



# The Messenger

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

April 2015



## The Pastor's Pen

**Rev. Brandon  
Merrick  
Pastor**

**Cheryl Mock**  
Day Care Director

**Jean Orsborn**  
Office Manager

**Marc Grosso**  
President

**John Hantelman**  
Chairman Board of Elders

**Esther Tiedemann**  
Choir Director

**Doris Bardon**  
Organist

**Church Address:**  
6404 Pentz Road  
Paradise, CA. 95969

**Church Phone:**  
530-877-7321

**Pastor Cell Phone**  
530-240-5133

**E-mail:**  
oslcparadise@comcast.net

**FAX**  
530-877-4447

[lutheranoursaviorchurch.org](http://lutheranoursaviorchurch.org)

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts."

*1 Cor. 12:27-31a*

What a beautiful mural Paul paints of the dysfunctional people of the church in Corinth. From what we can tell from the rest of Paul's two letters, these people had their share of issues. He systematically addresses at least some of the situations in the front of his letter and then gets to the root of the solution. What we read in the above verses is a simple yet profound truth that I believe is necessary to keep in the front of our minds when we serve God through our congregation here at Our Savior Lutheran.

We all read this and understand that we are part of something bigger and we have certain gifts and roles within the church. But what we cannot miss is Paul's first sentence. "Now you are the body and individual members of it." If I am reading this correctly, Paul is saying that you (in the Greek this is plural, as in "you all") are the body of Christ meaning that we collectively have an identity which is bound, crucified and resurrected with Jesus. On Sundays, we gather as a family of adopted children of God, receiving the gifts that Christ has earned and giving thanks and praise because we who were once without a Father now have the nicest, most patient and loving Father we could ever hope for.

We are also individual members of God's family and have been asked by our Dad, to serve and love one another as He does. We share in the blessing of having a family and the responsibility of maintaining it.

\*\*\*Lutheran Disclaimer\*\*\* This does not mean that we are responsible for people coming into God's family or for the faith of the people in it. Only the Holy Spirit working through the faith we have been given by God draws us to the cross where we are made righteous through the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

What this does mean, according to Paul, is that we are all members of the family, the body of Christ. What binds us together is our faith in the person and work of Jesus who calls and gathers us together to worship and live together, our hope in the promises of God fulfilled in Jesus on the cross and love that desires to serve God and our neighbor.

(Continued on page 2)

We all want to serve God through His Church. We all have gifts and passions and God uses those to better His Kingdom. The problem comes when those gifts and passions come into conflict with one another. You know what I mean. We are different. We have different ideas and different approaches and different motives. This is a good thing for our family here at Our Savior. There are a lot of people to reach and there is no one way to do that.

This however, requires us to work together. The people of Corinth had the same issues. Paul points to the human bonding agent better known as love. Take a look at 1 Cor. 13 and ponder over the way God loves you. This is self-sacrificing love. This is keeping no record of wrongs love. This is the only way that conservatives, liberals, outspoken, introverted, experienced, naïve, stubborn and sometimes arrogant people can come together to serve God by serving others.

So the next time someone does something at church that really chaps your hide, take a look at 1 Cor. 13 and know that you are being called to a higher purpose than being in the right. We are the body of Christ. Let us rejoice in the mercy of God and serve Him through unconditionally loving each other.

### Thank you

Last year we were able to assist prisoners by providing them with new shoes. Although we have previously shared thank you's with you before, we wanted to include another one which was recently received. By supporting our KISS mission fund, you have made these gifts possible.

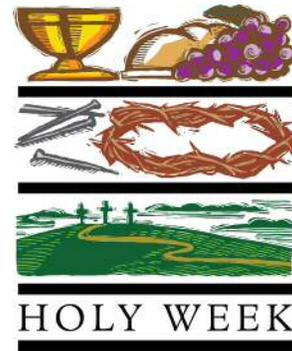
"Greetings,

I want to thank you for the gift that you have sent me in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I thank the Lord for his mercy and grace that he has poured upon my life and lift up your church for helping us brothers that are here in prison. I pray that God will bless you abundantly and that wherever you set your foot that God will give you that land. I can not find all the words to describe how thankful I am—I praise God. Amen. So again I thank you and all who have made this possible. Amen

Matt. 25:34-40 God bless you.

Sincerely,

Brother Peter."



## Services

### Maundy Thursday, April 2

7:00 p.m.

### Good Friday, April 3

7:00 p.m.

## EASTER

Sunday, April 5

8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services

Breakfast between services

Easter Egg Hunt



## FAMILY IN FOCUS

### A Family Perspective

“Parenthood is like being pecked to death by chickens.” I read this quote somewhere and it made me both laugh and cry (because I couldn’t stop laughing.) As a dad I can’t think of a truer statement. And while I know from experience that parenting can be terribly frustrating and thankless at times, parenting is a gift and an opportunity to experience an unconditional love for the first time ever that is found nowhere else... or is it?

“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

I have spent countless hours trying to describe how exactly the message of the Bible relates to us as we sit in our cars on Tuesday mornings. I have ventured into things like philosophy, apologetics (defending the truth of Scripture, not, apologizing for it) and have even tried the purpose-driven stuff to apply the truths of the Bible to our everyday life. That is until one day when my son asked me, “Dad, why do we call God, our Father?” It was like walking into a perfectly cleaned sliding glass door while running to get the Windex. In my search to unite life with the black and white pages of God’s Word, I was overlooking that God had already done it for us. Huh, that God... He is a tricky one!

The Bible calls God our **Father** in Heaven (Matt. 18:14). The Bible describes the Church as the **bride** of Christ (2 Cor. 11:2) and the people in the church a **family** of God (1 Pet 4:17). Jesus spoke in parables (earthly stories revealing a divine truth) so that His listeners would not need a PhD in the Bible to know what He was saying. In other words, the Bible was written for all people.

The author of Hebrews declares, “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart (4:11).” The Bible gives us heavenly perspective so that we can see the world and people in it differently than when we use only our own observations. Therefore I can know of God’s love for me intellectually because of the Bible, but I also feel His love for me as my Father in Heaven, as I begin to understand His patience and mercy for me, as I deal with my own children. This is what I believe is meant by God’s Word being living and active.



In other words, the simple act of reading the Bible will change you just as being a father, or mother, or son, or daughter or friend will change you even if you don’t want it to. Being a part of a family is a wonderful and frustrating thing. Being a part of a church family is too. But at the center of it all stands God who is forever changing us through the relationships we have.



Our Pre-School and after school programs are both thriving. The school age children are enjoying their Easter break. Miss Susan and Miss Lois’s class have made their “Resurrection Eggs”, and have taken them home to share with their family and friends.

The children have all made Easter bags that have been filled with Easter goodies. The “Busy Beavers” helped the pre-school children color eggs, so each child was able to take home hard boiled eggs as well as eggs filled with candy. Of course, they had to find those eggs in the great Easter egg hunt. We again were able to purchase an Arch book about Easter for each of the children’s Easter bags. A big “Thank You” goes out to our generous members for this donation.



We would like to welcome Chelsea to our wonderful group of teachers. She has joined us as an aide in the afternoon pre-school class. Chelsea is going to school and looking forward to getting her six months experience in so she can be a full teacher. We would like to congratulate Miss Suzette, who has stepped up as the afternoon Assistant Director. We have one more teacher potentially coming in to our group who will be with our Kindergarten children on a daily basis, however we are waiting for paper work. Please pray for our teachers that we would teach, love, and guide our little ones in God’s word the way He would want us to do.

♡ in Christ,  
Miss Cheryl



The Phebian meeting was held on March 2. Cyndi Eiler opened the meeting in the name of our Triune God. Cyndi Eiler shared a devotion "Pears, Pears, Everywhere" based on John 15:5.

A reminder that the Zone 12 spring rally is coming up on May 16<sup>th</sup> in Chico.

Human Care for the month of March is the Fridays for Lunch Program.

The guest speaker was Wendy Merrick who shared her story of how God has worked in her life to bring her to where she is now.

On March 8<sup>th</sup> a baby shower was held for Bobbie Kemp.

CNH Mission Grant Update: The first 8 mission grants have funded. We are now working on #9 which is *Helping Hands: Reaching out to families with free clothes and Christian children's books*, Trinity Lutheran in Redding. Even if you can't attend meetings you can help with the mission work by bringing your mites to any Phebian officer.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:00. The guest speaker will be the Paradise Chief of Police. Lunch will be served.

Cyndi Eiler, President

### Easter Morning Breakfast

Join us on Easter morning between services for our Easter breakfast. We will have strata, muffins, fruit and yogurt. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship as we celebrate Easter. Thank you in advance to all of the people who are making this possible. We thank those who are cooking, setting up and cleaning up. None of this would be possible without you.



## TIMOTHY HALL

It has been slow going for the renovation of Timothy Hall, but we have been doing things the right way and are getting closer to completion. For those who haven't seen it or heard, we have been giving Timothy Hall a "Youth House" make-over. We started by removing just about everything we could get our hammers on from the carpet to the cabinets to the sinks and hired the best in the business to retexture and paint the interior. We will then be installing all new flooring and cabinets and fixtures.

Some have asked what the plans are for Timothy Hall so I thought I would answer in this article. I believe the "Youth House" would better serve our needs as a "Family House" and will serve as a comfortable, casual setting for family ministry as well as youth ministry. We are going to be hosting family movie nights, family game nights at Timothy Hall as well as youth activities such as Sunday School and small group studies. It can also serve outreach opportunities such as girl scouts and youth groups. In short, we want to better utilize Timothy Hall in a way that blesses God's ministry as we continue to serve Him here at Our Savior.

When Timothy Hall is finished (or at least mostly finished) we will have an open house which will include both Timothy Hall and the parsonage. As we get closer we will set a date, but we are planning to have the open houses after church on a Sunday in between the services during the Sunday school hour. If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to talk (or email) me.

Pastor  
Brandon



# April 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Our Savior Lutheran Church</b> 6404 Pentz Road Paradise, CA 95969 530-877-7321			1	2	3	4
				10:00 In Home Bible Study 5:00 Choir Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. Service	Good Friday 7:00 p.m. Service	9:00 a.m. Easter Set-up
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Happy Easter				10:00 In Home Bible Study 5:00 Choir 6:00 Girl Scouts		noon - Phebian
		6:00 Church Council	9:30 Bible Study			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			9:30 Bible Study	10:00 In Home Bible Study 5:00 Choir 6:00 Girl Scouts		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Quarterly Blood Pressure Screening	9:30 Large Print Workshop	9:30 Large Print Workshop	9:30 Bible Study	10:00 In Home Bible Study 5:00 Choir 6:00 Girl Scouts		
26	27	28	29	30		
			9:30 Bible Study	10:00 In Home Bible Study 4:30 Bd-Outreach 5:00 Choir 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Bd-Elders		

# April 2015

## Happy April Birthday to:

Michael Diefenderfer	4/1
Al Rubke	4/2
Evelyn Tranmer	4/2
Hilary Fleischmann	4/7
David Williams	4/8
John Diefenderfer	4/9
Brian Eiler	4/9
Nanette Morgan	4/9
Mike Kemp	4/10
Suzette Mathistad	4/10
Jeanne David	4/12
Linda Johnson	4/14
Arlie Joksch	4/14
Michael Diefenderfer	4/20
Ellen Goetz	4/24
Ruth Hantelman	4/24
Doris Zimmer	4/24
Jean Orsborn	4/28

If your birthday or anniversary has been inadvertently omitted, please let the office know.

<b>Elders:</b>	4/12	John Hantelman and Dan Hall
	4/26	Lee Bess and Carl Johnson
<b>Ushers:</b>		
April 5:	8:00	Lee Bess, Mike Kemp and Mike Lange
	10:30	Curtis & Ryan Eiler
April 12:	8:00	Ernie Weber
	10:30	Larry & Jacque Bonesio
April 19:	8:00	Ken Scott and Bob Steinecke
	10:30	Jason Berg, Carl Johnson and Karen Mueller
April 26:	8:00	John and Mike Diefenderfer, Chris and Don Long
	10:30	Dan and Kerry Hall, Del Wade
<b>Acolytes:</b>		
April 5:	8:00	Jacob Abel
	10:30	Hollyn Merrick
April 12:	8:00	Jacob Abel
	10:30	Katelyn Merrick
April 19:	8:00	Jacob Abel
	10:30	Jackson Merrick
April 26:	8:00	Jacob Abel
	10:30	Chris Hall
<b>Altar Guild:</b>		Mickey Fisher and Sharon Kemp

## Happy April Anniversary to:

Larry♥Jacque Bonesio	4/4	Arlie♥Judy Joksch	4/15
	50 years together		54 years together
Bob♥Bev Hallstrom	4/7	Herb♥Glenda Ott	4/22
	11 years together		43 years together