



From Pastor Pam's Desk

March 2016
Volume 60, Issue 3

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19*

For as long as I can remember, spring always excited me. I loved seeing those early spring flowers poke their heads out of the snow – crocuses, grape hyacinths, snowdrops, daffodils and tulips – all to remind us of renewal. Then, of course, the pastures would be exciting places as babies were born: piglets, and lambs, and goats and colts – all so adorable as they found their legs and began to spring around the enclosures – and then came a sense of rebirth that the circle of life keeps coming around.

Renewal and rebirth were evident everywhere in the Midwest. Here in California, spring seems to mean that another set of things bloom! Still, some trees that lost their leaves begin to bud and of course our rose garden takes on new leaf and flower under Rich Oelschlaeger's expert hand. Thank you, Rich!

I hope you have been enjoying the Lenten devotions. I know I have. They have brought me to places I didn't think I could find and depths of love and grace that are rare and beautiful. Thank you everyone who contributed and thank you Kenny Callaghan for the work it took to make this happen.

Easter is early this year, March 27th and we will be celebrating Holy Week as we usually do: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services here and our combined conference Easter Vigil at Trinity Lutheran downtown Long Beach. We celebrate the power, hope, renewal and rebirth of the resurrection!

To grow, we need to add a time for reflection. How has this Lenten season been different than ones before? Have you grown in your faith? If so why? If not, why not? Where is God leading you? Do you have a sense of what God is doing in your life?

Renewal, rebirth, reflect...and rejoice! We serve a risen Savior who is in the world today, moving and active. People's lives are changed by our witness to God's amazing love and grace. Thank you for all you do to be the hands, feet, heart, and voice of Jesus and his love for all of the world!

+Easter Blessings+

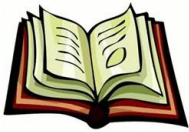
Pastor Pam



During Lent it's not unusual for people to ask, "What are you giving up for Lent this year?" Personally, I've never felt the need to "give up something for Lent." Instead, I see Lent as a time for joyful simplicity with an intentional focus on spending quality time with God and enjoying the everyday things in life. For me, simplicity may mean intentionally adding things to my spiritual practice: walks with friends or those special to me, spending time enjoying the sun rising and setting instead of watching TV or working too late, making good meals and relaxing while eating instead of running off to the next activity, finding ways to volunteer and be of service to others, saying "I love you" when someone is being negative or frustrated, expressing gratitude instead of complaining. As I try to live this way, the inner peace and freedom I experience is life changing. Interestingly, with this attitude, repentance, self-examination and the reality of forgiveness helps me experience God's love and grace more fully--helping me live in celebration rather than judgment and fear.



What will you "give up or add" this Lent? What might it look like for you to live in simplicity and experience celebration of knowing God's embrace more fully?



Consider joining us each Sunday and Wednesday for a simple meal and worship as we share our Lenten journey with one another. Read and share our church Lenten Devotional *Together, We Journey to the Living Christ* and reflect on the daily offering. Mostly, have a meaningful Lent rejoicing in the simplicity of experiencing God's transforming love.

Kaleidoscope Kid's Club, Wednesdays March 2, 9, 16, 23, 4:15pm Our Kaleidoscope group for elementary age children will meet every Wednesday during Lent. Come learn about God's love as we do homework, enjoy snacks, play games, and share Lent in a Bag family activities.

Open My Life, Lord Wednesday Lenten Worship, March 2, 9, 16, Interactive Worship in the sanctuary & Soup Lunch in Social Hall at 11:30am. Soup Supper 6pm in the Social Hall; Interactive Worship 7pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome.



Chancel Choir & Praise Team Wednesdays, 7:45pm in the sanctuary. During Lent we will rehearse immediately following the Wednesday evening Lenten worship service. Everyone is welcome to sing in our choir for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Come join the fun at rehearsal.

GriefShare, Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. in the church narthex. This Biblically-based grief support group meets weekly to discuss and share materials addressing topics and issues surrounding grief and loss. The group is led by Constance berg, a certified Grief Counselor.



Kids Easter EGGstravaganza Saturday, March 19, 10am to 1pm. All are welcome to participate in this **Eggshilarating, Eggscellent** event. Activities include: bounce house fun, games, crafts, lunch, **Eggsciting** Easter Egg Hunt. To volunteer contact the church office or see Kenny Callaghan.

Join us for Holy Week and Easter worship:

Palm Sunday Worship Sunday, March 20, 9:15am

Maundy Thursday Worship, Thursday, March 24, 7pm

Good Friday Worship, Friday, March 25, 7pm

Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 26, 7pm held at Trinity Lutheran Church 759 Linden Ave., Long Beach 90813

Easter Festival Worship, Sunday March 27, 8 & 10:30am, **Easter Breakfast** 9:15-11am

Daytimers Lunch Bunch, Tuesday, March 29, 11:30am. This group is for those who enjoy day-time activities. Join Kenny and others from church for lunch at Polly's Pie 4680 E Los Coyotes Diagonal, Long Beach, CA 90815. All are welcome!

Koinonia Prison Ministry continues to collect new and used greeting cards. Donations may be left in the basket in the narthex.

--Kenny



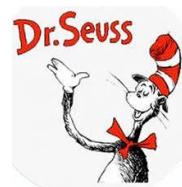
Preschool News

We had a great turn out for Special Person Day on February 4th. Each child brought a special person and enjoyed Chapel, refreshments in the courtyard, and going around doing fun activities in each classroom. We completed parent/teacher conferences and registration for current families.

We also had a special treat this year with a snow day! Long Beach Ice Company came and blew in 5 tons of "snow" for the kids to play in on the playground. This was a lot of fun and the children loved it!



We will kick off March with our Scholastic Book Fair February 29-March 4. We will celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss and encourage a love for reading!



We will be closed for a staff development day on Friday, 3/11. This is always a great way to keep our teachers refreshed and inspired.



St. Patrick's Day is another fun day with the children; playing with their imaginations and seeing what the leprechauns do.

We will end the month celebrating Easter with an Egg hunt and picnic lunch on the yard on Friday, 3/25. We will then close at 1pm.

Wishing you a happy Spring!
Lisa Clinton

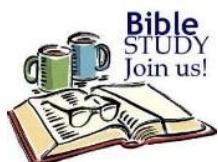


"Loose Threads"



Loose Threads is a small group of sewers and quilters, who meet once a month, bring their sewing machines and a wide assortment of projects to work on. It's having that dedicated time to work on a sewing project free from distractions that is not only nice, but fun when in the company of friends! We welcome all age levels and all degrees of sewing abilities to join us. Our next two meeting dates are March 13 and April 10, 12-4PM in the Social Hall. Call Chris Panos (562)986-4393 for more information.

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Bible STUDY
Join us!

Men's Bible Study meets on the second Monday of each month. Please join us on Monday, March 14 at 7pm in the conference room.

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SONS OF NORWAY

Thank You for the Thrivent Choice Dollars that were directed to Christ Lutheran Church in 2015. Based on your

recommendations, Christ Lutheran received \$2,801 in 2015.

The Sons of Norway meet in CLC's Social Hall at noon on the second Saturday of each month. Everyone is welcome to attend their next meeting on March 12 at 12pm to see what this cultural group is all about.

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Pray for Peace in the Middle East



Join Pastor Pam in the Sanctuary on the 24th of each month at 7pm to pray for peace in this fragile and volatile area of the world. Raising our voices together in hope for respect and resolution is one way that we can support our brothers and sisters in this region.

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REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members at Home or in Care Centers:

Coleen & Spud Fenton, Velma Fischer,
Jean Johnson and Mikki Nemnich.

Those struggling with illness or other

concerns: Justin Bartlow, Ann & Byron
Bruner, Dolores DeSha, Judy Haenn,
Dorothy Henriksen, Bill & Mary Sargent,
Bary & Janice Schlieder.

Family & Friends: Clara Caldwell,
Anthony Callaghan, Dan Cameron, Edi
Callas, Lillian Chur, Anna Delgado,
Delaney, Nancy Dionne, Kathy Goodwin,
Alberta Gray, Anne Harrington, Bobbie
Hoenig, Helen Horner, Leslie Hoskins, Ted
Howard, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Katrina
Lahr, Danny Loya, Mabel Manzur, Denny
Morrill, Steve Nelson, Kristina Steve
Randolph, Nohemy Ruiz, Perry Taggart,
Janette & John Velarde, Dick, Jenny &
Steve West

Those serving in our nation's
military; especially Samuel Brown,
Rachel & Victor Colon, Aaron Crayton,
Nicholas Flournoy, Richard Gallegos,
Zachary Krog, John Lamberton, Brittany
Graham, Davis McElwain, Morgan
Llewellyn, Haley Fessenden, Johnny Luna,
Shawn McRae, Emily Merritt, Michael
Joseph Navarro, Jim Reeder, Douglas
Steelhammer, Jonah Westcott, Joshua
Wauchope.

We pray for the ongoing work of:

Linda Gawthorne among the Kogi people
of Colombia.



Happy Anniversary

3/20 *Gloria and Eugene Tadlock*
3/30 *Sydney and Don Nichols*



3/1 *Shaun Murray*
3/2 *Sara Benoit*
3/3 *Angie Freligh*
3/3 *Doug Holdhusen*
3/5 *Alex Bryant*
3/5 *Frances Willms*
3/7 *Mary Kathryn Vaughn*
3/8 *Courtney Cover*
3/12 *Chris Caldwell*
3/12 *Denise Maner*
3/12 *Jack Rollins*
3/14 *Brian Trost*
3/15 *Samuel Brown*
3/15 *Jamison Bryant*
3/16 *Steve Howard*
3/19 *Josh Freligh*
3/21 *Linda Gawthorne*
3/21 *Victoria Paez*
3/22 *Lynn Benner*
3/22 *Ken Petrbok*
3/27 *Ian Fitzpatrick*
3/27 *Stephan Joseph*
3/28 *Garrett McGee*
3/30 *Ingrid Fuelleman-Ramos*
3/30 *Pat Ne*



It's an exciting time in the life of our church, as we are now enrolled in Stephen's Ministry and have completed the first step, which was to attend Stephen Leader Training! Pastor Pam, Chris Panos, and Judy Haenn attended the approximately 60 hours of training and are preparing to launch the "Stephen Series" as it is sometimes referred to.

Stephen Ministries is a not-for-profit Christian educational organization based in St. Louis, Missouri. Founded in 1975, Stephen Ministries provides training and resources to thousands of congregations and organizations worldwide. At the leader training we were among 233 participants from 27 states and three other countries, representing 32 denominations.

One very important thing that we were reminded about is that we all face challenges and brokenness in our lives, such as the loss of a loved one, financial challenges, job loss, relationship issues, loneliness, sickness, disabilities, and the like. In such situations, even if temporary, no one should have to suffer alone. Stephen Ministers can provide one-to-one Christian care to people in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry. The identity of those receiving care and everything they discuss with a Stephen Minister remain private.

The next step is for us to train our first class of Stephen Ministers. This will be a 50 hour course of work, beginning, we hope, just after Easter. We are so excited that there are currently five church members who have previously taken this training. They will be "retrained" and recommissioned and will be the foundation of our first group. We will also be taking applications for others who feel called to take this training.

If you would like more information, please talk with Pastor Pam, Chris or Judy or you can log on to www.stephenministries.org.

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Church in Society Dates to Remember
Put these events on your calendar

- March 3rd Church in Society Meeting
- March 30th COA Meal (clipboards will be coming soon)
- April 7th Church in Society Meeting
- April 16th Habitat Build in Inglewood (sign-ups will also be coming soon)
- May 5th Church in Society Meeting
- June 2nd Church in Society Meeting
- June 11th Habitat Build in Inglewood

Lent, Holy Week & Easter 2016

• **March 2, 9, 16**

Wednesday Lenten Worship

Open My Life, Lord

Interactive Worship & Soup Lunch 11:30am

Soup Supper 6pm, Interactive Worship 7pm

• **March 20 - Palm Sunday Worship 9:15am**

• **March 24 - Maundy Thursday Worship 7pm**

With Foot Washing & Holy Communion

• **March 25 - Good Friday Worship 7pm**

• **March 26 - Easter Vigil 7pm**

Trinity Lutheran Church • 759 Linden Ave. • Long Beach •
90813

• **March 27 - Easter Worship 8 & 10:30am**

Festival Worship with Holy Communion

Easter Breakfast 9:15-11am