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Allen Steinbeck, Intentional Interim Pastor

Lutheran Church of Our Savior

Volume 62 – Number 3

March 2024

FROM THE INTENTIONAL INTERIM PASTOR...

Dear People of God in Christ Jesus,

We are in the thick of the Season of Lent, celebrating God's intense and everlasting love for us in Jesus Christ our Lord. We have Places of the Passion yet to visit. Please join with us for the remainder of our Wednesday services at 7:00 p.m. with soup/bread/salad suppers at 6:00 p.m.

During Holy Week, we will continue walking with Jesus; Palm Sunday, March 24; Maundy Thursday, March 28; Good Friday, March 29; and Easter Sunday, March 31.

Identical Easter services with the Lord's Supper will be at 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. with Breakfast and an Easter Egg Hunt in between.

You have probably noticed that as our eyes remain fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, he keeps on connecting us to more people; some with strong connections to him, and others he is still now drawing to himself. That, dear friends, is why He has us here—to be His partners in the Gospel. In a recent meeting with some of Our Savior's leaders, I said: "When God continues to send us visitors, He is trusting that we know what to do with them. That is, receive them with open arms in Jesus' name."

Much more opportunity to welcome others in Jesus' name is coming our way very soon. Another way of saying that?



We anticipate being busy at the Baptismal Font in the days ahead. As one of my pastor-type friends likes to say, "Watch God work!"

I quoted the following words last month, shared them with you in a sermon on February 25, and they are worth taking to heart again:

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man

someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6-8)

That, dear friends, is Love to Share with our neighbors and their families, in Christ Jesus our Lord!

...Pastor Allen



- Mar 02 Jeremy Riley
Mar 04 Stephanie Clavin, Catherine Menendez, Carter Schofield
Mar 08 Ruth Oliver, Stefanie Vargas
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 Fabrizius
Mar 25 Noel Rowe
Mar 26 Heidi Summers
Mar 27 Paul Mattson
Mar 30 Phyllis Legg
Mar 31 John Pfingsten



- Mar 28 George & Wilma Kennedy

MOWING IN MARCH

- Mar 09 – Bill Williamson, Harold Oliver
Mar 23 – Bill Williamson, Arlin Weiting



Mar	03	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Mar	03	10:00 am	Comm. Svc.
Mar	05	Election Day (SH in Use)	
Mar	06	10:00 – 11:30 AM – Sm. Grp. Bible Study	
Mar	06	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
Mar	06	7:00 pm	Lent Worship
Mar	07	4:00 pm	Elders' Mtg.
Mar	10	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Mar	10	10:00 am	Worship Svc.
Mar	11	6:00 pm	Men's Group
Mar	13	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
Mar	13	7:00 pm	Lent Worship
Mar	15	9:00 am	Apr. Ministry Schedule Due
Mar	17	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Mar	17	10:00 am	Praise/Comm. Svc.
Mar	17	2:00 pm	Adult Fellowship
Mar	19	4:00 pm	P/S Board Mtg.
Mar	20	9:00 am	Apr. Newsletter Deadline
Mar	20	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
Mar	20	7:00 pm	Lenten Svc.
Mar	23	8:00 am – 1:00 pm – Spring Clean-Up	
Mar	24	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Mar	24	10:00 am	Palm Sunday
Mar	28	7:00 pm	Maundy Thurs. Comm. Svc.
Mar	29	7:00 pm	Good Friday Svc.
Mar	31	7:00 am	Easter Communion Svc.
Mar	31	8:00 am	Easter Breakfast
Mar	31	9:00 am	Easter Egg Hunt
Mar	31	10:00 am	Easter Communion Svc.

ELDER'S CORNER

Submission = Power

(Excerpted from *Cardinal Rules for a Happy Home* by Ed Young)

- 21 Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
- 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.
- 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

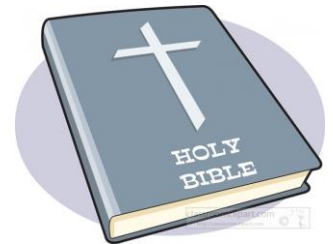
Ephesians 5:21-24 (ESV)

This passage may be one of the most abused scriptures in the Bible. It has been brandished like a

weapon by men. Even non-believing men seem to know this command. Often, the harsh or the ignorant meaning of this scripture is used against their wives instead of for their wives.

Going back to the beginning of creation helps enlighten us as to God's intent for marital roles. Genesis 2:18 says "The Lord God said, 'It is not good for man to be alone, so I will make a helper for him.'" So God's original idea was that the wife, the woman, would be the helper. Many women have decried that title. They often express indignation at being considered the sidekick or the assistant.

Let me clarify this. In the original language, the word that is used here for helper is also used later in the Bible to describe the Lord. This word describes God as *our helper and our shield, and our strength and our helper and our refuge*. Is it a slight or a put-down to describe God this way? Of course not!



Therefore, remember that the helper "arranges himself underneath" someone else to provide a benefit to that person. God comes underneath us to lift us above our circumstances with His power and protection. The wife arranges herself under her husband to use her power to help him in areas he is lacking

Women know with confidence that they were asked to submit as a helper, the very word used to describe God's characteristics, because they are in possession of unique attributes that "Adam" was created without.

Wives, pray to be a helpmate to your husband. Ask the Lord to increase your awareness that He is your helper. ✨

...Respectfully submitted, Rudy Stowell

ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP



Saturday, March 23, 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 (March 31). All are welcome to come and help. Please bring your own cleaning and/or gardening supplies.

Questions: Call Jane (805-937-5241). ✨

ALTAR GUILD & FLOWER SCHEDULE



MARCH

Mar 03 – Comm. Svc.

**10:00 AM – Set-Up – Lori Williamson
Take-Down – Becky Foley
Flowers: Lent**

Mar 10 – Worship Svc.

**10:00 AM – Stephanie Clavin
Flowers: Lent**

Mar 17 – Praise/Comm. Svc.

**10:00 AM – Set-Up – Becky Zielke
Take-Down – Susan Busbee**

Mar 24 – Palm Sunday

**10:00 AM – Kelly Olney
Flowers: Palms**

Mar 28 – Maundy Thurs. Comm. Svc.

**7:00 PM – Set-Up – Susan Wilcox
Take-Down – Sara Chaney**

Mar 29 – Good Friday Svc.

7:00 PM

Mar 31 – Easter

**7:00 AM & 10:00 AM - Communion Services
Set-Up – Peggy Payne
Take-Down – Connie Hathaway
Flowers: OPEN**

WE KEEP VISITING NEW NEIGHBORS WITH LOVE FROM THE LORD

We began welcoming neighbors in newly-built homes and apartments 5 years ago; and despite two very long pauses (due directly-or-indirectly to COVID), we have given away more than 500 welcome bags so far.

We continue to receive surprisingly warm receptions whenever a pair of us rings the doorbell of total strangers, holding a bag of gifts, with the boldly printed words, *“Welcome Neighbor.”* And, sometimes, people invite us in for conversations that may last from 15-45 minutes. About three-quarters of the people accept our offer to pray with them, always in the Name of Jesus. With a few, we are able to have good spiritual conversations and/or to share the Gospel of our Lord and Savior.

We had a long pause in visiting, October of 2022 through April of 2023, due to a major slow-down in the completion of new homes and apartments. Even since resuming visits this past May, the pace has been slower than in some earlier periods.

Our totals for 2023 were: 13 evenings or afternoons of visiting ... 77 doorbells rung ... 43 conversations 42 welcome bags with New Testaments and Gospel sheets given 31 people (or groups) prayed with and 6 Gospel presentations.

Our visiting teams have included Erin Bridges, Becky Foley, Brent and Noah Clavin, and Ruth and me. Donna Finlay continues to keep our bags filled with welcome gifts and materials.

We have pretty much completed visiting people in the Parke West Apartments along Bradley north of the church and await the completion of the Element Apartments just north of Skyway. Right now we are welcoming people into their new homes in Vintage Ranch and the Meadow View Duets in the Rice Ranch area of Orcutt. We will have about 25 more visits to make in those areas as homes are completed and occupied.

We will continue to have new apartments and homes to visit for years to come, including the 184 units of the Valley View Estates off Rice Ranch Road. The first 40 of these will start to be occupied this spring, and construction will continue over the next three to four years.



While Ruth and I are especially exhilarated often by our experiences and conversations with newcomers, other visits remind us of the spiritual desert in which many people live. There is a desperate need for the Holy Spirit to touch minds and hearts with the Gospel of Christ and with loving touches from us who belong to Christ. Erin's and my afternoon visits a few weeks ago confronted us with a number of such stark reminders.

Our new neighbor visits are designed to be primarily loving touches with direct Gospel witness offered only when we sense the Spirit opening the door for that. And our prayers for those we visit are offered up not only when we are talking with them, but afterward as well. While you do not know the individuals involved, your fervent prayers for our/your new neighbors would be a valuable part of our outreach effort. And you might also be moved to consider joining us in this adventure. I pray, too, for whatever other ways you have of sharing Jesus' love with people. ✨

In His Name ><> Pastor Oliver

FROM THE PASTORAL CALL COMMITTEE

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." (Ephesians 1:3). So glad we join together to praise God for heavenly gifts, and come together to praise God for earthly gifts, namely our Intentional Interim Pastor, Pastor Steinbeck, new preschool director, Heather Frias, and our faithful church leaders and elders. We also come together to encourage and "resist our enemy, the devil, who prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour, by standing firm in faith..." (1 Peter 5:8-9a), knowing God's plan and timing for our new pastor is best. In our waiting for a list of potential pastors from the district, we pray this is true in all of us: "A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is his glory to overlook an offense." (Proverbs 19:11). The Call Committee shares "...the peace of God that transcends all understanding, guard(ing) your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7) with you. ✨

SERVE SANTA MARIA!

Several LCOS members have joined in on this wonderful outreach to our community. Service projects include helping individuals with property improvement, school blacktop maps, park landscaping, and graffiti removal. (Last year we even participated in making beds for children.) For a look at the total projects that were tackled, check out: servesantamaria.com. Dates to save are **April 20, 2024, and August 24, 2024**. Keep posted for updates. If you are interested in blessing our local community with service or have a particular project interest, please contact Debra Mattson. ✨



Dream of going on safari? Visiting Africa?

Meeting our friends from Fikisha at their church in Nairobi, Kenya? Then let Paul and Lisa DiModica know of your interest. The

potential trip is planned for Spring 2025 for two (2) weeks and will include time with Fikisha, a safari, round-trip airfare, lodging, and food for approximately \$4000 based on airfare pricing. Text or talk with Paul and Lisa at 805-354-4443. ✨

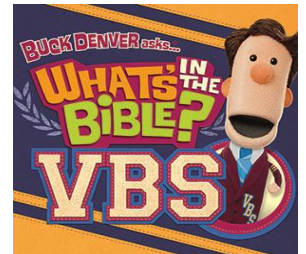
LWML UPDATE

Mites #15 and #16 have been funded. Our goal is 93% completed. Please continue to bring in your mites to finish this biennial mission grant goal by March 31. The LWML/CNH Convention will be held April 19-21 in Redding, CA where a vote will be taken for the next set of mission grants. Registration packets are available by contacting the LWML website or Anita Lange (805-937-6459). Thank you to all who attended the LWML meeting to decide distribution of the annual yard sale proceeds. Five charities were designated and each received \$265.00. ✨

SAVE THE DATE!

VBS is coming to our church on June 12-16, 2024! It will be for families from **6:00 PM to 8:30 PM** on **Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings**, then worshipping together at

church on Sunday, Father's Day! Dinner will be served from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM and the program from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM for those four evenings. For more information and to help facilitate the operation, contact Lisa DiModica at 805-354-4443. ✨



TRANSFORMED

Before becoming a Christian late in life, British journalist Malcolm Muggeridge denied that Jesus was God's Son and had risen from the dead. If Jesus' body was missing, he said, someone probably snatched it and abandoned it to the vultures, leaving the bones to whiten in the sun.

For Muggeridge, the turning point was encountering a living Lord. "If you should ask me by what authority I talk about the power of Christ to change human nature, I should reply to you simply ... because he has changed me," Muggeridge said after discarding agnosticism. "I can look anybody in the face today — my friends, my colleagues and what, perhaps, is most difficult of all, the members of my family — and be sure that they know, as I know, that I am really and literally a new creature in Christ Jesus since the day when he came into my life." ✨

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

CELEBRATE EASTER WITH FLOWERS

Celebrating the Resurrection with Flowers

An Easter cross will be displayed outside in the terrace Easter morning. You are asked to decorate this cross with fresh flowers from your garden. Make sure the stems are long enough to insert into the wire and remain on the cross. Please bring your flowers Easter morning (March 31) for this traditional beautiful symbol of the Resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. ❁



EASTER LILIES

Ten (10) Easter lilies will be available this year. Traditionally, these are purchased in memory of a loved one or for blessings received. **Cost: \$12.00** Make checks payable to: LCOS (with "Altar Guild" on memo line). *Plants may be picked up after late service on Easter Sunday.* Please call Anne at the Church Office (805-937-1116) to reserve your plant(s). **First come—first served!!** ❁

Bible Quiz

The "Christ hymn" in Philippians 2 proclaims that after Jesus humbled himself even to the point of death, God exalted him, and that eventually all will worship him. What two body parts are named as part of that worship?

- A. knee; tongue
- B. hands; feet
- C. arms; lips
- D. heart; mouth



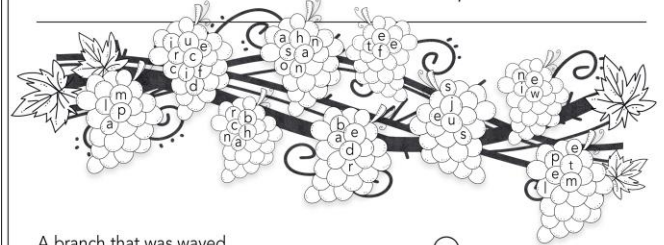
Answer: A (See Philippians 2:10-11.)





A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.



- A branch that was waved _____○
- How Jesus was put to death _____○_____
- A stick attached to the vine _____○_____
- People shouted this to Jesus _____○_____
- Jesus washed these _____○_____ 
- This was broken and eaten _____○_____
- The Messiah _____○_____ 
- A drink from grapes _____○_____
- Jesus drove the money changers from here _____○_____

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear _____; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5, NIV

Answer: palm, crucified, branch, hosanna, feet, bread, Jesus, wine, temple; much fruit

Lenten Services – Wednesdays – 7:00 PM
Soup Suppers – 6:00 PM

Mar 6 Mar 13 Mar 20

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday – March 28 – 7:00 PM
(Communion Service)

Good Friday – March 29 – 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday – March 31

7:00 AM & 10:00 AM – Communion Services
8:00 AM – Easter Breakfast
9:00 AM – Easter Egg Hunt

MARCH 2024

CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

DAY	TIME	ACOLYTE	ELDERS	USHERS	LESSON READER	SOUND SYSTEM	ALTAR GUILD/ FLOWERS
3 Sunday	10:00 am Comm.	Emma Olney	Dennis Payne Rudy Stowell	Paul Mattson	Floyd Olson	Ed Buchholz	Altar: Lori Williamson (Set-Up) Becky Foley (Take-Down) Flowers: Lent
6 Wednesday	7:00 pm		Dennis Payne			Diana Brown	
10 Sunday	10:00 am	Elder	Todd Martin	Diana Brown	Marjorie Hord	Estelle Schofield	Altar: Stehanie Clavin Flowers: Lent
13 Wednesday	7:00 pm		Tom Heuchert			Terry Murdock	
17 Praise Sunday	10:00 am Comm.	Riley Olney	Art Atrops Rudy Stowell	Jim LaBelle	Lucas Mayes	Chad Thorstenson	Altar: Becky Zielke (Set-Up) Susan Busbee (Take-Down) Flowers: Lent
20 Wednesday	7:00 pm		Mark Hathaway			Ed Buchholz	
24 Palm Sunday	10:00 am	Elder	Todd Martin	Mike Foley	Lisa DiModica	Estelle Schofield	Altar: Kelly Olney Flowers: Palms
28 Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm Comm.	Ali Mayes	Art Atrops Tom Heuchert	Paul Mattson	Michael Southern	Chad Thorstenson	Altar: Susan Wilcox (Set-Up) Sara Chaney (Take-Down)
29 Good Friday	7:00 pm	Elder	Mark Hathaway	Bill Williamson	Debbie Heuchert	Diana Brown	
31 Easter Sunday	7:00 am Comm.	Elder	Mark Hathaway Todd Martin	Jim LaBelle	Becky Zielke	Terry Murdock	Altar: Peggy Payne (Set-Up) Connie Hathaway (Take-Down)
	10:00 am Comm.	Elder	Art Atrops Rudy Stowell	Michael Southern	Melanie Mayes	Chad Thorstenson	Flowers: OPEN
Please phone person* at right if you are unable to serve>>>>>		ACOLYTES *Mark Hathaway 937-9675	ELDERS *Tom Heuchert 934-1051	USHERS *Art Atrops 937-0485	READERS *Todd Martin 801-3873	SOUND *Dennis Payne 934-1101	ALTAR GUILD & FLOWERS Connie Hathaway 937-9675 FLOWER MINISTRY Gary & Anita Lange (805) 680-8522

1. PLEASE ARRANGE FOR ANY CHANGE(S) BY TRADING WITH ANOTHER MINISTER.
2. PLEASE NOTIFY THE PERSON WHO OVERSEES YOUR ASSIGNMENT OF ANY CHANGE(S).
3. INFORM CHURCH OFFICE ONLY AFTER CHANGE(S) IS/ARE MADE TO SCHEDULE – 937-1116

MARCH 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2 Noon – 9:00 PM – SH in Use (Ganschow)
3 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Comm. Svc.	4 2:00 – 6:00 PM – Elections Set- Up (SH in Use) 4:00 pm – New Members' Class	5 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM – Elections (SH in Use) 7:00 PM – CCC - Sanctuary	6 10-11:30 AM – Sm. Grp. Bible Study 6:00 PM – Soup Supper 7:00 PM – Lent Svc.	7 4:00 PM – Elders' Mtg	8 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM - SH in Use (Brown)	9
10 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Worship Svc.	11 6:00 – 8:00 PM Men's Group	12 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	13 6:00 PM – Soup Supper 7:00 PM – Lent Svc.	14	15 April Ministry Availability Due	16
17 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Praise/Comm. Svc. 2:00 PM – Adult Fellowship (families)	18	19 4:00 PM – P/S Board Mtg. 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	20 9:00 AM – April Newsletter Deadline 6:00 PM – Soup Supper 7:00 PM – Lent Svc.	21	22 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Sanctuary & SH in Use (Daniels)	23 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM – Spring Clean-Up
24 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Palm Sunday Svc. 11:00 AM – Council Mtg	25	26 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	27	28 7:00 PM – Maundy Thursday – Comm. Svc.	29 7:00 PM – Good Friday Svc.	30
31 EASTER 7:00 AM – Comm Svc. 8:00 AM – Breakfast 9:00 AM – Egg Hunt 10:00 AM – Comm. Svc.						