

Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior
555 S. La Cañada Drive
Green Valley, AZ 85614

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Life Counseling Network

Helping Children through Play Therapy

Counselors who work with children use different methods than when they work with adults. Adults have the ability to verbalize their feelings and problems in therapy. Cognitively, children between the ages of three and thirteen may have difficulty expressing their emotions and problems in a meaningful way to themselves, their family members, and to their therapist. Instead, play is the natural modality of self-expression for kids.

Play therapy is how the therapist helps children express their feelings and problems in an environment that is emotionally safe and secure for the child. A counseling play room has toys, games and art materials for therapeutic activities that help the child role play experiences, express emotions, or depict through art what they cannot find the words to express. Play therapy also provides a place for children who have experienced trauma to depict through puppets or stuffed animals their experiences. Their experiences and emotions are now safe to talk about because they are not an inward experience, but an outward expression through the stuffed animal or puppet they choose that day.

The Life Counseling Network of Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest offers play therapy for children. For parents and grandparents we offer counseling to help in dealing more effectively with children's emotional issues.

The Life Counseling Network accepts most forms of major insurance, and utilizes a sliding scale fee for the uninsured. If you are interested in scheduling an appointment, please call Sue Horst, Therapist, at 748-2300 Ext 241.



March † 2010

A Special Publication of Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior—Green Valley, Arizona

Issue 70

Desert Reflections Desert Reflections

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RISEN SAVIOR

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Sunday Worship Themes - March

- 7th: "It's Always Time for
Repentance" *Luke 13:1-9*
- 14th: "Lost and Found - Story
of Life" *Luke 15:11-32*
- 21st: "The Race - The Goal -
The Prize!" *Philippians 3:8-14*
- 28th: "The Mind and Mission
of the Christ" *Philippians 2:5-11*

*We invite you to read, pray
and prepare for each time of
worship.*

jws

Prayer Events in March

During this "Year of Prayer," we will conduct and host prayer events at Risen Savior in March.

Thursday, March 18th from 7:30-9:00AM, we will host the annual **Kiwanis Prayer Breakfast** in Fellowship Hall. The Rev. Diane Christopher, associate pastor with Valley Presbyterian Church, is the speaker. If you wish to join us, please speak with Pastor Stieve.

An "on-site" **Prayer Walk** will be held on the afternoon of Sunday, March 21st between 1:00-4:00PM. The Elders and Pastor Stieve will organize and coordinate this activity. If you wish to assist, please contact one of them.

This "Prayer Walk" will consist of several stations on our campus. Each station will emphasize a particular prayer focus. You will be invited to participate in a type of activity (on your own) before you leave that place. Then, you may proceed to another station.

The "places" will mostly be rooms, but one or two may be outdoors. The full "round" of stations may be accomplished in less than an hour. You may begin at any "open" station and progress to the others as you wish. Printed materials will guide you.

Please plan to spend time on this first full day of spring to experience and be energized by our Prayer Walk. You will be blessed!

Our annual **Holy Week Prayer Vigil** will be conducted on Wednesday, March 31st from 8:00AM - 8:00PM in the church Sanctuary and our homes. An outline of suggested Bible readings and prayer topics will be prepared. Please sign-up in the narthex for a 20-minute "slot" - at the church site or in your home.

We hope you will make use of these special times and activities to hear of and be involved with prayer to the Lord!

Classical Guitar Concert



On March 7th, Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m., classical guitarists, Mark Simons and Michael Lich will perform a joint concert at the **Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior**, featuring solo and duo selections of riveting Spanish classics, rapturous Argentine tangos and enchanting original compositions and arrangements.

Mark Simons is a leading Bay Area guitarist and veteran member of the groundbreaking San Francisco Guitar Quartet and has presented numerous concerts, both as soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States, Guam, Taiwan, and Germany. Mr. Simons has also toured with the Grammy Award winning Los Angeles Guitar Quartet. Michael Lich is an international artist who has performed throughout the US, Brazil, South Korea and Germany. He has made numerous radio and television appearances including "Fala Espiritu Santo"-live television, Vitoria, Brazil. Admission is free, although a free-will offering will be taken.

You will not want to miss this concert.

The Parson's Paragraphs

It's that time of year ... when I hear, "What did you 'give up' for Lent?" and, "I 'gave up' ____ for Lent." Such statements and sentiments are genuine and meant to be proper, but there is a problem. They tend to focus on the person. The action and Lenten piety is commendable; however, I feel this is only between you and God.

This gets me thinking about "giving up" or "taking up." I suppose if you resolve to "take up" one thing, you will probably "give up" another. As I write this, I am in the midst of our annual Kiwanis Club project of teaching *CHOICES* to local eighth grade students. Aside from the fun and challenge, the content is good: choices we make each day impact future opportunities; therefore, we need to practice self-discipline.

Discipline – a great word for the Lenten season! What discipline will I carry through these forty days? How disciplined can I or will I be?

What meaning will such discipline have for me? Will decisions, choices, I make be pleasing to God ... or simply feel pleasing to me? What might such "take up" disciplines include?



Here are possibilities for me ... and you. First, I seek to take up a humble attitude around others. Only because of the loving humility of our Lord Jesus, because of His active and passive obedience, are we forgiven and saved. Second, I strive to take up focused prayer ... beautiful time with my Lord. He showed the importance of personal time with His heavenly Father. I seek to follow His example.

Third, I endeavor to take up focused attention on one or more unchurched or uncommitted individuals. Jesus placed value on time spent with people: large groups, yes, but also an individual or family group. Fourth, I intend to take up a worthy group project that will enhance another's life. The "mercy ministry" of our Lord shows that compassion was the "heart" of our Lord in action!

Please note: the "I" is simply because I speak for me. This will happen only by the grace of God and the work of His Holy Spirit. And --- I invite you to form your own list ... and take it to the Lord in prayer. It is your decision – your option – your CHOICE ... and it may reflect your spiritual self-discipline!

As we appreciate and use the Lenten devotions from our people, I hope you will be drawn to a more Scriptural, personal and fervent life of prayer. Listen to the prayers of God's people recorded in Holy Scripture, as we "feature" them in our Lent midweek services. Then, rejoice and give thanks that you are blessed with the privilege of praying to the one, true God ... and being heard --- and answered!

A blessed Lent!

John Wm Stieve



On March 27th at 7:00 PM the Christus Chorus of Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota , will present "The Light Shines in the Darkness," a concert of sacred music exploring the light of Christ and our reflection of it now and to eternity. The 32 voice choir, under the direction of Dr. David L. Mennicke, will perform a wide variety of styles, from classical literature to hymns, contemporary pieces, spirituals, and gospel music. All members of the congregation are invited to attend and bring friends. A freewill offering will be taken to support the choir's music ministry. Overnight housing for the group will be needed. If you are willing to open up your home for 1 or 2 please notify Rosie in the church office at 625-2612.

Light in the Darkness

March 2010

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. (Psalm 1:3)

I am excited that this is the verse on the new banner for Mercy Ministries (formerly known as Human Care). What an amazing picture of God's Mercy to and through us!

First of all, to whom does "He" refer? It's capitalized because it is at the beginning of the sentence, not because it is referring to God. "He", in this instance, is the Christian. You could read that verse using your own name instead of "he".

So, what is so merciful about this verse? Think about the tree. It is bearing fruit, so it is mature- not just a new seedling. This tree can provide shade. I can imagine that its lush leaves provide shelter from the rain, and its strong trunk is a place to sit and rest. The tree also provides fruit for a nourishing snack even as it is nourished by the stream and soil.

The stream can remind us of our baptism into Christ. Through Holy Baptism (God's spoken Word) we are called to faith by the power of the Holy Spirit. As little saplings, we continue to be nourished by God's Word: written in the Scriptures and taught by our Pastors as well as other mature Christians. We also receive God's nourishment in the Sacrament of the altar, by confession and absolution and in the fellowship of believers. (These are known as the "Means of Grace".)

Like the tree planted by streams of water, we too, bear fruit. We don't have to decide if we will bear fruit, we do. "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5) "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Eph 2:10) The fruit we bear are the good works that we do.

These good works are the evidence of our faith.

Mercy emphasis: Crossroads Mission

Food bank, Nogales

Every year, we choose one month to support this food bank. Donations will resume going to Green Valley in April.

They are in desperate need of onions and rice. Please look for the complete list elsewhere in this newsletter. The list will also be posted on the bulletin board over the Food Bank Box..

It has been said that faith is personal. It is important to have an intimate personal relationship with the Savior. However, faith is not private nor should it be fully contained within the one hour each week that we spend in corporate worship. As we mature in our faith, it WILL affect our daily lives: the way we treat our families and friends, being honest in business transactions, etc. A maturing faith motivates us to continue studying God's Word individually, and in small groups. A maturing faith also stimulates us to a life of prayer—that we would spend time with the Lord reading His Word and responding to it—again, in quiet times alone when we focus on Him and throughout the day as we notice His presence and to call on Him for His help.

The Lord bless you as you bear fruits of loving service to others in His Name. SINCE you are planted by streams of water you will bear good fruit and God's nourishment will keep you strong and keep you from withering.

That being said, I challenge you to become involved in a small group Bible study (if you are not already) and to develop and improve your prayer life especially since "Prayer" is our theme this year. If you need resources or would like to discuss these issues, Pastor and I are available for you.

Tip of the Month: "Home Handyman" team coordinated by Bob Call. These men and women are willing to come to your home and do the minor 'fix-ups'. Contact Bob and he will find someone who can do what you need. If the job is beyond what a volunteer can do, they will refer you to a reliable professional. They can also be with you when the professional comes to do the estimate and the work if you like. Sometimes it helps to have someone else with you to prevent unreasonable prices and poor workmanship- especially for women and elderly. (Bob's phone number is in the church directory.) More volunteers are always welcome.

Together in His service,

Deaconess Jeri

Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Wednesdays 3:45 PM Martin Luther Room

Led by Deaconess Jeri

Luke (Chapters 19-24) These last 3 sessions from the course that started on St Luke day (October 2009), focus on Jesus ministry in Jerusalem beginning with what we know as Palm Sunday.

Saturdays 3:15 PM Martin Luther Room

Led by Jay Chalgren

"Today's Light" Bible study will begin again with Genesis. This is a great time to begin a walk through the Bible from cover to cover. This time, we will use the tapes by Dr. Walter Stuenkel to enhance our understanding of the Scriptures.

Sundays in March:

"Praying Like Jesus the Messiah" March 7-April 11

Led by: Ron Kasten Martin Luther Room

A study of the Lord's Prayer from Crossways for our "Year of Prayer" at Risen Savior.

This course explores prayer in a refreshing and spiritually enriching manner. See how Jesus completely redefined the conventions of his day regarding prayer, and taught his followers (including us) not only that we could pray intimately to our heavenly "Daddy," but to understand that prayer is a rallying war-cry against the real enemy, Satan, and how each and every human heart is the battleground for non-stop "holy war."

Romans (continuing)

Pastor John Wm Stieve, DD

February 7-March 28

Fellowship Hall

St. Paul's Letter to the Romans is a powerful testimony of the Gospel! While this book is quite "theological" and challenging, you will benefit from reading, studying and discussing portions of this important book. You are invited to join us for an 8-week study through February and March.

Please, also, refer to the gold colored pamphlet for additional opportunities through the week.

Men's Prostate Wellness Group meets Friday, March 12

The March meeting of the Men's Prostate Wellness Group will be on Friday, March 12th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Desert Hills Lutheran Church. We shall again gather with any questions we have brought and the group will offer answers, advice, or some warm handholding! Coffee and goodies? Of course!

Come and join us; we love meeting new folks! Contact: Dave Schmidt, 399.0154.

Breast Cancer Support Group

The Breast Cancer Support Group will meet for brunch Saturday, March 20th, 9:30-211:30AM in the Choir Room. Any woman who is or has undergone treatment for breast cancer is invited to join us. If you know someone in the community that you feel would benefit from this group, please encourage them to attend. Please bring some baked goods or fruit to share. Coffee will be provided. For any questions call Mary Bath, 399-4821.

March Mercy emphasis: Crossroads Mission Food Bank, Nogales

They are in desperate need of onions and rice, but can always use:

Large bags of rice & pinto beans

Coffee, tea

Sugar

Dry milk or canned milk

Peanut butter

Napkins

large cans of vegetables, #10 -

or several small ones

Salsa

Onions

Hot Dogs

Ranch Dressing

Large tubs of margarine, Country Crock, etc

Eggs

Bacon

Cereal, not Corn Flakes

If people would like to get together with a friend or two, a ham for Easter would be appreciated, if they find a good price closer to Easter.

Are you getting ready to leave the area for an extended time? They'd also take things like open cereal boxes, pickles, potatoes, carrots and onions. They cook for many people at lunch every day, so it would get used immediately, storage is not a problem. Food that should be refrigerated, should be put in the church kitchen refrigerator, and marked with Cross Roads Mission name. Thank you, Barb and Gene Haak