

CROSS CURRENTS

March/April 2013

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Matthew 18:1-14

“Woe to the world for temptations to sin!” Mt. 18:7

Jesus says that temptations must come. We have seen the reason. There is a tempter, a power that is an enemy of God, that upset the will of man.

Because of this, Jesus now says, Woe to the world! It’s a question of an unfortunate result, something destructive and infinitely tragic. The word *temptation* means the same as *stumbling block* in Greek. For example, when Jesus said to Peter, “You are a hindrance to Me” (Mt. 16:23), it really meant a trap or snare or, more precisely, the part of the trap that causes it to spring and catch its victim at the critical moment. Temptation traps a person, beats him to the ground and destroys him.

The tempter does not come from God. The apostle James wrote, “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and He Himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by His own desire” (Js. 1:13-14). Here James means the sinful corruption inside us all. This doesn’t come from God either. It’s the tempter’s dirty fingerprints, the mark he left on our very nature. It’s an inborn selfishness that appears obvious and natural to us. That’s why the tempter always finds our support in something that dwells inside of us. That’s why it’s so easy for him to recruit accomplices among us. Jesus’ words are just that much more serious when He said, “Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes” (Mt. 18:7)! And, “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea” (Mt. 18:6). It’s not our Heavenly Father’s will that single one of us should be lost. Yet many are lost. Woe to the world for temptations sake!

Lord, it isn't me, is it? I know that it very well could be. If You didn't hold Your protecting hand over me, I would be handed over to all the evil powers that confront me every day and that have a foothold in my heart. So I pray that You take charge there. You alone can keep the old Adam in me in chains. Whatever else happens, Lord, prevent me from being an evil power, and example of destruction, a reason for others to abandon You and accept what is evil. If something wants to destroy me, then put Your hand on it, and make me willing to leave it alone no matter how much I cherish it. You are my eternal hope. You know that Lord.

This devotion is from a book published by Concordia Publishing House entitled: *To Live with Christ, 2008, by Bo Giertz (Lutheran pastor 1905-1998)*. The daily readings and devotions move according to the cadence of the Church Year (readings on Sunday), present the truth that Christ is the Saviour, its thoroughly biblical, consistently centered in



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 — Oliver Kenagy
- 5 — Jenny Fay
- 8 — Geri Daughtery
- 9 — Justin Morris
- 14 — Michael DiBella
- 16 — Delores Zegestosky
- 20 — Alan Peterson
- 20 — Bob Salchow
- 27 — Charles Cheek
- 29 — JoAnn Pomo
- 31 — Lana Brannon



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 — Carole Bucker
- 2 — Noah Niehouse
- 3 — Christina Kolander
- 4 — John Detviler
- 4 — Michelle Gerock
- 5 — Sandra Brannon
- 6 — Dot Mericle
- 6 — Nathaniel Rosenblatt
- 9 — Erla Cloer
- 10 — Lois Salchow
- 12 — Anna Mevis
- 13 — Dorothy Wilkes
- 19 — Dave Anderson
- 19 — Christian Kyle
- 21 — Jude Morris
- 25 — Jaclyn Anderson
- 25 — Jerry Davidson
- 28 — Ben Casey
- 28 — Betty Leonhart
- 29 — Dorothy Byrnes
- 30 — Tom McDermott

Christ's atonement and is sturdy in its Lutheranism amidst spiritual fads and trendy theology. Together with *The Book of Family Prayer*, *Luther's Family Devotions*, *the Daily Treasury of Prayer*, and *the Portals of Prayer*, this is a nice compliment to your daily prayer. I've used it for over three years now. It keeps me focused on the church year, Christ, and our life with Him, and so thought I'd let you know that it's out there.

+pastor
CPH 1-800-325-3040

WE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Pray for Our Church Family and Loved Ones Lore Tucker (friend Marshall); Sue Rohrbach (test results); Jim Smith; Don Foster; Noah Niehouse (grandma Vicky); Gaylon Knight; Ray Knight (daughter, hospice); John Wilson (tests); Dot & Bob Mericle; Brian Christensen (college, out of state); Ron Romanek (father died); Suzie Wysong (friend died); Hedder Gomez (friend Shana, dad died); Sue Segade (friend Stephanie, cancer); Geri Daughtrey (niece Racine); Nancy Purcha (friend Terry).

Members and Loved Ones Serving in the Armed Forces Robert Steiner (Navy-deployed); Debbie Bergman (nephew); Mary Kenagy (nephew Joshua); Emily & Austin Reinitz (grandsons); Erla Cloer (grandson); Nancy Purcha (three grandsons); Brenda Romanek (brother); Alan & Helene Peterson (son Erick); Mary Gainey (grandson and great nephew); Rick & Francine Wellington (grandson); Andrea Hall (nephew); Don & Ruth Detviler (grandson); Chaplains Mueller & Ettner (friends of pastor).

Lutheran Pastors Rev. Thomas Bernard (Haiti, West Indies) and Rev. Rohwer (Muslims); Pastor Jim Page (cancer surgery).

Our Homebound Betty Leonhart; Clara Morgan; Helen Winchester; Madeline & Jack Dulmatch; Anna Mevis; Sylvia Carter and Dot Mericle.



ATTENDANCE

JANUARY	6	13	20	27
Worship	103	104	107	93
Communed	90		94	
Bible Class	33	33	39	27
Offerings	\$3264.	\$3244.	\$3329.	\$2176.

**denotes not listed*

FEBRUARY	3	10	17	24
Worship	110	110	110	105
Communed	94		104	
Bible Class	43	39	46	36
Sun. School	8	7	7	7
Offerings	4849.	\$3390.	\$2873.	\$2315.

LENTEN VESPERS	13	20	27
Attendance	74	62	52
Communed	54		
Offerings	\$655.	\$271	351.

**denotes not listed*



ATTENDANCE

LWML PROJECT—GRACE PLACE

- Swimming in the pool,
- Eating yummy Thai food,
- Being with Dad, who travels to other countries for work.



Those are some things Emma Hanson, 12-year-old daughter of LCMS career missionaries Rev. Carl and Chenhsi Hanson, says she liked about the retreat for LCMS missionary families serving in Asia. But best of all was spending time with other children who “understood what it is like being a missionary kid,” Emma said in an email following the retreat, Nov. 7-11 in Phuket, Thailand, presented by Grace Place Lutheran Wellness Ministries. Emma’s was one of 18 families who took part in the health and wellness retreat — first made possible with the help of a **Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML)** grant and donors to Grace Place, the St. Louis-based LCMS Recognized Service Organization.

Like Emma, the missionaries said they, too, welcomed the rare opportunity to be with their families and ministry colleagues who understand the unique challenges of serving the Lord internationally.

For the Rev. J.P. Cima, who has served five years in Southeast Asia, the Grace Place retreat offered much-needed spiritual care. “We are usually the providers of that care, but often starve for it ourselves,” said Cima, at the retreat with his wife, Aimee, and two young daughters. “The Grace Place retreat provided a safe place to discuss, to rejoice, to cry and to pray.”

Kathy Ludwig, a retreat leader and longtime LWML’er, said the auxiliary’s generous funding for the retreats is no surprise. “The LWML cares about missionaries and their families and wants them to feel loved and valued,” she said. LWML members “can feel good knowing they helped give these families an opportunity to be together and rest and process what all they go through. We put a lot of emphasis on the importance [of the missionaries] taking care of self, not in a self-centered way, but as seeing yourself as a gift of God who needs to be healthy for ministry,” Ludwig said.

In her thank-you note, Eliada Scheiwe, 10, expressed hope for another retreat for missionary families. After writing about her new friends and playing in the swimming pool, she printed a postscript: “Invite us again please,” she added.

BITS AND PIECES

† The **Church Budget** for year ending December 31, 2012 was \$175,995. Receipts for the year were \$167,259. with disbursements of \$170,940. Hopefully, this negative cash flow can be improved upon in 2013.



† A huge **THANK YOU** to our awesome choir and for the beautiful music they provide for our worship services. Thank you, for your dedication and service to our church. And, thank you also to **Gail Christensen** for your direction and guidance.

† The **Church Council** has voted to replace the 22 year old energy inefficient non working Sanctuary A/C unit located at the front of the church in lieu of repairing same. As of the end of February, approximately \$1,900 has been raised for installation of the new Sanctuary A/C unit. Thrivent has also agreed to donate \$1,500 towards our \$5,000 goal provided that the church raises \$3,500.

MARCH

ANNIVERSARIES

- 12—Ron & Brenda Romanek
 19—Jerry & Helene Rice
 20—Rick & Francine Wellington

APRIL



ANNIVERSARIES

- 7—John & Jamie Wilson
 9—Michael & Sandra Smith

CHURCH CLEANING

MARCH

WILSON

FEBRUARY

MORRIS, STIENER, GOMEZ

CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER

Saturday, March 16
 5:00 —7:00 PM



Adults — \$8.00

Kids 12 & under — \$5.00

Shamrock Special: 2 Adults + 4 Kids
 (any age) = \$30

*Volunteers needed for
 cooking, set-up, serving and
 cleanup.*

Dave Anton

245-4227

REFRESHMENTS**MARCH****3rd** Susan MorrisKarol Steiner
Hedder Gomez**10th** Kelly Kyle

Helene Peterson

17th Kathy McCalebNancy Purcha
Jamie Wilson**24th Potluck**Beverly Leckie
Ron Niehouse
Gerry Rice**31st EASTER SUNDAY****APRIL****7th** Yolanda ArpChris Bieber
Andrea Hall**14th** Kim SunshineDiane Sandberg
Tiffany Casey**21st** Christina KolanderShirley Brown
Cheryl Cheek**28th Potluck**Frieda Bartsch
Sandra Brannon
Erla Cloer

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT PRISON/JAIL MINISTRY

Do you know how The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is being fulfilled in prisons? The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25:31-46 is about judgment of people in their treatment of those less fortunate, including prisoners. Righteous people will respond to the Lord's desire for charity toward all the world. Out of love for Jesus Christ and in compliance with the Great Commission, PSWD has volunteers and lay people visiting the jails and prisons.

Here are some examples of prisoners' responses to visits at Donovan State Prison in San Diego:

When I visited inmates in their cells I was told, "Pastor, thank you for visiting. I have been in prison many years and you are the first Pastor to come and visit."

In another situation as I was walking in the prison yard an inmate asked if I had time to talk with him. I responded by saying, "Lord willing, I am never too busy that I cannot stop and talk with you or any other inmate." After our discussion he held out his hand which I shook. He was excited and said to some other inmates present, "Look at this! When I was in another prison the Chaplain would not shake my hand. This guy took mine and shook it. This is great!"

There is a great need for Christians to visit prisoners, showing the love of our Savior. Christ said (Matthew 25:40), "...inasmuch as you did it to one of these least of these, you did it to Me."

Please prayerfully ask Jesus if He would have you take a more active role in prison/jail ministry. This ministry needs your prayers and support. Please add PSWD Prison/Jail ministry into your personal and church prayers.

February 2013 Update:

One inmate wanted to know how he could handle another whom he felt was disruptive in chapel. He was thinking of not coming to chapel because of this. I encouraged him not to let the disruption prevent him from obeying God's command as given in Hebrews 10:25 "not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Praise the Lord the disruptive man is enthusiastic! He is the only disruption: everyone else is quiet. We talked for about ten minutes. I explained that this particular inmate has some mental problems. He's like a child wanting attention and acceptance. Like a child he gets carried away and does not realize what he does. I asked the inmate how he would handle a family member who had some mental problems. Would he love his brother knowing the condition his brother was in? We discussed how Jesus would handle anyone with mental problems. After our discussion the visiting inmate told me he understands and has a better picture of how to handle this disruptive person in a loving and caring Christian manner.

For more information contact:

Reverend Mike Bonner
Pastor to Prisoner Ministry
Yard "D" Pastor - Donovan Correctional Facility
Home: [619-575-7980](tel:619-575-7980)
Cell: [619-823-0779](tel:619-823-0779)
Reverendmike@cox.net



LEONARD & ERLA CLOER



Leonard and Erla Cloer

In this issue we are blessed to catch up with our own Leonard and Erla Cloer! They lovingly shared their story as follows:

They met right here at First Lutheran Church in 2004. Having been out of church for several years, he started “church shopping”. One of the churches that he went to was First Lutheran, Lake Elsinore. When he came back the next Sunday, the pastor remembered his name. This was a first. The pastor showed interest in him. After several visits, he asked to take communion. Pastor explained that he must be confirmed. Erla joined the church and the choir in 2001 after being invited by

golfing buddies Dot Mericle and Irene Rieger. In 2004, Leonard was looking for a church home and started attending First Lutheran. They sat at the same table at the church picnic that year and the friendship began. On November 18, 2007, they were married by our own Pastor Kolander. They just celebrated their 5th Anniversary this past November.

Leonard Paul Cloer was born on July 19, 1941 in northeast Georgia in the Appalachian Mountains, a short distance from the Tennessee border. Leonard was the oldest of four children; two boys and two girls. The family left Georgia and moved to Michigan at the end of World War II. Leonard started working at odd jobs at a very young age. Leonard graduated from Belleville High School, Belleville Michigan, in 1959 (the same year as Erla). From there he spent two years at the Detroit Bible College. After the second year he ran out of money and started his third job. He was an owner, operator, truck driver and during a nine year stretch he drove over a million miles in his truck. Leonard has had nearly forty different jobs in Chicago! His job ended and he had no income and no insurance before Obama care. He came down with pneumonia and bronchitis at the same time. His friends knew it was a matter of time until he would die. He even prayed that God would take him out of this world.

Having been in most of the country five and six times, he was burnt out and got into construction and doing school building inspection. He purchased his first code in 1972 and he has not stopped yet! He is still working as a building inspector for school districts. In 2004, his second wife died. Leonard has 3 children, Paul, April and Mark and four grandchildren.

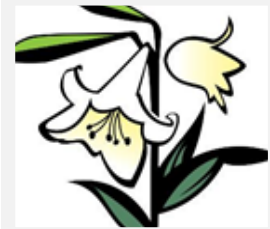
Erla Carol Bennett was born on April 9, 1941 in Waterloo, Iowa. She lived in Iowa, attended school there, and was confirmed in Grace Lutheran Church. Erla was married to Richard Wetherell and had two children, Kevin and Jan before moving to California in July 1962. Erla has five grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Leonard and Erla also have a home in Sugar City, Colorado, a city with a popula-

FLOWER SCHEDULE

March

- 3—**Mary Kenegy**
For Dad’s Birthday
- 10—**Geri Daughtrey**
Birthday
- 20—**Helen & Jerry Rice**
- 24—**Sue Segade**
For **Lilah Houser’s**
Baptism Birthday and
Zak Houser’s Birthday



April

- 1—**John & Jamie Wilson**
For 28th Anniversary
- 14—**Kyle Family**
For **Christian’s** Birthday
Jesse Washington
For **Diane’s** Birthday
- 21—**Jerry Davidson**
Birthday
- 28—**Dorothy Byrnes**
Birthday

OFFICIAL ACTS

Transfer of Membership
February 24, 2013

NICK AND JOANN POMO
EVE WYSONG

WELCOME!!



**BIBLE STUDIES
AT
FIRST LUTHERAN**

Sunday
9:00—10:00AM

Wednesday
10:30 AM—12:00 Noon

Friday
EXEGESIS STUDY
6:00 PM—Supper
6:30 PM—Prayers
7:00 PM—Bible Study

tion of only 285. (In the 1940's, the population was almost 5000 and the county high school has a total enrollment of 100 students)

The Cloers have a marvelous sense of humor and their smiles and laughter brighten every room they are in! Erla enjoys sharing her talents and gifts of music with us all through both our choir and the handbell choir. Leonard has several hobbies which include metal detecting, reading, working on old clocks, and of course, his favorite hobby is Erla!

FLC Roving Reporter, Lezlee Nebbe

**RECORD 350-PLUS LUTHERANS JOIN
2013 'MARCH FOR LIFE'**

More than 350 people from across the nation donned neon-green hats reading "March for Life with the LCMS," braving snow and freezing temperatures for the national "March for Life" here January 25.

A record 500,000 are estimated to have participated in the annual march — in a line stretching from the National Mall to the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court building – for the 40th anniversary protest of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion for any reason. Since the 1973 decision, more than **53 million** children have been aborted in the United States.

"We as citizens of the United States have a right and also a responsibility to protest injustice," said LCMS President Rev. Matthew C. Harrison during a video interview from the March for Life — his first. "The injustice of 53 million unborn people murdered is something we need to stand up for and say there's got to be a better way,"

For this year's Lutheran group, an annual Divine Service at the hotel, with Harrison preaching, began their involvement in the conference and the march. Additional chairs brought into the worship space could not accommodate the larger-than-expected crowd, with many standing for the service.

"The secret for us, my friends, in this dark day — living a Good News life in a bad-news world — is knowing that every human being is created in God's own image and therefore valuable," Harrison said. "The secret to a joyous and meaningful life is the realization that because Jesus Himself took on human flesh from conception and because Jesus valued every human life — especially those worthless in the eyes of the world — each and every human life is temporally and eternally precious — no matter how old, how young or how imperfect. The secret to a joyous life worth living is acting on behalf of those who cannot act for themselves."



- March 2 — Austin Wilson
- March 10 — Jenny Fay
- March 17 — Zach Anton
- March 24 — Noah Niehouse
(Palm Sunday)
- March 31 — Luke Kolander
(Easter Sunday)
- April 7 — Christian Kyle
- April 14 — Austin Wilson
- April 21 — Jenny Fay
- April 28 — Zach Anton

**FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

600 West Sumner Avenue
Lake Elsinore, CA 9250

Phone: (951) 674-2757
Web Page: www.firstluth.com



HAPPINESS IS INSTALLING A NEW LEADER IN KENYA!

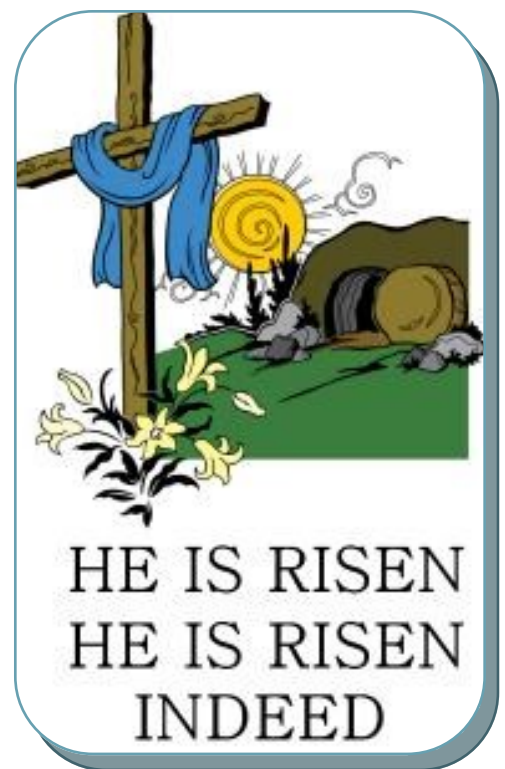
We rejoice with LCMS partner, the Gutnius Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea, at the installation of their new leader, Bishop Nicodemus, in Birip Enga Province, PNG. We pray God's richest blessings upon him and his flock!

CAN'T YOU JUST SEE THE JOY AND HAPPINESS (AND FUN) IN THESE BEAUTIFUL PICTURES OF THE INSTALLATION?



SPECIAL EVENTS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

- March 6 Midweek Soup Supper @ 6:00 PM
Lenten Vespers @ 7:15 PM
- March 13 Midweek Soup Supper @ 6:00 PM
Lenten Vespers @ 7:15 PM
- March 16 **Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner @ 5:00-7:00 PM**
- March 20 Midweek Soup Supper @ 6:00 PM
Lenten Vespers @ 7:15 PM
- March 24 Palm Sunday w/Holy Communion @ 10:30 AM
- March 28 **Maundy Thursday Service w/ Communion @ 7:15 PM**
- March 29 **Good Friday Tenebrae Service @ 7:15 PM**
- March 31 **EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE @ 7:00 AM**
Breakfast following Sunrise Service
EASTER WORSHIP w/ Holy Communion @ 10:30 AM



MOTHER CONSOLES DRIVER IN CRASH THAT TOOK HER DAUGHTER

By **KURT KRUEGER**
FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

It is early Sunday afternoon, Jan. 9, 2011.

I am in my office and still hold the telephone in my hand.

I have just told a mother and father that their 18-year-old daughter, a freshman at Concordia University, died in a car accident early that morning.

I have invited the mother, whose name is Pam, and the father, whose name is Tom, to come to my office to meet with me, our campus pastor and staff counselors.

Pam and Tom had just left Mariners Church in Irvine when I called. Five minutes later, they drive into the parking lot outside my office.

Tom helps Pam out of the car. She has trouble walking and takes short, halting steps to keep from falling.

As I approach to help, Pam says to me, "Tell me it's not true. Tell me that my beautiful daughter is not dead."

"I'm so sorry, Pam. I'm so sorry."

We walk into the lobby of Grimm Hall. The campus pastor and counselors have joined us.

We provide what details we can: Your daughter was riding with three other Concordia students on I-5 on their way back to campus from a birthday party in San Diego.

The driver of the car lost control and sideswiped another vehicle. The car flipped over several times and came to rest on an embankment near the Crown Valley Parkway exit.

Your daughter was thrown from the car and probably died instantly. The other three students were not seriously hurt. Alcohol was not a factor in the accident.

Pam and Tom are in shock. I invite them to come upstairs to my office. In the elevator, Pam looks at me and says something truly amazing. She says, "I know that right now my daughter Paige is in the loving arms of Jesus."

I find that statement incredible. Not more than 15 minutes after she learned that her 18-year-old daughter has died, Pam is giving testimony to the confidence she has in the words of Jesus, "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believes in me though he were dead yet shall he live."

We spend the next several hours in my office that Sunday afternoon talking about Paige and helping Pam and Tom make reservations to fly Paige's older brother and sister from Fresno to Orange County.

We learn that Tom and Pam recently moved from Fresno to Southern California primarily to be closer to Paige and watch her play basketball for Concordia. We learn that Paige was 6-foot-5 and was all-everything on her high school basketball team in Fresno, leading it to a state championship the year before. We hear from grief-stricken, proud parents how their daughter lit up a room when she entered and how she was loved by teammates and made friends easily with opponents and their parents.

Throughout the afternoon, we cry together, we mourn together, we pray together. We console one another with the certain hope that we Christians have within us.

Pam calls her Lutheran pastor and asks him to do a memorial service in Fresno. He agrees to take care of all the arrangements.

We talk on the phone to the Orange County coroner and to the California Highway Patrol officer who was on the scene of the accident. We learn that Paige was not wearing her seat belt and cry again, with Pam, through her tears, telling us



Paige Armstrong-Maltos hugs her mother, Pam Martens. Paige, a basketball star at Concordia University, died two years ago after a car accident. Her mother later embraced the driver of the car and told him, "You have two mothers now."

that she "told Paige a million times to wear her seat belt" and believing Paige probably took the belt off to get her tall frame more comfortable in the back seat of the car that evening.

Toward the end of that Sunday afternoon, Pam says something else incredible. She asks me if I could arrange a meeting between her and the driver of the car. She believes that he's probably hurting and she wants to assure him, if he is in any way at fault, that she forgives him.

I arrange for the meeting on Wednesday, the day before Paige's memorial service at Concordia.

Pam and Tom are again with me in my office.

The driver walks in. Pam immediately goes to him and embracing him asks, "How are you doing?"

Through his tears, the driver responds in a barely audible voice, "I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I'm sorry."

I'm sitting in my desk chair barely able to believe what I'm witnessing.

Pam asks the driver to sit with her on the couch. She embraces him again, comforts him and tells him, "I forgive you. And do you know why I forgive you? I forgive you because my Lord Jesus has forgiven me and has forgiven you. Do you believe that?"

The driver nods, now with tears streaming down his cheeks.

Tears are also streaming down my cheeks. We pass the Kleenex box around the room.

Pam says to the driver, "You now have two mothers. Your own mother and me. I want you to know that you can call me at any time to talk about anything."

They exchange cellphone numbers.

Then Pam turns serious, points a steady index finger in the driver's face and says, "Don't you dare turn to drugs or alcohol to deal with the pain you are now feeling. You know that Paige wouldn't want you to do that, and I'm telling you that I don't want you to do that. Will you promise me that you won't use drugs or alcohol?"

The driver, again in a barely audible voice, says, "Yes, I promise."

Pam's brother is also in my office. He's a pastor from central California who's come for the memorial service at Concordia but also to console the driver. We learn that a few years earlier Pam's brother was the driver of a car involved in a fatal accident during a dust storm in Arizona.

Pam's brother speaks with the driver about his flashbacks, his sense of guilt and his depression after his accident. He urges the driver to seek counseling.

The driver says he can't sleep because when he closes his eyes the accident replays in his head. He talks about his feelings of hopelessness and tells us that he's scheduled to see a counselor.

The next morning we are in the Concordia Worship Center at Paige's memorial service. The building is filled with her teammates and classmates, friends and professors. In the front row are Tom and Pam. Next to Pam is the driver and on his other side is his mother.

Throughout the service the driver is consoled by his two mothers, as Pam gives visible expression to the meaning of Christian forgiveness.

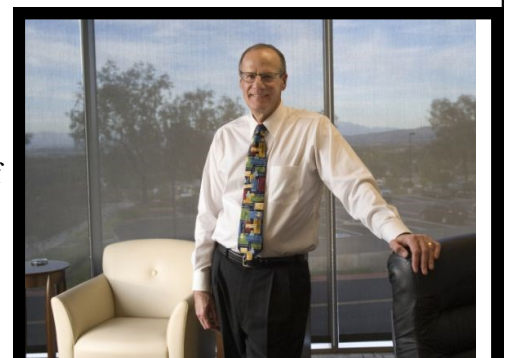
As the service concludes and the final tears are shed, we console each other, as Christians can, with the absolute certainty we have of life everlasting.

Today, two years later, we continue to remember this all too brief chapter in the story of an 18-year-old Concordia student named Paige Armstrong-Maltos, who died tragically in the early-morning hours of Jan. 9, 2011.



The story of her life, her eternal life, of course, continues to this day. And along with Paige's family and friends, we cling with confidence to the words of Christ: "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."


The author is president of Concordia University in Irvine.

Published: Feb. 25, 2013 Updated: Feb. 27, 2013



KURT KRUEGER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:00 PM Exegesis Study	2
3 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship w/Communion	4 7:00 PM AA Meeting	5 10:00 AM LWML 7:00 PM AA Meeting	6 10:30 AM Bible Class 4:30 PM Choir 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:15 PM Lenten Service	7 7:00 PM AA Meeting	8 6:00 PM Exegesis Study	9 9:00 AM Ladies Craft
10 4th Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:45 AM Church Council	11 7:00 PM AA Meeting	12 7:00 PM AA Meeting	13 10:30 AM Bible Class 4:30 PM Choir 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:15 PM Lenten Service	14 7:00 PM AA Meeting	15 6:00 PM Exegesis Study	16
17 5th Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship w/Communion	18 7:00 PM AA Meeting	19 7:00 PM AA Meeting	20 10:30 AM Bible Class 4:30 PM Choir 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:15 PM Lenten Service	21 7:00 PM AA Meeting	22 6:00 PM Exegesis Study	23
24 Palm Sunday 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship Service	25 7:00 PM AA Meeting	26 7:00 PM AA Meeting	27 10:30 AM Bible Class	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 4:30 PM Choir Practice 7:15 PM Worship w/Communion	29 GOOD FRIDAY 7:15 PM Tenebrae Service	30 
31 EASTER SUNDAY 7:00 AM Sunrise Service 8:00 AM Easter Breakfast 10:30 AM Worship w/ Communion	<h1>HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!</h1>					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 April	1 7:00 PM AA Meeting	2 10:00 AM LWML 7:00 PM AA Meeting	3 10:30 AM Bible Class	4 7:00 PM AA Meeting	5 6:00 PM Exegesis Study	6
7 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship w/Communion	8 7:00 PM AA Meeting	9 7:00 PM AA Meeting	10 10:30 AM Bible Class 5:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Church Council	11 7:00 PM AA Meeting	12 6:00 PM Exegesis Study	13 9:00 AM Ladies Craft
14 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship Service	15 7:00 PM AA Meeting	16 7:00 PM AA Meeting	17 10:30 AM Bible Class 5:30 PM Choir Practice	18 7:00 PM AA Meeting	19 6:00 PM Exegesis Study	20
21 4th Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship w/Communion	22 7:00 PM AA Meeting	23 7:00 PM AA Meeting	24 10:30 AM Bible Class 5:30 PM Choir Practice	25 7:00 PM AA Meeting	26 6:00 PM Exegesis Study	27
28 5th Sunday of Easter POTLUCK SUNDAY 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship Service	29 7:00 PM AA Meeting	30 7:00 PM AA Meeting	