



The Messenger

“ST. MATTHEW’S CHURCH: A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLES”

July/August/September 2017 Volume 70, Issue 7/8/9 2016



Would they notice?

By Kurt Lammi

Living Lutheran Magazine

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“If your church closed its doors tomorrow, would the surrounding community notice?” I imagine many of us have heard this line. It’s meant to encourage a congregation to be an active presence in their community, which is fine. In another sense, it can also be a serious guilt trip. It can make small congregations and their leaders feel like they aren’t doing enough.

According to ELCA Research and Evaluation, there are just over 3.6 million baptized members in the ELCA. Of those members, half worship in congregations with an average attendance of 150 or less. Out of the ELCA’s 9,392 congregations, 82 percent have an average worship attendance of 150 or less. Clearly, the ELCA is mostly made up of “small congregations.”

Karl Vaters, author of *The Grasshopper Myth: Big Churches, Small Churches and the Small Thinking that Divides Us*, says more than half of all Christians in the world are involved in small congregations. That’s 1 billion people. Still, small congregations are often told they must be big to do important ministry.

If the local megachurch closed, would people notice? That’s a bit like asking, “If the local Wal-Mart closed, would anyone notice?” Of course they would. On the other hand, if the neighborhood mom-and-pop store—or a small congregation—closed, would anyone notice? Maybe, but probably not. But as it turns out, that’s OK.

It’s sad when a congregation of any size closes, but that’s not really the point of the question. It’s actually asking, “Does the surrounding community know your congregation for something in particular? What makes you stand out?” But those questions are based on competition.

When it comes to selling a product, competition is the name of the game. You want the customer to buy your product instead of the one next to it on the shelf. The local congregation’s role, however, isn’t to compete but to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. We aren’t in this to stand out—we are in this to proclaim the name of Jesus.

Does your congregation, regardless of its size, proclaim the name of Jesus? Do you share the love of God? Do you let people know that, in the midst of this hard life, God is still with them? If so, then keep doing what you’re doing.

Yes, if you’re part of a small congregation, the surrounding community may not always know about you. But remember, throughout the Bible, God had a tendency to work through people whom others didn’t expect.

Think about the 1 billion people in the world who are part of small congregations. Think of how half of all ELCA members attend small congregations. If the local small congregation closed, then the people of that church would certainly notice.

I’m not saying that we shouldn’t pay attention to the people in the community. Rather, I’m saying church members, regardless of how many there are, need to hear and proclaim the good news too.

Because of that, small congregations have a special calling. We aren’t the church version of Wal-Mart—and shouldn’t be. We’re much more like the mom-and-pop store—the one that knows the people who enter, helps them find what they’re looking for, and sends them out with something they treasure.

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Read the Messenger at MatthewChurch.com and like us on Facebook: St. Matthew’s Church of Burbank/Glendale



70 years...and counting! Remembering the Past to Lay a Foundation for the Future

70 years. Our “Platinum Anniversary.” A significant milepost. For 70 years, the people of God known as St. Matthew’s Church have gathered week by week, month by month, year by year, to praise God and to serve their community and world in the name of Jesus Christ. From humble beginnings in the chapel at Grandview Cemetery, St. Matthew’s now celebrates beautiful sanctuaries in the San Fernando Valley located in one of the most ethnically diverse neighborhoods in the world. In English, Tagalog, and Armenian, the praises of God are spoken and sung each week and people are empowered to live their lives for the sake of Jesus who gave up his life for each and everyone of us. Through our acts of service and our joyful giving, we share the Good News of Jesus in word and deed throughout our community and around the globe.



God’s grace in one of the most do Valleys located in one of the most world. In English, Tagalog, and Armenian and sung each week and people ken and sung each week and people sake of Jesus who gave up his life our acts of service and our joyful sus in word and deed throughout

Yet while a milepost, 70 years is not a closing chapter merely to be celebrated by reminiscing, 70 years is a point in time in which we will look forward. As we look to the horizon, St. Matthew’s is in dire need of preparing for several long-term deferred maintenance projects which could prepare for our 70th Anniversary, this well be just around the corner. To pre- year St. Matthew’s entire facility is receiving a 70th Anniversary “Face-Lift” with repairs to the air conditioning systems, fresh paint and repairs, additional lighting for the kitchen, repairs to the Parish hall roof, etc. Additionally, we seek to contribute to our “Long-Term Maintenance Fund” which has been established to begin to prepare for future major repairs as well as other major deferred maintenance projects which simply could never be funded from the general budget.

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However, in order to make these plans a reality we all need to pull together. We are currently asking all friends and members of St. Matthew’s to commit to making a special “over-and-above” GIFT OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD for our congregation’s 70th Anniversary. Every member and friend is challenged to commit to giving one of the following based on their ability to make a special sacrificial gift to ensure our congregation’s future as a “house of prayer for all peoples:”

- A) 70 One Dollar Bills
- B) 70 Five Dollar Bills
- C) 70 Ten Dollar Bills
- D) 70 Twenty Dollar Bills
- E) 70 One Hundred Dollar Bills

Perhaps you or your family might even consider an Estate Gift or “Special Blessing Gift” at this time? We urge you to prayerfully consider your response. All contributions are tax deductible and very deeply appreciated. May God bless your generosity as we strive together to Make Christ Known in Glendale/Burbank for many years to come.

What special memories do you have of the ministry of St. Matthew’s Church? Were there special times when you were blessed “here in this place?” Have you been touched by God’s grace in memorable ways here? At times such as our 70th Anniversary Celebration, each of us is called to remember the blessings of the past. The point of such remembering is to sense our call from God to do all that we can to make sure that future generations also will have such memories some day. St. Matthew’s Church is committed to many more years not as a mere museum, or worse yet a mausoleum, but as a mission post where God’s grace is proclaimed in word and deed for the redemption of the world!



Lutheran Bible Translators

An Average Day? By Michel Ermland

what does an average day in the life of a missionary look like? Serving on the mission field within a different culture means dealing with ambiguities. And that calls for flexibility— a word very familiar to missionaries. Although every day is not like the day described below, it gives you an idea of the challenges I and my missionary colleagues may face.

On this particular day, I woke up planning to meet with my Komba language teacher for a few hours in the morning. During breakfast, he called me to let me know classes were canceled. He wanted to go to a funeral in a town south of here. Funerals are very important in Komba culture. They last several days and nights. I decided to head to the translation office to work. I wasn't sure if all the translators would be present for team checking or if it would be a preparation work day for me. It turned out to be a work preparation day, where I continued to work through Deuteronomy in the morning and prepped a couple Psalms for team checking. After lunch I was able to finally send two emails I was unable to send the day before because of poor internet. I asked if there would be Komba literacy class that evening, because I had been wanting to attend. I thought I heard an affirmative, so I left a little before 8pm to go to the class first stopping to greet a friend. He told me the literacy class was cancelled because of another funeral service being held in a nearby town. I also found out yet another funeral service was to be held the next day.

I bid farewell and went to greet yet another friend. He was getting ready to leave for that evening's funeral service and wondered if I was going to go. At this point it was 8:40pm. I asked when he thought it might end. Maybe midnight....I thought, why not? I had been to only one other funeral celebration and this one was for a member of a local Lutheran church.

I rushed home to prepare. My friend came to my house and I followed him on my motorcycle as we headed out through the bush on rocky terrain. I would have been lost if I hadn't been following him!

The service lasted until around 12:15. I got back home close to 12:30am, tired out and ready for sleep.

I'm never sure what tomorrow will bring. But I know that I can't let surprises or uncertainty throw me off stride. Translation is being done, the Komba are learning to read God's Word, people are growing in faith. I'm confident in Christ that each day will go just fine.

Editors note: Please consider making a donation to Lutheran Bible Translators. St. Matthew's Church has supported the work of the Federwitz family in various mission fields for many years.



Would they notice.....continued from page 1

That's not to say that the small congregation is better than a bigger one simply because it's smaller. Again, it's not about competition. It's about doing what God has called us to do. Big congregations play an important role—but so, too, do small ones.



Synod Assembly Report Southwest California Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Called Forward Together in Christ June 2 & 3, 2017

Pastor Keith, Janet Whitehead and I represented you at the 30th Synod Assembly held at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. Attendance included 109 Ministers of Word and Sacrament, 170 lay voting members, consisting of five Deacons, 22 members of the Synod Council, 149 lay voting members, 127 males, 141 females, 58 people of color other than white, 36 under the age of 31, and 45 visitors. The numbers changed for each report since people came and went.

The Assembly opened and The Festival Service of Worship was on Saturday morning at A large number of clergy in out with Bishop R. Guy Er- and robe. The Chapel was Two African Methodist Armenian Apostolic Church

The proceedings were well Bible studies from Bishop Area Synod, our Sister U. S. trying to do more. Besides out in some binders in the that is sometimes a basket-reports from the Synod's videos about Synod and es, and voted for Synod posi- grants were awarded. budget even though it had a made up from assets.

Clarence Anderson Award to five pioneer women or their families. I watched the well-done new 2017 movie *A Return to Grace: Martin Luther's Life and Legacy* also known as *Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed the Word* on Friday night.

Resolutions passed making the Southwest California Synod a Sanctuary Synod and making it a Jubilee synod to pray for and take action for economic justice for each country, and especially the world's poorest countries.

Many organizations had display tables set up with free items like their brochures, pens with their names, some with candy to get one to stop at the table, items for kids, lapel pins, campaign buttons, note pads, shopping bags. Items for sale included women's clothing accessories, jewelry, religious wood carvings from Africa, Equal Exchange items like coffee, books, and various other things.

Pr. Bob Ford from St. Matthew's and the rest of us stayed at La Quinta Inn in Thousand Oaks. Pastor Keith and Janet arrived on Thursday to help organized the Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Dalton Siirila

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church's Synod Assembly Voting Member



closed with worship. ship with Holy Communion the Samuelson Chapel. their robes processed in and win in his mitre with staff full with a volunteer choir. Episcopal (AME) and two bishops attended.

organized. We had two Patricia Lull of the St. Paul Synod with which we are the reports on-line or printed meeting room (Gilbert Arena ball court), we listened to ministries, watched short ELCA programs or messag- tions. Over \$65,000 in We passed the \$2,002,200 \$161.741 deficit that can be Pastor Banwart presented the



Health

Stroke Identification



A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within three hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within three hours, which is tough.

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S Ask the person to **smile**

T Ask the person to **talk** and speak a simple sentence (coherently...i.e. chicken soup)

R Ask the person to **raise** both arms.

Another sign of a stroke is this: ask the person to stick out his tongue. If the tongue is crooked, if it goes to one side or the other that is also an indication of a stroke.

If the person has trouble with any one of these tasks, call emergency immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

Get a friend with four legs

A few studies on the link between pet ownership and health have found that owning a pet can reduce anxiety, lower blood pressure, even improve the odds of surviving a heart attack. Now the American Heart Association has weighed in with a report published in the journal *Circulation* that recommends owning a dog, in particular, for those seeking to reduce their risk of deadly heart disease. Dog owners are more likely to be physically active, and are also less vulnerable to the effects of stress, the report says

Approximate lifetime expenses in owning a dog: \$10,719.

Approximate lifetime expenses in owning a cat: \$12,050.

Happy Teeth

Brushing no-no's....

Don't brush right after eating

Acids in most foods can temporarily weaken enamel so brushing too soon after eating can wear it down. "Wait 30 to 60 minutes," says Gulia Omene, D.M.D., "to give the proteins and enzymes in your saliva a chance to wash over your teeth and strengthen the enamel again."

Don't scrub

"You think the harder you brush, the cleaner your teeth will be., ut that's not true," says Carlo P. Orland, a D.D.S. with the Chicago Dental Society. "Brushing too zealously can damage your teeth and gums." If your bristles start to splay out within a few weeks, lighten up.

Don't open extra wide to reach your molars

If you do, the back of your jawbone can get in the way of reaching the back teeth. Open just wide enough for the toothbrush to fit in.

Don't whiten too often

This can cause gum and tooth sensitivity . Use whitening toothpaste a few times a week, at-home strips every six months, or professional whitening once a year.





Around St. Matt's



“Noisy Coin Offering”

The “Noisy Coin Offering” continues to be a success and is taken on the third Sunday of every month and is received with great and

noisy enthusiasm. Congregants are invited to save their coins and make a joyful “dump” with them into the metal pans circulated by the ushers.

The special offering is designated quarterly to a special charity. The first quarter of the year designated Lutheran Bible Translators, the second quarter went to Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service and the third quarter will go to Burbank Temporary Aid Center.

Recycling is our middle name at St. Matt's

Our Men's Group has been collecting aluminum cans and recyclable bottles for years and using the proceeds to improve and beautify our church campus. Dalton Siirila will be happy to give you info on how you can help.

We've also been collecting soda pull tabs and square bread ties for Ronald McDonald House and Pilgrim's Place. See Sandra in the office for details.

Box Tops for Education...see Judy Dellinger

BUT here are some other things that can give meaning a second time around:

baby clothes and blankets

magazines

used postage stamps

used phones

women's cosmetics, clothes and supplies

current year calendars

greeting cards (used and new)

Please see Sandra in the Church Office with any questions.

“God's Work, Our Hands.” Sunday, September 10

As we observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we are reminded of the gospel's promise that we are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbors. In “The Freedom of a Christian,” Martin Luther wrote: “A Christian is lord of all, completely free of everything; a Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all.”

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ ... every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life... flows freely from a living daring confidence in God's grace.

Whether we fill backpacks with needed school supplies, serve meals to those who are food insecure or write letters to soldiers and veterans, we are using our hands to do God's work to reconcile and restore communities to Jesus' name throughout the world.



Soles 4 Souls

Thanks to Rein and Dalton for delivering over 75 pair of shoes to the *Soles 4 Souls* reception center in Fullerton.

This is an annual collection drive at St. Matt's and is always generously supported by the congregation and friends. Your old shoes may have made a big difference in the life of someone who has so little.

Thanks to everyone for their support of the recently concluded Lutheran World Relief Health Kits....120 kits were assembled thanks to some VERY generous supporters who donated items in bulk quantities. And thanks to a team of volunteers who wrapped, packed and labeled these gifts of love.



Matt's Mailbox

Thank you St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for directing 90 Choice Dollars. A total of \$199 Choice Dollars grant funds went to St. Mat-

thew's in 2017. You've become part of something bigger by participating in Thrivent Choice.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued kindness in support of Burbank Temporary Aid Center (BTAC). As always, your generous contribution of \$454.66 will directly impact the work we do. Because of you, we are able to provide the poor, working poor, and homeless of the local community with the basic services they need to live with dignity.. Thank you once again for helping us to fulfill our mission—it is truly appreciated!

Wishing you the best, Barbara Howell, Director

Dear St. Matthew's Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your gift to the work of LBT (Lutheran Bible Translators) through Southwest California Synod, ELCA in the amount of \$50.00 for *552 Alvina*. We appreciate your heart for the Bibleless people of the world and your gift will help them to have God's word in their hands and in their heart.

God's blessing, Joe Dunsey, Financial Officer

E-Mail from God:

If you never felt pain, then how would you know that I am a Healer?

If you never had to pray, then how would you know that I am a Deliverer

If you never had a trial, how could you call yourself an overcomer?

If you never felt sadness, how would you know that I am a Comforter?

If you never made a mistake, how would you know that I am a forgiver?

If you knew all, how would you know that I will answer your questions?

If you never were in trouble, how would you know that I will come to your rescue?

If you never were broken, then how would you know that I can make you whole?

If you never had a problem, how would you know that I can solve them?

If you never had any suffering, then how would you know what I went through?

If you never went through the fire, then how would you become pure?

If I gave you all things, how could you appreciate them?

If I never corrected you, how would you know that I love you?

If you had all power, then how would you learn to depend on me?

If your life was perfect, then what would you need me for?

Love, Jesus

Hello, I wanted to write an update about Giving Day at Boston University. About two months ago I sent an email to my mom asking for support for the BU Biology Department's Giving Day efforts. In response, many people, including some I have never met donated on behalf of the department....With your help, we raised...\$16,740 for our students and I organized and attended events where these very students expressed how much this support means to them. With this money they are gaining access to new opportunities, as well as the priceless knowledge that their department believes in them and their hard work. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your support of me, my department, and our students.

Best, Jennifer Scott (grand-daughter of Bob and Carolyn Ambrose.)



Rein and Leora DeBoer are the proud grandparents of a new baby girl born to daughter Leann and son-in-law Adrian Haurat. Eleanor Amelia was born on May 24 and weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces.

Susan Henninger Fetta died on May 20th. Susan was the daughter of former members, the late Les and Freda Henninger and wife of Frank Fetta the Music Director at St. Matt's in the late 70's. Expressions of condolence can be sent to Frank and Raphael Fetta 5843 Eucalyptus Lane, L.A. 90042-1239.



July, August, September Service Assistants

Ushers & Greeters

7/2 Marv/Dalton
 7/9 Sandra/Ramona
 7/16 Ramona/Roberto
 7/23 Marv/Dalton
 7/30 Ramona/Sandra
 8/6 Rein/Roberto
 8/13 Marv/Dalton
 8/20 Ramona/Sandra
 8/27 Rein/Roberto
 9/3 Marv/Dalton
 9/10 Sandra/Ramona
 9/17 Marv/Roberto
 9/24 Marv/Dalton

Altar Guild

7/2 Pat (green)
 7/9 Ramona (green)
 7/16 Judy (green)
 7/23 Barbara (green)
 7/30 Judy (green)
 8/6 Pat (green)
 8/13 Barbara (green)
 8/20 Judy (green)
 8/27 Ramona (green)
 9/3 Judy (green)
 9/10 Barbara (green)
 9/17 Pat (red)
 9/24 Ramona (red)

Counters

7/2 Marv/Rajeshh
 7/9 Karen/Janet
 7/16 Judy/Pria
 7/23 Marv/Rajeshh
 7/30 Karen/Janet
 8/6 Judy/Priya
 8/13 Marv/Rajeshh
 8/20 Judy/Priya
 8/27 Karen/Janet
 9/3 Marv/Rajeshh
 9/20 Karen/Janet
 9/27 Judy/Janet
 9/24 Marv/Rajeshh

Acolyte

Daniel



Sound Engineer

Marv

Communion Assistant

7/2 Dalton
 7/9 Karen
 7/16 Sandra
 7/23 Mark
 7/30 Dalton
 8/6 Mark
 8/13 Karen
 8/20 Sandra
 8/27 Dalton
 9/3 Karen
 9/10 Sandra
 9/17 Mark, Dalton, Sandra
 9/24 Mark, Dalton, Sandra

July: Choir

August: Choir:

September: Choir



Birthdays and Anniversaries in July, August, September

Birthdays:

7/2 Michelle Dixon
 7/3 James Aasen, Sr.
 7/8 Leann Haurat
 7/8 Marvin Schoenrock
 7/14 David Panahon
 7/14 James Thompson
 7/15 Peter Steuer
 7/20 Steven Maltez
 7/23 Brian Aasen
 7/23 Sarah Reynolds
 7/27 Natalie Aasen
 7/27 Hassin Monroy
 7/29 Roberto Flores
 7/29 Robert Kline
 8/4 Antonio Allas
 8/5 Wendy Hopkins

8/6 Gordon Barnwell
 8/6 Amanda Kline
 8/10 Constance Hanson
 8/10 Doug McMillen
 8/11 Matt Parsons-Woolf
 8/13 Keith Banwart, Jr.
 8/16 John Marquez-Opjor
 8/17 Dolores Panahon
 8/19 Janice Oxfor
 8/20 Heather Aasen
 8/21 Dalton Siirila
 8/25 Linden Hultquist
 8/26 Katherine Tadena
 8/28 Camille Deb
 9/1 Reymond Pontines
 9/3 Landon Dixon
 9/3 Natalie Lipari
 9/6 Adrian Haurat

9/9 Patricia Barnwell
 9/10 Bernadette Daguio
 9/10 Mark Parsons-Woolf
 9/11 Carl Cristiano
 9/11 Sandra Ogden
 9/12 David Bridge
 9/12 Scott Cappiello
 9/12 Nick Griffio-Barnwell
 9/12 Ana Trece
 9/14 Calese Crowder
 9/17 Katelyn Bailey
 9/18 Liana Neyer
 9/20 Kaylee Cruz
 9/20 Abby Tualla
 9/20 Abby Tualla
 9/25 Stephanie Hultquist
 9/26 Ellen Bridge
 9/27 Robert Scott
 9/27 Janet Whitehead
 9/30 Jackson Trammell

Anniversaries:

7/3 Mark & Dolores Panahon
 7/3 Joe & Lizzy Hoffman
 7/12 Astrid & Andreas Hirsch
 7/16 Nick & Leslie Bazzano
 7/18 Wendy & Carl Cristiano
 8/2 Karen & Jay Deb
 8/8 Arisai & John Marquez-Opjorden
 8/19 Gordon & Barbara Barnwell
 8/27 Elsie & Tom Ford, Jr.
 9/19 Peggy & Carmen Manfredi-Nielsen
 9/20 Abby & Marco Tualla
 9/28 Alan & Bob Wilson-Wolffe



Humor

“Singing with the Lutherans”

by Garrison Kiellor

I have made fun of Lutherans for years—who wouldn't, if you lived in Minnesota? But I have also sung with Lutherans and that is one of the main joys of life, along with hot baths and fresh sweet corn.

We make fun of Lutherans for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like they do.

If you ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Lutheranless place, to sing along on the chorus of ‘Michael Row the Boat Ashore’, they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their under-wear. But if you do this among Lutherans they'll smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road!

Lutherans are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony. It's a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Lutherans to sing in harmony. We're too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment.

I once sang the bass line of ‘Children of the Heavenly Father’ in a room with about three thousand Lutherans in it, and when we finished, we all had tears in our eyes, partly from the promise that God will not forsake us, partly from the proximity of all those lovely voices. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

I do believe this: These Lutherans are the sort of people you could call up when you're in deep distress. If you're dying, they'll comfort you. If you're lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you're hungry, they'll give you tuna salad!

About Lutherans....

Lutherans believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.

Lutherans like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.

Lutherans believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.

Lutherans usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.

And finally, you know you're a Lutheran when:

It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.

You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.

Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.

The communion cabinet is open to all, but the coffee cabinet is locked up tight.

When you watch a ‘Star Wars’ movie and they say, “May the Force be with you”, you respond, “and also with you.”

And lastly, it takes 15 minutes to say, “Good-bye.”

Offer made to Adam

God looks down and notices that Adam is all alone while all the animals have companions, so he decides to create a companion for man as well. He comes to see Adam and says to him, "Adam, you are my greatest creation and therefore, I am going to create for you the ultimate companion. She will worship the very ground you walk on, she will long for you and no other, she will be highly intelligent, she will wait on you hand and foot and obey your every command, she will be beautiful, and all it will cost you is an arm and a leg." Thinking for a few moments, Adam replies, "What could I get for a rib?"

A Rare Book

A collector of rare books ran into an acquaintance who told him he had just thrown away an old Bible that he found in a dusty, old box. He happened to mention that Guten-somebody-or-other had printed it.

"Not Gutenberg?" gasped the collector. "Yes, that was it!"

"You idiot! You've thrown away one of the first books ever printed. A copy recently sold at auction for half a million dollars!"

"Oh, I don't think this book would have been worth anything close to that much," replied the man. "It was scribbled all over in the margins by some guy named Martin Luther."?"



I wonder...by Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

Recently, I heard the Bach cantata *O heiliges Geist und Wasserbad*. The cantata's text is based on John 3:1-15, which was the Gospel lesson at the service where the cantata was first performed. The image that stuck with me and about which I have been doing a lot of thinking was the story of the fiery serpents sent among the people of Israel in the wilderness.

Both the Gospel lesson for the day and the Bach cantata allude to this. You might remember this tense episode during the Exodus. The people of God had been liberated from crushing oppression in Egypt—the plagues, Passover, walking dry-shod through the sea, manna from heaven and water from the rock! We can only imagine the excitement of those heady days when God set Israel free.

But now the journey had become long and they had to detour around Edom. The people became impatient and angry. They began to murmur. They had murmured before against Moses and Aaron, but now their murmuring was directed at God. It turned out to be the same old laundry list of complaints: “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food” (Numbers 21:5).

Now remember, this “miserable food” was manna from heaven. God promised to provide enough for each person each day. They were to collect no more and no less than a day's supply. Some collected more, not trusting that God would be faithful. Some collected less. These were the Lutheran Israelites, who did not believe that God's all sufficient love was for them too.

Enter the snakes. “Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died” (Numbers 21:6). A calamity had befallen the people. In their panic and in their pain they pleaded for deliverance. God rescued Israel, not so much from poisonous serpents but from Israel's own faithless and poisonous complaints that had appeared long before the snakes did. In that faithlessness, Israel had set itself against God.

Israel's rescue was a restored relationship with their true God, not simply escaping the snakes. God rescued Israel both from themselves and from God's judgment. The symbol of their salvation was a fiery serpent—a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole. The very image of suffering and death was also the image of life and salvation.

This is what Jesus was talking about in his encounter with Nicodemus. “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life” (John 3:14-15). This is what Bach's cantata sings about: “You know, my God, how painfully I feel the old serpent's sting; sin's poison destroys my body and soul. Help me, so that in faith I choose you, blood-red image of a serpent, that was raised on the cross.” The cross in John's Gospel, like the pole with the bronze serpent, signifies both the poison of death and the life-giving power of God.

I have read Numbers several times and there is no indication that the serpents ever left. The plague of serpents remained an ongoing threat and the raised bronze serpent remained an ongoing reminder of the need to turn to the healing power of God.

And here's what really has me thinking—the word for fiery serpent is “seraphim.” Seraphim. The same angels who, with the cherubim, attend God. Could the fiery serpents be snake-angels that like border collies nip at us when we go our own way? Could the sting of their bite remind us to look to the cross, the death of our death? Could the snake-angels be fiery guardian angels who bring us back to the truth that, left to our own devices, we are helpless and sometimes dangerous and apart from God, that we can do nothing?

Just wondering.



Out of Many, One God

By K.T. Sancken *Living Lutheran*

As Christians, we are called to love and serve the neighbor. The question posed in Luke 10:29 “Who is my neighbor?” has been one the ELCA has explored since its founding in 1988. In an increasingly diverse America, neighbors aren’t always Christian. “The Scriptures don’t specify what that neighbor’s ethnic background is. I think that’s intentional” said Kathryn Lohre, assistant to the ELCA presiding bishop and executive for ecumenical and interreligious relations. For the ELCA, a diversity of religious belief systems coexisting in society isn’t a threat—it’s an invitation to conversation and understanding. “It’s part of our baptismal vocation as Lutherans,” Lohre said. “We’re responding faithfully to [Martin] Luther’s explanation of the Eighth Commandment by engaging in mutual understanding.” In explaining that commandment, Luther wrote: “We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.” This has been the basis for the ELCA’s interreligious work over the last three decades. Soon after its formation, the ELCA recognized non-Christians as neighbors by establishing the ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Jewish Relations. In 1994 the ELCA was the first Lutheran denomination to apologize to the Jewish people and repudiate Luther’s anti-Semitic writings from 1543. (*see article below*) In 2008, in response to an open letter from Muslim leaders looking for common ground and understanding with Christians, the ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Muslim Relations was formed. This year the church has reflected deeply on how to continue to serve Muslim and Jewish neighbors. In January, President Trump attempted to restrict entry of refugees and visitors from predominantly Muslim countries into the U.S. A month later there were attacks on Jewish cemeteries in Missouri and Pennsylvania, and threats of violence against 13 Jewish community centers across the country. In reaction to these occurrences, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton issued statements encouraging members and congregations to “[reach] out and [show] up with our Jewish neighbors” and to “offer safety to people fleeing religious persecution regardless of their faith tradition.” Eaton also appointed the ELCA Interreligious Task Force in 2016 to develop a draft interreligious policy statement that is slated to be presented to the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Task force member Jacqueline Bussie, director of the Forum on Faith and Life at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., said: “As a Lutheran Christian, I think of Christ as a reconciler, as in 2 Corinthians 5:18 that says, ‘God reconciled us to Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.’ I’m called to reconciliation.” In a world that is so divided and in conflict over religion, a ministry of reconciliation must include interfaith cooperation, service and dialogue.”

“Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” The answer is, “The one who showed him mercy.” Luke 10:36

“Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery”

During the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, voting members approved a variety of memorials from the ELCA’s 65 synod. Several touched on the church’s response to societal issues of race, ethnicity and culture, including the “Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery.”

The doctrine of discovery drove centuries of European exploration and colonialism from the mid-15th century on. The belief in Christian superiority and power was used to legitimize claims on lands inhabited by indigenous peoples, including ancestors of ELCA members of American Indian and Alaska Native heritage.

The 2016 Churchwide Assembly overwhelmingly approved memorials from 20 synods and affirmed “that this church will eliminate the doctrine of discovery from its contemporary rhetoric and programs, electing to practice accompaniment with native peoples instead of a missionary endeavor to them, allowing these partnerships to mutually enrich indigenous communities and the ministries of the ELCA.”



Prayer Calendar: July, August, September



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Joe & Lizzy Hoffman | 1 United Nations |
| 2 Michelle Dixon | 2 Karen & Jay Deb |
| 3 Pr. Mark & Dolores Panahon | 3 United States of America |
| 4 James Aasen, Sr. | 4 Antonio Allas |
| 5 Lutheran Health Ministry Foothills | 5 Wendy Hopkins |
| 6 Peggy Manfredi-Nielsen | 6 Gordon Barnwell |
| 7 Leann Haurat | 7 Amy Kline |
| 8 Marv Schoenrock | 8 Arisai & John Marquez-Opjorden |
| 9 Presiding Bishop Eaton | 9 Connie Hansen |
| 10 Lutheran Maritime Ministry | 10 Doug McMillen |
| 11 Lutheran Bible Translators | 11 Matt Parsons-Woolf |
| 12 Andreas & Astrid Hirsch | 12 Lutheran Health Ministry Foothills |
| 13 Jim Thompson | 13 Pr. Keith Banwart |
| 14 David Panahon | 14 Federwitz Missionaries |
| 15 Peter Steuer | 15 Presiding Bishop Eaton |
| 16 Nick & Leslie Bazzano | 16 John Marquez-Opjorden |
| 17 President Trump | 17 Dolores Panahon |
| 18 Carl & Wendy Cristiano | 18 Gordon & Barbara Barnwell |
| 19 Armenian Ministry | 19 Janice Oxford |
| 20 Steven Maltez | 20 Heather Aasen |
| 21 Governor Brown | 21 Dalton Siirila |
| 22 Brian Aasen | 22 President Trump |
| 23 Sarah Reynolds | 23 Lauren Bridge |
| 24 Filipino Ministry | 24 Governor Brown |
| 25 All Pastors | 25 Linden Hultquist |
| 26 Natalie Aasen | 26 Katherine Tadena |
| 27 Hassin Monroy | 27 Pr. Tom & Elsie Ford |
| 28 Robert Kline | 28 Camille Deb |
| 29 Roberto Flores | 29 Bishop Erwin |
| 30 Bishop Erwin | 30 Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary |
| 31 English Ministry | 31 Lutheran World Relief |

September

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Reymond Pontines | 11 Sandra Ogden | 21 President Trump |
| 2 Natalie Lipari | 12 Scott Cappiello | 22 Bishop Erwin |
| 3 Landon Dixon | 13 David Bridge | 23 Governor Brown |
| 4 Nick Griffio-Barnwell | 14 Calese Crowder | 24 Lutheran World Relief |
| 5 Ana Treece | 15 Presiding Bishop Eaton | 25 Lutheran Health Ministry |
| 6 Adrian Haurat | 16 St. Matthew's Church | 26 Interfaith Refugee Svc |
| 7 Carl Cristiano | 17 Katelyn Bailey | 27 Lutheran Refugee Service |
| 8 Mark Parsons-Woolf | 18 Liana Neyer | 28 Alan & Bob Wilson-Wolffe |
| 9 Patricia Barnwell | 19 Carmen & Peggy Manfredi | 29 Lutheran Social Services |
| 10 Ma Bernadette Daguio | 20 Kaylee Cruz | 30 California Lutheran Univ. |



SEPTEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27 Pentecost 12 9:00 AM ENGLISH Choir 10:00 AM ENGLISH WORSHIP 11:15 AM Worship Committee 12:30 PM FILIPINO WORSHIP 2:00 PM Filipino Bible Study 3:00 PM Armenian Worship</p>	<p>28 Augustine of Hippo Moses the Black 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast and Work-Morning 7:00 PM Armenian Choir & Youth</p>	<p>29 Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 7:30 PM English Choir</p>	<p>1 7:00 PM Armenian Prayer 7:00 PM KOINONIA (Youth & Young Adult Group)</p>	<p>2 Nikolai F.S. Grundtvg 8:00 AM Organ Rehearsal 2:00 PM Filipino Choir</p>
<p>3 Pentecost 13 9:00 AM English Choir 10:00 AM ENGLISH WORSHIP 11:15 AM 70th Committee 12:30 PM FILIPINO WORSHIP 2:00 PM Filipino Bible Study 3:00 PM Armenian Worship</p>	<p>4 Labor Day 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast and Work-Morning 7:00 PM Armenian Choir & Youth</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 10:30 AM School Chapel</p>	<p>7 7:30 PM English Choir</p>	<p>8 7:00 PM Armenian Prayer 7:00 PM KOINONIA (Youth & Young Adult Group)</p>	<p>9 Peter Claver 8:00 AM Organ Rehearsal 2:00 PM Filipino Choir</p>
<p>10 Hymn Sing Sunday/Grandparents' Day/God's Work Our Hands Sunday 9:00 AM English Bible Class/English Choir 10:00 AM ENGLISH WORSHIP 11:00 AM LWR School Kit Project 12:30 PM FILIPINO WORSHIP 2:00 PM Filipino Bible Study 3:00 PM Armenian Worship</p>	<p>11 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast and Work-Morning 7:00 PM Armenian Choir & Youth</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 CPK Burbank Fundraiser Day for 70th Anniversary John Chrysostom 10:30 AM School Chapel</p>	<p>14 Holy Cross Day 7:30 PM English Choir</p>	<p>15 7:00 PM Armenian Prayer 7:00 PM KOINONIA (Youth & Young Adult Group)</p>	<p>16 Cyrilian of Carthage 8:00 AM Organ Rehearsal 2:00 PM Filipino Choir</p>
<p>17 Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) Sunday Hildegard of Bingen St. Matthew's Sunday - 70th Anniversary 9:00 AM English Bible Class/English Choir 10:00 AM 70TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL WORSHIP with Bp. Erwin 11:30 AM 70th Anniversary Luncheon 3:00 PM Armenian Worship</p>	<p>18 Dag Hammarskjöld 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast and Work-Morning 7:00 PM Armenian Choir & Youth</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Bp. Nelson Trout 10:30 AM School Chapel</p>	<p>21 St. Matthew's Day 6:15 PM Churchmen's Dinner 7:30 PM English Choir 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>22 7:00 PM Armenian Prayer 7:00 PM KOINONIA (Youth & Young Adult Group)</p>	<p>23 8:00 AM Organ Rehearsal 2:00 PM Filipino Choir</p>
<p>24 Noisy Offering Sunday - Burbank Temporary Aid Center St. Luke's Sunday 9:00 AM English Bible Class/English Choir 10:00 AM ENGLISH HEALING WORSHIP 12:30 PM FILIPINO WORSHIP 2:00 PM Filipino Bible Study 3:00 PM Armenian Worship</p>	<p>25 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast and Work-Morning 7:00 PM Armenian Choir & Youth</p>	<p>26 11:30 AM Foothill Clergy 5:00 PM LHMF Board 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>27 10:30 AM School Chapel</p>	<p>28 7:30 PM English Choir</p>	<p>29 St. Michael & All Angels' Day 7:00 PM Armenian Prayer 7:00 PM KOINONIA (Youth & Young Adult Group)</p>	<p>30 Jerome 8:00 AM Organ Rehearsal 2:00 PM Filipino Choir</p>



Ask the Pastor by Pastor Keith Banwart

What do the bishop's "emblems of office" mean?

On Sunday September 17, the Rt. Rev. R. Guy Erwin will be present with us as we celebrate St. Matthew's 70th Anniversary. We hope that many of you can be with us. In advance of the Bishop's visit, I thought this article (adapted from the Bishop's Installation Bulletin) may prove helpful to everyone. All those different "bishop" things have meanings which can help us to understand the role of a bishop ("overseer") in the life of the church.

The Pectoral (Chest) Cross: Although the custom of bishops wearing an ornamented cross is not as ancient as other symbols of the bishop's office, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) the pectoral cross is the main emblem of office. The primary cross that Bp. Erwin wears is one that was commissioned in 1987 for all synodical bishops. This cross has been worn by all four bishops of the Synod. It is of modern design.

The Pastoral Staff: The pastoral staff (or "crosier") is a long staff with a hooked or rounded decoration at the top, and has long been a symbol of a bishop's oversight in the area for which he or she is responsible. A bishop generally only carries a crosier in ceremonies within his or her own synod. Crosiers symbolize a shepherd's crook, an interpretation of the bishop's role as chief pastor of the synod. Bp. Erwin's crosier is ornamented in ancient Nordic style.

The Ring: In the early church, to be a bishop meant a greater likelihood of persecution or martyrdom, and the ring is meant to be a reminder to the bishop that the bond to his or her people is unbreakable. The ring Bp. Erwin wears is of simple, modern design: a wide, flat band of gold, slightly peaked on one edge to resemble a bishop's miter (see below). It is decorated with a small image of Jesus with Sts. Peter and Paul and a cross. This ring was produced in 1965 for the Second Vatican Council.

The Vestments: Bishops' vestments are for the most part simply more ornate versions of those worn by clergy generally. The red festival set created by Chagall Design of Carson for Bp. Erwin's use consists of a chasuble (worn when celebrating Holy Communion), a cope (a cape-like garment worn for other ceremonies), and a miter (a distinctive pointed hat representing the flames of the Holy Spirit from the Pentecost story). Several pastors in the Synod, including Pastor Banwart, have matching stoles (the chief vestment of parish pastors symbolizing a yoke to his or her congregation, the greater church, and Christ) which were given them as a gift from Bp. Erwin.

Join us for the 70th and see if you can pick out each of these symbols of the Bishop's office. Hope to see you here!

Collection Count....a survey of 1,000 Protestant senior pastors found that about two-thirds of churches are meeting or exceeding their goals for offerings.

26% of church offerings were higher than budgeted for at the end of last year

39% of church offerings were around what was budgeted.

32% of church offerings were lower than budgeted.



News from our Filipino Congregation by Pastor Mark Panahon

Blessings ... Blessings ... and more Blessings!

Truly, God is full of mercy and love. His mercy is new every day. His faithfulness to us is great..

Two months ago I received a phone call from a friend named Noel Pascua that I haven't seen for two years. He asked me to bless his business in a new location which is in Oxnard, California. He owns a business called 3D TEK CNC, LLC. They specialize in contract manufacturing of complex prototypes, precision silicone transfer and compression molds, tooling and fixtures. We were happy to see each other again after a long time. His family and friends attended the event. We started the blessings in prayer and singing. It was a great joy in serving God in this ministry.



Another blessing was the Ibay and Daguio's house warming that was held last May. Some members of the Filipino congregation, families and friends attended the event. At present they have moved to Maple Ave. Glendale, California. It was such a big blessing for the whole family!

We are grateful for Daniel's upcoming graduation day on June 22nd as he completes his nursing course (LVN – Licensed Vocational Nursing). Thank you for all your prayers for Daniel.

As we serve God in Spirit and in Truth here at St. Matthews's Filipino ministry, we keep on inviting people to serve God in this wonderful ministry.

To God be the Glory,

Pr. Mark Panahon Jr.



**ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH
A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLES**

Sunday Worship Schedule

- 10:00 AM English Worship (with Children's Church)
 - 12:30 PM Filipino Worship
 - 1:30 PM Filipino Bible Study
 - 3:00 PM Armenian Worship
-

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