



The Messenger

Our Savior Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Paradise, California

May 2017

Here to Stay



We hear of surveys and studies that reveal church attendance is down across the country and that the newest generation finds no interest in attending, much less joining a local congregation. A panic might set in that maybe the church is failing. Maybe, just maybe, that this shift in the demographics is a piece of the end times puzzle that is revealing Jesus is closer than ever to His triumphant return. Then we might look closer to home and wonder what we have done wrong that the church has lost its standing in the local community, that the truths that we hold so dear and so valuable, are dismissed as the newest form of prejudice and just another reason the general public doesn't and won't believe in God.

Shortly after Jesus ascended to sit at the right hand of God and the Jewish leaders breathed a sigh of relief that the biggest threat to the kingdom they had built was gone, Peter and the disciples picked up where Jesus left off and were healing, teaching and baptizing in the Name that simply won't go away.

³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!"

Gamaliel was one hundred percent right because if Jesus was from God then His name would remain. His point was that people come and people go. Ideologies and opinions change with the seasons. If the disciples were teaching their own truths, if they were stirring up the people with rhetoric or propaganda, their movement would die with them. However, if what they were doing was being moved by God, no one would be able to stop them. Not the Jewish leaders, not the Romans and surely Satan would be no match for the power of God.

There seems to be so much uncertainty in the world today. So much of the current "wisdom" that is being peddled on the internet and on TV is based on nothing more than popular opinion. While this demonstrates that the true church has fallen out of favor with the new temporal powers that be, it will be eventually revealed for what the temporal powers truly are, temporary.

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Pastor

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The Church is here to stay. It will stand against the winds of ignorance and of self-centeredness and the constant crashing waves of sinful rebellion because God's Church is built upon the fulfilled promise of God. Jesus Christ Himself is the cornerstone and nothing of this temporary world will prevail against the kingdom which has no end. What this means today is that we can live for God and serve him with confidence and with a joy that comes from knowing the victory already belongs to the One we are serving.

Pastor Brandon



We have definitely had our share of April showers and the beautiful May flowers are blooming. The children in our Day Care have been having a great time planting their garden in the wonderful garden boxes that have been built for them. They have planted carrots, tomatoes, beans, onions and mint. There are plans for some other items but as of right now I am not sure what they are.

The children had a wonderful time learning about how Jesus died for their sins and have learned the true Easter story.

All of the classes had much fun doing egg hunts and Easter parties as well. Each child had a basket to take home with hunted eggs in them.



rightnow MEDIA

This month I want to recommend a series from Tim Mackie called Read Scripture Series. Tim and his team go through every book of the Bible and give a summary of the book and the role it plays in God's plan of salvation for His people. We have been using these short (8 – 10 minutes) videos as we read through the Scriptures. He explains what is happening in that particular book through comic style pictures and telling God's story at the same time. This series is meant to supplement reading the Bible and not take the place of it. So, if you are interested in an aid that will help you better understand what you are reading as you thumb through the pages of the greatest book ever written, than this is a perfect video series for you.

We have approximately six weeks before school is out and the children are looking forward to summer vacation. This year we will be losing two of our students we have had since they were three years old. They have aged out of our program and will be going to middle school in the fall. We will miss them a lot. A big congratulation goes to Parker and Casey and best wishes for everything you do in the future!

We all have so much to be thankful for and I pray everyone had a blessed Easter this year.

In Christ,

Miss Cheryl

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 4th is the National Day of Prayer. This is an opportunity for people across the country to pray for our nation as a whole. The theme this year is **For Your Great Name's Sake!**



Hear Us... Forgive Us...Heal Us! The theme is based on Daniel 9:19: "O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name."

We encourage all who can to take a few moments to use the time for prayer for our country, our schools, for our military, for media, for parents and children, for the church, for government officials and workers. The Bible tells us that God is always ready to hear our prayers.

We have some take home material that has prayer suggestions and the actual names of our state and national leaders.

April Townhall Meeting Recap

On Sunday, April 23rd the congregation met to discuss: 1) where we are in the process of changing one of our services and 2) the possibility of an electronic sign replacing our existing sign along Pentz Rd.

- 1) On Sunday April 2nd and April 23rd, we used two different service formats. Our early service used the Creative Worship which we have been using for the last year and our late service was led by the Divine Service setting IV. Moving forward the 8:00am service will be using Concordia Publishing House's Creative Worship. We are currently interviewing potential pianists that would lead the music for this service. It was noted in the meeting that we have a wonderful candidate who would fit well in our congregation for this position and are awaiting word on her availability to complete the interview process. In the meantime, Doris will continue to play the hymns with the organ. The 10:30am service will be using the Divine

Service settings found in the Lutheran Service Book, but we will continue to print the service in a bulletin. Doris will continue to serve as our organist for this service.

- 2) The general consensus of those who attended the meeting was that we should explore the option of an electronic sign. Some of the reasons for doing so were: 1) the ease of changing the sign (especially when it is raining or 100 degrees outside. 2) The effectiveness of having multiple messages which would be a tremendous opportunity to advertise specific Bible studies and Sunday service themes. 3) An electronic sign would help convey the message that Our Savior Lutheran is active and attuned to our current culture.

It was noted in the meeting that the sign would cost somewhere between \$25,000 and \$38,000. Because of the recent expenses of a new roof, septic tanks and upgrades to our pre-school yard, the council is suggesting that we fundraise a percentage of the money needed and use our reserves for the remaining balance. The council will form a motion for our next voters meeting with options of specific plans and costs to be voted on by the congregation.

Since this is a large undertaking, the support of the congregation is important. The church council welcomes any comments you may have prior to moving forward with this. Our council officers are: Marc Grosso, President; Caroll Gullickson, Vice President; Roger Klaves, Secretary; Anita Towslee, Treasurer; Cyndi Eiler, Financial Secretary; John Hantelman, Board of Elders; Don Zimmer, Board of Trustees and Pastor Brandon.





Greetings from the Phebians

Two for one

Pastor Brandon graciously led us in a Bible Study during our last meeting on April 3rd about the worker in the vineyard from Matthew 20. Dorella Troup, director of "House of Redeeming Love" was our guest speaker. Her mission is to restore precious women's lives through the healing love of Christ. She is a woman on a mission with God holding her hand. Dorella believes that she is called to continue her mission in the Paradise area. Finding and purchasing a place to implement her plan is foremost on her mind. You can find "House of Redeeming Love" on Facebook and YouTube.

Eight ladies were present for our meeting and were served a light lunch by Wendy Merrick. A few of the ladies were vacationing, so our attendance should go up next month.

Our Human Care ingathering is for our day care and the teachers. Each month we have a human care project, that oftentimes corresponds with the speaker for the meeting. A plastic bin is in the kitchen for you to place your ingathering items.

Our next meeting will be May 1 and Jennifer from Feather Canyon will be our guest speaker.



Praise God that enough Mites were raised to fund all of the mission projects for the national LWML. Our District's current project is "Gospel Hand VBS for Deaf Children". This is project #8 of 16 projects for the 2016-2018 biennium.

Remember to check the bulletin board in Luther Hall for current information.



We have three new Bible studies beginning this week.

The Gospel of Luke



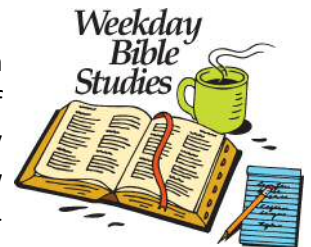
The study of the *Gospel of Luke* is to begin Thursday, May 4th at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Larry and Jacque Bonesio. Their home is in Magalia and you may call them at 873-3340 for directions. This is a great time to start and it will be an interesting study. Everyone is welcome.

How to Read the Bible

On Sunday, April 30th a five-week study will begin at 9:15 in Luther Hall. Pastor Brandon will lead "How to Read the Bible", a church wide study focusing on how to read and understand God's Word for yourself. The regular Sunday morning classes will be on recess so that everyone will be able to attend. This is held between services, so grab a cup of coffee and join us.

Revelation

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the book of Revelation? The Wednesday morning class will begin a new study on May 3rd from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in Luther Hall.



May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:30 Phebians	2 5:00 Small Group 6:00 Church Council	3 9:30 Bible Study 7:00 Choir	4 10:00 In Home Bible Study	5	6
7	8 9:30 Large Print	9 9:30 Large Print 5:00 Small Group	10 9:30 Bible Study 7:00 Choir	11 10:00 In Home Bible Study 6:00 Girl Scouts	12	13
14	15	16 5:00 Small Group	17 9:30 Bible Study 7:00 Choir	18 10:00 In Home Bible Study	19	20
21	22	23 5:00 Small Group	24 9:30 Bible Study 7:00 Choir	25 10:00 In Home Bible Study 4:00 Bd-Outreach 5:00 Bd-Education 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Bd-Elders	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day Church Office & Day Care Closed	30 5:00 Small Group	31 9:30 Bible Study 7:00 Choir	<i>Our Savior Lutheran Church</i> 6404 Pentz Road Paradise, CA 95969 530-877-7321		

May 2017

Happy May Birthday to:

Al Coulon	5/2
Mark Tiedemann	5/3
Brian Ewing	5/5
Doug Houston	5/6
Kevin Mathistad	5/7
Michael Kemp	5/8
Judy Klaves	5/16
Isabelle Bergstrom	5/21
Penny Steinecke	5/22
Gladys Miller	5/23
Marilyn Price	5/27
Lorraine Weimer	5/27
Glenda Ott	5/28
Larry Bonesio	5/30



Elders:	5/14	John Hantelman
	5/28	Lee Bess and Dan Hall
Ushers:		
May 7:	8:00	Mike and Tammy Lange
	10:30	Curtis & Ryan Eiler
May 14:	8:00	Mike Diefenderfer and Ernie Weber
	10:30	Larry and Jacque Bonesio
May 21:	8:00	Ken Scott
	10:30	Jason Berg, Carl Johnson and Karen Mueller
May 28:	8:00	John Diefenderfer and Don Long
	10:30	Carl & Linda Johnson

Altar Guild: Hilary Fleischmann, Kerry Hall and Tammy Lange

Happy May Anniversary to:

Michael♥Bobbi Kemp	5/3
3 years together	
Ron♥Karen Moras	5/30
41 years together	
Don♥Cindy Long	5/31
37 years together	

