

# First Lutheran Church

## Cross Currents

March / April 2014



Dear Family and Friends of First Lutheran,

This fall I watched the leaves of my newly planted mulberry trees fall off and lay on the grass below. I knew this would happen. I can still picture the day when only one leaf was left hanging. Next day, the last one cut loose from its moorings and gravity took over. I

didn't want the leaves to fall off. I liked my lush, green new trees with leaves. They were alive and deep emerald, like hands waving in a parade at me when I walked into the backyard. Now the tree is naked. Gray. Spindly. Even though it's winter, I water the trees. They are new and still need my attention, but they look dead. Will they live? I want to break a little branch to make sure there's life inside. Now I wait. December, January; then on February 19<sup>th</sup> as the sun sets, I peek out back and see green fuzz all over the branches as if they were invaded by little Martians. Yay! I knew the tree wouldn't die. Everything grows here in Southern California. But nothing is certain, they say, except death and taxes. Well, not so fast.

God who made the heavens and the earth, including my little trees, has promised that His Word will remain forever. The seasons can remind us of that. The psalmist says: from the rising of the sun to its setting, God's faithfulness remains forever. And to show His kindness to a world stuck in winter, looking at death, He gave His only Son (not you) to die and rise so that we can be made into the living and beloved children of God. God has given us faith to trust His Word. This spring as we enter the season of Lent, we'll hear of our Savior, stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see Him dying on the tree. And we'll ask, Will He live? Easter answers that cry and Christians will rejoice with "Hallelujah Jesus Lives."

The seasons and events of our lives are filled with changes. Death and taxes may be certain, but the Word of the Lord who loves you is even more certain than those. How can we be sure? Look to the cross and empty tomb, ***He's Risen. He's Risen Indeed! Hallelujah. Thanks God!*** Now I have to mow the lawn.

God's peace,  
+Pastor



### PASTOR

Rev.

Kevin Kolander

### MUSIC DIRECTOR

Gail Christiansen

### CHURCH COUNCIL

#### PRESIDENT

Bob Brown

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Dave Anton

#### SECRETARY

Susie Wysong

#### TREASURER

Cheryl Cheek

#### FINANCIAL

#### SECRETARY

Beverly Leckie

#### EDUCATION

#### DIRECTOR

Melody Anton

#### EVANGELISM

#### DIRECTOR

Brenda Romanek

#### STEWARDSHIP

#### DIRECTOR

Robert Sandberg

#### TRUSTEES

Tom McDermott

Maurice Kaneshiro

Ron Niehouse

Jim Smith

Jesse Washington

#### HONORARY

#### TRUSTEE

Frank Crow

#### ELDERS

Robert Arp

Don Crow

Justin Morris

William Neebe

Michael Sunshine

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3— Oliver Kenagy
- 5 — Jenny Fay
- 8 — Geri Daughtery
- 9 — Justin Morris
- 16 — Delores Zegetosky
- 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 — Michelle Gerock
- 5 — Sandra Houston
- 6 — Nate Rosenblatt
- 9 — Erla Cloer
- 10 — Lois Salchow
- 12 — Anna Mevis
- 19 — Dave Anderson
- 19 — Christian Kyle
- 21 — Jude Morris
- 25 — Jaclyn Anderson
- 25 — Jerry Davidson
- 28 — Ben Casey
- 28 — Betty Leonhart
- 29 — Dorothy Brynes
- 30 — Tom McDermott

## **We Pray for our Family & Friends**

### PRAY FOR CHURCH FAMILY & LOVED ONES

Don Foster, Sue Rohrbach, Silvia DePillo (mom Mary), Rick Wellington, Madeline Dulmatch, Ida Williams, Jim Smith, Nancy & Ralph Purcha, Geri Daughtrey (friend Lela), Bonnie Harlow (daughter-in-law Nada), Sharon Timms (son), Lori Tucker (friend Marshall), Brian Christensen (Lutheran College in MN), Kim Sunshine (baby on the way)

### MEMBERS & LOVED ONES IN THE ARMED FORCES

Robert Steiner, Debbie Bergman (nephew), Mary Kenagy (nephew Joshua), Erla Cloer (grandson), Nancy Purcha (3 grandsons), Brenda Romanek (brother), Alan & Helene Peterson (son Erick), Rick & Francine Wellington (grandson), Andrea Hall (nephew), Don & Ruth Detviler (grandson), Chaplains Rob Mueller & Dann Ettner

### OUR HOMEBOUND

Betty Leonhart, Madeline & Jack Dulmath, Anna Mevis, Sylvia Carter, Kay & Don Foster

### LUTHERAN PASTORS

Rev. Thomas Bernard (Haiti, West Indies) & Rev. Rohwer (Muslims)

### LOVED ONES RECENTLY DIED

Bob Arp (sister Janet), Brenda Romanek (cousin)

## **Church Attendance**

### Jan. 5th

Worshipped 109, Communed 104, Bible class 31, Sunday school 9

### Jan. 12th

Worshipped 102, Bible class 32, Sunday school 12

### Jan. 19th

Worshipped 107, Communed 91, Bible class 34, Sunday school 8

### Jan. 26th

Worshipped 137, Bible class 28, Sunday school 17

### Feb. 2nd

Worshipped 105, Communed 92, Bible class 33, Sunday school 12

### Feb. 9th

Worshipped 98, Bible class 30, Sunday school 8

### Feb. 16th

Worshipped 111, Communed 94, Bible class 38, Sunday school 14

### Feb. 23rd

Worshipped 107, Bible class 30, Sunday school 16

**\* Jan. & Feb. offerings will be in the next newsletter\***

## Lutheran Women's Missionary

Thank you, First Lutheran, for once again giving your full support to one of our programs. The "Sunday Undies" collection of Men, Women and Children's underwear was a huge success. The undies are now packed and on their way! We are so very appreciative of your generous response.

### Baskets of Blessings

Our Spring Tea is fast approaching, and we invite all of our ladies to come and enjoy this special event. This year we are bringing back a little fun with Bingo, songs of worship, good food, and most importantly, sharing the Word of God! Our Pacific Southwest District Mission Statement is "*We give all the Glory to God our heavenly Father and through His Son shine the light of His grace, mercy and love for the whole world to see!*" What better way to celebrate this Mission than by coming to our own First Lutheran Ladies Tea and have fellowship among "Baskets of Blessings." Please come April 5th, Saturday at 11:00 A.M. Ticket price is \$10, which helps to fund our local mission grants.



## Concordia University Irvine Day Here at First Lutheran

On Sunday, April 6th, we will host a Concordia University Irvine Day here at First Lutheran. The Rev. Dr. Loren Kramer will present the Bible study time and full time church work at Concordia. Dr. Kramer has also offered to preach for us, and a string quartet, made up of Concordia music students, will be joining us and playing during the church service.

### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

12th

Ron & Brenda Romanek

19th

Gerald & Helen Rice

20th

Rick & Francine Wellington

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

7th

John & Jamie Wilson

9th

Michael & Sandra Smith

25th

John & Sylvia DePillo

### OFFICIAL ACTS

#### MARRIAGE

Robert Mericle

&

Sue Wysong



## St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

The St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner is on Saturday, March 15,  
2014, from 5 to 7 P.M.

Prices are \$8 / adult and \$5 / child 12 and under

Shamrock Special :

2 parents & 4 children (any age)

\$30



## REFRESHMENTS

### MARCH

#### 2nd

Susan Morris  
Hedder Steiner  
Karol Steiner

#### 9th

Kelly Kyle  
Ellie Niehouse  
Helene Peterson

#### 16th

Nancy Purcha  
Joline Terry  
Jamie Wilson

#### 23rd

Lori Tucker  
Ron Niehouse  
Gerry Rice

#### 30th/Potluck

Tom McDermott  
Diane Sandberg  
Kim Sunshine

### APRIL

#### 6th

Yolanda Arp  
Diane Sandberg  
Kim Sunshine

#### 13th

Debbie Bergman  
Tiffany Casey  
Dana Davidson

#### 20th

EASTER BREAKFAST

#### 27th/ Potluck

Shirley Brown  
Erla Cloer  
Christina Kolander



## Gangway to Galilee Upcoming VBS *Melody & Dave Anton*



We appreciate your prayers for Gangway to Galilee, our Vacation Bible School being held this summer, July 14th to the 18th. Ask God to bring children to our program so they can know and grow in Jesus, our Savior! Also, ask God to provide leaders and helpers for this important mission.

Every child needs to hear the Good News that Jesus their Savior calls us, teaches us, keeps us safe, saves us, and provides all we need by His amazing grace through faith. At Gangway to Galilee VBS, you will connect children with the most important message of their lifetime: the miraculous story of what Jesus did for us that we could never do for ourselves.

If you can help full-time or part-time, we have many ways to be involved that will suit your schedule and interests. Call Melody Anton at home (951) 2 4 5 - 4 2 2 7 / email:anton62803@aol.com. For more information. *Join us for an Amazing Grace Adventure !*



## Catechism Convocation

Since 2008 a consortium of like-minded LCMS pastors and congregations gathered around the Word, the Catechism, and worship, and presented one part of Luther's Small Catechism.

This year on Saturday, May 10th, we will meet at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Escondido. This year's topic from the Catechism is "The Table of Duties". We welcome Rev. Dr. Rod Rosenblatt, Professor of Theology at Concordia University of Irvine to be our keynote speaker on sharing the Gospel in our sacred vocations. Further posts will be available on the bulletin board in the church narthex.

# The Existence of Pain & Suffering in the World

*Michael Sunshine*

One of the most common objections to Christianity we hear is the existence of pain and suffering in the world. Why would a God who is both loving and all-powerful permit such a state of affairs? Why would He not simply intervene and immediately wipe away all harm and evil from the world? While this may be a fair objection to some religious beliefs, it is not a challenge to the orthodox Christian faith.

The world as we see it is not how God made it or meant it to be. God's creation, including mankind, was very good (*Gen. 1:31*). The pleasant land where man dwelt was a place of life and plenty (*Gen. 2*). But through the disobedience of our first parents, sin entered the world and broke this goodness; the ground was cursed, and death was introduced as a result of sin (*Gen. 3; Rom. 5:12-14, 6:23*). It would certainly be possible for God to simply wipe away sin, by destroying all that is evil (*cf. Gen. 6-7*) but the objectors offer this suggestion without realizing that this would mean their own demise, for they stand guilty before a perfect and holy God. Indeed, God's law requires an absolute perfection that they cannot hope to attain by their own nature and work, which amount to nothing (*Ps. 51:5; Mt. 5:48; Rom. 3:9-20, 23*). They ought, in fact, to be eternally thankful that God does not do as they wish since they discount or ignore God's righteousness and justice.

This could, perhaps, have simply been a problem for us. However, because God loves the world and does not wish for any to perish (*Ezek. 18-32; Jn. 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:4; Pet. 3:9*), He made the problem of sin, pain, and death His own by bearing the brokenness and punishment Himself. Jesus Christ and Him crucified is God's answer to the problem of pain, so much so that Christianity makes no sense without the existence of sin and death. For it is through the cross that God has reconciled a sinful world to himself (*Rom. 5:6-11; Cor. 5:18; Col. 1:22*). Hence Jesus is the solution, who bears our sin and gives us His righteousness, so that we become clean, righteous, and perfect in the eyes of the Father, to the end that we may have eternal life free from the evil that originally infected the world (*Rom. 5-6; 2 Cor. 5; Col. 1; Titus 3:4-7*).

In that case, then, why does wickedness and suffering persist? While the kingdom of God has been established and is present among us, it has not yet come into its fullness. Likewise, although we are recipients of new life in Christ, we still for the time struggle against our sinful flesh (*Rom. 6, 7*). But we have the promise that sin and evil will pass away, and God's very good creation will be restored (*Rev. 21-22; see also 1 Cor. 15*). Any delay is out of God's mercy and patience, that many more might be saved—among not only us but also future generations (*2 Pet. 3:1-10*). One might respond that this explains much, but it does not explain why God did not prevent a particular tragedy in a person's life. However, once we have established that the Christian faith explains God's answer to evil and suffering writ large—and in such a personal and costly way, through the sacrifice of His only begotten Son—this objection is no longer that God must not be both loving and powerful, but rather it becomes a simply a complaint that God is not behaving as the speaker would if he were God. At this point it is appropriate to simply to defer to the infinitely greater wisdom and proven love of God, and trust in the rightness and goodness of his purposes (*Rom. 8:18, 9:15-24; 2 Cor. 4:7-18, 6:1-13; Heb. 12:3-11*).

From this we can see that the common objection of pain, suffering, and death is not an objection to the Christian faith. It is, rather, the very problem that Jesus Himself answers with his own body and blood.

# DON & RUTH DETVILER

*Lezlee Neebe*



This month we are honored to bring to you the beautiful story of Don and Ruth Detviler. Don Detviler was born in Hancock, Minnesota, on November 28, 1937, and was baptized within a month in a small Wisconsin Synod Lutheran Church. Because he was born at home, his mother, Margaret (nee Forbes), took him to the local market to weigh him on the vegetable scales! When Don was six months old, the family moved to California so that his father, Harold, could find employment. They settled in Bell Gardens and later moved to Santa Fe Springs. He attended Compton Jr. College and later went to work at Northrup Aircraft and then to North American, which later became Rockwell and then Boeing. He created procedure manuals and did electronic mock-up for the Minute Man, the Apollo, the Space Shuttle program, and the GPS Systems. He has a brother Ray (now deceased) and a sister, Cheryl, who lives in Riverside.

Ruth, nee Kalthoff, came into this world on June 16, 1938, in Raton, New Mexico. She was baptized two weeks later by her father. Her parents were Marie (nee Bockelman) and Reinhold Kalthoff. Her father was an LCMS pastor serving two missions in New Mexico. She has one brother, Robert, who lives in Northridge. During World War II, he became a chaplain in the Armed Forces. One of Ruth's most vivid memories was going with her father to see his troop depart for the European Conflict and hearing him say; "So many of these boys will not return." Sadly, he was correct; the majority of them did not. Her father was then sent to the war in the Pacific, namely Okinawa. After the war they moved to Leavenworth, Kansas where her father served as a chaplain in the federal, state and military prisons. They then moved to Denver, Colorado where he became a hospital chaplain. When Ruth was a junior in high school the family moved to Bell Gardens, California, and she attended Los Angeles Lutheran High School in Inglewood and Compton College.

In 1945, Don's parents became charter members of the Lutheran Church in Bell Gardens, and in 1954, Ruth's father accepted a call to that LCMS church, so it was inevitable that they would meet. They were married at the young age of 19. (Their parents were not happy but accepted their decision.) Ruth's father married them with the text "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord" (*Joshua 25:15*). They rented an apartment in Bell, and when they were 20 years old they bought their first home in Downey. While Don had no problem qualifying for a home loan at that young age, they laugh at the fact that they had to have Don's mother co-sign for them to purchase a washing machine!! They lived in that home four years and then purchased a home in Anaheim and remained there for 40 years, before moving to Corona. Don worked with the same company (41 years) before he retired. Ruth was a stay-at-home mom until their fourth child was three years old when she taught preschool for two years and then became the school secretary at Zion for 13 years, and later at Orange Lutheran High where she was the secretary to the Executive Director for twelve years. They were members at Zion Lutheran Church in Anaheim for 35 years and transferred to St. John's, Orange, only because their son became a pastor there.

## CONTINUED .... DON & RUTH DETVILER

The Detvilers' have four children. Their daughter Heidi lives in Anaheim and retired from many happy years at Disneyland; Tim is the chaplain at Orange Lutheran High School and lives in Orange; Michael, retired from the Marines, lives in Phoenix, Arizona; and John lives in Corona and is the operations manager at Medix Ambulance in Mission Viejo. All attended Zion Lutheran School and Orange Lutheran High. They have twelve grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren. They have a boat and two wave runners which they enjoy when their family gathers at Lake Mohave every year. They also have a trailer on their son Michael's property (he has horse property), and they love going there and relaxing in their trailer and enjoying the Arizona gang. Both are avid sports fans (football and baseball) and have spent many a Saturday attending the games (mostly soccer) of their grandchildren and their "greats."

They became caregivers when John, their youngest, was only one year old. Ruth's brother's family was in a car accident that took the life of her sister-in-law. Because Ruth's brother and two of his three children were also injured, Don and Ruth took the children into their home and raised them for a year until her brother remarried. Ruth said, "I went into that situation with great fear and trepidation, seven kids, four under the age of 5. But God had plans, and He guided us through that year and gave us lasting memories of a houseful of kids and lots of love. Little did we know that God did indeed have plans because from that point on we found ourselves caregiving (in one way or another) for seventeen others, family, friends, and whom-ever God put in our path."

Another plan of God's was to bring them to First Lutheran. When they moved to Corona after their retirement, a pastor from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Orange told Ruth to attend First Lutheran. There, he said, you will receive the true Word from a true man of God, Pastor Kolander, and the joy of true Christian fellowship. He was right, God has led and blessed us with this beautiful church and pastor!!

Both Don and Ruth have made a beautiful and loving impact here at First Lutheran! They have served as editors of our newsletter for many years. This is a time, consuming process that all must be done in a short time. All this industrious labor, just so that we can all share in the news of our Church family. Their loving service has been so appreciated over the years! Don and Ruth are embarking on a new journey! Even though they are retiring as our editors, we look forward in sharing in all their new adventures! Thank you Don and Ruth for sharing your many talents with us all. You bless us all !

### FLOWER SCHEDULE

#### MARCH

- 2— Geri D.  
Jenny Fay Birthday
- 9— Geri Daughtrey  
Birthday
- 16— Helen & Jerry Rice
- 23— Still open
- 30— Still open

#### APRIL

- 6—Bonnie Harlow
- 13—Wilsons' Anniversary
- 19—Christian Kyle  
Birthday
- 20—Jerry Davidson  
Birthday
- 27—Susie Wysong

***SIGN UP FOR ALTAR  
FLOWERS ON THE  
FLOWER CHART  
LOCATED ON THE  
BULLETIN BOARD.***




### CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

#### MARCH WILSON

#### APRIL MORRIS & STEINER

### ONGOING MINISTRIES

**E-Prayer**  
Pastor Kolander

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b><u>MARCH</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>					<b>1</b>
<b>2 Transfiguration Sunday</b> 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship w/ Communion	<b>3</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>4</b> 10:00 AM LWML 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>5 Ash Wednesday</b> 10:30 AM Bible Class 4:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Church Council	<b>6</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>7</b> 6:00 PM Exegesis Study	<b>8</b> 9:00 AM Ladles Craft
<b>9 1st Sunday in Lent</b> Elders Mtg. after church 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship Service	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>11</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>12</b> 10:30 AM Bible Class 4:30 PM Choir Practice 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:15 PM Vespers	<b>13</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>14</b> 6:00 PM Exegesis Study	<b>14</b> 5:00 PM St. Patrick's dinner 6:00 PM Exegesis Study
<b>16 2nd Sunday in lent</b> 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship w/ Communion	<b>17</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>18</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>19</b> 10:30 AM Bible Class 4:30 PM Choir Practice 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:15 PM Vespers	<b>20</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>21</b> 6:00 PM Exegesis Study	<b>22</b>
<b>23 3rd Sunday in lent</b> 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship Service <b>30 4TH Sunday in lent</b> 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship Service <b>POTLUCK SUNDAY</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>25</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>26</b> 10:30 AM Bible Class 4:30 PM Choir Practice 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:15 PM Vespers	<b>27</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>28</b> 6:00 PM Exegesis Study	<b>29</b> 

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<b><u>APRIL</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 0:30 AM Bible Class 4:30 PM Choir Practice 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:15 PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6 5TH Sunday in Epiphany</b> 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship w/ Communion	<b>7</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>8</b> 10:00 AM LWML 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>9</b> 10:30 AM Bible Class 4:30 PM Choir Practice 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:15 PM	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13 Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship Service Elders Mtg. after church	<b>14</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>15</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>16</b> 10:30 AM Bible Class No Choir Practice 7:00 PM Church Council	<b>17</b> 7:15 PM Maundy Thursday service 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>18</b> 7:15 PM Good Friday service	<b>19</b>
<b>20 Easter Sunday</b> 7:00 AM easter service Easter Breakfast 10:30 AM Worship w/ Commuion	<b>21</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>22</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>23</b> 10:30 AM Bible Class No Choir Practice	<b>24</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>25</b> 6:00 PM Exegesis Study	<b>26</b> 
<b>27 Second Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship Service <b>Potluck Sunday</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>29</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>30</b> 10:30 AM Bible Class 5:30 PM Choir Practice			