



What are giving up for Lent? It's a very common question that we hear every year at about this. While it isn't a common practice of the Lutheran Church, most of us have heard of the practice of giving something up for the duration of the season of Lent. But I for one don't like it. The idea of giving something up for Lent has never sat well with me. I think it sets the wrong tone for the observation of the Lenten season.

All too often people have the idea that the reason you give up or to deprive yourself of something you like or that makes you happy for Lent is to make yourself feel bad, giving up certain types of luxuries as a form of penance. Since Lent has to do with Jesus suffering for our sins, people think it's a good time to try and make themselves suffer like Jesus. That is the **WRONG** reason to give up anything for lent! The only suffering that does us any good for is the suffering of Jesus for our salvation. **HIS** suffering accomplishes our salvation. **HIS** pain and anguish take place in order to win for us the forgiveness of sins. Our salvation and sanctification and holiness don't come because we somehow make ourselves suffer "with" Jesus. The forgiveness of sins is ours because Jesus suffers **FOR US**. In our place. As our Substitute.

Lent isn't about giving up something or feeling guilty or trying to take away something you like so that you can feel bad about the suffering our sins caused Jesus or somehow share in Jesus' suffering. Lent is all about meditating upon and learning more and more about what Jesus underwent **FOR YOU**. Lent is a time of prayer, praise, or a renewed focus. With that in mind, I would like to encourage you to consider a different option for Lent. Instead of giving up something try adding something. Now this is just anything that I want to encourage you to add, but this should be something to build and strengthen your relationship with God, something to help you focus on what Jesus has done for us through His passion and death on the cross.

So what can you add then? Perhaps add a time of prayer each day, or even start with just a short time each week. Read the Bible, study God's Word and spend time with it each week. There are also bible studies you could join. These are just some ideas, ways you can add more time for God in daily life.

As you add, whether it is one thing or several things, remember that the goal is that this practice helps you to focus on Christ, to grow in your relationship with Him. Let these things then continue beyond the Lenten season and become a part of your walk with God.

Above all, remember that this time is not about you, it is not about feeling guilty for what Jesus suffered for you, but rather it is a time to reflect upon His love for you. May you find His peace and comfort in this Lenten season as we look toward the cross and then beyond, to the empty tomb where Christ conquered sin, death, and the devil for us, because He loves us. Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Paul



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins Sunday, March 12th.
Remember your clocks spring ahead one hour.



QUILTING FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

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Hello everyone from the quilting group.

We have some fantastic news to share with you. On Feb. 7 Karen and Gary Palmer and Michael and Linda Olson took another load of items to the Pregnancy and Family Resource Center in San Bernardino. Some of the items included 31 baby quilts we made along with new mittens, socks, toys, hats, gloves, burp cloths, bibs, sleepers, baby sets, baby clothes, personal items for mothers, and a baby sweater and onesies. It was wonderful to be able to share with these folks. The blessing was that we did get to save lives.

On Jan. 26, 2017 our adult quilts donated to Lutheran World Relief were sent off to India. Thank God all these people will see that others care for them and that God's love is being sent to them. We are so blessed by all your support and generous donations that we are able to help others along the way. We thank each and everyone who has helped us to achieve our goals and then some.

If you would like to come see us at work drop by on the fourth Saturday of each month in the fellowship hall starting at 9 am. We always like to have additional hands help. If you want more information call Linda Olson at 276-0373.



The luck of the Irish be with you while you decide what to order from scrip to make your life easier this month. Find the end of the rainbow with a whole category of \$10 gift cards. Come see me and I can give you this part of the list. Spring break is coming and this may be a way to reward yourself or a student. Scrip is doing great for the first two months, every week I have placed small orders and hope as everyone gets used to seeing me outside between services they will stop by and either pick up a list to shop from or order. I am excited meeting and getting to know more and more of you each week.

Scrip is an old habit to get back into. When you are budgeting your monthly bills, try to figure what you spend on food, gas or other necessities and get in the habit of writing a check to SVLC to cover those, of course cash is always accepted. Sorry the company does not accept credit cards as this would take the percentage away from us. Then come on Sunday to the table and the following week you will have the scrip you ordered. The more often you order the quicker our percentage builds up and we can have the cards that are sold more often available every Sunday.

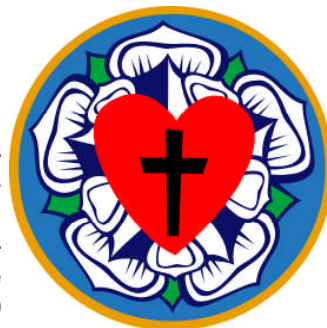


In His glory,
Karen Rice

CELEBRATE THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION IN GERMANY

August 2017 on a Trafalgar Tour with Kedma Wenz from Faith Lutheran, Riverside.

The 16th century split from the Roman Catholic Church, resulting in the Protestant religious movement, is explored on this nine-day trip following the story of the main protagonist, Martin Luther. Guests will explore Erfurt, the town where Luther lived as a young man when he was a student and a monk, Wartburg where he lived in exile and incognito devoting himself to translating the New Testament into German, and Wittenburg where he nailed 95 Theses to the church door, among other Luther heritage attractions. \$3,200 (approx.). Mark your attendance card or contact the church office for more information.



THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS:



Members of Thrivent Financial are eligible to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars to a church or charity of their choice. Have you remembered to designate your Choice Dollars for 2016? Undesignated dollars "expire" after March 31. Go to thrivent.com and click the MyThrivent button on the upper right side of the site and direct your Choice Dollars. Both the church and school are registered to receive Choice Dollars and Shepherd is grateful to those who have contributed through this program.



SPRING IS ALMOST HERE AND GEARING UP FOR NEXT YEAR

We have started our pre-registration for the 2017-2018 school year. If you know of anyone looking for a wonderful educational opportunity for their child please refer them to Shepherd of the Valley. We accept children who are 2 years old and fully potty trained through kindergarten. We use the "A Beka" curriculum along with additional teacher created activities. With the school district adding more full-day kindergarten classes and the TK classes we have experienced that many parents will opt

for the "free" education but choosing to give your child a great jump start on their education in a Christian based school with small class size is worth the cost for their successful future.

We also offer a "school aged" daycare for 1st through 5th grade students. We pick up and deliver children to Northridge Elementary and provide the children with physical activity time as well as homework help. This is a safe option for parents who have to work late and don't want their children home alone or unsupervised. We are open until 6:00 pm Monday through Friday.

BIG THANK YOU to all those who participated in the school "Shakey's" fundraiser. We earned \$300 to go toward the repair of our playground.

Our school Open House is on Saturday, March 4th from 11:00 to 2:00. Weather permitting, we will be set up in front of the fellowship hall this year near the street. This is a great opportunity to check out our curriculum and meet the teachers.

We are still in need of a fully qualified teacher for the 2's class. If you know anyone who has the calling to work with little ones and looking for part time employment, please have them call or come in to the school office.

The following are our Upcoming Events:

Mar 4	School Open House – 11:00 – 2:00
Mar 14	Spring Pictures – LifeTouch
Mar 20-31	Kindergarten Spring Break

Please continue to pray for our school and that God will fill our classrooms with His little ones.

Linda Williamson
Director

**Village Concerts Altavita (formerly Air Force Village West):
Sunday, March 26, 2017 Robert Thies, piano and Elizabeth Hedman, violin
Concerts begin at 3 pm.**

For more information visit their website at www.villageconcerts.net



The career of pianist Robert Thies stands as a gold standard for any aspiring young musician, and Village Concerts is proud to present Mr. Thies in concert, the winner of the Gold Medal at the International Prokofiev Competition in St. Petersburg Russia. With this victory in 1995, Mr. Thies became the only American pianist to win first prize in a Russian piano competition since the legendary Van Cliburn's triumph in Moscow in 1958. This even brought accolades from the White House, Senator Dianne Feinstein and other government officials. Musicians and critics alike hail Mr. Thies as *"an artist who has developed a reputation as a genuine and sincere artist, performing in a manner to draw focus to the composer rather than to himself."* Mr. Thies has performed for the film industry and has recorded CDs which will be available at his appearance for Village Concerts. www.RobertThies.org

Seattle transplant Elizabeth Hedman is one busy lady since moving to SoCal, where she serves as Associate Concert master of the Santa Barbara Symphony, as a member of the Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra, the Pasadena Symphony, and with LA Opera. She also works in the film and recording industries. Although she has performed as a recitalist and soloist with orchestras throughout the U.S., Ms. Hedman particularly enjoys chamber music, and welcomes the opportunity to appear with Robert Thies for Village Concerts.

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Suzy Langhorne



SOCIAL MINISTRY



We would like to thank everybody who was able to help out with donations for our Christmas Food Boxes. This year we gave out a total of 11 boxes to different families to help make the holidays just a little bit better. We also were able to donate food to a local food pantry because of the overwhelming donations that we received at Christmas time and Thanksgiving time. We would also like to extend a big thank you to the Boy Scout Troop 210 from Shepherd on the food that they were able to donate. We

know that all of these families were greatly appreciable of the help that our church was able to give.

Like we have said many times in the past, without your donations and prayers this ministry could not survive to help alleviate worries of families eating during the holidays. By us donating food as a church to two of our local food pantries, we also extended a helping hand to families in our community. We appreciate all the weekly donations of nonperishable items and any monetary donations that we have received for Social Ministry. Please look in the Sunday announcements for items that we will be needing for our Easter Food Boxes.

Eva Carlson and Bernice Bennett

MOVIE OUTING

SVLC Youth Group will be going to see the movie "The Shack" on Sunday, March 12th in the afternoon. Please watch for announcements on location and time. We'd love to invite anyone from church to attend with us. Contact Marlayna Hamann if you have any questions. (951) 924-2920.



LABOR DAY CAMPING

If you have an RV/trailer or a tent and would like to go camping Labor Day weekend, contact John or Marlayna Hamann at 951-924-2920. We'd like to decide where to go camping and start making reservations in the next month. We hope to have a nice big group to enjoy the outdoors and fellowship together.



We will again be asking for donations over and above your regular offerings for the Faith Comes By Hearing, Military BibleSticks as our Lenten mission project. Each donation of \$25 supplies an MP3 audio for the service person and their family if they desire one. Thank you all for your generosity in helping to spread God's Word to our military and their families.

NEXT LUTHERAN CURSILLO WEEKENDS



Seek the Lord
and his strength;
seek his presence
continually.
Psalm 105:4, NRSV

LC#168 - August 17-20, 2017 for Men
LC#169 - August 24-27, 2017 for Women

Cursillo is an organization serving the Lutheran churches of Southern California to develop leaders in the Lutheran church through training and spiritual renewal. There is no cost to you to attend a weekend but you must be a baptized member in good standing at a Lutheran church. You will be paired with a sponsor who has been through a Cursillo weekend and have your pastor endorse your reservation request. We recommend praying about it first, then talk to your pastor or others who have attended Cursillo about what you may be able to gain from attending a Cursillo weekend before applying. Cursillo retreats will be held at a new venue - Cursillo House in Pomona - in 2017. Check their website for more information: www.lcsocal.org.



**INVITE OTHERS TO OUR
CHURCH
AND SCHOOL!**

SVLC business cards are available (in packets of 10) in a basket in the church lobby. Take a pack and pass them out to strangers, friends and neighbors who need a church home or a preschool for their children.

**NEEDED FOR NURSING HOMES:
Magazines and greeting card fronts.
Bring to the church or office.**

2017 FLOWER CHART

If you'd like to donate flowers for the altar, sign up on the board hanging in the church lobby. Indicate what the flowers are for - anniversary, birthday, in honor of or in memory. Take a slip with ordering instructions. Flowers are ordered by you from Moreno Valley Flower Box (653-3171) and they deliver them to church. Each large bouquet is \$26. Small bouquets for the altar are \$19 each. Questions? Call the office.



Joseph Project - Community (Citywide) Food Bank

Shepherd is working with other churches in Moreno Valley with this community food bank that provides food for the needy every Thursday from a distribution center at the Koinonia Evangelistic Center, 21866 Brill Rd., Moreno Valley (951-867-3050). Volunteers are needed to help out with distribution, sorting, clean up, etc. at the center. Contributions to the Joseph Project will be gratefully accepted through Shepherd. Please pray for this ministry and volunteer your time and talents! Contact Larry Alexander for more information.



**DON'T FORGET YOUR FOOD
DONATIONS FOR OUR LOCAL FOOD
BANKS EACH SUNDAY!
Thank You!**

JOIN IN THE CHALLENGE

Join us in choosing a time (maybe even 10 or 15 minutes) of any day of the week that is best for you individually and lift your silent (or loud) voices to the Lord. Ask for His touch on Shepherd, our Pastors, the members of our congregation, our school, and our community. His promise is clear - if His people gather together in prayer, He will hear our prayers. Let's do it!



SPECIAL NOTICE

Your pastors, your lay ministers and the church office want to know when someone is hospitalized or home bound. There have been instances of not finding out for several days. We would rather hear from several sources than none at all so, PLEASE - PLEASE pick up the phone or e-mail us whenever there is an opportunity for ministry to members or to family or friends.



**Thursdays at 9:30 AM
In the Fellowship Hall
Presented by Suzy Langhorne
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Please join us - it's free!**

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March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service (S)	2 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) 7:30 PM Youth Action Team Meeting (O)	3 11:00 AM Phyllis Davidson Memorial (S-H)	4 8:30 AM Cursillo Grouping @ Panera Bread 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (O) 11:00 AM School Open House (PS-H)
5 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Youth Group (Y)	6 10:00 AM First Place TLC (Reese Home) 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	7 12:00 PM BSF (H) 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S) 6:00 PM School Board (O)	8 4:00 PM Midweek Lent Service (S) 5:00 PM Soup Supper (H) 7:00 PM Midweek Lent Service (S)	9 7:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 7:00 PM Life of Christ Bible Study (H)	10 10:00 AM School Chapel (S)	11 9:00 AM Knights of the Holy Spirit Bible Study (H) 2:00 PM Eagle Court of Honor - Adam Greer, Josh Hamann, Ben Schnagel (S-H)
12 Change Clocks 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Youth Group (Y) BP Screening between Services	13 9:00 AM Women's Koffee Klatch @ Brandon's 6:00 PM School Staff (O) 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	14 8:30 AM School Spring Pictures (PS) 12:00 PM BSF (H) 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7:00 PM Lay Minister Meeting (H)	15 4:00 PM Midweek Lent Service (S) 5:00 PM Soup Supper (H) 7:00 PM Midweek Lent Service (S)	16 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) 7:00 PM Life of Christ Bible Study (H)	17	18 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (O)
19 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Youth Group (Y)	20 10:00 AM First Place TLC (Reese Home) 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	21 11:00 AM BSF Fellowship (H) 12:00 PM BSF (H) 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7:00 PM M & M Board (O)	22 4:00 PM Midweek Lent Service (S) 5:00 PM Soup Supper (H) 7:00 PM Midweek Lent Service (S)	23 7:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)	24 10:00 AM School Chapel (S)	25 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Brandon's 9:00 AM Quilting for LWR (H)
26 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Youth Group (Y) BP Screening between Services	27 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	28 12:00 PM BSF (H) 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)	29 4:00 PM Midweek Lent Service (S) 5:00 PM Soup Supper (H) 7:00 PM Midweek Lent Service (S)	30 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 10:00 AM School Chapel (S)	31	32

Sunday Worship: 8 AM and 10:45 AM - Communion: 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am -- 5:00 pm, MONDAY - FRIDAY



The Shepherd's Staff

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES: Sunday: 8:00 & 10:45 AM

"Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." — Francis of Assisi

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LINDA WILLIAMSON, SCHOOL DIRECTOR
MARGE CLARK, OFFICE MANAGER**

March 2017



Ash Wednesday Service - March 1 at 6:30 pm

Midweek Lent Services & Soup Suppers - Wednesdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5
Services at 4 pm & 6:30 pm. Soup Supper served at 5 pm.

Palm Sunday - April 9 at 8 am & 10:45 am

Maundy Thursday - April 13 at 6:30 pm

Good Friday - April 14 at 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday - April 16
Sunrise Service at 6 am
8 am & 10:45 am
Breakfast served after 6 am & 8 am services.

Please join us for any or all of the Lent and Holy Week Services!