



# Disciples

April 2009

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA

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## Poem of Passion

A message from  
Pastor Sue

**A**s April begins, so does our Holy Week. I would like to share this Palm Sunday poem with you; its author is unknown.

*will I lay my cloak before you,  
when they arrest you on olive mountain,  
or pull it tighter around me,  
fading into the ranks of the deserters;*

*will I shout  
"Blessed is the one who comes  
in the name of the Lord!"  
when they parade you before the authorities,  
or will I tell any one —  
and every one —  
around me*

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## Holy Week Schedule

**Sunday, April 5**  
**10:30 a.m., Palm Sunday worship** followed by potluck brunch. Invite your friends to this beginning of Holy Week event.

**Thursday, April 9**  
**7:30 p.m., Maundy Thursday worship** at All Saints, Sun Valley

**Friday, April 10**  
**7:30 p.m., Good Friday worship with the Stations of the Cross** at St. Matthew's, Glendale

**Saturday, April 11**  
**7:30 p.m., Great Vigil of Easter** at St. Matthew's NoHo, followed by a festive champagne reception. Invite your friends.

**Sunday, April 12**  
**10:30 a.m., festival worship for Easter** at St. Matthew's NoHo.

## Open for Outreach

A message from  
Kenny Callaghan

**W**elcome to Holy Week and Easter. After a very busy and meaningful journey of Lent, we now approach the awesome reality of Holy Week and the joy of new life because of Christ's resurrection. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday when we wave palm branches and sing "Hosanna" remembering Jesus' entrance in Jerusalem. This Sunday is not just about entrances; it's also the Sunday of the Passion, when we tell the story of what happens after Jesus gets to Jerusalem. A dramatic Palm Sunday reading from the gospel of Mark draws us into this life changing event and sets the stage for us to remember Jesus' suffering is the path to resurrection and new life. Easter announces Christ's triumph over death bringing a message of hope for people

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# Updates, Upcoming & Kudos

A thankful look back and a helpful look forward

## Lenten Volunteers

The Holy Spirit gifted all of us in the meaningful, reflective and inspiring Lenten devotions offered by Ryan Chaddick and Jeff Drushal in our Wednesday night worship. Brenda Bos will share on April 1 as we are joined by area Lutheran churches. Soup at 6:30 p.m., worship from 7:30 to 8 p.m.

## Easter Flower Donations

Remember or honor a loved one with Easter flower donations. We need your donations to decorate the church with lilies and spring flowers for Easter. Fill out one of the pew envelopes and write the names of those you want to honor or remember on the envelope. They are \$7.50



Ashley Drushal with the Best Picture Oscar won by director Danny Boyle, right, for "Slumdog Millionaire," the subject of the first Movie Group Night discussion to be held April 24 and led by Ashley's husband, Jeff Drushal.

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## Veni, Vidi, Vici



Photo by Charles den Bleyker

A legion from St. Matthew's took a Roman holiday and visited the Getty Villa in Malibu in March, a museum modeled after a Roman villa.

each. You may also send a check to the church office. You may take the flowers home after church on Easter Sunday.

### Thanks for the Soup

Chuck Dellamarie, David Sinkler, Audrey Anderson, Rob Flynn, and Sue Devol kept us in soup for the Lenten services. Thank you to these talented cooks.

### April Food Collection

It's peanut butter and jelly for April. These items are distributed by Lutheran Social Services in Van Nuys to San Fernando Valley families and other persons in

need. We will also gladly receive any other food offerings you have. This is a time of great crisis for jobless and working poor families.

### Feminine Sacred Circle

Thank you to Dr. R. Guy Erwin and the feminine sacred circle for the presentation on Emanuel Swedenborg presentation, drum circle and guided meditation. We so blessed by the varieties of ministries among us.

### Christopher Street West

This year our theme is "Saints and Sinners." We will have a painted set with pictures of "saints" such as

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# Disciples



St. Matthew's Disciples is published monthly for the community of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in North Hollywood, Calif. Information or articles are due on the third Sunday of the month and can be left in the church office or e-mailed to Steve Devol:

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St. Matthew's worships weekly on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Worship services are provided in ASL for the deaf and Hard-of-Hearing. St. Matthew's is a member of the Southwest California Synod of the ELCA. St. Matthew's is a part of the Reconciling-in-Christ program of Lutherans Concerned/North America. You can find St. Matthew's on the Internet at <http://stmatthewsnoho.org>

## Finding Our Way to Holy Week



Each year, we began our Lenten activity program with a trip to Forest Lawn in Glendale to launch our annual spiritual quest at its labyrinth, mod-

eled after the one at Chartres cathedral in France.

Its labyrinth was built around AD 1200. After a brief introduction on how to benefit from labyrinth, we proceeded and completed the entire course prayerfully.

Afterward, we visited two mausoleums, and spent about two hours mulling and talking about our mortality.

We concluded the day with a visit at its museum.

On the following Sunday, we gathered around a makeshift altar at Don and Khai's living room and had an intimate worship service. Afterward, we enjoyed homemade beet and potato soups.

A week later, again on a Sunday, we made a trip to the desert to the home of Judy and Clay Larson in Acton.

It is a different world out there, where there is tranquillity. Judy created a lovely altar in the living room, and we had an intimate worship service.

Clay created wonderful pair of soup dishes, along with homemade bread.

Seven days later, we once again got together at All Saints Episcopal Church on Euclid Avenue in Pasadena for its interpreted service.

After the service, we walked to a restaurant for a Southern style lunch.

Deaf mission developer notes

Next Sunday, we will make a trip to Porter Ranch to a very different kind of worship service at Shepherds of the Hill Church.

On the following Sunday, it will be St. Matthew's annual Palm Sunday brunch, and it is something that is not to be missed. During the Holy Week, we will have an interpreter for each service: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil (Saturday evening) and Easter Sunday.

Except for the labyrinth part, each Lenten Activity Program is different from previous year. It is not too early for you to make suggestions on what activities we ought to have.

—Don Rosenkjar

## Pastor Sue

(Continued from page 1)

*I never met you in my life;*

*will I lay my palm branches at your feet, as they march you to Calvary, or use them to put more stripes on your bloody back;*

*will I run behind you when they carry you to the tomb, or turn away as the ashes of my hopes are rubbed into the wounds in my heart?*

This simple poem cuts right to the heart of how we enter into the Jesus story during Holy Week. We hope you will join us in worship to reflect, meditate, taste, touch, and experience the power of Christ suffering, dying and risen.

Easter joy comes with the knowledge that our suffering is transformed in the suffering of Jesus. We are changed, lifted up, embraced, and finally loved unconditionally by the God who saves us in Christ.

## Lenten Lights



Photo by Steve Devol

Candles glow near a crown of thorns plant, grown by Ron Howard, in the narthex before a Lenten service.

## Congregational Calendar

### Recurring Events

**Individual prayers for healing:** during communion the first Sunday of every month.

**Adult Forum:** every Sunday in the Fireside Room, 9:30 a.m.

**Executive Committee, 8:30 p.m.**

**Church Council:** 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m.

**Morning worship for deaf and others:** Second and Fourth Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in Sharing Hands Office, other Sundays in the sanctuary. Class every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Sharing Hands office.

**Choir Rehearsal:** Wednesday nights at 7:30 in the sanctuary.

**Feminine Sacred Circle:** second and fourth Sundays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the church library.

**Book Club:** third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the church library. With the exception in April, we will meet Monday April 13.

**Movie Talk Group:** fourth Friday in the Fireside Room, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**Feed the Homeless:** fourth Saturday of the month, 9 to 11:30 a.m. in the church kitchen

**Positive Images:** Tuesdays in the church library, 7 to 9 p.m.

### Upcoming Events

**Lenten Worship:** April 1, 6:30 p.m. soup, 7:30 p.m. worship

**Palm Sunday Brunch:** April 5 following worship

**Prayer ministry training and breakfast:** May 2, 9:30 to 11 a.m.

**That '70's Bingo Event:** Saturday, May 16, 7 p.m.

**Synod Assembly:** June 6 and 7

**Pride Festival:** West Hollywood: June 13 and 14

**House Building Fund-raiser at Joan Arndt's:** June 20

# More Opportunities to Get With the Group

## Movie Talk

St. Matt's will launch its first Movie Group Night on Friday, April 24, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

This is a movie discussion group led by Jeff Drushal and is open to everyone who has seen the movie.

We begin with this year's Best Picture Oscar winner, "Slumdog Millionaire."

The plan is for this to be an ongoing movie discussion group on the fourth Friday of every month.

This is not just for church folks, so be sure to invite friends. It's BYOB, with some light snacks offered.



## Positive Images

The LA Gay and Lesbian Center is offering Positive Images at St. Matt's

Join a group, build community, build Yourself and grow with Positive Images!

The group will meet Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. in the library beginning April 14. Positive Images is designed to empower gay and bisexual men living with HIV by challenging their fears and exploring new ways of making healthy, life-affirming decisions.

Learn how others have done it and learn how you can do it too! For more information and to RSVP, call (323) 860-7321, email [positiveimages@lagaycenter.org](mailto:positiveimages@lagaycenter.org) or visit us on the Web at [www.posimages.com](http://www.posimages.com). See Kenny Callaghan if you have any further questions.



# Outreach Activities Abound

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of faith. In worship on Easter we sing "alleluia" and rejoice in Christ's resurrection

Our shared worship and times of private prayer and meditation during these days provide a time of new awareness, awakening faith, gratitude, peace and praise, reminding us that God changes lives.

We are fortunate at St. Matthew's to be aware of how God changes lives, and we are finding ways to share this with others. It is our mission as a congregation to tell the story of Jesus to our friends, family, community and all who will listen.

Invite someone to attend worship with you, welcome a visitor to our weekly coffee social, bring a friend to one of our church events, participate in one of our outreach projects and be amazed at watching God's handiwork.

**Palm Sunday worship and potluck brunch**, Sunday, April 5 at 10:30 a.m. Invite your friends to this start of Holy Week with festive worship, dramatic readings and a gourmet potluck following worship.

**Easter Vigil**, Saturday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. This is a new experience for some but it is an ancient and beautiful liturgy, a sort of Easter Eve if you will.

The service begins with a fire out in front of the church and ends with the proclamation of Christ Risen.

Invite friends to join us at the champagne, appetizer and dessert reception following.

**Festival Easter worship**, Sunday, April 12 10:30 a.m. Bring a friend to this joyous celebration of festive music, triumphant readings and proclamation of Christ's victory over death.

Worship is followed by a festive coffee social.

## Beyond Holy Week

**Feed the homeless**, Saturday, April 25, 9 to 11:30 a.m. Meet in the church kitchen to make sandwiches and put together lunches with nonperishable food items. Donations of granola bars, individual bags of chips, box drinks, etc. are gladly accepted.

**Prayer ministry training and breakfast**, Saturday, May 2, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Join us to be a Prayer Partner who leads prayers for people during Communion. Various types of prayer will be discussed as well as practical preparation for this important ministry opportunity.

**That '70's Bingo Event**, Saturday, May 16, 7 p.m. Don't miss this retro flashback, bringing back the days of eight-tracks, bell-bottoms, platform shoes, polyester, tie-dye, wild hair and free spirits as we play bingo and raise money for our church.

## Southwest California Synod Assembly Approaches

**I** was in prison, and you visited me” (Matthew 25:36) is the theme of the Southwest California Synod Assembly, which will run from Friday, June 5 through Sunday, June 7 on the campus of California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks.

Our voting delegates are Dr. R. Guy Erwin and Sharon Dellamarie.

Please attend if you want to hear some compelling speakers or if you are interested in the process by which the Lutheran churches of our synod (Solvang to Orange County) collectively support and execute the business of the ELCA.

### Highlights

- On Friday at 7:30 p.m., **Dr. Martin Marty** will deliver the keynote address. Marty is the Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service professor emeritus at the University of Chicago, where he taught chiefly in the Divinity School for 35 years, and where the Martin Marty Center has since been founded to promote “public religion” endeavors.
- **Dr. David L. Tiede**, New Testament professor and past president of Luther Seminary from 1987 to 2005, will serve as leader for Bible Study. Tiede’s scholarship has focused on the gospel of St. Luke and Acts of the Apostles. He’ll lead Bible studies on Friday at 5:35 p.m., Saturday at 1:30 p.m. and Sunday at 8:15a.m.
- On Saturday at 3 p.m., **Pastor Darrell Morton**, assistant to the presiding bishop for federal chaplaincy ministries, will serve as representative from the churchwide office and will bring a report from Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson.
- On Saturday at 10:45 a.m., **Dr. R. Guy Erwin** will

moderate a panel including Michael Carrington, former deputy secretary of the California Department of Corrections; Ken Crawford, chief chaplain for the Los Angeles Police Department; Pastor Donna Duensing, pastoral counseling, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary; and Father Michael Kirkness, chaplain at the Federal Correctional Institution, Terminal Island, Los Angeles.

## Kudos

*(Continued from page 2)*

Harvey Milk and Tammy Faye Baker. There will be cut-outs so you can take your place in a painted set “with all the saints.” Plan to volunteer some time there June 13 and 14. There will be free tickets for all who sign up to help at our booth. In this way we gather e-mails so we can send out information about church events.

### **Mexico /Habitat House**

A fund-raiser will be held June 20 for a Mexico House or Habitat for Humanity. Plans were to build in Mexico but we are waiting for word from Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry as to the current status of the program.

In any event, we will have our annual fundraiser to raise money for house building. This is our annual night for karaoke, fun and food. The House build is currently scheduled for Sept. 13 in Otay, Mexico.

## Two Firsts



Photo by Erwin David

Beaming after their First Communion are Kyle Jensen, left, and Dylan Jensen, flanked by Jim Jensen, left, and Jim’s partner, Kerry Tym. The Jensen-Tym family found St. Matthew’s through their friend Erin Childs, center. We welcome the Jensen-Tym family into the congregation.