



In Memoriam Rev. Paul W. Egertson, Ph.D. 1935-2011: Pastor, Scholar, Teacher

By R. Guy Erwin, Ph.D.

Remarks delivered at Paul Egertson's memorial service on Saturday, January 15, 2011 in Samuelson Chapel on the campus of California Lutheran University (CLU)

I didn't know Paul nearly as long as most of the people in this room; I met him only for the first time just over a decade ago, when I came to CLU to take up the Gerhard & Olga Belgum Chair in Lutheran Confessional Theology. Paul was then still bishop of the Southwest California Synod, so I knew him first in that role.

More than anyone else, Paul helped me understand the legacy the Chair represented; his own deep respect for Dr. Belgum, combined with his very wide view of the importance of education for the church, helped me grasp the dimensions of my call to this place and this work.

When I look back on it, it seems extraordinary that Paul went to such great lengths to help me, so that within a year or so of arrival, I was as tightly embedded in this school and in this synod as if I had been here many years.

He taught me so much—even that it was acceptable to wear a Hawaiian shirt in public—a lesson I have to admit I have not fully learned.

Paul and Shirley took me, and my partner Rob, under their wings and really helped us make this place a home. We spent many hours together, in their home and elsewhere. And in travel, as they joined us on tours I had led, first to Italy, then later to the Luther sites in Germany. We celebrated their anniversary together twice on these trips—once in Florence of the Medici, once in Luther's Wittenberg. It was a remarkable experience for me (who had sort of grown up with them) to visit the Luther sites again with Paul, who was seeing them for the first time in his seventies, and after a lifetime as a Lutheran pastor. It was powerful and moving to see them through his eyes.

It was also Paul (and Shirley) who first introduced us to St. Matthew's in North Hollywood, where Paul had been pastor before his election as bishop, where they have kept their



membership ever since, and we now belong. Their impact on that place was profound, and though it has been through many changes since, that congregation still resonates with the welcoming spirit they brought to it. The ushers at this service this afternoon are volunteers from that congregation, offering their service as a sign of their love and admiration for Paul, and of their sympathy for Shirley.

In the decade past, and particularly after he left the bishop's office and came back to teach with us, I spent more time with Paul than with any other CLU colleague. I would estimate that he and I spent on average at least

an hour a week in conversation, and though we were both busy, somehow those conversations helped us manage our daily tasks. We talked about everything under the sun, but somehow, every conversation came back to being about the church. And that was, apart from his quite remarkable kindness, what drew most of us to Paul: the sense he communicated that everything we did in our teaching vocation was connected in some way to our ministry of service to our neighbors. And what was even better from my perspective was how Paul lived out that vocation not only in the classroom but also in the pulpit and in church leadership. I found it remarkable how Paul, in his clear but non-judgmental way, could move from teaching to witnessing—from religion abstractly considered to the deepest truths of the faith experienced in his own life—without ever having visibly to shift gears.

As a thinker and a teacher, he was extraordinarily sensitive to the differences among his listeners, but was himself always the same kind and passionate teacher to all of them. I think this integrity was one of the reasons he did so well with our adult evening students—he approached them all as people worthy of respect, and listened to what they had to say, and then engaged them closely with serious and important questions—but always in honest awareness of his own convictions and clarity about his own deepest beliefs.

(Continued on page 5)

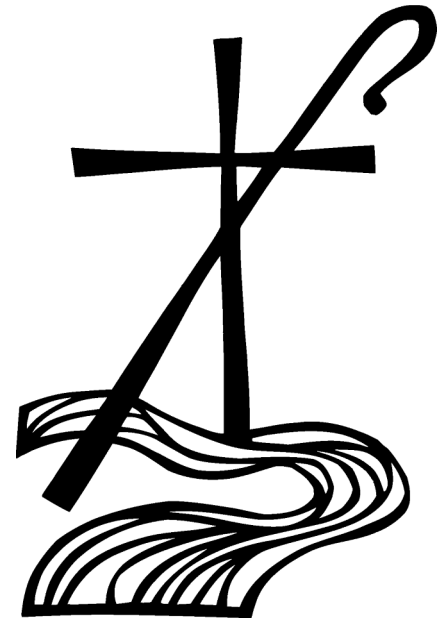
The NEW Encounter Service



St. Matthews celebrated its first Encounter Service on Sunday, January 30 in an intimate setting in Frasier Chapel. The service, entitled “An Encounter with the Healing Jesus” was a poignant candlelit evening of stories of Jesus’ healing, reflection, artwork, prayer and sacred singing. The encounter services will be occasional offerings for those who would like to experience worship in meaningful new ways. Thank you to Kenny Callaghan, Jim and Elizabeth Loken, Sharon Dellamarie, Sharon Brown and Brenda Bos for their vision and leadership in this exciting new form of worship.

Lenten Worship Schedule

- March 9 - **Ash Wednesday Worship** with the Imposition of Ashes, 7:30 pm
- March 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13 - **Wednesday Evening Lenten Worship**
Simple Lenten Dinner 6:30 to 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room
Devotional Worship 7:00 to 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room
- April 17 - **Palm Sunday Worship**, with brunch following the service, 10:30 am
- April 21 - **Maundy Thursday Worship** with Holy Communion, 7:30 pm
- April 22 - **Good Friday Worship**, 7:30 pm
- April 24 - **Easter Sunday Festival Worship** with Holy Communion, 10:30 am



The StMatthewsNoHo Newsletter is published monthly by the community of St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church at 11031 Camarillo St., North Hollywood, Calif., 91602; Phone: (818) 762-2909; Fax: (818) 762-7439; E-Mail: stmatthewsnoho@gmail.com
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Music and Outreach Coordinator: **Kenny Callaghan**
Organist: **Catherine Popovic**
Deaf Minister: **Don Rosenkjar**
Newsletter Editor: **Steve Devol**

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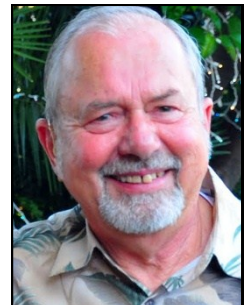
Susan Wolfe Devol,
Pastor



Morgan Rumpf,
Council President



Kenny Callaghan,
Music, Outreach



Don Rosenkjar, Deaf
Minister

St. Matthew’s worships on Sunday mornings at 10:30. 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 and is a part of the Reconciling-in-Christ program of Lutherans Concerned/North America.

St. Matthew's Koinonia Prison Ministry

By Kenny Callaghan
Music and Outreach Coordinator

Currently 11 members of our congregation are serving as pen pals writing to 22 inmates in three different prisons. The majority of our inmate pen pals are lifers who have been incarcerated for many years. During Christmas our congregation provided over 300 blank Christmas cards and several books of stamps which helped our inmate pen pals send Christmas greetings to their families. A few of our inmate pen pals were able to share these gifts with other inmates. Imagine the joy of a mother, father, wife or child in receiving a Christmas card from their loved one in prison! Koinonia Prison Ministry is not only touching the lives of those incarcerated, but also the lives of others including members of our congregation serving as pen pals.

St. Matthew's member Nadine Wendell Mojica says, "Having worked within the prison system, both on the outside and in, I am aware of how lonely a world it is. Johnny, my lifer pen pal, was overjoyed when, after years not receiving any mail, he finally heard his name called for a letter. The small act on my part of writing a simple letter was the first personal connection he'd had with our world since being sentenced to life in prison. He has since reached out to other inmates bringing them into his Bible study on the prison yard. It's a weekly miracle that my small act can be experienced as 'attention' and life changing."

Read what some of the inmates have to say in their own words...

Johnny says: "How wonderful to have someone out of the blue spend so much time on a total stranger, if that is not the mind of Christ nothing is. God bless you all. The attention I'm getting brings me to tears."

Frederick: "I really appreciate you writing back to me...it's good to know there are still people out there willing to take time from their day to befriend a young incarcerated man like me."

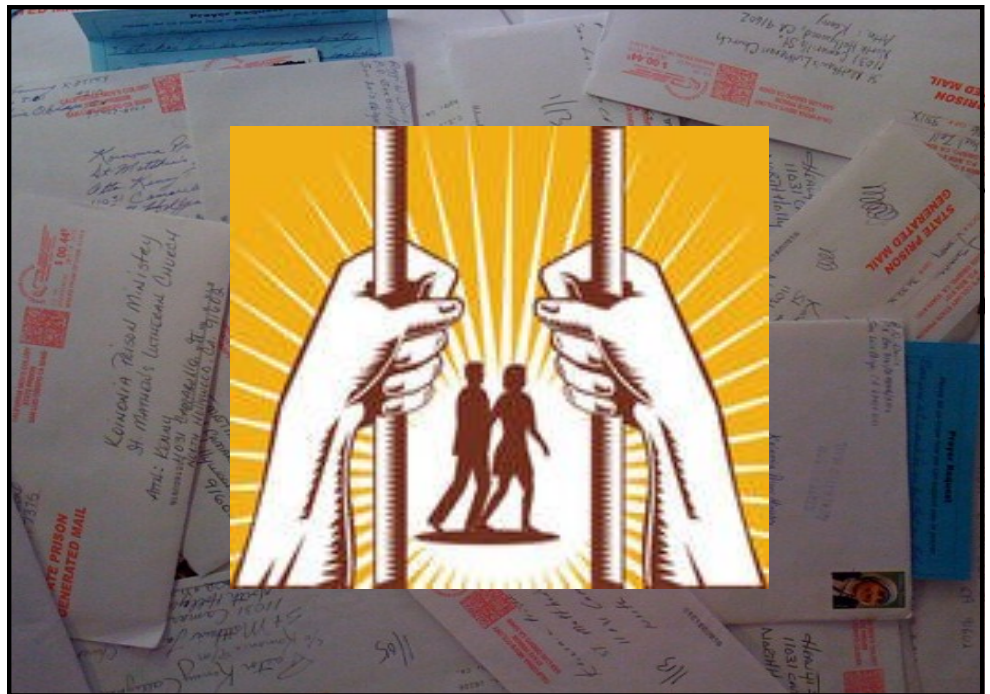
John: "I can't tell you what joy your hand painted card has brought to me. It is truly beautiful and a gift I will treasure."

Roger: "Even being locked up behind

truly appreciate your Christian Koinonia Prison Ministry. I need all the 'outside' love and support I can possibly get."

Phillip: "Thanks for the card, very pretty and thoughtful of you. I know you're going through a tough time in your life and thank you for the effort to get word to me that you're going to be okay Kari, I am concerned."

Bruce: "I would like to write you a



bars I've learned the need to be grateful. Today I am grateful for your new friendship, the stamps you sent and the reminder that God loves me."

Ted: "Thank you for the Christmas cards and stamps. I sent a Christmas card to my wife...haven't be able to do that in years. It meant a lot to me to tell her I love her, especially with a card at Christmas."

Fred: "I cannot read, but thank you so much for thinking of me, I am so grateful. Please be patient with me and I will write when I can find someone to read and write for me."

Daniel: "Thank you for the wonderful Christmas cards and postage stamps. I

thank you note. For being my pen pal and friend. For choosing to take your time out of your busy life to write me. It really means a lot to me to receive your letters. So thank you."

One letter at a time, our congregation brings healing to people as we remind them they are loved by a gracious God. In this, lives are touched and changed. If you would like to participate in this ministry please place donations of greeting cards, stamps or small pictures in the Koinonia Prison Ministry box in the narthex. If you are interested in being a pen pal, please see Kenny Callaghan.

ST MATTHEW'S CONNECTS

Tending to the Light of Epiphany

By Kenny Callaghan
Music and Outreach Coordinator

Epiphany is often called the season of light. The light of Christ can continue to shine through the church year if we tend to that light. We tend to the light when we care for each other. Toward that goal, there are several opportunities at St. Matthew's to grow spiritually and to serve others. As Jesus said at the end of his earthly ministry, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." During this Epiphany season, let's take our opportunities to tend to the light we've been freely given.

February Food collection for Lutheran Social Services is baby food and diapers. Donations may be placed on the table in the front of the church.

Adult Forum meets every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

Koinonia Prison Ministry needs old and used greeting cards and postage stamps. Donations may be placed on the table in the narthex. See Kenny if you'd like to be a pen pal.

"Ubuntu" a small group led by Ryan Chaddick will meet Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. at the Chaddick's home in Pasadena. This group will seek spiritual growth using N.T. Wright's book on Philippians.

St. Matthew's Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the church. A potluck snack begins at 7:10pm. Join us as we prepare special music for Epiphany and Lent.

Spark Creative Workshop meets Tuesday, Feb. 1 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Learn how to make art journals using books, written word, sketching, paint and mixed media (collage) work. Writers are invited to bring current work to share as well. Come experience an accepting environment to explore spirituality and creativity. All levels of skill and inspiration are welcome!

Growth Group meets Thursday, Feb. 3 & 17 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the home of Art Figueroa. This small group will meet for fellowship, study and prayer and is geared to help strengthen your faith. We will discuss "The Way of Grace" by John Indermark.

Lutherans Looking Forward Breakfast, Saturday, Feb. 5 at 8:30 a.m. Woodland Hills Country Club,

21150 Dumetz Rd., Woodland Hills. Join us for this appreciation event as Lutheran Social Services names the congregation and Lutheran of the Year awards. Entertainment provided by the Kingsmen and Regals Quartet of California Lutheran University. RSVP at stmatthewsnoho@gmail.com.

Meditation Group (NEW) Monday, Feb. 7 from 7 to 8:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Led by Amber Keating, this group will focus on breath-work and meditation to calm the body and mind, as well as reconnect with God. If prayer is asking God for something, then meditation is receiving God's answers/gifts. We will practice together and encourage one another in bringing meditative practices in our daily lives. This new group will meet the first Monday of every month.

Lifting the Veil of Islam, Sunday, Feb. 13, Noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Church Library. Join the Feminine Sacred Circle as we read from *The Faith Club* and look at Islam from a feminine perspective. All are welcome.

Great Events Lunch Bunch, Wednesday, Feb. 16, 11:00 a.m. Join us at church as we car-pool to Griffith Observatory ... Inspiring the Future, One Imagination at a Time. Admission to the Observato-

ry and Grounds is FREE. While at the Observatory, choose to watch one of three exciting, live programs: Centered in the Universe, Light of the Valkyries or Water is Life. Show tickets: Adults \$7, FOTO members or seniors: \$5. For lunch we'll visit the Café at the End of the Universe operated by Wolfgang Puck. Sign-up on the poster in the narthex/lobby.

St. Matt's Alive! Sunday, Feb. 20. Join us in the Fireside room following worship for a luncheon with sandwich and salad bar.

Movie Talk will meet Friday, Feb. 25, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. This is a discussion group led by Jeff Drushal. This month's movie is "Marty" starring Ernest Borgnine. It's BYOB, with some light snacks offered.

Feed the Homeless Saturday Feb. 26, 9 to 10:30 a.m. Meet in the church kitchen to make sandwiches and lunches with nonperishable food items. We are grateful this ministry has been blessed with a grant from the Thrivent Financial for Lutheran Care Abounds in Communities program to help us broaden our outreach.

For a list of Twelve Step groups meeting at St. Matthew's, please review our [website calendar](http://stmatthewsnoho.org) at stmatthewsnoho.org.

In Memoriam (Continued from page 1)

Wherever he worked, whatever his job title was, I imagine that the Paul I knew must always have been first a teacher: as a pastor, as a bishop, as an administrator, and probably as a parent. His respect for learning was so great; his own curiosity so deep; his conviction so sincere that calm discussion would open minds and respectful engagement would reach hearts, was really for me a model for teaching in the church.

Not that Paul didn't have strong opinions he was willing to articulate forcefully; particularly in defense of those he felt the church has wrongly singled out for discrimination he was the fiercest and most stubborn man I've ever known, but never loud or shrill—and he never, ever bullied others with his point of view. Instead, the transparency and integrity of his own convictions and motives made him someone whom even his opponents could trust. The world needs more people like that,

in all areas of our common life, and especially in the church.

There are a million reasons I and my colleagues, and our students and the whole community at CLU will miss Paul, and it will take us a long time to stop expecting him suddenly to appear again in all the places we are so used to seeing him, but I suspect the strongest reason is the way his loving dedication to teaching, which he did for us patiently and generously, without the adornment of fancy titles or a high salary, but just because he loved it, and thought it was important—well, we will not easily forget the way his example validated our callings, too, and reminded us daily that we share the same love he did, for learning, for teaching, and for care for others.

And for me personally and so many others, his example and his faith will always help us remember what it means to be a servant leader. For though I am only one of hundreds who could say it with equal conviction, both Paul's generous spirit and his strong example have made a profound difference in my life, and I will always be grateful to him for that. Thanks, Paul!

Special Thanks

The church council would like to recognize *Jim Jensen* for his volunteer service. A recent property insurance inspection revealed that there were some aspects of our electrical systems that needed to be upgraded. Jim donated his time and skill to address these issues, saving the church a great deal of money. Thank you, Jim, for sharing your talents with St. Matthew's and for being an example of a practical and creative stewardship.



PARTING SHOT

Richard Gasparotti (L) assists Dr. R. Guy Erwin (R) at Eucharist in front of banners celebrating Reconciling in Christ Sunday, January 30, 2011. St. Matthew's has been a proud RIC congregation for 26 years.



St. Matthew's
LUTHERAN CHURCH
NORTH HOLLYWOOD

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