



first lutheran
church

Rest. Heal. Grow. Love. Serve. Belong.

the torch



Volume 8, Issue 11
March 2016

Musings Spirit-Led

This month I'd like to talk a little about the Holy Spirit. In his presentation at Best Practices for Ministry in Phoenix, Rev. David Luecke shared the following.

*“We **confess** tri-nitarian belief in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, but we **practice** bi-nitarian ministry, looking mainly to the Father and the Son. Most see the Spirit as a gray blur, a ghostly presence hovering in the background.”*

[Encounters, Gordon Fee, p 06]

Envision the Spirit as the dove who descended on Jesus at His baptism. God sends Christ's Spirit, the dove, to us daily, to sit on our shoulder and whisper godly thoughts.

As we open ourselves to the Spirit, we learn to recognize Spirit encounters. We begin to experience more comfort and excitement as we learn to keep in step with the Spirit's work in us from day to day. Even more fulfillment comes when the Spirit prompts each of us to new actions, and then instills a new level of trust to follow through.

Recognizing the Spirit at work results in better church leadership as we use the gifts He gives. We become better witnesses of a Spirit-led life. An important goal is to cultivate a church culture

more open to the promptings of the Spirit from Christ.

At God's initiative, which comes to us as a free gift, the Spirit changes our motivation and energy for service in the body of Christ, in each member in a different way. According to St. Paul:

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

[1 Corinthians 12:4-7]

St. Paul also says to recognize your gifting by the Spirit and put it to work in the fellowship:

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

[Romans 12:6-8]

Pastor Mike

Deadline to submit items for the next issue of The Torch: Wednesday — March 29, 2016

EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars

Wednesdays, March 2, 9 & 16

6:30 pm — **Soup Supper**

6:45 pm — **Lenten Worship**

This year's Lenten series is: "Living Lent as People of the Resurrection." Be sure to check your mailbox for your copy of the devotional that accompanies our worship series.

Sunday, March 20 — PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 and 10:51 am

Thursday, March 24

6:00 pm — **MAUNDY THURSDAY + SEDER MEAL**

Tickets are available now. They will be on sale in the Patio on Sunday mornings—or stop by the church office any weekday.

Individual = \$5; Family = \$10; Children (12 & under) = \$2.50

Friday, March 25

6:45 pm — **GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE**

Sunday, March 27

EASTER BREAKFAST — 9:15-11:00 am

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP — 8:30 and 10:51 am

NOTE: For a full calendar of events, please see Sunday announcements, the online calendar... or contact the church office.



Look Who's Celebrating in March!

Birthdays

- 1 Pat Worth
- 3 George Hall
- 4 Darrell Close
- 8 Dakota Hutton
- 8 CeeCee Luttrell
- 20 Karl Kiesow
- 21 Bonnie Grahn
- 31 Tim Dorcy

Anniversaries

- 1 David and Sandy Denley
- 12 Karl and Jackie Kiesow
- 14 Darrell and Len Close
- 18 Bill and Pat Worth

Serving at FLC — March 2016

Readers

<u>8:30 am</u>		<u>10:30 am</u>
Mar 6	Diane Grindstaff	Gail Clutter
Mar 13	Rose Wood	Diane Jaeger
Mar 20	Barbara Swift	Barbara Franckowiak
Mar 27	Ellen Hackerd	Sandy Denley

Communion Preparation

Linda Barnhart

A/V Techs

8:30 am—**OPEN** 10:51 am—**Shellody Efimoff**



LWML Chatter

Remember the quilts that were displayed in the sanctuary last fall? They were taken to Redding, and from there to several other locations, ending up in warehouses in Minnesota or Maryland.

Recently we received a poster showing what happens to those quilts. The poster is on the closet doors in the Patio Room. It is heartwarming to know that our stitches give pleasure and warmth to others around the globe.

Lutheran World Relief enables any or all of us to obey Jesus' admonitions found in Matthew 25:31-46. The ladies of LWML sew quilts, but Lutheran World Relief needs school packs, personal care kits, and baby care kits, too.

LWR has been active in Syria as well as the refugee camps in Eastern Europe and Western Asia. Not only does LWR aid in war torn areas, but also in places experiencing natural disasters like the earthquakes in Nepal, famine, and floods.

We are inviting you to organize a group to complete any

of the kits. Romey of our LWML has a list of the requirements set by Lutheran World Relief for each of the kits and quilts. There are no age restrictions. The ingathering is scheduled for the first week in October. We'd be pleased to deliver the various kits with our quilts to the nearest scheduled location. Let's find out how much fun we can have by helping someone who has less than we do.

The LWML Spring Rally will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran in Red Bluff on Saturday, March 19, from 9:30 am-2:30 pm. Everyone is invited. As usual, we will carpool and will be leaving the church parking lot at 7:45 am. Romey has to call in the reservations by March 13. the \$7.00 cost of registration includes lunch.

The new spring LWML Quarterly is on the rack in the Patio Room. Please take one and be a part of the church at large.

Our monthly meeting is on the first Tuesday of each month from 9:00 to 10:00 am. Sewing / quilting follows the meeting. And we quilt each Tuesday from 9:00-11:45 am. Please come!

Living Garbage Free

Recently I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car pulled right in front of us.

My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches! The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us.

My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean, he was really friendly. So I asked, "Why did you just do that? That guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!"

This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call The Law of the Garbage Truck. He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of

garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it, and sometimes they'll dump it on you. He said, "Don't take it personally."

Smile, wave, wish them well... and **move on**. Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets. The bottom line is that stress-free people do not let garbage trucks take over their day.

Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so love on the people who treat you right. Pray for the ones who don't. Life is ten percent what you make it and ninety percent how you take it.

Have a garbage-free day!



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Our Mission Statement

Bringing the Word of God and Christ's gift of salvation into every life as the hands and feet of Jesus, meeting physical and spiritual needs.

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We Are First Lutheran Church.