



4725 South Bradley Road
 Santa Maria, California 93455
 (805) 937-1116
 Fax: (805) 937-2107
 E-Mail: licosoffice@licos.net
 Web site: www.licos.net
<http://www.facebook.com/LCOSSantaMaria>
 Stephen A. Eckert, Pastor

Lutheran Church of Our Savior

Volume 58 – Number 3

March 2020

FROM THE PASTOR...

Jesus comes down: and the Word is made flesh. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... [And] the Word became flesh and made his dwelling with us. The Word - the eternal, divine, world creating Word - became flesh and moved in among us. All things heavenly, spiritual, and eternal touched earth, took up residence here, in Him.

We need something done about our flesh, this decaying material stuff. So on a starlit night God slipped in among us, assumed the very flesh we would like to shed, and was born among us: God incarnate, God in the flesh, and God-with-us. It was an unexpected thing for a God to do. You cannot climb up to God, so God stoops down to you. This is what incarnation (literally "enfleshment") means. This is what Christmas means. God has become flesh in Jesus. God didn't just come close to being human, didn't just seem almost human; God became a person with a face and a name, was born among us, in the flesh.

So God sent us a Savior. His name is Emmanuel: which means "God is with us." God gave us the kind of savior we needed, if not the one we expected. Sin has broken us all. We are lost without God. We need a Savior. We need a Savior who can identify with us, who can feel what we feel. We need a Savior who can enter

"They Shall Name Him



**Which Means,
 God Is With Us."**

completely into our lives. We need a Savior in the flesh—like ours... one who can laugh and cry like we do; who loves like we do... one who knows what it means to suffer, as we must. We need a Savior who understands what it means to be flesh... to change, to get older and start falling apart... we need a Savior who knows what back pain feels like.

We need a Savior in the flesh who knows what it feels like to be betrayed, hungry, to face death. We need a Savior who is born like us, lives with us, and dies for us. He was born—in the flesh-- to carry our sin, our brokenness, and our failures to a cross and bring us back to God. The shadow of the cross falls over the manger and, because of it, you are God's child again!

For unto us a Child is born,
 Unto us a Son is given;
 And the government will be upon his shoulder.
 And his name will be called

Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 Of the increase of his government and peace
 There will be no end.
 Upon the throne of David and over his kingdom,
 To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
 From that time forward, even forever.
 The zeal of the Lord will perform this.

**Now, in this season of Lent, we follow
 this one to the cross.** ✿

...Pastor Steve Eckert



MARCH 2020

Mar 01	8:15 am	Comm. Svc.
Mar 01	9:30 am	SS/Bible Study/Confirmation
Mar 01	10:45 am	Comm. Svc.
Mar 04	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
Mar 04	7:00 pm	Lent Worship
Mar 05	7:00 pm	Elders' Mtg.
Mar 08		DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS!
Mar 08	8:15 am	Worship Svc.
Mar 08	9:30 am	SS/Bible Study/Confirmation
Mar 08	10:45 am	Worship Svc.
Mar 09	6:00 – 8:00 PM	Men's Club
Mar 11	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
Mar 11	7:00 pm	Lent Worship
Mar 15		March Ministry Schedule Due
Mar 15	8:15 am	Praise/Comm. Svc.
Mar 15	9:30 am	SS/Bible Study/Confirmation
Mar 15	10:45 am	Praise/Comm. Svc.
Mar 17	9:30 am	Tabitha Quilting Group
Mar 18	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
Mar 18	7:00 pm	Lent Worship
Mar 19		Council Mtg.
Mar 20		March Newsletter Deadline
Mar 22	8:15 am	Worship Svc.
Mar 22	9:30 am	SS/Bible Study/Confirmation
Mar 22	10:45 am	Worship Svc.
Mar 25	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
Mar 25	7:00 pm	Lent Worship
Mar 28		LWML SPRING RALLY
Mar 29	8:15 am	Worship Svc.
Mar 29	9:30 am	SS/Bible Study/Confirmation
Mar 29	10:45 am	Worship Svc.

MARCH Birthdays

- Mar 02 Jeremy Riley
- Mar 04 Stephanie Clavin, Carter Schofield
- Mar 08 Ruth Oliver, Stefanie Vargas
- Mar 10 Pastor Stephen Eckert
- Mar 12 Mark Hathaway
- Mar 15 Lisa DiModica, Charles Willcox
- Mar 16 Melissa Crawford
- Mar 22 Alba Glasser, Aiden Ibarra
- Mar 25 Noel Rowe
- Mar 26 Heidi Summers
- Mar 27 Paul Mattson
- Mar 30 Kathleen Barraza, Phyllis Legg, Mark Wilcox

MARCH Anniversaries

- Mar 28 George & Wilma Kennedy

MARCH SUNDAYS

- Mar 01 – Christian Board of Education
- Mar 08 – DiModica Family
- Mar 15 – Anita Lange
- Mar 22 – Dawn Schofield
- Mar 29 – Foley Family



MOWING IN MARCH

- Mar. 07 - Reese Riddiough, Nathan Schofield
- Mar. 21 - Art Atrops, Jim LaBelle



**Daylight saving begins on March 8, 2020.
Spring forward and
turn your clocks one hour ahead.**

ELDER'S CORNER

Jeremy's Egg

We will soon be celebrating Easter Sunday. Christ victory over sin, death and the devil is our victory also. Through the miracle of the resurrection believers are guaranteed that we will have eternal life in the presence of God Himself. What hope that gives us as we go about our lives. What joy that gives us despite the circumstances of our lives.

Many, many years ago I found an Easter story that I copied for my "corner" article. There's nothing like a good story to raise one's spirit so I thought I would go down that same path. I searched for and read a lot of Easter stories but none of them came close to the story I used ten years ago. So, the story you are about to read is a repeat. Some of you may recall the story about Jeremy's Egg. It is a true story written by Ida Mae Kempel in 1988, that bears repeating. It's an inspirational story that teaches the lesson of Easter from an unlikely child.

Jeremy was born with a twisted body and slow mind. At the age of 12 he was still in second grade, seemingly unable to learn. His teacher, Doris Miller, often became exasperated with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool and make grunting noises.

One day, she called the parents to come to St. Theresa's for a consultation. As the Forresters sat quietly in the empty classroom, Doris said the them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special school. It isn't fair for him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. Why, there is a five-year gap between his age and that of the other students."

Mrs. Forrester cried softly into a tissue, while her husband spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no good school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here." **Apr 28 -**

Doris sat for a long time after they left, staring at the snow outside the window. Its coldness seemed to seep into her soul. She wanted to sympathize with the Forresters. After all, their only child had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other youngsters to teach, and Jeremy was a distraction. Furthermore, he would never learn to read and write. Why waste any more time trying?

As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. "Oh God," she said aloud, "here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared to that poor family. Please help me to be more patient with Jeremy."

From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares. Then, one day, he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him. "I love you, Miss Miller," he exclaimed, loud enough for the whole class to hear. The other students snickered, and Doris' face turned red. She stammered, "Why that's nice, Jeremy. Now please take your seat."

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the children a large

plastic egg. "Now," she said to them, "I want you to take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Miss Miller," the children responded enthusiastically -- all except for Jeremy. He just listened intently, his eyes never leaving her face. He did not even make his usual noises.

Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment? Perhaps she should call his parents and explain the project to them. That evening, Doris's kitchen sink stopped up. She called the landlord and waited an hour for him to come by and unclog it. After that, she still had to shop for groceries, iron a blouse and prepare a vocabulary test for the next day. She completely forgot about phoning Jeremy's parents.

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large wicker basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they completed their math lesson, it was time to open the eggs.

In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her hand. "That's my egg, Miss Miller," she called out.

The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that is new life too." Little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine."

Next, Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that moss too showed new life. Billy spoke up from the back of the classroom, "My Daddy helped me," he beamed.

Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty. Surely it must be Jeremy's, she thought, and of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his parents. Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another.

Suddenly Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" Flustered, Doris replied, "But Jeremy, your egg is empty." He looked into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus tomb was empty, too."

Time stopped. When she could speak again, Doris asked him, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?" "Oh, yes," Jeremy said, "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then His Father raised him up."

The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the school yard, Doris cried. The cold inside her completely melted away.



Three months later, Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket, all of them empty.

Jesus is risen. He is risen indeed. Thanks be to God. ✠

...Mark Hathaway



Lent Worship – 7:00 p.m.

(Soup Suppers precede worship at 6:00 p.m.)

Mar 4 Mar 11
Mar 18 Mar 25 Apr 1

Maundy Thursday - April 9 - 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday - April 10 - 7:00 p.m.

EASTER – April 12

Sunrise Service – 6:30 am

(Breakfast served from 7:00 – 8:15 am)

8:15 am and 10:45 am
Communion Services

9:30 am
Easter Egg Hunt

ORDER EASTER LILIES



Remember your deceased loved ones or thank the Lord for blessings received with an **Easter Lily**. Order forms will be in the Sunday bulletins beginning March 15. **Cost: \$8.00 Order Due: No later than Monday, April 6, if you**

wish to be acknowledged in the Easter bulletin. Checks payable to: Altar Guild. Plants may be claimed after late service on Easter. Plants will not be saved after Easter. ✠

TIME TO *SPRING INTO* HOUSECLEANING



Annual Spring Clean-Up - Saturday – April 4, 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

– It's time for LCOS's annual spring housecleaning inside and outside in preparation for the great feast of the Resurrection—Easter (April 12). All are welcome to come and help. Please bring your own cleaning and/or gardening supplies. Questions: Call Jane (937-5241). ✠

OVER 200 NEW NEIGHBORS WELCOMED IN THE PAST TWO YEARS

Many of the people we visit thank us for the welcome gift we bring them, but I was struck a few weeks ago by the woman from North Carolina who two or three times said, "Thank you for *The Welcome*," and "I really appreciate this!"

In February of 2018, Dennis and Peggy Payne began taking welcome bags to people who literally are *their* neighbors in the new Pine Creek town homes of Rice Ranch. They have continued reaching out to newcomers there ever since. A team that now includes six other members besides myself has visited people in the new houses and apartments off of Bradley just north of the church, and in the new houses at the end of Cherry Street near the church. Just this month we have begun calling on people in The Rice Ranch "Meadows" (above Orcutt Community Park at the end of Bradley).

As of February 8, we have **given away 230 gift bags** and had the opportunity to **pray with 123 individuals** or couples. Earlier this month a family who invited us into their apartment came and worshipped in our 10:15 service, and were warmly welcomed by a number of our members.

My visitation team in 2019 included my wife Ruth, Dawn Schofield, Danielle Tate, and Bonnie Jo Lange. Each one of them went out with me a number of times, when available, usually for 50-90 minutes, and usually delivering 4 or 5 bags.

New Team members have been added. Kathy Lee has gone out with me once so far, and our youngest team member, Karl Di Modica, has gone out both with Dawn and with me. Fred Lee and Tom and Debbie Heuchert have expressed interest in participating, and I hope that before long we will have one or two independent teams going out without yours truly. We are indebted to Donna Finlay who keeps a good supply of filled bags ready for us to take whenever we are making visits.

We all find this to be a very enjoyable ministry, and while some people are hesitant or even resistant to talking with us, we continue to be impressed by how many greet us warmly, converse, thank us for our gift, and welcome our praying with them. Some are active Christian Church Members (like the woman who told us, "Oh, you're walking the walk"). Others clearly are not. But all have received a positive touch by Christians from a nearby church, and sometimes we are able to speak the Gospel to them. In the bag, along with the blanket, handwarmer, coupons and children's items, are a New Testament, a letter from Pastor Eckert, and two Gospel witness sheets. May God speak to some through these!

...Harold Oliver

2019 BY THE NUMBERS				
<u>AREA</u>	<u>Doorbells Rung**</u>	<u>Bags Delivered</u>	<u>People Prayed-with</u>	<u>Other Info</u>
Pine Creek @ Rice Ranch (homes)	89	43	16	Homes continuing to be built, occupied and visited by the Paynes.
Ridgecrest @ Bradley (homes, s. of church)	35	21	17	All homes built & called on. But not everyone visited, since we stop trying after 3 or 4 attempts.
Parke West (Apartments, s. of church)	174	64	40	Apartments continuing to be built, occupied and visited – Many yet to go.
The Reserves (homes at end of Cherry)	44	26	10	All homes built and most visited. Final attempts on last 4 will soon be made.
2019 TOTALS	342	155	83	
<u>Totals, Including 2018</u> Plus the 1 st 6 weeks of 2020	<u>435</u> + 54	<u>206</u> + 24	<u>107</u> + 16	** "Doorbells rung" refers to the number of times we attempted a visit, not the number of homes.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES



MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD

People of the Bible used many different instruments to worship God through music.

Directions: Using the clues, unscramble the names of instruments found in Psalm 150. Then write the circled letters in order in the spaces below to complete verse 6.

	A type of horn	___ _ _ _ _ □	MURTEP
	Played by King David	□ _ _ _ _	PRHA
	Plucked to make sound	_ □ _ _ _ _	IGSNSTR
	Similar to a tambourine	_ _ _ □ _ _	MRBELIT
	A type of harp	_ _ _ □	ELRY
	Blown through to make sound	_ _ □ _	EPPI
	A percussion instrument	_ _ _ _ □ _	YBLACMS

Le_ everyt_ing tha_ has _r_ath
_raise the _ORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Answer: trumpet, harp, strings, tamborel, lyre, pipe, cymbals; Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Joyful noise



Use your voice and this hand-crafted percussion instrument to make joyful noises to the Lord.

What you need:

- Dry beans (about one Tbsp)
- Plastic Easter egg
- 2 plastic spoons
- Masking tape
- Markers and stickers

What you do:

1. Place the beans inside the egg and snap it closed.
2. Set the egg in a spoon and cover it with the second spoon so the spoons are holding the egg.
3. Tape the spoons to the egg. Also wrap tape around the spoons from top to bottom to make a shaker handle.
4. Decorate your shaker and use it as you sing praises to God.
5. Experiment with sounds by filling other eggs with coins, rice, and so on.

Lutheran Church of Our Savior
4725 South Bradley Road
Santa Maria CA 93455



Our Mission

“Responding to God’s love, Lutheran Church of Our Savior desires to reach more people for Christ by proclaiming Him, by growing in faith, and by caring for all people.”



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship – 8:15 AM & 10:45 AM
Sunday School and Bible Class - 9:30 AM

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16