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Lutheran Church of Our Savior

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ELDERS' CORNER

**Have you heard that God's middle name is
"Coincidence"?**

Cheryl and I were listening to *Focus on the Family* and heard an interview with Lydia McGrew who wrote the book *Hidden in Plain View*. *Hidden in Plain View: Undesigned Coincidences in the Gospels and Acts* revives an argument for the historical reliability of the New Testament that has largely been neglected for more than a hundred years. An undesigned coincidence is an apparently casual, yet puzzle-like "fit" between two or more texts, and its best explanation is that the authors

COINCIDENCE



knew the truth about the events they describe or allude to. Connections of this kind among passages in the Gospels, as well as between Acts and the Pauline epistles, give us reason to believe that these documents

came from honest eyewitness sources, people "in the know" about the events they relate. Supported by careful research yet accessibly written, *Hidden in Plain View* provides solid evidence that all Christians can use to defend the Scriptures and the truth of Christianity.

There is an interesting example in Luke 22 and John 13 which describes Jesus eating with his disciples during the Passover. While the meal was still in progress, John records Jesus almost randomly getting up and washing his disciples' feet while teaching them to serve each other.

"The evening meal was in progress...so [Jesus] got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him." *John 13: 2-5 (NIV)*

While Luke includes the lesson about serving each other, Luke does not mention Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Rather, Luke includes a brief

account about how during the meal the disciples began to debate each other about who was the greatest. Notably, John does not include this detail.

"A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest." *Luke 22:24 (NIV)*

Combining these two accounts, we can infer that after the disciples bickered about who was the greatest, Jesus proceeds to teach them to serve one another and demonstrates this lesson by washing the disciples' feet. Wow! The story makes complete sense but only can be understood by combining the testimonies. Furthermore, this connection appears to be unplanned as both passages provide a fairly complete account of the Last Supper on their own.

I hope you find these as interesting as I do. The book is well written and has many more "coincidences" in its pages. ☼

**May Jesus bless you,
Rudy Stowell**

MARCH Birthdays

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 20	Adrian Vandegraaf
Mar 22	Alba Glasser
Mar 23	David Fabrizio
Mar 25	Noel Rowe
Mar 26	Heidi Summers
Mar 27	Paul Mattson
Mar 30	Phyllis Legg, Mark Wilcox

MARCH Anniversaries

Mar 28	George & Wilma Kennedy
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Mar 02	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Svc./Comm.
Mar 03	7:00 pm	Elders' Mtg.
Mar 06	8:30 am	Comm. Svc.
Mar 06	9:30 am	SS/Bible Study
Mar 06	10:30 am	Comm. Svc.
Mar 09	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship
Mar 13	2:00 am	Daylight Saving Begins
Mar 13	8:30 am	Worship Svc.
Mar 13	9:30 am	SS/Bible Study
Mar 13	10:30 am	Worship Svc.
Mar 15	9:00 am	Apr. Ministry Schedule Due
Mar 16	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship
Mar 17	7:00 pm	Council Mtg.
Mar 20	9:00 am	April Newsletter Deadline
Mar 20	8:30 am	Praise/Comm. Svc.
Mar 20	9:30 pm	SS/Bible Study
Mar 20	10:30 am	Praise/Comm. Svc.
Mar 20	3:00 pm	Singles' Event
Mar 23	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship
Mar 27	8:30 am	Worship Svc.
Mar 27	9:30 am	SS/Bible Study
Mar 27	10:30 am	Worship Svc.
Mar 30	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship

Don't forget the Singles Event on Sunday, March 20, at 3:00 PM in Stahnke Hall! As always, there will be fun and games, a chance to win a prize, and tempting and tasty snacks! Feel free to bring a friend. **RSVP to Anne at the church office (805-937-1116) or E-mail: licosoffice22@gmail.com.** ❁

**ALTAR GUILD & FLOWER SCHEDULE –
March**

Mar 2 – Ash Wednesday
7:00 PM – Connie Hathaway

Mar 6 – Communion
8:30 AM – Becky Zielke
10:30 AM – Caydee Eckert
Flowers: Lent

Mar 13 – 8:30 & 10:30 AM –
Flowers: Lent

Mar 20 – Communion
8:30 AM – Lori Williamson
10:30 AM – Marianne Heuchert
Flowers: Lent

Mar 27 – 8:30 & 10:30 AM –
Flowers: Lent



AshWednesday
March 2 – 7:00 p.m.
Worship Svc./Comm.
No Soup Suppers

Lent Worship – 7:00 p.m.

Mar 9 Mar 16
Mar 23 Mar 30 Apr 6

Maundy Thursday - April 14 - 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday - April 15 - 7:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE!

MOWING IN MARCH

**Mar 12 – Bill Williamson,
Arlyn Weiting**



Mar 26 – Reese Riddiough, Nathan Schofield

Larry Hoekman, author of Intentional Grandparenting with God's Vision will speak at Peace Lutheran Church, 244 North Oak Park Boulevard, Arroyo Grande, on **Saturday, March 12, at 10:00 AM**. Grandparents, parents, and all who love God's children are invited. Discover multiple ways to be more intentional, proactive, and purposeful as you interact with your own and others' children and grandchildren. ❁

GETTING WARMER RECEPTIONS & MORE & MORE NEW NEIGHBORS

After a 10-month hiatus due to Covid in 2020, we resumed our New Neighbor Welcoming mission in March of 2021. And after another pause at the end of 2021, we have been out visiting again in this new year. We have been finding more people home than prior to covid and receiving increasingly warm receptions.

Here are the “stats” for 2021 (and for 6 weeks of 2022)

Nights we went out*	30	5
Doorbells rung**	213	40
Conversations***	166	30
Gift Bags Delivered	148	30
People Prayed-with	87	19
Gospel Presentations	18	1

****See explanations at end of article.

I was fascinated to note the comparisons between 2021 and 2019 (the last full year before covid). In 2021 we rang 130 fewer doorbells but delivered nearly as many bags (148 in 2021 v. 155 in 2019). We were able to pray with *more* people (87 in 2021 v. 83 in 2019). And that upward trend has continued in 2022.

Our visits so far this year have received some of the most enthusiastic receptions in the four years of New Neighbor Outreach, and we were invited into homes four times in our five nights visiting. Most significant were two homes we visited where the people told us about serious issues in their lives, allowing us to pray with them. These visits really seemed like divine appointments. They reminded me of the woman last summer with a specific prayer request, who said we had come “at the perfect time.” We always ask God before starting out to lead us to someone who particularly needs our caring welcome and conversation.

While I seldom feel led to speak the Gospel explicitly, whenever we pray for people, that prayer includes asking that they will know the love and presence of the risen Lord Jesus in their lives. Many people we visit are clearly Christians. Often, we cannot be sure or even find obvious unbelief.

Expressions of appreciation for our visits have been common since we began in 2018. Of late, we have received even more frequent and

emphatic “thank you’s.” But we have also had two people return our gift bags, one with a strong statement of wanting to hear nothing about Jesus. HE told us we would encounter that.

While Ruth and I have made more than half of the visits since last March, we have been joined by a wonderful group of other team members: Danielle Tate, Bonnie Jo Lange, Tom & Debbie Heuchert, Erin Lange Bridges, Dawn Schofield, and – our newest team members – Becky Foley and Dave Block.

Throughout our four years, Donna Finlay has faithfully made up the gift bags for us to take out. We have new paper bags that are just right, provided by the Foleys. Since last fall, the bag includes a key ring with a leather inscription saying, “Jesus Cares,” or something similar, provided by Anita Lange. We are also now including a doggie treat in each bag.

Where are we visiting? We completed visiting everyone in the new apartments off Bradley in the fall and are expecting to resume visits there as soon as additional units are occupied. All other visitation has been in Rice Ranch, from the “Pine Creek” duplexes at the bottom of the hill, to the “Meadows” farther up, and the gated “Groves” at the top (gated to auto traffic, not to pedestrians). Additional homes are being built in the Meadows and Groves, and site preparation is underway for two new projects in that same area of Orcutt. We have given away 430 welcome bags since 2018, and our mission of welcoming new neighbors will be continuing for at least another year or two. ✨

><> **Harold Oliver, 2/18/22**

* A “night we went out” usually refers to a one 2-person team going out. When we had two teams out, I am still counting that as one night.

** “Doorbells rung” refers to each time we rang a bell. Some bells were rung 2, 3, or 4 times before finding someone home, or ceasing.

*** “Conversations” refers to conversations with people who did not want a bag or to conversations with people a 2nd or 3rd time after giving them a bag.

IT’S THAT TIME AGAIN



MARCH 13, 2022

Don’t forget to turn your clocks one hour ahead on Saturday night, March 12, so you’re on time for Sunday worship.

MARCH 2022
CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

DAY	TIME	ACOLYTE	ELDERS	LESSON READER	MUSIC... CHOIRS	SOUND SYSTEM	ALTAR GUILD/ FLOWERS
2 Ash Wednesday	7:00 pm Comm.		Tom Heuchert Jim LaBelle			Dennis Payne	
6 Sunday Communion	8:30 am		Art Atrops Todd Martin	Gary Lange		Ed Buchholz	Altar:
	10:30 am	Estelle Schofield	Mark Hathaway Rudy Stowell	Melanie Mayes		Chris Allen	No Flowers - Lent
9 Wednesday	7:00 pm		Dennis Payne			Terry Murdock	
13 Sunday Daylight Saving Begins	8:30 am	Emma Olney	Tom Heuchert	Terry Murdock		Karl DiModica	Altar:
	10:30 am		Jim LaBelle	Deborah Maddison		Diana Brown	No Flowers - Lent
16 Wednesday	7:00 pm		Art Atrops			Dennis Payne	
20 Praise Sunday Communion	8:30 am	Riley Olney	Todd Martin Mark Hathaway	Marjorie Hord	Praise Team	Terry Murdock	Altar:
	10:30 am		Rudy Stowell Dennis Payne	Brent Clavin	Praise Team	Michael Southern	No Flowers - Lent
23 Wednesday	7:00 pm		Tom Heuchert			Chris Allen	
27 Sunday	8:30 am		Jim LaBelle Art Atrops	Becky Zielke		Chad Thorstenson	Altar:
	10:30 am	Trevor Schofield	Mark Hathaway Todd Martin	Floyd Olson		Diana Brown	No Flowers - Lent
30 Wednesday	7:00 pm		Rudy Stowell			Ed Buchholz	
Please phone person (*) at right if you are unable to serve. >>>>>		ACOLYTES *Mark Hathaway 937-9675	ELDERS *Art Atrops 937-0485	READERS *Todd Martin 801-3873	CHOIRS <u>Sanctuary Choir</u> *Diana Brown 448-1990 <u>Praise Team</u> Jane Riddiough 937-5241	SOUND *Dennis Payne 934-1101	ALTAR GUILD *Connie Hathaway 937-9675 FLOWERS Connie Hathaway 937-9675 FLOWER MINISTRY Gary & Anita Lange 860-8522

**PLEASE ARRANGE FOR NECESSARY CHANGES WITH PERSON WHO OVERSEES YOUR MINISTRY;
INFORM CHURCH OFFICE ONLY AFTER CHANGES ARE MADE TO SCHEDULE – 937-1116**

March 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 7 PM – CC Chordsmen - SH	2 10-11:30 AM – Bible Study – Fireside Rm. 7 PM - Ash Wed./Comm. Svc.	3 7 PM – Elders’ Mtg.	4	5
6 8:30 AM – Comm. Svc. 9:30 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:30 AM – Comm. Svc.	7 7 – 8:30 PM – Ladies’ Bible Study	8 7 PM – CC Chordsmen - SH	9 7 PM – Lenten Worship	10	11	12 SET YOUR CLOCKS 1 HOUR AHEAD TONIGHT
13 2:00 AM – Daylight Saving Begins 8:30 AM – Worship Svc. 9:30 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:30 AM – Worship Svc.	14 7 – 8:30 PM – Ladies’ Bible Study	15 4 PM – P/S Bd. Mtg. 7 PM – CC Chordsmen - SH Ministry Schedule Deadline	16 7 PM – Lenten Worship	17 7 PM – Council Mtg.	18	19 Noon – 6 PM – SH in Use (Ganschow)
20 8:30 AM – Praise/Comm. Svc. 9:30 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:30 AM – Praise/Comm. Svc. 3:00 PM – Singles’ Event	21 9 AM – Newsletter Deadline 7 – 8:30 PM – Ladies’ Bible Study	22 7 PM – CC Chordsmen - SH	23 7 PM – Lenten Worship	24 6:30 PM – Sweet Adelines – SH	25	26
27 8:30 AM – Worship Svc. 9:30 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:30 AM – Worship Svc.	28 7 – 8:30 PM – Ladies’ Bible Study	29 7 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	30 7 PM – Lenten Worship	31		