not because God needs something, but because it is a way for Abraham to connect with God.

In the second part of the story, Abraham is asking God not to destroy a city. This is a fascinating story because God says that he is going to destroy the city and Abraham says, 'wait, what if there are fifty good people left there?' So God says, 'ok, if there are fifty good people left, I won't destroy the city.' And then Abraham asks about forty-five and God relents. Abraham continues to bargain with God down to ten people. What we learn from this is that we can pray for the things that we need from God. Abraham was praying for the city not to be destroyed because he had relatives there. Abraham is not telling God that God owes him anything, but he is appealing to the nature of God, that He is a good and loving God. Because of all this, Abraham talks God into sparing the city if there were ten good people left.

Genesis 32 and Job 38: Wrestling with God

In these two examples, we see people wrestling with God. In Jacob's case, it was literal and Job's it was verbal. We often have this idea that when we pray, we have to be polite and can't express how we truly feel. When we read the Bible we often see people expressing anger, hurt, sorrow and every other emotion to God. It isn't like we can lie to him.

Revelation 8: Our prayers rise like incense

This is a beautiful vision of heaven where our prayers rise like sweet smelling incense before God. No matter how inarticulate our prayer, it goes to God. Not because we are so holy, but because the Holy Spirit carries them. The next time you pray, think of that. You have a direct line to God. Whatever you pray, it goes to God.

These are just some of the times that the Bible talks about prayer. The book of Acts alone provides many more. Take some time and read through your Bible as you pray and meditate on what God says and promises for your life.

Dedication of Prayer Chapel Stained Glass



For centuries, the art of stained glass has been used to illustrate the Bible for believers all around the world. The events depicted in these windows were brought to life by the sunlight passing through them and they inspired awe, comfort and inspiration in their audience.

Pastor Dan Parr had a vision – to incorporate that ancient

beauty into the clean, modern lines of Christ Lutheran Church in Valencia, where he served as Associate Pastor for 10 years. But in this lean economy, how could that vision be realized? Calling upon the talents of the congregation, he assembled a team of amateurs, hobbyists with varying degrees of experience in the craft. Then professional stained glass artist Paul Martinez was brought in to develop Pastor Dan's ideas into a workable design and to guide in the selection of the appropriate glass. What began as a simple, small test to explore the abilities of the assembled team evolved into a series of twelve panels, with a nearly life-size Christ figure as its centerpiece. Over the course of six months, under Paul's expert direction, guidance and mentoring, the volunteers cut, fit, glazed and installed the panels. Hundreds of hours were contributed toward its completion, a labor of love that provided both challenge and an opportunity for artistic expression for the entire team.

The finished product depicts the miracle of Christ calmly walking on the stormy waters of the Sea of Galilee. The turbulent atmosphere that surrounds Him is representative of the upheavals of modern life, while the upper panels remind us of the majesty of God's amazing creation. Installed in the intimate environment of the Prayer Chapel, this window will contribute both beauty and a sense of God's peace for decades to come.

Please come on Sunday, April 11, when we will dedicate the new stained glass window during all three services.

Andy Dyroy

The members and friends of Christ Lutheran Church are invited to attend a luncheon to celebrate Pastor Dan Parr's ten years of ministry among us on Sunday, April 11 at 12:15 in the Fellowship Center.

Please bring a dessert, appetizer, or salad to share.

The main course will be provided.

You may bring a card with a personal note or remembrance for Pastor Dan.

Please feel free to include a financial gift in your card if you so desire, which will serve as a congregational gift of appreciation.





Council Corner

At the latest council meeting, a number of wide-ranging topics were discussed.

In response to the recommendations of the Finance Committee, the council approved a number of items, including:

- Entering into a \$1000K line of credit that can be drawn on in the event of any unforeseen financial problems.
- Paying down a portion of the mortgage to make better use of cash on hand as well as to accelerate its retirement.

As you know, after a decade of service to Christ Lutheran Church, Pastor Dan has tendered his resignation for health reasons. The people of this congregation will miss his talents, insights, and wry sense of humor. His strong and practical faith has touched us and inspired us, particularly those who were fortunate enough to serve with him on various projects and ministry teams. On Sunday, April 11th, CLC will be putting on an appreciation luncheon. An invitation with all the particulars will be coming in the mail shortly.

April 11th is also the day that the new stained glass windows in the Prayer Chapel will be unveiled and dedicated. As this project was the result of Pastor Dan's vision, it is doubly appropriate that we honor him on the same day, so please reserve that date. Some of you have expressed your concerns about Pastor Dan's financial situation, with medical bills coming in addition to the loss of a paycheck. The council has been assured that the ELCA Pension Fund provides excellent benefits and that the Parrs will be taken care of.

With Pastor Dan's resignation and with the potential for new ministry opportunities unfolding, the Council and certain members of the staff will gather for a Visioning Retreat at the end of March. Our intent is to focus on identifying the priorities of our ministry and, by extension, to identify our staffing requirements. This long range planning will help us to be better prepared for where the Holy Spirit will lead us in the coming months and years. Please don't hesitate to contact any of the Council members with your ideas, suggestions or concerns. After all, the ministry of CLC is YOUR ministry, so please share your thoughts with us. [contact information for all council and staff members is available on our website: www.come2christ.com.]

A major part of our ongoing ministry involves outreach into the community. Compassion Weekend was such a success last year that another is scheduled for May 1st and 2nd. Specific opportunities will be publicized over the next several weeks, so please look for those that particularly touch your hearts. [you'll find a list of Compassion Weekend projects in this newsletter]. Your participation will be rewarded by the knowledge of how you touched the lives of others; how you became Christ to someone in need.

Your in Christ,

Andy Dyroy

Women's Breakfast

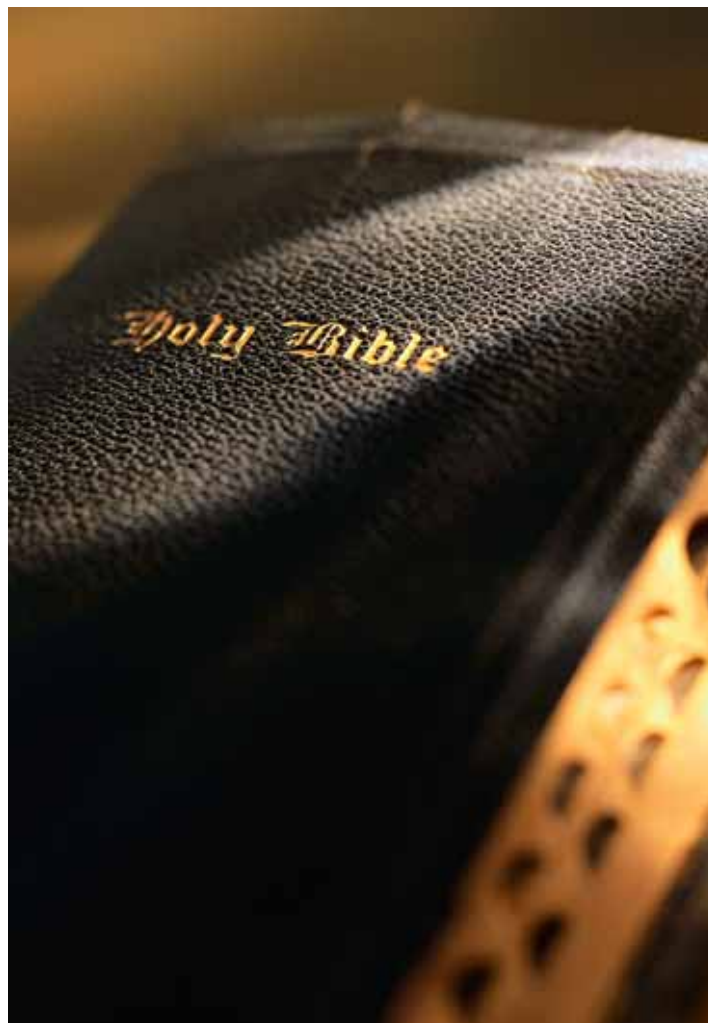
Attention - All Women!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 24 and plan to attend the Women's Breakfast at Marie Callender's Restaurant sponsored by The Widows' Might. Our speaker will be Linda Bennett, who is a fitness trainer, a wellness speaker and owner of LB Fitness based in Santa Clarita. Linda believes that health and fitness go hand in hand, and she is eager to inspire her clients to strive for better health. She has created and developed several successful programs throughout California. Her 55+ programs in the Santa Clarita Valley, emphasizing balance and agility, strength training and cardiovascular health are very popular. Linda's curriculum includes aquatic exercise, arthritis programs, body sculpting, chair exercises, low-impact aerobics, Pilates/Yoga, EZ Dance and Relaxation/ Meditation.

Come and benefit from her "5 simple Rules for a Fitastic Life" and enjoy the breakfast and the fellowship.

All women in the community are welcome, so invite your friends.

Reservations will be taken on April 11 and April 18.



Pastor's Wednesday Night Study Returns April 7

The Wednesday Bible study, led by Pastors Joe and Mike, will return on April 7 for an eight week study of Paul's letter to the Galatians. The study meets at 6PM and is repeated at 7PM each Wednesday. Paul's work was to lay the foundation for churches in the many places he visited.

The foundation he put down was the message of the saving work of Christ. What often happened, however, was that others would come after him and attempt to alter that foundation. When that happened, Paul would send off a letter to address the issues that had developed. Such is the case with the book of Galatians. Paul writes to sort out distortions that have crept their way into the gospel foundation he had laid down. Join the pastors as we delve into Galatians at 6 or 7 PM.

From the Editor



Photo from The Signal of crowds paying their respects to Sgt. Ian Gelig of Stevenson Ranch

It was a beautiful day; the sun was shining, the sky was blue, there was a breeze. It was the kind of day that promises Spring is almost here. But on this day I was one of several thousand people lining the route of a funeral procession. There were people of all ages and types; babies in strollers, teens, Senior Citizens. Some carried flags or balloons or signs. We were all there to honor a local boy, Ian Gelig from Stevenson Ranch, who had been killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. That morning I was out running some errands when I saw the cars heading toward the church for the funeral service. I couldn't help but notice, not only was the traffic stopped by a police car, but dozens of motorcycles from the Patriot Guard Riders, many with flags on their motorcycles, were escorting the hearse. It was quite a sight.

I had known about the plans to honor Sgt. Gelig from articles in the paper and emails that had been forwarded to me. As the procession approached us, I watched the displays of respect: the man near me removing his hat, the firefighters in

their dress uniforms across the street standing at attention and saluting, the people dipping the little flags they carried... outward signs to show honor. People driving by stopped to ask us what was going on and I could see how their faces changed when they learned why we were all standing out there on the street. It was very moving.

I thought of the first Easter. How many people had there been along the streets on the Via Dolorosa or on the hill at Golgotha who must have wondered who this Jesus was. He had obviously suffered torture, for what reason? Why did the authorities hate him so? He didn't look like a typical criminal. They might have heard about how he had ridden into Jerusalem and how the crowds had laid down their robes and palm branches before him. Most would have recognized the scripture Jesus quoted from the cross and wondered what it meant. Several might have been afraid that someone would think that they were a follower. Even the disciples were in hiding, feeling dejected and wondering what it had all been for. They must have thought surely Jesus couldn't die, that he would come down off the cross. The women would have been anxious for the first light of day so they could find the tomb and offer the rituals for the dead that were so important and would have been denied to Jesus as a show of scorn.

Then everything changed.

Those fearful disciples became fearless, most suffering torture and death for spreading the word about Jesus. What happened to change them? The stunning knowledge that Jesus had conquered death... that he had risen from the tomb and stood before them—not some ghost, but flesh and blood that they could touch. It was impossible to keep silent. Now, you've probably heard that the disciples only spread the rumor that Jesus had risen from the dead. But really, would they have risked everything including their lives just to further some conspiracy to create a cult around a dead man? Would you? I doubt it. They had been witness to something so earth-shattering that they overcame their fears. They knew beyond a doubt that Jesus was the Messiah that they had been promised.

We honor the dead, we try to do what little we can to comfort the family by sending cards or bringing food, and for those who have lost their lives in service to our country, we feel the desire to show our gratitude for their sacrifice. But, even if we can't fully understand it, we can be assured that death is not the victor. Jesus made the sacrifice not only for those people crowded in Jerusalem, but for us, here and now in the 21st century. At that time I doubt anyone could have imagined that the powerful Roman Empire would soon collapse and that the story of a carpenter from Nazareth would spread throughout the world. We have learned that kingdoms and empires fall, but the love of God in Christ Jesus is eternal—He is Risen Indeed!

Christ-Centered Caring Ministries

As the season of Easter continues, we will be offering a single session study to discuss and reflect on what it means and looks like to reach out effectively to friends, neighbors and other members of the congregation as caring Christians in their greatest time of need showing them Christ's genuine care and concern and enfolding them in His loving embrace. The caring ministries of our congregation are multifaceted and take many forms through ordinary acts of compassion such as baking cookies, providing a meal or running an errand to help someone in need or by accompanying others more deeply, caring for their inner life and wellbeing.



*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."
(1 Peter 4:10)*

We encourage you all to attend any one of these sessions offered at the following times:

Sunday April 18th at 9:30am

Monday April 19th at 7:00pm

Wednesday April 21st at 6:00pm

Saturday April 24th at 9:00am

If you or your small group would like to host this study at a different time, please contact the church office to make arrangements. We will also be offering the study in May. Please watch the bulletin for additional dates and times. We will be taking sign-ups for these sessions on the patio between worship services.

The Comforting Presence of Christ

The story from the Gospel of Luke 24:13-35 of the two travelers on the road to Emmaus is one of my favorite passages. It is a story that takes place on the day of Jesus' resurrection. He is alive! He is Risen! The women proclaimed this, but it was too hard for the apostles and others to believe. Two followers, Cleopas and one other, set off along the road to Emmaus...

It seemed to these two that they would have to walk life's path alone, without the presence and strength of their beloved Jesus. They were overwhelmed with emotions as they tried to make sense of life, feeling abandoned, grieving and without hope. The intense feelings that these two travelers on the road to Emmaus were experiencing sound much like those felt by many who are distressed, suffer from a debilitating illness, have lost a job or struggle to make ends meet, who battle an addiction or feel depressed, who feel estranged from family, are fatigued from caring for a family member, or are going through divorce, who are grieving the loss of a loved one, or are experiencing some other crisis and are in need of a Savior. The road to Emmaus is a familiar road for many.

The beauty of this story is that the Risen Lord Jesus himself came alongside these two broken travelers in their greatest time of need as they were putting distance between themselves and their companions in Jerusalem. They were so blinded and consumed by their fears, their doubts and grief that they did not recognize him.

Ministries, *continued*

....They stood still, their faces downcast.

As the story unfolds they discover the very real presence of our Risen Lord and Savior. Their faith was ignited; their hearts were warmed and filled with joy. As soon as they realized that the person who had come alongside them on their journey was Jesus, everything changed! They turned from their despair toward hope and turned back and headed for Jerusalem to tell their friends about the good news of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ. "It is true! The Lord has risen!"

My Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) supervisor, Rev. Lee, always asked the question: "So, how does this inform your ministry?" As I reflect on this amazing story, there is so much more that needs to be unpacked that informs our ministry of congregational care and compassionate outreach. This story tells us how we are guided and strengthened in our faith by the presence of Christ in our lives so that we can become Christ's living and healing presence in the world, clothed and empowered by the Holy Spirit to do ministry and to witness the gospel and share Christ's compassionate love and care with others. Together as a community of faith we are called to serve and participate in the broad range of caring, nurturing and supporting one another. As Christians we are the embodiment of Christ and share the responsibility of coming alongside others in their time of need to express God's love and help them grow in their faith and receive God's grace and to understand all there is to know about the work of Christ on the cross, his dying and rising again.

In the Christ-Centered Caring Ministries study we will further unpack this story and look at the various ways people are involved in the ministry of care and what kind of Christ-centered caring ministries we expect from the church.

I hope that you will consider this opportunity so that we can together as a faith community lead others to Jesus, ignite their faith, warm their hearts and fill their lives with hope and joy as we come alongside them in their time of need as the comforting presence of Christ.

It is true! The Lord has risen! Praise God!

Felicity Grover

Help for Hope Gardens

We are trying to arrange volunteer opportunities at Hope Gardens. We will be taking sign-ups on the patio this month. We hope to have a program for this set up so we can start in May. For now we are looking at 1 week day and 1 weekend day a month. Following is a partial list of the needs at Hope Gardens.

- Tutoring for children
- Helping out in the kitchen
- Assisting staff with our 0-5 year olds
- Teach a class (drawing, crocheting, cooking, music, etc)
- Pet therapy with the senior ladies
- Escort on an outing with the senior ladies
- Provide a birthday dinner and cake for senior ladies
- Various ways of socializing with the senior ladies
- Exercise with the senior ladies.



My First Easter

By Robin Hyland
Connected in Christ Coordinator



I was strolling down Fifth Avenue in my darling pastel Easter bonnet, my mom and dad and baby brother by my side, white patent leather Mary-Janes shining in the sunlight, stiff floral-print dress making me ever so itchy, breathing in the sweet smell of fresh spring flowers...actually, that wasn't me. It must have been some other ideal family, out after Easter services, promenading down the boulevard in their Easter best.

Don't get me wrong, my family did celebrate Easter. We decorated eggs and the Easter bunny came to visit over night and left us a festive basket of chocolate eggs and jelly beans. We hunted throughout our Upper-Westside apartment for hidden Easter eggs which we collected in our colorful, woven straw baskets. My mom explained it was a celebration of spring, of the yearly renewal that we could witness through the re-emergence of plant-life. Inspiring, no?

There was no talk of Jesus and His miraculous resurrection, the resurrection which makes all His claims true, and gives us the opportunity for eternal life with God. Minor detail.

So, let's try this again.

My First Easter: I was trudging up a gravelly hill, carrying a music stand as my husband followed with his acoustic guitar. It was not yet light, very chilly, and I remember thinking "if I had seen this rag-tag group of people, climbing up this hill on a college campus, before daybreak, carrying a guitar and various paraphernalia last year, I would have thought they were a bunch of students just getting home from a Saturday night party!". But that was me. I was attending our sunrise Easter service.

It was Easter 2007, I had just been baptized the October before, and Easter had a new meaning for me. Though I had wholeheartedly accepted Christ at my baptism, there was a certain "epiphany" that occurred that Easter. As I waded in to my Christian faith, I made sure to find out all I could about it. I didn't want to be duped in to believing something that wasn't true. I had put my life on the line for this, and I didn't want to look foolish! So, in my quest to learn all I could, I discovered a most miraculous thing. All this stuff about Jesus and His life and ministry was actually documented as history, not as myth or allegory as I had been led to believe as a child. It really wasn't about a spiritual concept, but about a concrete reality. Jesus probably works for a lot of people as

My First Easter, *continued*

a spiritual concept, but for me, the concrete reality means so much more.

The evidence of the empty tomb, the post-resurrection appearances, the rapid rise of the Christian faith, have no explanation other than Jesus, who was publicly murdered, had risen from the dead. And if Jesus rose from the dead that means all His claims are true. Those claims, that He is the son of God, that if you have seen Him you have seen God, that no one comes to the Father except through Him, that He is the fulfillment of the Scriptures, that He is the way, the truth, the life, have implications for our lives. We have to follow Him. We may not always understand His ways, but we have to put our lives in His hands, and trust. He is the God who created us, and He has a plan for each of us. He is not just a spiritual concept, He is a concrete reality...

And that makes Easter the most joyous day of the year. So much more than bunnies, chocolate eggs, jelly beans, and spring flowers! A day to overflow with happiness because God came down to earth to be with us and has promised we will be with Him eternally! And the resurrection proves it! He is Risen, He is Risen indeed.

So celebrate the miracle of Easter. We offer 5 services, including my favorite, the sunrise service on that gravelly hill. Eat breakfast served by our youth group, they make great waiters (and offer delicious food)! And lift your heart in praise to our Risen King! Hallelujah!

And if Christ ***has not been raised***, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

1 Corinthians 15:14

Relay for Life



Relay For Life brings communities together in hope, celebration and memory. It is a unique event that offers everyone in the community an opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer. This overnight event remembers those who have lost the fight against cancer, honors those who have survived, and raises funds to find a cure. This year the event will be held on May 22-23, 2010 at Central Park beginning at 9:00 a.m. Once again we will be taking prayer requests from the community during the event and praying over those requests along with offering "Prayers of Hope" for those who would like to pray one-on-one with a prayer partner at our prayer tent.

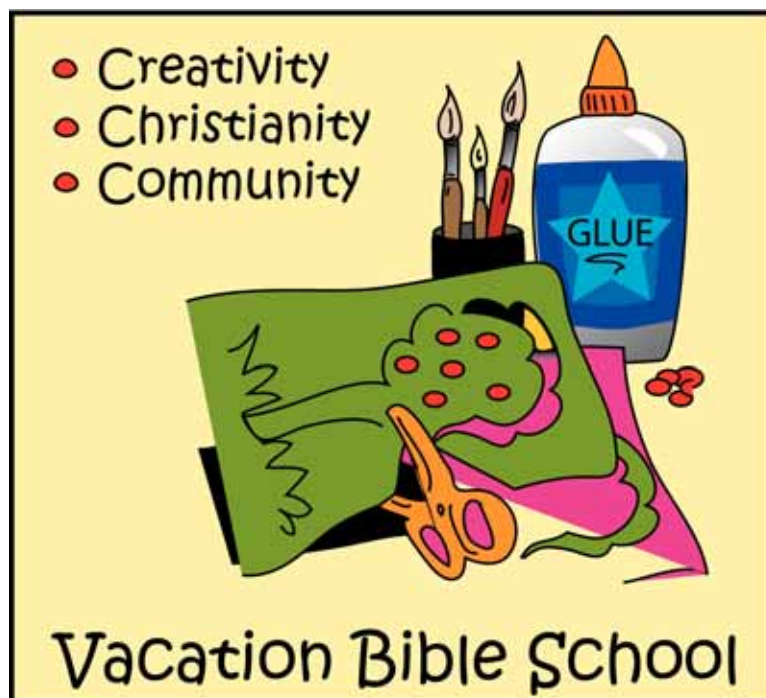
We invite you to join in on this life changing event by signing up to walk, pray, or volunteer in other ministries at the event. Sign ups will begin on the patio April 19. If you are interested in being a part of the planning team or would like more information, please contact Debbie Price at debbie@come2christ.com.

Blazing a Trail for Christ: VBS OUTREACH

Did you know that this summer we will be blazing a trail for Christ and reaching out to kids in three cities in California?

- Our Children's Ministry will sponsor a VBS program for about 60 kids at a park in Newhall
- Our Youth mission trip will incorporate a VBS program for another 60 kids at one of the parks in Merced
- Our Women's Mission trip to St. John's Shelter for Women and Children will offer VBS activities for the children who are being cared for at the shelter.

For information about how you can help support these outreach programs or help with preparations contact Debbie Price or Felicity Grover.



Attention all Women of Christ Lutheran Church

Your Help and Ideas are needed to plan the 2011 Weekend Retreat

Our first meeting will be Wednesday, April 7th at 5:00 p.m.

Questions please contact Linda Ferguson 661/296-0263

Women's Mission Trip Sacramento



Sunday July 18 – Thursday July 22, 2010

Cost: Not yet finalized but estimated at approx. \$160 plus meals (includes transportation, 4 night's accommodation – 4 women per room, and continental breakfast).

We will be spending three days at St John's Shelter for Women and Children in Sacramento. The shelter offers an outstanding program that provides a loving and safe environment for destitute women and their children. At St. John's, the women are given tools and support moving them from a point of crisis to where they are able to get their lives back on track and take care of their children.

Through participating in this mission trip you will learn about the hardships, issues and challenges that the women and children face. Many of them come directly from emergency facili-

ties such as the Salvation Army, or domestic violence shelters. They are able to stay at St. John's for 30 – 90 days. During this time they work with a case manager, participate in drug and alcohol programs as required, attend various different classes, programs and groups that help them to find employment and prepares them to move into transitional living. Many of them have to deal with legal issues and court hearings, and others have jobs during the day. Their children, if not in school (there is no summer school), are taken care of in the day care center at St. John's. The shelter can accommodate over 100 women and children. Last year there were 60 children from newborn through 17 years of age.

During the three days that we will be spending at St. John's, we will plan a daily schedule of activities, including Music/Worship, Crafts, Games, Bible study, Prayer Time and just "hang" time, sharing the experience of shelter living with the women and their children. We will work in the kitchen preparing and serving dinner and lunch, and work in the warehouse sorting clothes in their "boutique" and stacking shelves with food donations.

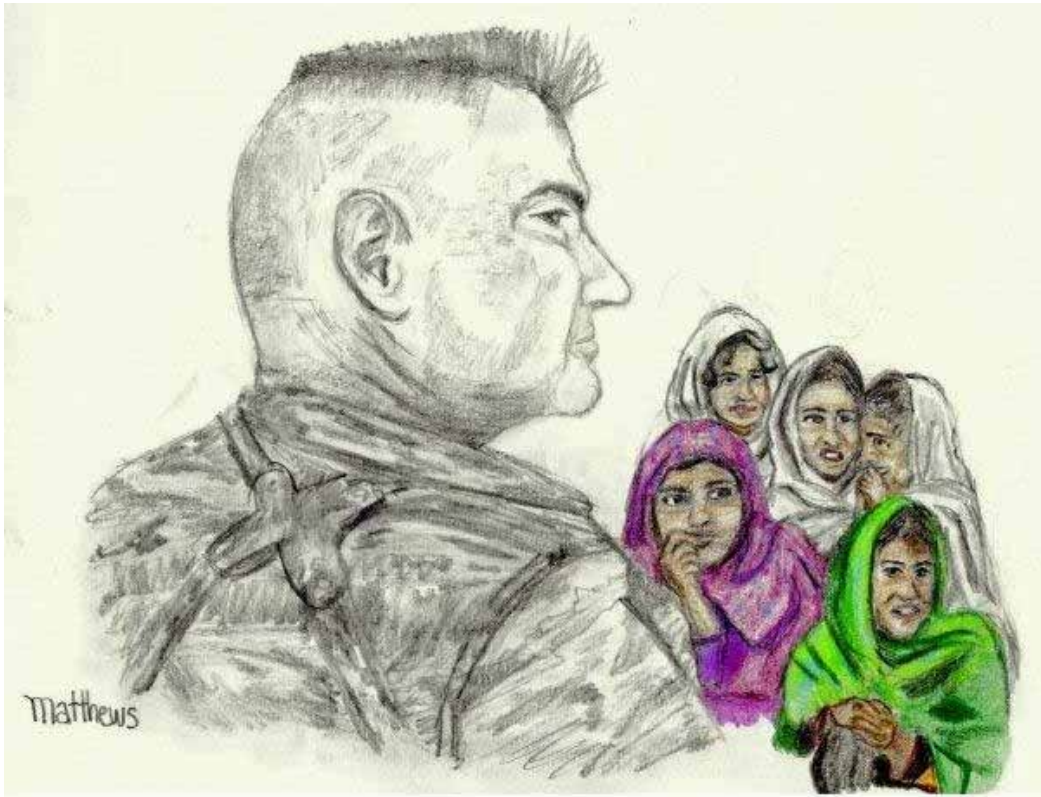
This is an amazing opportunity to partner with the shelter and express God's compassionate love and blessings with women and children in need. If you are interested in participating, please contact Felicity Grover through the church office.



Hands and Hearts—Through My Eyes

John has a passion for children. With two sons of his own, it is not surprising that when he was deployed to Afghanistan, it was the children who tugged at his heart. This self portrait speaks to John's compassion for the young Afghan girls who endure hardships we can only imagine.

Serving in Iraq does not prepare you for Afghanistan. It has been said that being in Afghanistan feels like you are living in the 1700s. For this soldier, what he saw - the living conditions of Afghan children - was intolerable. He set about finding a way to help the children he met. John was determined to make a difference in the lives of these innocent boys and girls, focusing on education as the best long-term option for improving their lives.



John writes:

The drawing is through my eyes, as is the following description of what Afghanistan is like.

On the news these days, you see the destruction of Haiti; Afghanistan is just a step above that. Living within the US standards of poverty is the norm. The majority of the dwellings are made of mud, dung, and straw. To see a child with a clean face is the exception. The women wear burkas, so you see a lot of eyes and feet.

I completed my training at Ft Riley, KS but I am not in Kansas anymore. Danger is around every corner and straight away on the roads we travel, IEDs are out there, but you never know where. We are here to fight a counter-insurgency... weapons and a presence are only a part of it, education will be the deciding factor.

Through My Eyes, *continued*

I have teamed up with another Air Force member, SMSgt Bob Hughes. We have been reaching out to all who will listen, trying to collect school supplies to lend a hand to the impoverished Afghan education system (only 15% of the country is literate.) We have delivered your donated school supplies to a local orphanage and a girl's school.

We are just two men trying to tackle a huge problem, but so much more needs to be done. Hands and Hearts has been a great supporter of our cause. The school supplies keep the roads safe for our travels and enable a generation of Afghan boys and girls to receive a better education. Please accept this thank you from all of us here and please keep the supplies coming through these tough economic times at home.

v/r

John

Each of our soldiers is different; the jobs they perform are varied. The one thing they all have in common is that they serve their country in harm's way. Hands and Hearts supports our troops with care and prayer, sharing Jesus' love with 50 soldiers each month. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please join us at our next packing party: April 20th from 7-8 p.m. in the Fellowship Center or April 21st from 9- 11 a.m. Need more info? Email hands_n_hearts@yahoo.com or call Karolle at 255-3222.

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast

Saturday April 3

7:30 am-9:00 am

Marie Callender's Restaurant
27630 The Old Road—Valencia
Cost is \$12 payable at the door.

Questions? Please contact
mensbreakfast@come2christ.com



Save The Date!

CHRISTLIKE CHARITY

COMPASSION



WEEKEND

CONSIDERATION & CARE

An All Congregation Event

MAY 1 and 2

Sign-ups for work sites will begin this month.

Any questions please contact Debbie Price: debbie@come2christ.com

Compassion Weekend Projects

Union Rescue Mission/Los Angeles – team leader Bret Wims

Saturday 4:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Serving dinner to homeless men, women, and children

**Bags 4 Kids – team leader Elaine Benson
(Widows Might Project)**

Saturday 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. / CLC Fellowship Center
Packing bags for displaced children

Lutheran Social Services/Van Nuys – team leader Bill Speer

Saturday – hours TBD
Building shelves in their food pantry

Central Lutheran Church/Van Nuys – team leader Bill Speer

Saturday (possibly Sunday) – hours TBD
Scraping and painting building

Valley Rescue Mission – team leader TBD

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. / CLC kitchen and Sun Valley Park
Preparing 100 sack lunches and delivering them to homeless at Sun Valley Park

L.A. Family Housing/North Hollywood – team leader TBD

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. / L.A. Family Housing
Put on Carnival for families utilizing L.A. Family Housing

Hope Gardens/Sylmar – team leader TBD

Saturday and Sunday hours TBD / Hope Gardens
Job(s) TBD

**Feed The Children – team leader Kathleen Kahovec
(Sunday School Project)**

Sunday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. / CLC circle on patio
Packing food to be distributed throughout our community/
possibly globally

**Community Dinner – team leaders Rachel Swartz
and Todd LeGassick**

Sunday 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. / location TBD
Provide dinner, clothing and crafts for residents of Newhall

SCV Emergency Winter Shelter – Felicity Grover

Saturday, hours TBD / SCV Emergency Winter Shelter, Santa Clarita
Project TBD

Gentle Barn/Santa Clarita – team leader Debi Colbert

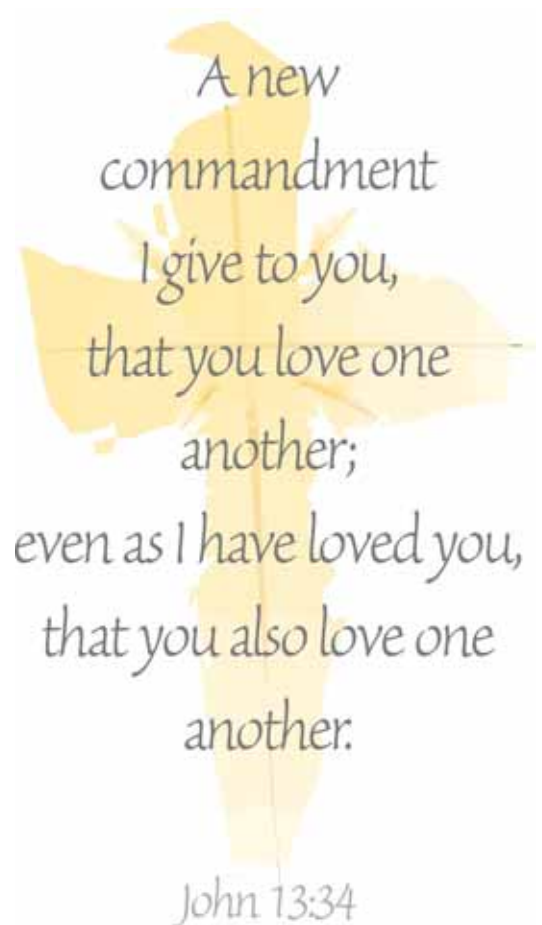
Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. / Gentle Barn
Project TBD

Bears and Blankets – team leader Sydney Herbert

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. / CLC Youth Center
Making Teddy Bears and Blankets for cancer patients

El Camino Pines/Frazier Park – team leader TBD

Saturday and Sunday, hours TBD / El Camino Pines
Project TBD





Please join us for the 2nd Annual

LSS Community Care Center Pancake Breakfast

Saturday April 24th - 8 am - 11am

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
27265 Luther Drive—Santa Clarita



Proceeds will assist with case management funds for the homeless in the Santa Clarita Valley. LSS was successful in housing and finding employment for 57% of the homeless participating in case management last year. Help us increase our outcomes with funds to continue this critical program.

**LSS Community
Care Center**
...helping people in need

RSVP/tickets: Linda Malerba 661- 993-6198
Adults \$5.00 Kids \$3.00

All you can eat!

 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans™



By Toccoa Kahovec

Summer Job Advice



Are you going to be busy and active this summer? Summer school, sports, dance, and vacations might fill up your schedule. However, if you have some open time, I would encourage you that a summer job might be a great idea. God wants us to be productive and serve Him in all things. Lying around the house and not contributing can cause idleness and get us in trouble. Perhaps, having a summer job will help us to grow in responsibility, self-discipline, saving and budgeting money and developing future career choices. It will build your self-esteem and confidence. It can also help you build a resume that can be helpful in the college application process, scholarship applications, or obtaining future employment. Today, most teens that are seeking out summer employment are competing with adults for positions that used to be held by teenagers. This makes employment difficult to find, but a little creativity can pay off in finding the perfect summer job.

Start searching for summer employment way before school gets out.

March thru May is a perfect time to put in applications for a summer job.

Go to the school guidance counselor and inquire about summer hire programs the school may have implemented or know about.

Watch stores that have a job board posted. People needing odd jobs like painting a room, moving furniture, lawn mowing and more will often post these jobs at supermarkets and local stores.

Research day camps and sleep-away-camps like Camp Clarita. Camps typically look for older teens to fill camp counselor slots, and are willing to pay for transportation and room and board.

Pass out flyers in the neighborhood to advertise work you are willing and capable of doing. This is a good opportunity to line up work as a mother's helper, babysitter, dog walker, house sitter, house cleaner, yard work specialist and whatever odd job you can create.

Be a tutor. Many parents are always looking for someone that will work with their children on specific subjects they may need help in. This can give you an opportunity of using your education in a positive way to help others.

Dress nice and professional and conservative. You want them to notice you before they notice your clothes. Smile. Smile. Smile. Be yourself. Be friendly. You are serving the Lord. You are representing Christ in all that you do. Think of how many people will see Jesus in you at this new opportunity of a summer job.

Pray about it. Does God want this for you? You can serve Him this summer by working and using your talents. You can be a missionary for Christ at the ice cream shop or on the high school mission trip.

Be persistent. Work on this everyday. Don't give up. Be energetic and excited about learning something new and serving in a way you haven't before.



Youth News

- Mission Trip: All the info is on the website at: <http://www.come2christ.com/childrenministries/highschool.cfm>. It will be like a weeklong version of Compassion Weekend in Merced. We are going to work at places like the Salvation Army and the homeless shelter. We'll camp out and have worship every night. It is going to be a great!
 - ◆ Mission trip meetings are April 18 and 25. We moved the first one back a week because of Pastor Dan's party. Student and one parent need to attend one of the two meetings.
 - ◆ Easter Breakfast: setup and cooking: April 2-3, serving and cleanup April 4. If you want to help, call me. This is our major fundraiser for the mission trip. Sign up in the welcome center.
 - ◆ The trip itself will be June 6-13.
 - ◆ All the other dates and info that you need are on the website in the application.
 - ◆ If you have any question or would like to help (regardless of if you are going on the trip), please contact me.
- Compassion Weekend is going to be May 1-2. Right now, the high school group is scheduled to do a painting and cleanup project on the 1st (Saturday). Mark your calendars!
 - ◆ If you can't make that project, there are going to be plenty of other opportunities for both students and adults during Compassion Weekend.
- Impact: Every Tuesday, 7:00 to 8:30 PM
 - ◆ We just finished a series on Building Good Habits where we talked about the habits that formed our life:

- Hanging with God
 - Accountable Friendships
 - Bible Memorization
 - Involvement in the Church Body
 - Tithing
 - Studying Scripture
- ◆ The next three session series is going to be on God's Plan for Great Sex
 - I'm thinking of making Pastor Joe teach it.
 - ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study: Every Sunday, 9:30 to 10:30 AM
 - From Easter to Pentecost, this will track along with the Sunday Morning Sermons.
 - ◆ Don't forget about The Pulse, our weekly email update. Every week, we send out discussion questions for you and your student along with all the upcoming events and other information like next week's winning lottery numbers (your mileage may vary.)
 - ◆ Don't forget to check out CLC Youth on Facebook for retreat pictures.
 - ◆ Lastly, I want to invite all of you to the prayer ministry. It is an adult ministry, but we have had a number of teenagers attending. Prayer is not just for adults. Every meeting we take time to learn how to pray better and then to spend time praying for one another and for our congregation. It meets 2nd and 4th Monday in the sanctuary from 7:00 to 8:15 PM.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about the youth ministry, please feel free to contact me,

Pastor Mike

Children's Ministries

Junior High

Confirmation classes meet from April 7 – May 26 for the last 8 week session for this year. This is on Wednesday nights in the Youth Center from 7 – 8:30pm. We will finish the Old Testament and study Faith in our spring session.

8th Graders will go on the sexuality retreat April 23-25. Medical forms and payment for the retreat are due April 15. We are going to the Oaks. The cost is \$110. Please contact Kathleen Kahovec if you need a medical form or if you want more information about the retreat.



Vacation Bible School June 14-18

The VBS dates have been set for June 14 – 18, 2010. Please note the change to one VBS this year!

We will be using Group Curriculum again with the theme “High Seas Expedition where we will explore the mighty love of God.”

Registration will take place beginning April 18. Mark your calendars now. Please consider volunteering all 5 days this year. We need lots of help. This is our biggest outreach to the community. You can check the website for updates about VBS at Come2christ.com and click on the VBS link under children’s ministries.



Children's Ministries



Sunday School

It is already time to recruit for teaching Sunday school in the fall. Some of our teachers will be returning to teach next year. We have an opening at 9:30 in 5th grade as well as at the 11:00 Sunday school hour. Please prayerfully consider teaching in the fall. Thank you for continuing to have your children learn their bible verses and remain faithful to their commitment in hearing the New Testament stories. There will be no Sunday school on Easter Sunday, April 4. The Sunday school picnic will be held on June 6 this year which is also the last day of Sunday School before the summer break.

Midweek Programs

KOK (Kids of the Kingdom)

KOK is back in session April 7. This will be our last 8 week session for the year through May 26. Don't forget to come early for dinner at the Bistro. Please consider teaching KOK in the fall and let Dawn Diaz know if you are interested.

KOK is a midweek program for ages 3 – 3rd grade on Wednesday nights 6:00 – 7:00 pm. Dawn Diaz is in charge of KOK and can answer any questions you might have.



Youth Adventures

Youth Adventurers is back in session April 7 for 8 weeks. We will go through May 26. We meet in the Youth Center from 6 – 7pm. Linda Ferguson can answer any questions you might have about Youth Adventures. Please consider helping with Youth Adventures in the fall. It is a wonderful program with lots of adult and high school helpers.



Preschool News for April

Week of the Young Child

April 17th 10-2

College of the Canyons

You can find the fun activities at the
Honor Grove Area on campus.

Every year preschools from all across the valley celebrate the Week of the Young Child in April. This day is completely free to all families to enjoy. Each preschool offers a different activity for the children to explore and learn from. Hope to see you there!

Chris Porrazzo, Director

April Birthdays

1st

Elizabeth Abrahamson
Kristen Forster
Nicole Hoppes
Erick Moss
Kellan Onuscheck
Christopher Striff

2nd

Kayleigh Jankowski
Chelsea Kitaguchi
Jonell Strain

3rd

Megan Allen
Elly Carleton
Colin Dassler
Annalisa Lepisto
Ryan Schaefer
Kathleen Sharp
Harold Strauss

4th

Claire Allen
Sally Hoffman
Sharon Jensen
Courtney Saler

5th

Ryne Dwight
Cody Jefferis
Fred Newton
Rachael Tiemann

6th

David Myers
Chuck Spadaro
Sean Tomer

7th

Connor Kies
Laine Neasi
Jaclyn Thompson

8th

Beth Liescheidt
Therese Munster
Briana Snyder
Tom Trimble

9th

Daniel Bagaus
Austin Belgau
Melissa Drake
Jessica Enbody
Marc Felbaum
Mark Kacena
Will McCardy
Bob Rathkamp

10th

11th

Barbara Bown
Candy Meyer
Jenna Violin

12th

Jeffrey Campeau
Karli Frederick

13th

Thomas Carty
McKenna Lium
Ingeborg Magnuson
Amanda Pape
Alexandra Skorniakoff

14th

Morgan Modugno

15th

Amanda Besa
Kevin Curtin
Sue Rice

16th

Cody Lindquist

17th

Megan Arima
Jim Carr
Rhondi Durand
Dan Guzman
Jeff Meyer
Jenna Nelson

18th

Brandon Chase
Blake Choate
Lindsey Frandson
Kelly Hitch
Sandy Schulze
Emily Striff
Kirsten Trimble

19th

Len Cipressi
Marilyn Johnson
Lindsay Miller
Madeline Rathkamp
Sue Skorniakoff
Daniel Walk

20th

Benjamin Burnett
Andrew Caraballo
Kristin Frederick
Brenda Klehn
Tyler Maxwell
Meredith Maynard
Scott Santos
Bill Smith

21st

Glenna Ballinger
Nicholas Belgau
Tim Kennedy
Nathan LaCore
Nikki Lacy
Mike Mulhausen
Lauren Schreiner
Anna Stonefield
Kisha Tate

22nd

Kaley Gregory
Kaitlin Kibbee
Ginny Pruet

23rd

May Allen
Logan Bouté
Linda Hoyme
Todd Laibl
Jack Larlee

24th

Evan Beirold
Kristina Dyroy
Ben McGaughy
Kim Mulhausen
Andrea Teague
Ian Town

25th

Samantha Hoppes
Halle Kortlander
Patricia McEwan
Jonas Pandya

26th

Kurt Demaio
Matthew Gaudioso
Eric Provencio
Jesse Pulaski
Elaine Sedgwick

27th

Ava Broneer
Krystal Ibarra
Zack Liddle
Dustin Schrock
Kim Stegeman

28th

Hilde Ernsberger
Kailie Kennedy
Randall McElmeel
Mike Petty

29th

Tony Dinardo
Adam Durand
Dustin Frezieres
Ethan House
Travis Lieber
Matthew McCardy
Sarah Strode
Ashley Surak

30th

Rafael Bilbao
Allyson Forster
Debra Martin



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